

# **THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN SHREWSBURY AND THE NORTH PRECINCT**

**Examining the Evidence**

**Researched and compiled by  
Carol Baker**

**Packet 2**

**2019**

## MARY WHITE'S DIARIES

Mary Avery White lived in the town of Boylston. She was the wife of Aaron White, a Squire, Town Clerk and Shopkeeper. Mary began writing her diaries in 1798 at the time of her marriage, and wrote until her death in 1860. Her diaries and family letters are presently held and reside at Old Sturbridge Village.

Mary Babson Fuhrer, a public historian and independent scholar now living in Boxborough, MA, decided to study Mary's diaries. She wrote and published a book, A Community in Crisis. In her book, she shares Mary's diaries with the reader and paints a vivid picture of what life looked like during the early formation of Boylston. There are many references to Shrewsbury and to the residents whose names are familiar to us through the original membership in the Shrewsbury church.

Mary White was quite the abolitionist, and was also very outspoken, often to the chagrin of her husband. She would gather with her female neighbors and attend anti-slavery speeches. Mary would then assist the presenters, by handing out pamphlets and doing everything she could to further the cause of freeing the slaves. In 1832, she became closely associated with Harriett Smith Sanford, wife to the Rev. Sanford who served at the Congregational Church in Boylston. Through Harriett, she made a connection to abolitionist leaders in Philadelphia, NY and Boston. Harriett connected Mary to these people and Mary attended as many speeches as her time would permit. By 1833, there was a railway car from Shrewsbury to Boston, and she could be in Boston within two hours to attend her speeches. In 1836, Mary helped form the "Boylston Female Anti-Slavery Society (BFASS).

Boylston's anti-slavery women, who were a mix of Congregational and Unitarian members, numbered between 25 and 60 women. They raised money to pay traveling agents and publishers to spread the word about the sinfulness of slavery. They knit stockings and sewed lace caps, cuffs and aprons. They sewed clothing for the fugitives and gathered supplies.

"Abolition shook Boylston to its core!"

Questions:

Who did they give all this clothing and all the supplies to?

Where were the fugitives?

Who did they stay with?

Who housed them and provided transportation for them to get to Canada?

P.S. Mary had two cousins! Their names were (Rev.) George Allen and Charles Allen, (Esq.).

## **George W. Houghton** – was a member of the Vigilance Committee of Boston.

Committee members actively collected and recruited funds to pay for legal representation in court during the slave trials. They also were active in helping slaves escape. Masslandrecords.com show him as a landowner in Lancaster.

Fred Brown told me the story about Tory Cave over near Rocky Pond Rd. This cave was formed during a 1600's earthquake. He said that Solomon Houghton hid in that cave and his wife brought him food. He said he was a wanted man as he was a Loyalist and was passing British currency, and that was illegal at the time. I am trying to place him in the Houghton family tree. That cave is located on the Houghton Farm.

When referring to the deeds, the land is described as my father Benjamin 2nd and his father Benjamin Houghton. I'm trying to get the tree straight. Solomon had one son named Benjamin, but I can't find the grandfather Benjamin. Please see Bush land grantor/grantees chart. George Bush's daughters sold Lancaster land to Joshua Houghton. The current address today is 333 Linden Street. Check to see if there is or was an old house on the property.

## **Dennis Bigelow** – lived in West Boylston. He was also a member of the Vigilance Committee of Boston. Same job description, to fund trials for the slaves and to help them escape. He was born on 15 Jul 1779 and passed on 24 Jul 1851, and lived his whole life in West Boylston. He married Cynthis Fletcher on 14 Jan 1818. Need to see if he was a landowner.

## **Mary White's (1778 – 1860)** diary discussed The American & Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, (abt 1839) at the Congregational Church. There were 25 to 60 Congregational women who helped, whose mission was to "clothe and comfort the fugitives." They made clothing that was given to escaping slaves. If they were making clothing, there had to be a source or method to deliver the items to the escaping slaves.

Mary wrote many diaries, most of which are at Old Sturbridge Village. Her diaries have been researched and the book "A Crisis of Community" was written by Mary Babson Fuhrer.

Mary's cousins Charles Allen and George Allen were strong Abolitionists. Research them. Is George Allen our former pastor in Shrewsbury?

## **Safe House on Maple Street** – I met a man at Staples on Saturday who has been inside this house in Boylston/West Boylston and has seen a hidden room there. He said that the house is now owned by a McKeon family. He is going to call his cousin, who knows the current owners. He will inquire and send me an email.

## **Safe House in Morningdale** – Fred told me about this. It is at the intersection of Main Street and Paul Tivnan Drive, near the Reformatory/ TB Hospital near Bond Hill. The hidden area is

behind the fireplace. The home is now owned by one of the Ricciardi Contractor brothers. He will not let anyone in to see it and says it never was a stop on the UGRR. He says that the space was for storage of items that shouldn't freeze and that's why it is behind the fireplace.

*Who owned the house? When was it rumored to be a safe house? Can you find anything on this?*

**Slaves in Boylston** — Mary White's diary says that her grandmother owned slaves and that she gave away the babies born to the female slave. The slave census recorded slaves over the age of 16. *Were all the babies under age 16 at that time? Did they remain as slaves in Boylston?*

Nancy Filgate (Boylston Historical Society) told me that there were 5 slaves living in Boylston at that time. Dick and Dinah Bush belonged to the Jotham Bush Family. Cato and Moses were indentured bondsmen, and the 5<sup>th</sup> was the age of 10 and belonged to Aaron Sawyer.

**Free Colored in Boylston** — *Were there any free colored living and working in Boylston?* History has noted that the free blacks helped their fellow man escape to Canada. *Can you find any evidence of this?*

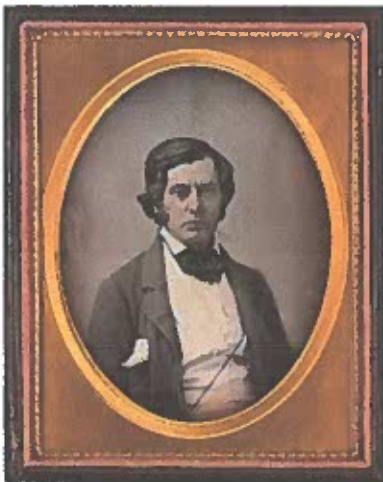
**Rev. William Sanford** — minister of the Congregational Church was noted as a person who didn't believe in slavery. Mary White's diary suggests that he preached this from the pulpit. *Can you locate any sermons written by him?* He also sent 8 petitions to Congress. The petitions survive in the National Archives.

**Robert Andrews** — was a signer of the petitions sent to Congress. *Where did he live? Was he one of the Andrews brothers who, legend says ran a safe house? What were his other brothers names? Was Asaph one of his brothers?*

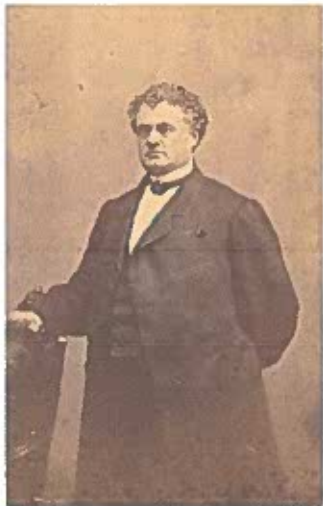
**Nathaniel Goodenow** — was a signer of the petitions sent to Congress. *Were there any rumors about him helping slaves escape?*

## Who Helped the Fugitives Escape Through Massachusetts?

**ALLEN, George, Reverend**, 1792-1883, Worcester, Massachusetts, abolitionist, clergyman. Lecturing Agent for the American Anti-Slavery Society (AASS). He traveled throughout Ohio speaking out against slavery. Organized an anti-slavery convention in Worcester in 1837 and helped organize the Free Soil Party in 1848. He wrote, "Resolved that Massachusetts wears no chains, and spurns all bribes; that Massachusetts goes now, and will ever go, for free soil, and free men, for free lips, and a free press, for a true land and a free world."



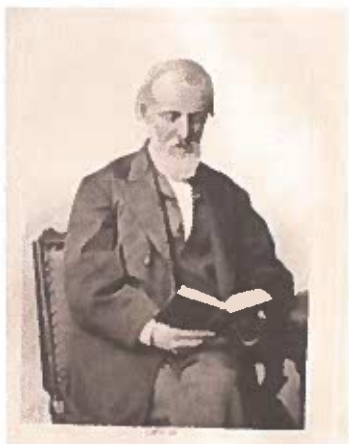
**SUMNER, Charles**, 1811-1874, Boston, Massachusetts, statesman, lawyer, writer, editor, educator, reformer, peace advocate, anti-slavery political leader. U.S. Senatorial candidate on the Free Soil ticket. Entered the Senate in December 1851. He was the earliest and most important anti-slavery voice in the Senate. He opposed the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 and the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. Sumner was an organizer and co-founder of the Republican party. He was severely beaten on the Senate floor by pro-slavery Senator Preston S. Brooks. It took him three and a half years to recover. Strong supporter of Lincoln and the Union. He was among the first to support emancipation of slaves. As a U.S. Senator, voted for Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery. Sumner declared: "Where slavery is, there liberty cannot be; and where liberty is, there slavery cannot be."



**ANDREW, John Albion**, 1818-1867, reformer, anti-slavery advocate, lawyer, Governor of Massachusetts, member Conscience Whig, Free Soil Party, Republican Party. Opponent of slavery. In Boston, he took a prominent part in the defense of fugitive slaves Shadrach, Burns and Sims, which was promulgated by the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. Supported John Brown in legal defense. Supported the adoption of the Emancipation Proclamation and allowing Black soldiers to serve in the Union Army. In January 1863, he obtained authorization for enlisting African American soldiers from Massachusetts. Among them was the famed 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry, from Boston. Strong supporter of the Union. He was quoted as saying: "I know not what record of sin awaits me in the other world, but this I know, that I was never mean enough to despise any man because he was black."



**BALLOU, Adin**, 1803-1890, Universalist and Unitarian clergyman, reformer, temperance proponent, advocate of pacifism, writer, opposed slavery. Founder of Hopedale Community, a utopian cooperative society in Milford, Massachusetts. President of the New England Non-Resistance Society. Supporter of abolitionist leader William Lloyd Garrison. Anti-slavery lecturer in Pennsylvania and New York. 1846-1848. Vice President, Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, 1838-1840, 1840-1860.



**BOWDITCH, Henry Ingersoll**, 1819-1909, Boston, physician, lawyer, abolitionist. Bowditch was a Garrisonian abolitionist. Actively opposed fugitive slave laws. Published a newspaper that helped promote a Massachusetts State law that forbade State authorities to aid in the return of slaves. He was a member of a committee to assist fugitive slave George Latimer. He helped other fugitive slaves as well and promoted the anti-slavery cause in the North.



**FRANKLIN, Benjamin**, 1706-1790, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, statesman, inventor, diplomat, lawyer, publisher, author, philosopher, opponent of slavery. Co-founder and President of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, 1787-1790. Franklin wrote, "Attention to emancipated blacks, it is therefore to be hoped, will become a branch of our national policy; but, as far as we contribute to promote this emancipation, so far that attention is evidently a serious duty incumbent on us, and which we mean to discharge to the best of our judgment and abilities." His last act on February 12, 1790, was to present a petition to Congress to abolish the slave trade and to emancipate slaves in America.



**GARRISON, William Lloyd**, 1805-1879, journalist, major abolitionist leader. Early in his career, he supported colonization and gradual emancipation. He later changed his views to adamantly oppose colonization. Co-founder of the American Anti-Slavery Society, December 1833, and the New England Anti-Slavery Society. Co-editor of anti-slavery newspaper, *Genius of Universal Emancipation*, in 1829. Supported cause of uncompensated immediate abolitionism. Viewed slavery as highly immoral and sinful. Promoted full citizenship and rights for African Americans. Founder, editor, *The Liberator*, weekly newspaper founded in 1831, published through December 1865. The Georgia state legislature offered a \$5,000 bounty for Garrison. After the passage of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, ending slavery, Garrison closed *The Liberator* and promoted the issues of women's suffrage and rights for Native Americans.



**HUTCHINSON FAMILY SINGERS.** The Hutchinson singers were known for their abolitionist sympathies. They were active in the anti-slavery movement with William Lloyd Garrison, Horace Greeley, Rogers and other abolitionists. They sang in large abolitionist rallies. They traveled throughout the country during the presidential elections of 1856 and 1860. During the Civil War, they sang patriotic songs to the soldiers. General McClellan expelled them because they sang anti-slavery songs. They appealed to President Lincoln, who allowed them to entertain Union soldiers. The eldest Hutchinson, Jesse, wrote a number of songs, including "The Emancipation Song," "The Slave Mother," and "The Slave's Appeal." The family was comprised of Jesse, Judson, John, Asa, and Abby.

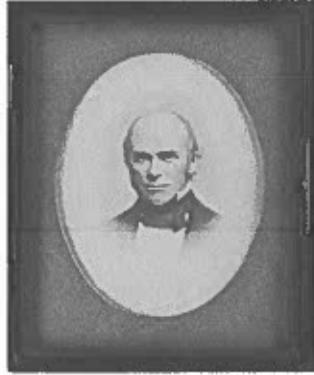


**JACKSON, Francis,** 1789-1861. Boston, Massachusetts, merchant, social reformer, abolitionist. President, Vice President and Treasurer of the American Anti-Slavery Society. President of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. President of the Boston Vigilance Committee. Jackson was involved in the defense of fugitive slave Anthony Burns in 1854. Supported the Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society (BFASS). Generously supported abolitionists William Lloyd Garrison and Isaac Knapp and their anti-slavery newspaper, the *Liberator*. He aided fugitive slaves in his home on Hollis Street in Boston.



**LORING, Ellis Gray,** 1803-1858, Boston, Massachusetts, lawyer, abolitionist leader. Manager and founding member of the American Anti-Slavery Society (AASS), December 1833. Manager, AASS, 1833-1840, 1840-1843, Executive Committee, 1843-1844. Husband to abolitionist Louisa Loring of the Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society (BFASS). Auditor, Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, 1844-1845. Co-founded and wrote the constitution of the New England Anti-Slavery Society (NEASS) in 1833. Financially aided the abolitionist newspaper the *Liberator*. Was the attorney for the defense of a slave child in Massachusetts Supreme Court. This resulted in a landmark ruling that every slave brought to the state by the owner was legally free. Life member of the BFASS. After his death, Wendell Phillips said: "The great merit of Mr. Loring's anti-slavery life was, he laid on the altar of the slave's needs all his peculiar tastes. Refined, domestic, retiring, contemplative, loving literature, art, and culture, he saw there was no one else to speak, therefore he was found in the van. It was the uttermost instance of self-sacrifice—more than money, more than reputation, though he gave both."





**PARKER, Reverend Theodore**, 1810-1860, Boston, Massachusetts, Unitarian clergyman, abolitionist leader, reformer. Secretly supported radical abolitionist John Brown, and his raid on the U.S. Arsenal at Harpers Ferry, (West) Virginia, on October 16, 1859. Parker became active in the abolitionist movement in 1841. Wrote "A Letter to the People of the United States Touching the Matter of Slavery" (1845). Opposed Fugitive Slave Act. Organizer and leader, Committee of Vigilance to help fugitive slaves escape capture in Boston, Massachusetts. He aided fugitive slaves William and Ellen Craft in November 1850, the unsuccessful rescue of Thomas Sims in April 1851, and the fugitive slave trial of Anthony Burns in May 1854. Parker opposed the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. He was associated with numerous prominent leaders in the abolition and anti-slavery movement, including senators Charles Sumner and John P. Hale, Salmon P. Chase, Charles Francis Adams and William Seward. Wrote anti-slavery book, *To a Southern Slaveholder*, in 1848. Also wrote *Defense*, which documented prominent fugitive slave cases. Supported the New England Emigrant Aid Society and the Massachusetts Kansas Committee. Member of the Secret Six group that clandestinely aided radical abolitionist John Brown.



**QUINCY, Edmund**, 1808-1877, Dedham, Massachusetts, author, anti-slavery writer, abolitionist leader. Member, U.S. House of Representatives. Mayor of Boston. After the murder of abolitionist newspaper editor Elijah P. Lovejoy, he became a Garrisonian abolitionist. Member, 1838, Vice President, 1853, 1856-1859, of the American Anti-Slavery Society (AASS). Served as a Manager, 1838-1840, 1840-1842, member of the Executive Committee, 1843-1864, Vice President, 1848-1864, and Corresponding Secretary, 1853-1856, of the American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society (AFASS). Vice President, Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, 1849-1860. Quincy was also active as a member of the Non-Resistance Society, which was founded in 1839. This organization was devoted to non-violent actions. It supported a break between the North and the South. Quincy was active with both William Lloyd Garrison and Maria Weston Chapman in conducting the organization's newsletter, the *Non-Resistant*, from 1839-1842. He was appointed editor of the *Abolitionist*, the newspaper of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, in 1839. Between 1839 and 1856, he was a major contributor of articles to the *Liberty Bell*. Quincy became editor of the *Anti-Slavery Standard*, the newspaper of the American Anti-Slavery Society. He was also in charge of the *Liberator* when Garrison was on leave. He also contributed anti-slavery articles to Horace Greeley's *New York Tribune*.



**STOWE, Harriet Beecher, 1811-1896.** author, reformer, wrote the novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, published in 1852. It was one of the most widely read novels on slave life in America. It sold more than 300,000 copies in its first year. It has been translated into 55 languages. The novel stimulated the abolitionist movement in the North. When President Abraham Lincoln met Stow, he said, "So this is the lady that made the big war." Stowe's family were against slavery. Her brothers, Reverend Edward Beecher, and Reverend Henry Ward Beecher, were abolitionists. During the Civil War, she called for emancipation of slaves.



**THOREAU, Henry David, 1817-1862.** author of *Walden, or Life in the Woods* (1854), reformer and anti-slavery activist. Gave lectures and wrote on slavery's immorality. Wrote anti-slavery essay, "Reform and the Reformers" and "Herald of Freedom." Advocate of passive resistance to civil government. Active participant in Underground Railroad. Supporter of radical abolitionist John Brown.

## THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN MASSACHUSETTS

WILBUR H. SIEBERT\*

**M**OST of the fugitive slaves who passed through the New England states on their way to Canada and secure freedom crossed some section of Massachusetts by means of the so-called "Underground Railroad." The operatives of this curious combination of variable routes were, of course, abolitionists, whose pity for the oppressed slave impelled them to welcome and conceal him on his arrival at their doors, attend to his needs, and, a night or two later, hitch up their teams and convey him to some trusted friend a few miles farther on.

This secret system extended through all the northern states as far west as Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa, and everywhere its methods were substantially the same. The increasing supply of fugitives who came to New England was brought by sailing vessels engaged in trade with our South Atlantic seaboard, and in some instances from the West Indies. Generally the fugitives came as stowaways, though occasionally as paid passengers, under the watchful eye of some friendly negro hand on board. Among their ports of departure were New Orleans, Mobile, Jacksonville, Savannah, Charleston, Wilmington, North Carolina, and Portsmouth and Norfolk, Virginia. Of course, some of the stowaways were discovered on board ship and were returned to bondage. Among these we may mention Peter, who secreted himself on the British ship *Wilson* at Charleston, bound for Liverpool. He was found and handed over to the brig *Reporter*, sailing to Boston, after being two days out, with the request that on arrival at that port he be transferred to the first vessel going South. Accordingly he was placed on

\* For a more lengthy treatment of this subject by Professor Siebert and a map of the underground routes, see *Proceedings, American Antiquarian Society, New Series XLV, Part 1, 25-100*: Wilbur H. Siebert, "The Underground Railroad in Massachusetts."

overland trip to Worcester either by the New York and New England Railroad, transportation being provided them by the local workers, or by the usual night service, with stops at Hanover, Canterbury, and Brooklyn, or at Hanover, Willimantic, Hampton, and Brooklyn. While the Reverend Samuel J. May, "the Lord's chore boy" as he was called by his brother-in-law, Bronson Alcott, held his pastorate in Brooklyn from 1822 to 1836, he passed fugitives on to Effingham L. Capron at Uxbridge, Massachusetts, whence they proceeded northwestward to Worcester. Mr. Capron had previously been a leading member of the Smithfield monthly meeting of Friends in Rhode Island.

Both the city and county of Worcester were strongly anti-slavery from at least the middle of the 1830's. How many of the numerous Quakers of the city engaged in defeating the Fugitive Slave Law is not known; certainly a few did. One of these was Edward Earle, and probably another was Charles Hadwen, who lived a little way out of town at some distance from any traveled road. He was deeply interested "in the cause of the oppressed" and was a friend of Elizabeth Buffum Chace, whom he visited at Fall River late in December, 1838. She read to him a manuscript she had written concerning a slave who had lived there for some time and had then departed for Canada. He had run away with his two brothers for fear of being sold South, but he had lost them and thought they had been caught. Mr. Hadwen wrote to Angelina Grimké Weld on January 1, 1839 that some persons in Worcester were alive to the sufferings of the slave and were doing what their hands found to do. His sisters, Eliza and Lucy Earle, were "much engaged in societies for the Slave, as well as Sarah Earle." The colored people held a lyceum in Worcester and attended well the weekly lectures given by their friends.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> *Letters of Theodore Dwight Weld, Angelina Grimké Weld and Sarah Grimké, 1822-1844*, Gilbert H. Barnes and Dwight L. Dumond, Editors, (New York, 1934), II, 736-737.

Another birthright member of the Society of Friends who sheltered fugitives in the suburbs of Worcester was Abby Kelly Foster, but she was disowned for her radicalism. In 1847 she and her husband, Stephen Foster, bought seventy-five acres of land at the foot of Barton Hills in Tatnuck, now within the city limits. In the cellar of their house they had a secret vault, entered only through a trap-door in the floor above, in which they hid such refugees as were brought to them. Hence they named their place "Liberty Farm." It was to them that Thomas Wentworth Higginson, while pastor of the "Free Church" in Worcester, drove at night with the fugitives consigned to him. Mr. Higginson has told in print that a pretty young slave woman, apparently white, and her "two perfectly white children" were sent to him from Boston under the care of a pro-slavery Worcester merchant, who was ignorant of the fact that he was violating the law by attending them on the train. They remained with the Higginsons all winter, and the woman later married a tradesman near Boston. The abolitionists of Worcester encouraged fugitives to dwell among them and prevailed upon some to do so even after their chances of security had been greatly decreased by the law of 1850.<sup>7</sup>

The northern part of Worcester County had "a number of unseen highways" for the wayfarers from the South. These highways were laid out by Deacon Joshua T. Everett, of Westminster, and other men of the county. Undoubtedly Westminster maintained underground connections with Worcester to the south, Fitchburg to the northeast, and North Ashburnham to the northwest. So also Medfield seems to have been in traffic communication with Southborough and Concord. At Concord Mr. and Mrs. Francis E. Bigelow, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Brooks, Miss Mary E. Rice, and Ephraim Allen were deep in the work in coöperation with the Rever-

<sup>7</sup> Bostonian Society, Old State House, Boston: An article in a scrap-book, "Doomed is Slave Dungeon.—Liberty Farm Hiding Place to be Torn Down"; T. W. Higginson in the *Atlantic Monthly* (March, 1897), 348.

end Joel S. Bingham, Jonathan Drake, and Joel Smith, all of Leominster. Others at Concord who gave shelter to fugitives were A. Bronson Alcott, Henry D. Thoreau, and Abiel Heywood Wheeler, the father of Mary E. Wheeler, artist and educator. Mr. Wheeler "helped to run the local Underground Railway"; while Mr. Thoreau not only harbored an occasional runaway in his cabin at Walden Pond but also in his house in the village, where the Reverend Moncure D. Conway was permitted to see one receiving the attentions of the family. Shortly after the "Martyr's Service," which was held in the town hall for John Brown, December 2, 1859, Thoreau aided the fugitive Meriam to escape to Canada, as he had several others in former years. It was for the "Martyr's Service" that Frank B. Sanborn wrote his dirge, beginning,

To-day beside Potomac's wave,  
Beneath Virginia's sky,  
They slay the man who loved the slave  
And dared for him to die.<sup>8</sup>

Mr. Alcott was ingenious to record in his diary in February, 1847, the fact that he had kept a refugee for a week, employing him at sawing and piling wood until the negro lost confidence in his safety and left for Canada.

From Leominster the "unseen highway" led to Fitchburg, where Mr. and Mrs. Samuel S. Crocker, Benjamin Snow, and other receivers of runaways forwarded them to Alvin Ward of North Ashburnham, who put them on the steam cars for Canada. Before daylight one Sunday morning, in February, 1851, Mr. Bigelow arrived from Concord at the house of Mr. Drake with Shadrach, who had been rescued from the courthouse in Boston by a crowd of men of his own color. As he stepped from the carriage Shadrach wore an old silk hat of Mr. Brooks. At church time his appearance was completely

<sup>8</sup> Edward W. Emerson, *Henry David Thoreau, 1817-1862* (London, 1917), 68; F. B. Sanborn, *Henry D. Thoreau* (Boston, 1882), 195; Blanche E. Wheeler Williams, *Mary C. Wheeler, Leader in Art and Education* (Boston, 1934), 23-24.

changed, for he was in feminine apparel in order that he might attend service with Mrs. Drake. There she introduced him to friends as "Mrs. Brown." From Leominster the rescued slave was driven by one of Mr. Crocker's workmen to North Ashburnham, where he lay sick for a few days in Mr. Ward's attic before being able to resume his journey to Canada.

Boston was a noted rendezvous for the refugees, who came not only from southern ports but also from Baltimore by way of Philadelphia, and from underground stations much closer home. The *Report* of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society for 1848 states that "the ranks of emigration from the South" were yearly swelling their numbers, and the *Report* of the same society two years later declares that the tide of slaves, which had been flowing for so many years from the South to the North, especially since the inception of the anti-slavery movement, "continues to pour in swelling flood." Where one slave had escaped in 1830 probably fifty were doing so in 1850. Of these runaways Boston was getting its full share.

The Reverend James Freeman Clarke tells us that there were many places in Boston where these people were cared for, that every anti-slavery man was ready to protect them, and that some families who were not known to be anti-slavery were not less ready to do so. Mrs. George S. Hillard, whose husband was a United States commissioner, hid fugitives in the attic of their home, at Number 62 Pinckney Street; Francis Jackson sheltered many in a room of his house, at Number 31 Hollis Street; William I. Bowditch kept them in his home and passed most of them on to William Jackson at Newton; Elizur Wright, editor of the *Commonwealth*, harbored them in his house, as did also Theodore Parker, who lived for years at Number 1 Exeter Place. They were also often secreted in a room over the *Liberator* office, at Number 21 Cornhill. These instances illustrate the hospitality provided by prominent white men



of Boston for their temporary black lodgers, but most of the entertainment for such persons was provided by the colored people living on the north side of Beacon Hill. Of these the most hospitable was the fugitive slave, Lewis Hayden, who lived at Number 66 Southac (later Phillips) Street. He had runaways almost constantly at his house, and when Harriet Beecher Stowe called there in 1853, she saw thirteen newly arrived slaves of all colors and sizes. Another prominent underground agent of the same race was the Reverend Leonard A. Grimes, the pastor of the Fugitive Slave Church in Boston. Many more negro befrienders of fugitives are named by Francis Jackson, the treasurer of the Boston Vigilance Committee, in his cash-book.<sup>9</sup>

Immediately after the enactment of the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 the underground operations in Boston were organized to a considerable extent by the vigilance committee, which was formed early in October of that year by fifty men under the presidency of Deacon Timothy Gilbert, with Charles List as secretary, Mr. Jackson as treasurer, and Austin Bearse, a Cape Cod sea-captain, as agent, door-keeper, collector of supplementary funds, and rescuer of stowaways from coasting vessels in Boston Harbor. This committee, largely through the efforts of Theodore Parker, rapidly increased its membership to more than two hundred men, some of whom were residents of outlying cities and towns. Its service continued during a period of nearly ten and a half years, with Captain Bearse performing its most dangerous exploits, occasionally in company with noted members of the committee.

When notified that a fugitive was on some vessel lying off Fort Independence or elsewhere in the harbor, the captain sailed in his yacht *Moby Dick* or his later one, *Wild Pigeon*, took him off as best he could, and usually landed with him at South Point, South Boston, near the Bearse home. Either

<sup>9</sup> James Freeman Clarke, *Anti-Slavery Days* (New York, 1884), 83. Mr. Jackson's cash-book is in the possession of the Bostonian Society, in the Old State House, Boston.



## Who Helped the Fugitives Escape Through Massachusetts?

### Westminster

Deacon Joshua T. Everett

### West Fitchburg

Benjamin Snow

Mrs. Samuel S. Crocker

### Groton

Dr. Amos Farnsworth

Rev. Solomon S. Young

### Southborough

Rev. Daniel S. Whitney

### Grafton

Benjamin Kingsley

### Natick

Israel How Brown

Edward Walcott

### Medfield

Rev. Luther Lee

Joseph A. Allen

### Boston

89 Central Street

Hayden Home

Squire Edward Walcott

Rev. James Freeman Clark

Mrs. George S. Hillard

William Bowditch

Francis Jackson

Liberator Office (upstairs)

Lewis Hayden

Rev. George Grimes

### North Attleboro

Rev. Seth Chaplin

### Taunton

Elijah & Jerusha Bird

### North Ashburnham

Alvin Ward

### Leominster

Rev. Joel S. Bingham

Joel Smith

Frances & Jonathan Drake

### Concord

Francis Bigelow

Henry D. Thoreau  
(Walden Pond Cabin)

Nathan Brooks

Mary Rice

Ephraim Alden

Bronson Alcott

Abiel Heywood Wheeler

### Newton

William Jackson

### Attleboro

Kling House

### Uxbridge

Effingham Capron

Riverbend Farm

Lawrence Capron

### Hopedale

Ebenezer Draper

### Andover

Harriet Beecher Stowe

### East Douglas

Solomon P. Snow

Wesleyan Methodist Church

### Fall River

Pastor Branson Alcott

Harriet Buffum Chase

### Boylston

Andrews Brothers

### Northampton

Samuel Hill

Ross Farm

### Haverhill

David P. Harmon

### Brookline

William I. Bowditch

### Millbury

Asa Waters

Mansion at 123 Elm Street

### Kingston

Nathaniel Morton

### Stoneham

Deacon Abijah Bryant

307 Main Street

### Watertown

William S. White

### Newburyport

Richard Plumer

62 Federal Street

### Springfield

John Brown

### South Danvers

Dr. Andrew Nichols

### South Lawrence

Daniel Saunders

### Saugus

Benjamin Franklin Newhall

**Shrewsbury**

Asaph Andrews  
Thomas Ward

**Worcester**

Abby Kelly Foster (Liberty Farm)  
Stephan Foster  
Quakers; Edward Earle  
Charles Hadwen  
Rev. Thomas Wentworth Higginson  
Sarah, Eliza and Lucy Earle

**Peabody**

Dr. Ebenezer Hunt

# The Routes through Blackstone Valley

Blackstone Valley was a "hotbed" for abolitionist activities. The residents there were deeply religious and there was a large population of Quakers living in the area. The textile mills in the nearby towns depended on the import of Southern cotton. The businessmen in the area were associated with slavery and were quite annoyed with the abolitionists.

Hopedale was the favored location for public speeches against slavery. The Honorable Charles Sumner hosted well attended speeches. Edward J. Renehan, Jr., historian and author also made presentations along the way. The Ladies Sewing Society of Hopedale was busy making and repairing clothing to share with the fugitives coming through the area.

The Riverbend Farm in Uxbridge was the home of Charles Capron. He ran a mill and general store. As a Quaker, he was an active "conductor" on the Route 16 portion of the trail north. Many of the fugitives coming through the Blackstone Valley had passed through Cumberland, R.I. The Luke Jilson House is a part of local lore and is historically known as a stop on the UGRR. It is known that the Uxbridge monthly meetings held actively disowned Abby Kelly because of her anti-slavery lectures.

The Blackstone Canal has been used as the route north towards Worcester. The Rev. Samuel May Jr. House in Leicester is reputed to be a safe house along the trail. A large number of letters held by his family read of Effingham Capron as being a major conductor between Uxbridge and Worcester. Rev. May went to Brooklyn, CT, and then to Boston to head up the anti-slavery cause. As Secretary General of the Abolitionist Society, Rev. May would escort slaves on the train to Worcester from South Boston. Rev. May also had an underground cellar in the floor of his barn at his home in Leicester.

The message spread along the trail was, "evil travels in a straight line." That is why the zig-zag pattern of travel was encouraged, to avoid capture. The key entry point for most who traveled north through the Blackstone Valley was the port of New Bedford, MA.

The abolitionists in this area were made to feel very uncomfortable when attending church, by the uncomplimentary attention they received from their fellow church members. Socially, they were affected by the social distain they brought upon themselves, by acknowledging their principals.

# Fugitives Escaping Through Massachusetts

(As noted in The Francis Jackson Account Book for the Vigilance Committee)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Sponsored by:</i>	<i>Notes</i>
2/27/1851	William Hanton	Mary Parker	Passage to St. John's
2/28/1851	Mr. Streeter	James B. Richards	Carriage hire
2/28/1851	Mr. Parker	James B. Richards	
2/28/1851	James Dale	L. A. Grimes	Passage
2/28/1851	Mrs. Henderson	L. A. Grimes	Passage
3/4/1851	John Thomas, wife, 2 children	Paid from Committee	To Canada
3/4/1851	Alex Duvalls	John W. Brown	Passage to England
3/4/1851	Brown, wife, sister, 2 children	John McGinley	Passage to Halifax
3/22/1851	Mrs. Ringola	William Williams	Paid for Fuel
3/22/1851	Mrs. Brown	William Williams	Paid for Fuel
3/22/1851	Mrs. Scott	William Williams	Paid for Fuel
3/22/1851	Mrs. Smith	William Williams	Paid for Fuel
3/31/1851	John Thomas & wife	Paid from Committee	Passage to Toronto
3/31/1851	Henry Richardson	William Nell	
3/31/1851	George Johnson	William Nell	
3/31/1851	Oliver Gilbert	William Nell	
3/31/1851	Munro Jackson	William Nell	
3/31/1851	Dale Richardson	William Nell	
3/31/1851	James Brown	William Nell	
3/31/1851	Mrs. Luther	William Nell	
3/31/1851	Mrs. Burr	William Nell	
3/31/1851	Mrs. Latimer	William Nell	
3/31/1851	Scott Winkler	William Nell	
3/31/1851	Thomas	William Nell	
3/31/1851	George Hall	William Nell	
3/31/1851	Thomas Gibson	William Nell	
3/31/1851	Thomas Pew	William Nell	
3/31/1851	Mrs. David Brown	William Nell	
4/3/1851	Joshua Truett, son Peter	Paid from Committee	Passage to Hopedale
4/3/1851	William H. Dorsey, wife, 3 children	Paid from Committee	Passage to England
4/11/1851	A. J. Barton	Dr. Hanson	
4/11/1851	A. Perkins	John M. Spear	Search for Mr. Perkins
4/16/1851	George Sims	Paid from Committee	Passage to Canada
4/16/1851	A. J. Burton	Dr. Henry I. Bowditch	
4/18/1851	James H. Howard	L. E. Caswell	Passage to Canada
4/18/1851	George Handy	L. E. Caswell	Passage to Canada
4/18/1851	James Handy	L. E. Caswell	Passage to Canada
45/20/1851	James Scott	Paid from Committee	Passage to Canada
4/28/1851	John Hutton	Lewis E. Caswell	Wounded - to Canada

## Fugitives Escaping Through Massachusetts

(As noted in The Francis Jackson Account Book for the Vigilance Committee)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Sponsored by:</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1/10/1851	Thomas, wife and 2 children	William C. Nell	
1/10/1851	Henry Gardner	William C. Nell	
1/10/1851	William Crafts & wife	William C. Nell	
1/10/1851	Andrew Jones	William C. Nell	
1/10/1851	William Stewart	William C. Nell	
1/10/1851	Edward Gray	William C. Nell	
1/10/1851	Elizabeth Higgerman	William C. Nell	
1/10/1851	James Cook	William C. Nell	
1/10/1851	James Brown	William C. Nell	
1/2/1851	James Thompson	James J. Johnson	
11/16/1850	A. M. & L. H.C.	E. G. Loring	
11/16/1850	James Dale, wife and 1 child	Isabella S. Holmes	
11/16/1850	Henry Garnet	Isabella S. Holmes	
11/16/1850	George Johnson	Isabella S. Holmes	
11/16/1850	David Brown	Isabella S. Holmes	
11/16/1850	Henry Richardson	Isabella S. Holmes	
11/16/1850	Ely Baney	Isabella S. Holmes	
11/16/1850	Catherine Jones	Isabella S. Holmes	
11/16/1850	Henry Williams	Isabella S. Holmes	
11/16/1850	Henry Lewis	Isabella S. Holmes	
11/16/1850	Henry Long	John R. Taylor	
11/16/1850	Mr. Jones	John R. Taylor	
11/16/1850	Joseph Truet, wife, 2 children	Susan Burroughs	
11/16/1850	John Simmons	Lewis Hayden	
11/16/1850	William Miller	Lewis Hayden	
11/16/1850	James Jackson	Lewis Hayden	
11/16/1850	Solomon Banks	Lewis Hayden	
11/16/1850	George Reason	Lewis Hayden	
11/16/1850	Isaac Mason & wife	Lewis Hayden	
11/6/1850	Amos Lawrence	R. E. Apthorpe	
12/26/1850	George Newton	Isabella S. Holmes	
2/22/1851	John Armisted & others	Lewis Hayden	carriage hire out of city
2/23/1851	Man, wife & child	Henry Watson	Passage to St. Johns
2/25/1851	William Ringgold	L. A. Grimes	Passage to Southboro
2/25/1851	Isaah Gaiter	L. A. Grimes	Passage to Southboro
2/25/1851	William Peters	L. A. Grimes	Passage to Southboro
2/26/1851	James Harris	L. A. Grimes	Passage to Halifax
2/26/1851	Cornelius Sparrows	Charles Mahoney	
2/26/1851	William Thomas	Charles Mahoney	Self, wife to Halifax

# Fugitives Escaping Through Massachusetts

(As noted in The Francis Jackson Account Book for the Vigilance Committee)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Sponsored by:</i>	<i>Notes</i>
4/14/1852	Andy Long	Paid by Committee	
4/20/1852	Mrs. Cooly & daughter	Lewis Hayden	Boarding
7/3/1852	William Attucks	Lewis Hayden	Boarding & coal, food
7/3/1852	Mrs. Dunlop & Child	Lewis Hayden	Boarding & coal, food
7/8/1852	Elizabeth Howard	Samuel May Jr.	Passage to Canada West
7/8/1852	J. W. Bennett	R. F. Wallcut	
9/16/1852	David Smith	Paid by Committee	Boarding of self
9/16/1852	Dority Bean	Paid by Committee	Horse & Buggy to Theo
9/16/1852	Dority Bean	Paid by Committee	Parker in Newton
9/16/1852	Taylor	Lewis Hayden	Boarding & Fare to Canada
9/16/1852	Cooper	Lewis Hayden	Boarding & Fare to Canada
9/16/1852	W. Brown	Lewis Hayden	Boarding
9/16/1852	Mary Brown & Children	Lewis Hayden	Boarding
10/5/1852	Mrs. Mary Brown & 5 children	W. L. Moore	Passage to Stowe
11/1/1852	John Williams	J. B. Smith	Fare to Canada
11/1/1852	Shadrach	Ellis Gray Loring	Rescue of Shadrach
12/8/1852	Julia Smith & 2 children	Clara Vaught	Boarding
12/8/1852	Mrs. Brown	Paid by Committee	Fuel
12/8/1852	Mrs. King	Paid by Committee	Fuel
12/8/1852	James Jones	Paid by Committee	Fuel
12/8/1852	Mrs. Brown	Samuel May Jr.	
12/8/1852	James Cole	Lewis Hayden	
12/8/1852	Mrs. Smith	Lewis Hayden	
12/8/1852	J. W. Augustus, slave child	Mary Keough	Boarding
12/8/1852	Mrs. Howard & Daughters	Samuel May Jr.	Boarding
12/8/1852	John Wesley	Lewis Hayden	
12/8/1852	J. W. Fisher	Lewis Hayden	
12/8/1852	Mrs. Smith	Lewis Hayden	
12/8/1852	Thomas Jackson	Lewis Hayden	
1/25/1853	John Cole	Lewis Hayden	Boarding
2/10/1853	Shadrach	Attorney's	Suit against slave owner
2/24/1853	James Dale	R. F. Wallcut	
3/1/1853	Mrs. Brown & Children	D. Chamberlain	Rent of Room
3/24/1853	Mrs. Smith	R. F. Wallcut	
3/24/1853	Julia Smith & Children	R. F. Wallcut	
6/8/1853	Julia Smith & Children	R. F. Wallcut	Boarding
6/16/1853	Mrs. Brown	Samuel May Jr.	
6/16/1853	Nancy Johnson & 6 children	Sarah A. Taylor	
7/6/1853	Mrs. Brown	Lewis Hayden	Boarding
7/6/1853	J. S. Brown	Lewis Hayden	
7/6/1853	Mrs. Cooly & daughter	Lewis Hayden	

## Fugitives Escaping Through Massachusetts

(As noted in The Francis Jackson Account Book for the Vigilance Committee)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Sponsored by:</i>	<i>Notes</i>
4/30/1851	Thomas Sims	John M. Spear	Chaise & horse ride
5/1/1851	J. W. Caphart	George Latimer	6 days lodging
5/3/1851	Joseph Russett	J. B. Smith	Fare to Canada
5/3/1851	H. J. Jones	Lewis E. Caswell	Fare to Canada
5/3/1851	J. Brown	Lewis E. Caswell	Fare to Canada
5/3/1851	Mrs. J. Brown	Lewis E. Caswell	Fare to Canada
5/15/1851	Andrew J. Burton	Dr. M. P. Hanson	Burton family
5/16/1851	Sam Ward	Austin Bearnse	Fare to Plymouth
5/16/1851	Johnson	William C. Nell	For services
5/16/1851	Truett	William C. Nell	For services
5/16/1851	Barnard	William C. Nell	For services
5/16/1851	Elizabeth Dorsey	William C. Nell	For services
5/20/1851	Loring Moody	Paid by Committee	Fare to Fall River
5/26/1851	Sam Ward	Lewis Hayden	Clothing for Sam
5/26/1851	Priscilla Hutton	Samuel May Jr.	Passage to Canada
6/3/1851	Samuel Jones	Austin Bearnse	
6/11/1851	Priscilla Hutton	Lewis E. Caswell	
6/11/1851	Mrs. Ringle	Lewis E. Caswell	
7/28/1851	Remond	Lewis Hayden	Passage to St. John
7/28/1851	Brown	Mrs. Chet Williams	
7/28/1851	Remond	John M. Spear	
9/22/1851	Mrs. Jones	Lewis Hayden	
9/22/1851	B. Hall	Paid by Committee	
9/29/1851	William Talbot	Dr. M. P. Hanson	
10/11/1851	Ann Albeck	Paid by Committee	Passage to Canada
10/13/1851	Thomas Clark, wife & child	Paid by Committee	
10/29/1851	Thomas Johnson	Paid by Committee	Fugitive to Plymouth
10/31/1851	William H. Fisher	Lewis Hayden	Clothing for trip
11/1/1851	B. Collins	Wendall Phillips	
11/27/1851	James Williams	Paid by Committee	Fugitive to Providence
12/5/1851	Pew	Lewis Hayden	Lodging for 2 weeks
12/5/1851	Hall	Lewis Hayden	Lodging for 2 weeks
1/5/1852	Fielding Banks	George Johnson	Boarding & 2 flannel shirts
1/26/1852	John Bennett	Benjamin Siger	Boarding
2/16/1852	Charles Williams	Lewis Hayden	
2/16/1852	Bradley	Lewis Hayden	
2/16/1852	Mrs. Cooly & child	Lewis Hayden	
2/28/1852	Macks	Lewis Hayden	
2/28/1852	John Wesley & wife	Lewis Hayden	
2/28/1852	Charley H. Williams		

# Fugitives Escaping Through Massachusetts

(As noted in The Francis Jackson Account Book for the Vigilance Committee)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Sponsored by:</i>	<i>Notes</i>
8/2/1854	Elvira Jones	Lewis Hayden	Fare to Canada
8/26/1854	J. W. Williams	Robert F. Wallcut	Fare to Canada
9/1/1854	Elvira Jones' Child	Dr. S. S. Rock	Medical Attention
9/1/1854	Samuel Clemens	Paid by Committee	Passage from Missouri
9/1/1854	" "	" "	to Boston-in jail for 2 yrs
9/1/1854	" "	" "	for aiding fugitives
9/1/1854	Jane Wilson & 5 Children	John Robertson	
9/1/1854	John Mason	S. T. Hanscom	Rescue from Bath, MD
9/1/1854	" "	" "	from Bark Franklin
9/1/1854	Jane Wilson	Lewis Hayden	Furniture for family
9/1/1854	Thomas Jackson & Family	Paid by Committee	While he was in prison
9/1/1854	James Hill	Lewis Hayden	Clothes-Fare to Canada
9/1/1854	Barod Price	Lewis Hayden	Clothes-Fare to Canada
9/1/1854	Lewis Pinkson	Lewis Hayden	Clothes-Fare to Canada
9/1/1854	M. H. Allen	Lewis Hayden	Clothes-Fare to Canada
12/1/1854	Thomas Jackson Family	Lewis Hayden	
12/1/1854	Julia Smith & Child	Lewis Hayden	
12/1/1854	Mr. Loper	Lewis Hayden	Fare to Canada
12/1/1854	John Mason	Paid by Committee	Escaped from B. Franklin
12/1/1854	Jane Wilson & Children	John Robertson	
12/7/1854	George Mapsin	Elizabeth Peters	
12/20/1854	Betty Ring	Lewis Hayden	
12/23/1854	James Robinson	Rev. C. H. A. Dall	aged fugitive to Canada
1/8/1855	George Mapsin	Lewis Hayden	Boarding
1/16/1855	John Jackson	R. F. Wallcut	
2/16/1855	James French	Lewis Hayden	Fare to Canada
2/16/1855	John Moore	Lewis Hayden	Fare to Canada
2/16/1855	Jame Wilson & Children	John Robertson	
3/1/1855	George Latimer	Paid by Committee	House Rent
3/1/1855	George Mapsin	Clara Vaught	Boarding
3/21/1855	A. Moselly	Lewis Hayden	Fare to Canada
3/31/1855	William Taylor	P. Russell	Boarding
3/31/1855	Arthur Williams	R. F. Wallcut	Fare to Canada
4/11/1855	Joseph Ashe & Wife	J. B. Smith	Fare to Canada
4/11/1855	Robert Watson	Lewis Hayden	Board & Clothing
4/11/1855	Betsy Ring	Lewis Hayden	Board & Clothing
4/11/1855	A. Mosby	Lewis Hayden	Board & Clothing
4/11/1855	John Dennis	Lewis Hayden	Board & Clothing
6/5/1855	John Allen	Samuel May Jr.	Rescue in Boston Harbor
6/15/1855	James Alexander	R. F. Wallcut	Clothing



## Fugitives Escaping Through Massachusetts

(As noted in The Francis Jackson Account Book for the Vigilance Committee)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Sponsored by:</i>	<i>Notes</i>
7/28/1853	Oliver Gilbert's Sister	Oliver Gilbert	From Baltimore
8/26/1853	Henry Brown	William Dall	Fare to Canada
9/17/1853	George Johnson	R. F. Wallcut	
9/17/1853	Dennis Battey	R. F. Wallcut	
9/17/1853	Hannah Battey	R. F. Wallcut	
10/9/1853	Julia Smith	Lewis Hayden	Funeral of her child
10/9/1853	Sandy	Henry Kemp	Rescue from Boston Hbr.
10/9/1853	Swan	Austin Bearse	Rescue from Boston Hbr.
10/9/1853	Julia Smith, her mother & 1 child	Austin Bearse	Removed from Boston
11/1/1853	Robert Bradford	R. F. Wallcut	
11/1/1853	William Dykes	R. F. Wallcut	
12/1/1853	Mary L. Johnson & child	Samuel May Jr.	
1/20/1854	John R. Jones	Peter Randolph	Board
1/20/1854	Alexander Perkins	Peter Randolph	Board
1/20/1854	Richard Howard	Peter Randolph	Board
2/1/1854	Mrs. Neill & Others	Austin Bearse	
2/28/1854	Mrs. Clara Vort	Austin Bearse	
3/31/1854	Albert Johnson	Samuel May Jr.	
3/31/1854	Peyton Mayo	Samuel May Jr.	
3/31/1854	Albert Johnson	Lewis Hayden	
4/1/1854	William Johnson	Abraham Harris	
4/10/1854	John Hall	A.C. Taft	
4/10/1854	Mr. Jenkins	A.C. Taft	
4/18/1854	Mrs. Jones & 2 children	Lewis Hayden	Fare to Canada
6/1/1854	William Johnson	Samuel May Jr.	Fare to Canada
6/1/1854	William Patterson	Samuel May Jr.	Fare to Canada
6/20/1854	Alfred Perkins	R. F. Wallcut	Fare to Canada
6/20/1854	Mrs. Wilson and child	R. F. Wallcut	Fare to Canada
6/20/1854	Mr. Foster	R. F. Wallcut	Fare to Canada
6/20/1854	John Jones	R. F. Wallcut	Fare to Canada
7/1/1854	Mrs. Catherine Greenige/children	Robert F. Wallcut	Fare to Canada
7/1/1854	James Henry	Robert F. Wallcut	Fare to Canada
7/1/1854	Elijah Paul	Robert F. Wallcut	Fare to Canada
7/1/1854	George W.	Robert F. Wallcut	Fare to Canada
7/1/1854	Meary L. Johnson	Samuel May Jr.	Fare to Canada
7/1/1854	John Wright	Lewis Hayden	Fare to Canada
7/1/1854	Julia Smith & Child	Austin Bearse	
7/1/1854	Thomas Jackson	L. A. Grimes	
7/1/1854	Wesley Bishop	L. A. Grimes	
7/24/1854	William Williams	Paid by Committee	

# Fugitives Escaping Through Massachusetts

(As noted in The Francis Jackson Account Book for the Vigilance Committee)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Sponsored by:</i>	<i>Notes</i>
4/17/1856	John Knox	Samuel May Jr.	
4/17/1856	John Lee	Samuel May Jr.	
4/17/1856	William Selden	Lewis Hayden	Clothing
4/17/1856	Isiah Robinson	Lewis Hayden	Clothing
4/17/1856	John Roberts	Lewis Hayden	Clothing
4/17/1856	F. Page	Lewis Hayden	Clothing
4/17/1856	John Lee	Lewis Hayden	Clothing
4/25/1856	Thomas Page	Richard Johnson	Boarding
4/25/1856	Isiah Robinson	Richard Johnson	Boarding
4/25/1856	William Selden	Richard Johnson	Boarding
4/25/1856	Henry Curtis	Charles Sharp, Esq.	Legal services-Norfolk Prison
6/1/1856	Elizabeth White	Robert F. Wallcut	from Edenton, NC/Clothes/Fare
6/1/1856	Elizabeth White	Clara Vaught	Boarding
6/1/1856	George Hill	Lewis Hayden	Fare to Canada
6/1/1856	William H. Freeman	William C. Nell	
6/1/1856	George Hill	William C. Nell	From NC
6/19/1856	William H. Freeman	John W. Webb	
6/19/1856	William H. Freeman	Calvin Terry	Boarding
7/18/1856	C. Wilson	Robert F. Wallcut	Fare to Canada
7/18/1856	Thomas Jackson	Robert F. Wallcut	Fare to Canada
7/18/1856	G. Johnson & Wife	Robert F. Wallcut	Fare to Canada
7/18/1856	William Johnson	Robert F. Wallcut	Fare to Canada
7/18/1856	Henry Jackson, Wife & Son	Paid by Committee	Passage to NY
7/18/1856	Henry Jackson, Wife & Son	James Scott	Boarding
7/18/1856	Mary Ann Cooly	E. F. Eddy	
7/18/1856	Buelah Vanderhoof	E. F. Eddy	
7/18/1856	John Mason	E. F. Eddy	
10/6/1856	Henry Blake	C. D. Williams	Boarding
10/6/1856	Mary Ann Borroughs	Robert F. Wallcut	
10/6/1856	William H. Freeman	Robert F. Wallcut	
10/21/1856	Emery Richardson, wife & 3 child	Paid by Committee	
12/4/1856	Thomas Page	William Manix	Boarding
12/4/1856	Emery Richardson, wife & 3 child	William Manix	Boarding
12/4/1856	Johnson Walker	William Manix	Boarding
12/4/1856	Alice C. Greene & Child	Mrs. Fullerton	
1/1/1857	Lorenzo from SC	Jonas W. Clark	
1/19/1857	Emery Richardson, wife & 3 child	Paid by Committee	Boarding
1/19/1857	William Mitchell	William C. Nell	Fare to Canada
1/19/1857	Sarah Jenkins & 3 Children	Paid by Committee	From Baltimore
2/4/1857	Alice C. Greene & Child	Elizabeth Fullerton	

## Fugitives Escaping Through Massachusetts

(As noted in The Francis Jackson Account Book for the Vigilance Committee)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Sponsored by:</i>	<i>Notes</i>
6/27/1855	Catherine Geeland	Maria Greely	
6/27/1855	Jane Wilson & Children	John Robertson	
7/24/1855	Martin Stowell	William L. Burt, Esq.	Indictment
7/30/1855	J. Alexander	R. F. Wallcut	Fare to Canada
7/30/1855	John Mitchell & Wife	R. F. Wallcut	Fare to Canada
8/1/1855	John Thompson	William Manix	Boarding
8/1/1855	Mrs. Rogers	William Manix	Boarding
9/8/1855	Jacob Williams	R. F. Wallcut	Fare to Canada
9/22/1855	Jane Wilson & Children	John Robertson	
10/29/1855	Thornton Tolever	James Watkins	
10/31/1855	John B. Phillips	Samuel May Jr.	Rescued in Boston Harbor
10/31/1855	Mrs. Houston	Samuel May Jr.	Fare to Canada
10/31/1855	Mrs. Johnson & Child	Samuel May Jr.	Fare to Canada
11/10/1855	Jane Johnson & 2 children	William Manix	Shoes & other expenses
11/17/1855	Mrs. Neal	Lewis Hayden	
11/17/1855	John Thompson	Lewis Hayden	
11/17/1855	J. Holmes	Lewis Hayden	
11/17/1855	Elvira Holly	Lewis Hayden	
11/22/1855	Henry Denby	Lewis Hayden	Clothing
11/22/1855	J. Holmes	Lewis Hayden	Boarding
11/22/1855	Jane Johnson & 2 children	R. F. Wallcut	Furniture for Family
12/19/1855	Haywood Family	Lewis Hayden	
12/19/1855	John Mitchell & Wife	R. F. Wallcut	Fare to Canada
1/1/1856	Albert Brown	Lewis Hayden	Clothing
1/1/1856	Haywood & Wife	Lewis Hayden	Boarding
1/22/1856	John Smith	George A. Fenno	Clothing
1/30/1856	Mr. Brown	Mrs. J. Johnson	Boarding
2/13/1856	W. H. Jones	Samuel May Jr.	
2/13/1856	John Richardson	Paid by Committee	
2/13/1856	Jane Johnson & 2 children	R. F. Wallcut	
3/1/1856	Peter Gray	George A. Fenno	Clothing & Passage
3/1/1856	Mrs. Brown	George A. Fenno	Clothing & Passage
3/17/1856	Albert Brown	James Watkins	Boarding
3/17/1856	Charles Roberts	Lewis Hayden	Boarding
3/17/1856	John Butler	William Manix	
3/17/1856	Mrs. Galt	William Manix	
3/17/1856	Albert Brown	James Watkins	Boarding
3/19/1856	John Richardson	Paid by Committee	
3/25/1856	William H. Jones	Samuel May Jr.	Rent & Provisions

## Fugitives Escaping Through Massachusetts

(As noted in The Francis Jackson Account Book for the Vigilance Committee)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Sponsored by:</i>	<i>Notes</i>
2/17/1857	Rebecca Latimer, wife of George	Paid by Committee	
2/17/1857	William Burch	Paid by Committee	Passage to New Haven, CT
2/17/1857	Joseph Lorenzo	Samuel May Jr.	
2/17/1857	George W. Carnes (sp?)	Samuel May Jr.	
2/17/1857	William Jones	Samuel May Jr.	
2/26/1857	Betsy Blakely	William Hudson	
3/7/1857	G. W. Carnes	H. Tyler	Board
3/10/1857	W. H. Jones	Mrs. Johnson	Board
3/13/1857	Alice C. Greene	Dr. Thomas F. Knox	
3/20/1857	Andrew Reason	William Whiting	Fare to Canada
3/26/1857	Andrew Reason	Samuel May Jr.	Expenses to Canada
3/27/1857	Alice C. Greene	Angelina J. Knox	Nurse for Alice
4/6/1857	Daniel T. Heywood Family	Lewis Hayden	
4/6/1857	Joe Hovey	Jonas W. Clark	Fare to Canada
4/6/1857	John M. Clark	Adams Foster	Board
4/29/1857	Alice C. Greene	Dr. Thomas Knox	Board
4/29/1857	Alice C. Greene	Dr. Thomas Knox	Medical services for Alice
5/8/1857	Betsy Blakely	William C. Nell	Fare to Canada
6/8/1857	Henry Hill	William C. Nell	Fare to Canada
7/4/1857	Simpson H. Lewis	William C. Nell	Fare to Canada
7/4/1857	William Taylor	William C. Nell	Fare to Canada
7/16/1857	Lewis Cobb	William C. Nell	Fare to Canada
7/16/1857	Elizabeth White	Adeline Skeene	Boarding
7/29/1857	Mrs. Williams	Henry Lewis	Fare to St. John's, Nove Scotia
8/1/1857	Alice Gray	Lewis Hayden	Railroad Fare
8/1/1857	Thompson McEwen	Samuel May Jr.	
8/1/1857	Frances Williams & Child	Samuel May Jr.	
8/1/1857	George Williams	Cornelius Atkins	Boarding
8/1/1857	George Williams	Samuel May Jr.	Clothing
8/1/1857	Henry North	William C. Nell	
8/1/1857	Henry North	James Scott	
11/1/1857	William H. Palmer	John R. Manley	Clothing
11/1/1857	George W. Carnes	Henry Tyler	Omitted from April
12/14/1857	Augustus R. Carr	Paid by Committee	Clothing & Fare to Canada
12/25/1857	Augustus R. Carr	Jane Woodfolk	Boarding
3/11/1858	Thompson McEwen	S. H. Lewis	Clothing
3/19/1858	Thompson McEwen	Milton Crew	Boarding
3/25/1858	John Brown	Samuel May Jr.	Fare to Canada
5/3/1858	Thomas Jones	E. F. Eddy	Fugitive from Prince William, VA
5/3/1858	R. Johnson	E. F. Eddy	Board-Passage to St. John's, NB

## Fugitives Escaping Through Massachusetts

(As noted in The Francis Jackson Account Book for the Vigilance Committee)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Sponsored by:</i>	<i>Notes</i>
3/20/1858	Willie Ann Wilson	R.F.Wallcut	
3/22/1858	William Smith	R.F.Wallcut	
7/6/1858	William F. Jackson	William C. Nell	Boarding
7/19/1858	William F. Jackson	William C. Nell	Boarding
7/19/1858	William F. Jackson	Elvis H. Gilmore	Boarding
8/19/1858	Johnson H. Walker	Palmer & Company	For artificial leg for fugitive slave
8/19/1858	" "	" "	who in his flight from slavery in
8/19/1858	" "	" "	MD, had his foot crushed by the
8/19/1858	" "	" "	car wheels at the RR station in
8/19/1858	" "	" "	Wilmington, DE.
11/18/1858	Charles Jefferson	R.F.Wallcut	From New Orleans, clothing and
11/18/1858	" "	R.F.Wallcut	passage/car from Portland to Can.
11/23/1858	Mrs. Simpson's slave child	John Oliver	From Smithfield, VA
1/6/1859	Betsy Cornwall	Samuel May Jr.	
1/6/1859	Caroline Cornwall	Samuel May Jr.	
1/6/1859	Betsey & caroline Cornwall	Mrs. Mahoney	Boarding
1/6/1859	Adeline - slave child	John Oliver	Boarding
1/13/1859	Charles Parmenter	John S. Rogers	From Wilmington, NC, clothing
1/27/1859	Charles Parmenter	Clara Vaught	Boarding
2/1/1859	George Washington, wife & child	Paid by Committee	
2/1/1859	John Williams	Judge Thomas Russell	
2/1/1859	John Williams	John R. Manley	Clothing
2/1/1859	William Henry Scott	Paid by Committee	From Richmond, VA
3/7/1859	J. H. Hill	Benjamin Wilson	
3/7/1859	J. H. Hill	John S. Rogers	Clothing
3/14/1859	George Jackson	Paid by Committee	From Greensboro, MD
3/14/1859	George Washington, wife & child	Samuel May Jr.	
3/14/1859	Betsy & Caroline Cornwall	Samuel May Jr.	
3/14/1859	James Gaston from Wilmington, NC	Clara Vaught	Board for 4 wks, plus 2 shirts
4/13/1859	George Thompson	Jane Woodfolk	Board for both
4/13/1859	Henry Wilson	Jane Woodfolk	From Richmond, VA
4/13/1859	Joseph H. Hill	David A. Sahlein	Clothing
4/13/1859	James Gaston from Wilmington, NC	William C. Nell	Telegraphing for James
8/1/1859	Lizzie Swan	John Oliver	Fare to Canada
9/9/1859	William Davis	George A. Fenno	From Henry Cty, VA, fugitive from
9/9/1859	" "	George A. Fenno	boat, pants, vest, 2 drawers, 2
9/9/1859	" "	George A. Fenno	shirts, stockings and cash for fare.
9/19/1859	John Thompson	Paid by Committee	Passage to Bangor, ME.

## Fugitives Escaping Through Massachusetts

(As noted in The Francis Jackson Account Book for the Vigilance Committee)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Sponsored by:</i>	<i>Notes</i>
10/1/1859	William Greenville	C. H. Greeland	Board/Fugitive from Baltimore, MD
11/16/1859	George Washington	Samuel May Jr.	
11/16/1859	Edward Allen	Lewis Howard	Boarding
12/1/1859	Mrs. Russell	Joseph Squires	
12/1/1859	William Thompson	Paid by Committee	From Baltimore-Fare to St. John
12/1/1859	Charles Bozer	Paid by Committee	From Baltimore-Fare to St. John
12/1/1859	James Seymour	F. J.	Passage to Plymouth
1/25/1860	Robert Dunbar	C. H. Greeland	Board for 5 wks & clothing
2/22/1860	William West	James Scott	Board for 10 days
2/22/1860	Robert LeRoy	James Scott	Board for 10 days
3/10/1860	Jenny Buchannan	Burrill Smith	Boarding
3/30/1860	J. H. Walker	C. H. Greeland	Boarding
4/11/1860	Joseph H. Squires	F. Jackson	
5/10/1860	Mr. Norris	George A. Fenno	From Savannah, GA- Clothing
6/1/1860	Frederick Hargrove	E. F. Eddy	Clothing
6/1/1860	Edward Sullivan	E. F. Eddy	From Kentucky-Clothing
6/1/1860	Hargrove Sullivan	C. H. Greeland	Boarding
7/1/1860	Joseph Davis	Burrill Smith	Boarding
7/1/1860	Henry Dorsey	Burrill Smith	Boarding
8/1/1860	Mrs. Alexander	Maria Bell	Boarding
10/19/1860	Jacob	Paid by Committee	Slave of Bowden, VA, Fare to Can.
10/26/1860	Amanda Brown	Mrs. R. Young	Board for 6 weeks
11/22/1860	Mr. Johnson	Catherine Greeland	Board for 1 1/2 weeks
11/22/1860	Henry Ashburn	Catherine Greeland	From VA - board for 1 1/2 weeks

## SHREWSBURY, ONTARIO, CANADA

In 1966, Hiram Harlow, Historian in Shrewsbury, MA, wrote a paper that mentioned "a town in Canada called Shrewsbury," which was believed to have been settled by slaves who escaped through Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. There was never anything further found on this subject. It was time to take a look at Shrewsbury, Ontario, Canada.

The following has been taken from a blog-spot maintained by the Shrewsbury Community Association and was most recently updated in 2017:

*"Shrewsbury is a small hamlet of about 345 residents on the North shore of Rondeau Bay within the municipality of Chatham-Kent, in southwestern Ontario. The bay is a part of Lake Erie. The town plan, a series of 5 acre blocks arranged in a regular grid was created on the high ground of Rondeau Bay by surveyor Abraham Iredell in 1797, along with the 'Communication Road' linking Rondeau Bay with the Thames River and the Military Town of Chatham, to the North. His young assistant, Tomas Talbot asked that the settlement be named after the head of the Talbot clan, the Earl of Shrewsbury in England. Shrewsbury was plotted, partially in a marsh and possessed beautiful surroundings, but little else."*

*"In 1793, the newly formed government led the British world in decreeing: 'In Upper Canada, there should be none but free men.' The second American Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, marked the beginning of a continuous northward migration to the beginning of the American Civil War of 1861. Up that long unmarked road came the fleeing, thousands of every age, size and color, compelled to freedom or death. Many died during their arduous journey, but the majority found their Canadian Haven. Shrewsbury, was the 'Haven in South Harwich.'"*

So, Hiram Harlow was correct! There was a town named Shrewsbury, in Canada, to which the fugitives fled. The question is, did the fugitives who settled there come through Shrewsbury, Massachusetts?

One theory is this: Today, in a car, Shrewsbury, Ontario is only 1 hour and 15 minutes from Detroit, Michigan. It is 9 hours and 30 minutes from St. Albans, Vermont, and 7 hours and 52 minutes from Albany, NY. Just think about how long it would take a fugitive to walk that far. Would fugitives who have been traveling for weeks, making their way north, want to travel so far west in Canada, when they could just go over the border of Vermont and be safe? It is documented that the trails through Massachusetts led North through Vermont.

Another theory is this: Most of the fugitives who traveled through Massachusetts, came from places along the Atlantic shore. The fugitives who would have gone North through , let's say, the Detroit area, would have traveled North on an inland path, perhaps from the plantations

When Francis Jackson was recording in his account book, he recorded the names of the fugitives, as well as what amount was paid for their benefit and by whom. If we take a look at the fugitives who escaped through Massachusetts and then look at the original settlers of Shrewsbury, Ontario, perhaps we can make a connection. Of course, there is no way of telling whether they ever came through Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. In checking name by name from both of the lists mentioned above, there are only a few names of fugitives traveling through Massachusetts, who ended up in Shrewsbury, Ontario. Of those names, the dates of travel and the date when residency occurred in Ontario, do not match at all.

Francis Jackson's account book covered the years between 1850 through 1860. The Shrewsbury, Ontario records cover many more years than that. Can we even draw a conclusion? My thoughts are that we need to look at the routes followed through our state and try to figure out where the fugitives crossed into Canada.



# Shrewsbury Community Association



## About Our Home

Shrewsbury is a small hamlet, of about 345 residents on the North Shore of Rondeau Bay within the Municipality of Chatham Kent, in Southwestern Ontario.

We have the unique distinction of being the oldest planned community in Kent County, originally envisioned by Upper Canada Governor, John Graves Simcoe as a County Seat, and port town for the Suffok County that preceded Kent. The town plan, a series of 5 acre blocks arranged in a regular grid was created on the high ground of Rondeau Bay by Abraham Iredell in 1797 along with the "Communication Road", linking Rondeau Bay with the Thames River and the Military Town of Chatham, to the North.

Today, Shrewsbury provides a quiet, safe home for families and retired residents with a number of opportunities for small town community engagement. Our events include a spring Maple Syrup Festival, an Earth Day Celebration, monthly community Bingo's, Yearly community Yardsales, our annual Ribs and Blues Festival, an Autumn Chili Cookoff and a Christmas Parade. There are plenty of opportunities to get out and enjoy enjoy ourselves.

Shrewsbury also has the distinction of being surrounded by marsh wetlands along the north shore of Rondeau Bay. A home for many fish, amphibian and bird species including many species a risk. In the summer, Canoeing and Kayaking along the shore and up the 6 canals and channels reveals a beauty rarely seen and a closeness to nature never forgotten.

For those who love fishing and hunting, a free boatwell at the end of Brock St, is an early morning destination.

We love our little village and hope you will too.

## Underground Railroad



*Harriet Tubman's Underground Railroad  
Andrew Johnson*

In her book, "Legacy to Buxton", author Arlie C. Robbins from North Buxton, tells us that the history of Black settlement in North America began around 1619, a full year before the landing of the Mayflower. The 1619, Virginia census recorded 32 Africans. A Spanish cargo ship, bound for the West Indies, had, along with its cargo, 20 men from Africa, captured and pressed into slavery. The ship was hijacked by Dutch privateers, and landed at Jamestown Virginia on the 20th of August. These men suffered indentured servitude, marginally better than slavery, with the consolation of purchasing their freedom. For a while, lines of inequality were drawn along economic, rather than racial lines, so that black, white and red peoples lived on both sides of the divide. Most however, were free. With the advent of plantations of sugar cane, cotton and tobacco, many free people were forced into servitude and dependence. An insidious legacy was forged with laws making Africans, servants for life, stripping them of "all rights of his own person". In 1793, Simcoe's newly formed government led the British world in decreeing: "In Upper Canada, there should be none but free men". The second American Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, marked the beginning of a continuous northward migration to the beginning of the American civil War of 1861. "Up that long unmarked road came the fleeing thousands of every age, size and color, compelled to freedom or to death". Many died during their arduous journey, but the majority found their Canadian Havens. Shrewsbury, was the "Haven in South Harwich".