

LHR & The Underground Railroad

Grades 7-8 (Adapt as Needed)

Prepared by the Lumber Heritage Region Educators

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Highlight the history and connections of the Lumber Heritage Region and the Underground Railroad in America. Deepen understanding of the importance of the Underground Railroad and some of the routes through the Lumber Heritage Region. Acknowledging significant people involved with the Underground Railroad and their ties to the lumber industry.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

1. Social Studies: Connections & Conflict
2. Geography
3. History
4. Pennsylvania Core Standards for Reading/Writing in History and Social Studies
5. Civics & Government
6. Pennsylvania Integrated Standards for Science, Environment, Ecology, Technology, and Engineering

OBJECTIVES

1. Students will explain how watersheds influenced travel on the Underground Railroad.
2. Students will use Daniel Huhges' story to explain how he used the assets of the Lumber Heritage Region to help him assist with the Underground Railroad.
3. Students will be able to identify and describe some of the dangers Daniel Hughes would have faced (both as a lumber raftsman and in his involvement with the Underground Railroad).

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Computer with Internet access
2. Paper & writing instrument (virtual or physical)

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

1. <https://underground.lynnestomin.com/>
2. <https://lumberheritage.org/rivers-timbers/>
3. <https://www.google.com/maps>
4. <https://handsonheritage.com/daniel-hughes-giant-of-freedom-road/>
5. <https://paparksandforests.org/the-underground-railroad-and-the-susquehanna/>
6. https://www.bayjournal.com/news/people/log-rafts-and-raftmen-once-ruled-the-susquehanna-river/article_096cde44-c9bd-11ed-ad44-cfdcafb9bc4.html
7. <https://susqaha.org/riverroots-felling-penns-woods/>
8. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Hughes_\(underground_railroad\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Hughes_(underground_railroad))
9. www.earth.google.com
10. <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1LOO7qYH7V5M4K7UJu1X2czfe0rtu6Xo&ll=40.60762140203485%2C-77.4598957635107&z=10>

ACTIVITY

This activity can be done individually, in small groups, and/or as a combination of either with the opportunity for a whole group discussion on their findings.

(Split students into groups of 2-3) Each group will answer the guided research questions about Lumber Rafting, the Underground Railroad, and Daniel Hughes (templates available for student use).

Students will use Google Earth to view the river route and surrounding terrain. They should note dangers/obstacles as well as what they think would have helped Daniel Hughes.

After drawing conclusions prompted at the end of their research, student groups will then create their own map (virtual or physical) with a key, identifying what they noted and the routes taken by Daniel Hughes (include Freedom Road Cemetery, Williamsport, PA, Havre de Grace, MD, Susquehanna River, West Branch of the Susquehanna River).

ASSESSMENT

Steps to check for student understanding

1. Written Prompt(s) -
 - a. Identify and describe the dangers Daniel Hughes faced both as a lumber raftsman and as an Underground Railroad Conductor.
 - b. Who was Daniel Hughes? How did he utilize the available resources to his advantage?

Name _____ Date _____

Partner Name(s) _____

On a separate sheet of paper, use the following sites and questions to research Timber Rafting, the Underground Railroad, and Daniel Hughes.

The prompt at the end of the guided research should be answered in your own words based on the findings of your research.

Topic One - Timber Rafting in the LHR

<https://lumberheritage.org/rivers-timbers/>

https://www.bayjournal.com/news/people/log-rafts-and-raftmen-once-ruled-the-susquehanna-river/article_096cd-e44-c9bd-11ed-ad44-cfdcafb9bc4.html

<https://susqnh.org/riverroots-felling-penns-woods/>

1. Why were rivers used to transport timber?
2. Which rivers flow through PA to Williamsport on to Havre de Grace, MD and into the Chesapeake Bay?
3. What are 2-3 dangers raft crews faced?

Topic Two - The Underground Railroad & The Susquehanna

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/undergroundrailroad/what-is-the-underground-railroad.htm>

<https://paparksandforests.org/the-underground-railroad-and-the-susquehanna/>

<https://underground.lynnestomin.com/sites.html>

www.earth.google.com

1. What was the Underground Railroad?
2. What was the significance of the Susquehanna River to the Underground Railroad?
3. What are 2-3 dangers people involved with the Underground Railroad faced?

Topic Three - Daniel Hughes

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Hughes_\(underground_railroad\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Hughes_(underground_railroad))

<https://handsonheritage.com/daniel-hughes-giant-of-freedom-road/>

www.earth.google.com

1. Who was Daniel Hughes? What did he do?
2. What city was Daniel Hughes from and where did he frequently travel to for work? How did he make this journey/what river(s) were involved?
3. What assets/resources helped Daniel Hughes succeed?

Putting it together...

In your own words, describe the work of Daniel Hughes...be sure to also include the following.

What resources did he use to his advantage?

How the waterways influenced the Underground Railroad.

Identify and describe the dangers Daniel Hughes faced both as a lumber raftsman and as an Underground Railroad Conductor (at least three).

The Story of Daniel Hughes

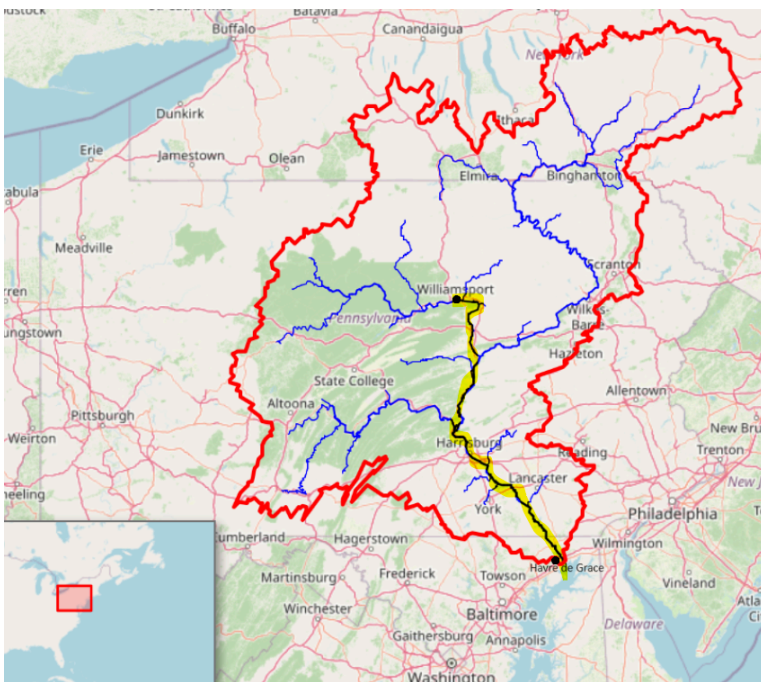
By Rowan Crisp - Lumber Heritage Region of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Daniel Huges was born in Oswego County, NY in 1804. In 1828, Hughes moved to Williamsport Pennsylvania and married Ann Rotch. Their home and property were on the northern side of Williamsport where they had 16 children. Sometimes called “The Giant of Freedom Road”, Hughes was around 6ft 8in tall.



Williamsport, Pennsylvania provided Daniel and many others with work in the lumber industry. Throughout the 1800s, logging would tear through the area known today as the “Lumber Heritage Region”. The river systems provided natural highways for transporting timber, which was in high demand across the country. Williamsport itself held the title “Lumber Capital of the World” from about 1868-1906 and sawed more than 8 billion feet of white pine alone during those years. Situated along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, lumber barons and sawmills took full advantage of the natural resources of the area and lumber from Williamsport could be transported downriver to the Susquehanna River all the way to the Chesapeake Bay and beyond.

Logs and rafts traveled down river by hundreds of millions each year. This was a very dangerous job for the raft crews, especially in rivers like the Susquehanna where natural obstacles like eddies, falls, rocks, rapids, and currents were frequent. Even if one survived falling overboard; the icy spring waters of the rivers could be deadly. And of course the dreaded job of being the one to break up a log jam could also lead to death.



Many, including Daniel Hughes, transported lumber from Williamsport, PA to Havre de Grace, MD. It was through this important waterway that many people were also fleeing enslavement. By the 1800s, Pennsylvania and other Northern states had gradually abolished the practice of slavery. However, Southern states, including Maryland still held on to the practice. Laws like the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 were created to force people who had escaped slavery in the South to be returned, with severe penalties for those who tried to assist “runaways”.

This made networks such as the Underground Railroad (which lasted until the end of the civil war) illegal. However, this did not stop enslaved people from pursuing their freedom nor from some citizens like Daniel Hughes and his family from helping

however they could. But this was a very dangerous endeavor for all involved.

Hughes was able to hide escapees on his return trip from Havre de Grace, MD to his home North of Williamsport. PA. He would use dark, moonless nights to conceal his actions and keep safe from those who might report his activities to bounty hunters and 'slave catchers'. His position as a lumber raftsman gave him the opportunity and cover to help others without being caught.

Once back in Williamsport, Hughes and his family would hide these people in their home or in natural caves nearby. The thickly wooded area helped conceal these freedom seekers, keeping them safe while they rested and replenished before continuing on their journey. Daniel's son, Robert remembered, "I was just a little boy, but I remember very well carrying meals out to them in the woods. They usually traveled in groups of two or three men. Often patrollers would come to our place looking for runaways. They never caught anyone at our place. Rich people and good people in Williamsport, mostly Quakers helped in the work".

Mamie Sweeting Diggs (1933-2011) was the great granddaughter of Daniel Huges and granddaughter of Robert Hughes. She spent a great deal of her life dedicated to sharing the history of her family and the Underground Railroad. It is estimated that Daniel and his family helped around 1,000 people on their journey to freedom and "never lost one of them".

Daniel Hughes donated a portion of his property to be used as a cemetery, where nine African-American veterans of the Civil War are laid to rest. Freedom Road Cemetery is located along the road of the same name. Daniel Hughes was laid to rest in an unmarked grave (honoring his wishes) after his passing in 1880.



Image Credits:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Hughes_\(underground_railroad\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Hughes_(underground_railroad))

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susquehanna_River

<https://www.studentsofhistory.com/underground-railroad>