

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

BLOCK OF THE MONTH - MARCH 2025

The wagon wheel was the second quilt to be displayed on the fence. Wagons were used with hidden compartments to hide the supplies and only the necessities needed for survival. If the wagon wheel was displayed, it was time to prepare and pack for their journey.

The wagon wheel was symbolic of a "Chariot that was to carry them home." The spirituals they sang carried hidden messages, as *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*.

The Carpenter's Wheel quilt was a secondary code pattern. To a slave, the master carpenter. To a slave, the master carpenter in their lives was Jesus. As they worked the fields, they sang this well-known spiritual about a chariot that was to carry them home.

Swing low, Sweet Chariot

Comin' for to carry me home.

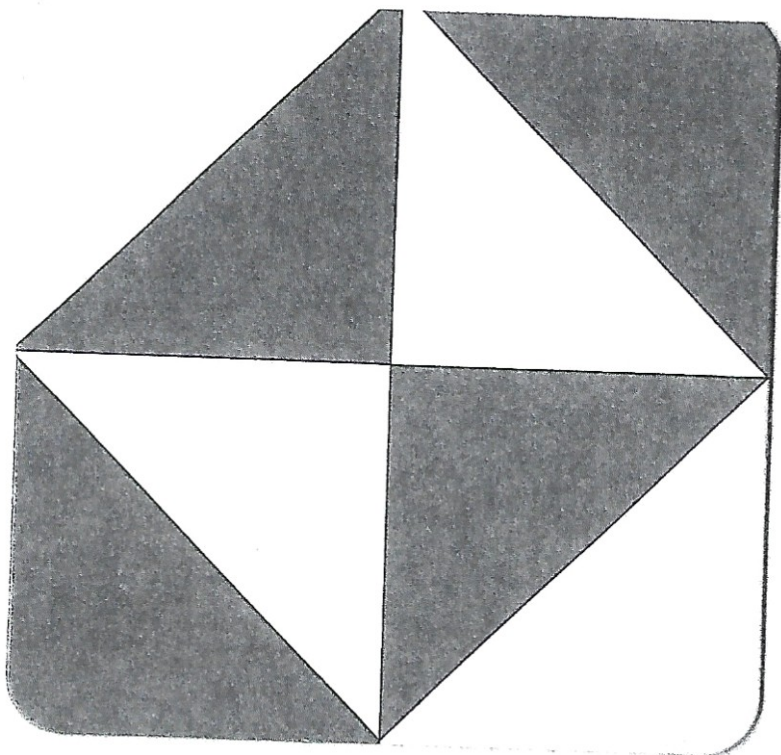
Of you get a dere befo I do,

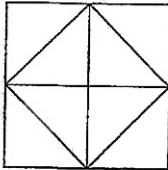
Tell all my friends I'm comin too.

Plantation owners thought they were singing about joining Jesus in Heaven, but the song had hidden messages. Future runaways recognized this as a directive to plan their escape. They were to follow the Carpenter's Wheel to the west-northwest. Imagine the beauty of the sun setting behind the Appalachian Mountains to the west on their journey to Ohio and Freedom.

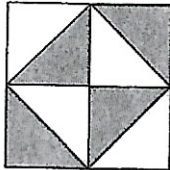
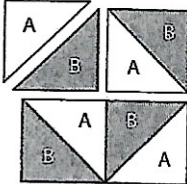
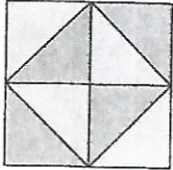
*For this handout I could not find a condensed version of the Carpenters Wheel, so I used the pattern Kings crown, referring to the King of the Jews, Jesus. In my quilt I used purple in my block Royalty. There are many different variations of quilt blocks so please feel free to use whatever pattern you prefer.





Broken Dishes block symbolized a signal that a piece of pottery, or broken crockery, would be found at a future landmark, serving as a marker for escapees.

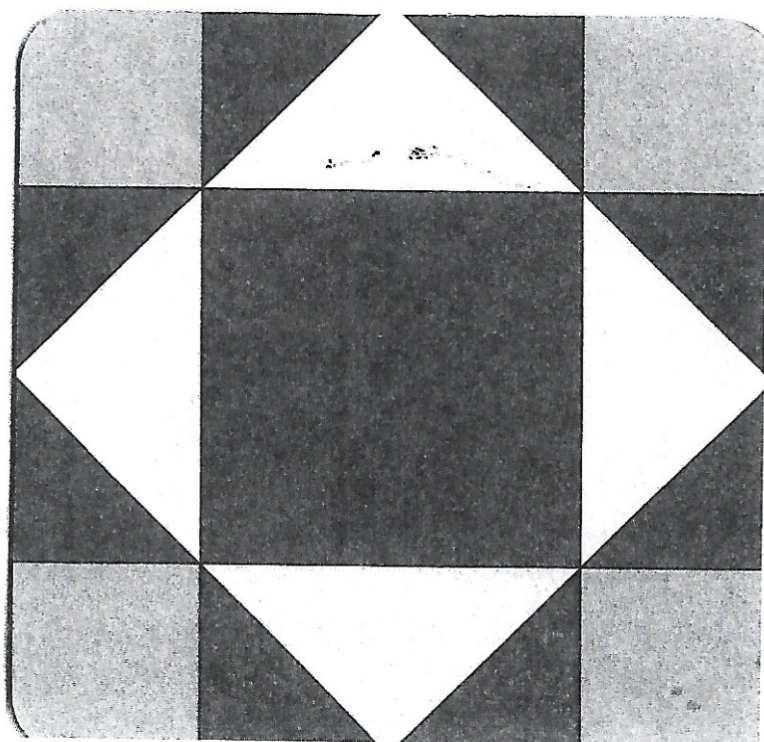


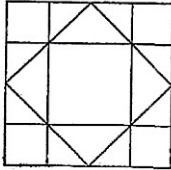


Broken Dishes

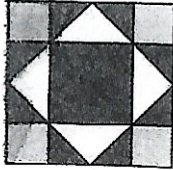
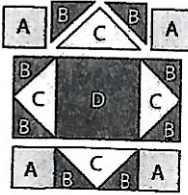
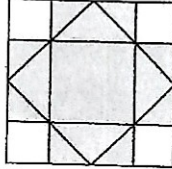












FOR	CUT	NEED	6"	8"	10"	12"	36"
A	2 	4 	3 3/8	4 7/8	5 7/8	6 7/8	18 7/8
B	2 	4 	3 3/8	4 7/8	5 7/8	6 7/8	18 7/8

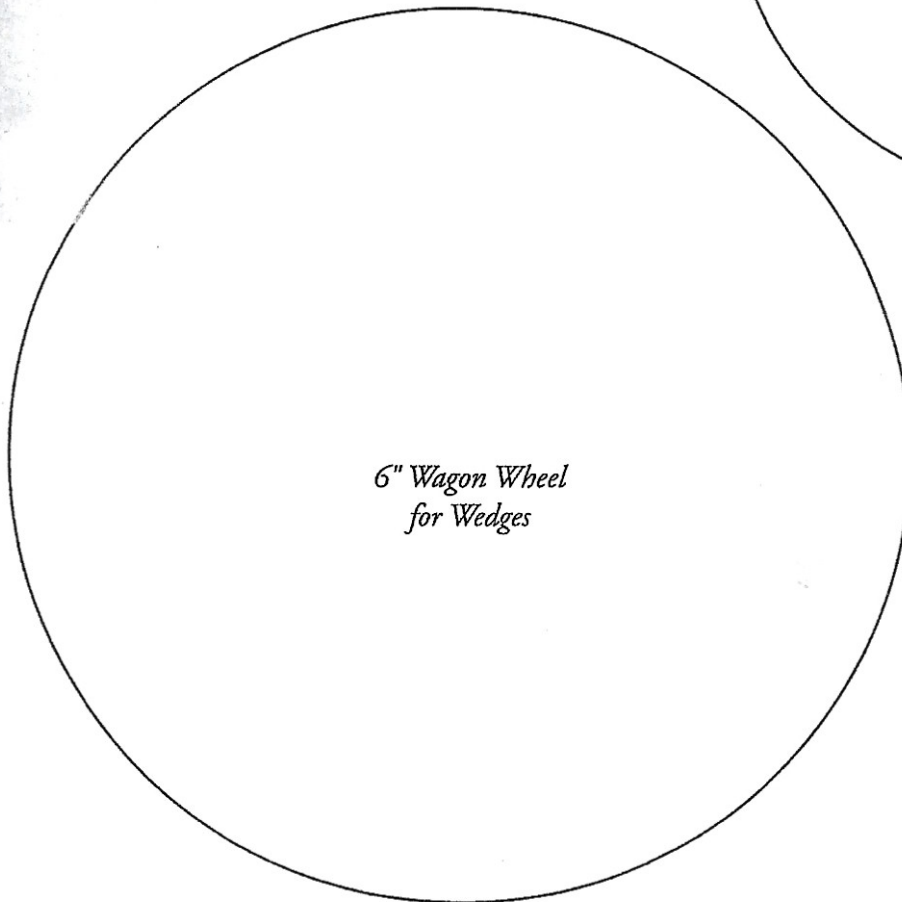
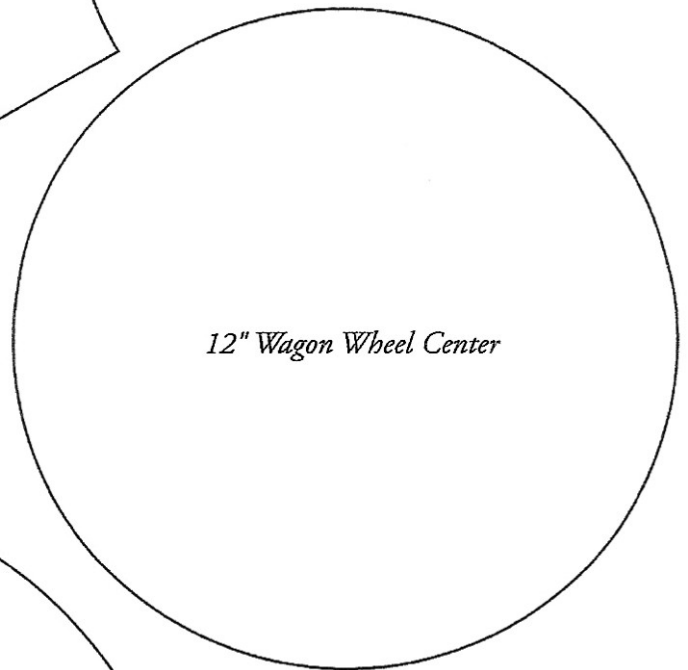
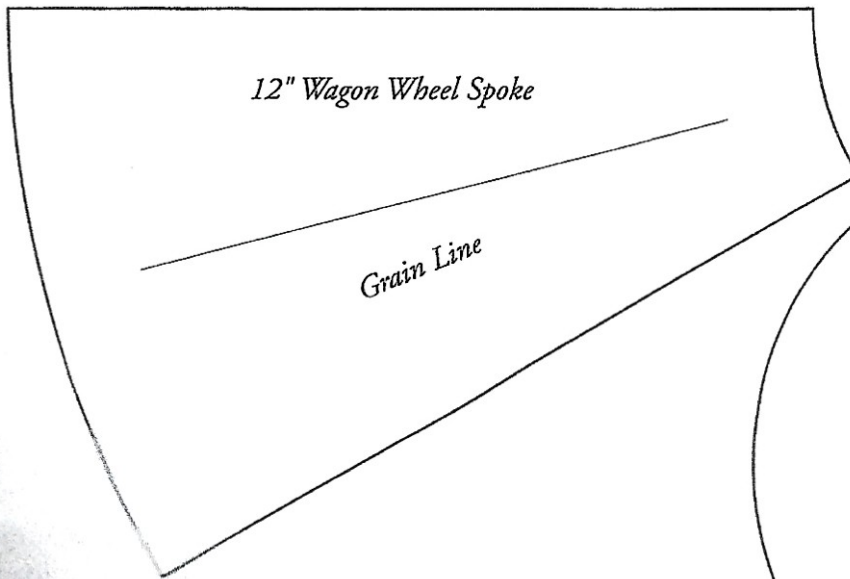
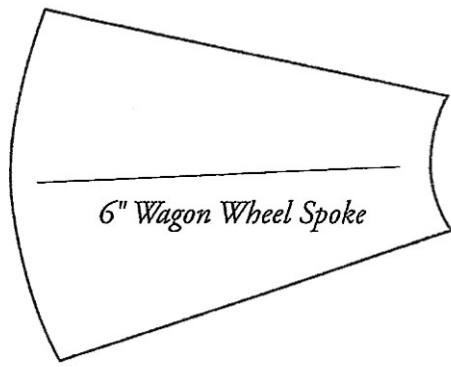




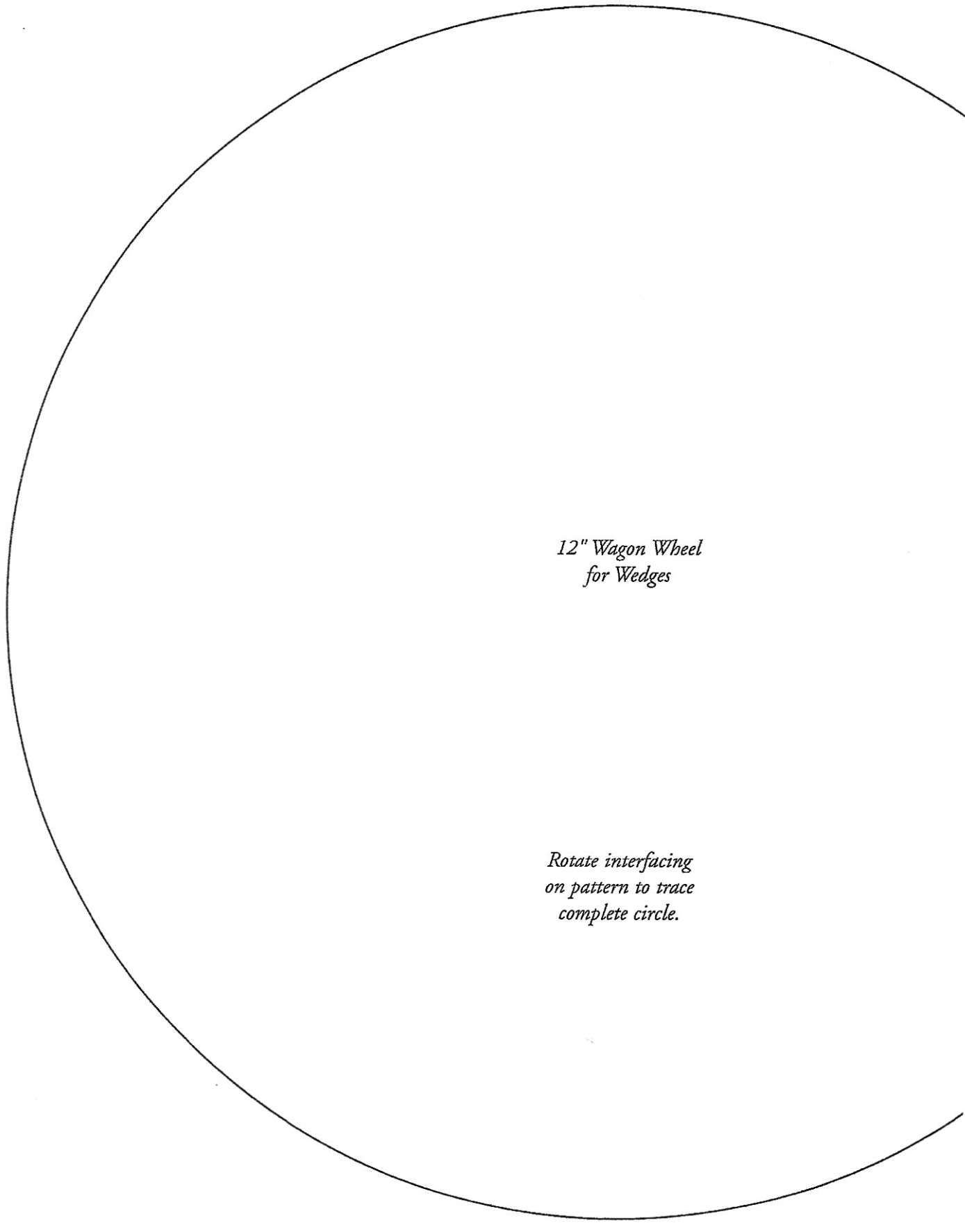
King's Crown

FOR	CUT	NEED	6"	8"	10"	12"	36"
A	4 	4 	2	2 1/2	3	3 1/2	9 1/2
B	4 	8 	2 3/8	2 7/8	3 3/8	3 7/8	9 7/8
C	1 	4 	4 1/4	5 1/4	6 1/4	7 1/4	19 1/4
D	1 	1 	3 1/2	4 1/2	5 1/2	6 1/2	18 1/2



Wagon Wheel Patterns



*12" Wagon Wheel
for Wedges*

*Rotate interfacing
on pattern to trace
complete circle.*