

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; the Underground Railroad was a secret network of routes and safehouses utilized by enslaved African Americans to escape to Canada, among other destinations, during the lead up to the Civil War; and

WHEREAS; between 1842 and 1861, more than 100 formerly enslaved individuals—including Caroline Quarlls, the earliest recorded freedom seeker to travel through Wisconsin, and Joshua Glover, whose liberation from a Milwaukee jail cemented Wisconsin's reputation as a staunch abolitionist state—were aided on their journey to freedom by Wisconsin residents; and

WHEREAS; while accounts of Underground Railroad experiences are scarce, as both those who traveled it and those who aided them had to be discreet about their activities, documentation relating to several courageous journeys through Wisconsin have since been uncovered; and

WHEREAS; the Milton House, our state's sole remaining authenticated underground railroad site that is available to the public, features an underground tunnel used by freedom seekers in North America; and

WHEREAS; our state is committed to the preservation of our Underground Railroad history and we recognize the efforts of the many people—in Wisconsin and throughout the world—who have dedicated their lives to keeping the memory of the Underground Railroad alive, including through the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom and UNESCO's Sites of Memory designations; and

WHEREAS; this occasion provides an opportunity for all Wisconsinites and all Americans to acknowledge the role of the Underground Railroad in the eradication of slavery in the United States and to reflect on our collective past and how it informs the systems of oppression that persist in our culture and institutions; and


WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin commends the courage, determination, and resilience of the thousands of enslaved individuals who risked their lives on the Underground Railroad, and we reaffirm our commitment to continue building a more just and equitable state and nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim September 2022 as

INTERNATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand and caused the
Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin
to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in
the City of Madison this 12th day of
September 2022.


TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State