## Underground Railroad from page B1

The destination was Cannau where skayery had been outlawed and the government refused to return any people seeking refuge. There were three routes reconsing Michigan to two points in Cannada — Port Huron to Sarnia or Cannada — Port Huron to Cannada — Port Huron to Cannada — Por Detroit to Windsor. One route came through Farmington where Nathan

ters. It also imposed heavy fines on people helping the slaves escape. Slaves were considered property and helping then escape was stealing. After 1850 the Underground Railroad became a risky secret operation for all involved. Participants even hid their activities from their children.

The destination was Canada where slaves had been outlawed and the gover had been outlawed and the gover the control of the

Various speakers like Sojorner Truth came to Farmington where they elaborated on the evils of slavery. Most churches took anti-slavery positions. Serving with Nathan Power were his brothers Ira and Abram, brothers-in-law Ethan Lapham, George Wilber, Abram Moore and Elisha Roberts. All were Quakers. John Thayer, a were Quakers. John Thaye Methodist, was a part of the group.

n page B1

Nathan Power and his second wife, Patience, lived in the Old Quaker meeting house across the road from the Oak wood Comstery on Grand River. This was the station. So was the home of Ethan Lapham on the west side of Farmington Road north of Eight Mile. This house is still standing.

A house owned by Abram Power next to the Baptist church on Shiawassechad a shed in the yard where escapees were given food and shelter. Other homes in Farmington included the home of Chaunery Green on Nine Mile and the Philbrick Tavern on Power and Eleven Mile.

Palmer Sherman offered sanctuary on his property located where the Longacre House is today. There was no underground tunnel there, however. Conductors like Nathan Power or his brother Abram would take a load of hay or other product to Datroit. They would stay at the hotel owned by Seymour Finney, a station for passengers before the trip to Canada.

Canada.

No one suspected the farm wagons driven by distinguished Quaker gentlemen. Under the hay or produce were the escaping slaves. It wasn't until the carly 20th Century that documentation was done recording activities of the

Quaker community and the under-

After the Civil War when slavery was abolished, the attention of the commu-nity turned to womens' suffrage and Prohibition

Prohibition.

For further reading on the Underground Railroad see, "If the Walls Could Talk, Heritage Homes of Farmington" by Ruth Moehlman, "Tracing the Underground Railroad," a pamphlet by Jean Fox, and the research paper by Lillian Drake Avery which was mixed in "It." Drake Avery which was printed in "The Watercolors of Lillian Drake Avery," by

## Chat room from page B1

wheel of our comfortable coach. Liam cautioned us frequently against buying an inferior or faux Irish Aran sweater.

We enjoyed returning to our hotel, the Blarney Park, each evening and eagerly awaited a gourmet dinner which was art-

whole milk, butter and the like thoroughly enjoying the freshest flavors of Ireland.

Downtime was spent strolling

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fully presented and pleasing to all palates. We quickly forgot about fat content and cholesterol counts as we consumed cream,

the streets of Blarney, a quaint little village where church bells sounded in the distance and charge cards heated up at the congeniently placed Blarney Woolen Mills.

conveniently placed Blarney
Woolen Mills.
Special highlights included a
personal tour of Margaret and
Paddy Fenton's Molanna Dairy
Farm which the Fentons have
owned for generations. Paddy
ontertained us with a walk
around his farm and introductions to his charming 87-year-old
mother and his handsome young
son who brodght us up to date on
everyday farm life.
Paddy recited several poems
for us and although 39 of us
were crowded into his tiny parlor, it was as if all breathing
caused as we respectfully
allowed him center stage. We

applauded his heartfelt presentation and I remember swallowing hard and boing misty eyed and in awe of his deep humility and sincerity.

Paddy's wife, Margaret, laid out steamy hot coffee, ten, delicious acones split and spread with homemade currant jam and cream and a special bread that had been laced with Cuinness.

Back at the Blarney Hotel, we were treated to a special Irish feast and then were entertoined by a lovely Irish girl performing solos and little Irish children performed their version of Riverdance.

The young at heart ground travelers, couples, and singles, all of whom got along well and



Ireland: Farmington area seniors on their trip.

mixed easily. Most climbed the required 10 flights of stairs to

kiss the Blarney stone
Our trip concluded on schedule
and we parted ways grateful for
our week together and memories
shared.

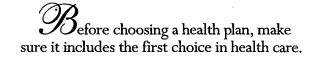
Nora Dolan is program ner for the senior adult division, Farmington Hills. For informa-tion on other travel destinations scheduled through the senior center, call 473-1830.

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