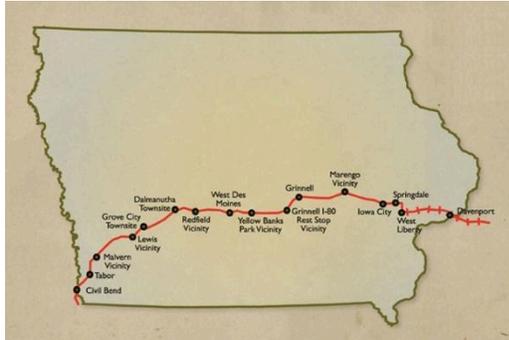


The Iowa Historical Foundation
Underground Railroad Sites in SW Iowa
April 18, 2026



Join State Historical Society of Iowa Administrator Valerie Van Kooten on a one-day trip that explores the Underground Railroad in southwest Iowa.

Several southwest Iowa locations served as hotbeds of Underground Railroad activity, situated as they were just above

the Missouri state line. The John Brown Trail, with new signage being placed by State Historical, starts in this area.

7:30 a.m.: We'll meet at the Historical Museum (600 E. Locust Street in Des Moines) to load our bus from CIT Charters, Inc. The bus will be on the north side of the building, parked along Grand Avenue. Free parking is available across the street at the State Parking Garage.

10:00 a.m.: Arriving at the Jacob Todd House in Tabor, we'll divide into 2 groups to tour the home. Docents will provide us information on how the Underground Railroad worked here and the background on John Brown training his men and storing weapons here.



11:30 a.m.: A buffet lunch will be served by local restaurant, YeYa's Scratch Kitchen. After a leisurely lunch, we'll board the bus for a one-hour trip to Lewis, Iowa.

2:00 p.m.: We'll arrive at the Rev. George B. Hitchcock House near Lewis, Iowa. Volunteer docents here will take us through the house and relate the story of John Brown's journey through the area as well as the freedom seekers who passed through the house on their way to the next station.



3:30 p.m.: We'll make our way back to Des Moines, arriving approximately 5:30 p.m.

Registration for the Iowa Historical Foundation Underground Railroad Trip

Cost: \$109/person

State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI) members will have first chance to sign up. Only members will be able to sign up until **March 6**. Not yet a member? Become a member at history.iowa.gov/support/memberships.

After that time, if there are spaces available, non-members may sign up.

Cancellation Policy:

*Until March 18, 100% refunded.

*From March 19-April 1: 50% refunded.

*From April 2 on, no refunds. It is possible you could “sell” your spot to anyone on a waiting list.

Liability Waiver: Waivers will be signed by all participants the day of the trip that release the Iowa Historical Foundation (IHF) or the Department of Administrative Services (DAS).

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____ Dietary Restrictions? _____

Register and Pay by Check: Fill out the form above, and mail it with a check made out to “Iowa Historical Foundation.” Send to 600 E. Locust, Des Moines, IA 50319.

Bus Rules:

- Snacks and beverages are okay, but no alcohol.
- Be on time; if we say we’re leaving at 1:15, we’re leaving at 1:15!
- In consideration of others with breathing issues, please—no perfumes or strong lotions, body sprays, etc.
- Questions about the trip? Contact Val Van Kooten at (515) 281-8749 or Valerie.vankooten@iowa.gov.