

APPENDIX A. CATALOG OF CODED MESSAGE SONGS¹⁴⁹

Title	Collection/ Citation	Scriptural Reference	Lyrics (relevant lyrics listed only)	Connotation/ Interpretation
Ain't I Glad I've Got Out the Wilderness	Work, 185.	Numbers 14 Exodus 14	O, ain't I glad I've got out the wilderness. O, come along, mourner, Run out the wilderness.	The wilderness is the bondage of slavery.
Ain't a That Good News	Work, 195	Mark 8:24 Mathew 24:14	I've got a crown up in the Kingdom, Ain't a that good news? I've got a harp. I've got a robe. Gonna shoulder up-a my cross. Gonna take it home-a to my Jesus.	Talk of possessions offered hope for a better life.
Almost Over	Allen, 74.	Matthew 28:19-20	I done been down, and I done been tried. I been through the water and been baptized. And when you get to heaven, you'll be able for to tell, How you shunned the gates of hell.	Go through the water to reach freedom. Heaven is freedom, Hell is slavery/south.
Angels Waiting at the Door	Marsh, 223.	Psalms 91:11	My sister's took her flight and gone home, And the angels waiting at the door. She has laid down her cross and gone home. She has taken up her crown and gone home. Tell all my father's children, Don't you grieve for me.	My loved one has made it to freedom. Don't grieve for her, I'm happy she's free.
Archangel, Open the Door	Allen, 32.	Psalms 91:11	I'm gwine to my heaven, I'm gwine home. Archangel open de door!	Archangels are agents of the URR
Bell da Ring	Allen, 34.		Want to go to meeting, bell da ring. Road so stormy. You can't get to heaven when de bell da ring. The gates are all shut when de bell da ring.	We want to have a secret meeting but we can't because the bell is ringing, a signal that it's not safe.
Bound for Canaan Land	McIlhenney, 42. Newman, 73.		Where're you bound? Bound for Canaan land. Raise up your head with courage bold, For your race is almost run. I have hard trials here below, I'm bound for Canaan land.	Bound for Canada. You're almost there. I've had trials before, but I'm bound for Canada
Brudder Moses Gone	Allen, 66.	Matthew 24:14	Brudder Moses gone to de promised land, Hallelujah.	Tubman/other URR agent had gone.
Bye an' Bye	Work, 228	Matthew 11:30	Bye an' bye, we all shall meet again, An' I wouldn't mind dying' if dying' was all. After death got to fill an empty grave.	It's a farewell song. Dying is escaping.
Bye an' Bye	Boatner, 17.	Matthew 11:30	Bye and bye, I'm going to lay down this heavy load. I know my robe's gonna fit me well, I tried it on at the gates of hell. Some of these mornings, bright and fair, Going to take my wings and cleave the air.	Expresses a longing to escape to a new home.

¹⁴⁹ The Underground Railroad is abbreviated as URR.

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Calvary	Work, 104	Genesis 28:10-12	We are climbing Jacob's ladder, Every round goes higher and higher.	Moving higher, or further north
Captain, O Captain	Work, 237.		One o' these mornings it won't be long, You goin' holler fo' me but I'll be gone. If I feel tomorrow like I feel today, Goin' pack my suitcase an' make my getaway.	Planning for escape. Saying goodbye.
Children, Do Linger	Allen, 51.		O member, will you linger? I go to glory wid you. Member join. O, Jesus is our Captain, he lead us on to glory. We'll meet at Zion's gateway. We'll enter into glory when We done with dis world's trials.	Are you coming with us? Someone will guide us. Meet at the designated spot.
Chilly Water	Marsh, 298		I know that water is chilly and cold, I have Jesus in-a my soul. Old Satan's just like a snake in the grass, Watching for to bite you as a-you pass. Oh, brothers and sisters, one and all, You had better be ready when the roll is called.	There will be struggle, and danger, but you better be ready when the time comes to escape.
City Called Heaven	Boatner, 20.	Revelation 21:2 Psalm 39:12	I am a poor pilgrim of sorrow, I'm left in this wide world alone. I ain't got no hope for tomorrow, I'm trying to make it, make heaven my home. Sometimes I'm tossed and I'm driven, Lord, sometimes I don't know which way to turn. I've heard of a city, a city called heaven, My mother has reached that pure glory, my father's still walking in sin. My brothers and sisters won't own me, because I am trying to get in.	I am a pilgrim, trying to make my way to heaven (freedom), even though there are struggles along the way. My family is separated, somewhere between freedom and bondage.
Come Along, Moses	Allen, 104.	Exodus 14	Come along, Moses, don't get lost, We are the people of God. We have a just God to plead our cause. He sits in Heaven and he answers prayers. Stretch out your rod and come across.	A longing for Moses (URR) to come and lead them to freedom.
Come and Go with Me	Newman, 71.	Revelation 21:2	This old world is not my home, O Christian, come and go with me. Yes, I seek my home in Heaven, O moaner, My home is in the new Jerusalem, O sinner, Yes, my home is over Jordan, O sister.	An invitation to try and move towards freedom
Come Down	Work, 88.	Matthew 14:28	Come down, my Lord! Way down in Egypt land. I'm purchased by the dying Lamb Way down in Egypt land. Peter walked upon the sea, And Jesus told him, Come to me.	A plea for rescue.
Comin' Ag'in By an' By	McIlhenney, 64		Ain't no mo' dodgin' in de Bushes iner Gawd's army. I bow out here an' dare; Comin' ag'in by an' by. Somet'ing dare was in ma way. It's nutin but de devil, but he can not stay.	No more hiding for me. I'm going to escape.

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Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray	Curtis- Burlin, 23.	Numbers 14	An' I count hear nobody pray O Lord! O, way down yonder, by myself. In the valley, on my knees, With my burden, an my savior. Chilly waters, in the Jordan, Crossing over, into Canaan.	Contemplating escape, and the patience it requires to wait for the right moment.
Crossin' Ovah	Jackson, 3-11.	Deuteronomy 32:47	Oh sistuh, put on yo crown, shout and sing, Great day in duh kingdom, Lordy. Sing and shout while de bell does ring, Hallelujah to duh Lamb! Oh brothuh, is dat yo robe? Oh glory. You walk around and tell de story, Singin' hallelujah to duh Lamb! For we will a meet, meet aid duh Lamb of glory, Shout and tell of duh wondrous story, Crossing' ovah duh Jerdons stream, We'll a soon be nearing' home. I hear de angels play on dere harps and sing. We gonna sing and shout hallelujah. Now, chillun, do you wanna see Jesus? Yes, Lord! Can you hear dat shouting'? Will you cross on ovah?	Dreaming of reuniting with family members in the land of the free and enjoying the comforts of that kind of life.
Dat Same Train	McIlhenney, 79.		Dat same train goin' t' be back tomorrow. Dat same train too away Ma father and ma mother.	
Deep River	Marsh, 230.	Deuteronomy 3:24-25 Joshua 3	Deep river, my home is over Jordan, I want to cross over into campground. Oh, don't you want to go to that Gospel feast, That promised land, where all is peace? I'll go into heaven and take my seat, And cast my crown at the Master's feet. Oh, when I get to heav'n, I'll walk all about, There's nobody there for to turn me out.	I will cross whatever great barrier there is between me and freedom. I will join in the feast, rather than be a servant to it.
Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel?	Marsh, 168.	Daniel 6:22 Matthew 24:29	Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel, why not every man? He delivered Daniel from the lion's den, Jonah from the belly of the whale. He delivered the children From the fiery furnace, And why not every man? The moon run down in a purple stream, The sun forbear to shine, And every star disappear, King Jesus shall be mine. The wind blows East And the wind blows West, It blows like the judgment day, And every poor soul that never did pray, I'll be glad to pray that day. I set my foot on the Gospel ship, And it begin to sail, It landed me over on Canaan's shore, And I'll never come back any more.	Since the Lord delivered Daniel from all of his challenges, why not me? Freedom is possible for all. I will be delivered.
Don't be Weary, Traveller	Allen, 75.	Numbers 14	Don't be weary traveller, Come along home to Jesus. My head got wet with the midnight dew, Angels bear me witness too.	Keep going, do not be discouraged. URR agents will help you.

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Don't You Let Nobody Turn You Roun'	Work, 89	Mark 1:5	Don't you let nobody turn you 'roun; Keep the straight an' the narrow way. T'was at the river of Jordan, baptism was begun, John baptized the multitude, But he sprinkled nary one; The baptis' they go by water, the methods' go by lan' When they get to heaven, They'll shake each other's han'	Keep moving forward, via routes, water or land.
Elijah Rock	Hogan, 1-11.	1 Kings 19:11 2 Kings 2:11	Oh, Elijah rock. Come on sister, help me to pray, Tell me my Lord done pass dis way. Satan ain't nothin' but a snake in the grass. He's a conjur. He's a liar. If I could I surely would Stand on the rock where Moses stood. I'm comin' up Lawdy.	Satan (the enemy) is cunning If you have faith, as Moses and Elijah did, you can be delivered "up" to heaven by a chariot.
Ezek'el Saw the Wheel	Work, 148.	Ezekiel 1:15-21.	Ezek'el saw the wheel Way up in the middle o' the air. The big wheel moved by Faith, The little wheel moved by the Grace o' God. Jes' let me tell you what a hypocrite'll do, He'll talk about me an' he'll talk about you. Watch out my sister how you walk on the cross, Yo' foot might slip an' yo' soul get lost.	The motion of the wheels symbolize the movement of the URR, and those moving toward freedom.
Farewell, My Brother	Marsh, 219.		Farewell, my brother, farewell forever. Fare you well, my brother, Now, for I am going home. Oh! Good-bye, for I am bound to leave you, Oh! Good-bye, for I am going home.	Farewell song.
Follow the Drinking Gourd	Guenther, 361-2.		Follow the drinking gourd, For the old man is waiting For to carry you to freedom. When the sun goes down And the first quail calls. The river bank would make a mighty good road, Dead trees will show you the way. Left foot, peg foot traveling on. The river ends between two hills, There's another river on the other side.	Although not appearing until later, this is one of the most famous of coded songs, providing geographical markers and suggested times for escape.
Gabriel's Trumpet's Going to blow	Marsh, 229.	I Thessalonians 4:16	Gabriel's trumpet's going to blow, By and by, at the end of time. The first sounding of the trumpet For the righteous. Go, wake the sleeping nations. Then poor sinner what will you do? You'll run for the mountains to hide you.	The signal from Gabriel, an archangel (URR agent) will wake those waiting and bring them to action.
Git on de Boat Little Chillun	McIlhenney, 69		Jes you git on de boat little chillun An' we'll sail away. Angel come f'om hebben, I t'ought I heard him say, Jes you raise dem diamon' curtain' An' er hear dem Christians pray.	Join the angels (URR) and escape from slavery.

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Go Down Moses	Work, 165. Curtis-Burlin, 16.	Exodus 6:10-11 Exodus 10:3 Exodus 14	When Israel was in Egypt's land, Oppressed so hard they could not stand. Tell old Pharaoh, Let my people go! Thus saith the Lord bold Moses said, If not I'll smite your first-born dead. No more in bondage shall they toil, Let then come out with Egypt's spoil. The Lord told Moses what to do, To lead the children of Israel thro' When they had reached the other shore, They sang a song of triumph o'er.	The Israelites in bondage represented those bound by slavery. Pharaoh represented the plantation owner. Moses was Harriet Tubman, or some other agent of the URR.
Go Down, Moses	Marsh, 178.	Exodus 6:10-11 Exodus 10:3 Exodus 14	<i>New verses, as sung by the Fisk Jubilee Singers:</i> O 'twas a dark and dismal night, when Moses led the Israelites. The Lord told Moses what to do, To lead the children of Israel through. O Moses, the cloud shall cleave the way, A fire by night, a shade by day. You'll not get lost in the wilderness, With a lighted candle in your breast. Your foes shall not before you stand, And you'll possess fair Canaan's land. We need not always weep and moan, And wear these slavery chains forlorn. O brethren, brethren you'd better be engaged, For the devil he's out on a big rampage. O take yer shoes from off yer feet, And walk into the golden street.	See above.
Go Tell it on the Mountain	Work, 215.	Luke 2:11-15	Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere, That Jesus Christ is born. While shepherd kept their watching O'er silent flocks By night, Behold throughout the heavens, There shone a holy light. The shepherd feared and trembled When lo above the Earth, Rang out the angel chorus, That hailed our Saviour's birth. Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was Born, and God sent out salvation, That blessed Christmas morn.	Shepherds and angels were agents of the URR, ushering their "sheep" to salvation/freedom.
Goin' Away to See-er Ma Lord	McIlhenney, 65		Goin' away to see ma Savior, I'm goin' away to see-er ma Lord. Ma sister mighty happy fer to see ma Jesus, Mighty happy on Josua's wall. Ef I get on de udder side ob Judgment, I ain't comin' here fer to sin no mo'	I'm going to freedom and if I reach it, I'm never coming back.
Goin' Home	Work, 139.	II Kings 2:11	Hallelujah! I'm a goin' home in the chariot in the mornin'. Lord I'm comin' to your glory! Sinner man, you better pray! For judgment is comin' in every day. You must believe, I'm going home in the chariot in the mornin' O mourner, And the grace of God you will receive. Now I lay my burden down, so glad I'm done. My Lord, I'm comin' to your kingdom, I'm on my journey now.	Chariots commonly referred to methods of transportation for escape to freedom up north.

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Going to Set Down and Rest Awhile	Newman, 83.		Going to set down and rest awhile, When my good Lord calls me. Sister Mary went to Heaven, And she went there to stay, And she didn't go to come back no more; She sang a song that the angels couldn't sing: Hosanna, carry on! Little children, don't you moan, When my good Lord calls me. O, Zion!	References family members or friends that have found freedom. Many times, when people escaped, they were never heard from again.
Going to Shout all over God's Heaven	Work, 180.		I've got a robe, you've got a robe, All of God's children got a robe; I've got a crown... I've got a shoes... I've got a harp... I've got a song... When I get to heaven goin' to sing a new song, Going' to sing all over God's Heav'n.	This song of hope referenced the possessions that were available as a freed person.
Good-bye, Brothers	Marsh 249		Good-bye, brothers, good-bye, sisters, If I don't see you anymore, I'll meet you in heaven, In the blessed kingdom.	Farewell song.
Good News! The Chariot's Comin!	Curtis- Burlin, 32-33. Marsh, 282-3.	2 Kings 2:11	Good news! So glad the chariot's comin' I don't want it to leave a me behind. There's a long white robe in heaven I know. There's a starry crown in heaven I know.	A happy proclamation of hope...the chariot was a vehicle to freedom.
Good Old Chariot	Marsh, 244.	2 Kings 2:11	Swing low, sweet chariot, Don't you leave me behind. Good old chariot, take us all home. Don't you leave me behind.	Hope for freedom.
Great Day	Work, 182.	Psalm 51:18 Leviticus 25:10	Great day! The righteous marching, God's going to build up Zion's walls! Chariot rode on the mountain top, My God spoke and the chariot did stop. This is the day of jubilee, The Lord has set His people free. We want no cowards in our band, We call for valiant hearted men. Going to take my breastplate, Sword and shield, And march out boldly in the field.	The chariot would bring the enslaved to freedom on jubilee day. You had to have courage to attain freedom.
Hallelu, Hallelu	Allen, 67.		Oh, one day as a'noder, hallelu. When de ship is out a'sailin', hallelu. Member walk and never tire. Member walk Jordan long road.	Vehicles for freedom and a message of encouragement.
Have You Got Good Religion	McIntyre, 1-11.	Revelation 21:21 Luke 9: 62 Leviticus 25:10	Have you got good religion? Certainly Lord! Have you been redeemed? Certainly Lord! I've never been to heaven, but I've been told, The streets up there are paved with gold. The gospel plough is in our hands, Good Lord, we're bound for the promised land. Have you been baptized? Certainly Lord! This is the year of jubilee, When Jesus set his people free. We want no cowards in our band, Praise God, we're bound for the promised land.	Those bound for heaven (freedom) had to have courage, so that at the time of jubilee, they could be freed from bondage.

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Heaven Bell a Ring	Allen, 20.	Revelation 6:12-16	My Lord, what shall I do? And a heaven bell a ring and praise God. What shall I do for a hiding place? I run to the sea, but the sea run dry. I run to the gate, but the gate shut fast. No hiding place for sinner here. When you get to heaven, Say you remember me.	This text refers to the business of escaping, and the various things to be encountered.
Here's No Hidin' Place Down Here	Newman, 41.	Revelation 6:12-16	Here's no hidin' place down here. I went to de rocks to hide my face, De rocks cried out, "no hidin' place." De rock cried, "I'm burnin' too, Wanna go to heaven the same as you." Oh, de sinner man, he gambled an' fell, He wanted to go go to heaven, But had to go to hell.	The south doesn't offer a place to hide or stay for anyone. Eventually, freedom will reign.
Hold On	Chenu, 250.	Luke 9:62 Genesis 28:12	Noah let me come in, Doors all fastened and de winders pinned. Keep your hand on-a dat plow. Sister Mary had a goldchain, Every link was my Jesus' name. Keep on plowin' and don't you tire, Every row goes high'r and high'r. Ef you wanner git to Heben I'll tell you how, Keep your hand right on-a dat plow. Ef that plow stays in-a your hand, Land you straight in de Promise' Land.	Great figures of the Bible often represented agents of the URR, assisting escapees. Once you've left the plantation, don't look back...keep going higher and higher until you reach freedom.
Hold Your Light	Allen, 12.		What make ol' Satan to follow me so? Satan ain't nothin' at all to for to do wid me. Run, seeker! Hold your light on Canaan's shore.	The slave master was Satan...cruel and cunning.
Home in d'Rock	Gibbs, 1-12.	Luke 16:19-25	I got a home in-a dat rock, don-a you see? Between de earth an' sky, Thought I heard my Savior cry. Rich man Divies lived so well When he died he foun' a home in hmm, (hell) Po' man Lazrus, po' as I, When he died, he foun' a home on high.	Lazrus was the slave, and would get to Heaven. Rich man Dives was the plantation owner, who would stay in hell.
I Am Bound for the Promised Land	Newman, 85.		I am bound for the Promised Land, O, won't you rise and go with me. When I get to Heaven I'll set and tell, I am bound for the Promised Land Just how I shun the gates of Hell. O, Christians, be enraged, Old Satan in an awful rage.	An invitation to be a partner for escape, turning away from the plantation and the slave master.
I Can't Stay Behind	Allen, 6.	John 14:1-7	I can't stay behind, my Lord. Dere's room enough in heaven my Lord. I been on the road into heaven, my Lord. I can't stay behind.	A deep desire to attain freedom.
I Don't Feel Weary	Allen, 70.		I don't feel weary and noways tired, Glory hallelujah! Jes let me in the kingdom while the world is on fire. Gwine to live with God forever. And keep the ark a movin'.	You must be tireless and persistent to escape the hell of slavery.

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I Got Wings	Jordan, 48.		I got wings, you got wings, All o' God's children got wings. When I get to Heaven, gonna put on my wings And gonna fly all over God's Heaven. Everybody talk' bout Heaven, ain't a goin' there. I got shoes, you got shoes...gonna put on my shoes And gonna walk all over God's Heaven. I got a harp, you got a harp...gonna put on my harp And gonna play all over God's Heaven. I got a robe, you got a robe...gonna put on my robe And gonna shout all over God's Heaven.	When I get to heaven, I will have the opportunity to have my own possessions.
I Have Another Building	Work, 186.	Revelation 21:2	I know I have another building, I know it's not made with hands, O brethren. I want to go to Heaven, and I want to go right, I want to go to heaven all robed in white. I haven't been to Heaven, but I've a been told, The gates are pearl and the streets are gold. Look over yonder and what do I see, A holy band of angels coming after me.	Heaven (freedom) will be wonderful, full of untold riches. Holy angels (URR agents) will help me get there.
I Want to Be Ready	Work, 50 Marsh, 293.	Revelation 21:2, 16 John 14:1-7	I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem Just like John. John said the city was just four square And he declared he'd meet me there.	Dreaming of freedom.
I'll Hear the Trumpet Soun	Marsh, 170		You may bury me in the East, You may bury me in the West, But I'll hear the trumpet sound in that morning. Father Gabriel in that day, He'll take wings and fly away.	When I get the signal I'll fly away to freedom, just like the angel, Gabriel.
I'm A-going to Join the Band	Work, 196.		I'm a going to join the band, hallelujah! The more come in with a free good will, Makes the band seem sweeter still. Jordan's stream is so chilly and cold, If you don't mind it'll chill your soul. Watch that Sun, how steady she runs, Don't let her catch you with your work undone Going to hang my harp on the willow tree, It'll sound way over in Galilee.	I'm going to try and escape to freedom. I will have to cross a stream, or pass a difficulty to get there. Travel at night, and watch for signals along the way.
I'm Just a Goin' Over There	Work, 221.		I'm just a goin' way over Jordan, I'm just a goin' over there. I'm goin' home to see my brother. I'm goin' home to see my mother. I'm goin' home to see my Jesus.	I hope to see my family when I reach freedom.
I'm a Rolling	Marsh, 167.		I'm a rolling, rolling thro' an unfriendly world. O brothers, won't you help me, Help me to pray? O sisters, won't you help me, help me to pray? O preachers, won't you help me, Help me to fight? Won't you help me in the service of the Lord?	I'm running for freedom. Please help me by praying, or by fighting if need be.

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I'm so Glad	Marsh, 269.	Exodus 14	I'm so glad the angels brought the tidings down, I'm hunting for a home. You'll not get lost in the wilderness, With the love of Jesus in your breast. Oh Christians you had better pray For Satan's around you every day. A little longer here below, And then to glory we will go. Hunting for a home.	I hope to find a home in freedom someday. Bounty hunters are searching for fugitives.
In the Mansions Above	Allen, 59.	John 14:1-7	Lord, in the mansions above I hope to meet my Jesus. If you get to heaven before I do, tell my Jesus I'm comin' too. Lord, I've had many crosses And trials here below.	Send a message that I'm going to try escape for the north.
I've Done What You Told me to Do	Work, 198.		O Lord, I've done what you told me to do. In a that morning, O my Lord, When the Lord says "hurry!" O Gabriel come on down the line. O gambler, you can't get on a this train. O sister, have you got your ticket signed?	An URR agent is there to help you escape.
Jesus on the Waterside	Allen, 29.		Heaven bell a ring, I know de road, Jesus sittin' on the waterside. Do come along, do let us go.	A story of escape, including a signal and route.
John Henry	Work, 233.		This ol' hammer killed John Henry!, But this ol' hammer won't kill me! This ol' hammer shines like silver! But rings like gol'. Take my hammer to the walkin' boss, Tell 'im I'm gone. If he ask you any questions, Tell 'im you don't know.	The hammer sound was a signal that it was safe or unsafe to come up/out.
Join de Angel Band	Allen, 29.	Numbers 14	If you look up da road, you see fader Mosey, Join de angel band. Do, fader Mosey, gader (gather) your army. Join 'em all, join 'em for Jesus, Jerusalem band. Sixteen souls set out for Heaven.	Watch for Moses (Tubman, or another URR agent) for your chance to escape.
Judgment Day Is Rolling Round	Marsh, 183		Judgment day is rolling around, O, how I long to go. I've a good old mother in the heaven, My Lord. There's no back-sliding in the heaven, My Lord. King Jesus sitting in the heaven, My Lord. There's a big camp meeting in the heaven, My Lord.	The day is approaching when we will all be free. O, how I long to go to that meeting.
Keep Your Lamps	Marsh, 224.	Matthew 25:1-13	Keep your lamps trimm'd and a-burning, For this work's almost done. Brothers, don't grow weary, Preachers, don't grow weary, For this work is almost done.	Be ready for the chance to escape, and don't succumb to weakness.

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King Jesus Built Me a House Above	Work, 227.	John 14:1-7	King Jesus built me a house above, An' he built it without a hammer or a nail. King Jesus built me a house above, An' he built it on Jerusalem lane. I want my Elder to go with me, To walk down Jerusalem lane.	There is freedom in the north for me and my loved ones.
Let God's Saints Come in	Allen, 76.	Exodus 10	Come down angel, and trouble the water, And let God's saints come in. Canaan land is the land for me, And let God's saints come in. There was a wicked man, he kept them children in Egypt land. God did say to Moses one day, Say Moses, go to Egypt land. And tell them to let my people go, And Pharaoh would not let them go.	Please, come and help me escape and find freedom. My slave owner won't let me go.
Let Me Fly	DeCormier, 1-15.	II Kings 2:11	Way down yonder in the middle of the field, Angel workin' at the chariot wheel. Not so particular bout workin' at the wheel, Just wan' to see how the chariot feel Oh, let me fly, oh let me fly to Mount Zion, Lord, Lord. Meet that hypocrite on the street, First thing he do is show his teeth. Next think he do is tell a lie, Well the best thing to do is pass him by. I got a mother in the Promised Land. I ain't gonna stop 'til I shake her hand. I heard such a rumbling' in the sky, I thought my Lord was passing' by. "Twas the good ol' chariot drawn' nigh, Shook the earth, swept the sky.	I am working towards freedom until that day when I fly away. The hypocrite is the slave owner, who would attend church, but then treat others inhumanely. I hope to reach freedom.
Let us Cheer the Weary Traveller	Work, 190.		Let us cheer the weary traveller Along the heavenly way. I'll take my gospel trumpet and I'll begin to blow, And if my Savior helps me, I'll blow wherever I go. And if you meet with crosses And trials on the way, Just keep your trust in Jesus, Don't forget to pray.	Let us assist those trying to find freedom and encourage them on their way.
Listen to the Angels Shoutin'	Work, 210. Marsh, 259.		Where do you think I found' my soul, Listen to the angels shoutin'. I found' my soul at hell's dark door, Before I'd lay in hell one day, I'd sing an' pray myself away. Run all the way, listen to the angels shoutin! Way over yonder by Jordan's stream, I hear them shoutin' I've been redeemed. If you get there before I do, Tell all my friends I'm coming' too.	Run away, over obstacles towards freedom. Tell them I'm coming!

Title	Collection/ Citation	Scriptural Reference	Lyrics (relevant lyrics listed only)	Connotation/ Interpretation
Little Innocent Lamb	Bartholomew, 1-15	Matthew 18:12-14	Little Lamb, little innocent Lamb, I'm a gonna serve God till I die. Hypocrite, tell you what he do, He'll talk about me and he'll talk about you. Debbil, he's got a slippery shoe, Now if you don't mind, He gonna slip it on you. 'Cause dere ain' no dyin' ober in a dat lan'. Dere'll be joy! Yes take one brick from Satan's wall, Satan's wall gonna tumble an' fall	The slaveowner is a hypocrite. Beware. There will be joy and happiness in the north. Slavery will end one day.
March On	Work, 205. Marsh, 200.	Exodus 10	Way over in Egypt's land, You shall gain the victory, You shall gain the day! This is the year of Jubilee, The Lord has set his people free. We want to cowards in our band, We call for valiant hearted men.	This is the time when we will be set free. You must have courage.
Marching up the Heavenly Road	Work, 181.	Exodus 14	Marching up the heavenly road, I'm bound to fight until I die; My sister, have you got your sword and shield, I got 'em fo' I left the field. O come along Moses, don't get lost, I stretch your rod and come across. O fare you well friends, fore you well foes, Leave you all my eyes to close.	This is a narrative of escape...route, determination, and assistance.
Mary Had a Baby, Yes, Lord	Newman, 202.	Matthew 2:11	Mary had a baby, yes, Lord! The people keep a coming And the train done gone. What did she name him? She named King Jesus, Mighty Counselor. Where was he born? Born in a manger, Yes, Lord! The people keep a coming And the train done gone.	The URR is passing by.
Mary, Don't You Weep	Work, 176. Harris, 3.	Exodus 14	Oh Mary, don't you weep, don't you mourn, Pharaoh's army got drowned in the Red Sea. If I could I surely would Stand on the rock where Moses stood. Mary wore three links of chain Every link was Jesus' name. One of these nights about 12 o' clock This old worlds going to reel and rock. God told Moses what to do To lead the Hebrew children through. Moses stood on the red sea shore Smotin' the water with a two by four. God gave Moses the rainbow sign No more water, but fire next time. Mary wore three links of chain Every link was freedoms name. The very moment I thought I was lost The dungeon shook and the chains fell off. May be right and I may be wrong I know you're gonna miss me when I am gone...	This narrative tells the tales of the Israelites freed from Pharaoh's rule, including the escape through the water and climbing higher towards freedom.

Title	Collection/ Citation	Scriptural Reference	Lyrics (relevant lyrics listed only)	Connotation/ Interpretation
Michael Row the Boat Ashore	Allen, 24.		Michael rose the boat ashore, hallelujah! I wonder where my mudder deh (mother there) See my mudder on de rock g'wine home. Gabriel blow de trumpet horn. Brudder, lend a helping hand. Jordan stream is wide and deep. Jesus stand on t'oder side. Sinner, row to save your soul. Then you'll hear the horn they blow. Trumpet sound for jubilee.	Possibly a signal to escape via the water. Listen for signals along the way.
Move Along	Marsh, 260.	Revelation 21:2	Let us move along to the heavenly home, I am bound to meet you there. We are on the ocean sailing, And a while must face the stormy blast, But if Jesus is our captain, We will make the port at last. Yonder see the golden city, and the lighthouse Gleaming on the shore, With a shout of joy they'll greet us, When we meet to part no more. There we'll meet our friends in Jesus, Who are waiting on the golden shore, With a shout of joy they'll greet us, When we meet to part no more.	Use the water to escape for freedom. Our friends and family are waiting.
My Father, How Long	Allen, 93.	Revelation 21:2	My father, how long poor sinner suffer here? We'll soon be free, de Lord will call us home. We'll walk the miry road, Where pleasure never dies. We'll walk the golden streets Of the new Jerusalem. We'll fight for liberty when the Lord Will call us home.	How long before we can escape for freedom?
My Lord, What a Mourning	Work, 92 Marsh, 233.	Matthew 24:29-31 Revelation 6:12-16	My Lord what a mourning When the stars begin to fall. You'll hear the trumpet sound to wake the nations Underground, Looking to my God's right hand.	Travel at night. Listen for signals to guide you.
My Lord's Goin' Move This Wicked Race	Work, 217.	Numbers 14	My Lord's goin' move this wicked race, He's goin' to raise up a nation that shall obey! Nicodemus he desired to know, How a man be born when he is old! Marvel not man if you want to be wise, Just believe on Jesus and be baptized! God called old Moses on the mountain top And He stamped His law on Moses' heart.	Moses (Tubman, or another important URR agent) will help you reach freedom.
My Ship is on the Ocean	Marsh, 199.		My ship is on the ocean, poor sinner, Fare you well. I'm going away to see the good old Daniel, I'm going away to see my Lord. I'm going to see the weeping Mary. Oh! Don't you want to live in that bright glory.	I intend to escape.
My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord	Work, 131.	Hebrews 6:19 Matthew 18:12-14	My Soul's been anchored in the Lord. Where've you been, poor sinner? Been working out of the sight of man. See my father in the gospel come Wagging up the hill. So slow, he's crying now. Left my burden at the river, in the valley.	I am determined to escape and leave slavery behind.

Title	Collection/ Citation	Scriptural Reference	Lyrics (relevant lyrics listed only)	Connotation/ Interpretation
My Lord's Goin' Move This Wicked Race	Work, 217.	Numbers 14	My Lord's goin' move this wicked race, He's goin' to raise up a nation that shall obey! Nicodemus he desired to know, How a man be born when he is old! Marvel not man if you want to be wise, Just believe on Jesus and be baptized! God called old Moses on the mountain top And He stamped His law on Moses' heart.	Moses (Tubman, or another important URR agent) will help you reach freedom.
My Ship is on the Ocean	Marsh, 199.		My ship is on the ocean, poor sinner, Fare you well. I'm going away to see the good old Daniel, I'm going away to see my Lord. I'm going to see the weeping Mary. Oh! Don't you want to live in that bright glory.	I intend to escape.
My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord	Work, 131.	Hebrews 6:19 Matthew 18:12-14	My Soul's been anchored in the Lord. Where've you been, poor sinner? Been working out of the sight of man. See my father in the gospel come wagging up the hill So slow, he's crying now Left my burden at the river, in the valley.	I am determined to escape and leave slavery behind.
My Way's Cloudy	Marsh, 201.	Leviticus 25:10	Oh! Brethren, my way's cloudy, Go send them angels down. There's a fire in the east and fire in the west, And fire among the Methodist, Old Satan's mad and I am glad, He missed the soul he thought he had. I'll tell you now as I told you before, The promise land I'm bound to go, This is the year of Jubilee, The Lord has come and set me free.	I am in trouble. Please send help, I have almost been caught. I am trying to escape.
No Hiding Place	Work, 149.	Psalm 32:7 Psalm 27:5 Revelation 6:12-16	There's no hiding place down here. Went to the rocks for the hide my face, Rocks cried out, no hiding place. Boatman boatman row one side, Can't get to heaven' 'against wind and tide.	A signal that it might not be safe. Be careful how you travel.
Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen	Boatner, 97. Marsh, 159.	Job 13 Matthew 26:38	Nobody knows the trouble I've seen, Nobody knows my sorrow. Oh, glory Hallelujah. I'm sometimes up, I'm sometimes down, But still my soul feels heavenly bound. I want to goto heaven when I die, To shout salvation as I fly. Oh hell is deep and a dark despair, Stop poor sinner and don't go there.	I don't want to be sold further south in slavery. I wish to be free.
Nobody Knows Who I Am	Work, 189.	Revelation 6:12-16	Nobody know's a who I am, Till the judgment morning! Heav'n bell a rising, the saith all a singing, Heaven bells a ringing in my soul. Want to go to Heaven, to go right, All dressed white. Don't want to stumble, don't want to fall, Want to be in Heaven when the roll is called. If you don't believe that I've been redeemed, Follow me down to Jordan's stream.	I'll listen for the signal to escape. I want to go north. Come with me.

Title	Collection/ Citation	Scriptural Reference	Lyrics (relevant lyrics listed only)	Connotation/ Interpretation
O Brothers, Don't Get Weary	Allen, 94.	Numbers 14	O brothers, don't get weary, We're waiting for the Lord. We'll land on Canaan's shore, We'll meet forevermore.	Don't be weary or impatient, as the Israelites were with Moses.
O it's Goin' to be a Mighty Day	Work, 232.	Exodus 14	O, it's goin' to be mighty day! As I went down into Egypt, I camped upon the ground' At the soundin' of the trumpet The Holy Ghost came down. The good ol' chariot passing by, She jarred the earth an' shook the sky. I ain't got time for to stop an' talk, The road is rough an' it's hard to walk.	Egypt represented slavery. At the signal call, the "chariot" passed by to deliver people to freedom.
O Mary Don't You Weep, Don't You Mourn	Work, 176.	Exodus 14 Isaiah 65:19 Revelation 21:4	O Mary, don't you weep, don't you mourn; Pharoah's army got drowned. Some of these mornings bright and fair, Take my wings and cleave the air. When I get to Heaven going to sing and shout, Nobody there for turn me out. When I get to Heaven goin' to put on my shoes, Run about glory and tell all the news.	Don't worry, slavery will be destroyed. I will find freedom.
O Rocks Don't Fall on Me	Work, 126.	John 14:1-7	Look over yonder on Jericho's wall, And see those sinners tremble and fall. Rocks and mountains don't fall on me. In a that great judgment day, The sinners will run to the rocks and say... When every star refuses to shine, I know King Jesus will a be mine... The trump shall sound, and the dead shall rise, And go to mansions in a the skies.	Slavery will fall, and all will be raised to freedom.
O, Sinner Man!	Newman, 48. Marsh, 210.	Matthew 18:12-14	O sinner man, O, which way are you going? O, come back sinner, and don't go there, Which way are you going? For Hell is deep and a dark despair, Though the days be dark and the nights be long, We'll shout and sing till we get home; T'was just about the break of day, My sins forgiven and soul set free.	Slavery is a deep despair. Travel through the night towards freedom.
Oh, Brothers, Are You Getting Ready?	Marsh, 288-9.	Leviticus 25:10	Oh, brothers, are you getting ready For the year of Jubilee. Oh, rise, shine, and give God the glory. Oh, sisters, are you getting ready? Oh, fathers, are you getting ready? Oh preachers, are you getting ready?	Are you preparing to run to freedom?
Oh, Wasn't that a Wide River?	Marsh, 235.		Oh, wasn't that a wide river of Jordan, Lord? There's one more river to cross. Oh, the river of Jordan is so wide, I don't know how to get on the other side. I have some friends before me gone, By the grace of God I'll follow on. Shout, shout, Satan's about, Shut your door and keep him out. Old Satan is a snake in the grass, If you don't mind he'll get you at last.	This could be a signal about a river to cross, or could symbolize any obstacle between the slave and freedom. Beware of sneaky slave hunters.

Title	Collection/ Citation	Scriptural Reference	Lyrics (relevant lyrics listed only)	Connotation/ Interpretation
Old Ship of Zion	Marsh, 186.		What ship is that a sailing, hallelujah, Do you think that she is able For to carry us all home. Tis the old ship of Zion, hallelujah. She has landed many a thousand, And will land as many a more. She is loaded down with angels, And King Jesus is the Captain.	The gospel ship is the journey to freedom or the URR.
On to Glory	Allen, 66.		O, come my brethren and sisters too, We're gwine to join the heavenly crew.	An invitation, and encouragement.
Plenty Good Room	Allen, 66.	John 14:1-7 John 14:2	There's plenty good room, way in the kingdom; My Lord's done just what he said, Healed the sick and raised the sea. One of these mornings bright and fair, Going to hitch my wings and cleave the air. When I was a mourner just like you, I prayed and prayed till I came through. Come on, mourner, make a bound. The Lord will meet you on halfway ground.	This is a song of hope and encouragement. There is help for all those that wish to run towards freedom.
Poor Man Lazrus	Hairston, 1-8.	Luke 16:19-25	Poor man Lazrus sick and disabled, He had to eat crumbs from the rich man's table. Dip your finger in the water come & cool my tongue Cause I'm tormented in the flame. Rich man Divies he lived so well, And when he dies he went straight to hell.	The poor man was the slave, who would be saved. The rich man, the slave owner, would burn in hell.
Poor Me	Work, 67.	Job 13	I'm sometimes up, I'm sometimes down, But still my soul feels heaven'y bound. Sometimes I think I'm ready to drop, But thank my Lord I do not stop.	Through any trials, you must not give up.
Poor Sinner	Work, 193.	Matthew 25:1-13	O poor sinner, o now is your time. What you goin' to do when your lamp burns down? Fire in the east, fire in the west, Fire goin' to burn up the wilderness. Head got wet with midnight dew, Morning star was witness too. Wind blows hard, wind blows cold, Lord, have mercy on my soul. I done died, don't die no more, I'm goin' to cross on the other shore.	The path to freedom will be full of trials and struggles.
Poor Wayfaring Stranger	Newman, 170.		I'm a poor, wayfaring stranger, While journeying through this world of woe. Yet there's no sickness, toil, and danger, In that bright world to which I go. I'm going there to see my father, I'm going there no more to roam, I'm just going over Jordan, I'm just going over home. I know dark clouds will gather 'round me, I know my way is rough and steep, Yet bright fields lie just before me, Where God's redeemed their vigils keep; I'm going there to see my mother... I'll too be free from every trial, My body will sleep in the old churchyard, And enter on my great reward.	Life will be so much better when the bonds of slavery are broken. I will see my family and find freedom on the other side. But for now, I am journeying on my own.

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Praise, Member	Allen, 4		Praise, member, praise God. I praise my Lord until I Die and reach my heavenly home. Oh, Jordan's bank is a good old bank, and I h'aint got One more river to cross. I want some soldier to help me bear the cross... I look to the East and I look to the West... I wheel to the right and I wheel to the left...	I need assistance from someone in my search for freedom.
Pray all de Member	Allen, 35.		Pray all de member, yes my Lord! Pray a little longer, yes my Lord! Jericho da worry me. Patrol aroun' me, tank God he no ketch me.	A simple prayer for safety and success.
Religion is a Fortune	Work, 172.		O religion is a fortune, I really do believe. Going to see my sister Mary. Going to chatter with the angels. Going to walk and talk with Jesus. Where've you been poor sinner, so long? Been low down in the valley for to pray And I ain't got weary yet.	Looking forward to freedom—and sharing hope with others.
Ride on, King Jesus	Work, 49 Marsh, 202.	Revelation 19:11 Job 9:12 1 Cor. 9:24	Ride on King Jesus! No man can hinder him. King Jesus rides on a milk-white horse, The river of Jordan he did cross. If you want to find your way to God, The gospel highway must be trod. I was young when I begun, But now my race is almost run.	No man will hinder me from my quest for freedom.
Rise, Shine, for Thy Light is A-comin'	Work, 47. Marsh, 296	Isaiah 60:1 Leviticus 25:10	Rise, shine, for thy light is a-comin! My Lord says he's comin' bye and bye. This is the year of Jubilee. My Lord has set his people free. Intend to shout and never stop Until I reach the mountaintop. Wet or dry I intend to try To serve the lord until I die.	Leviticus tells us that in the Jubilee year (every 50 years), that those enslaved will regain their freedom and property and return to their families.
Roll On	Work, 80.	John 14:1-7	Roll on, roll on, sweet moments roll on, And let these poor pilgrims go home. The heavenly land so bright and fair, There are very few seem going there.	A song dreaming of freedom.
Roll, Jordan, Roll	Work, 199. Marsh, 165.	Joshua 3:14-17	Roll Jordan, roll! I want to go to heaven when I die. O brother you ought to been there, A sitting in the kingdom To hear old Jordan roll O sister you ought to been there. O seeker you ought to been there.	A song of encouragement and hope.
Run to Jesus	Marsh, 222. Newman, 99.	John 14:1-7	Run to Jesus, shun the danger, I don't expect to stay much longer here. He will be our dearest friend, And will help us to the end. O, I thought I heard them say, There were lions in the way. Many mansions there will be, One for you and one for me	Given to the Fisk Jubilee Singers by Frederick Douglass, with the statement that it was this song that first made him think of trying to escape from slavery.

Title	Collection/ Citation	Scriptural Reference	Lyrics (relevant lyrics listed only)	Connotation/ Interpretation
Run, Mary, Run	Newman, 105.	II Kings 2:11	Run, Mary run, I know the other world is not like this; Fire in the east, and fire in the west, Bound to burn the wilderness. Jordan river is a river to cross, Stretch your rod and come across. Swing low, chariot, into the east Let God's children have some peace; Swing low, chariot, into the west, Let God's children have some rest. Swing low, chariot into the north, Give me the gold without the cross; Swing low, chariot into the south, Let God's children sing and shout. If this day was judgment day, Every sinner would want to pray;	A variety of signals and messages are offered here. Danger is all around, there is a river to cross, and the URR can help fugitives.
Sail, O Believer	Allen, 24.		Sail, O Believer, sail; sail over yonder; Sail over yonder and view the Promised Land.	Escape—travel through the water.
See the Signs of Judgment	Work, 225.	Luke 21	See the signs of judgment, The time is drawn' nigh. Read the book o' Saint Luke, Bout the twenty first chapter.	Be on guard and watch for signs.
Somebody's Buried in the Graveyard	Work, 127.		Somebody's buried in the graveyard, Somebody's buried in the sea, Going to get up in the morning a shouting, Going to join Jubilee. Although you see me coming along so, To the promised land I'm bound to go. I have some friends before me gone, By the grace of God I'll follow on. Sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down, But still my soul is heavenly bound.	This is a farewell song, and a promise to seek freedom.
Somebody's Knocking at Your Door	Work, 192.	Matthew 7:7 Luke 11:9 Luke 13:25	Somebody's knocking at your door, O sinner, why don't you answer? Knocks like Jesus... Can't you hear Him? Answer Jesus, Jesus calls you, Can't you trust Him?	An conversation through song.
Soon a Will Be Done	Work, 109.	I Thessalonians: 4:17 John 14: 1-7	Soon a will be done with the trouble of this world, Going to live with God. Come my bother, and go with me, Let King Jesus make you free. When I get to heaven I will sing and tell, How I did shun both death and hell.	Soon I will be free.
Stand the Storm	Work, 161.		O stand the storm, it won't be long, We'll anchor bye and bye. My ship is on the ocean, She's making for the kingdom.	An invitation to seek freedom. Help is at hand.

Title	Collection/ Citation	Scriptural Reference	Lyrics (relevant lyrics listed only)	Connotation/ Interpretation
Steal Away	Marsh, 181 Work, 123. Boatner, 115	Ezekiel 37:13 Matthew 6:6	Steal away to Jesus, I ain't got long to stay here. My Lord, he calls me, he calls me by the thunder; The trumpet sounds within my soul, I ain't got long to stay here. Green trees are bending, Poor sinner stands a trembling... Tombstones are bursting, Poor sinner stands a trembling... My Lord calls me, he calls me by the lightning...	There is a meeting at the regular meeting place (usually in the swamps/coves). It could also serve as a farewell song.
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot	Work, 152. Marsh, 160.	II Kings 2:11-12 I Thessalonians 4:16-17	Swing low, sweet chariot, Coming for to carry me home. I looked over Jordan, and what did I see, A band of angels coming after me. If you get there before I do, Tell my friends I'm coming too. I'm sometimes up, I'm sometimes down, But still my soul feels heavenly bound.	The URR will assist in the quest for freedom
The Angels Changed My Name	Marsh, 261.		I went to the hillside, I went to pray, I know the angels done changed my name For the coming day. Thank God the angels done changed my name. I looked at my hands and my hands were new. I looked at my feet and my feet were too.	Angels (URR agents) would change names as part of an escape plan. A whole new life and identity was necessary.
The Good Ole Way	Allen, 84.		As I went down in the valley to pray, Studying about that good ole way, Where you shall wear the starry crown, Good Lord, show me the way. Oh mourner, let's go down, Down in the valley to pray.	Let's escape.
The Gospel Train	Marsh, 184.	John 13:33 Romans 10:12	The gospel train is coming, I hear it just at hand, I hear the cartwheels moving, And rumbling through the land. Get on board, children get on board, For there's room for many a more. She's nearing now the station, O sinner, don't be vain, But come and get your ticket, And be ready for the train. The fare is cheap and all can go, The rich and poor are there No second class on board this train, No difference in the fare. There's Moses, Noah, and Abraham, And all the prophets too Our friends in Christ are all on board, O, what a heavenly crew We soon shall reach the station, O how we then shall sing, With all the heavenly army, We'll make the welkin ring. We'll shout o'er all our sorrows, And sing forever more, With Christ and all his army, On that celestial shore.	The URR is at hand. Anyone can try to escape to freedom. How happy it will be in heaven (the north).

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The Hammers Keep Ringing	Work, 116.		The hammers keep ringing on somebody's coffin Makes me know my time ain't long. The hearse wheels rolling Somebody to the graveyard Makes me know my time ain't long.	Listen for a signal to move and travel to freedom.
The Old Ark's a Movering	Work, 175.	Genesis 8:13	O, the old ark's a-movering, And I'm going home. See that sister dressed so fine? She ain't got Jesus in a her mind. See that brother dressed so gay? Death's goin' a come for to carry him away. See that sister coming so slow? She wants to go to Heaven Fore the Heaven doors close. Th'aint but the one thing grieves my mind, sister's gone to Heav'n and left me behind. Th'old ark she reeled, the old ark she rocked, Old ark she landed on the mountain top.	My family and friends have moved towards freedom. I will too.
The Old Ship of Zion	Allen, 103.	Matthew 25:21	Don't you see that ship a sailing' G'wine over to the promised land! I asked my Lord should I ever be the one to go Sailing' over to the promised land She sails like she is heavy loaded. King Jesus is her Captain. The Holy Ghost is her pilot.	Dreaming of freedom and escape to the north.
The Old Ship of Zion	Smith, 1-7.	Matthew 25:21	Tis the old ship of Zion, hallelujah! I'm no ways weary! I'm no ways tired! O glory hallelujah! Just let me in the kingdom When the world ketch a fire! Tis the old ship of Zion, hallelujah! She has landed many thousands, hallelujah! She is rollin, jes rollin. She is coming in the harbor, hallelujah! She will land you safe in heaven, hallelujah! O get your ticket ready, the ship will soon be leavin,' O get your ticket ready to go. King Jesus is her captain, hallelujah! She will never rock nor totter, hallelujah!	This is a song of persistence. Freedom is worth any trial or struggle. The "ship" (URR) will carry you to freedom, like thousands before.
The Sun Mow's Down	Work, 229		Hurry mourner! The sun mows down, Goin' to pray until I die. Now what do you think about dying' children? I think it's mighty tryin' children. My Jesus will meet me in a that mornin'	Hurry and get ready to go, for it's almost night.
There's a Great Camp Meeting	Work, 145. Marsh, 280.	Numbers 14 Isaiah 5:27	Walk together children, don't you get weary. There's a great camp meeting In the Promise Land. Talk together, children. Sing together, children.	Don't get weary. Don't be impatient. Freedom is coming soon.
This is a Sin-tryin' World	Work, 137.	II Kings 2:11	O this is a sin-tryin' world. O Heav'n is so high and I am so low, I don't know whether I'll ever get to Heaven or no. Jordan's stream is chilly and wide, None can cross by the sanctified. Way over yonder in the harvest fields, The angels shoving at the chariot's wheels.	It feels like I am so far away from freedom. There are obstacles in my way, and angels are working to free others.

Title	Collection/ Citation	Scriptural Reference	Lyrics (relevant lyrics listed only)	Connotation/ Interpretation
This Train	White, 82.		This train is bound for glory, this train. Everybody on it must be holy. This train don't take no liars. This train don't take no gamblers.	A description of the URR.
There's a Meeting Here Tonight	Work, 219. Marsh, 218		Get you ready, there's a meeting here tonight, Come along, I know you by your daily walk. Camp meeting in the wilderness. Those angel wings are tipped with gold, That brought glad tidings to my soul.	Arranging a meeting time. The news of an angel (URR agent) makes me glad.
Trampin'	Harris, Steal Away	Revelation 21:2	I'm tramping', trying to make heaven my home. Well I've never been to heaven, But I've been told, The streets up there are paved with gold. Sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down, Sometimes my soul feels heavenly bound.	Contemplating being free and what it would take to escape.
Tryin' to Cross the Red Sea	Work, 208.	Exodus 14	Didn't ol' Pharoah get lost tryin' To cross the Red Sea. Creep along Moses, I thank God. I went down in the valley and I didn't go to stay, Tryin' to cross the Red Sea, My should got happy and I stayed all day. I went down in the valley to offer up prayer, When I got there old Satan was there Ol' Satan's mad and I am glad, He missed that should he thought he had I wonder what old Satan's grumblin' a bout, He's down in hell and can't get out.	I tried to escape and was almost caught by the slave hunter. The slave master is angry.
Tryin' to Get Home	Work, 55.	Job 13	Lord I'm bearin' heavy burdens, Tryin' to get home. Lord I'm climbin' high mountains, Tryin' to get home. Lord, I'm standin' hard trials tryin' to get home.	I'm trying to get home, despite the struggles before me.
Wade in the Water	Soul Praise, 53.	John 5:4 Matthew 28:19-20	Wade in the water, children. God's a going to trouble the water. See that host all dressed in white, The leader looks like the Israelite. See that band all dressed in red, I Looks like the band that Moses led. Look over yonder, what do you see? The Holy Ghost a coming on me. If you don't believe I've been redeemed, Just follow me down to Jordan's stream.	If you try escape, take to the water to disguise your scent. Moses (URR) led people through the water to freedom. Also represented baptism into a new life.
Wait a Little While	Marsh, 240.		Wait a little while, then we'll sing the new song. My heavenly home is bright and fair, No pain or sorrow enter there.	We need to wait before escaping.
Wake Me	Work, 247.	Mark 14:38	Wake me, shake me, don't let me sleep too late, Got to get up early in de morning' Going to swing on de golden gate. Get to de lot befo' I do, Catch my mule I'll be there too. Dis ol' gettin' up jes' fo' day, Never did like that thing no way.	To escape, make your way and travel through the night.

Title	Collection/ Citation	Scriptural Reference	Lyrics (relevant lyrics listed only)	Connotation/ Interpretation
Wake up, Jacob!	Allen, 65.	Genesis 28:10-12	Wake up, Jacob, day is a breaking. I'm on my way. I want to go to heaven when I die, Do love the Lord. Got some friends on de oder shore, I want to see 'em more and more.	An invitation to join an attempt at freedom.
W'en I'm Gone	McIlhenney, 40.		W'en I'm gone Lord, w'en I'm gone. Somebody's goin' t' miss me w'en I'm gone. Goin' t' miss me fer ma moan, Miss me fer ma groan.	Farewell song.
We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder	Work, 220.	Genesis 28:10-12	We are climbing Jacob's ladder, Soldier of the cross. Every round goes higher and higher.	Move higher toward freedom.
We Shall Walk Through the Valley	Marsh, 228	Matthew 18:12-14	We shall walk through the valley And the shadow of death, We shall walk through the valley in peace, If Jesus Himself shall be our leader We shall walk through the valley in peace. We shall meet our brother there. There will be no weeping there.	We shall go through struggle, but if we follow our leader, it will lead to joy.
When Moses Smote the Water	Marsh, 209.	Exodus 14	When Moses smote the water, The children all passed over, The sea gave away. O children ain't you glad You've left that sinful army?	There is a deliverer that will help you free yourself from slavery.
When the Train Comes Along	Work, 94 Newman, 65.		When the train comes along, I'll meet you at The Station when the train comes along. I may be blind an' cannot see, but I'll meet you At the Station when the train comes along. I may be lame an' cannot walk, but I'll meet You at The station when the train comes along. If my mother asks for me, Tell her death summons me; If my brother asks for me, Tell him death summons me.	A signal to a meeting place when the URR passes by. Tell my family I have gone.
You Must Have That True Religion	Carter, 1-8.		You must have that true religion, You must have your soul converted Or you can't cross there. Where have you been poor sinner? Where have you been, I say? I've been way down to the river of Jordan, No you can't cross there. Where have you been, good Christian? Where have you been so long? I've been way down in the valley for to pray, And I ain't done praying yet. Give me that true religion.	You must be ready to go through struggles and trials, or you won't be able to get to freedom.
You'd Better Min'	Work, 212.	Matthew 12:36 I Peter 4:5	You'd better min' how you talk, You'd better min' how you sing, You'd better min' how you shout, For you got to give account in Judgment, You'd better min'.	A warning message to be wary of who to trust and how much you should talk.
You'd Better Run	Work, 93	John 14: 1-7	You'd better run, run, to the city of refuge!	A signal to escape.

APPENDIX B. GLOSSARY¹⁵⁰

Word/Phrase	Coded Message Meaning
A friend of a friend sent me	Phrase used by solo fugitives indicating that they were part of the URR
A friend with friends	Password used to announce the arrival of an URR Conductor and fugitives
Abolitionist	Person who worked towards an end to slavery
Agent	Coordinator of the URR who provided contacts and directions to fugitives
Angels	Conductors, or agents on the URR
Ark	The "body" of escapees on the URR
Baggage	Fugitives on the URR
Band of Angels	URR conductors/agents
Baptized	To journey through a river to safety
Bells	An announcement, a call to action
Brakeman	Person who makes contacts for fugitive slaves
Bundles of Wood	Fugitives on the URR
Canaan	Canada
Captain	Master
Chariot	URR, or some other mode of transportation to freedom (boat, wagon, horse, etc)
The Jordan River	The Ohio River
Christians	Abolitionists
Church	The "body" or community of escapees on the URR
Climbing Jacob's Ladder	A connection between earth and heaven; moving northward, or "up" to freedom
Conductor	Person who brought fugitive slaves from slavery to freedom
Darkness	Closer or deeper into slavery
Depot	Houses, barns, haystacks, and secret passages inside farmhouses
Die/Go to Heaven	Freedom
Drinking Gourd	Big Dipper and the North Star
Dry goods	Female fugitive slaves
Egypt	Hell/the South/Bondage/Slavery

¹⁵⁰ The Underground Railroad is abbreviated as URR.

Word/Phrase	Coded Message Meaning
Elijah	An Old testament deliverer. Also, Elijah Anderson, an agent of the URR, would use his blacksmith's tools to sound out codes at river crossing points.
Fireman (keep the boilers hot)	Agents! Keep the train moving.
Fisherman	Agents that assisted fugitives at river crossings
Flying Bondsmen	Escaping slaves
Forwarding	Moving fugitives from station to station
Freedom Trails	Escape routes
Freedom Train	URR
French Leave	Covert departure
Gabriel	To alert to safety or danger (or Gabriel's trumpet)
Get on Board Little Children	Encouragement for those that wanted to flee slavery
Glory	Closer to freedom
Go Down Moses	Song that proclaimed it was not safe to come out, and there is danger afoot
God's gonna trouble the water	Travel through the water and move it around to wash away any scent from hunting dogs
Gospel Train	URR
Hammers	Signal that it was safe to cross the Ohio River. Using his blacksmith's tools, Elijah Anderson would hammer out code, sending the message of escape across the river to agents and fugitives on Boone County's crossing points.
Heaven	Canada/the northern states/freedom
Jerusalem	Canada/freedom
Jesus	Freedom (in the here and now, and the here-after)
John Henry/Hammer	Folk hero: worked as a hammer/driller on a railroad tunnel
Jubilee	Freedom (in the here and now, and the here-after)
Judgment	The day or process period of escape or the end of slavery
Jumping off Place	A place for escapees to find refuge or respite
Left foot, peg foot	Clue left by an URR worker with a wooden leg to warn fugitives
Let us Break Bread Together	Let us have a secret meeting
Letter	Ticket, a sign to escape, an agreement
Line	Travel route
Load of Potatoes	Slaves would hide underneath cloths and produce in traveling wagons

Word/Phrase	Coded Message Meaning
Manager	Someone in charge of a hiding place
Marching	Journeying---escape
Moses	Harriet Tubman, she helped her people escape slavery like Moses in the Old Testament...also John Brown, or other major figures.
Mourner	Escapees---fugitives---those looking to escape
Operator	Person who helped enslaved fugitives as a conductor or agent
Overflow Station	large places to hide for big groups of fugitives
Parcel	Expected fugitives
Patter Roller	Bounty hunters
Pharaoh/Charioteers	Plantation owner/slave masters
Pilot	Guide for fugitives
Praying	Plotting an escape
Preachers	URR leaders and agents
Preaching	Making plans to escape
Promised Land	Canada/the free states/freedom
Red Sea	Ohio River (or other body of water)
Redeemed	Freedom
River Jordan	The Ohio River
Roman Kingdom	Slavery/plantations
Sanctuary	A place to hide and rest
Satan	Slave master
Seeker /Watchman	Fugitive/slave master
Shepherds	Escorts for fugitives, or assistants
Shout	To escape, resist, or run
Singing	Running, escaping
Sinner	One bound by slavery
Soldier	Fugitive, a rebel
Stars refuse to shine	In the dark of night, no light
Station	A safe house, sanctuary
Station Master	Keeper of a safe house, often hid slaves in their homes at great personal danger

Word/Phrase	Coded Message Meaning
Steal away to Jesus	Used to alert fellow slaves that an escape attempt was anticipated, as a farewell song; also signified that there would be a meeting
Stockholder	A supporter of the URR, through money or supplies
Storm	The trials of slavery
Sunday	A day of rest, freedom from bondage, resurrection on Sunday, born again to a new life
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot	The URR is coming to pick up fugitives and take them to freedom. Be ready to escape. One of Tubman's favorite songs
Sword and Shield	Symbolized bravery and courage
Terminal	Canada/northern states/freedom
The dead trees will show you the way	Moss grows on the north side of dead trees, so if the North Star were not visible, they would know which direction to go
The river bank makes a mighty good road	Traveling through water was smart, as it washed off the scent from the tracking dogs
The river ends between two hills	The Tombigbee River in Mississippi
The wind blows from the South today	A signal that fugitives were to be wary of slave hunters
Tracks	Escape routes
Wade in the Water	Walk through the water so that the tracking dogs lose the scent, used by Tubman
Wheels	The URR...or other modes of transportation
When the great big river meets the little river	The Ohio River, and smaller, connected rivers
When the Roll is Called	To be gathered in freedom up north
When the sun come back and the first quail calls	A good time of the year for escape was early spring, when the first quail calls
Wilderness	Slavery, the unknown and dangerous nature of escape
Zion	Canada/northern states/freedom