

State Historical Society of Iowa
Iowa Freedom Trail Grant Project - Biographical Form

Name of Individual or Family: John Wallace Anderson

African Americans

- Slave
- Freedom Seeker/Runaway Slave
- Free Black
- Contrabands
- Unknown Status
- UGRR Station Master
- UGRR Conductor/Agent
- Associated with John Brown

European Americans

- UGRR Station Master
- UGRR Conductor/Agent
- Abolitionist
- Anti-Abolitionist/Proslavery
- Associated with John Brown
- Antislavery
- Unknown Status

Birth date: 28 Sep 1839

Birth place: South Hanover, Jefferson County, Indiana

Death date: _____

Buried at: _____

Death Place: _____

Pictures of Tombstone Source: _____

Marriage to:

Location:

Date:

1. Adeth Bell Gibson

Iowa

1874

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Profession: teacher, farmer

Education: Indiana

Church Membership: United Presbyterian

Public Offices: _____

Local: _____

State: _____

National: _____

Political Party: _____

Military Service: _____

Civic Organizations: _____

Parents:

Father

John Lang Anderson

Birth date:

1814

Death Date:

Birth place:

South Hanover, Jefferson County, Indiana

Buried at:

Mother

Eleanor McClenahan

Birth date:
09 Mar 1814

Death Date:

20 Jul 1883

Birth date: Birth place:

Pennsylvania

Buried at:

Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa

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Children:	Birth date:	Birth place:
<u>Roy Gibson Anderson</u>	<u>08 Nov 1874</u>	<u>Vermont</u>
<u>John Lloyd Anderson</u>	<u>15 Aug 1876</u>	<u>United States</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Locations of Individual or Family:

1. Hanover, Jefferson County, Indiana
2. Amity, Page County Iowa
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. -
7. _____

Dates Present:

- 1839 - spring 1858
May 1858 - ?

References:

"United States Census, 1860," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M82G-TBW> : accessed 4 August 2015), John W Anderson in household of J L Anderson, Amity Township, Page, Iowa, United States; from "1860 U.S. Federal Census - Population," database, Fold3.com (<http://www.fold3.com> : n.d.); citing p. 86, household ID 647, NARA microfilm
Winchell, Clara Woodmansee. Stories of My Childhood, ca. 1920. copy at Nodaway Valley Museum, Clarinda, Iowa.

Images of Individual or Family

Portraits: _____
 Photographs: .

Associated Properties or Places

Historic Property Name: _____
 Address: _____ (If rural, please provide Section, Township and Range)
 Is the property or place extant? Yes No
 Iowa Site Inventory Number: _____
 Archaeological Site Number: _____
 Listed on the National Register of Historic Places: Yes No Date Listed: _____
 Photographs, Drawings, and Portraits: .

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Notes: 2

Underground Railroad Activities

John Anderson went into Missouri to lead slaves north to Iowa.

References:

Winchell, Clara Woodmansee. Stories of My Childhood, ca. 1920. copy at Nodaway Valley Museum, Clarinda, Iowa.

Abolitionist or Antislavery Activities

John Anderson was an ardent abolitionist and active member of the United Presbyterian church of Amity, known for its abolitionist preaching and teaching.

References:

.Winchell, Clara Woodmansee. Stories of My Childhood, ca. 1920. copy at Nodaway Valley Museum, Clarinda, Iowa.

Anti-Abolitionist or Proslavery Activities

References:

Notes

John Wallace Anderson was born on September 28, 1841 in Hanover, Jefferson County, Indiana, the son of John Lang Anderson (1810 -) and Eleanor McClenahan Anderson (1814 - 1883). John was the second of nine children born to the Andersons in Hanover. The Andersons were abolitionists and lived near the town of Madison, on the Ohio River, which was a known Underground railroad town. They also lived near Hanover College which was a Presbyterian school. In the early 19th century, missionaries went to Hanover as part of the Second Great Awakening. Rev. John Finley Crowe served as pastor of the Hanover Presbyterian Church. He opened the Hanover Academy January 1, 1827. In the spring of 1858, John Lang Anderson and family left their Indiana home along with the George W. McCullough Sr. family for Page County, Iowa. They left Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana by the steamboat A. E. Ogden and stepped off in St. Joseph, Missouri. "The trip from St. Joseph, Missouri was slow and tedious, took one week with team and wagon," according to McCullough's granddaughter Margaret Isabella Reid. At the age of twenty, John was teaching school near Amity. The only known reference to John's work on the Underground Railroad and as an abolitionist comes from the memory of one of his students, Clara Woodmansee Winchell, who wrote, "My first teacher was a young man, Mr. John Anderson. The teacher was a very pleasant young man, a good United Presbyterian, went to church and sang Psalms on Sundays and during the week at school taught us to sing....Mr. Anderson was an ardent abolitionist....Sometimes a party of young men went down from Amity and in the darkness of night, aided these who were trying to get away from slavery. I have occasion to remember one such event very distinctly. Our teacher, with some other young men, went down into Missouri on Saturday night to rescue some Negroes who were trying to get away, and come into Iowa. They always went at night and intended to return before daylight Sunday morning. In some way Mr. Anderson, in the darkness, became separated from the rest of the party, and

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couldn't find his friends. Such raids into the enemy's country were always kept secret. I went to school Monday morning as usual. In a little while, Mr. Anderson came trudging in, hungry and footsore. I remember thinking he looked very funny with somebody's old straw hat on his head." Surely the family was involved in other UGRR activities, but no documents have been located beyond this. John married Adeth Bell Gibson in December 1874 in Washington, Adair, Iowa, and they had two sons, Roy Gibson Anderson (1874-1877) and John Lloyd Anderson (1876-1891.) It is unclear where John Lang and John Wallace died and are buried. Adeth was from Vermont, and Roy Gibson was born there and John Lloyd died there. Adeth died February 19, 1877 in Washington, Iowa.

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanover_College
Winchell, Clara Woodmansee. Stories of My Childhood, ca. 1920. copy at Nodaway Valley Museum, Clarinda, Iowa. "United States Census, 1860," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M82G-TBW> : accessed 4 August 2015), John W Anderson in household of J L Anderson, Amity Township, Page, Iowa, United States; from "1860 U.S. Federal Census - Population," database, Fold3.com (<http://www.fold3.com> : n.d.); citing p. 86, household ID 647, NARA microfilm <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/82432468/family>
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~patmount/McCulloughMyths.htm>

Connections

George W. McCullough Jr.

References:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~patmount/McCulloughMyths.htm>

Association with John Brown

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References:

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Researchers

Information in File Compiled By:

Name(s)

Carol Bohl

Date:

8/4/2015

Updates

Information:

Name(s)

Date:

Information:

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