



Jameson Jenkins

From Black Codes to the Underground Railroad

In Illinois, "Black Codes" limited rights of African American people, requiring them to provide proof of their freedom. In 1846, Jameson Jenkins, successful businessman and Lincoln's neighbor, filed his "Certificate of Freedom" at the Sangamon County Courthouse. Four years later, Jenkins risked his own freedom on the Underground Railroad assisting others escaping from slavery.

To learn more, visit: www.nps.gov/liho

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