



Grover Barn, south side, 1890s.  
Photo Courtesy of Inga Waite, Grover family descendant

## THE HISTORIC GROVER BARN: A REFUGE FOR FREEDOM-SEEKERS

In December 1858, freedom seeker Jim Daniels, selling brooms in southeast Kansas, sought aid from abolitionist George Gill to free his family from slavery. Gill alerted John Brown and the next night Brown and his men entered Vernon and Bates counties, Missouri and liberated the Daniels family and seven other enslaved people. Daniels drove one of the wagons through Kansas Territory, stopping at safe houses and staying a month in cabins near Garnett where the Daniels' baby, John Brown Daniels, was born free. In late January 1859, they reached Grover's Barn in Lawrence.

"Jan. 14, 1859, 3 p.m.... Joel has gone to town, [his] wife downstairs cooking and old Captain John Brown is sitting near me reading the *Lawrence Republican*..."

— Samuel P. Reed, from a letter transcribed  
by Edward P. and Sandra Blackmer Gates

**AN EYEWITNESS**



A tour group views hand-hewn beams inside barn.  
Photo courtesy of Craig Sweets

## 2819 STONE BARN TERRACE LAWRENCE, KANSAS

Guardians of Grover Barn, a non-profit organization, seek to build public awareness of the site and its historical stories, preserve the integrity of the barn, and encourage its public use for present and future generations.

[guardiansofgroverbarn.com](http://guardiansofgroverbarn.com)  
[www.facebook.com/groverbarn](https://www.facebook.com/groverbarn)

Funding for this brochure was provided by  
an Interpretive Grant from the  
Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area.



The Grover Barn is a designated site on the  
National Park Service Underground  
Railroad Network to Freedom.



NATIONAL  
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD  
NETWORK TO FREEDOM

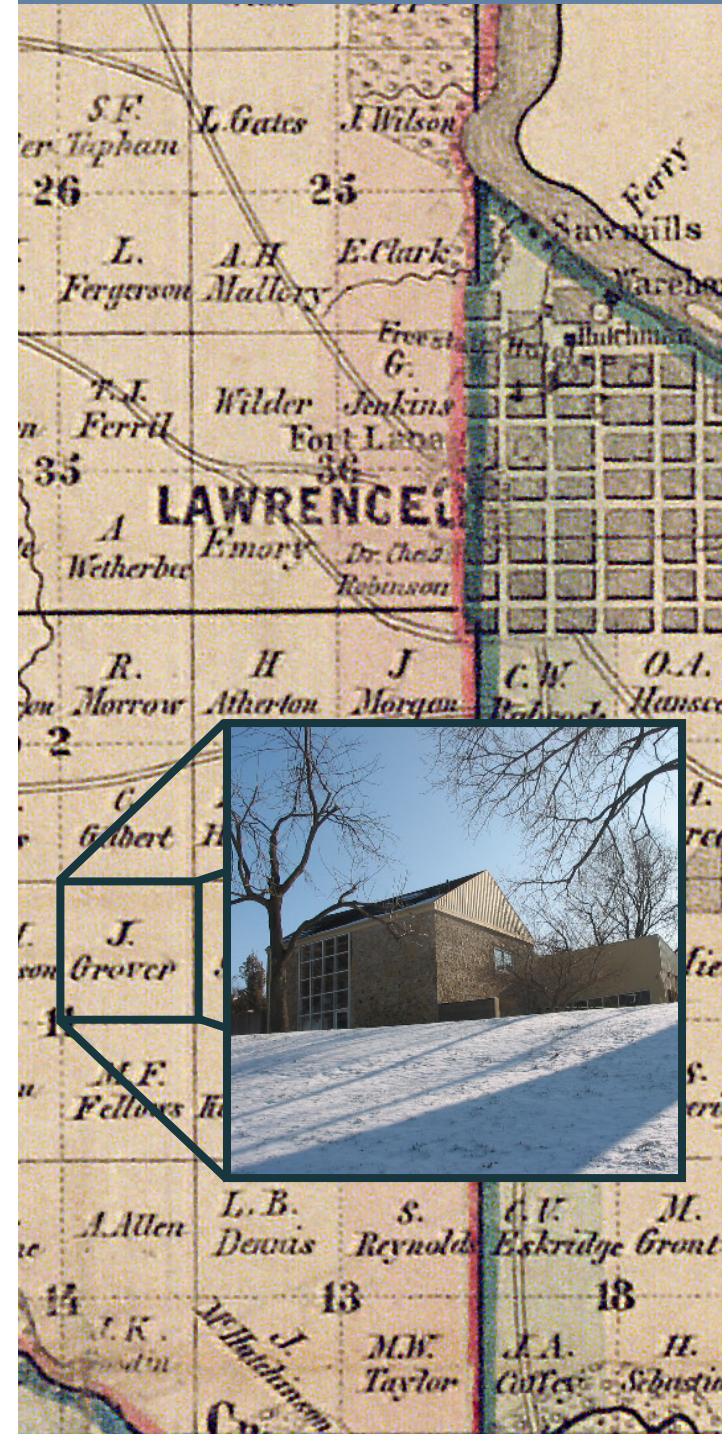
Grover Barn is on the  
Lawrence Register of Historic Places



Cover: Detail, Map of Douglas County, KT, J. Cooper Stuck, 1857.  
Photo courtesy of the Kansas State Historical Society  
Grover Barn photo courtesy Judy Sweets

# GROVER BARN

## Underground Railroad Station





# I WANT TO HELP PRESERVE THE GROVER BARN

\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_ \$500 Other \_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

To pay by credit/debit card or Paypal, please donate online at <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/freedomfrontier> and add Guardians of Grover Barn in the Partner Site

OR Mail a check, payable to Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area with Guardians of Grover Barn written on the memo line to: Guardians of Grover Barn, c/o Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area, 200 W. 9th Street, Lawrence, KS 66044.

Donations are tax-deductible and 100% goes to supporting the work of the Guardians of Grover Barn.

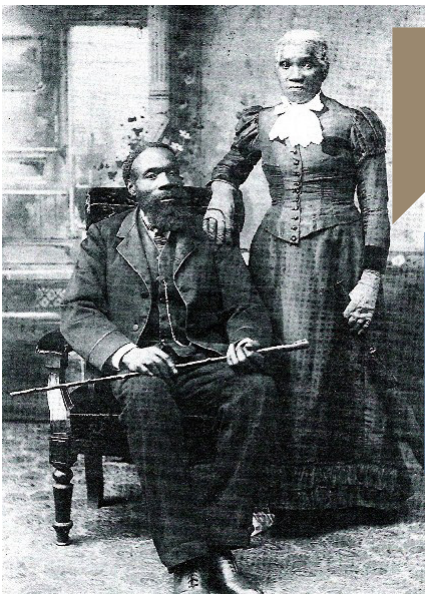


Photo by Murdock Brothers Studio, Windsor, 1894

## SAMUEL AND JANE HARPER

(shown here in Windsor, Canada, December 1894) were liberated with nine other freedom seekers from Vernon County, Missouri by John Brown and his men in December 1858. After stopping at several other Kansas Underground Railroad stations, the group reached the Grover farm in January 1859. From Lawrence, the caravan traveled through Nebraska and Iowa to Chicago and then Detroit, where they crossed the Detroit River to freedom in Canada on March 12, 1859.



John Brown, by James Wallace Black, 1859 (detail). Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

## ABOLITIONIST JOHN BROWN

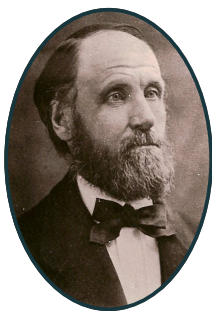
Dedicated his life to abolishing slavery. Grover's barn is one of the few places still existing where Brown stopped on his final journey through Kansas, leading twelve to freedom.

*"Capt. Brown wanted to know if we wanted to be free and said he'd take us where we would be free."*

— Jane Harper, from an interview by Wilbur H. Siebert in 1894

*"...it was mighty slow traveling... We'd ride all night, and then maybe, we'd have to stay several days in one house to keep from getting caught..."*

— Sam Harper, from an interview by Wilbur H. Siebert in 1894



**JOEL GROVER**  
(1824-1879)

Abolitionist Joel Grover, of New York State, came to Lawrence in 1854 with the second party of the New England Emigrant Aid Society. In 1855 Emily Hunt arrived with the Robinsons in Lawrence at the age of 15. During the 1856 border wars, Col. Grover lead a militia and Emily helped make cartridges to defend Lawrence. They married in 1857 and completed their barn on their 160-acre homestead, reared seven children and gave safe shelter as an Underground Railroad station. Grover also held county and state offices. He built the limestone barn in 1858; it remains as a nationally significant legacy of the pre-civil war Underground Railroad network in Kansas and a stop on Brown's best documented journey.

Photos courtesy of the Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas Libraries and the Women's History Project, 1980



**EMILY H. GROVER**  
(1839-1921)