



## 2019 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

1       **Relating to:** proclaiming February 2020 as Black History Month.

2               Whereas, Americans have recognized Black History Month annually since  
3       February 1926; and

4               Whereas, central to black history in Wisconsin is the state's Underground  
5       Railroad, the antislavery runaway network, through which more than 100 slaves  
6       escaped to freedom in Canada between 1842 and 1861; and

7               Whereas, the fugitive enslaved people who utilized Wisconsin's Underground  
8       Railroad, as well as the abolitionists who provided them with shelter and passage  
9       across the state, exhibited exceptional courage and conviction; and

10              Whereas, in 1842, Caroline Quarlls, the first person known to have utilized the  
11       state's Underground Railroad, escaped from her owner in St. Louis before traveling  
12       north to Wisconsin, where African American and white abolitionists hid her in safe  
13       houses located in Milwaukee, Pewaukee, Prairieville (now Waukesha), and Spring  
14       Prairie; and

1           Whereas, Lyman Goodnow, a church deacon and abolitionist from Prairieville,  
2           drove Quarlls, hidden in the back of a wagon, from Wisconsin to Michigan, where he  
3           and other freedom workers hired a ferry to carry Quarlls across the Detroit River to  
4           Canada; and

5           Whereas, Dr. Edward Galusha Dyer not only hid runaways in his home in  
6           Burlington but also openly campaigned against slavery and collected money to help  
7           Quarlls and Goodnow; and

8           Whereas, Joshua Glover escaped from slavery in Missouri and worked at a mill  
9           in Racine for two years before a U.S. marshal, accompanied by Glover's former  
10          enslaver, arrested him in 1854 and transported him to a jail in Milwaukee, where he  
11          escaped and eventually slipped onto steamship bound for Canada; and

12          Whereas, Sherman Booth, editor of the Wisconsin Freeman, a  
13          Milwaukee-based abolitionist newspaper, was convicted of breaking the Fugitive  
14          Slave Act for his part in recruiting hundreds of people to storm the jail where Glover  
15          was detained to help him break free; and

16          Whereas, members of the Stockbridge-Munsee band of Mohican Indians  
17          helped numerous enslaved people on their journey to freedom, including a father and  
18          three children whom the Stockbridge-Munsee hid from bounty hunters on their land  
19          near Lake Winnebago around 1854; and

20          Whereas, Eliza Chappell Porter, the wife of a minister in Green Bay, received  
21          word from the Stockbridge-Munsee that the family was ready to travel on to her  
22          parsonage, the last stop on Wisconsin's Underground Railroad for fugitive slaves  
23          waiting to depart from the city's harbor, and kept the family hidden in the church's  
24          bell tower until their ship to Canada was ready to depart; and

