

... this place of mine was the depot where slaves came and were brought. Silas Shearman, Dr. Hedges, Phineas Crossman and others, friends of the slaves, used to come here, and they would bring here runaway slaves ...

— Catherine Dickes Harris as told to C.R. Lockwood  
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By PAUL LEONE

The City of **Jamestown** is deservedly proud of its **Underground Railroad** history. The city is fortunate, too, that that history is well documented. The remembrances of Catherine Harris, free black woman, collected in her home in 1902 by Jamestown attorney C.R. Lockwood, remain the best source to describe the operations of the local Underground Railroad. Mrs. Harris was 93 years old in 1902 and would live for four more years. Her reminiscences indicate that on numerous occasions she cared for runaway slaves in her home at 12 W. Seventh St. The remi-

niscences further indicate that a committed band of Jamestown citizens operated in the village on behalf of runaway slaves and in defiance of the

Fugitive Slave Law of 1850.

C.R. Lockwood interviewed Mrs. Harris for the last of a lengthy series of articles he was writing to describe "Old Jamestown," the Jamestown of 1850. The articles were

published in the *Jamestown Journal* on consecutive Saturdays in 1902. Lockwood was himself a young man during the period he was describing and claimed to have been vaguely aware of UGRR workings in the village. He followed up his interview with Mrs. Har-

