

# OUR SHARED ADIRONDACK LEGACY

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African American Radical Resistance to  
Secure the Right to Vote

# Fugitive Slave Acts, in U.S. history, statutes passed by Congress in 1793 and 1850

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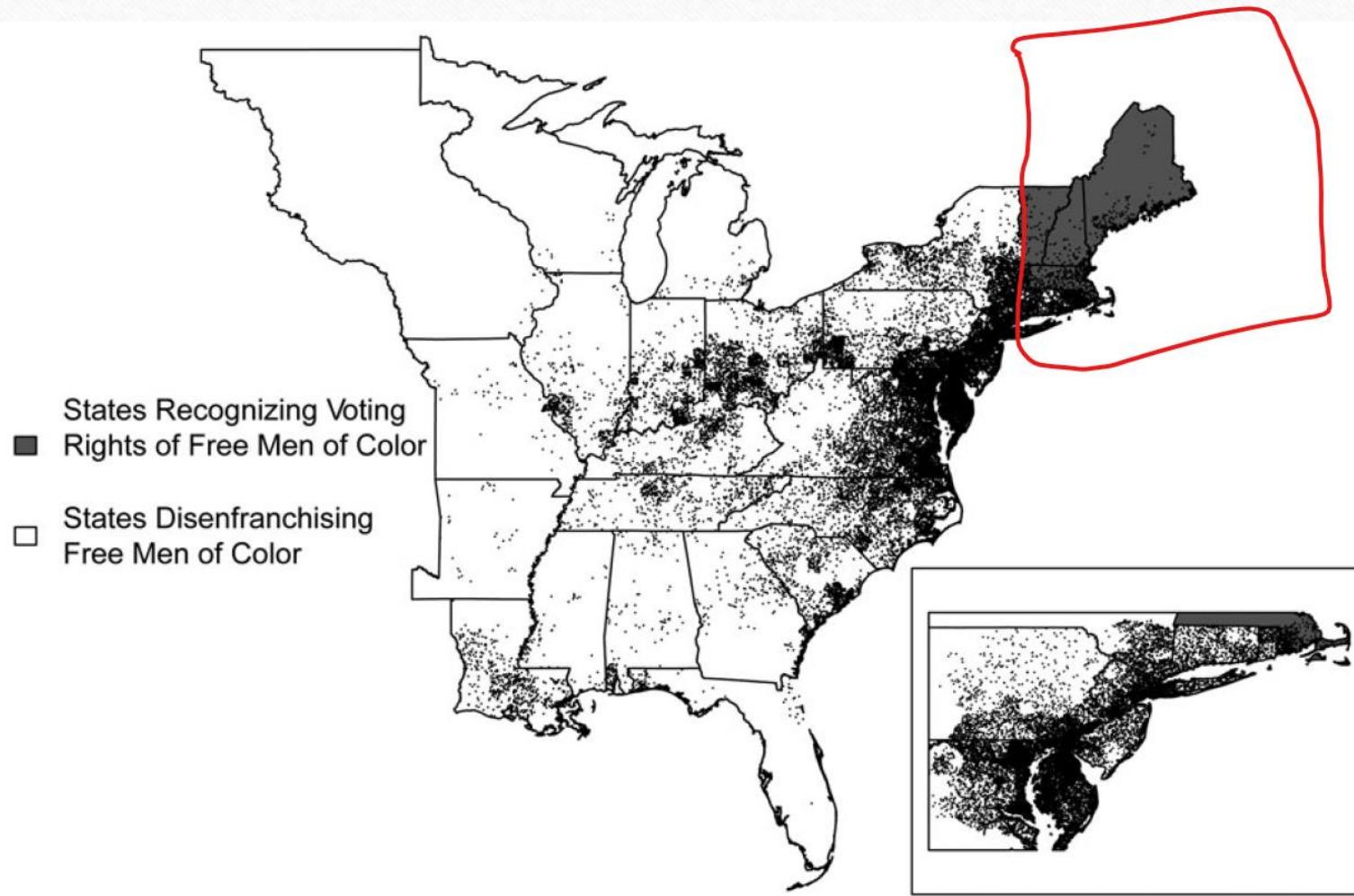
## Abolitionist Broadsides



## Slave Newspaper Ads



# Geographic Distribution of Free Persons of Color, 1840

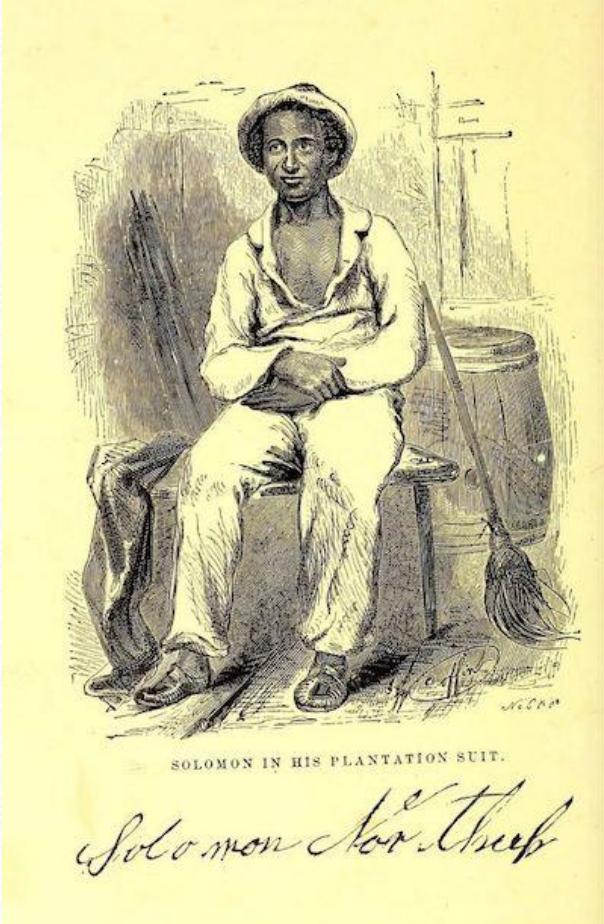


Note: Each dot is the approximate location of twenty free persons of color.

- David A. Bateman 2018

# SOLOMON NORTHUP

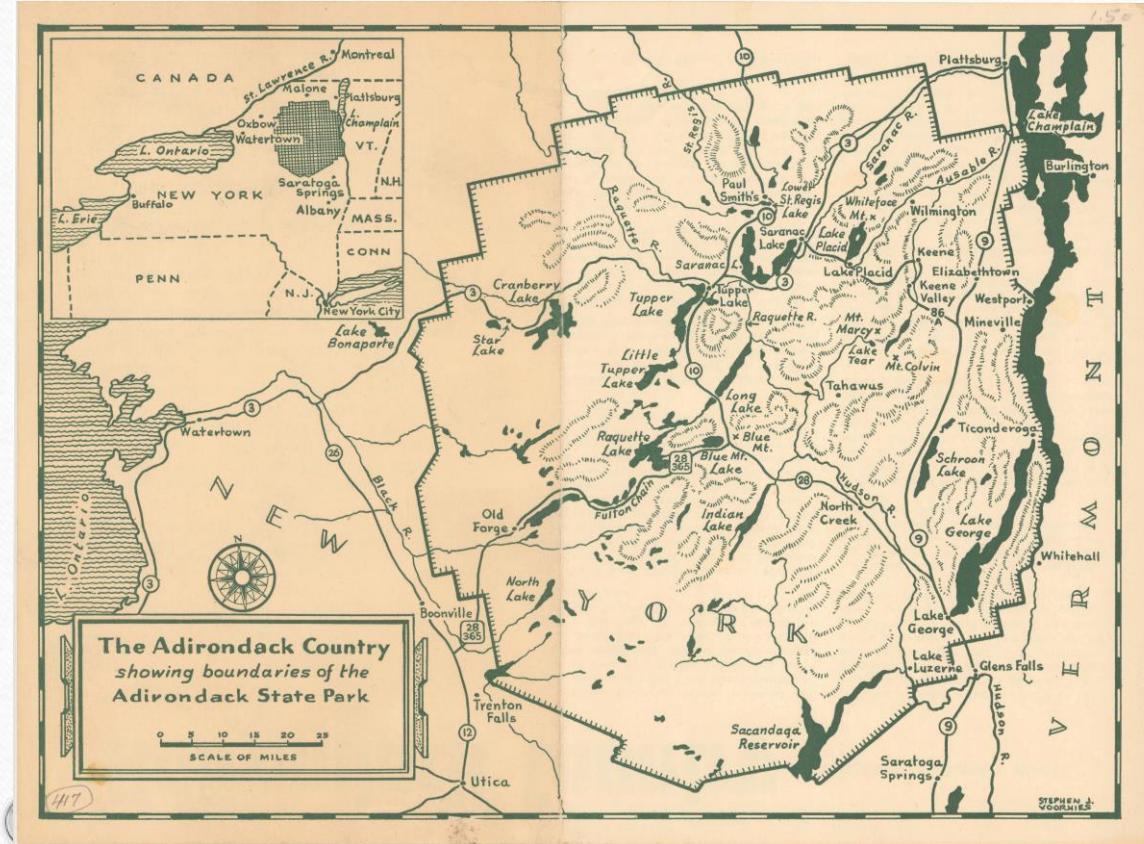
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- Born in the Adirondacks in Minerva, New York



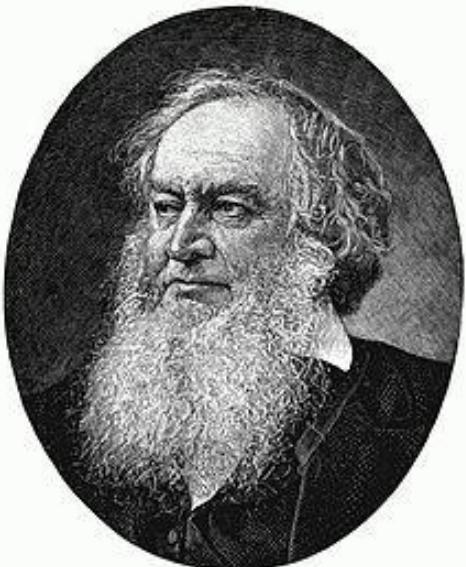
# Strategic Place & Location



- Available Land
- Vote Land Requirement
- Strategic Northern Route for Underground Railroad

# 1846 New York State Constitutional Convention

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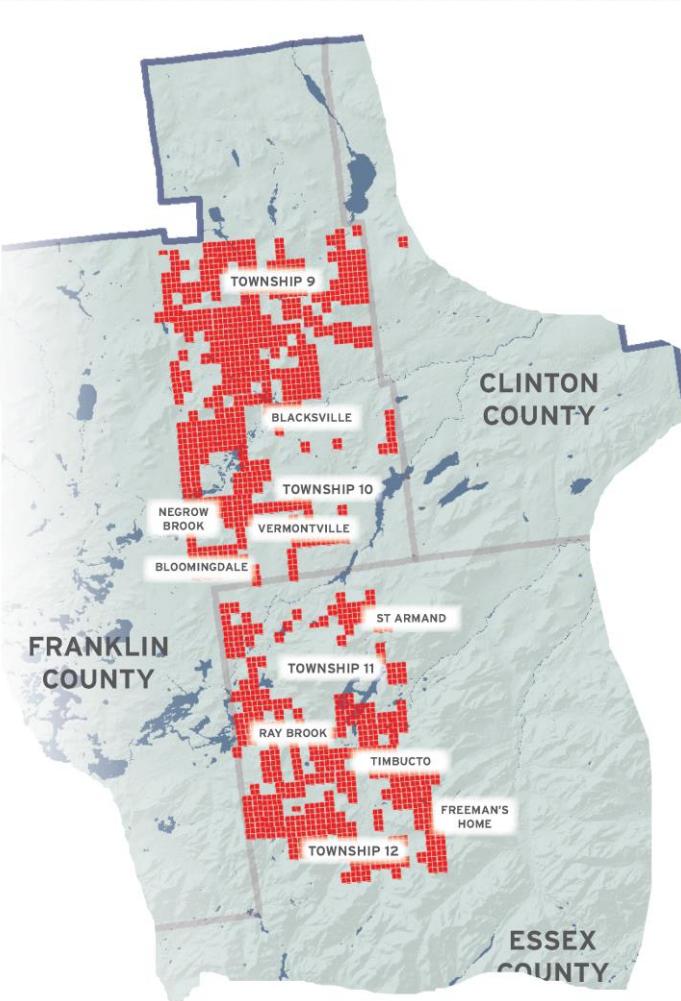


Gerrit Smith

- The 1840s, however, inaugurated a new phase in the fight over voting rights. Rhode Island re-enfranchised black men in 1843
- Liberty Party (later merged into the “Free Soil Party,” then the Republican Party.”
- The party was an early advocate of the abolitionist cause.
- 1846 Pushed for **Article II universal suffrage equal to that of Rhode Island**

# TWELVE\* BLACK SUFFRAGE SETTLEMENTS

- *Blacksburg,*
- *Bloomingdale,*
- *Freeman's Home,*
- *Negrow Brook/Negro Hill,*
- **Ray Brook,**
- *St. Armand,*



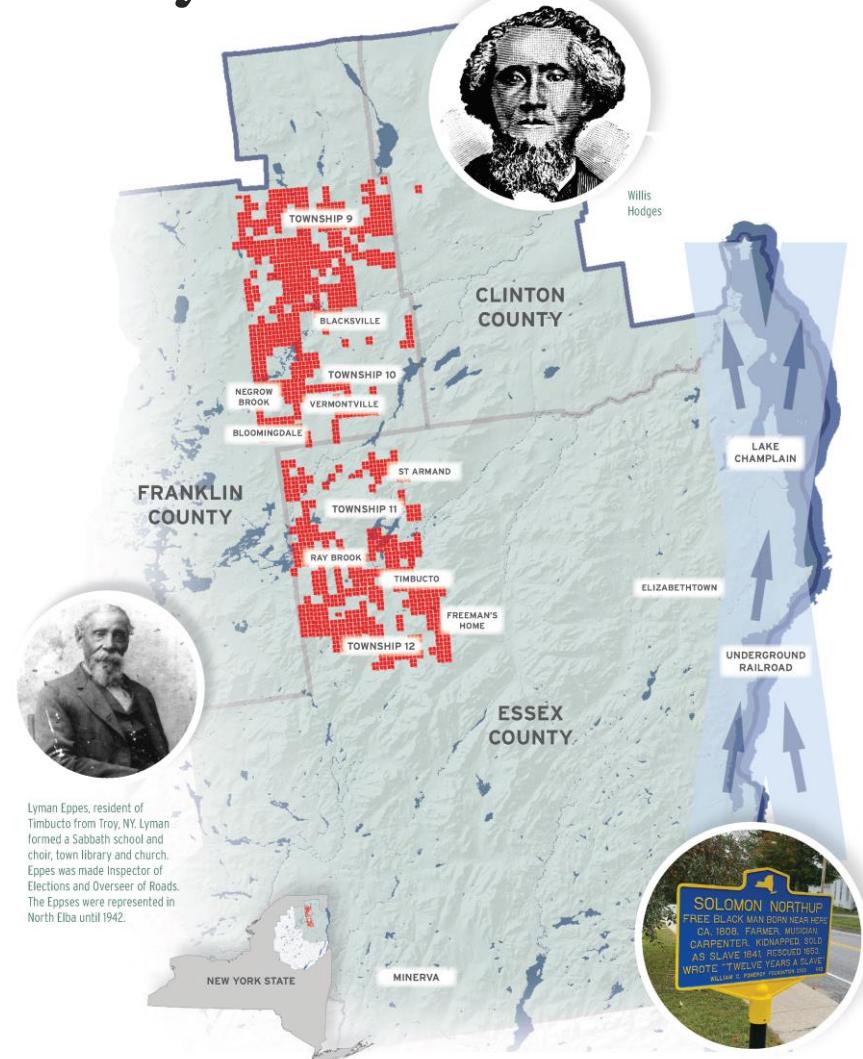
- **Timbuctoo,**
- *Township 9,*
- *Township 10,*
- *Township 11,*
- *Township 12,*
- *Vermontville,*

## Estimated proportion of votes cast for black suffrage by party voters (percent)

	For Black Suffrage	Against Black Suffrage	Did Not Vote
New York (1846) and Connecticut (1847)			
Democratic Voters	8	51	41
Whig Voters	19	45	36
Liberty Party Voters	63	3	34
Wisconsin (1847, 1849) and Michigan (1850)			
Democratic Voters	11	3%	50
Whig Voters	17	48	35
Free Soil Voters	59	2	39
New York (1846), Connecticut (1847), Wisconsin (1847, 1849), and Michigan (1850)			
Democratic Voters	9	50	42
Whig Voters	19	45	36
Liberty/Free Soil Voters	61	3	36
Iowa (1857)			
Democratic Voters	1	68	31
Republican Party Voters	17	40	43
Wisconsin (1857)			
Democratic Voters	11	80	9
Republican Party Voters	63	29	8
New York (1860)			
Democratic Voters	2	58	40
Republican Party Voters	40	12	48

# Why the Adirondacks?

- *High Peaks Buffer (strategic location)*
- Major Corridor by land and water for Underground Railroad

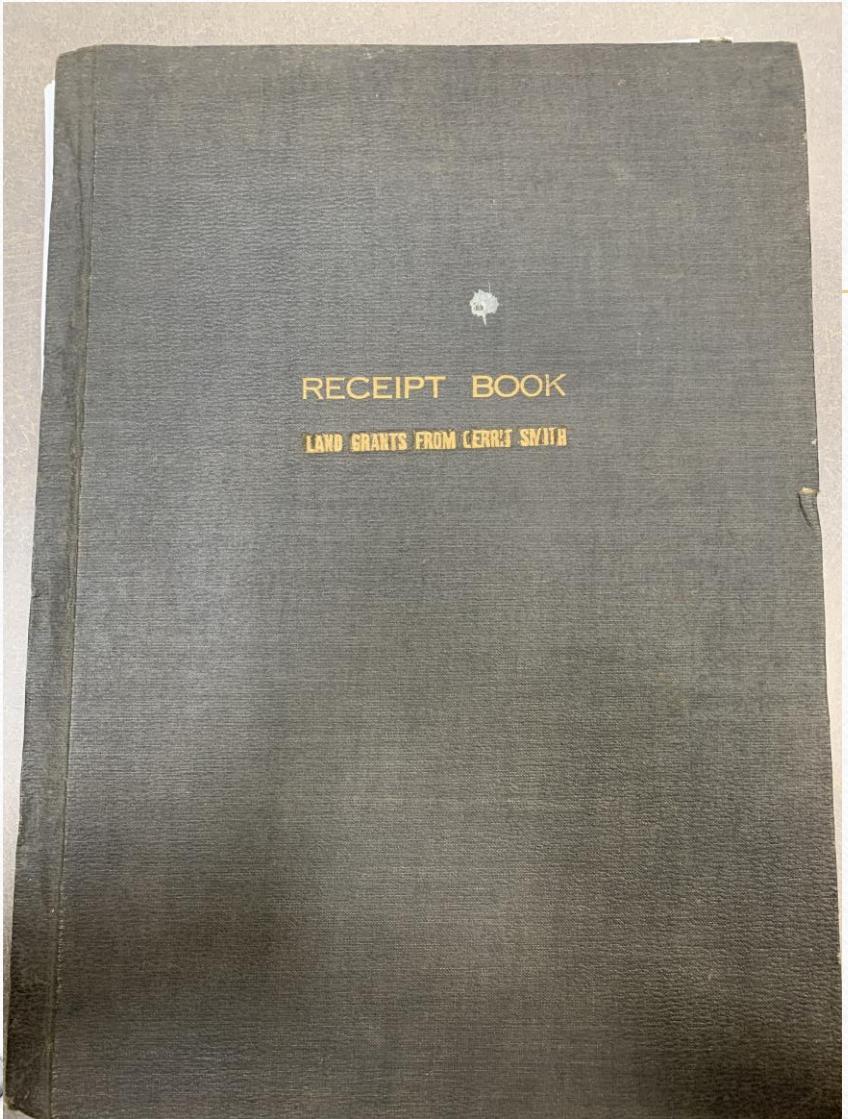


## Results in antebellum suffrage referenda (percent)

State	For Black Suffrage	Against Black Suffrage	Turnout
Rhode Island (1843)*	69.6	30.4	33
New York (1846)	25.1	74.9	41
Connecticut (1847)	21.5	78.5	35
Wisconsin (1846)	33.1	66.9	68
Wisconsin (1849)*	56.4	43.6	31
Michigan (1850)	28.6	71.4	75
Wisconsin (1857)	40.6	59.4	78
Iowa (1857)	14.7	85.3	72
New York (1860)	40.6	59.4	51

\* Low turnout invalidated the results in Wisconsin in 1849; the state supreme court would later decide that the measure had passed. Opponents of the Whig Constitution in Rhode Island boycotted the votes on ratification and black suffrage, although at least 1,500 voters who supported the first voted against the second.

# 3,000 Deeds



We the undersigned residing in the County of Orange State of New York do  
hereby acknowledge the receipt by the hands of Theo. S. Wright, Charles B. Ray and  
boro for the piece of land granted to each of us by Gerrit Smith Esquire of Peter-  
our names; said described land being in the same line in which we have written  
the STATE OF NEW YORK & CITY OF NEW YORK.

County	Township	Tract	Lot	Quarter of lot	Acres	Y. Remarks
Franklin	9	Old Military	220	NE	40	Sylvester Lewis Jeshen
"	"	"	"	NW	"	his Joshua X Swartout, Schen- mark
"	"	"	"	SW	"	-----
"	"	"	"	SE	"	Newburgh
"	"	"	231	SW	"	James Livingston, Newburgh
"	"	"	"	NW	"	William H. Thornbeck, Newburgh
"	"	"	232	SW	"	James M. Stewart Newburgh
"	"	"	"	NE	"	William H. Decker Newburgh
"	"	"	"	SE	"	Millard his
"	"	"	233	NW	"	Robert X Brown mark Cantterbury his
"	"	"	"	SE	"	Charles X Buell mark Newburgh
"	"	"	"	SW	"	Thomas Awfloru, Lottie Britter
"	"	"	"	NE	"	Henry Sealey per John VanKeesen Cornwall his
"	"	"	234	SE	"	Joseph X Johnan mark Newburgh
"	"	"	"	NE	"	Henry Frankison St. Andrews
"	"	"	"	NE	"	Era G. Williams St. Andrews
"	"	"	"	SW	"	Andrew Brown per Carl Baure his
"	"	"	235	SE	50	John X Westbrook mark Newburgh E
"	"	"	"	NE	"	Theodore Ray NW
"	"	"	236	SW	40	David Mullen Newburgh
"	"	"	"	NE	"	Charles Payne, Newburgh
"	"	"	"	NW	"	his John X Burt, Newburgh

Gerritt Smith enlists Willis Augustus Hedges (February 12, 1815 – September 24, 1890) was an African-American abolitionist, journalist, and statesman who became prominent in Brooklyn, New York.

Hedges radical press “The Ram” attracted attention and friendship of John Brown!



## Gerrit Smith, an abolitionist

Gerrit Smith's Timbuctoo at North Elba valued independence, self-sufficiency, and community, where residents were expected to live off the land. Many Brooklyn residents, who participated in the democratic experiment **including Willis Hodges were born in Virginia**. But life in Timbuctoo was difficult. They were unprepared as farmers, lacked basic supplies, and faced a dearth of fertile soil. By the mid-1850s, Timbuctoo was no longer operational.



Free Black Farmers at North Elba, New York. Photographer Unknown. Courtesy of the Adirondack Museum.

51

*Kings*

Old Milling & Lumber Co

Samuel Holmes	Brooklyn	Lot 108	N.W. 1/4	52
Sermon Puddin			N.E.	-
Joseph P. Webb			S.W.	-
John Weston			S.E.	-
Henry Heron		109	N.W.	52
Sam'l Schenck			N.E.	-
Samuel Weston			S.W.	-
George Murray			S.E.	-
Wm G. Thompson		110	N.W.	48
Edward Gray	New York City		N.E.	-
James Holly	Brooklyn		S.W.	-
David Thompson			S.E.	-
Stephen Allen	Williamsburgh	116	N.W.	-
Eliza Clark	Brooklyn		N.E.	-
William Hartley	Williamsburgh		S.W.	-
Edward S. Brown			S.E.	-
Lewis H. Nelson	Brooklyn	118	N.W.	-
James F. Morris			N.E.	-
John Gile	Williamsburgh		S.W.	-
David Lawrence			S.E.	-
John H. Gile	Williamsburgh	119	N.W.	-
John M. Nelson			N.E.	-
Willis Hodges			S.W.	-
Wesley Brown			S.E.	-
John H. Brown			N.W.	-
John H. Brown			N.E.	-
Abel Gordon			S.W.	-
Safford, Boston			S.E.	-
Robert Holmes	Dobeklyn	Lot 214	N.E. 1/4	30
John Lee			S.E.	-
Sam'l Hale			S.E.	-
James G. Hartley		225	N.W.	30
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# JOHN BROWN JOINS THE MOVEMENT

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“Do not let anyone forget the vast importance of sustaining the very best character for honesty, truth, industry, and faithfulness. I hope everyone will be determined not to merely conduct as well as the whites, but to set them an example in all things.”



John  
Brown

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John Brown to Willis Hodges (January 1849) -  
Founder of Blacksville from Brooklyn, NY

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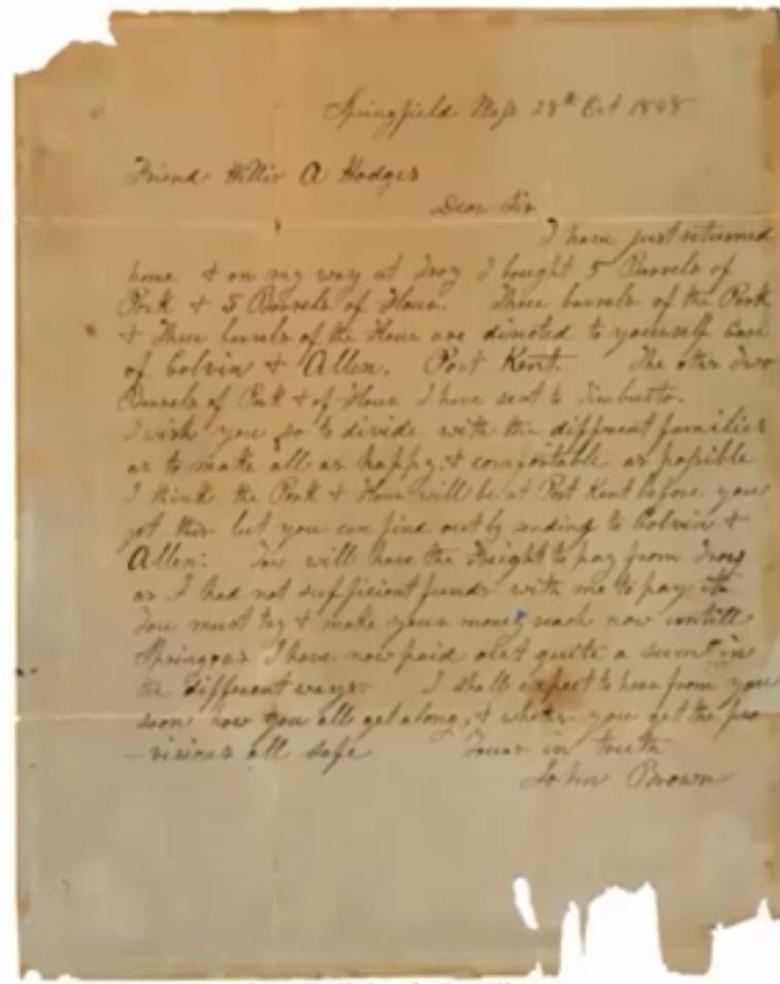
# John Brown & Willis A. Hodges Letters

## 1848 - 1849

"I have just returned home & on my way at Troy I bought 5 Barrels of Pork & 5 Barrels of Flour. Three Barrels of the Pork & three barrels of the flour are directed to yourself care of Colvin & Allen, Port Kent. The other two Barrels of Pork & of Flour I have sent to Timbucto

small settlement of free blacks and former slaves founded in 1845] I wish you so to divide with the different families as to make all as happy & comfortable as possible... You will have the freight to pay from Troy as I had not sufficient funds with me to pay it. You must try & make your money reach now until Spring as I have now paid out quite a sum in the different ways. I shall expect to hear from you soon how you all get along, & whether you get the provisions all safe. Yours in truth John Brown"

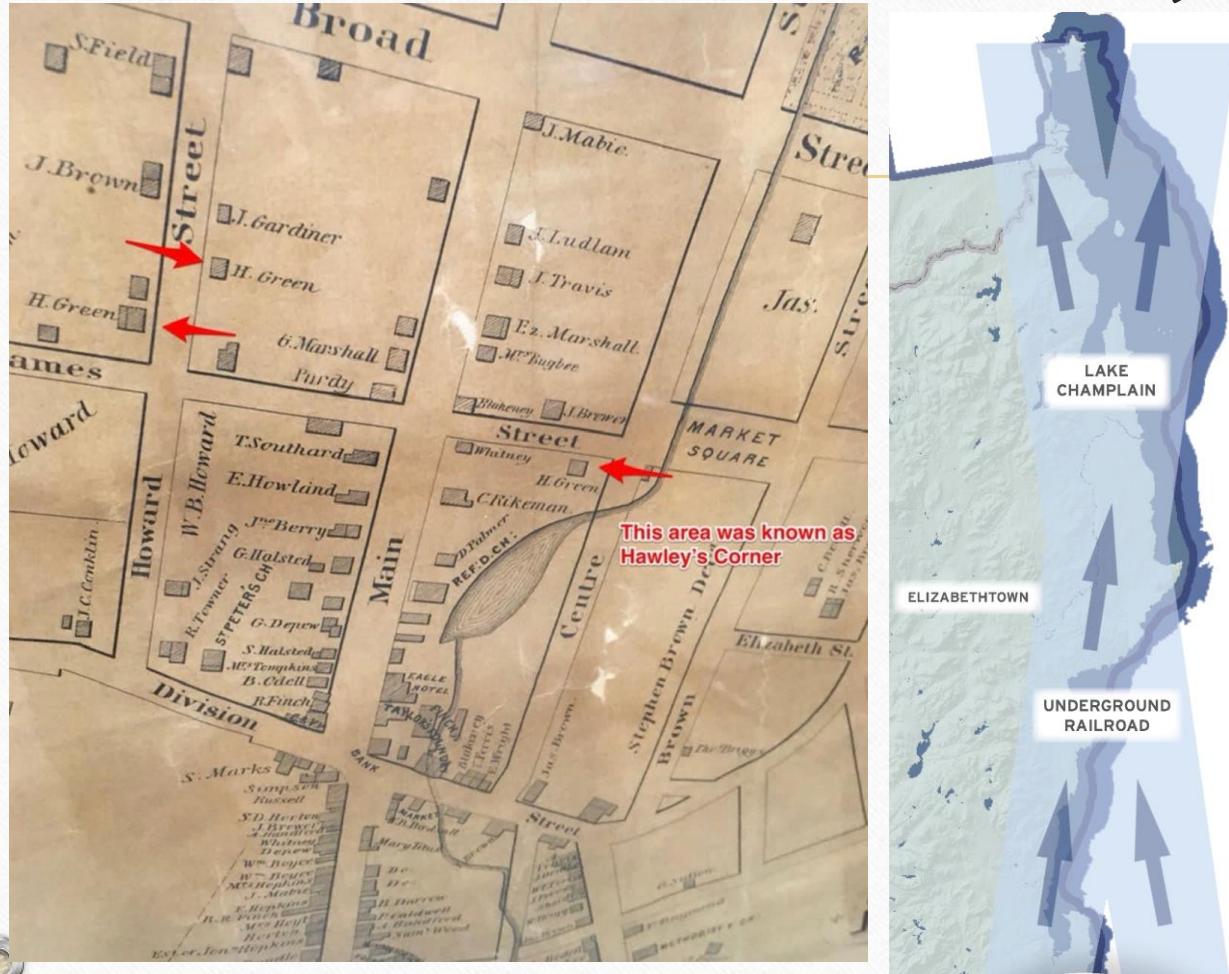
**Addressed to:** Mr. Willis A Hodges (near Loon Lake / Merrillsville Post Office / Franklin Co / N Y.)



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

## Via Peekskill, New York



# Hawley & Harriet Green

No story relating to Civil War Peekskill would seem complete without some reference to Hawley Green, a barber here for many years. He was "one of the first barbers in Peekskill and one of the two colored men to vote when he had to be worth \$250 before he could exercise the franchise," Stephen D. Horton recalled in his memoirs. Others have written that he was of strict religious beliefs and was highly respected. Stories passed on by successive generations say that prior to the war he was active in the "Underground Railroad," an unofficial but efficient organization that helped escaped slaves from the South reach the Canadian border. It has also been reported that he fathered a large family and that one of his wives was an Indian squaw. The author has been told that to this day, Negroes, presumably great grandchildren, come to Peekskill making inquiries about Hawley Green. But the current day Green's in Peekskill apparently are not related to Peekskill's early and long-time barber.

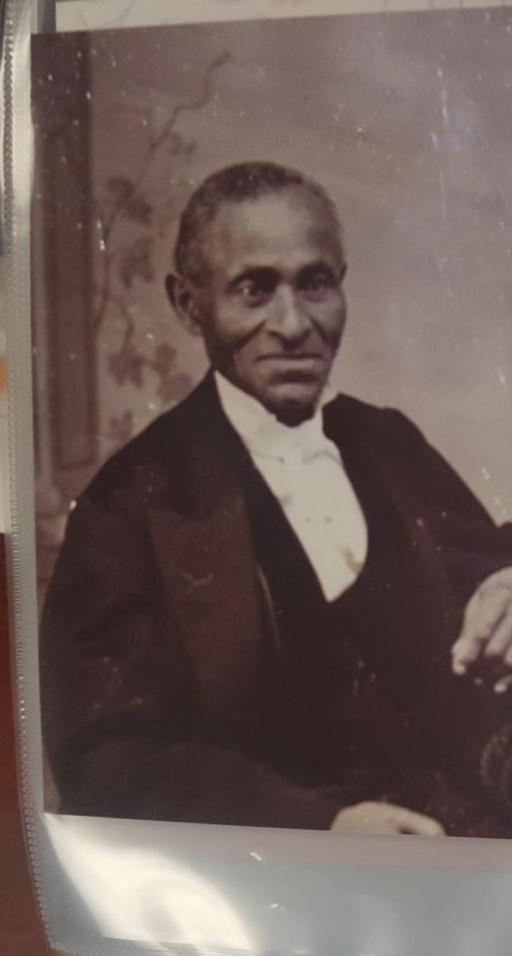


PHOTO 1 & 2) Hawley and Harriet Green were from Peekskill, NY (1800's). They were the parents of Mary L. (Butler), A. Eliza (Williams), William (Gip) Jacob H., Samantha (Deys), Lydia V. (Washington), John, Robert A., and Richard H. Based on local history, the Greens were active members in the community, very respectable citizens, very religious and active in the "Underground Railroad." Mr. Green was amongst the first barbers in Peekskill and owned various properties there; one being located at 1112 Main St.

