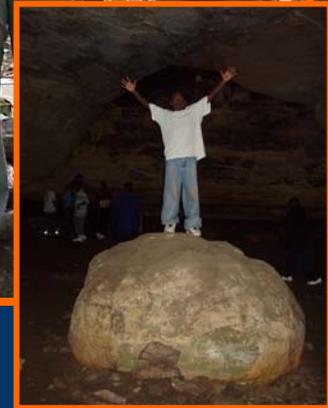


Camp I, too am America

The Archaeology of Miller Grove Shawnee National Forest



I UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION



Carbondale Park District

Enhancing the quality of community life

Camp 1, too am America

Miller Grove was a loosely knit community of farmsteads in Pope County, Illinois.

It was settled in the mid-1840's by free people of color emigrating from Tennessee.

We began investigations at Miller Grove because it was such a unique archaeological site.



Camp 1, too am América

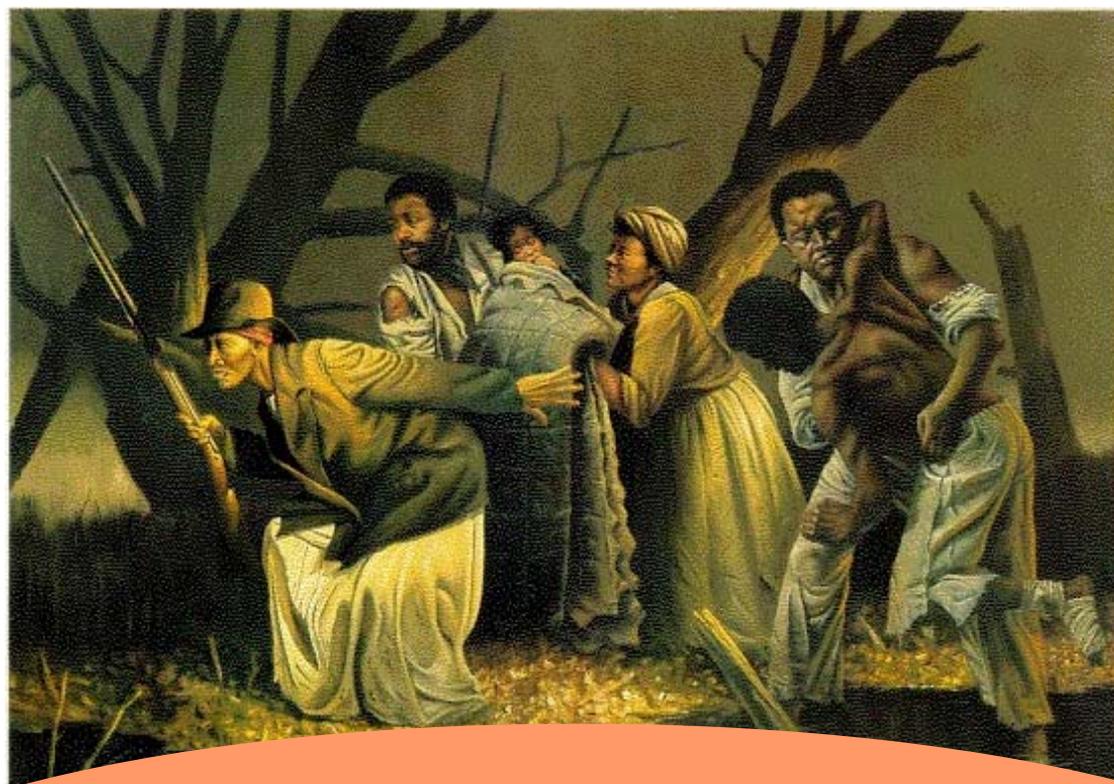
The Harrison
and Lucinda
Miller family
emigrated to
Miller Grove
from Tennessee in 1845.



All were freed slaves.

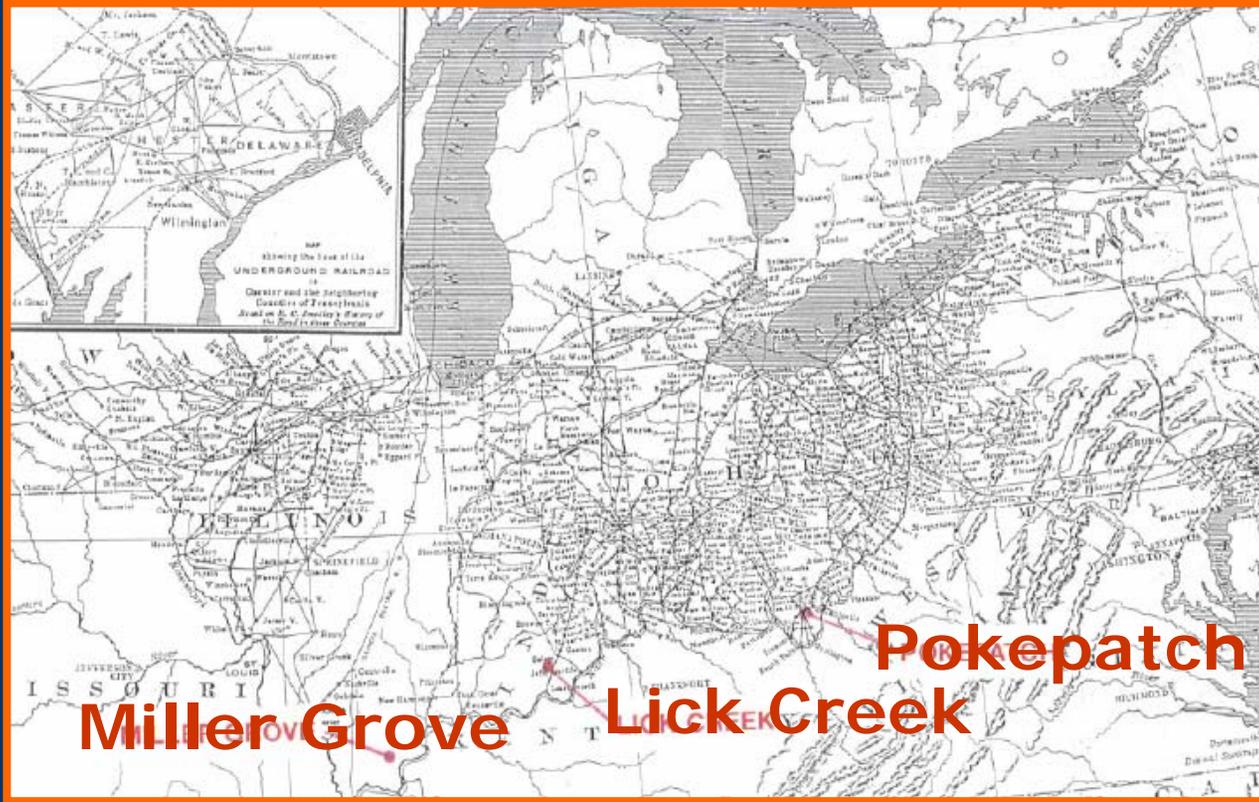


Camp 1, too am America



WAS MILLER GROVE
A PART OF THE
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD?

Camp I, too am America



There were a number of African American communities bordering the Ohio River before the Civil War. These three are located in Eastern Region National Forests.

Camp I, too am America

Was Miller Grove a "Station" on the Underground Railroad? We think so. It was located near the Ohio River and 19th century roads and traces.



Camp 1, too am America

“The geographical position of the most southern portions of Illinois and Indiana determined the character of the population settling there, and thus rendered underground enterprises in those regions more than ordinarily dangerous. There may have been stations scattered through those parts, but if so, one can scarcely hope now to find them.”

—Wilbur Siebert, 1898—



But we know little about it because it was too dangerous to talk about!

Why Camp I, too am America at Miller Grove?



University of Illinois Extension staff and other interested citizens were concerned that local youth lacked a sense of civic pride about the communities in which they lived.

Why Camp I, too an America at Miller Grove?

Local history is not emphasized or taught in the school systems and the area's young people do not have an appreciation of the rich historical legacy of the what has become known "Egypt."



Why Camp I, too, am America at Miller Grove?

Many wrongly come to the conclusion that formal education was a waste, while the same or others look elsewhere for economic independence.

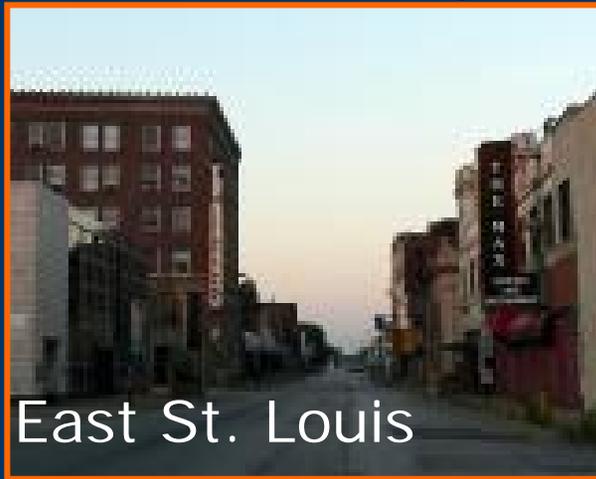


Why Camp I, too am America at Miller Grove?



The small towns and villages of southernmost Illinois share many similarities with many urban areas:

(1) chronic poverty,
and (2) few economic
or educational
resources to call upon.



East St. Louis



Cairo, IL

Why Camp I, too am America at Miller Grove?



Many of these communities are characterized by high ratios of African American and/or other minority youth.



Why Camp I, too am America at Miller Grove?



It was thought that participating in Camp "I, too, am America" would instill in the area's youth pride in their home communities families, while enhancing their self esteem.



Why Camp I, too am America at Miller Grove?

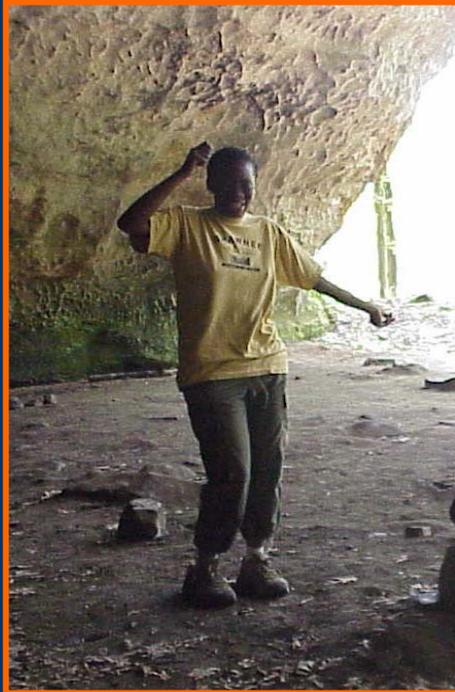
To bridge the gap in information about local African American heritage, the Shawnee NF sponsored a conservation education day camp, entitled Camp "I, too, am America." The camp was made possible through a grant from the Washington Office of the Forest Service.



Why Camp I, too, am America at Miller Grove?



We hire students from 1890 HBCUs to serve as mentors and role models for the campers. We also work with community volunteers (Americorps Promise Fellows, 100 Men Association).



Why Camp I, too an America at Miller Grove?

We all got history! Bit by bit students are helping to recover the forgotten history of Miller Grove. We start by removing the dirt to find the lost bits and pieces of everyday living.



Camp I, too am America

We all got history!



Camp I, too am America



We carefully screen the dirt for treasures from the past—pieces of jewelry, nails, lost toys and silverware, and other fascinating objects hidden in the forest floor.

Camp 1, too am America



We also
wash the
artifacts



Camp 1, too am América

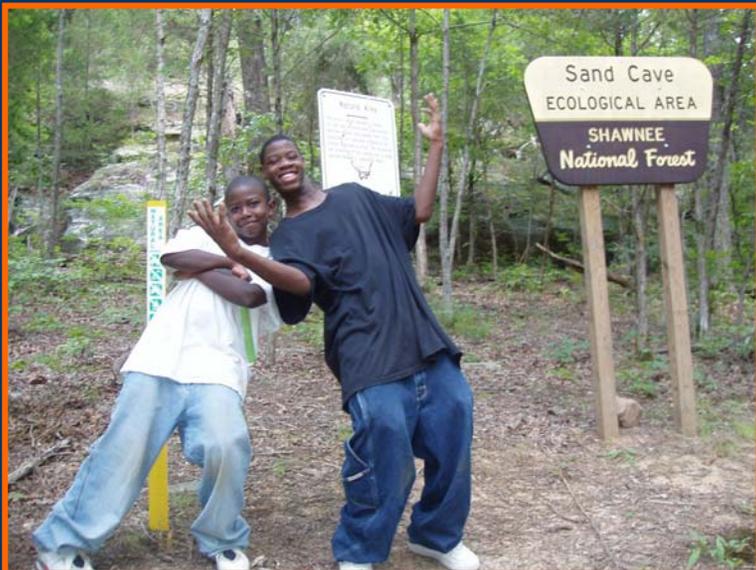
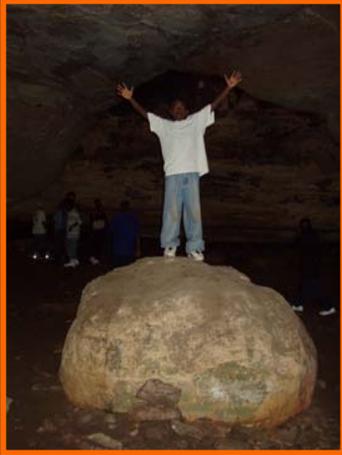
We also take time to enjoy the wildness of the forest—with a hike to Sand Cave Natural Area, also reported to have been a hiding place on the Underground Railroad



Camp I, too am America



Here campers hear the story of the Underground Railroad



Sand Cave

Camp 1, too am América



Another favorite spot—Crow Knob Natural Area. Stories handed down across the generations tell us Crow Knob was used as a look-out for travelers on the Underground Railroad

Camp I, too am America



Other special groups also enjoy working at Miller Grove



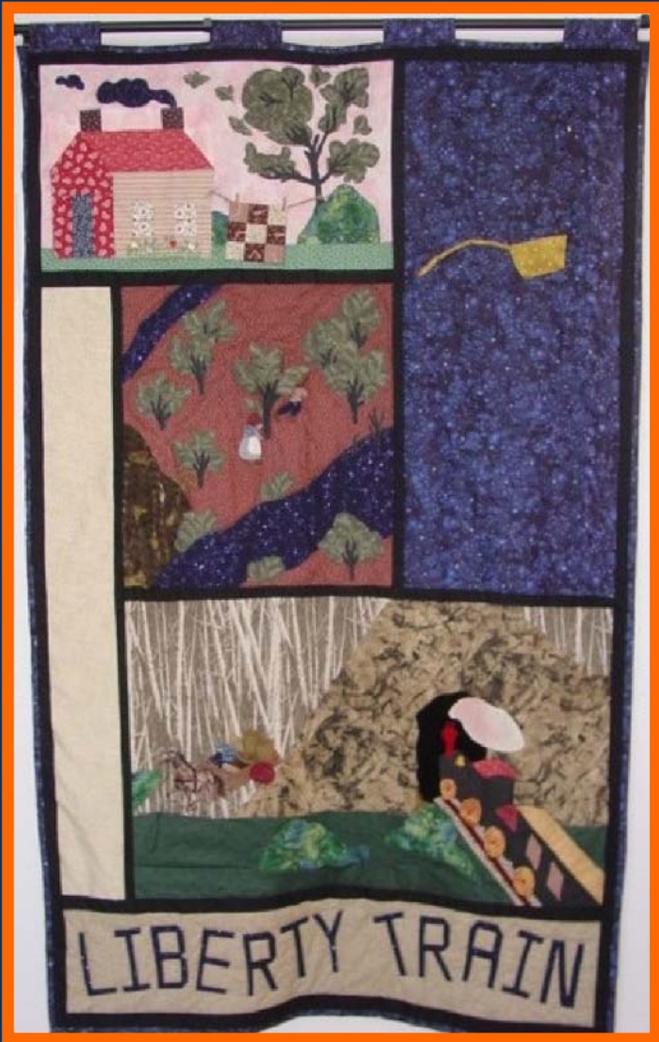
Developmentally challenged adults

Archaeology of the Spirit



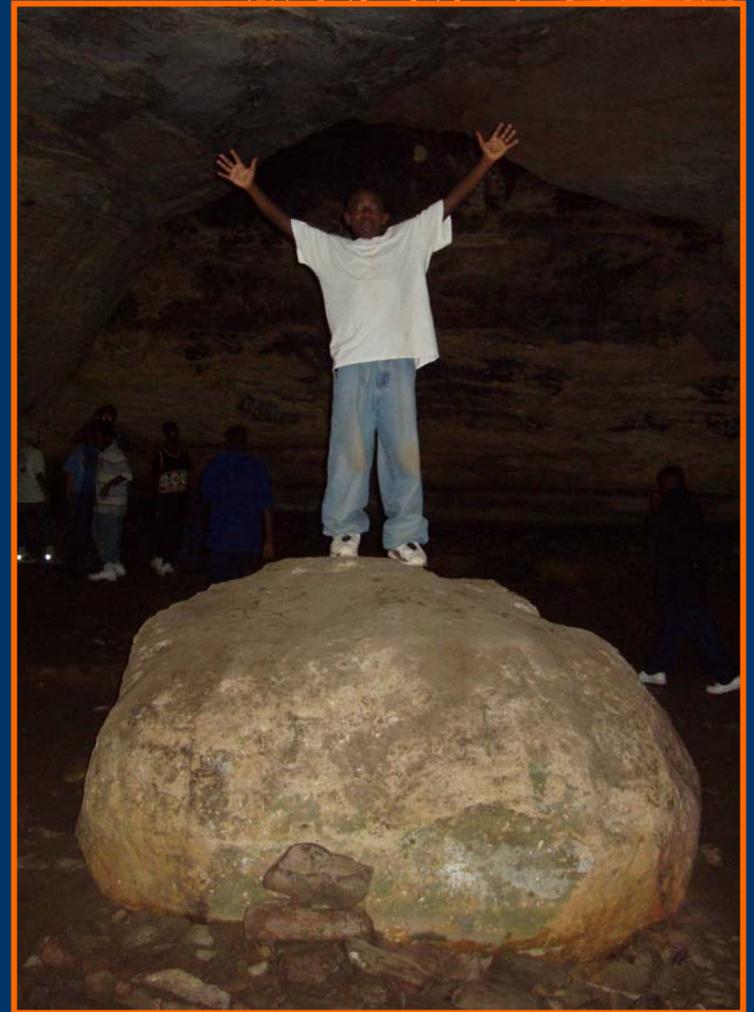
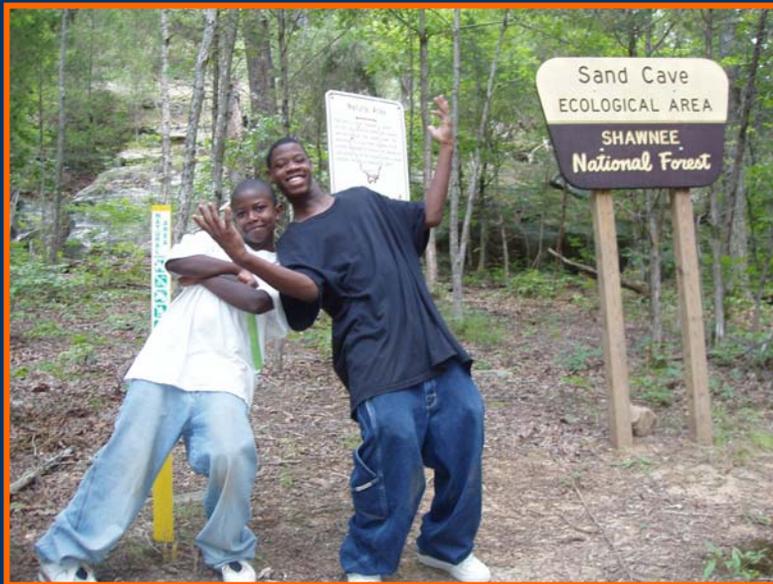
Passport in Time at Miller Grove!

More Passport in Time: Quilts!



Camp I, too am America

Camp I too, am America is a study of the past—about African American Heritage and the Underground Railroad—but it is all about the now!



Camp I, too am America

Recovering the past to save the future

