



Leonard Grimes and The Underground Railroad

Leonard Grimes was born free about 1814 in Leesburg. In 1839, he was accused of smuggling enslaved people out of Loudoun so they could escape slavery. The court case Commonwealth vs. Grimes was conducted in the second courthouse in 1840. His attorneys argued that evidence was circumstantial, and he received the lightest sentence possible. He and his family later settled in Massachusetts, and he became a minister.

Leonard Grimes, (Image courtesy of the Library of Congress)

