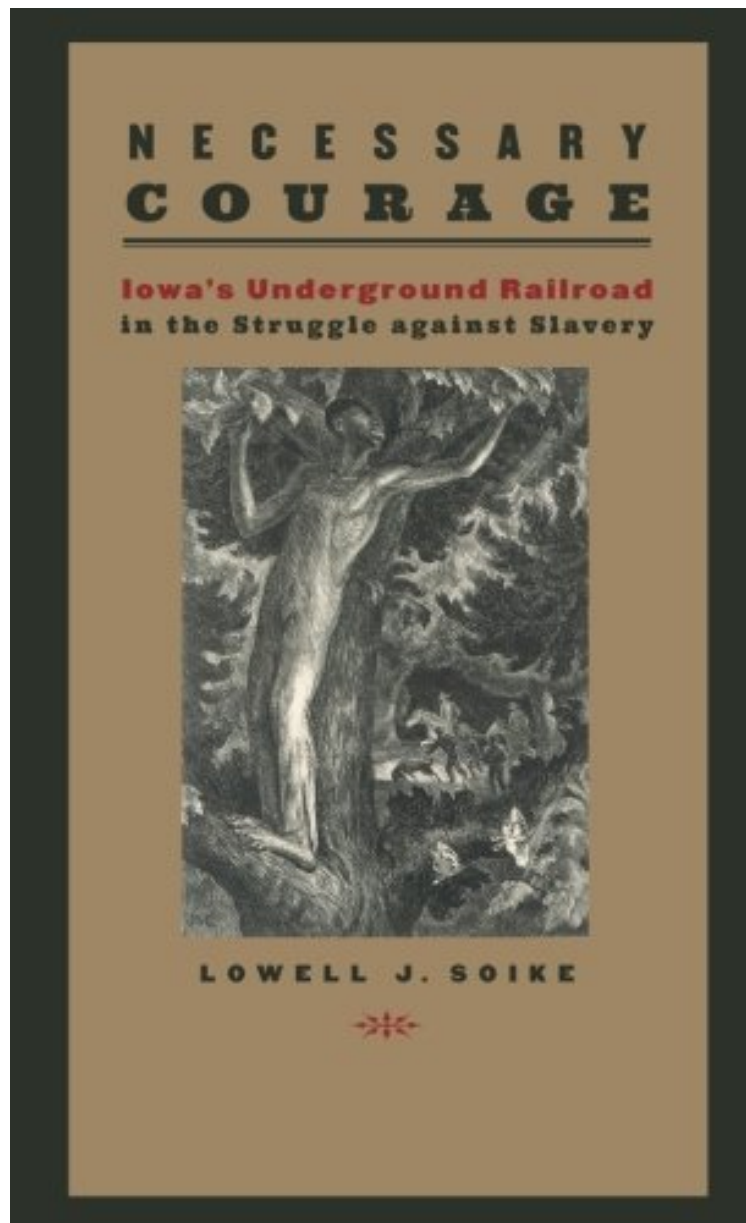


[Pdf free] Necessary Courage: Iowa's Underground Railroad in the Struggle against Slavery (Iowa and the Midwest Experience)

Necessary Courage: Iowa's Underground Railroad in the Struggle against Slavery (Iowa and the Midwest Experience)

Lowell J. Soike

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During the 1850s and early 1860s, Iowa, the westernmost free state bordering a slave state, stood as a bulwark of antislavery sentiment while the decades-long struggle over slavery shifted westward. On its southern border lay Missouri, the northernmost slaveholding state. To its west was the Kansas-Nebraska Territory, where proslavery and antislavery militias battled. Missouri slaves fled to Iowa seeking freedom, finding opponents of slavery who risked their lives and livelihoods to help them, as well as bounty hunters who forced them back into bondage. When opponents of slavery streamed west across the state's broad prairies to prevent slaveholders from dominating Kansas, Iowans fed, housed, and armed the antislavery settlers. Not a few young Iowa men also took up arms.

“This book represents the culmination of the Iowa Freedom Trail Grant Project, which presents the first comprehensive statewide survey of the intriguing people, long-forgotten places, and exciting events associated with the history of abolition and the underground railroad in Iowa prior to and during the Civil War.”—Douglas W. Jones, Iowa Freedom Trail grant project manager, State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines