

# SLAVE STAMPEDES ON THE MISSOURI BORDERLAND

House Divided Project at Dickinson College // NPS Network to Freedom

Check out our project blog here



<http://housedivided.dickinson.edu/sites/stampedes>

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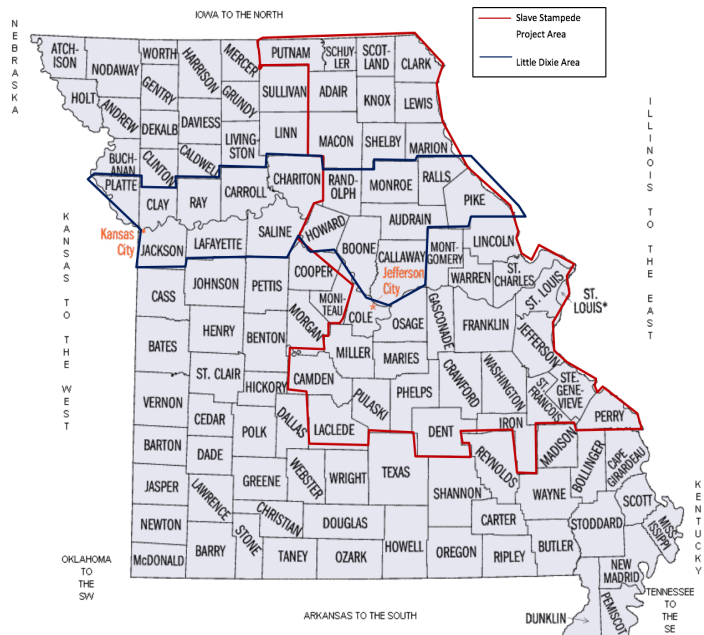
## WORKING DEFINITION:

The term “slave stampede” or “stampede of slaves” began appearing in American newspapers in the late 1840s, but spread quickly during the fugitive crisis of the 1850s, and eventually became a staple of sectional debate, especially after John Brown’s raids in 1858 and 1859 and throughout the Civil War era. Participants and observers seemed to use the concept in diverse ways: sometimes to describe serial escapes by individuals or pairs, sometimes to describe either spontaneous or planned small group escapes of 3 or more people, and yet most often to define a special type of mass escape involving a dozen or more, often armed, bands of enslaved people heading defiantly toward freedom.

## FEATURED STAMPEDES:

- July 1841 || Illinois abolitionists arrested near Hannibal, MO
- Nov 1849 || Confrontation at Lewis Co
- Jan 1850 || Jameson Jenkins and the stampede through Springfield, IL
- Sep 1852 || Eight flee St. Genevieve
- Nov 1853 || Stampede from Marion Co
- Nov 1854 || Families fleeing St. Louis
- Nov 1859 || Lewis Co stampedes
- April 1861 || Arrest of Harris family and Chicago stampede
- March 1863 || Wartime stampede from Hannibal, MO

## MAIN PROJECT AREA:



If you have any information on these escapes or others from this area of Missouri, please contact us