

Hi, I'm  
Harriet.



# TALKING HISTORY

with

**Harriet and Roxanne™**

**Joan E. Southgate**

**A Grandmother's 519-mile Underground Railroad Walk**

And I'm  
Roxanne.  
Join us for...



Hurry up! Miss Harriet said she was going to introduce us to Mrs. Joan Southgate!

I'm coming and I can't wait to hear about the Underground Railroad in Ohio and her 519-mile walk.

I'm ready to go.

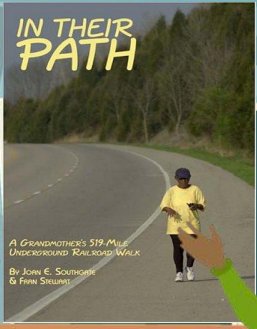




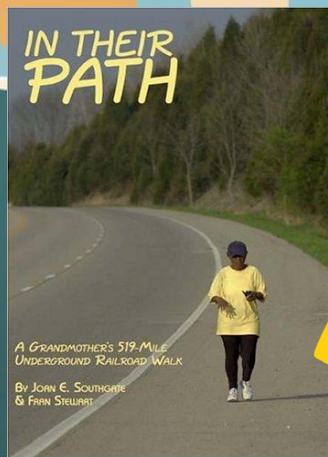
Good morning everyone!  
Harriet, please introduce our next lesson.

Ok, Roxanne. This is Joan Southgate's book, *In Their Path*, which we will read.

Why did she walk in Ohio on the Underground Railroad?



Mrs. Southgate wanted to know about the enslaved who ran away to freedom and the people who helped them escape. She wondered, "What was it like and how can I praise them?"

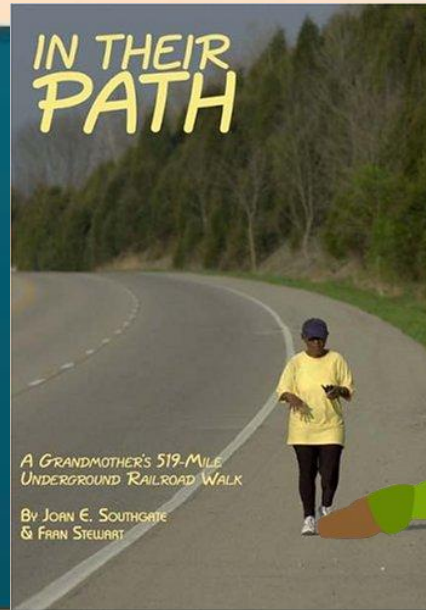


Where did she start her walk?

How old was she when she began her walk?



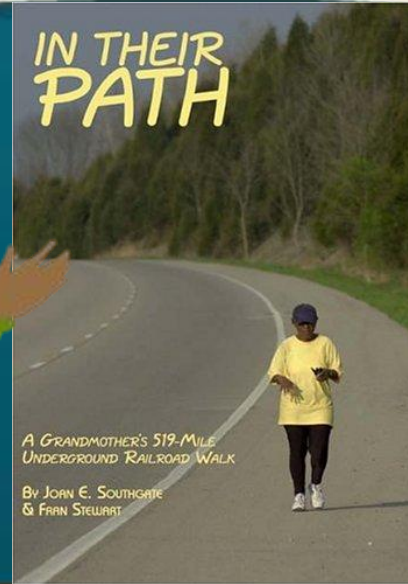
Wow, so many questions to answer! Please tell us more, Harriet!



Angela, Drew, and Roxanne, Mrs. Southgate trained for 14 months before starting her 519-mile walk in Ripley, Ohio in 2002. She was 73-years old. Today, she is 95 and still active in the community with her efforts to be sure that people know about the Ohio Underground Railroad.



Jamal, do you remember reading that Mrs. Southgate started her walk in Ripley, Ohio which is on the Ohio River in southern Ohio? Do remember why?



Yes, I think that Ripley, Ohio was the center for the Underground Railroad. Miss Harriet, you told us that Ohio had more Underground Railroad sites, trails, and "conductors" than any other free state in America.

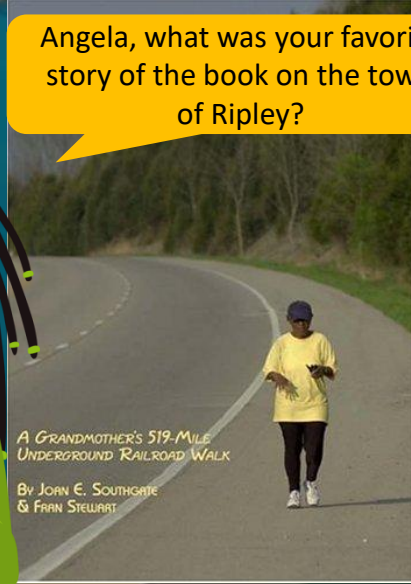
What is a "conductor?"



Very good Jamal! A "conductor" was a person who led enslaved people to freedom.

OK!  
Awesome.

Angela, what was your favorite story of the book on the town of Ripley?



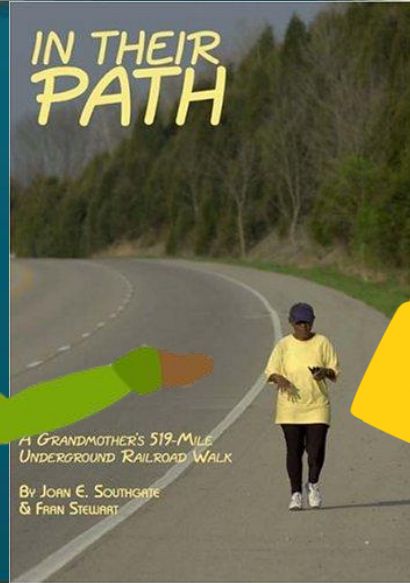
I liked the story of the Rev. John Rankin family home at the top of a hill on the Ohio River. I liked how they could see escaped slaves' lantern signals who were ready to cross the river from Kentucky to Ohio for freedom.

I have so many questions yet about the Underground Railroad.



I have a surprise for all of you. We are going to meet Mrs. Southgate, and you are going to be able to ask her many questions.

But first, I want to hear what Drew has to say about the Underground Railroad in Ripley, Ohio.

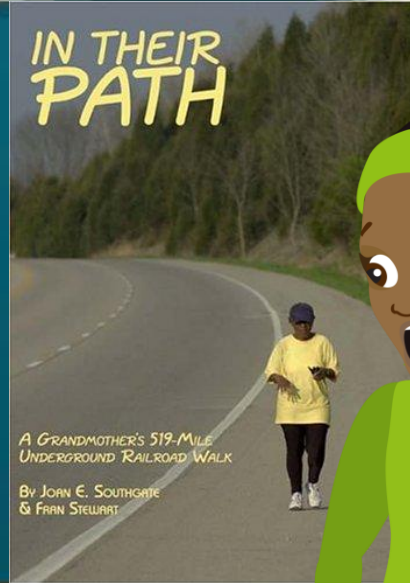


I like the stories about the abolitionists who frustrated Kentucky slave owners who claimed that those journeying north through Ripley "must have disappeared on an underground road."





Oh Harriet, I am so excited to have Jamal, Angela, and Drew meet Mrs. Southgate. This is going to be so fun!

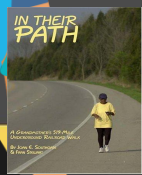


Roxanne, it is going to be wonderful. Let's get them to the school bus so they can go to downtown Cleveland. We are meeting Mrs. Southgate at the Interpretive Center at the Cozad-Bates House.

Are we ready?

We are!!

I am bringing my book for Mrs. Southgate to sign.






Well, here we are class, at the Interpretive Center at the beautiful Cozad-Bates House in Cleveland!

Let's go Inside.

Awesome!







Look at all this information about the Ohio Underground Railroad.

Where is Mrs. Southgate?

Let's see if we can find her in the next room.



Mrs. Southgate, we are so happy to be here. Drew, Jamal, and Angela are enjoying your book. Drew brought his copy for you to sign.

Welcome! I would be happy to sign Drew's copy of my book.

I invite you to take the children around the center and bring them back and I will answer their questions. You know, I am 95 years young, and I do like to save my energy!

We'll that sounds great. Roxanne and I will have them jot down all their questions and we will meet you back here!



What is the meaning of this map?

Roxanne & Jamal, this map shows where an equal number of Black and White abolitionists lived & worked together to help the enslaved escape to Canada. "A" is St. John's Episcopal Church, a slave "station." "D" is wealthy John Brown's barbershop who used his money to help people escape. "E" is the site of The Morning Leader, and "H" is the home of Black leader John Malvin who fought for Black schools for children and recruited Blacks for the Civil War.

I read on the key behind me that Elizabeth Gould ("M") owned a boarding house near the docks and provided safe shelter for freedom seekers





Ohio was a hotbed of illegal Underground Railroad activity, and Cleveland was known as the city of "Hope" because it was seen as a jumping-off place to freedom. There is no documentation to prove that this home was used to provide protection for runaways.

But in this neighborhood, Black & White abolitionists made sure they helped freedom seekers!

Awesome!!

# FINDING HOPE


Cleveland and the Underground Railroad at the Grand-Barrs House

YOU ARE STANDING IN THE UNDERGROUND ALLEGORY, A NETWORK OF SAFE PLACES ACROSS THE COUNTRY THAT HELD RUNAWAY SLAVES TO FREEDOM.

The U.S. Constitution originally permitted individual states to allow slavery, but states could also pass legislation outlawing it. Ohio prohibited slavery but also passed "Black Laws" that discouraged African Americans from settling in the state. By the time Lincoln was elected, slavery existed in every state.

Ohio had laws that made it illegal for Ohio citizens to provide shelter to runaway slaves. The Underground Railroad was a network of secret routes and safe houses that helped enslaved people escape to free states and Canada. In Cleveland, there were many abolitionists who helped runaway slaves. After the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, many abolitionists became more active in helping runaway slaves. Some of the names of the abolitionists who helped runaway slaves in Cleveland are listed below.





Look, Harriet! **We the People**. What does that mean?

“We the People” is the opening phrase of the U.S. Constitution. It means that government’s power comes from the people and not the government. Abolitionists did not agree with the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 and wanted to help the enslaved.

This is a room filled with the stories of the people who protected and fought for the enslaved. They risked everything to help people they didn’t know.

I am proud that abolitionists had courage, displayed cooperation, and perseverance to help the enslaved seek freedom.

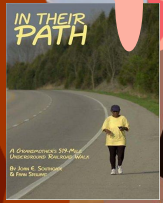


Mrs. Southgate, what was the most important thing you learned on your walk?

And would you please sign my copy of your book?

Drew, I would love to sign your book. I learned that most people are kind and generous. The UGRR taught me that free Blacks and Whites risked their lives, reputations, and imprisonment to help the enslaved to freedom.

I didn't realize that White and Black "station masters" hid people in their homes until the "agents" helped the freedom seekers or "passengers" connect to the railroad. Wow, such cooperation between the races!







What a great field trip! Can you share one fact that you didn't know before going to the Cozad-Bates House?

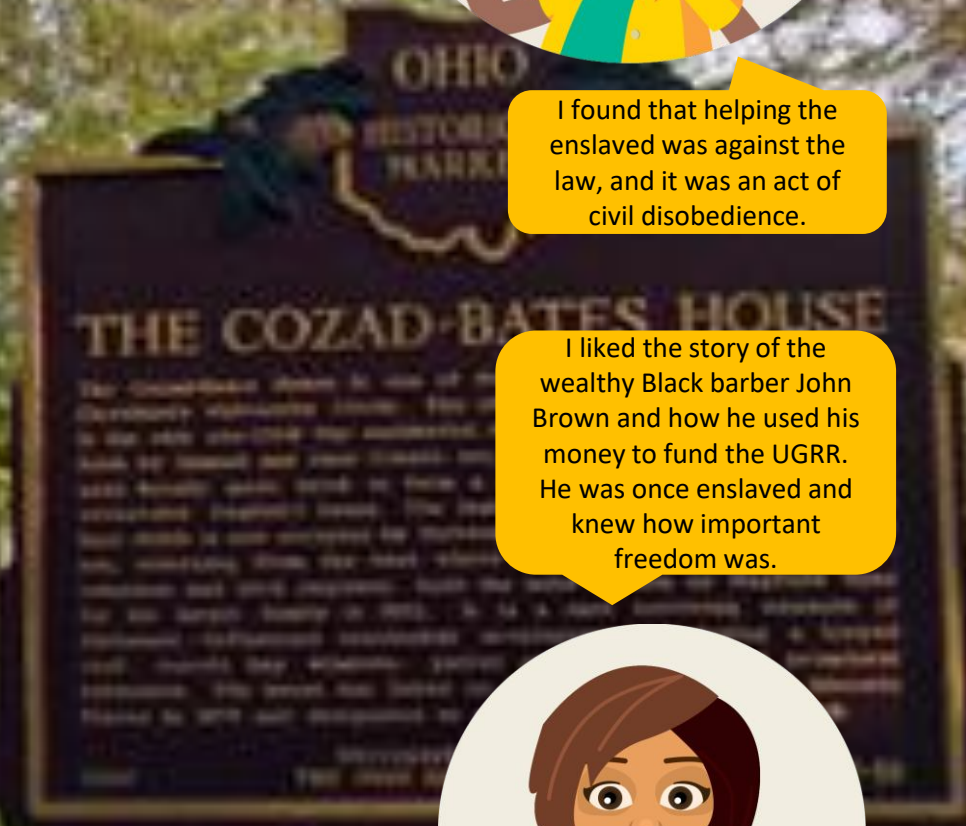


I have a greater understanding of the moral courage it took to be an abolitionist.

I found that helping the enslaved was against the law, and it was an act of civil disobedience.

The Rev. John Rankin families' Light of Freedom. For 40 years Rankin kept fighting slavery and prejudice by providing safe passage for freedom seekers from Kentucky to Ohio.

I liked the story of the wealthy Black barber John Brown and how he used his money to fund the UGRR. He was once enslaved and knew how important freedom was.





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