Emerson's and Alcott's are buried on Author's Ridge.

Lincoln, asking him to free slave children. Copies of this petition school children's signatures on a petition to President who helped replace and regularly put flowers on John Jack's grave. Along with Mary Peabody Mann, Mary Rice gathered 350 school children's signatures on a petition to President Lincoln, asking him to free slave children. Copies of this petition and Lincoln's response now hang in Concord's 3 public elementary schools.

Sleepy Hollow Cemetery - Bedford St. (ca. 1823)

Both Peter Hutchinson (descendent of former slaves) and Prudence Ward (abolitionist) are buried here. The Thoreaus, Emersons and Alcotts are buried on Author's Ridge.

The raid on Harper's Ferry. Sanborn ran a school with Mary Mann (also an abolitionist, see #1), and after Brown was hanged for the Harper's Ferry raid, Brown's daughters moved to Concord in 1860 and attended Sanborn's school.

Abiel Heywood Wheeler House - 387 Sudbury Rd. (ca.1829-35)

Abiel Heywood Wheeler transported escaping slaves to train connections.

The Thoreau House - 255 Main St. (ca. 1820)

The entire Thoreau family was instrumental in the antislavery movement. It was here that Thoreau wrote about lodging self-emancipated slave Henry Williams and putting him on a train to Canada in his journal, 18/2/51.

Col. William Whiting House - 169 Main St. (ca. 1810-30)

Col. Whiting was vice president of the state AntiSlavery Society, and sheltered runaway enslaved people as an active participant in the Underground Railroad. Abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison (who published the anti-slavery newspaper The Liberator), Wendell Phillips and John Brown were all guests in this house.

Samuel Hoar House - 258 Main St. (ca. 1810-30)

One of Concord's leading politicians and chair of the Free Soil Party (opposed to expansion of slavery into western territories), Samuel Hoar was a moderate senator sent to South Carolina to protest the arrest of Massachusetts African American seamen who were jailed when they disembarked their ships in South Carolina ports. He was not out of town in South Carolina, which also had greater abolitionist support in Concord, and helped persuade Ralph Waldo Emerson to speak out against slavery.

Concord Museum - 200 Lexington Rd.

Through original artifacts associated with Thoreau, Emerson and other abolitionist activists, the Museum galleries examine the concept of liberty and the ability of individuals to affect change.

Emerson House - 28 Cambridge Turnpike

Ralph Waldo Emerson was an abolitionist who was persuaded to speak out publicly by his wife, Louisa. He, his Aunt Mary and his friend Mary Brooks. He supported the controversial abolitionist John Brown.

Reuben Brown House - 77 Lexington Rd.

When Ralph Waldo Emerson had too many visitors to fit in his home, he put them up at the Reuben Brown House. In 1857, one such visitor was the fiery abolitionist John Brown. Two years later John Brown led the attack on the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry.
The Drinking Gourd Project is a newly formed Concord-based nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness of Concord’s African and Abolitionist History from the 17th through the 19th centuries. Our mission is to shine a light on this history and make it accessible for all. We are working to collect, verify, and add these stories into our catalog and to create an educational center, which will be a resource for the community.

**Visit our website:**
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**Where to Find Us:**
- Concord Free Public Library
- Concord Museum
- The New England Freedom Trail
- Emerson College
- Cornell University

Our donations are gratefully accepted to expand our work on the African American and Abolitionist History of Concord, and help move and preserve the Caesar Robbins house to create a Civil Liberties Museum.

Donations can be made out to Drinking Gourd Project, Inc., and sent to:

Drinking Gourd Project, Inc.
36 Monument St.
Concord, MA 01742

Thank you for your support!

**FOLLOW THE DRINKING GOURD:**

When the sun comes back
And the world’s glistening with dew,
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
For the old man is a-waiting for to carry
If you follow the Drinking Gourd,
The river makes a very good road.
The dead trees will show you the way.
Left foot, right foot, traveling on,
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
The river ends between two hills
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
There’s a little brook on the other side
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
When the great big river meets the little river,
Follow the Drinking Gourd.
For the old man is a-waiting for to carry
You by the stream after dark.
If you follow the Drinking Gourd,
Perhaps no song is more closely associated with the Underground Railroad than this one.

In this spiritual, escape instructions and a map are embedded as a code to enable enslaved persons to make their way North to freedom. They followed the Big Dipper constellation, which points to Polaris, the Pole Star, and North.

The escape route traveled North to the headwaters of the Tennessee River to the Ohio River. This journey to freedom took most refugees a full year.

The compilers of this map welcome your comments & suggestions. Email us at drinkinggourdproject.org

We thank and recommend the following Authors and their books:


Special Thank You to Leslie Wilson, Curator of Special Collections at the Concord Free Public Library.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

- educational programs
- maps and tours of the early African and Abolitionist sites
- the establishment of the Caesar Robbins Education Center, thanks to the generous support of Concord’s Community Preservation Fund (see #4)
- framed copies of an 1864 petition to the president from Concord school children to free slave children together with Lincoln’s response, which hang in Concord’s three public elementary schools
- commemorating early African and African American forgotten homesites with markers
- providing engraved headstones for the unmarked graves of African Americans and Abolitionists
- fundraising events to promote and inform audiences about this aspect of Concord’s history
- working closely with many abolitionist town, including the schools, museums, town agencies and organizations

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Thank you!