

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

Examining the Evidence

Packet 1

October 28, 2018

# The Underground Railroad in Shrewsbury and the North Precinct

## *Table of Contents*

### Introduction:

- The Underground Railroad Story
- The UGRR Quilt and what each square means
- The Children's quilt coloring page
- The Story of Peg Leg Joe and the Drinking Gourd Song
- The Children's coloring page for Peg Leg Joe

### Presentation:

#### Packet 1

- Forward
- Internet Sources
- 1754 Slave Census
- Slave Deed – Church Members?
- Shrewsbury Historical Society
- The Sumner House. Legends, Rumors and Folk Lore. Picture of the Crawl Space.
- Who built the crawl space?
- The Haven House and Hiram Harlow's notes – The bricked-up wall in the basement
- The Memorials of Rev. Joseph Sumner
- The Account book of Francis Jackson – Who contributed and from what town?
- Who were Rev. David Sherman and F. Rand from Shrewsbury?
- The George Bush Family in Shrewsbury
  - Family Members
  - Where did they live in town?
  - John Bush, famous carver of powder horns
- The routes taken from Boston to Shrewsbury, first night's stay at Farrar's Tavern
- The Pease Tavern
- Captain Austin Barse and the "Moby Dick."
  - "Reminiscences of Fugitive Slaves Laws in Boston"
  - Debits in the Francis Jackson account books. What expenses went towards the escape?
- The Reverend George Allen, Abolitionist who "wielded a vigorous pen!" (Speeches)

#### Packet 2

- Mary White's Diary – on deposit at Old Sturbridge Village
- Local Members of the Vigilance Committee – George Houghton, Dennis Bigelow, Thomas Ward
- The "Drunkard's Path" through Massachusetts – Who helped in the escape?
- Fugitives escaping through Massachusetts – details from Francis Jackson's records
- Shrewsbury, Ontario, Canada – Hiram Harlow's documentation

### **Packet 3**

**Proof of Underground Railroad activity in Shrewsbury**

**The Story of Benjamin Prentiss**

**Who was the first free black man in Marlboro, MA?**

**The connection between Shrewsbury and New Bern, N.C. during the Civil War**

### **Packet 4**

**The discovery found in the cornerstone of Fairlawn United Methodist Church, Shrewsbury, MA**

**Archive documentation from the United Methodist Conference**

**The Ku Klux Klan in Worcester County**

**Who were the people they objected to here in the Northeast?**

**Meetings and confrontations on a Spencer farm and on a Shrewsbury farm**

### **Open Discussion:**

# FORWARD

*By Carol Baker*

*In January, 2018, I became one of the Historians at our church. Along with 9 others, we sat down to plan our attack on the Historian's Library and speculated on all that we might find. We tossed around ideas that would provide newly uncovered stories of our church history in anticipation of its' 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary, that will be coming up in the year 2023. The ideas were many and the task list extremely long. One of the ideas struck me in a manner that I just could not put down. The topic of the Underground Railroad in Shrewsbury!*

*Rumors have swirled around our town for years that the Underground Railroad did, in fact, come through our town. The Sumner House was featured in the rumors as a safe house. The Haven House was also said to be a safe house, and even had a tunnel that ran underground from the cemetery, under the road (Route 140), and up into the basement of the house. Were these only rumors, or were the rumors based upon "oral testimonies" that were passed down from generation to generation? I just had to find out!*

*Where should I begin? Who should I speak with? Where should I look?*

*One of the first stops was at the Shrewsbury Historical Society. One Saturday, I met with Linda Davis, the Curator. She led me to the only document that she said that the Society had. It was a slave deed recording the sale of the negro servant Dinah, from Edward Goddard to Abraham Knowlton on December 20, 1752. She also told me that everything that the Society knew about the Underground Railroad in Shrewsbury was considered folk lore, rumor and legend, and that no documentation was ever found that would confirm any of this as true. That made the topic even more intriguing to me!*

*The following is the story and the facts that I have uncovered, along with copies of the documents that have begun to piece the story together. Is the story true? Are these documents trying to speak to us, or are we reading too much into them? You be the judge.*

## **THE INTERNET SEARCH**

What an incredible tool the internet is! So much is available! One of the first documents I located was a copy of the Slave Census of 1754. Governor Shirley instituted this census to record the number of slaves that resided in the state of Massachusetts, who were over the age of sixteen years. There was a threat against the British colonies by the Indian and French forces. The Governor needed to know how many troops might be available to defend the colonies, should need be.

There were four slaves residing in Shrewsbury at that time. Three were males and one was female. We know that the female's name was Dinah, from the deed previously mentioned. Two of the male slaves were owned by Artemus Ward's father. Who owned the fourth slave?

Throughout this project, the Internet has been a "go to" source for me. My next step was to contact the President of the Historical Society.

This may Certifie that there is in the Town of  
 Hinchbury four Negro Slaves that one sixteen years  
 old and upwards and off them is a freemason  
 Hinchbury December 10: 1754 Pinca Heywood affirms  
 John D. H. }  
 Hinchbury

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## Slavery in Shrewsbury? Yes.

### 1754 SLAVE CENSUS in the MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES

On 19 Nov 1754, Gov. Shirley, recognizing the threat implied by the combination of Indian and French forces against the British colonies, anticipated that it would be reasonable to expect the colonies to be prepared to defend themselves. Accordingly, the proportion of the burden would have to be determined by census. While knowledge of the general population was available, there was one segment of which he had little knowledge: negro slaves. He asked the General Court to initiate such a count "...in order to come at the exact knowledge of all negro slaves, male and female above sixteen years of age within this government."<sup>1</sup> There were nearly 3,000 slaves in Massachusetts. 88 were in Worcester County, the majority were in Suffolk County [1274] especially Boston which had 489.<sup>2</sup>

The order of the General Court was to count all of the negro slaves in each town. The dates of these returns are December 1754. Here are some samples:

<b>Boston</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>147 males, 342 females</b> <sup>3</sup>
<b>Worcester</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>four males and four females.</b> <sup>4</sup>
<b>Shrewsbury</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>"...and one of them is a female."</b> <sup>5</sup>

Report signed Phineas Heywood and  
John Bush, Assessors. Dec. 10

Shrewsbury Historical Society has a contract dated just two years earlier, 20 Dec 1752. Sale of Negro woman named Dinah by Edward Goddard (1697-1771) to Abraham Knowlton (1703-1768). Artemas Ward (1727-1800) is one of the witnesses. Tamar Keyes (1704-1789), wife of Ebenezer Keyes is the other witness.<sup>6</sup>

Rev. Joseph Sumner certainly met some of these individuals face-to-face when he joined the Shrewsbury community starting in 1761. In 1812, almost a whole generation before the anti-slavery movement sparked decades of protest, Sumner looked ahead to the eventual extinction of slavery.

"In many respects, the state of society, within the last fifty years, has been improved. Civilization has been extended and knowledge increased. The slave trade has been discountenanced within the United States, and in Northern States slavery is wholly laid aside; and we are told, that the condition of slaves in the Southern States, as well as in some other parts of the world is made better. They are not only provided with more comfortable food, but a degree of attention is paid to their religious instruction; and some of them are christianized. These circumstances give us reason to hope, that the time is approaching, when all God's rational offspring will enjoy civil and moral freedom."<sup>7</sup>

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Researched by Robert J. Cormier



<sup>1</sup> *Early Census Making in Massachusetts*, 11.

<sup>2</sup> *Early Census Making in Massachusetts*, 12-14.

<sup>3</sup> *Early Census Making in Massachusetts*, 33.

<sup>4</sup> *Early Census Making in Massachusetts*, 8.

<sup>5</sup> *Early Census Making in Massachusetts*, 54.

<sup>6</sup> The name KEYES was pronounced *Kize* - as in *buys, slies, rize* - Source: Mr. Henry Harlow.

<sup>7</sup> Joseph Sumner, *Sermon Delivered at Shrewsbury*, June 23d, 1812, 13-14.

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**Slave Deed**  
**Dated December 20, 1752**  
**Shrewsbury, Massachusetts**

Know all men by these presents that I **Edward Goddard** of Shrewsbury in the County of Worcester & Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England Gentleman for & in consideration of the sum of Thirty pounds thirteen shillings & Four pence to me in hand well & truly paid by **Abraham Knowlton** of the same town County & province abovesaid yeoman Have sold & delivered to the said Knowlton my negro Woman servant Named **Dinah** for & during the whole term of said negro woman's Natural life always hereafter to be & abide to ye sole use benefit & service of the said Knowlton his heirs Excrs admrs & assigns and do hereby become oblidge to defend my said negro Woman servant to the said Knowlton against the lawful claims of any person whatsoever & whosoever. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this twentieth day of December one thousand seven hundred & fifty two & in the twenty sixth year of his majestys Reign George the second of Great Britton & King.

Signed Sealed and Delivered.

In presents of us,

Edwd Goddard

The interlining yt comes in  
after heirs was done before signing

Tamar Keyes

Artemas Ward.



## The 1754 Slave Census

### Introduction

In 1764, Governor William Shirley had ordered that an enumeration of all slaves, both male and female, over the age of sixteen be completed by each town. This included Maine since it was still part of Massachusetts.

In total, the records of 119 towns have been preserved with a total of 2,720 slaves being counted.[1] According to the Massachusetts Legislative House Reports #46 "Free Negroes and Mulattoes" (1822), the records of many of the towns were not preserved.[2] The report does not say if something happened to the missing records, such as being destroyed by fire, or if they were simply lost over time. It could also be a possibility that some towns just did forward their records as they had been instructed to do so.

Unfortunately, one of the towns that is not included in the 1754 slave census is Dracut. That does not mean Dracut did not have slaves in 1754. Either the town never completed the enumeration or their records were lost. In either case, it is likely that there were some slaves in Dracut in 1754 though the exact number cannot be known. However, the records of Dracut's neighboring towns have been preserved. Billerica reported eight slaves (three male and five female). Chelmsford also reported eight slaves (one was listed as 90 years old and described as a "perpetual charge"). Tewksbury reported two slaves (one male and one female). Groton reported fourteen slaves one of whom was a female cared for by the town. So, though Dracut's records are unavailable, it is clear that there were slaves in neighboring towns and most likely were also in Dracut especially considering that Middlesex County had the third highest reported number of slaves at 361. Only Suffolk County and Essex County had more; 1,270 and 442 respectively.[3] This is not surprising since Massachusetts' major seaports are located in these counties such as Boston and Salem.[4] It was through these ports that slaves would be imported into Massachusetts either from the Dutch colony of New York or from Africa. New England rum would be traded for African slaves.[5] In 1769 alone 292,066 gallons of rum were exported to Africa.[6] Apparently, New Englanders were also importing slaves from the Caribbean from places such as Antigua, Bermuda, and St. Kitts according to records at the Massachusetts State Archives. In 1712, Nathaniel Harris was importing slaves from Antigua according to his account records. John Welsh of Boston was granted permission from the Lieutenant Governor of Bermuda to sell two slaves in 1688 and in 1695 Abraham Samuel went to St. Kitts and brought back a slave from the island.[7]

Even though the 1754 slave census did not immediately answer the questions we had in terms of African Americans in Dracut, it did shed new light on African Americans in Massachusetts during the colonial period.

To view the census, [click here >>](#)

1 We obtained the 1754 Massachusetts Slave census from the Massachusetts State Archives.

2 Massachusetts Legislative House Reports #46 "Free Negroes and Mulattoes," 1822, p. 9. accessed at <http://www.primaryresearch.org/bh/1822report/index.php>

3 Ibid, p. 9.

4 The remaining counties reported the following numbers according the 1754 slave census: Worcester—88, Hampshire—74, Plymouth—133, Bristol—122, Barnstable—7, Dukes—7, and York—147

5 Prior to 1740, most merchants engaged in what has become known as the Triangular Trade. The reason for stopping in the West Indies was to "season" the slaves. Seasoning a slave meant that he was introduced to plantation work, western clothing, and etiquette in dealing with the white man. Often slaves were seasoned in Barbados for two to three years. During this period, death rates among slaves were about thirty percent. After 1740, merchants who left New England to Africa returned to their home ports with the cargo. They eliminated the trip to the West Indies. Oscar Reiss, Blacks in Colonial America, Jefferson, NoC: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 1997, p. 37.

6 Massachusetts Legislative House Reports #46, p. 11.

## SHREWSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

I obtained an email address for Eric Larsen, President of the Shrewsbury Historical Society, and sent him off an inquiry. He shared what he knew, but basically confirmed what the curator, Linda Davis had told me. Rumors, legend and folk lore. Here's his response.

*"The story about the tunnel at the Samuel Haven house is actually a local legend. I'll tell you what I know. On Saturdays, I often had a chance to talk to Alexander Lebeaux. He was an avid historian and would later, in the 1990s, be president of the Shrewsbury Historical Society. He told me that he was told the following by Hiram Harlow, who was either sixth or seventh generation in town."*

*"The Haven House was part of the Underground Railroad. Now, this is not something that was documented by stories in any of the local papers, but he said that there was a tunnel from the basement that ran underground from the west wall to the Old Section of the graveyard. In 2010 my sister and I toured the house and cellar for our "Stagecoach and Tavern Days" program we were working on. We looked in the cellar and two-thirds of the way down the stairs there is an indentation of about six feet tall by six feet wide by one foot deep. There's a field stone wall blocking the opening and looks like it's been repaired. It really does look like a sealed-off entrance to a tunnel with only one foot remaining. This fact helps the story along. I can only imagine that the tunnel came up just after the road's edge. I don't know of it being sealed in during road construction in the 1950s or '80s. I have never heard of any special room in that house to hide slaves. I don't have any basement photos. You could always ask the Daniels family, who own the Haven House presently, what they think of the tunnel legend."*

*The Sumner House is different. It, too, has been linked to the Underground Railroad. In the front parlor to the right of the chimney is a closet, but in the far back, about six feet in on the right-hand side, is a twenty-four-inch tall by thirty-inch-wide opening underneath the staircase that goes up to the upstairs bedrooms. It is more of a large crawl space than a room. I have a photo that I will include of the small opening, but I couldn't go around the corner. I was there at the Sumner House for a lecture and already had to pull a few things out to take that photo and I didn't want to cause a problem. If you have other questions, don't hesitate to ask.*

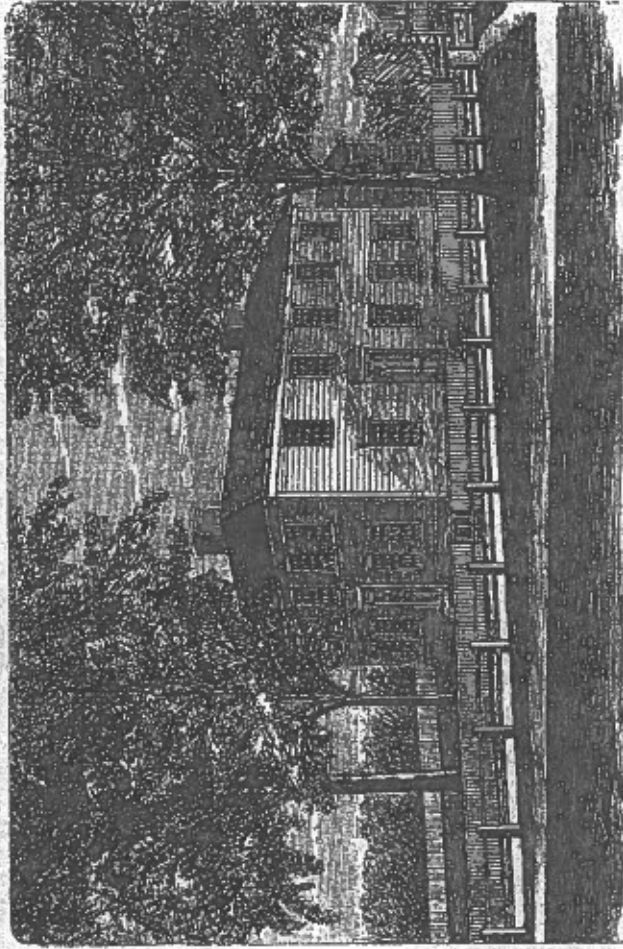
## THE SUMNER HOUSE

Joseph Sumner bought his home from Colonel Artemas Ward in December of 1762, when he moved to Shrewsbury to serve as the Pastor of our Church. This home had originally been owned by Moses Hastings. The original house served him and his family well, until his oldest son Joseph decided to marry. As a result, a new house was built and completed in 1797. This is the house that stands today.

Joseph Sumner designed the house with the crawl space under the staircase. Why would that be? A contractor today has speculated that it was simply a storage space for things that the family wouldn't want to freeze during the winter. What items would that be? If it were apples, they would spoil sooner if they were warm. The way the space was designed, it was definitely for the purpose of creating a place that could be covered up and not visible to anyone inspecting. What do you think?

I was able to meet with David Chiampa and he allowed me to get a really good picture of the crawl space.





**SUMNER HOMESTEAD, SHREWSBURY.**

This Farm was deeded by Moses Hastings to Col. Nabum Ward in 1750, and by him conveyed to his son, Artemas Ward, (subsequently first Major General in the Army of the Revolution) the consideration being the "love, good will and affection I have and do bear towards my well beloved son."

Rev. Joseph Sumner bought the estate of Mr. Ward in 1762, and built the present house in 1797, which is now in the possession of George Sumner and is occupied by the fourth generation of the family.

(Reg. Rives)


Samuel Haven House  
at fork of Prospect  
and Boylston Street

This beautiful house with its excellent location at the head of the Common was built by Samuel Haven, who came from Hopkinton and purchased the tavern ( which stood where old Town Hall stood later moved across street to where Big Discount market now stands, and was torn down for that market) from Job Cushing, Jr.

When the house was built, in 1816, the neighbors came to help at "the raising" and supper was served on the Common by candle light to about 100 people.

The house was built on a lot sold to Daniel Goddard in 1781 as shown on Snow's map of the Common.

The exceptionally fine stone work was done when the house was owned by Asaph Andrews, of the Boylston family of Andrews. Other Andrews houses have similar stone work.

 The Andrews were strong abolitionists and three of the Andrews places including this Shrewsbury house were stations on the "Underground Railroad," assisting slaves to escape to Canada. There is in Canada a town called Shrewsbury believed to have been settled by slaves who escaped through Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. At one time this was the Highland House, a summer hotel, (early 1900'

Miram Harlow, Historian

May 1966

*Daniel Goddard - Union Street  
1851  
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1899  
1900*

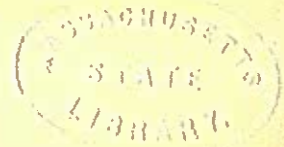
MEMORIALS

OF THE

REV. JOSEPH SUMNER, D. D.

MINISTER OF SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS,

1762-1824.



Worcester, Mass.:

PRINTED FOR PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION.


1888.


6.


## THE MEMORIALS OF JOSEPH SUMNER, D.D.

One of our Historians, Nancy Burnett, was able to obtain a copy of The Memorials of Joseph Sumner, D. D. from the Massachusetts State Library. Our group had two copies made and we have been using this book for our research ever since. This book was published in 1888, with only 50 copies made. Over a short but specific time period, Dr. Sumner had recorded his day to day activities that cover meetings, visitations and such. There are several notable entries. On page 31, Dr. Sumner mentions a "painful message, a new and grievous trial" that caused he and his wife to lose sleep over it. The following day, they had a "maloncholy" day also. There was not one word about what the trial was about.

Here's something to remember. The whole issue of slavery, or the escape from slavery, was never documented. The Fugitive Slave Act prohibited people from aiding the escaping slaves and resulted in a \$1000 fine and up to one year in jail, if caught. If anyone was helping the slaves escape, all evidence of this activity needed to not exist. Nothing was written down or documented in any form out of the fear of being caught. What was passed down verbally, became "folk lore." That way, it never happened!

Dr. Sumner has more entries that are questionable. On page 36, he notes on the 6<sup>th</sup> of the month, "I have no disposition to go from home, sorrow- sorrow. I wish to take suitable notice, but not go to excess." Again on the 20<sup>th</sup>, he writes, "Samuel returned to Southboro. My anxiety for him is beyond description, the *pp* thear think of continuing him in office." On the 24<sup>th</sup> he writes, "Sam returned to Southboro, has consented to tarry with them for ye present." 

Dr. Sumner's son Samuel was the Pastor of the church in Southborough. There was something going on in that church which was very troubling to Dr. Sumner. On June 6, 1797, Dr. Sumner wrote, "Brother & Sister came here from Southboro & Samuel. Some disagreeable things took place which prevented my sleeping – Alas! I have been harrowed with trouble until I know not how to bare any thing." These are very passionate words coming from Dr. Sumner. The term "Brother & Sister" was used often to identify one's "fellow man." Could Brother and Sister have been escaping fugitives? Could not naming them have been the attempt to not document any information that could result in fines or jail time? Could Dr. Sumner have lost sleep because of the nature of his house guests? If he were truly upset and was used to documenting his daily activities, could this have been a way for him to dissipate some of his anxiety? We will never know. 

On October 15, 1817, Dr. Sumner wrote, "J Wheelock and wife preparing to return home." On October 18, 1817, he wrote "They went away early this morning. I don't expect I shall ever see them again, but I hope we shall meet hereafter for I hope we are both traveling the same road to the heavenly world." Here's the question: If they were friends or church members, wouldn't he see them again? His tone sounds so final. He writes about seeing them on the 

other side. They arrived on the 15<sup>th</sup> and stayed for four days. Could it be that they stayed for a good long rest so that they could travel the long road to Canada? One person suggested to me, "Their name was Wheelock. That isn't a negro name." My response was, if they were slaves, they would have assumed the name of their master. Many slaves changed their last name every time they were sold to a new family.

Are these entries in the Memorials simply just notes, or are they clues?



colossal size and equal strength of muscle which was kept in tone by regularity and good habits. He shrunk from no labor, however arduous or fatiguing it might seem to others." The above will apply to Dr. Sumner as well. He was six feet four inches in height, well-proportioned, and of commanding appearance. When dressed with full white wig and three-cornered hat, he always attracted attention, especially among the youth, who looked upon him with feelings of awe and respect.<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Sumner kept a "Life Note-Book" in which he recorded many private and personal matters, as well as items relating to church, town and other affairs. These entries extend over a long period. He also possessed at the time of his death a series of almanacs in which he had made marginal notes of interest and value. Only a portion of these have been preserved. Selections from the Note-Book, with other records, and the almanac memoranda, are printed in this volume.

The original house, which stood on the farm when purchased by Mr. Sumner of Colonel Ward, served as a comfortable home during the period of rearing a large family; and it was not until the eldest son, Joseph, signified his desire to take a

<sup>1</sup>See anecdote in Appendix M.

wife, that it became necessary to build a new house. This was begun and completed in 1797, and was occupied by Dr. Sumner till his death. The son reared a family and passed his days in the old house (which stood in the same yard) until its removal about fifty years since.

The house in which Dr. Sumner passed his declining years, and where he breathed his last, is preserved substantially in the form in which it was built ninety years ago, presenting a correct type of a well-to-do New England home of the last century. In the interior the original pieces of furniture occupy the same places, and all the details of household arrangement are maintained so far as practicable as they were in the time of the first occupant. The family living room contains the "turn-up" bed where Dr. Sumner took final leave of his family and sorrowing friends; the desk where his sermons were composed, surmounted by a small bookcase, supposed to be sufficient for his entire library from which he "drew his inspiration"; and the original sofa, chairs and other furniture returned to their places, some of them after an absence of many years of duty among different descendants in distant parts. The tall eight-day clock<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>This clock was made for Dr. Sumner in 1762 by Benjamin Willard of Roxbury.

- 5 6 & 7 preparing for Dolly to go to her new home  
8 preached to my pp  
10 Went to Princeton to attend to the procureing an English master for the Academy  
11 returned. all well. Mrs. S. & Dolly went  
→ 12 Dolly removed, while the other Children were gone to accompany her Mrs. Sumner & mys'f were alone in the evening: We had a painful message, a new & grevous trial—Sleep departed from us & I had a painfull night. May God sanctify it to us & support us under it.  
13 A maloncholy day spent in conversing upon our trouble  
14 In prepar<sup>n</sup> for Sabbath  
15 preached to my pp. Sam<sup>l</sup> came here at Evening. had much conversation with him. I believe it best in his present situation to take a dismission from his pp. this is a changable world  
16 Sam<sup>l</sup> returned. I am distrest for him  
17 Singing lecture preached &c Dolly came home appears comfortable I have some mercies as well as trials  
18 Visited Gen. Ward & some other places  
19 & 20 In prepa<sup>n</sup> for Sabbath  
21 Aged Mrs. Jones here: 103 Years old this day drank tea &c. in good health & enjoys Reason  
22 preached to my pp 23 Visited mrs Henshaw Girl sick  
24 Visited Mr. Drury grafton 25 funeral of Mrs Henshaws girl  
26 Visited Gen. Ward: 27 went to Northboro. Joseph returned from Salem  
28 Rained last night. wasted some of ye Snow  
29 preached to my pp: 30 Water in well after being very little for 3 or 4 mon<sup>s</sup>  
31 Went to Boylston this month has Cold winter weather good passing but water scarce.

poor unstable Creature I am. May divine grace be sufficient for me

6 town meeting—I have spent this week chiefly at home & have no disposition to go from home, sorrow—sorrow I wish to take a suitable notice, but not to go excess—I humbly seek divine direction

the Eleventh cold this week

12 preached to my *pp*, pleasant

13-14 & 15 at home have little or no disposition to go abroad except when I am obliged to go Samuel Came

16 Sam<sup>l</sup> went to Worcester. I pity him; but hope everything will work for his best good

17 Dined at Mrs. Henshaws with some others

18 Visited divers persons requesting their making a publick profession

19 preached to my *pp* Sam<sup>l</sup> at meeting here.

→ 20 Samuel returned to Southboro My anxiety for him is beyond description, the *pp* thear think of continuing him in office. Whether it will be best or not, I can't determine. wish to leave the matter to providence

21 At home nothing special.

22 Samuel came here & his Kinswoman Mrs Champney

23 Writing y<sup>e</sup> proprietors book. Stormy. J. Wheeler & T. Williams here.

24 Sam<sup>l</sup> returned to Southboro has consented to tarry with them for y<sup>e</sup> present. I wish it may be for the best. Visited a school

24 & 25 At home. 26 Preached 17 At home stormy lost a Colt—broke her neck

28 Company. 29. Went to Worcester & Visited Schools

30 Visited another School 31 Lecture.

M<sup>r</sup> Whitney<sup>1</sup> preached y<sup>e</sup> Lecture this month.

has been a ——— much rain

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Peter Whitney of Northborough.

JUNE 1797.

1 attended to various matters in Boston the Season Cold.  
We concluded not to go to Nahant

2 Came home found all well gratia Deo

3 at home. Brother Sumner & Sister with daughters came here

4 M<sup>r</sup> Stone of Yarmouth preached for me Mrs Heywood buried after meeting

5 In various domestic concerns

6 drew of Cyder. Brother & Sister came here from Southborough, & Samuel. Some disagreeable things took place w<sup>h</sup> prevented my sleeping.—Alas! I have been harrowed with trouble until I know not how to bare any thing

7 this is ordination at Boylston, but I almost determined not to go my mind is so deprest, but upon y<sup>e</sup> whole I went and was kindly carried through w<sup>t</sup> I was called unto & returned home

8-9 & 10 at home excepting some few visites

11 M<sup>r</sup> Peter Whitney preached for me

12-13 & 14 attended to diging Sellar &c

15-16 & 17 Concerned in various matters at home & made some visits: 17 M<sup>rs</sup> Fairbank came here

18 I went to Boylston West, M<sup>rs</sup> Fairbanks went home. Mr Moore preached here.

19 & 20 at home, excepting some visits

21 Dined at Cap<sup>t</sup> Eddys with Dr. Heywood & others

22 Went to Bolton with Mrs Sumner and Mrs Symmes

23 at Bolton Rained 24 returned home

25 preached to my pp

26 Visited 27 had company Mrs S went Worcester

28 attended Assn Rutland. lodged at M<sup>r</sup> Averys

29 Returned home all well gratea Deo

30 In preparation for Sabbath

this week is very warm: the other part of the month has been Cool.

to the pond to send to Joa who I fear is sick J Wheeler & wife are visiting here

- 23 & 24 at home excepting some visits in the neighborhood
- 26 Attended Lecture at Northboro. Mr Packard preached
- 27 In preparation for Sabbath
- 28 Preached to my people Comfortable day
- 29 Visited Mr E Harrington & Capt Hoveys
- 30 Visited at Col Rices with others

This month has been generally fair & pleasant favourable for ripening Corn

---

OCTOBER 1817.

- 1<sup>st</sup> At home preached myself. Lecture
- 2 In preparation for Sabbath
- 3 & 4 " " "
- 5 Preached Sacrament day 4 of my children at ye table
- 6 Visited some places
- 7 " " " where they wer unwell. At evening was informed there would be no preaching next day unless I preached
- 8 In preparation A M preached a singing Lecture Lucy & Dolly went to Roxbury
- 9 Funeral of Capt Harringtons son
- 10 & 11 In preparation for Sabbath
- 12 Preached to my people
- 13 Visited some places Married G Slocomb
- 14 Common occurences engaged my attention
- 15 J Wheelock & wife preparing to returne home
- 16 Some concerns as Executor to Mrs B. Symmes Will to attend to &c
- 17 In preparation for. J. W & wife to go on homeward
- 18 They went away earley this morning. I dont expect I shall ever see them againe, but I hope we shall meet hereafter, for I hope we are both traveling the same road to the heavenly world
- 19 Preached to my people. 20 At home
- 21 Went to Worcester to transact some business
- 22 Visited Mrs Henshaw & others

62 *Memorials of Rev. Joseph Sumner, D. D.*

- 15 At home in preparation for Sabbath More moderate  
16 In preparation for Sabbath & fast day  
17 Mr Parker preached for me verry agreeable for ye  
season  
18 Visited Capt Eagers daughter Sick  
19 Visited some places & there they wer well  
20 Visited school S E Cloudy & foggy  
21 Attended funeral of D Hows child Cool  
22 Attended funeral of another of D Hows children  
23 In preparation for Sabbath & fast  
24 Preached to my people pleasant  
25 Town Meeting Engaged in various concerns visited  
Mr Whitney with Mrs. S. Mrs Whitney better  
26 At home  
27 Spent the day chiefly at home Joseph unwell  
28 Visited the school in the center of the town  
29 Preached at G Wheelocks  
30 In preparation for Sabbath Joseph went to Framingham  
for a boy to live with him  
31 Preached to my people & married N. Munroe at Evening  
This month has been very pleasant but little March Weather.  
The face of ye Earth is much renewd for the time of year.

---

APRIL 1805.


- 1<sup>st</sup> Town Meeting  
2 & 3 In preparation for fast day visited J Harlows child  
Sick  
4 preached to my people fast day  
5 & 6 At home principlly. Snowed the sixth  
7 Preached Sacrament day  
8 Visited J Harlows child is better visited Mr Hardy  
9 Mr Whitney here 10<sup>th</sup> At home Erastus & Dolly here  
11-12-13 Principlly at home in domestic matters  
14 Preached at Marlboro Mr Whitney here re<sup>d</sup> at Evening  
15 Visited Mr Hardy he had his cancer cut out Becca &  
Elisa set out for Boston

*Journal and Almanac Notes.*

63

- 16 At home unwell with a bad cold
  - 17 Visited Mr Hardy again found him comfortable
  - 18 Visited at Mr D Goddards C Goddards wife there
  - 19 Principally at home Joa & Elisa returned safe
  - 20 Mrs C Goddard & others here P M
  - 21 Preached to my people but verry unwell with a bad cold
  - 22 At home but some better Rained last night
  - 23 Visited Mr Jonas Stone & wife Superannuated
  - 24 Association here. Mr Avery preached. funeral of J Harlows child
  - 25 Visited some places C Goddard Esqr here
  - 26-27 In preparation for Sabbath
  - 28 Preached to my people remained unwell
  - 29 Visited some places
  - 30 Attended to domestic matters visited Capt Eagers
- This month has been generally pleasant. rather dry

MAY 1805.

- 
- 1<sup>st</sup> Exchanged Creatures with Capt Rice
  - 2 Visited at Capt E Allen D<sup>r</sup> Knowltons Capt Jop & Mrs Deans
  - 3 " Mr Parkmans & Brigham
  - 4 Went to Berlin
  - 5 Preached at Berlin & Returned Still have a bad Cough
  - 6 Town Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> Training
  - 8 Visited Capt Eagers. Mr Whitney of Sherly came here
  - 9 Rained Spent the forenoon with Mr Whitney
  - 10 Visited Esqr Henshaws A. M. P M at home
  - 11 Planted A. M. In preparation for Sabbath P M
  - 12 Preached to my people better as to my cold which has lasted four weeks. 13<sup>th</sup> At home
  - 14 Went to Leicester at ye laying ye foundation Stone of ye New Academy performed ye service
  - 15 & 16 Chiefly at home. Cold N. E. storm
  - 17 Storm continues Cleared off towards Evening
  - 18 Went to Northboro, Berlin & Marlboro. Mrs Danielson & Mrs Mercy came here



# Fugitive Found in Dr. Sumner's Barn

1786

James Alexander, a Scotchman, naturalized by the Massachusetts Legislature on March 5, 1786, was a private soldier in Burgoyne's army. While on their march through this town to Boston, as prisoners, he strolled away from his company and found his way into Dr. Sumner's barn, where he slept on the hay-mow and was discovered by the Rev. Dr. in the morning. Dr. Sumner took him into the house and gave him a breakfast, and admiring his intelligence and evident desire for other employment than that of marching with a defeated army, gave him an opportunity of working at his trade and making shoes for his family. He was offered the amount of his salary in continental money, if he would keep them well shod.

Later Mr. Alexander moved into the small house where his family grew up, and there he made shoes for the neighborhood doing the nicest work. On this same farm and a few rods up the hill by the roadside, half a mile from the Northborough line, is a spot where once stood this one story house which was also of Revolutionary date, and has been since known as the "Old Alexander House." Mr. Alexander proved to be a good citizen and lived in the house on the Wyman farm, making all kinds of foot coverings from the heaviest boot to the lightest dancing slippers. He was a great reader, well versed in ancient history, and was a member of this church for 55 years. He died on May 18, 1841 at the age of 87 years.

*The above story is taken from "Ward's History of Shrewsbury," by Andrew Ward and "Old Times in Shrewsbury" by Elizabeth Ward.*

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**It was well documented that throughout the over 150 years during which the slaves were escaping and making their way to Canada, they would often hide in whatever barns or sheds they could find along the way. The owners of these properties didn't necessarily know that a person might be hiding and they were always able to profess their innocence regarding this matter, especially if the slave hunters were inquiring. Also, in some cases, when the home owners went out to feed the animals, they might take along with them some food for people who might be hiding.**

**Were there fugitives who hid in Dr. Sumner's barn? Was his barn a well-known spot to hide?**

## THE ACCOUNT BOOK OF FRANCIS JACKSON

One of the only few actual records that were kept during this time and on this subject, were the account records of Francis Jackson. Mr. Jackson was the treasurer for The Vigilance Committee of Boston. The Vigilance Committee was made up of people who were abolitionists, and who were determined to help the fugitives escape slavery. They collected money from people all over the state and they helped the fugitives make connections with safe houses and with other committee members who would help them along the way. Most of the funding was to help defend fugitives in court, those who had been captured and were probably destined to be returned to their owners in the south. Often, the committee members actually aided in the escape of these captives, either before, during or after their appearance in court.

Some of the contributions are recorded here. The name of the person making the contribution, the city or town they resided in and the amount given was recorded. Sometimes the contributions were general, but sometimes they were sent to benefit a specific person or family. The people who contributed, most often did not engage in active participation with the committee. They gave their money in support of the cause. There were, in some cases, exceptions.

One thought is if we look at a map of Massachusetts, and plot each of these towns on the map, we could maybe see the routes that may have brought the "passengers" through Shrewsbury. Clearly, the people who sent money to Boston, were believers in freedom. This evidence serves to support the rumors and folk lore. Additionally, my understanding is that some of the slaves who would have possibly come through Shrewsbury, arrived by ship at the port of New Bedford. Then, they would have made their way north possibly through the towns mentioned in Francis Jackson's record book. There are notes that indicate that some of the slaves were spirited out of Boston and brought to Worcester. They would have come directly through Shrewsbury. Worcester is very well documented with regards to the escape.

## Account book of Francis Jackson

Vigilance Committee of Boston Papers. Courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

See also tables created from these documents:

- 1.) [Fugitive Slave Aid](#)
- 2.) [Member Expenses](#)

Page 8

[Previous Page \(7\)](#) | [Next Page \(9\)](#)

13

### Francis Jackson Treas<sup>r</sup> Cor.

1851	Amount brot forward	759	32
Account 13	• Austin Bearse Agent collections 7 mos	25	75
14	• Rev John Linsey North Andover Ms. Co.	3	
"	• James Eddy New York City	10	
15	• Rev Hephkins Cemetery Taunton &	3	
"	• Sydney Homer by Dr Bowditch	20	
18	• Rev J. Bushing 2 <sup>d</sup> Methodist Ch. Lynn & M.	12	
"	• Samuel P. Andrews Birmingham & Fla. Parker	4	
19	• Charles Barry Pine St Ch. contribution 10	35	
"	• Methodist Ch. Dorchester by S. E. Sewall	3	
"	• Rev Nathl Colver's collection 24 <sup>th</sup> expenses 10.	14	
20	• Rev L. A. Mudge Ms. Co. Ch. Milbraun by S. W. M.	8	
"	• Rev O. Cunningham 1st Wch. Ch. Middlefield	8	12
"	• Rev Jos. M. Cross Mt. Boylston Trps.	12	
"	• Atlas Curtis Friends Wch. Soc. by Dr Bowditch	25	50
21	• Mrs Littlehale's daughter by R. E. Athorp	7	
"	• Mrs L. Ballard Medway by Rev S. Sanford	1	
"	• Rev Geo. Galpin 1 <sup>st</sup> Ch. Prescott Med. by R. E. M.	3	43
"	• Rev Geo. H. Newhall 1 <sup>st</sup> . Malpole	29	
"	• Edw. Atkinson Brookline by Dr Bowditch	5	
22	• Mrs Solomon Hovey Charlestown by R. E. M.	5	
"	• N. Tillinghast Andover	10	
"	• Mr Packard 1 <sup>st</sup> Soc. Buxton	4	
"	• Austin Bearse Agent collections 9 mos	63	25
"	• North Woburn 1 <sup>st</sup> Soc. by Don Gilbert	2	73
"	• Friend in Braintree by G. L. Fogg	30	
	Amount carried forward	1103	10

[Previous Page \(7\)](#) | [Next Page \(9\)](#)

# Account book of Francis Jackson

Vigilance Committee of Boston Papers. Courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

See also tables created from these documents:

- 1.] [Fugitive Slave Aid](#)
- 2.] [Member Expenses](#)

14

*Francis Jackson Treas: Cr.*

1851				
April		Amount bro't forward		1715 96
"	3	Rev A G Duncan Trin. Soc. Hanover		4 26
"	4	Rev Mrs M Harding S. Weymouth Trin		12 -
"	"	Rev E Wells Trin Sandwich		1
"	5	Rev E W Dickinson North Ch. Springfield		13 66
"	7	Rev J P Bradley No. Mansfield		6
"	9	Mrs Sawyer by W. L. Hill		2
"	11	Mrs Davis Milton		5
"	12	Rev Edw Wilson & others by Nath Kimball Grafton		100
"	13	James Jackson Halls Street		2
"	14	Rev O B Frothingham Unit. Soc. Salem		86
"	"	Rev D Y Kilgore Oxford		2
"	"	Austin Bearse 5 days collections		12 75
"	15	Joseph Cobb Esq. Pembroke		6
"	16	Misses Oswoods Abingford		10
"	"	Martha L George, Sec. Female Assoc. Waltham		2
"	17	Rev W. Atkinson No. Topsfield		2 50
"	"	E Brigham Esq. Westboro		24
"	"	Rev Hiram Hutchings Dep. Charlestown		9 15
"	"	Rev Joseph March No. Barnstable		6 75
"	"	Rev M Curtis D. Southboro		5
"	"	Collection at Coccutuate Hall Boston		5 92
"	"	Lydia Faxon Roxbury		10
"	18	Rev Mortimer Blake Trin. Mansfield		11 25
"	"	Rev J P Lesly Trin Milton		22
"	"	Hon John G Palfrey Cambridge		10
		Amounts carried over		2087 50

Dr.

Francis Jackson Treasr. Cr.

1034	84	1857	April	Amount brot forward,	2087	50
8		"	19	H. E Capen West Sumnerington	1	"
5		"	"	Rev. Geo. W. Briggs Unitar. Plymouth	20	
6	07	"	22	Rev Leonard, Wakefield No. Milford	2	
10		"	"	Rev David Sherman No. Shrewsbury	2	50
1		"	"	Dorr West Wilbraham	4	
5	68	"	23	James Nowell Portsmouth	5	
5		"	"	Rev. Wm. C Tenney Unitar. Northfield	11	
11	25	"	"	Rev. Asaph Boutelle Trin. Lunenburg	4	12
6		"	"	Rev David A Sherman No. do	1	
1		"	24	Rev A P Marvin Trin. Winchendon	19	10
8		"	"	Rev James Ford Jr. Abington	15	10
5		"	"	Rev Daniel Nourse West Medway	12	85
10		"	"	Collections at the Tremont Temple by Edist	16	70
25		"	28	Jane F Goodwin "Fair Table Plymouth	6	0
1	50	"	"	Rev. D B Bradford Trin. (by Hayward) Hubbardston	7	39
13		"	29	Friend by letter, signed "Philanthropos Reading	1	
10		"	30	James Russell Lowell Cambridge	5	
3	50	"	"	Geo. W Greene Milton	2	
10		"	"	Abner Belcher (Sheldonville) Wrentham	15	
10		May	1	Harriett E Bagley Female Anti-Slav. Soc. Georgetown	10	
5	50	"	2	Rev. Henry Adams Trin. Soc. Berlin	21	40
7		"	"	Friend by Bob. F Wallcut	3	
30	25	"	"	Lady in Hanover by Deborah Kimball	2	
5	20	"	8	Joshua Crowell by Rev Josiah Chandler N. Dennis	1	
4	50	"	12	Rev James Freeman Clark Meadville	193	54
54	68			Deduct 3 <sup>rd</sup> bill \$25 counterfeit in the collection of List & Colver	252	2
1296	99			Amount carried forward	193	29
					252	2
					.....	3
					2519	70

## THE REVEREND DAVID H. SHERMAN

So, who was The Reverend David H. Sherman? The first place to look was at the records of the Congregational Church. Was Rev. Sherman a past Minister? Interestingly enough, no! In checking the census records, he was listed as a Methodist Clergyman. Was he a resident of Shrewsbury? Yes. Was he a land owner? It appears that he was not. There are several deeds recorded in the name of David Sherman, but they all occurred many years before the 1850 census that places him here in town. Rev. Sherman lived in Shrewsbury with his wife Catherine and two sons, Roger and Stephen. Rev. Sherman is recorded in the town records as being the Minister of the Methodist Church in Shrewsbury from 1850-1852. Rev. Sherman was born about 1822 in New York State. In 1863 at the age of 41, David Sherman registered for the Civil War Draft, in the town of Warren, MA. So, he was living in Shrewsbury in 1850, he contributed to the Vigilance Committee in 1851, but had relocated to Warren by 1863.

The Methodist Church in Shrewsbury conducted its first Methodist sermon, that was preached in a schoolhouse in 1845 by Rev. Leonard G. Griffin, a local preacher from Webster. Soon after this, services were held with some regularity in the hall of the Haven Tavern in the center of the town. It was during this period that the first organization was formed in the home of Gardner Rice on the Worcester Road.

The first Methodist preacher sent by the New England Conference in 1846 was Rev. Jefferson Hascall, whose name is vitally connected with this church and whose burial place is here. In September 1847, a church was completed and dedicated on Main Street opposite the Common.

Over the years the membership at the Methodist Church fluctuated as a result of deaths and removals and the church became numerically weak. In 1922, it was left without a pastor and later the property was sold.

It's important to mention again, that just because someone contributed funds to the cause, didn't mean that they were active in any way, with the activities of the Vigilance Committee. Or were they?

Dr. Francis Jackson Treas<sup>r</sup> Cr.

		1851				
520	44	March		Amount bro't over		1446 84
3		"	27	E. F. Packer Esq. Wesleyan Meth. Soc. Leyden	3	10
23		"	"	Rev. Butley Morley S. Advent Soc. Northboro	9	-
	65	"	"	Rev. Saml. J. Carr Bap. Soc. Mansfield	7	20
2		"	28	J. P. Lesley D. Milton by Theo. Parker	20	-
2		"	"	Rev. Tho. H. Jones M. Soc. Salem by A. Bourne	2	-
20		"	29	Rev. James D. Butler M. E. Soc. Sandwich	2	-
10		"	"	Austin Bearse collections 6 days	42	35
9	50	"	"	Rev. Southmarsh D. Soc. Fitchburg	14	25
		"	31	Rev. D. H. Sherman & F. Bond M. Soc. Shelburne	6	-
27		"	"	Rev. H. D. Walker Trin. Soc. Abington	20	50
36		"	"	Rev. C. A. Bartol Friends Dr. Lowell's Soc.	39	-
653	59	Apr.	1	Friend by letter Reading	5	-
		"	"	Rev. S. Bryant & E. Jones Trin. Soc. W. Stockbridge	1	-
		"	"	Rev. J. H. Bachelor Frewille B. Soc. Taunton	6	25
		"	"	Beuben Tower S. Parish Hingham	30	
		"	2	Rev. G. W. Wallace Frewille B. Soc. Hibernia Attleboro	3	
		"	"	Rev. John G. Cary M. E. Soc. Dedham	4	
		"	"	Rev. Jos. W. Dennison M. E. Soc. Holliston	14	35
		"	"	John Thompson	1	
		"	"	Rev. Charles Lowell (by A. Friend)	5	
		"	"	Rev. N. G. Lovell Bap. N. Attleboro	11	
		"	3	Pine Street Soc. by C. C. Barry	1	
		"	"	Friends by Samuel May Jr	15	
		"	"	Rev. Holmes Slade Union Soc. Foxboro	5	12
		"	"	Rev. N. G. Lovell Bap. Soc. North Attleboro	2	
		"	"	Friends in Gloucester M. E. -----	2	
				Amount carried over		1715 96

## **F. RAND**

A gentleman by the name of F. Rand from Shrewsbury, also contributed to the Vigilance Committee along with Rev. David Sherman. There were so many Rand family members through the years, that locating him may be a challenge. Was Mr. F. Rand active in aiding the fugitives? Did Mr. Rand live in town? In checking to determine if he was a landowner, there were no records found of any property transfers in his name.

In the Account Books of Francis Jackson, there was another contribution made to the Committee by F. Rand, Treas. N Russell Street Methodist Episcopal Church, collection. The amount was for \$7.35 on October 28, 1850. Where was North Russell Street? Could F. Rand have been from another town? Did he come to Shrewsbury to collect a contribution from Rev. Sherman? Why would he add his name to the contribution to the Committee, if he wasn't from Shrewsbury.



# Francis Jackson Treasurer Cr.

	1850				
	October	21	Geo. R Russell West Rox. Donation	50	
	"	"	Robert E Apthorp Boston "	5	
	"	28	Mrs E Hunt by Rev. E Apthorp "	10	
25	"	"	J Ingersol Bowditch " " "	10	
	"	"	Friend by " " " "	10	
	"	"	Friend " " " "	50	
96	"	"	Friend " " " "	10	
	"	"	Friend " " " "	5	
	"	"	Friend " " " "	5	
	"	"	Friend " " " "	10	
	"	"	S Russell " " " "	3	
	"	"	Friend (2.2d) " " " "	10	
	"	"	<u>F Board Treas. N Russell St. No. Episcopal Church (collection)</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>35</u>
	"	"	Friend by Rev. John Parkman	5	
	"	29	Peter C Brooks by Dr. Bowditch	10	
	"	30	Timothy Gilbert (Chairman of the Committee)	50	
Nov.	"	1	F. G. Shaw West Roxbury	25	
	"	4	Rev Wm O White West Newton	5	
	"	5	Friend by Dr. Bowditch	5	
	"	"	Charles Ellis Roxbury	5	
	"	6	Friend (Amos Lawrence) by R. E. Apthorp	10	
	"	7	Sarah Carter by Robt. Morris	1	
	"	11	Friend by R. E. Apthorp	10	
	"	12	Charles C Barry	5	
	"	13	Friend by Rev John Parkman	5	
	"	14	Two Friends at Salem (A. M. + L. H. C.) by E G Loring	20	
			Amount carried over	341	35

# Account book of Francis Jackson

Vigilance Committee of Boston Papers. Courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

See also tables created from these documents:

- 1.] Fugitive Slave Aid
- 2.] Member Expenses

27

*Francis Jackson Treasr. Com.*

1853	Amit brot forward	2856 77
1854	Collections by Charles List in Uptow in March 1854 for the defence of the rescuers also of H. F.ushing & Joseph Lyman " P. G. Vearie, Rowland I. Howland " & Saml P. Lyman of Northampton 2 for the same purpose	57     9 <hr/> 2922 77

The foregoing account and vouchers were examined by a committee appointed for that purpose, consisting of Ellis Gray Loring, Robert E. Apthorp & Samuel E. Sewall; The original acct. of which this is a copy is on file with the following endorsement there on:

"Boston January 21. 1854"  
 - Examined & found to be correct -  
 (signed) " Ellis Gray Loring  
 " R. E. Apthorp  
 " S. E. Sewall "

HISTORY  
OF THE  
TOWN OF SHREWSBURY,  
MASSACHUSETTS,  
FROM ITS SETTLEMENT IN 1717 TO 1829,  
WITH OTHER MATTER RELATING THERETO NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED,  
INCLUDING AN EXTENSIVE  
FAMILY REGISTER.

---

BY ANDREW H. WARD,  
Member of the New England Historic and Genealogical Society.

---

"He, who forgets not the place of his birth, and the trees whose fruit he plucked,  
and under whose shade he gambled in the days of his youth, is not a stranger to  
the sweetest impressions of the human heart."

---

BOSTON:  
PUBLISHED BY SAMUEL G. DRAKE, 56 CORNHILL.  
J. HOWE, PRINTER, 39 MERCHANTS ROW.  
1847.

## THE GEORGE BUSH FAMILY

One of the most dependable groups of “conductors” and “stationmasters” on the Underground Railroad, were the black slaves who escaped the plantations but decided that rather than go all the way to Canada, they would settle in Massachusetts as a freeman. I wondered if there were any free black families living in Shrewsbury. In the book written by Andrew Ward and published in 1847, there is documentation that “George Bush, (colored) wife not named, and several of his children, were admitted for membership into our church between the years of 1741 and 1743. In all, George and his wife had four sons and three daughters.

George was an African man who originally came from the Caribbean Islands and lived for a time on the gulf coast of America. George came north and settled for a while in Narragansett, RI. He probably married there, but then came to Shrewsbury with his wife and children. My question is, why wasn't his wife named in our church records? During the time when George lived in Rhode Island, there was a high frequency of black men marrying Native American women. The Native American men had left their homes to fight in King Philip's War. Many never returned, leaving their wives and children with no support. Also, the black men had been taken from Africa and the population of black women was low. George's son John ethnicity has been referred to as “mulatto” in our historical records. Could it be that he was partly Native American? If his mother was not a Christian, could that have been why she wasn't named in the church records? We will never know! We do know that in 1757, George deeded land that he owned in Narragansett, R.I. to his son John. Very interesting!

In looking at the land records, it appears that George and his family arrived in Shrewsbury just prior to 1735. It was during that year that George purchased land originally granted to John Keyes, (Lot 42), which was located in what is now Boylston. Again in 1745, he purchased another farm from Edward Goddard, (Lot 9) and from Naham Ward, (Lot 8), both which were located over near the Grafton line. Farming and the raising of cattle were the main endeavors of the Bush family on both farms.

By 1735, the French and Indian War was in full gear and three of George's sons were members of the Militia. Sadly, George Jr., passed away in the line of duty on September 25, 1755 in Lake George, NY. Joseph Bush passed away in Massachusetts during 1756. John Bush became a very well-known carver of powder horns, as well as being a clerk for the Shrewsbury Militia Company from 1747 until 1757. He disappeared in 1757 and was captured by the Indians, who were sympathetic to the French during the war. It is suspected that they took him north to Quebec, and he was never seen again.

The loss of George's three sons left him with youngest son Benjamin, and his three daughters, Ruth, Susannah, and Hannah, and the two farms. Upon George's passing, the girls inherited the property in Boylston. The family arranged for a headstone for George, which is centered in an open section of the Mountain View Cemetery. There are no other stones for the remaining members of his family.

Question: With a farm near the Grafton line, and another in what is now Boylston, did the Bush family help and aid any of the fugitives coming through town? Why was his wife's name not mentioned?

Rocky Plains  
WELCOME  
New Signs

Meeting House  
New Signs  
New Signs

Rocky Plains  
STORY

Who's Who?

# The Rocky Plains Story

An I Spy, Who's Who, Scavenger Hunt, Build a Town Project

The map features 45 numbered lots arranged in a grid-like pattern. Key geographical features include Lake Ousingsmond at the bottom, Shrewsbury Shore along the right edge, and several rivers and ponds. Various grants and landmarks are labeled, such as Brown Grant, Erigham Grant, Ravson Grant, Sewell Grant, Malden Church Grant, Haynes Great Farm (Hingres Grant), and Haynes Indian Meadow. The map also shows roads like Old Post Road (King's Highway) and Shrewsbury Lane. There are several icons representing different types of buildings and structures scattered across the map.

Lot 415

Lot 414

Lot 413

Who's Who?

Lot 412

Lot 410

Scavenger Hunt

Lot 37

Lot 37

Lot 35

Fattar Tavern  
New Signs  
New Signs

Lot 34

Lot 33

Lot 32

Who's Who?

Lot 31

Lot 30

Scavenger Hunt

Lot 29

Lot 28

Lot 25

Wymann's Mill  
New Signs  
New Signs

Lot 14

Lot 17

Lot 18

Scavenger Hunt

Lot 19

Lot 20

Who's Who?

Lot 21

Lot 23

Lot 24

Lot 12

Lot 11

Lot 7

Who's Who?

Lot 6

Lot 5

Scavenger Hunt

Lot 3

Lot 2

Lot 1

Lot 415

Lot 414

Lot 413

Who's Who?

Lot 412

Lot 410

Scavenger Hunt

Lot 37

Lot 37

Lot 35

Fattar Tavern  
New Signs  
New Signs

Lot 34

Lot 33

Lot 32

Who's Who?

Lot 31

Lot 30

Scavenger Hunt

Lot 29

Lot 28

Lot 25

Wymann's Mill  
New Signs  
New Signs

Lot 14

Lot 17

Lot 18

Scavenger Hunt

Lot 19

Lot 20

Who's Who?

Lot 21

Lot 23

Lot 24

Lot 12

Lot 11

Lot 7

Who's Who?

Lot 6

Lot 5

Scavenger Hunt

Lot 3

Lot 2

Lot 1

BUSH, GEORGE, (colored) his wife, name not on rec., from S. America, lived in the "Gulf." He d. Feb. 24, 1767, possessed of some property in lands, aged 80. Chil. *George*, sup. killed at Lake George, Sept. 25, 1755; "*Susannah*, bap. 1741, then 19; *Ruth*, bap. 1741, then 17; *Joseph*, bap. 1742, then 17; *John*, bap. 1743, then 17 years of age; each upon their own profession of religion;" *Hannah*, who d. Sept. 29, 1781; *Sarah* and *Benjamin*; none of them, it is said, ever married.

**BARNS, DANIEL**, (s. of John, and g. s. of Richard, who was in Marlboro', 1660) chh. here, from chh. there, 1727; on house lot, No. 16, in 1729; wife, *Zeruiah Eager*, m. May 23, 1723, in Marlboro'. Chil. *Daniel*; *Lucy*, bap. Jan. 1726; *Frederic*, bap. Nov. 1727; *Zeruiah*, Nov. 1729, and d. 1730; *David*,\* bap. June, 1731. The family returned to Marlboro', 1733.

\* Grad. H. U. 1752; ord. minister of the Gospel in Scituate, Mass., Nov. 27, 1754; m. Rachel, 1756, D. of Hon. George Leonard of Norton; D. D., H. U., 1788, and d. April 26, 1811, in the 57th year of his ministry, having completed 80 years. His wife, Rachel, d. 1805, aged 78.

"Tolerant without religious indifference; candid, yet severe against folly and vice; connecting maxims of frugality, temperance and industry with his ideas of religion, he was popular with those capable of appreciating 'words so fitly spoken, as to resemble apples of gold in pictures of silver,' and his ministry quiet almost to the last. He was remarkable for his meekness in 'instructing those that opposed,' and by parables, rather than by direct argument, he was accustomed to converse with such. A neighbor, who was a Calvinist of the *straitest sect*, having frequently spent long sittings in arguing with Dr. Barns, was finally answered by the following parable:

'You, sir, are a gentleman, to whom the public feels and acknowledges much obligation for your mechanical skill and inventions. Now, we will suppose, that your powers should be so far increased, that you could make intelligent beings, and that you should produce thousands each day, formed with all the endowments of the human race. Then suppose that your neighbors should inquire what destination you proposed for these beings; and you should reply, that you had also prepared a place of torment to which you proposed to condemn the greater part, not for any personal offence against you, but, because you had made them for that end, — and that the remaining few you had destined, in the same arbitrary manner, to another place of perfect happiness, which you had also prepared. Now, sir, suppose your neighbors were furnished with the common sense of mankind, concerning justice and goodness in the administration of one being, who has a controlling

# Descendants of George Bush

---

## Generation 1

1. **GEORGE<sup>1</sup> BUSH** was born in 1687. He died on 24 Feb 1767 in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts (Age: 80).

### Notes for George Bush:

George Bush was an colored man from either South America or the "gulf" area. His son was described as a "mulatto fellow." He settled in Shrewsbury with his children and his wife is mentioned but not named. In 1735 he purchased 66 acres (original lot #42) from John Keyes, and Naham Ward (Lot #8), land and a home that was part of "Brigham Farms." In 1745, George purchased the home and farm of Edward Goddard, 69 acres, lot number 9. (In 1729 part of this land belonged to Jacob Green),

On 12 Jan 1757, George deeded land in Narragansett, RI, to his son John of Deerfield, MA. There was a large population of Native Americans living in Narragansett. When considering this, it is possible that George married a Native American woman, More research needs to be done to confirm this. If this turns out to be the case, that may explain why his wife's name is not mentioned in the church records. Also, the children may have appeared "mulatto" when they could have been native.

George was a free black farmer, and when he passed, he left his land to five surviving children. His will mentions Benjamin, Hannah, Sarah and Ruth. The fifth was probably John, who was at the time of George's death, was still missing in action.

George Bush had the following children:

- i. **SUSANNAH<sup>2</sup> BUSH** was born in 1722.

### Notes for Susannah Bush:

Susannah was baptised at the First Congregational Church in 1741, at the age of 19.

- ii. **GEORGE BUSH JR.** was born about 1722. He died on 25 Sep 1755 in Lake George, Warren, New York, USA.
- iii. **RUTH BUSH** was born in 1724.

### Notes for Ruth Bush:

Ruth was baptised at the First Congregational Church in 1741, at the age of 17 years.

- iv. **JOSEPH BUSH** was born in 1725. He died in 1756 in Massachusetts, USA.

### Notes for Joseph Bush:

Joseph was baptised in 1742 at the age of 17.

- v. **JOHN BUSH** was born in 1726 in Shrewsbury. He died in 1757.

### Notes for John Bush:

John was baptised at the First Congregational Church in 1743, at the age of 17 years, upon his own profession of religion.



John Bush is considered the originator of hand carved powder horns. He originated this style of carving and several others adopted his style, namely Jacob Gay and Selkrig Page. John enlisted in the Shrewsbury Militia Company and served as a clerk from 1747 until 1757. In 1757, John was captured by the Indians who were sympathetic to the French during the war. He was never seen again.

On Sep 14, 1758, John's father, George Bush Sr., wrote to Governor of Massachusetts Thomas Pownall (1722-1805), asking for help in locating John, who he described as a "mulatto fellow" about 30 years of age. (The article this was taken from suggested that his mother or grandmother was white),

John carved a horn for Samuel Crosby, which reads "Shrewsbury, May 13, 1748. He also carved personal horns for other Shrewsbury residents.



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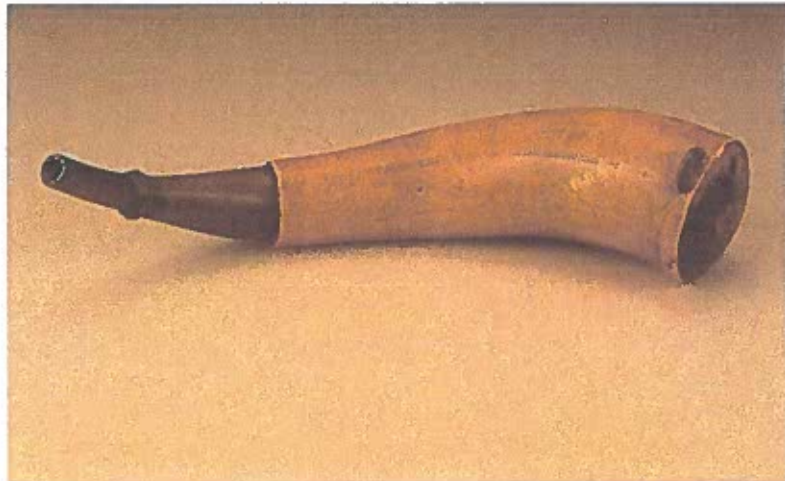
**Generation 1 (cont.)**

- vi. HANNAH BUSH was born in 1726 in Shrewsbury, Worcester County, Massachusetts. She died on 29 Sep 1781 in Shrewsbury, Worcester County, Massachusetts.
- vii. SARAH BUSH was born about 1727.
- viii. BENJAMIN BUSH was born about 1728 in Shrewsbury, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA.



This is the powder horn of Samuel Crosby Jr., made in 1748, with engraved decoration attributed to John Bush, a free black farmer and soldier from Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. (Pinterest)

The two pictures below are provided courtesy of the Shrewsbury Historical Society via the internet.



Year	Grantee.	Grantor.	Book.	Page.	Year	Grantee.	Grantor.	Book.	Page.
1830	Burt Simeon	John A. Lazell	312	491	1838	Bush Char <sup>s</sup> W	Ara Smith	339	92
		James Fulton		495	1839		Samy	338	481
		Bio A. Turnbull	313	73	1815		Darius Tim <sup>s</sup> Parker	198	18
1807	Sylvester W <sup>m</sup>	White jr.	168	38	1806		Ebenezer Saml <sup>l</sup> Wood	161	592
1740	William	John Seland	12	376	1824		Oliver Wilcome Newell	238	511
1755		Moses Carkell	35	392			Joseph Bush		572
1762		John Burt	43	537	1822		Elizabeth John Coombs	230	56
1779		Neh <sup>s</sup> Parnedell	82	239	1836		Leonard Marsh	314	96
		Jon <sup>s</sup> Gale		240	1839		Thomas Stone	339	378
		Josiah Gale		240	1803		Ephraim Sol <sup>s</sup> Davis	149	653
1784		Thadd <sup>s</sup> Smith	91	473			Ebenezer French		654
1788		Jo <sup>s</sup> Wetherbee	104	635			Patty P. Berry		635
1829	William	David Burt	268	268	1735	George	John Keyes	6	77
		John Sherman		569	1745		Edw <sup>s</sup> Goddard	20	461
1832		David Burt	289	237	1746		W <sup>m</sup> Goss		532
	Burt see also Purpee			1747			Same		533
1745	Burt Phel	John Seland	19	490	1749		John Goss	24	249
1740	William	John Seland	12	376	1759		Jon <sup>s</sup> Goss	28	279
	Bush + Bushe			1760			Philip Goss	42	317
1837	Bush	Lyman Goddard	324	429	1760	Hannah	Geo. Bush sr.	41	333
1809	Artemas	Steph <sup>s</sup> Bush	174	399	1786	Jabez	Joshua Tucker	92	471
1822		David Same <sup>s</sup>	229	79	1793		Francis Hobbs	101	101
1815	Asaph	Tim <sup>s</sup> Parker	198	18	1799		Abner Stocomb	116	164
1823	Arvey	Lerr <sup>s</sup> Thaxter	231	414	1809		Same	136	411
1831		Abraham Johnson	279	404	1830		Jerse Bush	174	300
1836		Joseph Hooke	312	565	1790	Jerse	Silas Bush	276	320
1837		Keyes Allen	320	324	1737	John	Moses Toolbrook	109	323
1832	Arvey	Nath <sup>s</sup> Wilson	284	611			Sarah Taylor	8	421
		Walton Livermore		612	1739		Isaac Temple		422
1794	Calvin	Sam <sup>s</sup> Stocomb	123	43	1747		Sarah Taylor	11	529
		Apelles Stocomb		45	1748		John Darroughle	24	57
1796		Eph <sup>m</sup> Barnard	126	411	1755		Oliver Saylor		528
1801		Moiah Bush	143	179	1757		Simon Hayward	36	322
1806		Calib Mogy	161	458			George P. Smith	39	79
1818		Steph <sup>s</sup> P. Gardner	212	110	1794		Daniel Stone		145
		David Nurse		111	1805		Edw <sup>s</sup> Raymond	121	252
		Joel Temple		112	1807		Gotham Bush	159	482
1834	Charles W	Benj <sup>s</sup> Hayward	300	520			Jon <sup>s</sup> Plimpton	166	503
1836		Louam Wood	314	498			Eben <sup>s</sup> Willington	168	125
1837		Hollis Bolton	326	61	1808		Elnathan Pratt		158
							Same	167	579

This 38th House Lot in Shrewsbury contains in it 60 acres, and hath a 50 acre right belonging to it, and is bounded West-erly by the 43d Lot, Northerly partly by the 25th Lot, every way else by undivided land. He hath for a division of meadow, 6 acres, one acre thereof lies within his House Lot, the other five is the 2d Lot in Muddy Meadow. This Lot, No. 38, is now, Feb. 19, 1729, in the possession of John Bush, the son of the said Abial.

Lot No. 39, Granted to John Wheeler, Jr., Dec. 30, 1718.

This 39th House Lot in Shrewsbury contains in it 60 acres, with a division meadow, 6 acres, within said Lot, and hath a 50 acre right belonging to it, &c., and lyeth adjoining to the South line of Mr. Davenport's farm, bounded Northerly by said farm and Lancaster town line. This Lot, No. 39, is now, Feb. 20, 1729, in the possession of Simon Stone.

Lot No. 40, Granted to Capt. Joshua Hains, Dec. 30, 1718.

This 40th House Lot in Shrewsbury contains in it 66 acres, and hath a 50 acre right belonging to it, &c., six acres within said Lot. He hath for a division of meadow, 6 acres. This Lot lyes North Westerly from Brigham's farm, and bounded every way by undivided land. This Lot, No. 40, is in possession, Feb 20, 1729, of Sarah Taylor.

Lot No. 41, Granted to Caleb Rice, admitted in room of Sam'l Wheelock, Sen., Dec. 30, 1718.

This 41st House Lot in Shrewsbury contains in it 60 acres, and hath a 50 acre right belonging to it, &c., and is bounded every way by undivided land. He hath for his division of meadow swamp, some part of it in his House Lot, to the value of an acre and a half, another piece joining to the South end of his Lot, valued at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres, which piece runs Southerly betwixt the ledges of rocks, another piece of 2 acres, a little distance West-erly from his House Lot, is to make up his division, 6 acres. This Lot, No. 41, is now, Feb. 21, 1729, in the possession of Daniel Hastings.



Lot No. 42, Granted to John Keyes, Sen. Dec. 30, 1718.

This 42d House Lot in Shrewsbury contains in it 66 acres, and hath a 50 acre right belonging to it, and lyeth joining to the



South line of Brigham's farm, and bounded every other way by undivided land. He hath for a division of meadow, swamp and meadow to the value of six acres, lying North Easterly from his House Lot, and is a crooked piece, bounded mostly by upland, as may be seen where the brook runs out of the meadow. This Lot, No. 42, is now, Feb. 28, 1729, in the possession of John Keyes, Sen.

Lot No. 43, Granted to Eleazer Taylor, Dec. 30, 1718.

This 43d House Lot in Shrewsbury contains in it 53 acres, and hath a 50 acre right belonging to it, &c., and joins to the Westerly end of the 38th House Lot, bounded every way by common land. He hath for a division of meadow ten acres of swamp land in the North part of Mallagasco Swamp, esteemed equal to 6 acres of meadow. This Lot, No. 43, is now, 28 Feb. 1729, in the possession of Eleazer Taylor.

Lot No. 44, Granted to William Johnson, Dec. 30, 1718.

This 44th House Lot in Shrewsbury contains in it 67 acres, and hath a 50 acre right belonging to it, and lyeth in two pieces, the greater part lyeth joining to the West side of the 26th House Lot, and is bounded Easterly by said Lot, and by common land every way else. This 44th Lot is now in possession of Jonathan Foster and Ephr. Pratt.

Lot No. 45, Granted to Thomas Keyes, Dec. 30, 1718.

This 45th House Lot in Shrewsbury contains in it 70 acres, and hath a 50 acre right belonging to it, &c., the swamp land and meadow within the Lot, and about half an acre without the Lot, joining to said Lot at the North corner, is esteemed sufficient for his division of meadow. This 45th Lot lyeth adjoining to the North line of the 35th House Lot, bounded all other ways by common land. This Lot, No. 45, is now in possession of Henry Keyes, Feb. 28, 1729.

"The Committee's Farm," so called, was a grant made by the Proprietors, as a compensation to the Committee, viz: Jonathan Remington, Samuel Thaxter, and Francis Fullam, appointed by the General Court, "to settle the town of Shrewsbury."

The grant was made at a Proprietor's meeting, holden on the 28th of March, 1722, and contained in it 1500 acres, described

Lot No. 33.  
66 acres  
John Hains  
1718 - 1728/9  
"Sd lot made by E. Knight of the  
Ministerial Co."

33

Lot No. 36  
70 acres  
General Brigham  
in town of  
Fremont Utah  
Gordon Tracy 1728/9  
"Sd lot given to both sides  
of Malley see book"

36

Lot No. 40  
66 acres  
John Hains  
1718  
Moses Duran Taylor  
1728/9  
"Sd lot given to West side  
from  
Brigham's farm"

40

Lot No. 41  
66 acres  
Caleb Rice  
in town of  
Danville Utah  
1718  
John Hastings  
1728/9

41

for all on this page

Lot No 42  
66 acres  
John Hayes Senr  
1718 - 1728/9  
"Sd lot joining to get line  
of Brigham's farm"

42

the  
was  
...



farm, and by part of the 5th Lot, Easterly by the 9th Lot, and otherways by undivided land, length of lines and degrees, as they were set forth by Wm. Ward, in the platt of the town of Shrewsbury, he hath for a division of meadow, the fourth Lot in Wild Cat meadow, and lies for six acres, be it more or less; this 7th Lot is now Jan. 24, 1729, in the possession of Samuel Miles.



Lot No. 8, Granted to Nahum Ward, Dec. 30, 1718.

This Eighth House Lot in Shrewsbury, contains in it  $58\frac{1}{2}$  acres, and hath a 50 acre right belonging to it, &c., and lyeth joining to the end of Robbins' farm, and is bounded Westerly by said farm, and Southerly by part of the 7th and part of the 9th Lots, and Easterly by the 10th Lot, Northerly by undivided land, the length of lines and degrees as they are set forth by William Ward, in the platt of the town of Shrewsbury, he hath for a division of meadow, six acres of meadow and swamp, and lyes in several pieces, one piece lyes joining to the North end of Golding meadow—measured for 4 acres and 100 rods, bounded South by the town line, otherways by common land, except where it joins to the 6th House Lot, another piece of swamp lying four rods East from the meadow, and lyeth for 60 rods, bounded South by the town line, otherways by undivided land; another piece esteemed as one acre *higher up the hill (!)* East from the former, and bounded South by the line; this Lot ( $58\frac{1}{2}$  acres,) is now Jan. 27, 1729, in possession of Samuel Crosby.



Lot No. 9, Granted to Capt. Edward Goddard, Dec. 30, 1718.

This ninth House Lot in Shrewsbury, contains in it 69 acres, and hath a 50 acre right belonging to it, &c., and is bounded Northerly by the 8th and 10th Lots, Southerly by Fay's farm, Westerly partly by the 7th Lot, and partly by common land, Easterly by common land, it hath for a division of meadow, the fifth Lot in Wild Cat meadow; this Lot (No. 9) is now, Jan. 27, 1729, in possession of Jacob Green.

Lot No. 10, Granted to John Sherman, Dec. 30, 1718.

This tenth House Lot in Shrewsbury, contains in it  $72\frac{3}{4}$  acres, and hath a 50 acre right belonging to it, &c.; the meadow within it esteemed as  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres of valuable meadow, and is situated



Goddard  
to  
Bush

All People to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting.  
Know Ye, That I Edward Goddard of Shrewsbury in  
the County of Worcester in his majesties Province of the  
Massachusetts Bay in New England Gentleman

For and in Consideration of the Sum of Eleven <sup>several</sup> Lawfull money  
to me in Hand before the Enfealing hereof, well and truly paid by George Bush  
of The Town and County aforesaid Labourer

the Receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge;  
and my self therewith fully satisfied and contented; and thereof, and of every Part  
and Parcel thereof, do exonerate, acquit and discharge him the said George  
Bush his Heirs, Executors, and Administrators,  
forever by these Presents: HAVE given, granted, bargained, sold, aliened, conveyed and  
confirmed; and by these Presents, Do freely, fully and absolutely give, grant, bargain, sell,  
aliene, convey and confirm, unto him the said George Bush his  
Heirs and Assigns forever, Eleven acres

of Upland and meadow lying and being in Shrewsbury aforesaid  
in a farm called Haynes farm and is bounded Northwardly & Northwesterly  
and westerly by The farm line southerly and easterly by the Goddards  
Land Beginning at the farm line right against a marked pine  
tree which is former mark of <sup>swally</sup> farm then southerly to a pink  
tree marked thence westerly to a heap of stones at the farm line  
thence by the farm line until it crosses the pine first mentioned

To have and to hold, the said granted and bargained Premises, with all the  
Appurtenances, Priviledges and Commodities to the same belonging, or in any wise apper-  
taining to him the said George Bush and to his  
Heirs and Assigns forever. To have and to enjoy only proper Use, Benefit and behoof forever.  
And I the said Edward Goddard for my self &  
for my Heirs, Executors and Administrators, do covenant, promise and grant to and with

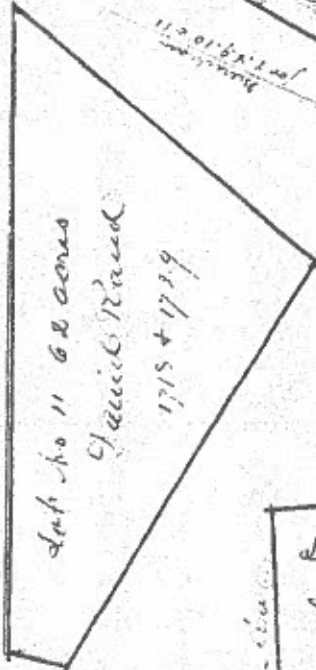
the said George Bush his  
Heirs and Assigns, that before the Enfealing hereof I am the true sole and lawful Owner of  
the above bargained Premises, and am lawfully seized and possessed of the same in my own  
proper Right, as a good perfect and absolute Estate of Inheritance in Fee Simple: And have in  
my self good Right, full Power and lawful Authority, to grant, bargain, sell, convey  
and confirm, said bargained Premises in manner as aforesaid; And that he the said  
George Bush his Heirs and Assigns, shall and may  
from Time to Time, and at all Times forever hereafter, by Force and Virtue of these Pre-  
sents, lawfully, peaceably and quietly Have, Hold, Use, Occupy, Posses and Enjoy the said  
demised and bargained Premises, with the Appurtenances, free and clear, and freely and  
clearly acquitted, exonerated and discharged of, from all and all manner of former or other  
Gifts, Grants, Bargains, Sales, Leases, Mortgages, Wills, Entails, Joyntures, Dowries,  
Judgments, Executions, or Incumbrances of what Name or Nature soever, that might in  
any Measure or Degree obstruct or make void this present Deed.

Furthermore, if the said Edward Goddard  
Executors, and Administrators, do Covenant and Engage the above demised Premises to  
the said George Bush his Heirs and  
Assigns, against the lawful Claims or Demands of any Person or Person whatsoever, forever  
hereafter to Warrant, Secure and Defend by these Presents. In Witness whereof I have

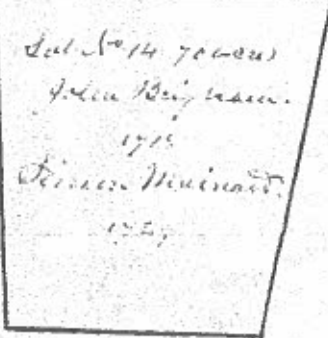
hereunto set my hand and Seal this 26<sup>th</sup> Day of January anno domini  
1745 and in the 13<sup>th</sup> Year of his majesties Reign  
Signed sealed and Delivered  
In the presence of  
Nathan Goddard  
Robert Goddard  
Edward Goddard Seal

Worcester 6 April 26<sup>th</sup> 1745 the within named  
Edward Goddard personally appeared before me the  
Subscriber one of his majesties Justices of the Peace  
for the County of Worcester and the within Instrument to be in  
free and lawful manner from King George the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Ses: 9<sup>th</sup> 1745 and accordingly entered in the  
John and [unclear]

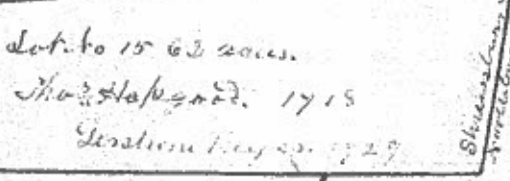
Robbins Farm line



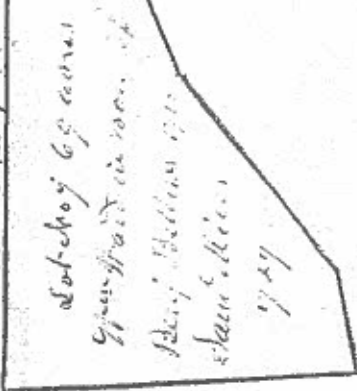
James and Ann line



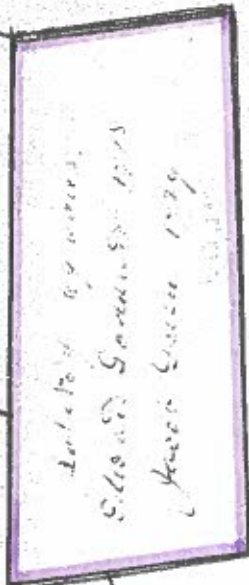
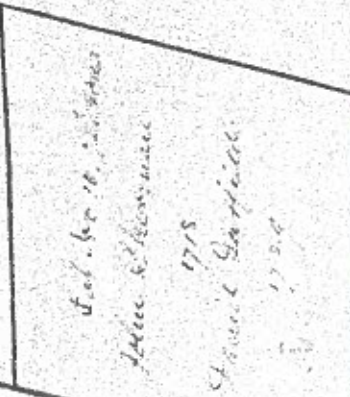
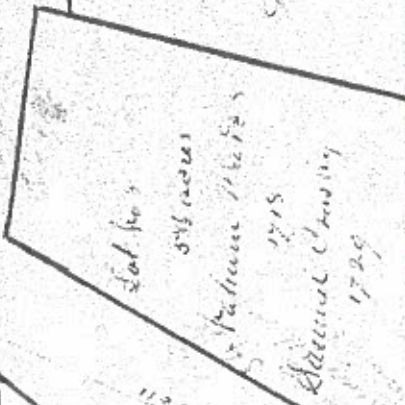
Son of



Shirley and  
Ann line



Robbins Farm line



James Gifford



## THE ROUTE TAKEN

William Siebert's book, The Underground Railroad, contains the most reliable information available on this subject. In it, he has supplied a map that outlines the routes taken by the fugitives, based upon his research. The Port of Boston was the end point for many trains North, as well as ships arriving from the South. The ships would sail South and purchase cotton and other products, and bring it back North, along with an unknown passenger or two. The telegraph system allowed The Vigilance Committee to know who was coming in and on what ship. They would send a boat, very often piloted by Captain Austin Bearse, out into the harbor to retrieve the fugitive, and then they would have a carriage waiting for them upon reaching the shore. Many of them would be sent west to Newton, and then on to Framingham or Southborough. Either of those carriages might have come through Shrewsbury.

Another point that Mr. Seibert's book makes, is that many of the fugitives who might have come North through Central Massachusetts, would have arrived by ship into the Port of New Bedford. There are several documented safe houses along the way, some of the closest being in Uxbridge and in Hopedale. Those fugitives could have come through Shrewsbury. How can we confirm these routes?

One very important link lies right here in town, and involved our own resident, Mr. Levi Pease. Elizabeth Ward writes in her book Old Times in Shrewsbury the following:

*"In 1793, Pease went to Boston to start a new enterprise similar to one projected in England in 1669, and which was destined to make him famous. His plan was to establish a line of stages to run between Boston and Hartford, but his means were small and he found it difficult to persuade anyone to engage with him in so hazardous an undertaking. His faith in ultimate success was so great that he was not easily discouraged and he turned for aid to his friend Reuben Sykes, who had previously driven a stage with him from Somers to Hartford, a distance of twenty miles. Sykes was fifteen years younger than Pease, and his father strongly opposed the scheme and tried to dissuade his son from taking such a venture, telling him it would surely fail and lodge them both to jail as poor debtors."*

These two gentlemen were not dissuaded and began their routes. *"The plan of travel was changed the following May, when Springfield was made a stopping place, and the river crossed at that point or at Enfield. By the new arrangement that stage left Boston from the Lion, Marlboro Street; the first night's halt was at Farrar's in Shrewsbury, Spencer being reached the day following."*

Levi Pease made the first contract with the Government for carrying its mails, and on January 7, 1786, the first mail passed through Worcester. The Pease Tavern, named as such upon the death of Mr. Farrar, and the subsequent purchase by Mr. Pease, became the overnight stop of the stage coach line.

At this point, we should refer again to the Account Books of Francis Jackson. Here you will find noted transactions for a "carriage hire" or a "horse and wagon hire." The destination of the carriage ride could have been to anywhere, but they also could have been to Shrewsbury, via Framingham or Southboro. With the stage coach route going right through town, the possibility exists.

Mr. Seibert wrote about the fugitive Peter, who had "secreted himself on the British ship *Wilson* at Charlestown bound for Liverpool. He was found and handed over to the brig *Reporter* sailing to Boston. He was to be turned over to a ship going South. Peter was intercepted and was put onto an overland trip to Worcester."

Many fugitive were passed to Effingham L. Capron at Uxbridge, MA, where they proceeded North-westward to Worcester. Both the City and the County of Worcester were strongly anti slavery from at least the middle of the 1830's. The abolitionists of Worcester encouraged fugitives to stay with them.


North of Shrewsbury, the 'unseen highways' were laid out by Deacon Joshua T. Everett of Westminster. They processed fugitives from Worcester to the south, Fitchburg to the northeast and Ashburnham to the northwest. Another route from Medfield went through Southborough or Concord.



arrival of the French fleet and army at Newport, he was directed to purchase horses to drag their artillery to Yorktown" and he foraged for the Army on its march. Lafayette was a warm friend of his and found his keen, good sense and excellent judgment invaluable to him.

The familiar story about him and his horses will not be out of place here. He had a pair of horses to sell at a time when Washington wished to purchase and an appointment was made for a meeting; Pease was a few minutes late, and Washington, who never waited for any one, was gone! He appears to have profited by this experience, for his punctuality afterward became proverbial.

In 1783 Pease went to Boston to start a new enterprise, similar to one projected in England in 1669, and which was destined to make him famous. His plan was to establish a line of stages to run between Boston and Hartford, but his means were small and he found it difficult to persuade any one to engage with him in so hazardous an undertaking. His faith in ultimate success was so great that he was not easily discouraged and he turned for aid to his friend Reuben Sykes, who had previously driven a stage with him from Somers to Hartford, a distance of twenty miles. Sykes was fifteen years younger than Pease, and his father strongly opposed the scheme and tried to dissuade his son from taking such a venture, telling him it would surely fail and lodge them both in jail as poor debtors. Rejecting his good father's advice



young Sykes went his own way and joined forces with the "dauntless Captain." "Two convenient wagons" were secured and October 20th, 1783, at six o'clock in the morning, they left Boston and Hartford respectively. Pease drove the west bound stage, starting from the sign of the "Lamb," stopping over night at Martin's in Northboro, passing through Worcester next day and resting at Rice's in Brookfield. The third day took him through Palmer to his home in Somers and on the fourth day Hartford was reached. A few trips with empty stages did not de-



THE OLD MILE STONE.

ter them from persevering and their business soon became prosperous. The plan of travel was changed the following May, when Springfield was made a stopping-place and the river crossed at that point or at Enfield. By the new arrangement the stage left Boston from the "Lion," Marlboro street: the first night's halt was at Farrar's in Shrewsbury, Spencer being reached the day following. Here at about the highest point between Boston and Springfield the passengers were transferred to


Sykes, who conveyed them to Hartford. The fare at this time was fourpence per mile, about ten dollars from Boston to Hartford. The business was so successfully carried on that two years later Pease became the owner of a Boston Inn opposite the common and on the spot where St. Paul's Church now stands, which was thereafter the starting point for his stages. The line was later extended to New York, Talmage Hall and Jacob Brown driving between that place and Hartford. After November 15th, 1784, Worcester was reached from Boston in a single day, Hartford at the end of the third day and New York three days later. The fare was reduced to threepence per mile and the baggage allowed to each person was fourteen pounds.


The roads were in a poor condition, and Captain Pease with his usual enterprise and energy, interested himself in their improvement and with such success that the line was extended from Portsmouth to Savannah, Ga. He made the first contract with the Government for carrying its mails, and the first mail in this new service passed through Worcester on the 7th of January, 1786. The Postmaster-General reestablished the post office in Worcester March 13th, 1786, and reappointed Isaiah Thomas his deputy. After the death of John Farrar, Captain Pease bought this tavern and brought his family here. Those stage days were great days in the villages along the line and when Captain Pease driving four-in-hand awoke the echoes among the hills with the shrill



## **CAPTAIN AUSTIN BEARSE**

Captain Austin Bearse was originally from Cape Cod. In his early years, Austin was a mate on board many different vessels over the years. The ships that he served on would carry gangs of slaves up-river from Charleston. He witnessed the selling and buying of slaves as well as the severe punishments they endured. By 1834, he had had enough and no longer traded in the South because of the horrors he had witnessed. During that year, Austin sailed with a loaded vessel to Albany, NY. He was given the slave George Lewis and asked to deliver him to Boston. That was the beginning of his participation in the anti-slavery activities of the Vigilance Committee of Boston.

Austin Bearse became a very active abolitionist, putting himself in the front line to help his fellow man. He had flyers printed up and he traveled all over Massachusetts delivering them to churches and to lecture halls where they would be distributed. While he was out in the suburbs, he also collected contributions from abolitionists, and carried the funds back to the Committee. There are many notations of the transfer of funds in Francis Jackson's account book. Austin was authorized by the Committee to collect the funds and he carried letters of authorization on his person to be shown where needed. 

Austin Bearse also was the owner of the "Moby Dick," a vessel which was used frequently to venture out into Boston Harbor to retrieve a fugitive from a ship newly arrived in port. The Committee then had a plan for the fugitive, which might be to deliver him or her to a safe House or to get them out of town. Austin played a major role in the escape of the fugitives through the state of Massachusetts. 

REMINISCENCES  
OF  
Fugitive-Slave Law Days  
IN BOSTON.

---

BY AUSTIN BEARSE.

---

BOSTON:  
PRINTED BY WARREN RICHARDSON.  
146 FRANKLIN STREET and 149 CONGRESS STREET.

1880.

his old tow suit and dressed him in another, so he could not be known. By this time it was daylight. Had just got him ready when Mr. Samuel May, Jr. and Dr. S. Cabot drove up to my house with a carriage, took him and carried him to the Boston and Worcester dépot, and Mr. May went on with him to Worcester, and from there he was sent on the underground railway to Canada.

The next day the vessel hauled into Boston Wharf, and the captain had a notice inserted in the papers that his vessel was boarded by a set of pirates in the night, the slave rescued, and offering \$500 for the man who headed the gang. After President Lincoln's proclamation, in 1863, the man returned from Canada and came to see me. He shipped on board a vessel for the West Indies; I have never seen him since, and cannot recall his name.

The brig "Cameo's" fugitive slave comes next to my remembrance. This was one of those escapes (as I believe) of which Mr. Wendell Phillips had word by letter, and for which he was on the lookout. This is the story, as I lately gave it to the *Traveller*:

In October, 1854, at eleven o'clock, one night, Wendell Phillips, in company with the late Dr. Samuel G. Howe, came to my house at City Point, South Boston, with word that the brig "Cameo," of Augusta, Maine, from Jacksonville, Florida, with a cargo of pine lumber, for Boston, was below. Mr. Phillips also had learned of the secretion of a slave on board, with the intention of gaining his freedom, if possible. Mr. Phillips hearing that the vessel was off Boston Light at sunset the same evening, wished me to get my men together at once, as a part of the Vigilance Committee, and search the city to find the brig. I called my brother, and we both started for the city and summoned the men. I sent some to Charlestown, Chelsea, and East Boston, and some to the North End. I took City Point and Neponset for my route. I gave my brother Boston Wharf as far as Long Wharf, with the intention of examining every vessel lying in the city. The next morning, at eight o'clock, we were to meet at No. 21 Cornhill, which were the headquarters of the Vigilance Committee. At that time and place

# The Vigilance Committee

Dr.

1851			1851
March	Amount bro't forward	430 81	Mar.
"	19 Darnell & Moore Printing 200 circulars by J. L. & C. L. H. W.	3	"
"	22 Austin Bearse notifying the committee	3 25	"
		<u>437 06</u>	"
	Amount carried forward		"
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# The Vigilance Committee Dr.

1851									
June		Amt brot forward						1034	84
"		Mrs Charles Williams 5. & 3. in May for Fugitive						8	
"		Lewis E Caswell for Mrs Bingle						5	
July	1	Francis Jackson Postage Stationery &c						6	97
"	28	Lewis Hayden passage of 6 Remond to St Johns						10	
"	"	Mrs Chas Williams for Brown						1	
Sept	13	John M Spear for Slave Rosana						5	68
"	16	Austin Bearnse services watching vessel in Harbor						5	
"	20	Austin Bearnse box wearing apparel to Canada						11	25
"	22	Lewis Hayden for Mrs Jones						6	
"	"	B Hall Fugitive						1	
"	29	Dr M P Hanson for Mrs Talbot Fugitive						8	
Oct.	11	Ann Albeck Fugitive passage to Canada						5	
"	13	Pho. Clark Wife & Child Fugitives -						10	
"	27	J M Clapp & Mrs R Parsons rescuers of Jerry						25	
"	29	Thomas Johnson Fugitive to Plymouth						1	50
"	31	Lewis Hayden clothing to Mrs H Fisher &c						13	
Nov.	1	Mendell Phillips for B. Collins Fugitive						10	
"	27	James Williams to Providence Fugitive						3	50
Dec	5	J D Smith for Mrs Galling to Canada						10	
"	"	Lewis Hayden boarding Peas & Hall Fugitives two Weeks						10	
1852 Jan	7	Geo. Johnson boarding Fielding Banters & two flannel shirts						5	50
"	26	Benj Giger boarding John Bennet a Fugitive						7	
Feb.		Samuel May Jr for destitute Fugitives in Canada						30	25
		Samuel May Jr remitted to Sarah Ringold in "						5	20
		Lewis Hayden for Chas Williams a Fugitive						4	50
		Also for Bradley - Mrs Cooley & child - Macks. Dr. Wesley & wife and Charles H Williams						54	68
16 1/2	28	Amount carried forward						1296	97

## The Vigilance Committee

Dr.

1852				1206 97
April		Amit brot over		
"	12	Austin Bearse printing notices of meetings of no notifying Sims meetg.	6 75	
"	14	Andy Long Fugitive	5	
"	16	John McShear expenses Sims meeting	97	
"	20	Lewis Hayden boarding Mr. Cooley & daughter <sup>63</sup> } <sub>12</sub>	51	
"	"	Also 1/2 ton coal 1.75 & Judkins for Groceries 3.30	5 05	
"	29	Elizur Wright expenses of his trial	27 25	
July	3	Lewis Hayden for Mrs. Attucks 21.25 Mr. Dunlap & child <sup>2.50</sup>	23 75	
"	8	Saml May Jr. sent to Eliz. Howard Canada West	5	
"	"	Lewis Hayden 3 weeks board of a Fugitive	6	
"	"	P. F. Wallcut for Jw. Bennett do	5	
"	25	Lewis Hayden posting 500 Bills	2 50	
"	"	David Smith boarding self a Fugitive	6	
"	"	J B Yerrinton printing Posters (500)	3 50	
"	"	Geo. C Bond printing 100 do	1 50	
"	"	Austin Bearse services in the case of a Fugitive	10	
Sept	16	Dority & Bean horse & buggy to Theo Parker Newton	2 50	
"	"	Lewis Hayden for Taylor & Coopers fare to Canada <sup>29.50</sup> } <sub>15.88</sub>	45 38	
Oct.	5	Also boarding W. Brown, Cooper, Mary Brown & children W. L. Moore for Mrs. Mary Brown & chil. (Stove)	7 70	
Nov.	1	J B Smith for John Williams to Canada	20	
"	"	Saml E Sewall for a Fugitive	5	
"	"	Samuel May Jr Stationery & service of writ Lawton &c.	5 33	
"	6	Ellis Gray, Loring, John G King & Saml E Sewall <sup>Legal Com.</sup> in the case of the rescue of Shadrac at an expense of 1400 dollars, which amount has been raised by them with the exception of \$100. & they recommend that the Vigilance Com. pay the deficiency which are approved by Edmund Sacks & J. B. Smith. Com.	121 57	
"	9		1760 75	

# The Vigilance Committee

Dr.

1857					
Jan.	21	Amount bro't forward			246 36
"	"	Robt F Wallcut services postage &c			15 79
"	"	J M M Yerrinton Printing			1 25
Feb.	18	John T Hilton Posting Bills describing <small>Thompson &amp; the slave others</small>			1 50
"	"	J M M Yerrinton Printing Posters			4 25
"	"	Old Colony R. road fare of 4 fugitives to Plymouth			2 25
"	22	Lewis Hayden carriage hire to send John Armistead and <small>other fugitives out of the City</small>			27 12
"	23	Henry Watson wife & ch. passage to St Johns			10
"	25	L A Grimes for passage of Mrs Ringold, Isaac Gaiter <small>Mrs Peters to Southboro &amp; J. Harris to Halifax</small>			7
"	26	Charles Mahoney for passage of Cornelius Sparrow			5
"	"	William Thomas Fugitive to pay passage self & wife <small>to Halifax</small>			4
"	27	Mary Parker for passage of Mrs Hanton to St Johns			3
"	28	Streeter & Parker carriage hire by J. B. Richards			10
"	"	J. H. & F. F. Farwell Printing by S E Sewall			12
"	"	L A Grimes for passage of James Dale & Mrs Henderson			5
"	"	Amos Cummings for 6 lb Flour for Fugitives			6 25
March	4	John Thomas & wife & 2 children to Canada			8
"	"	John W Brown for Alex. Duwalls passage to England			5
"	"	John McGinley for passage of Brown, wife, sister & 2 chil. <small>to Halifax</small>			10
"	6	Robt E Apthorp for 1048 circulars at 3	31.44		} 47 04
"	"	" " " 80 do in the City	1.60		
"	"	" " " also 1.300 circulars	14.		
		Appeal to the Churches in Mass. for funds			430 81
		Amount carried forward			

## The Vigilance Committee Dr.

1851		Amt brot forward	653	59
April				
"	20	James Scott fugitive passage to Canada	11	
"	"	Prentiss & Sawyer Printing 500 Billets	3	
"	"	Austin Bearse <sup>Prayers for Thos Sims</sup> Sundries for the Committee	10	42
"	24	Benj F Roberts Printing 1000 Placards & Posting <sup>caution for colored People</sup>	6	50
"	26	Rev Nath Colver expenses in Canada for Committee	21	-
"	28	Austin Bearse boat in the Harbor	7	
"	"	Joseph K Hayes use of Fremont Temple	50	
"	"	Lewis E Caswell <sup>Apr 8 to 11th</sup> for sending a wounded Fugitive } John Hutton to Canada	15	
"	30	John M Spear horse & chaise care of Thos Sims	10	
May	1	George Latimer 6 days watching Dr. Gaphart	9	
"	3	J B Smith for Joseph Bussells fare to Canada	7	50
"	"	Lewis E Caswell passage of 3 Fugitives to		
"	"	Canada. F. J. Jones, J Brown & Wife	21	7
"	15	Dr M P Hanson assisting Andrew J Burton & family	20	
"	16	Austin Bearse fare of Sam Ward to Plymouth - & Sundries	7	72
"	"	F. W Bird rent of Committee room	25	
"	"	M <sup>rs</sup> C Nell services for Johnson, Truett, Barnard & Eliz <sup>th</sup> Dorsey	1	32
"	20	Loring Moody expenses to Fall River	5	
"	21	Amos Baker use of Chapman Hall	12	50
"	24	Prentiss & Sawyer Printing Petitions &c	19	
"	26	Lewis Hayden clothes for S Ward fugitive	7	87
"	"	Austin Bearse services rendered to the Committee	60	
"	"	Samuel May Jr passage to Canada of Priscilla Hutton	10	
June	2	M <sup>rs</sup> R Stacy use of Washingtonian Hall	10	
"	3	Austin Bearse services	4	25
"	11	also for aid to Samuel Jones a fugitive } Lewis E Caswell for Hutton & Ringle fugitives -	19	
		Amt carried forward	1034	84



# Francis Jackson Treas<sup>r</sup> Cr.

81	1851	March 13	Amount brot forward	759	32
25	"	"	Austin Bearse Agent collections 7 days	25	75
06	"	14	Rev John Linsey North Bridgewater Mo. E.	3	
	"	"	James Eddy New York City	10	
	"	15	Rev S Hopkins Emery Taunton D	3	
	"	"	Sydney Homer by Dr Bowditch	20	
	"	18	Rev S Bushing 2 Methodist Ch. Lynn C. W.	12	
	"	"	Samuel P Andrews Framingham by Theo. Parker	4	
	"	19	Chas <sup>l</sup> de Barry Trin, St Ch. contributions D	35	
	"	"	Methodist E. Ch. Dorchester by S. E. Sewall	3	
	"	"	Rev Nath <sup>l</sup> Colver's collections 24" expenses 10.	14	
	"	20	Rev L. A. Mudge Mo. E. Ch. Wilbraham by R. Morris	8	
	"	"	Rev. O. Cunningham 1st Bap. Ch. Middlefield	8	12
	"	"	Rev. Jos. W. Cross W. Boylston Trin	12	
	"	"	Silas Curtis Freeville Bap. Rox. by Dr Bowditch	25	50
	"	21	Mrs Littlehale & daughters by R. E. Athorp	7	
	"	"	Mrs S. Bullard Medway by Rev S Sanford	1	
	"	"	Rev Chas Galpin D Ch. Prescott Mass by R. F. W	3	43
	"	"	Rev Geo. H. Newhall T. " Walpole	29	
	"	"	Edw. Atkinson Brookline by Dr. Bowditch	5	
	"	22	Mrs Solomon Hovey Charlestown by R. F. Wallcut	5	
	"	"	N. Tillinghast Bridgewater	10	
	"	"	Mrs Packard T. Soc Summington	4	
	"	"	Austin Bearse Agent collections 9 days	63	25
	"	"	North Woburn T. Soc. by Dea Gilbert	2	73
	"	"	Friend in Braintree by C. C. Fogg	30	
			Amount carried forward	1103	10

## Francis Jackson Treas: Cr.

	1851		Amount brot forward	1715	96
59	April				
	"	3	Rev A G Duncan Trin. Soc. Hanover	4	26
	"	4	Rev Mrs M Harding S. Weymouth Trin	12	-
42	"	"	Rev E Wells Trin Sandwich	1	
50	"	5	Rev E W Dickinson North Ch. Springfield	13	66
	"	7	Rev J O Bradley No. Mansfield	6	
	"	9	Mrs Sawyer by W. C. Mill	2	
	"	11	Mrs Davis Milton	5	
5	"	12	Rev E B Wilson & others by Noah Kimball Grafton	100	
0	"	13	James Jackson Hollis Street	2	
9	"	14	Rev O B Frothingham Unit. Soc. Salem	86	
50	"	"	Rev D W Kilgore Oxford	2	
	"	"	<del>Austin Bearse 5 days collections</del>	<del>12</del>	<del>75</del>
17	"	15	Joseph Cobb Esq Pembroke	6	
0	"	16	Misses Osgoods Medford	10	
7 72	"	"	Martha G George, Sec. Female Benev. Soc. Wrentham	2	
5	"	17	Rev K. Atkinson No. Topsfield	2	50
1 32	"	"	E Brigham Esq Westboro	24	
5	"	"	Rev Hiram Hutchings Dep. Charlestown	9	45
2 50	"	"	Rev Joseph Marsh No. Barnstable	6	75
19	"	"	Rev M Curtis D. Southboro	5	
7 87	"	"	Collection at Cochituate Hall Boston	5	92
30	"	"	Lydia Faxon Roxbury	10	
10	"	18	Rev Mortimer Blake Trin. Mansfield	11	25
10	"	"	Rev J P Lesly Trin Milton	22	
4 25	"	"	Hon John G Palfrey Cambridge	10	
10			Amount carried over	2087	50
17					
34 84					

*Reminiscences*

*of the*

*REV. GEORGE ALLEN*

*OF WORCESTER.*


*With a Biographical Sketch and Notes by*  
*FRANKLIN P. RICE.*

*WORCESTER, MASS.:*  
*PUTNAM AND DAVIS, PUBLISHERS.*

*1883.*

*From the library of*  
*D. C. G. [unclear]*

## THE REVEREND GEORGE ALLEN on the Subject of Slavery

The Reverend George Allen believed that slavery needed to be eradicated. He “wielded a vigorous pen” and “*was also the author of several pamphlets of uncommon merit which had wide circulation, and efficiently aided the cause of freedom. Most of his writings were published anonymously, for he had a dread of notoriety, and never wrote for effect, or for the purpose of drawing attention to himself. He had little sympathy with ultra Abolitionists and their sensational methods, and allied himself with the practical and determined workers in the cause.*” (Determined workers in the cause? Could Rev. Allen been instrumental in helping the fugitives in Shrewsbury)? 

Mr. Allen had an important influence on the anti slavery struggle. He was a rare scholar, and a rare theologian.

George and his brother Charles remained firm on the issue of slavery. They were one in the fight for right. Both brothers are listed as participants in the Anti-Slavery Council.

Question: Did the scandal have anything to do with aiding the fugitives? Whatever was the scandal about?

Read on, for some of the “Reminiscences of the Rev. George Allen.” (Published 1883)



*Geo. Allen.*

"AGED 89"

HELIOTYPIC PRINTING CO., BOSTON

to him in another way: his home by reason of his father's official position, open hospitality and well known scholarly tastes, was the resort of many of the distinguished judges, lawyers and men of learning who visited the town to attend the courts; and in their conversation, manners and characteristics he was supplied with the best models of the time.


In 1807, George, at the age of fifteen, and with less than the usual attainments in the ordinary branches, became a student at Leicester Academy, then under the able direction of Zephaniah Swift Moore. Among his classmates at this institution were Gov. John Davis and Gen. Nathan Heard. In 1809, after thorough preparation, he entered Yale College, and graduated in the class of 1813, which included Augustus B. Longstreet, Elisha Mitchell, Denison Olmstead, George E. Badger, Elias K. Kane, Thomas P. Devereux and other distinguished names. Reminiscences of some of these are given in another part of this volume.

After leaving college Mr. Allen lived for a time in Hartford, where he began the study of theology. The year 1815 he passed in his native town. About this time he married his cousin Eliza Pitkin, daughter of Elisha Pitkin of Enfield, Conn., whom he survived

many years. Of their children, one only—George Allen, Jr., for many years master of the Hancock School, Boston,—reached maturity.

Mr. Allen resumed the study of his profession with the Rev. Dr. Andrew Yates at Union College, Schenectady. In 1816, he was engaged for some months in teaching school at Albany, where he made the acquaintance of Martin Van Buren, Benjamin F. Butler and other prominent persons. He was licensed to preach in 1817, and soon entered upon his work as a missionary in western New York. His circuit comprised the territory then known as the "Holland Purchase."

In 1819, Mr. Allen preached at Waterloo, and the succeeding two years at Aurora, where he accepted a call to settle; but after several examinations, was rejected by the council, as he was considered unsound on some minor point of doctrine. He returned to Albany, and soon after received an invitation from the church in Shrewsbury to become the colleague of the venerable Rev. Joseph Sumner, D. D., which he accepted. Mr. Allen was ordained in Shrewsbury on the 19th of November, 1823, and here he remained seventeen years, becoming pastor of the church on the death of Dr. Sumner in 1825.



The period covered by Mr. Allen's pastorate at Shrewsbury was the most active and useful one of his life. He was then in the prime of manhood. His occupation and surroundings were congenial to his tastes. The discharge of his professional duties consumed but a portion of his time, and he was afforded abundant leisure for study and improvement. From his early years Mr. Allen had taken a deep interest in moral and political reforms; and events now took place which called his peculiar powers into action. A few years after his return to Massachusetts the country was excited by the murder of William Morgan, who, it was alleged, had been put to death by Freemasons for disclosing the secrets of their order. Mr. Allen had, while in western New York, lived near the scene of the tragedy, and knew several of the parties concerned. He had, however, other and better reasons for opposing the organization; and he took an active and prominent part in the agitation which for some years commanded public attention. One of the productions of his pen at this time was brought to the notice of John Quincy Adams, and secured to him the lifelong friendship of that distinguished statesman. In his opposition to Freemasonry Mr. Allen was actuated by no ul-



terior purpose, as was the case with politicians and others; and he entertained to the end of his life a belief that all secret societies were pernicious in their influences.

Another matter of deeper import demanded consideration. Mr. Allen had for a long time viewed with concern the overreaching policy of the Slaveholders, and the pliant acquiescence of the North in their most insolent demands. He was among the few who from the first comprehended the danger, and prophesied the conflict that was to follow. He saw clearly, apart from the moral aspect, that slavery if not eradicated, was destined to break up the Government; and he bent his energies to the task of arousing the people to a sense of their peril. He wielded a vigorous pen, and was master of a clear, concise and forcible style; and during the thirty years preceding the Rebellion his contributions to the public press in behalf of the great principles at issue would fill volumes. He was also the author of several pamphlets of uncommon merit which had wide circulation, and efficiently aided the cause of freedom. Most of his writings were published anonymously, for he had a dread of notoriety, and never wrote for effect, or for the purpose of drawing



attention to himself. He had little sympathy with the ultra Abolitionists and their sensational methods; and allied himself with the practical and determined workers in the cause.

In the year 1837, mainly through the efforts of Mr. Allen, the ministers of the county were called to meet in convention to express their sentiments on the subject of slavery. The meeting was held in Worcester on the 7th of December, nearly all denominations being represented. Mr. Allen, as chairman of a committee of the convention, reported a "Declaration of Sentiments on American Slavery," which set forth in a clear and forcible manner the evils of the system, and the duties of the clergy in regard to it. After a lengthy debate, action was indefinitely postponed; but the object for which they had assembled was saved from defeat by Mr. Allen, who secured, by an appeal of great earnestness and power, the appointment of a committee to report a modified declaration at a future meeting. The convention re-assembled on the 16th of January, 1838, and the amended report was adopted by a large majority. This result, by inducing similar action elsewhere, was of inestimable value to the cause. The proceedings of this convention and Mr. Allen's



"Declaration," were separately printed, and did good service as anti-slavery tracts.

While devoting so much time and effort to matters of general concern, Mr. Allen in no way neglected the people of his charge; but was ever faithful in the performance of his duties as a Christian minister and pastor of a church. His relations with his parish in Shrewsbury were mainly pleasant, and the time passed here was a season of usefulness to others and enjoyment to himself. Difficulties of a personal nature led to his retirement, and in 1840 he was dismissed at his own request. Severe domestic affliction came upon him at this time; but in all his troubles he was sustained by a firm faith, rare patience, and that unyielding fortitude for which he was ever distinguished.

In 1843, Mr. Allen accepted the position of chaplain at the State Lunatic Hospital in Worcester, and officiated in that capacity, with some intervals of rest, until his eightieth birthday in 1872. In the meantime his interest in political matters continued unabated, and he worked in various ways to further the cause of freedom until its great ends were accomplished. His retiring disposition usually kept him in the background, but he was an efficient or-

ganizer, and could direct and control the efforts of others. The value of his counsel was acknowledged by many of the anti-slavery leaders, and they frequently relied upon his advice. Had he possessed ambition in any degree he might have enrolled his name with the foremost ; as it was, others received credit for much that originated with him. His brother, the Hon. Charles Allen,\* who, as an uncompromising advocate of freedom, may justly be ranked with Giddings, Hale, Chase, Sumner and Wilson, was much indebted to him for wise counsel, words of encouragement, and sustaining aid through the great political movements in which he bore so conspicuous a part.

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\*Charles Allen, a younger brother of Rev. George Allen, was born in Worcester, August 9, 1797. He studied law, and began practice in New Braintree, but soon returned to Worcester. He was a member of the Massachusetts Legislature for several years, serving in both branches ; a member of the Northeastern Boundary Commission in 1842 ; Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, 1842 to 1844 ; and Member of Congress, 1849 to 1853. He was a delegate to the Whig Convention of 1848, and with Henry Wilson, repudiated the nomination of Zachary Taylor. On the death of Chief Justice Shaw, Judge Allen was appointed to succeed him, but declined the honor. He was Chief Justice of the Superior Court from 1859 to 1867. He died in Worcester on the 6th of August, 1869. Ill health restricted his powers through life.

tained during the rest of his life by friends, who provided for him, I think, without his knowledge. He named his oldest daughter *Samsonia*.\*

#### Abolition of Slavery.

When I first brought up the matter of the Abolition of Slavery in the Council of Ministers convened at Worcester in 1837,† they asked me what I expected to accomplish against so powerful a monopoly.

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\* Samson Vryling Stoddard Wilder was born in Lancaster, Mass., May 20, 1780. He engaged in the dry goods business in Boston about the beginning of the century; and in 1803 went abroad as commercial agent for William Gray, the prominent merchant. He resided for nearly twenty years in Paris; and after the battle of Waterloo, laid a plan for the escape of Napoleon to America, of which the Emperor refused to avail himself because it necessitated the abandonment of his followers. Having accumulated a large fortune, Mr. Wilder, in 1823, returned to this country, and retired to his estate in Bolton, where he entertained Lafayette on his visit to the United States in 1824. Mr. Wilder's property was swept away in the crash of 1837. He died at Elizabeth, N. J., March 3, 1865. He was a man of natural piety, and gave largely of his wealth to promote the cause of religion and morality.

† See ante, page 16. The Rev. Samuel May of Leicester contributed some interesting reminiscences of Mr. Allen and this Convention to the New England Home Journal of April 20, 1883.

To them it seemed worse than folly to attack it. I told them that it took thirty years in the British Parliament to abolish the slave trade, and that I would work as long for the Abolition of Slavery in America. Before the thirty years had passed it was accomplished.

#### William Lloyd Garrison.

I had, on one occasion, an unpleasant encounter with Garrison, and was obliged to make use of plain language. He denied that he had expressed certain sentiments in his paper; but I convinced him of his error by pointing out the passages in a volume of the *Liberator*. He had probably forgotten that he wrote them.

I do not concede to Garrison the high character given him by many. If he had had his way in his opposition to the ballot, slavery would have existed to-day. He believed in moral suasion alone, and the South would gladly have had the whole North of that mind.

## Descendants of Rev George Allen

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### Generation 1

1. **REV GEORGE<sup>1</sup> ALLEN** was born on 01 Feb 1792 in Worcester, Worcester, Massachusetts. He died on 31 Mar 1883 in Worcester, Worcester, Massachusetts. He married Elizabeth Eliza Pitkin on 13 Jul 1815. She was born on 25 Dec 1787. She died on 17 Mar 1843 in Worcester, Otsego, New York.

Rev George Allen and Elizabeth Eliza Pitkin had the following children:

2.
  - i. **GEORGE<sup>2</sup> ALLEN JR.** was born on 26 Jan 1816 in of Mass.. He died on 01 May 1864 in Chelsea, Suffolk, Massachusetts, USA. He married (1) **ELIZABETH DENNY MILES** on 19 Aug 1840 in Shrewsbury, Worcester, Massachusetts. She was born on 30 Apr 1815 in Westminster, Worc., Mass.. She died on 30 Dec 1841 in Shrewsbury, Worcester, Massachusetts. He married (2) **ELIZABETH R. KELLOGG**. She was born in 1822. She died in 1890.
  - ii. **CHARLES ALLEN** was born on 18 Aug 1821 in Massachusetts, USA. He died on 16 Nov 1838 in Shrewsbury, Worcester, Massachusetts.
  - iii. **ANN MARIA ALLEN** was born on 25 Nov 1823. She died on 16 Jul 1839.
  - iv. **ELIZABETH ALLEN** was born on 18 Apr 1826. She died on 18 Apr 1826.

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### Generation 2

2. **GEORGE<sup>2</sup> ALLEN JR.** (Rev George<sup>1</sup>) was born on 26 Jan 1816 in of Mass.. He died on 01 May 1864 in Chelsea, Suffolk, Massachusetts, USA. He married (1) **ELIZABETH DENNY MILES** on 19 Aug 1840 in Shrewsbury, Worcester, Massachusetts. She was born on 30 Apr 1815 in Westminster, Worc., Mass.. She died on 30 Dec 1841 in Shrewsbury, Worcester, Massachusetts. He married (2) **ELIZABETH R. KELLOGG**. She was born in 1822. She died in 1890.

George Allen Jr. and Elizabeth Denny Miles had the following child:

- i. **ELIZABETH DENNY<sup>3</sup> ALLEN** was born on 25 Jul 1841 in Boston, Massachusetts (Age: 0). She died on 04 Jul 1852 in Worcester, Massachusetts, United States.

George Allen Jr. and Elizabeth R. Kellogg had the following children:

- ii. **EMMA J. ALLEN** was born on 26 Jan 1845 in Chelsea, Suffolk, Massachusetts, USA.
- iii. **ANN MARIA ALLEN** was born in 1847 in Chelsea, Suffolk, Massachusetts, USA.
- iv. **CAROLINE W. ALLEN** was born on 25 Dec 1851 in Chelsea, Suffolk, Massachusetts, USA.
- v. **GEORGE FREDERICK ALLEN** was born on 23 Mar 1858 in Chelsea, Suffolk, Massachusetts, USA.