

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

**Fitchburg Historical Society Awarded Funding
for Study of the Underground Railroad and Abolition in Fitchburg**

Fitchburg Cultural Council Announces Support for “Researching the Underground”

(Fitchburg, MA – March 10, 2015) The Fitchburg Historical Society has been awarded a grant of \$1,000 from the Fitchburg Cultural Council for *Researching the Underground*, its new resource guide on the history of the local anti-slavery movement and Fitchburg’s participation in the Underground Railroad. For this project, the Historical Society will create pamphlets, resource guides, and program materials that will inform visitors of Fitchburg's participation in the Abolitionist movement during and after the Civil War.

“With this program, we will be able to provide an invaluable guide to the Historical Society’s extraordinary Civil War collection,” says Historical Society executive director Susan Navarre. “Students of all ages approach us to study Fitchburg’s rich history of anti-slavery activity. With this resource guide, they will have a head start on using our broad selection of primary sources for their original research.”

Researching the Underground will also include an exhibition of some of the original documents and resources from the Civil War period. The exhibit is tentatively planned for September and October 2015 in the Society’s Wallace Exhibition gallery in the Phoenix Building, 781 Main

Street, Fitchburg. Local school children and teachers will be invited to learn more about the Historical Society's resources, and integrate them into their classroom presentations or research projects on Fitchburg's participation in the Underground Railroad.

For more information on *Researching the Underground* and the Fitchburg Historical Society's exhibitions and research library, contact the Fitchburg Historical Society at 978.345.1157, e-mail at welcome@fitchburghistoricalsociety.com or visit <http://www.fitchburghistoricalsociety.org>.