

**MID-HUDSON ANTISLAVERY HISTORY PROJECT
JUNE 2007 RESEARCH REPORT**

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WITH SPECIAL THANKS to volunteer researchers Mary Bagley, Fergus Bordewich, David Greenwood, Jacqueline Harper, Daniel Jones, F. Kennon Moody, John Polhemus, Edythe Ann Quinn, Lorraine Roberts, and Margaret White.

AND to the Local History Room, Adriance Memorial Library; Special Collections, Vassar College Library; Dutchess County Historical Society; Dutchess County Genealogical Library and LDS Family History Center; & New York State Library.

WHO IS MHAHP?

The Mid-Hudson Antislavery History Project (MHAHP) is a non-profit group created in 2006 to bring together researchers, educators, community leaders, and members of the public to:

- * conduct and synthesize research on the history of antislavery in the Mid-Hudson Valley, with special emphasis on the Underground Railroad;
- * interpret this history and share these interpretations with a wide array of residents and visitors in our area, with particular attention to students and youth; and
- * place this local history in the broader contexts of racial slavery in the New World, the African-American experience, and antislavery legacies today, including the impact of this historic grassroots movement on subsequent struggles for racial and social justice.

We welcome volunteers and supporters of all backgrounds and interests to join us. Please contact us at PO Box 3647, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

OVERVIEW OF JUNE 2007 RESEARCH

Our goal was to employ the research protocol developed by Dr. Judith Wellman and used in upstate New York (see source list) to begin research on the Underground Railroad in Dutchess County. Because we had only one month for research, we focused primarily on the antislavery movement and African-American community in Poughkeepsie before the Civil War. We uncovered, however, considerable information about the county-wide antislavery movement and related historical subjects.

We hope this report will serve as a starting point for further research. We invite all those interested to copy and circulate it, with attribution, and to “adopt” an individual, family, site, or township and continue research in cooperation with MHAHP.

We proceeded by the following steps:

1) We gathered all previous research we could find relating to the antebellum Black community in Poughkeepsie and the antislavery movement and the Underground Railroad in Dutchess.

2) With help from these secondary sources, we assembled major primary sources to create a collective portrait of the African-American community in Poughkeepsie before the Civil War, and all individuals in Dutchess County who were publicly active in the public fight against slavery between 1830 and 1860. Primary sources investigated included census records, local newspapers, state and national antislavery newspapers, antislavery convention records, Poughkeepsie city directories, church records, and petitions to Congress.

3) We created a database of almost 500 households fitting into one of the above categories. We added all information we could locate into a database, including, where available, evidence of antislavery activity, family members, birth and death dates, race, occupation, residence, and church affiliation. Anyone wishing to have a copy of this database (in Excel) should contact MHAHP. Note that the database is an ongoing project, with many incomplete entries, and is large and unwieldy--especially for printing.

4) From the database we selected individuals who appeared most likely to have had connections to the Underground Railroad, especially in Poughkeepsie. This included African-Americans in Poughkeepsie before the Civil War who were born in the South and may have arrived as fugitives from slavery. We sought further information, including wills, obituaries, and other records, though as yet we have conducted very little deed research to associate these individuals with specific sites or properties. Most information below is people-oriented, not site-oriented; identification of homes or other sites has not yet been made.

What we know about these individuals, and what we would like to know, is outlined below. They are divided into three categories:

- 1) those who were or may have been freedom-seekers (fugitives from slavery);
- 2) others who were, or likely were, involved in the Underground Railroad;
- 3) leaders of the public antislavery movement in Dutchess County.

1. FREEDOM-SEEKERS (FUGITIVES FROM SLAVERY) AND POSSIBLE FREEDOM-SEEKERS IN DUTCHESS COUNTY

1. Bolding, John A., David Bolding, and Susan E. (maiden name?) Moore. The story of John Bolding is well known: a fugitive from South Carolina, he settled in Poughkeepsie around 1840 and worked as a tailor. In 1851, soon after passage of a new federal Fugitive Slave Act, Bolding was recognized by a visitor from South Carolina who alerted his former master. Bolding was seized by US Marshals, whisked to New York City, tried in a special federal court (habeas corpus had been suspended in such cases), and sent to South Carolina. Citizens of Poughkeepsie purchased his freedom from his former masters, Barnet and Robert Anderson of Columbia, SC. Bolding returned to Poughkeepsie and lived there with his wife, Henrietta, until his death.

NEW INFORMATION: We found in the 1850 census that Bolding boarded in the home of fellow African-American tailor Francis J. Moore, who was New-York born but whose wife, Susan Moore, was born in South Carolina circa 1813. We presume that Susan Moore may have been related to John Bolding or escaped with him. An article accompanying Henrietta Bolding's obituary (*Dutchess Courier*, 12 March 1884) is highly prejudicial in tone, but it states that when Bolding escaped from South Carolina he brought with him "his concubine," possibly a girlfriend or common-law wife; reportedly they separated, and Bolding married Henrietta. If this account is correct then Susan Moore, who married Francis Moore and lived in the same household, may have been the woman who escaped with John Bolding.

In newspaper records we find NO mention of John Bolding's younger brother David. The 1850 census indicates that he was also boarding with the Moores at 20 Academy St. and had been born in South Carolina circa 1834; presumably he escaped with John and Susan? Unless street numbers have changed, 20 Academy Street is now the site of the Children's Media Project, located in the Lady Washington Firehouse, of later 19th-century construction. The Moore/Bolding tailor shop was located at 4 Liberty Street, beside the Main Street hotel run by leading abolitionist Theodorus Gregory (see entry below). In the 1860 census, after he was ransomed from the South, Bolding lived at 14 Pine Street. When Bolding died of consumption on 30 April 1876, local papers carried brief obituaries recollecting his famous kidnapping.

FURTHER RESEARCH NEEDED: We do not know anything about the circumstances of John, David, and Susan's escape from South Carolina. The federal trial record appears not to be extant. We have not done research into home or business sites; a cursory search of deed records found no property listings for Boldings or Moores.

Brown, James. James F. Brown was born into slavery in Fredericktown, Maryland in 1783. He escaped to New York City and was hired there by the Verplanck family of Dutchess County, who purchased his freedom. Brown thereafter purchased the freedom of his wife Julia, who was still in Maryland, and they lived at Mount Gulian (in Fishkill, just north of Beacon town line) from 1826. Beginning in 1829 Brown kept a lengthy diary, which is in the collections of the New-York Historical Society. Mount Gulian is not known to have been a UGRR site but is closely associated with Brown, an escaped slave who left an unusually rich historical record.

FURTHER RESEARCH NEEDED: According to A. J. Williams-Myers, in his article "The Underground Railroad in the Hudson River Valley," Brown's diary entry for 5 August 1836 mentions a visit from New York UGRR conductor David Ruggles, who almost certainly had aided Brown in New York ("David Ruggles came up from New York to see me"). Ruggles was then leader of the New York Committee of Vigilance. The diary also contains considerable information on Hudson River traffic and may contain other clues to the operations of the Underground Railroad or circumstances of other fugitives.

Cudgell, Annie. Annie, wife of Henry Cudgell, is listed in the Poughkeepsie census as a native of Maryland, born there circa 1821. She first appears in the 1865 state census, working as a domestic servant, but her husband Henry was listed as an unmarried laborer in 1850. It is not clear whether she arrived in Poughkeepsie before, during, or just after the Civil War.

Davis, James. Davis was an apparent native of Virginia who resided in Poughkeepsie before the Civil War, though whether he arrived as a free man or a freedom-seeker is not known. He is listed repeatedly in the Poughkeepsie census and city directories, between 1850 and 1860, as having a shoemaker's shop at 433 Main Street, and in the 1860 census as a shoemaker, age 38, born in Virginia. He apparently resided above the shop. No wife, children, or other family members are listed. No obituary or other information has yet been found.

Garnet, Solomon. Solomon Garnet is said of have lived in the Guinea Community ("piney woods") near Hyde Park as a fugitive from slavery (*Poughkeepsie Journal*, 12 January '64). At what date this may have occurred is not known, and this has not been confirmed. A review of national census records by John Polhemus finds only one Solomon Garnet, living in Baltimore, MD, in 1860; age 59, he worked as a wood sawyer and was reportedly born in Maryland.

Marshall, John. A native of Virginia, born there circa 1830. He is first listed in Poughkeepsie in the 1870 census, working as a gardener at the Temperance House Hotel, owned and operated by leading abolitionist Theodorus Gregory (see entry below). No family members are listed. The association with Gregory is of interest, though Marshall may have arrived in Poughkeepsie after the Civil War.

Pettifoot, John. Born in either North Carolina or Virginia, according to different census listings. He apparently arrived in Poughkeepsie in 1829 but it is unclear whether he came as a free man or freedom-seeker. He purchased a residence on Pine St. and over subsequent decades worked as a butcher, carpenter, and laborer while living variously on Pine, Gate, and Church Streets, Mansion Long Row, and then Mechanic St. His wife is named as Phoebe in one census entry, but a full review of all census and deed records is needed to ascertain whether or not she was born in the South, or whether any other information about the couple can be found. The 1859-1860 city directory lists Peter Pettifoot, possibly a son, living at "Union near Church"; a Mrs. Pettifoot, presumably John's widow Phoebe, at "Union near Church" in 1862-63. This suggests that John Pettifoot died in 1861 or 1862.

In a national database search of the 1850 census, John Polhemus found a number of free black Pettifoots, almost all living in North Carolina. This included a John Pettifoot living in Sandy Creek, Warren County, NC. According to William Still's *Underground Rail Road* (pp. 153-4) a record of UGRR activity in Philadelphia, a John Henry Pettifoot escaped the tobacco factory of McHenry & McCulloch in Petersburg, Virginia, via the Underground Railroad. He is said to have had a wife in Richmond whom he was forbidden to see after he was "hired out" to the Petersburg factory. Pettifoot "reached Philadelphia by the Richmond line of steamers, stowed away among the pots and cooking utensils," and upon arrival in Philadelphia was aided by abolitionists there, who helped him "northward." There is no date attached to this story. This may or may not be the same John Pettifoot. Further research is definitely warranted.

Ruggles, David. A New York City abolitionist of national stature, David Ruggles appears to have had Dutchess County connections. In 1833 he was listed as a "delegate from Poughkeepsie" in the records of a national colored convention held in Philadelphia. It seems likely that he had close connections to Nathan Blount (see entry further on). Samuel Ringgold Ward, who was working as Ruggles' secretary in New York City, came up to Poughkeepsie to

replace Blount in this teaching post, which suggests a Ruggles-Ward-Blount connection. According to Dr. A. J. Williams-Myers, former fugitive James Brown (see above) mentions in his diary at least one visit that Ruggles made to see Brown at Mt. Gulian. Ruggles' connections with Dutchess may have been brief or sporadic, but more research seems warranted, especially a review of the Brown diary. (Note that there was a local white Ruggles family, including lawyer Charles J. Ruggles; there is no known association between this family and David Ruggles.)

Thomas, Rev. Jacob. According to the 1860 census Thomas was a Methodist clergyman living on E. Mansion near Main; he appears not to have been listed in the 1870 census at all, but in 1880 he is listed as living at 86 North Clinton Street, and being pastor of the "MEC," presumably the AME Zion church on Catharine Street. A Rev. Jacob Thomas is apparently listed in AME Zion records as the first pastor of that church. Thomas is listed in 1860 as having been born circa 1820 but no birthplace is given, and he does not appear in our search of city directories so far, which is unusual for a clergyman. This may warrant further investigation.

Ward, Samuel Ringgold. Probably the most famous antislavery advocate associated with the county in the 1830s, Ward was a figure of national significance. Born into slavery in Maryland, he escaped to New York City, as recounted in his autobiography (online at Cornell University among other sites). Ward lived in Poughkeepsie from 1837 to 1839, teaching at the Colored Lancaster School and serving as an agent of the AASS and a member of the Executive Committee of the Dutchess County Antislavery Society. Ward was licensed to preach by the New York Congregational Association when it met in Poughkeepsie, presumably hosted by Poughkeepsie's First Congregational Church, of which Ward was a member (possibly the only African-American member in that era). Soon afterward, in May 1839, he was called to an upstate pastorate. Ward, suffering financial difficulties, moved to Jamaica in 1855 and died there a few years later, so he is less remembered in the US today than associates like Frederick Douglass, but he was a major figure in the movement. Douglass himself said of Ward, "as an orator and thinker he was vastly superior, I thought, to any of us." The *New York Tribune* called Ward "the ablest and most eloquent black man alive."

"The Kidnapped Sailor." A free black man of Marlborough, NY whose name is as yet unknown, but who was employed as a sailor on a ship operating between New York and Southern ports, when he was abducted and sold into slavery, apparently around 1850. According to an account in the *Poughkeepsie Eagle*, 27 December 1860, the man was transferring a trunk from one vessel to another, probably in New Orleans, when he was "immediately seized and confined, and eventually sold to a New Orleans trader." About ten years after his capture, the man stowed away on a ship in New Orleans and arrived back in New York City, arriving in Poughkeepsie by train in late December 1860. He then crossed the frozen Hudson on foot to seek out his father in Marlborough. Two others escaped with him on the ship from New Orleans; the *Eagle* reported that they were "already on their way to Canada via the Underground Railroad." This is the only direct contemporary reference to Underground Railroad activity we have located in a Poughkeepsie newspaper.

FURTHER RESEARCH: A brief survey of census records in Marlborough, NY, in 1850 and 1860, finds the following African-American household names: Blake, Brince, Brown, Deyo,

DuBois, Hardenburgh, Harden, Hagen, Jackson, Johnson, Meldon or Mildon, Reich, and Robinson. We have not done further investigation as yet.

FURTHER RESEARCH NOTES ON THE UGRR: According to an index at Adriance Library, the *Amenia Times* contains references to UGRR activity on 25 March 1857 and 5 Sept. 1857. We have not yet been able to track down these citations.

Also, according to Duane A. Biever's book *Old Poughkeepsie*, many former slaves left Georgia with the 150th New York Regiment and accompanied them to Dutchess, where the regiment was welcomed home on June 12, 1865. Others may have come north with the 128th Regiment, which served in Louisiana and Virginia before ending their tour of duty in Savannah, Georgia (circa July 12, 1865). Though this was not strictly Underground Railroad activity, since the Civil War had ended, the arrival of these freedmen and women is a fascinating topic. African-Americans born in Georgia, Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, Virginia, North Carolina, and Alabama were, according to Biever, listed in the 1865 New York state census, suggesting a striking number of Southern-born Blacks were in Poughkeepsie very soon after the Civil War. This merits further investigation since some of these individuals may have been in Poughkeepsie earlier, possibly as fugitives, but waited until 1865 to identify themselves to government officials as southern-born.

2. OTHER PERSONS POSSIBLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN DUTCHESS COUNTY

Sterling, George W. and Emeline. George W. Sterling is the only Poughkeepsie individual we have found who is identified, in a local obituary, as having been active in "managing the machinery of the "underground railroad by which escaping slaves, after the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law, were sent through to Canada" (*Daily Eagle*, 20 July 1874; also *Eagle's History of Poughkeepsie*, p. 172). Sterling was born circa 1812 in Salisbury, CT. An iron manufacturer, he was active in the Republican party and served one term in the state Assembly after being elected in 1856. He died in 1874 and was remembered as a "grand and noble man" who as "conspicuous in forwarding all philanthropic and benevolent enterprises." Iron manufactory listed at 23 Hamilton St. in 1850), and the Sterling home at 121 Cannon (various censuses and directories). Home not apparently extant.

Sterling's wife, Emeline, is the namesake of the Sterling School, originally called Sterling Industrial College, in Greenville, South Carolina (*Greenville News*, 13 July 1996). Emeline Sterling gave financial aid in order that Rev. Daniel M. Minus, who was born in slavery in Colleton County, SC, could attend Claflin College in Orangeburg, SC. She also gave \$75 to help found the school. This was likely after George Sterling's death. Rev. Minus wrote that Emeline Sterling was "a great woman" and had been "a good friend to our race." More research on these events and connections would be invaluable. Emeline Sterling died on 18 Nov. 1902.

Haight, Stephen, and Alfred and Charlotte (Haight) Moore. Moore's Mill, near Mabbetsville, was the home of Stephen Haight and Alfred and Charlotte (Haight) Moore, members of an active Quaker family that is rumored to have been involved in UGRR activity

(*Poughkeepsie Journal*, 12 Jan. 1964). Moores Mills was the site of the Oswego Meeting House, an extant building that dates from c. 1828 (corner of North Smith and Oswego Roads; the existence of Oswego Monthly Meeting, an offshoot of Oblong Meeting in Pawling, dates from 1758). David Greenwood, historian for the Town of Washington, is engaged in further research on these families. He has traced the story of Jacob and Amy Haight, who were very active at Nine Partners, but moved to Virginia and, while there during the Civil War, assisted a young enslaved woman named Chloe in joining her mother, who had escaped to freedom in Ohio.

Hallock, Valentine and Henrietta (Burling) Hallock. According to MacCracken's *Blithe Dutchess* (p. 281, drawn from Hasbrouck's county history, p. 490), fugitives were brought from Moore's Mill (see Haight family, above) to Valentine Hallock's house, located just south of Poughkeepsie, "beginning at a point in the road leading from the Post Road to the Milton Ferry" (1853 deed, county records, Liber 98, p. 331). We believe that the site of this house would now be on Sand Dock Road (Route 48), just south of the IBM complex. Hallock, a Quaker, was born 12 Sept. 1822 and grew up in Malborough, Ulster County; his family were leading members of the Friends' Meeting in Milton. If MacCracken's information is correct, then perhaps the Moores brought fugitives to Hallock's home, after which they crossed the Hudson on the Milton ferry to be sheltered by Quakers in Milton. If Poughkeepsie was deemed unsafe--especially after John Bolding's kidnapping in 1851--it might have made sense to route fugitives across the Hudson. Valentine married Henrietta Burling, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Burling (also Marlborough Quakers) and they had at least four children, Alice, who died as a small child, and Anna (m. James Wright Conklin), Edward, and Margaret (m. Frank D. Newton). Valentine and Henrietta moved to Queens, NY after the Civil War and appear to have died there. There is an extensive network of Hallock family genealogists who publish a newsletter, copies of which are received at the Dutchess County Genealogical Society; contacting them might be very helpful.

Irish, David. Quaker preacher associated with the Oblong Meeting House at Quaker Hill, east of Pawling. Born there 20 June 1792 and died 2 October 1884. According to a memoir "never felt free to join with Anti Slavery Societies outside of his own [meeting], believing that by so doing he might compromise some of his testimonies; but with tongue and pen he labored zealously To work against the sin of slavery. In his home was always made welcome the trembling fugitive fleeing from his Southern prison house; he was fed and lodged, and with words of cheer sent forward with a few lines of endorsement to the next station towards the North land of freedom. Occasionally one was kept for a time and employed, if it was deemed safe, and there must never be any distinction made in the family on account of his color; he sat at the same table, and was treated as an equal." (Wanzer, "David Irish," p. 10). In 1767, the Oblong Meeting asked that the New York Yearly Meeting address the question of whether not only slave trading, but also "keep[ing] these in Slavery that we already have in possession," was not inconsistent with "a Christian Spirit." In 1769, Oblong and Nine Partners Meetings became the first meetings to "free slaves as an action of the body." The New York Yearly Meeting dodged the question for several years but finally, in 1775, declared that "all in profession with us who hold Negroes ought to restore them to their natural right to liberty" (Upton, pp. 56-7).

Willetts, Jacob and Deborah. Quakers associated with the Nine Partners Meeting and distinguished teachers associated with the adjacent Nine Partners School (now Oakwood in Poughkeepsie). The Willetts are repeatedly listed in secondary sources (Upton, Crane, Williams-

Myers, Bordewich) as conductors on the Underground Railroad who received fugitives via David Irish at Quaker Hill, Pawling. It is unclear where fugitives may have been sent when they left Nine Partners; a small black community at Lithgow grew up next door to the Nine Partners community.

Collins or Collis, Joe. A fish peddler in Fishkill who is said to have been a stationmaster on the Underground Railroad. According to MacCracken's *Blithe Dutchess*, Colli(n)s would blow a horn to announce a meeting place and the number of fugitives; fugitives were then taken to Freedom Plains or Oswego (pp. 105-106). (also *Poughkeepsie Journal* 21 Feb. 1993, source identified by Carney Rhinevault in forthcoming history of the Albany Post Road.) We have conducted very little research on Fishkill as yet; a preliminary search of census records from 1840-1860 indicates the presence of several African-American families named Collins, but no Joseph or Joe.

Stoutenburgh, L.I., Luke L., and/or Luke P.; Stoutenbergh House or Bergh Tavern, Hyde Park. The Stoutenburgh family was extensive and prominent. A Luke P. Stoutenburgh of Poughkeepsie was a founding member of the Poughkeepsie Anti-Slavery Society in 1835 (not all the founding members lived in Poughkeepsie, and we have been unable to identify any Luke P. Stoutenburgh in the City). Rev. Luke I. Stoutenburgh of Pleasant Valley (who later moved to Schooley's Mountain, N.J.) was a founding member of the Dutchess County Anti-Slavery Society in 1839. Built in 1820, the Stoutenburgh House in Hyde Park served as an inn during the Revolutionary War and is purported to have been an Underground Railroad station. The building, located on Route 9 in Hyde Park, is extant and is now a sushi restaurant. (*Poughkeepsie Journal*, 17 March 1999; also courtesy Carney Rhinevault of Hyde Park, who is working on a forthcoming history of the Albany Post Road). A Luke L. Stoutenburgh of Hyde Park is not identified with the antislavery cause, in any sources we can find, but he left a will dated 7 Sept. 1844 (Liber G, County records, not yet examined).

PUBLIC STATEMENT OF INTENT TO ENGAGE IN UGRR ACTIVITY:

The *Poughkeepsie Journal*, 3 June 1840, contains an account of the second annual meeting of the Dutchess County Anti-Slavery Society, at which the following resolution was adopted:

“Resolved, That we collectively and severally will do all in our power to assist those of our brethren, coming through this county, who may have thus far escaped the iron grasp of tyranny, by giving them meat, money, and clothes, to enable them to prosecute their journey to a LAND OF LIBERTY.” The 23 named participants in this convention, who publicly declared their intention to engage in UGRR activity, were the following:

1. Armstrong, Ira. Poughkeepsie. Treasurer of DCASS at time of this convention. A major petition organizer and first signatory of many antislavery petitions. He served on the Executive Committee of the Dutchess County Anti-Slavery Society (hereafter DCASS). He was a member of First Congregational Church. He operated a shoe store at 286 Main and had a residence on Hamilton (1845 *PCD*).

2. Armstrong, Marvin R. Poughkeepsie. No further information yet known.

- 3. Austin, Thomas.** Poughkeepsie (Secretary of DCASS at time of this convention). Thomas Austin was one of the most active members of Poughkeepsie's antislavery movement. He was a signatory to the 1835 call for a state antislavery convention, member of the PASS, Executive Committee member of the DCASS, and delegate to antislavery conferences in NYC. Austin was the owner of a boot & shoe store on Main Street, and a member of First Congregational Church. County Central Committee (for NYSASS?)
- 4. Barber, Rev. Mr..** Amenia. No further information yet known.
- 5. Dorland, Edward.** Washington. No further information yet known.
- 6. DuBois, Peter F.** Pleasant Valley. No further information yet known.
- 7. Dusinberry or Dusenburry, John L.** Poughkeepsie. Probably Quaker, he was a founding member of both PASS and DCASS and is listed in New York antislavery convention records from 1836, as secretary of PASS. He married Sarah Balding on 27 July 1815. Sophia, June C., and Rebecca S. Dusinberry were all signatories to women's antislavery petitions from Poughkeepsie. An obituary in the *Poughkeepsie Journal*, 15 March 1843, identifies John as age 44 at his death, and a former resident of New Windsor.
- 8. Fairchild, Henry.** Poughkeepsie. Machinist, South Clover Street (1855-56 city directory); further information not known.
- 9. Hammond, Dr. Thomas.** Dover. In the 1830s Dr. Hammond had lived in Poughkeepsie; he was a founding member of both PASS and DCASS. He served as the host for American Anti-Slavery Society lecturer Samuel Gould in 1838; when Gould was attacked by an angry mob, he and Hammond fled to Hammond's home. Rioters reportedly broke all his windows. We have not yet identified the site of this house, or of Dr. Hammond's later Dover residence.
- 10. Jenney, William.** Poughkeepsie. A founding member of PASS, Executive Committee member of the DCASS, and delegate to the sixth annual meeting of the AASS in NYC in 1839. He was a teacher at the Dutchess Academy (which was first located on the SW corner of Academy and Cannon, adjoining the Presbyterian Church, and later on South Hamilton at the corner of Montgomery) were active abolitionists. Quite a few students at the school also became active in the cause (all Academy students are listed in a long article about the Academy printed in the *Dutchess Courier*, 24 April 1892).
- 11. Lacy, Charles.** Hyde Park. No further information yet known.
- 12. Le Row, George L.** Poughkeepsie. No further information yet known.
- 13. Low, John.** Poughkeepsie. Low was an active leader in the Poughkeepsie antislavery movement as a member of the PASS, Executive Committee member of the DCASS, and delegate to the sixth annual meeting of the AASS in NYC in 1839. Low was a member of First Congregational, transferring his membership from Poughkeepsie's Dutch Reformed Church.

14. Mars, J. N. Poughkeepsie. According to the *Colored American*, 8 June 1839, Mars was serving at that time as pastor of the AME Zion Church on Catharine Street. He and Uriah Boston are listed in *The Colored American*, 30 January 1841 as the two Poughkeepsie sales agents for this African-American newspaper. A James Mars of Connecticut left an important antislavery account; possible connections between this Mars family and the J.N. Mars of Poughkeepsie should be investigated.

15. McGeorge, William. Poughkeepsie. Founding member of PASS, member of DCASS Executive Committee. Principal of the Dutchess County Academy (see William Jenney, above).

16. Roberts, Rev. Philetus. Pleasant Valley. (Elected president of DCASS at this convention).

17. Sayer, Rev. William N. Pine Plains. No further information yet known.

18. Sleight, Solomon. La Grange. Solomon appears to have been the major petition organizer and antislavery leader in LaGrange. A letter from Darwin Canfield in *The Friend of Man* (dated Peasant Valley, 31 July 1838), describes a meeting at which a LaGrange Anti-Slavery Society was formed, on 27 July 1838. Solomon Sleight was elected president and Edward Sleight as secretary, with Augustus R. McCord named vice president. Solomon Sleight was also a member of the DCASS. John W. Sleight (son of Solomon?) was a delegate to the sixth annual meeting of the AASS in NYC in 1839. Solomon's obituary appeared in the *Journal* on 8 March 1843.

19. Starr, Dr. David L. Poughkeepsie. Founding member of PASS, member of DCASS Executive Committee. Delegate to antislavery convention in Albany, 1841. Listed in 1843 city directory as a doctor with a practice at 22 Lafayette, corner of Washington.

20. Thompson, Samuel. Poughkeepsie sashmaker with home on Davies (1845 city directory) was a signatory to an 1835 call for a state antislavery convention. A member of the Executive Committee of the DCASS, Thompson served as a delegate to 1839 meeting of the AASS in NYC. A Dr. Samuel Thompson also died on Oct. 11 1843 (*Journal*) aged 74 years, and there is some confusion about the two men that needs to be clarified; Dr. Thompson appears not to have been the antislavery advocate. The sashmaker Samuel Thompson was a member of First Congregational and appears to have been married to Polly Thompson, also a member of First Congregational, who signed a women's antislavery petition.

21. Tuckerman, Rev. Frederick. Poughkeepsie. No further information yet known.

22. Van Wagner, James. Poughkeepsie. Member of First Congregational Church. No further information yet known.

23. West, William M. Poughkeepsie. Chair manufacturer, North Water St (1855-1856 city directory). Member of First Congregational Church. No further information yet known.

FURTHER RESEARCH NOTE: The New York Public Library holds minutes of the Executive Committee of the Dutchess County Anti-Slavery Society from 1839 to 1840; we have not yet

reviewed these. They cannot be photocopied due to poor condition. More information about the DCASS and possible UGRR activity could be obtained from these records.

3. OTHER LEADING ABOLITIONISTS IN DUTCHESS COUNTY
(A selective, not comprehensive list; research on most has been limited so far.
Underground Railroad activity is possible, but no evidence has emerged to date.)

Blakesley, J. M. An African-American who came to Poughkeepsie from Pittsfield, Mass., sometime in the 1830s, served for a time as the New York State Anti-Slavery Society's agent for Dutchess and Columbia Counties (*Friend of Man*, 22 March 1838). He was a delegate to a state antislavery convention in 1838. He is listed in the 1852 city directory as living on Mechanic Street but further information has been difficult to locate.

Blount, (Rev.?) Nathan. An active Poughkeepsie abolitionist who co-founded Catharine Street AME Zion Church. A founding member of the Poughkeepsie Anti-Slavery Society who later served on the Executive Committee of the DCASS, Blount served as a delegate to national antislavery conferences in New York City in 1837 and 1839. He was also secretary of the "Temperance Society of the people of color" (*Liberator*, 1 April 1834) and local agent for the *Colored American*, a NYC paper. Blount was the first teacher at the first school for African-American children, 1830-1839 (Lancaster?). The city directory lists him on Union Street in 1843; the *Colored American* newspaper describes him as being "of Connecticut" in 1840 (21 June 1840 issue). He left a will in Poughkeepsie that has not yet been examined (Oct. 7 1847; Liber H, county records).

Boston, Uriah and Nolis L. Uriah Boston was a prominent leader of Poughkeepsie's African-American community and one of the original trustees of Catharine Street AME Zion Church. He was a regular contributor to the *Colored American*, a New York City newspaper, in which he appears as an advocate for African-American suffrage. Boston came to Poughkeepsie in 1837 from Lancaster, Penn., and served as an apprentice in the barbershop of Jared Gray before establishing his own practice at various locations on Main, Cannon, and Liberty streets, including a shop adjacent to Theodorus Gregory's Temperance House. Boston advertised "scientific haircutting" (City Directory), in which "hair was cut on 'phrenological principles,' with much animation and ability" (obituary, *Courier*, 16 June 1889). His obituary also noted that "year after year the various questions of the day, and especially that of anti-slavery, were discussed at Boston's 'tonsorial rooms.' His customers included some of the most prominent men of the city," including abolitionists David Lent, Theodorus Gregory, and others. The 1845 city directory lists his hairdressing and variety store at 12 Garden Street; the 1850 directory lists it at 286 Main. *The Colored American*, 21 June 1840, carries an account of a meeting to advocate African-American suffrage at which Uriah Boston served as president. James N. Gloucester, Lewis Burk, W. M. Jennings ("formerly of Philadelphia), and Rev. Nathan Blount ("of Connecticut") were the others mentioned as participating. *Frederick Douglass' Paper* contains letters written by Boston, on various issues relating to African-American rights, or mentions of his activities, on 20 April, 24 August, and 5 October 1855. An apparent split in the suffrage association is documented on 19 Oct. 1855.

Uriah Boston's wife, Nolis L., is listed as active in Emancipation Day activities (*Colored American*, 21 Aug. 1841) and other meetings in the Black community (*Colored American*, 2 Oct. 1841; other women active in this meeting were listed as Miss J. E. Williams and Miss A. M. Williams.) According to census records they had three children; Nolis apparently passed away before 1870, when Boston is listed in the census as apparently living with a second wife, Viola or Violet; she appears to be listed in the index to *1st and 2nd Dutch Reformed Church Records*, Dutchess County Genealogical Society, as Violet (Barclay) Boston. (This needs further investigation). Boston's obituary in the *Courier* gives no family information.

Bowne, James and Olivia Tappen Bowne. James Bowne was a dry goods merchant and the first Republican mayor of Poughkeepsie, from 1861 to 1864 (check dates). As such, he represents the "mainstreaming" of abolitionism in the rise of the Republicans, because two decades earlier Bowne had been a founding member of the Poughkeepsie Anti-Slavery Society and DCASS. Both James and Olivia were members of First Congregational Church. City directories list Bowne & Co.'s dry goods business at, variously, 321 and 318 Main St., and the Bownes' home at 23 Hamilton or "Hamilton corner of Cannon."

Olivia was one of at least four or possibly five Tappen sisters, who were apparently daughters of Elizabeth C. Tappen, widow of a Dr. Tappen whose identity is as yet unclear. All were members of First Congregational There is no known connection to the famous abolitionist Tappan brothers of New York City but this should be investigated. A sister Caroline supposedly died young, on 9 Oct. 1822, according to newspaper records; but a Caroline G. Tappen, along with Elizabeth C. Tappen, Gertrude Tappen, and Maria B. Tappen, were among the first signatories of a Poughkeepsie women's petition calling for the end of the slave trade in Washington, D.C. No men of this name are associated with the movement. Several of the Tappens were members of First Congregational. Olivia's brief obituary appeared in the *Eagle* on 22 Jan. 1859.

Cable Family. John M. Cable, Charles Cable, Charles B. Cable, James Cable, Mrs. A. E. Cable, Eliza Cable (wife of John M.), Clarissa Cable, and Carolina Cable, all of Poughkeepsie, were signatories to antislavery petitions. John and Eliza were members of First Congregational. Charles and James were both founding members of PASS and DCASS; James was a founding member of DCASS. Charles owned a soap & candle factory at 194 Main and had a home on Vassar St. (1845). John M. had a shoe store at 311 Main and lived on Lafayette Place; his brother James apparently worked for him as a shoemaker and lived on Montgomery (1855-1856 directory).

Cole, John A. John Cole was a founding trustee of Catharine Street's AME Zion Church and a member of PASS and the DCASS Executive Committee. A Mrs. J. A. Cole was a signatory on the women's petition. We have not located further information as yet.

DeGarmo Family. Several members of the DeGarmo family were active Quaker abolitionists, apparently associated with the Crum Elbow Meeting in Hyde Park. Lizzie DeGarmo reported to *The Liberator* on an antislavery convention in Poughkeepsie in 1860. Rhoda DeGarmo, apparently of the same family, moved upstate to the vicinity of Rochester in the 1830s and became a prominent associate of Susan B. Anthony. The family may be connected to Dr. James DeGarmo, teacher at Rhinebeck Academy and later of the DeGarmo Institute at Fishkill

Landing. He ran the Oswego Meeting House near Moores Mill for several years circa 1860; James was one of nine children and “Lizzie” may have been a sister.

Deyo, Isaac. The Deyo family, African-Americans, were prominent in the Catharine Street AME Zion Church. Sally Ann Deo, listed on women’s petition, is probably Isaac’s wife Sarah (Green) Deyo; they were married at the Dutch Reformed Church (see *1st and 2nd Reformed Church, Married Records of Dutchess County*, Dutchess County Genealogical Society) and had eleven children. Isaac Deyo was a founding member of the Poughkeepsie Anti-Slavery Society and is listed in the 1845 directory as a laborer living on Jefferson; in 1850 on Mansion Long Row; in the 1860 census as a cartman on Mansion Long Row.

Dudley, James Hervey and Charlotte (Wiltsie) Dudley. Dudley, originally of Stanford, CT, came to Poughkeepsie in 1835 from Ulster; he married Charlotte Wiltsie of LaGrange on 4 January 1842. He was a founding member of both PASS and DCASS. The couple had three children, Guilford, Lavinia, and Jerome. As a carpenter, lumber merchant, and architect, he constructed over one hundred buildings in Poughkeepsie, some of which remain standing, notably First Congregational Church, of which he was a member. In 1853 he became a lumber and coal merchant, and later bought the Poughkeepsie Foundry. Dudley was an active Republican and participated in many of the city’s civic organizations. He was related by marriage to the Wiltsie family. James H. Dudley died 30 June 1896.

Canfield, Darwin. Served on the Executive Committee of the DCASS and was a teacher at the Dutchess Academy, where William Jenney and William McGeorge also taught. He is the probable author of the poem “The North Star,” written by “D.C. of Poughkeepsie, New York, 27 May 1839,” and published in *The Liberator*, 26 July 1839. He has many ties to Pleasant Valley, passing away there quite young in 1842.

Flagler Stephen E. A resident of Pleasant Valley who hosted two antislavery meetings, in fall 1838 and 25 April 1839, at which the Pleasant Valley Anti-Slavery Society was founded and also held its first anniversary meeting. Both men and women attended. No other information about Flagler has been identified.

Gray, Jared. A Poughkeepsie barber, in whose shop Uriah Boston (see above) began his career. member of the PASS and delegate to an antislavery conference in New York City in May of 1836. Gray is listed in *The Colored American*, 18 July 1840, as attending part of Poughkeepsie’s delegation to a New York State Colored Convention; fellow delegates were “M. Francis,” “A. Adkins,” Uriah Boston, and H. Johnson of Fishkill. Jared Gray is listed in *The Colored American*, 31 July 1841, as being active in the movement for Black suffrage rights.

Gregory, Theodorus. Theodorus Gregory came to Poughkeepsie from Rensselaer County in 1831; he was related to Gregorys in other parts of the state who were active abolitionists, and these connections merit further research (see Uriah Gregory Papers, New York State Library, which have not yet been researched, but contain a letter from Theodorus and reports of religious revivals and temperance meetings in Dutchess County). Gregory owned Poughkeepsie’s temperance hotel, Gregory House, located at 343 Main, at the corner of Catharine St (PCD and multiple censuses). In addition to being one of the city’s most prominent temperance activists,

Gregory was a founding member of both PASS and DCASS, and a trustee of First Congregational. Note his possible associations, above, with fugitive John Bolding and possible fugitive John Marshall. A brief obituary ran in the *Eagle* on 19 May 1883.

Haight, Thomas. PASS, DCASS. Listed in 1843 as a shoemaker at 142 Main Street. Possibly connected to the Haight family out at Nine Partners; no more is known as yet.

Hughson Family. The Hughsons were major antislavery advocates in Fishkill. Dr. Benjamin Hughson, William Hughson, William I. Hughson, and John Hughson were all signatories on antislavery petitions.

Jaycocks Family (also spelled Jacocks or Jaycox). Joseph H. and Cornelius W. Jaycocks were leaders of British Emancipation Day celebrations and almost certainly members of Catharine Street AME Zion Church. A D. B. Jaycockes is a signatory to publication of Tyler sermon in 1861, and a woman of the Jaycocks family was a signatory to a women's petition.

Laird, Robert. Robert Laird of Pleasant Valley was a founding member of PASS, a delegate to antislavery conferences in NYC in 1836 and 1838 (AASS).

Lee, Peter and Charlotte. Peter Lee was one of the original trustees of Catharine Street AME Zion Church and a founding member of PASS. According to Dutch Reformed Church records he may have been baptized there on 9 July 1818; his parents were Charles and Margaret Lee and his siblings were Lydia, Eliza, and Stephen Lee. Although listed in the 1840 census as an illiterate laborer, he was listed in 1850 as a Methodist clergyman living on White Street. His widow Charlotte was named as living there in the 1859-1860 city directory. According to census records Peter and Charlotte had three children, James, Harriet, and Eliza.

Lent, David B. David Lent was the first known correspondent to state antislavery organizations, from Dutchess County. A founding member of PASS, DCASS, and a Vice-President for Dutchess County of the NYSASS, he was a signatory to an 1835 call for a state antislavery convention and apparently a member of the Dutch Reformed Church. It appears that his wife was named Aletta and their children were George, Catherine, David, Mary, William, and Aletta. Listed in the Poughkeepsie city directories at 83 Smith, as a wealthy farmer. "David Lent" properties appear prominently in a map from the 1870s, on the eastern side of the city. According to Hasbrouck's *History of Dutchess County* Lent was born 1 May 1788, died 20 June 1869, and was a harnessmaker and merchant; fellow local abolitionist Stephen H. Bogardus began his career as an apprentice to Lent.

Odell, John. E. A signatory to the 1835 call for a state antislavery convention. Miss C. Odell and Miss Elizabeth Odell (or O'Dell?) were signatories to a women's petition. 1845 city directory: tailor at 313 Main, Poughkeepsie.

Powell, Aaron and Townsend. The Powells were active Quakers/abolitionists in the Clinton Corners area. Aaron Powell became editor of the *National Anti-Slavery Standard* in 1866.

Requa, Abraham. An active member of the PASS and DCASS, Abraham Requa was a delegate to sixth annual meeting of the AASS in NYC in 1839. A member of First Congregational Church. Henry Requa and Isaac Requa were also active in signing petitions; “Brother Requa,” presumably Abraham, is named as helping to organize the LaGrange Anti-Slavery Society.

Rogers, Edwin/Edward C., Rev. A Universalist minister of Poughkeepsie, Rogers signed a “protest” of 303 Universalist members against slavery, published in *The Liberator*, 24 April 1846. Home on Clinton Street (1845 directory). Not listed in mid-1850s directories.

Thompson, Charles and Rachel . African-American couple with no children known; Charles, born circa 1825 in New York, is listed as a laborer on Water St. and later Mansion Long Row. Charles was a founding member of both PASS and DCASS, and also a delegate to an antislavery conference in NYC in 1836.

Tice, Isaac. Possibly a member of Catharine Street AME Zion. Miss Maria Tice is a signatory on a women’s petition. 1845 city directory: plough castings, 354 Main, home 352 Main.

Tracy, Andrew. Machinist Andrew Tracy of Church Street was a signatory to many antislavery petitions and a member of First Congregational. Possibly relation to a Margaret Tracy on a women’s petition; Andrew’s wife, also of First Congregational, seems to have been Martha. 1845 directory: machinist, “Red Mill,” (is this Red Oaks Mill?), home on 53 Garden.

Tyler, Moses Coit, Rev. Minister of First Congregational from 1860 to 1862, Tyler preached an antislavery sermon on the eve of Lincoln’s inauguration, arguing that a civil war would ensue and will be horrific, but that the continuation of slavery would be even worse. The sermon was published and circulated by 44 abolitionists of Poughkeepsie, and is extant (online at the Samuel May Antislavery Collection, Cornell University).

Underwood, Rev. Almon, First minister of First Congregational Church, from his ordination on 6 December 1837 until May 1844. Born 15 May 1809 in Massachusetts, Underwood was a graduate of Amherst College and Union College. He was a leader in Poughkeepsie’s antislavery movement, as a member of the PASS, DCASS, and delegate to the sixth annual meeting of the AASS in NYC in 1839.

Waldo, Levi Fay, Rev. Rev. Waldo, education at Oberlin College, Union College, and Union Seminary, was installed as pastor of First Congregational on 9 July 1844. Although he only served as the minister until 24 March 1854, he was very active in antislavery meetings while there and was also a very active temperance advocate. 1845 directory: home at 312 Mill. A copy of Waldo's published 1850 sermon "The Half-Century," with antislavery references, is in the Local History collection at Adriance Memorial Library.

Wilkinson Family. Poughkeepsie residents; Gilbert, George, Robert, John, and William Wilkinson were all signatories to antislavery petitions. George, Robert, and William were members of First Congregational. Phoebe and “Miss E.” Wilkinson were lead organizers of a women’s petition in Jan. 1838 and Miss Ruth Wilkinson was also a signatory. According to city directories George was in freighting, with a residence on Washington; Gilbert was at 66 Garden;

John was a tailor at 119 Main; William and Robert were attorneys at 10 Garden, with William (apparently married to Catherine) having a home at 317 Mill, Robert at 288 Mill (married to Phoebe?).

Wiltsie Family. Captain Jeromus Wiltsie ran a freighting business, operating the barge *Republic* out of Clinton Upper Landing. Descriptions of this passenger barge, and descriptions of its accidental burning at the Poughkeepsie wharf in 1864, are extant. Wiltsie was a founding member of PASS. Both he and Abram Wiltsie were signatories to the 1835 call for a state antislavery convention, active signatories on other petitions, and signatories of the publication of the Tyler sermon in 1861. Both members of FCC and apparently brothers to Charlotte Wiltsie who married James Dudley. Capt. Wiltsie's obituary named him a "most estimable Christian gentleman" (*Courier*, 9 January 1876). The Wiltsie family was extensive; some members lived in Pleasant Valley or LaGrange, and Jeromus lived at one time in Fishkill. Jeromus listed in the 1850 census as having a home at 70 Garden; in 1860 at 257 Mill.

FURTHER RESEARCH NOTES:

Professor Edythe Ann Quinn, Chair of the History Department at Hartwick College in Oneonta, has forwarded the following account from the records of the New York Manumission Society, New-York Historical Society (no further research into this incident has yet been undertaken, but certainly should be!):

February 24, 1792, Standing Committee Minutes, concerning Willet Seaman, a prominent member of NYMS, (both Willet and Seaman are Quaker surnames associated with Purchase Meeting and other Friends Meetings): "Willet Seaman represented the case of Jenny, an Indian Woman, whose son is claimed as a slave of **John Brenson, Jr. of Dutchess County**. Resolved after hearing the circumstances relating to the above case that the above-mentioned Boy is free and that the Society defend him against any attempts that may be made to deprive him of said Liberty, and that Willet Seaman be requested to inform the said John Brenson of this Resolution and to support the Mother in bringing forward a suit to recover the wages due to the said Boy, provided a suit is commenced by said Brenson."

SOURCES

Primary

The Colored American

Dutchess Courier

Frederick Douglass' Paper

The Friend of Man

The Liberator

Poughkeepsie Eagle

Poughkeepsie Journal

Poughkeepsie Telegraph

Poughkeepsie City Directories, 1843-1860 (ed. Polk, Luyster, Underhill, Lent at various years)

Dutchess County Genealogical Society/LDS Library, Poughkeepsie (including membership records of Friends Monthly Meetings in Dutchess and Ulster Counties)
Dutchess County Historical Society, Clinton House, Poughkeepsie, various records and indices.
Local History Room, Adriance Library, Poughkeepsie, newspaper indices, church records, and other records.
New York State Census, Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York, 1845, 1865.
Records of First Congregational Church, 269 Mill Street, Poughkeepsie.
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