



## About the Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad was a system of secret routes and safe houses that runaways from slavery in the Southern U.S. used to make their way to freedom. It began around the time of the American Revolution and lasted until the Civil War. Most routes went north to Canada but some went south to Mexico and Caribbean islands. Participants signaled each other with codes. A "station" or "depot" was a safe house where fugitives could find food and shelter.

"Tracks" were safe back roads and trails. "Conductors" were people like Harriet Tubman who knew the routes well – and "parcels" or "passengers" were Freedom Seekers themselves. Hanging quilts, knotted rope and the words of songs also were codes: "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" meant a conductor was nearby and escape would be soon – "Wade in the Water" was a warning to travel through rivers and streams to keep dogs from catching your scent.

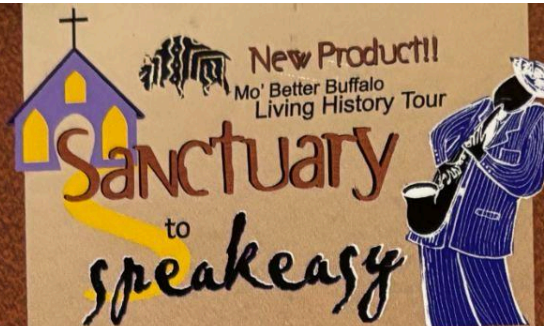
Steal Away with...

## Motherland Connexions

716  
282  
1028

Toll Free: 1. 866. 726. 0864

Email: [tours@motherlandconnexions.com](mailto:tours@motherlandconnexions.com)



This music-filled "edutainment" experience for all ages takes you from an imaginary Niagara Movement Meeting at the historic Michigan Street Baptist Church (hosted by local historical figures Mary Burnett Talbert and Reverend J. Edward Nash, with special guest W.E.B. DuBois), to a live jazz set at the 75-year-old Colored Musicians Club across the street. **90 minutes. May 31- November 15. Afternoon or evening tours. Meal optional. Pre-form groups by reservation only. Call 716. 282. 1028 for additional information.**



To Book a Tour Call: 716. 282. 1028  
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Email: [tours@motherlandconnexions.com](mailto:tours@motherlandconnexions.com)

Motherland Connexions  
PO Box 176, Bridge Street Station  
Niagara Falls, NY 14305

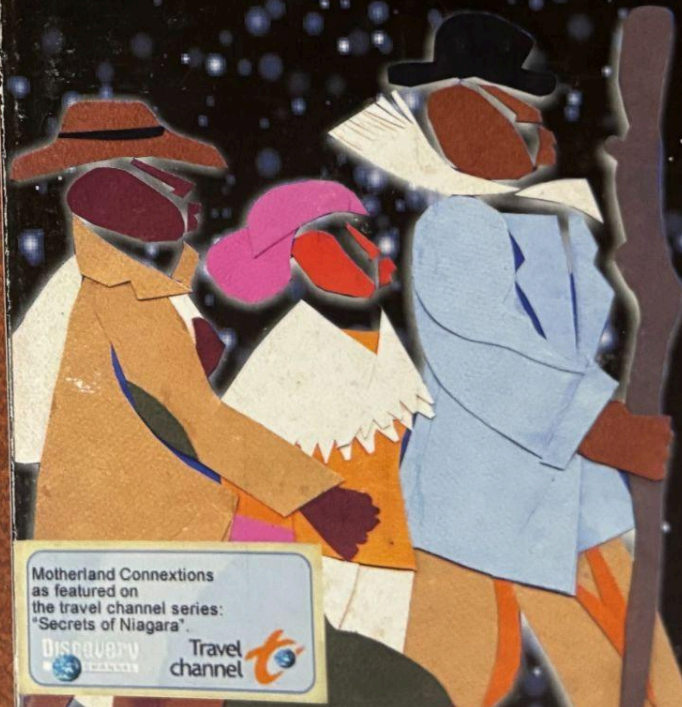
Steal Away with...

# Motherland Connexions

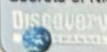
Underground Railroad Tours  
of the U.S. and Canada



Freedom Seekers Daily Tours



Motherland Connexions  
as featured on  
the travel channel series:  
"Secrets of Niagara"





Hiding space for runaways in Michigan Street Baptist Church.

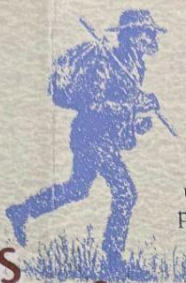
## Follow the footsteps of Freedom Seekers who took the secret passageways North to Canada.

When you experience a Motherland Connexions Underground Railroad tour you experience the history of America's first multicultural humanitarian effort. Our excursions celebrate the courage of the displaced Africans who staked their lives for freedom – and spotlight the free and enslaved African Americans, the Native Americans and the European Americans who also risked life and property to provide them with sanctuary.

**Motherland Connexions takes you over the tracks and into the rhythms of the Underground Railroad.**

Our “stop and feel” excursions are educational, entertaining and experiential – a life lesson on the triumph of the human spirit. No matter the route, Motherland Connexions offers an opportunity to look differently at history. Dressed in period clothing, our “conductors” lead you through living history adventures that promote goodwill and instill cultural pride.

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Call Toll Free: 1. 866. 726. 0864  
Fax: 716. 304. 6813



TOURS

**Motherland Connexions** is a heritage /educational tourism company that focuses on authenticity and uses a mobile classroom concept to interpret Underground Railroad history. The business was founded in 1993 by a group of educators, historians, and preservationists. Its upscale tours inspire creative teaching using historic places, sites and locations. Motherland Connexions has been featured in the *N.Y. Times*, *U.S. News and World Report* and *The Travel Channel*, among other prominent media. In 1999 Motherland Connexions' two-day Underground Railroad tour was designated an official American Pathways 2000 itinerary.



Harriet Tubman crossing; Michigan Street Baptist Church; "Salem Chapel" in Ontario.

## Underground Railroad Tour [U.S.]

Visit the Michigan Street Baptist Church, a known Underground Railroad “station” and the oldest property continuously owned and occupied by African-Americans in Buffalo, NY. See the world's first tourist attraction, Niagara Falls, and learn about its relationship to the slave trade. See where Mother Moses (Harriet Tubman) herself crossed into Canaan (Canada) en route to her first home after escaping via the Underground Railroad.

## Underground Railroad Tour [Southern Ontario]

Hear the stories and see the sites that made up the African Canadian experience. Uncover what was the second leg of the Underground Railroad. Visit Harriet Tubman's first freedom home and place of worship – the British Methodist Episcopal Church (BME) "Salem Chapel" in St. Catharines, Ontario. Tour includes visit to a cemetery for former slaves, a libation ceremony and information on the meaning of “Canaan Land” and its importance to fugitive slaves.

## Underground Railroad Tour [U.S. & Canada]

Explore with us the unique relationships between Western New York and Southern Ontario. Feel the merging of African American and African Canadian history evolve into one “North American History”. Cross the Upper and/or Lower Niagara Rivers to visit some of the many border towns to understand the draw these communities had on the Freedom Seekers.

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Website: [www.motherlandconnexions.com](http://www.motherlandconnexions.com)

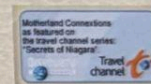


## Underground Railroad Re-Enactment Tour

History comes alive as you become a Freedom Seeker escaping through the woods on your way to Canada. Daytime or dusk tour led by a “conductor”. As you move along the trail, “bounty hunters” will be in pursuit. This tour is a living play in which you take the lead role...  
(Pre-form groups 20 - 47)



## Freedom Seekers Daily Tour [U.S.]



Steal away and walk the path of freedom and courage with the roar of the mighty Niagara River at your feet. Sojourn the towns and sites that hosted thousands of Freedom Seekers passing through Niagara Falls, NY. “Conductors” dressed in period clothing lead you on this emotional and educational experience that includes Underground Railroad heritage sites and a view of Niagara Falls from a new perspective. A memorable favorite for all ages. **Reservations required. Adults: \$78**  
**Children ages 5-12: \$48 (1/2 price for each additional child in family)**

## Girl Scout Underground Railroad Merit Badge Tour

- American Pathways Nationally Designated Underground Railroad Itinerary
- 42-Passenger School Bus
- Guide in Period Clothing
- Four-Hour Underground Railroad Tour
- Student Activity / Teachers' Packet

