The Cost of Caring: William Still and the Vigilance Committee Records

Directions: Read the William Still journal entries as well as the Vigilance Committee expenditures and answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1) Who were the individuals documented in William Still’s journal? Provide general information as to age, gender, etc.

2) What were some of the needs of these individuals?

3) Who paid for the various expenses listed?

4) Based on the information obtained, what type of questions do you think William Still asked these individuals? What kind of information was he interested in gathering and documenting?

5) Where did these individuals come from and what were the various ways that they traveled to Philadelphia?

6) What were their destinations?
7) What were some factors that motivated these individuals to flee?

8) What risks were involved in documenting this information? Why do you think William Still recorded this information? Do you think the benefits of recording this information outweigh the risks? Explain.

9) How does this information about the Vigilance Committee influence or shape our understanding of the Underground Railroad?