The Matthews Collection for the Preservation of African American Freedom Journey Classics

Harry Bradshaw Matthews
Associate Dean, Hartwick College
Preceptor, Harriet Tubman Mentoring Project, HC
President, United States Colored Troops Institute, HC
Dedicated to the Remembrance of African American Forebears

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U.S. Pluralism Center, 103 Bresee Hall
Hartwick College
Oneonta, New York 13820

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The Matthews Collection
Supporting the USCT Institute

The Matthews Collection is a privately owned collection consisting of more than 2,500 items, primarily first edition books about African Americans, with some lithographs, newspaper illustrations, and coins. Also included are the writings of Harry Bradshaw Matthews that pertain to the Freedom Journey.

The Matthews Collection is used for:

**Gallery Talks** – presentations regarding the Civil War, family research, Freedom Journey, Cato Freedom Project, and related topics.

**Field Trips** – off-campus visits to preservation sites by interns conducting historical research.

**Exhibitions** - items provided for lectures, presentations, and workshops at Hartwick College and other sites.

**Internet Access** – links with the USCT Institute web site at Hartwick College and as a part of the offerings of the Cato Freedom Project and the Harriet Tubman Mentoring Project.
USCT Institute and the Harriet Tubman Mentoring Project

The USCT Institute was established as a membership organization based at Hartwick College during October 1998 for the research, preservation, and remembrance of the 200,000 black soldiers and their 7,000 white officers who comprised the USCT. The Harriet Tubman Mentoring Project was established at Hartwick College during September 2007 as the official student branch of the USCTI. Together, the two entities explore the topics of:

**Freedom Journey** – Researching, preserving, and commemorating Black Revolutionary War Patriots, Anti-Slavery Sentiments, Abolitionist Actions, Underground Railroad, USCT, and the Civil War.

**Local History and Family Research** – Studying primary documents, census indices, and genealogical pursuits.

**Post-Reconstruction Through World War II** – Following the Freedom Journey through Reconstruction and into military history during the Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II.

**African American History** – Researching, collecting, and studying the history of Africans in America, inclusive of the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean countries.
For the Gettysburgh STAR AND BANNER

FRANCKEAN LUTHERAN SYNOD

Rev. John Lawyer, a Lutheran clergyman communicated these proceeding from Utica. These are important, as being the first Anti-Slavery resolutions passed by the New York Lutheran body. Mr. Middleton asked his Lutheran subscribers to read the statements and trusted Gettysburg readers would support this bold stand. The publisher concluded, "It is the DUTY of all such bodies of every Evangelical denomination, to bear their decided testimony against the Sin of Slavery."

At a late Session of this Synod, held at Fairburn, Montgomery County, New York on the 25th of May 1837, the following resolutions were passed on the subject of American Slavery, viz:

Resolved —
That Slavery as it exists in the United States, the holding in bondage and buying and selling of human beings, is a sin in the sight of God, opposed to the spirit of the Gospel, and a violation of the inalienable rights of man.

Resolved ---
That we do not deem it inexpedient for Ecclesiastical bodies to interfere with the Abolition of Slavery, but it is the duty of all such bodies of every evangelical denomination, to bear their decided testimony against the sin of Slavery.

Resolved ----
That we have abundant cause for deep humiliation before God, that, as a denomination, we are so deeply involved in the sin of Slavery, and that so many of our Ministers practice the crime, and so many others justify them in their iniquity.

Resolved ---
That we view the traffic in human beings as carried on in this country between Ministers of the Gospel and Members of the Churches, as revolting to humanity and as repugnant to the laws of Christ, as ever was Foreign Slave Trade.

Robert White Middleton
Star & Republican Banner,
Gettysburg, June 30, 1837
Freedom Journey

- Black Revolutionary War Patriots
- Anti-Slavery Sentiments
- Abolitionist Actions
- Underground Railroad
- Enlistment of the United States Colored Troops
- Self Help Proclamations and Actions
Resistance and Liberation of Enslaved Americans Through the Civil War

- Enlistment of black men into the British forces and the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War
- Slave Revolts
- Establishment of Independent Churches
- Establishment of Secret Societies
- Establishment of Newspapers
- Classically Trained Men of African Descent
- Declaration of an Identity as Colored Americans
- Writings to Define the History of Africans in America
- Underground Railroad
- Establishment of a College for people of African Descent
- Enlistment of United States Colored Troops
“Do You Know My Name?”
Some Autobiographical and Biographical Images
“Do You Know My Name?”
Some Autobiographies and Biographies

From the Virginia Plantation to the National Capital, John Mercer Langston, 1894.
Life of Jacob Hodges, A.D. Eddy, 1842.
Life and Public Services of Martin R. Delany, Frank A. Rollin, 1883.
Life of Toussaint L’Ouverture, John R. Beard, 1853.
Narrative of the Life and Travels of Mrs. Nancy Prince, 1856.
Truth Stranger Than Fiction: Father Henson’s Story, Josiah Henson, 1858.
Twenty-Two Years a Slave and Forty Years a Freeman, Austin Steward, 1861.
Twelve Years a Slave, Solomon Northup, 1853.
“Do You Know My Name?”
Some Autobiographies and Biographies

- American Statesman: Thaddeus Stevens, Samuel W. McCall, 1899.
- Life of William H. Seward with Selections from His Works
- George E. Baker, 1855.
- Public Life of Capt. John Brown, with an Auto-Biography of the Childhood and Youth, James Redpath, 1860.
- A Woman's Life-Work: Labors and Experiences, Laura S Haviland, 1881.

- Benjamin Banneker
- Pierre Boyer
- Alexander Crummell*
- William Douglass
- Madison Washington
- Leonard A Grimes
- Henry Highland Garnet
- Jeremiah B. Sanderson
- James M'Cune Smith
- James WC Pennington
- Martin Elymas
- William H. Simpson
- John S. Rock
- Frances Ellen Watkins
- Ira Aldridge*
- Henry Bibb
- Dessential
- Placido
- Robert Norris
- Joseph Jenkins
- William C. Nell
- James Lawson
- Robert Small
- Capt. Joseph Howard
- Payson Rogers
- Ex-Pres.Roberts
- George B. Vashon
- Phyllis Wheatley
- Crispus Attucks
- Capt. Calliope
- Henri Christophe
- Charlotte L. Forten
- Alexander Dumas
- Pres. Geffrard
- Toussaint L'Ouverture
- Daniel A. Payne
- William J. Wilson
- Andre Rigaud
- Charles L. Reason
- Robert Purvis
- Denmark Vesey
- William Still*
- Edwin M. Bannister
- Jean Joseph Cater
- Frederick Douglass
- Martin R. Delany*
- John Mercer Langston*
- Sir. Edward Jordan
- J. Theodore Holly
- John Sella
- Nat Turner
- Alexander Petion
- Charles Lenox Remond
- Samuel R. Ward
- James M. Whitfield
History and Genealogy Writings
Harry Bradshaw Matthews


History and Genealogy Collectibles in the Matthews Collection

- History of the Colored Race in America, William T. Alexander, 1887.
- History of the Negro Race in America from 1619 to 1880, Vol. 1, George Washington Williams, 1885.
- Men of Mark: Eminent, Progressive and Rising, William J. Simmons, 1887.
- Negro Builders and Heroes, E.M. Brawley, 1937.
- A School History of the Negro Race in America: From 1619 to 1890, Edward A. Johnson, 1892.
- The United Negro: His Problems and His Progress, Intro. by Bishop W. J. Gaines, 1902.
Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois Collectibles

- **My Larger Education**, Booker T. Washington, 1911.
- **Working with the Hands**, Booker T. Washington, 1904.
Collectibles of Carter Godwin Woodson and Colleagues

- The Education of the Negro, Carter Godwin Woodson, 1919.
- The History of the Negro Church, Carter Godwin Woodson, 1921.
- The Negro in Our History, Carter Godwin Woodson, 1922.
- Negro Orators and Their Orations, Carter Godwin Woodson, 1925.
- Black Manhattan, James Weldon Johnson, 1930.
- Home to Harlem, Claude McKay, 1928.
- God’s Trombones, James Weldon Johnson, 1927.
- The Negro in the Caribbean, Eric Williams, 1942.
- The New Negro: An Interpretation, Alain Locke, 1925.
Miscellaneous Treasures in the Matthews Collection

- An Anthology of Some of the Public Utterances of His Imperial Majesty, Haile Selassie I, Author Unknown, 1949.
- Iola Leroy or Shadows Uplifted, Frances E.W. Harper, 1892.
- Rasselas, Prince of Abyssinia, Samuel Johnson, 1889.
Sample External Influences

- 1562 – Sir John Hawkins was the first Englishman to transport slaves to the Americas.
- 1772- James Somerset Case ends slavery in England; terms of the Magna Charta used as explanation for ending slavery.
- 1803 - Toussaint L’Ouverture led successful Haitian revolt against France’s Emperor Napoleon.
Africa and Slavery: A Justification

- Africa and the American Flag, Andrew H. Foote, 1854.
- Bible Defence of Slavery, Josiah Priest, 1852.
- Captain Canot: Twenty Years of an African Slaver, Brantz Mayer, 1854.
- History of Slavery and the Slave Trade, Ancient and Modern, W.O. Blake, 1860.
- A Journey to Central Africa; Life and Landscapes from Egypt to the Negro Kingdoms of the White Nile, Bayard Taylor, 1860.
- The Negro Servant, Legh Richmond, 1876.
- Scenes in Africa for the Amusement and Instruction of Little Tarry-At-Home Travellers, Rev. Isaac Taylor, 1820.
Revolutionary War

- American Revolution in New York, Division of Archives and History, Albany: University of the State of New York, 1926.
- Battles of the United States by Sea and Land, Henry B. Dawson, 1858.
- The Negro in the American Revolution, Herbert Aptheker, 1940.
- Rhode Island Historical Tracts No. 10 in Historical: Attempts to Raise A Regiment of Slaves in Rhode Island, Jeremiah Olney, 1880.
- Virginia Negro Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolutionary War, Luther Porter Jackson, 1944.
Legacy of Cato Freedom

- He was born in 1734 in Africa.
- He enlisted in Captain Sheldon or Douglass Company, Col. S.B. Webb’s Third Regiment Connecticut Line in 1778 for three years.
- He appeared on New York’s Veteran Roll in 1818.
- He resided in Burlington Township, Otsego County, NY in 1820, owning 33 acres of land and was married to 53-year-old Parmelia [Amelia]; daughters were 15-year-old Charlotte and 13-year-old Aurabia.
- Cato Freeman was the name inscribed on his tombstone at the Butternut Valley Cemetery.
- The date of death recorded on his tombstone was May 19, 1828.
- Cato Freedom was the name recorded in his pension file with the date of death recorded as February 13, 1830.
Legacy of Primus Hill

- A Black patriot, also known as Ebenezer Hill, was born about 1750.
- He enlisted in Captain Benjamin Throop’s Company, Colonel Burrall’s Connecticut Regiment in the winter of 1775 and 1776 fighting in the relief of the army in Canada; he was discharged at Fort Independence in February, 1777.
- His pension application was filed on March 14, 1820 at 70 years of age.
- He resided in Augusta, Oneida County, New York in 1821 with his 70-year-old wife Tamer and three granddaughters, 7-year-old Phebe, 5-year-old Jewell, and 2-year-old Jane.
Advocacy and Slave Revolts

- Journal of the Life and Travels of John Woolman, 1824.
- Proceedings and Debates of the Convention of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to Propose Amendments to the Constitution, Commenced at Harrisburg, May 2, 1838, Reported by John Agg, 1838.
- Short Notes on the Dred Scott Case, J.T. Brooke, 1861.
Abolition Actions

- **Ain't I A Woman and A Sister**, United States of America, Coin, 1838.
- **Am I Not A Man and Brother**, Great Britain, Coin, 1700’s.
- **The Overthrow of American Slavery**, William G. Queal, 1885.
- **Recent Speeches and Addresses by Charles Sumner**, Charles Sumner, 1856.
- **Results of Emancipation**, Augustin Cochin, translated by Mary L. Booth, 1864.
Development of the Black Infrastructure

- **The Condition, Elevation, Emigration, and Destiny of the Colored People of the United States**, Martin Robinson Delany, 1852.
- **Education of the Negro Prior to 1861**, Carter G. Woodson, 1919.
- **History of the Colored Race in America**, William T. Alexander, 1887.
- **History of the Negro Church**, Carter G. Woodson, 1921.
- **History of the Negro Race in America, Vol. 1**, George W. Williams, 1885.
Chronology of an Organized Resistance to Slavery in the United States

- 1784 - Grand Lodge of the Prince Hall Masons founded in MA.
- 1793 - Upper Canada [Ontario] led by Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe passed legislation “to prevent the introduction of slavery.”
- 1794 - African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded at the home of Richard Allen in Philadelphia: James Varick founded the AME Zion in 1796.

- Article 6: AME “That although we consider every child of God a member of the mystical body of Christ, yet in the political government of the Church, we do prohibit our white brethren from electing or being elected into any office among us, save that of a preacher or speaker.”
Religious Independence

- 1808 - Congress prohibited further importing of slaves.
- 1808 - Abyssinian Baptist Church established by Rev. Thomas Paul in New York City, along with African American and Ethiopian merchants.
- 1813 - Union Methodist Church of Delaware became first to effect an organization separate from whites [Wilmington].
- 1815 - Church Conference in effort to unite AME, AME Zion, and Union Methodist of Delaware; decision to remain with individual governances.
- 1815-16 - The AME Church and AME Zion Church became official during these years.
- 1827 - Prince Hall Masons completely separated from white Masons.
Voices Advocating Actions

- 1828 – David Walker’s *Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World* called for armed resistance to slavery. Maria Stewart was his protégé.

- 1830 – Colored Men’s Convention in Philadelphia was led by AME Bishop Richard Allen as president and Austin Steward of Rochester, New York as vice president.

- 1831 - Nat Turner slave revolt in Virginia aroused panic among whites throughout the South.

- 1831 - Colored Men’s Convention advocated for establishing a college in Connecticut and also for some brethren to relocation to Canada West.

- 1832 - Colored Men’s Convention reported that Connecticut citizens voted against a college for colored persons and that while 2,000 black persons had migrated to Canada living on 500 acres, a backlash was occurring among Canadians. A call was made for an end to slavery in Washington, DC.

- 1833 - Colored Men’s Convention reported that Connecticut law banned literary societies among black people. Members voted against further colonizing in Canada.
Interconnected Actions

- 1833 - American Anti-Slavery Society was established, linking smaller efforts into a major network; local auxiliary groups emerged on county and state levels.

- 1834 - Slavery abolished in British Empire. English-speaking territories became havens for escaped Africans from the United States. Emancipation Day Celebrations were held on August 1st.

- 1834 - Colored Men’s Convention called for the establishment of moral reform societies and Phoenix Societies at the local level for advancing morals, literature, and the mechanical arts. General Superintendent of the AME Zion Church at the lead along with Rev. Theodore S. Wright of NY’s Shiloh Baptist Church. Resolution passed petitioning Congress for citizenship for black men.
Educated Leaders Emerge

- 1834 - William Whipper of Columbia, PA called for the removal of the words “African” from all organizations and the similar removal of the word “colored.” The proposal was rejected. Whipper also called for the Convention of American Moral Reform, with Revolutionary War patriot, James Forten, Sr, as president.

- 1835 - 24-year-old Daniel Alexander Payne enrolled at the Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary.

- 1836 - The Colored American was the new name for Weekly Advocate, which was established by Phillip A Bell, with Samuel E Cornish as editor; donations received from Gerrit Smith, Arthur Tappan, Lewis Tappan, and others.

- 1836 - Dr. James McCune Smith completed medical studies at the University of Glasgow, Scotland.
1837 - Daniel A. Payne completed studies at the Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary and was licensed by the abolitionist Franckean Synod [Lutheran] of Otsego County, NY. He pastured at the Colored Presbyterian Church in East Troy, NY. Payne headed up the Mental and Moral Improvement Society in Troy. He was heralded by the *Colored American* as a scholarly advocate of the darker brethren.

Other college-educated black men before the Civil War included John B. Russworm of Bowdoin College, Rev. Wright from the Princeton Theological Seminary, and Edward Mitchell from Dartmouth College. Doctor James McCune Smith graduated from the University of Glasgow, Scotland. Edward Jones graduated from Amherst College in 1826.

Martin R. Delany studied at Jefferson College. Charles Bennett Ray was educated at the Wesleyan Academy and briefly at Wesleyan University. Alexander Crummell graduated from Cambridge University in England.

1837 - William Whipper of Columbia, PA wrote an essay, “On Non-Resistance to Offensive Aggression,” to which editors of the Colored American responded:

“We publish this address with pleasure, hoping our readers will make the most of all the principles and arguments presented in favor of universal “peace;” But, we honestly confess that we have yet to learn what virtue there would be in using moral weapons, in defense against a kidnapper or a midnight raider.”

1837 - David Ruggles, a free CT-born man, moved to NYC. During 1837, he served as secretary of the New York Committee of Vigilance, protecting escaped Africans. He operated a printing plant in CT and a bookstore that turned out many pamphlets advocating the overthrow of slavery.
Organizing Groups for Protest

- 1837 - Women organized the Anti-Slavery Women’s convention in NYC as the first women’s political convention in the USA, with more than 200 black and white delegates joining together, including black and white officers. Frances E.W. Harper attended it.

- 1838 - Payne assumed penname of Origen. He met with Gerrit Smith and Beriah Greene in NY before relocating to Carlisle, PA during his year-long illness.

- 1838 – Women’s Anti-Slavery Convention was held in Philadelphia under massive protest.
African Civilization Society in America: Garnet Meets Payne

- 1839 - Henry Highland Garnet, an escaped African from Maryland, graduated with honors from the Oneida Institute, Whitesboro, NY. He became a licensed preacher, and was later head of Shiloh Presbyterian Church in NYC. He was an active member of the Liberty Party.

- Payne delivered antislavery address at the conference of the Franckeansynod, Ft. Plain, NY.

- 1840 - Payne relocated to Philadelphia and opened a school, attracting attention from the AME Church. Garnet pastured at the Liberty Street Presbyterian Church, East Troy, NY.
1840 - State of Maryland passed law banning free persons of color from traveling in and out of its state. It was targeted against the resistance and liberation that free persons of African descent were engaging in as a means of liberation enslaved brethren. The number of slaves decreased in the state from 111.5 thousand in 1810 to 89.7 thousand in 1840.

American Anti-Slavery Society rejected Abby Kelley [Garrisonian] as a member of its business committee on gender lines. The Society split, with the American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society organized with Gerrit Smith support, including the endorsement of the Liberty Party. Soon after, Garrison attempted to gain a resolution of support from the darker brethren at Rev. Wright’s church meeting. The attempt failed. Black men emerged as a stronger force in the movement.
Declaration of Independence by Black Leadership Council

- 1840 - Jamaica Convention Declaration - Thomas Van Ranselaer of New York, Aaron Wood of Flushing, Rev. JWC Pennington of Newtown, and William P. Johnson of New York issued call for a state convention to address disenfranchisement, being debarred from higher learning, being insulted by proprietors of public conveyance, outraged by system of public caste throughout the community.

- The state convention occurred in Albany, New York; it created resentment among many white abolitionists, including Gerrit Smith, Garrison, etc.

- Convention was also opposed by Dr. Smith because it was limited to black men, but he attended. Austin Steward of Rochester was elected President of the Convention, which was held in Albany, NY.
Colored Men’s Convention
Albany, New York 1840

Election of Delegates: Colored Men’s Convention – 1840


Emergence of Multiple Aspects of the African American Infrastructure

- 1841 - James W.C. Pennington, an escaped African from Maryland, and later pastor of the African Congregational Church in Hartford, CT, published his book, *A Text Book of the Origin and History of the Colored People*. He received his Doctorate of Divinity degree at the University of Heidelberg.

- 1841 - Maryland passed law banning black men from belonging to secret societies, being Afraid that the African Grand Lodge of the Prince Hall Masons would gain strong inroads in the state.

- AME Church established newspaper, *African Methodist Episcopal Church Magazine*.

- 1842 - Jermain Wesley Loguen, an escaped African from Tennessee, studied at Oneida Institute, ordained a minister AME Zion, Syracuse. He was “Superintendent of the Underground Railroad.”
Frederick Douglass’ Emergence: Meets Garnet and Payne

- 1842 - Frederick Douglass lectured for the American Anti-Slavery Society; he visited Rochester, New York.

- Garnet start. two newspapers in Troy, NY; National Watchman and the Clarion. He was a Liberty Party member. Stephen Meyers in Albany, NY established the Northern Star and Freeman’s Advocate.

- 1842 - Daniel A. Payne joined Bethel AME in Philadelphia. Western Citizens of Chicago indicated that Fort Malden, Canada had $400,000 worth of former enslaved Americans residing there.
Split Among Black Abolitionists

- 1843 - Henry Highland Garnet, then 27-years of age, gave an oration at the Buffalo Convention of Colored men. Included among those in attendance were Frederick Douglas, William Wells Brown, Charles B. Ray, and Charles L. Remond. Garnet’s stated resolution, modeled from David Walker’s 1828 Appeal, was defeated by one vote:

“Brethren, arise, arise! Strike for your lives and liberties. Now is the day and the hour. Let every slave throughout the land do this, and the days of slavery are numbered. You cannot be more oppressed than you have been - you cannot suffer greater cruelties than you have already. Rather die freemen than live to be slaves. Remember that you are four millions!”

- Frederick Douglass, a Garrisonian, challenged Garnet’s resolution and won by one vote.
Freedom of the Mind

- 1843 - Martin Delany published the *Northern Star*, later the *Mystery* in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Payne was in full association with AME Church, although still listed in the books of the Lutheran’s Frankeean Synod.

- 1843 - Garnet helped organized the Colored Men’s Convention in Albany and gained the passage of a resolution endorsing the Liberty Party, as a direct affront to the Garrisonian principles.

- 1846 - Frederick Douglass’ book, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* was a big hit in England.

- 1847 - Frederick Douglass began publishing his newspaper, *North Star*, at the AME Zion Church in Rochester and with the help of Delany.

- 1848 - Free Soil Convention brought together members of Free Soil Party and Liberty Party.
Ethnic Identity Intensifies

- 1849 - Delany left the *North Star*. Douglass proclaimed, “I thank God for making me a man; Delany thanks God for making him a black man.”

- 1849 - Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery in Maryland. Pennington writes the *Fugitive Blacksmith*.

- Williams Wells Brown wrote the book *Anti-Slavery Harps*, a series of poems.

- 1850 - President Millard Fillmore signed the Fugitive Slave Law that in effect allowed any white man to accuse a black person of being an escaped slave. Increased kidnapping resulted in black persons being captured without legal rights; many fled to Canada.

- Tubman risked her life by returning to Maryland to help her sister and children escape. The *Narrative of Sojourner Truth: A Northern Slave* was published.
1851 - Frederick Douglass at the American Anti-Slavery Society Convention challenged the Garrisonians, expressing it the duty of every American citizen to use his political as well as moral power for slavery’s overthrow. Gerrit Smith offered to merge his paper with Douglass’ paper.

1851 - Anti-Slavery Society of Canada was headquartered in Toronto. Truth delivered her explosive speech, “Aint I a Woman?” at the Women’s Convention in Akron, Ohio.

1852 - Daniel A. Payne elected sixth bishop of AME Church; he established Wilberforce University in 1856.

1854 - Kansas-Nebraska Act allowed slavery to enter into a territory where it was previously banned since the 1820 Missouri Compromise.

1857 - Harriet Tubman joined AME Zion Church in Auburn, NY.
Revolution is at Hand

- 1857 - Dred Scott Decision - Supreme Court ruled that a slave traveling from the slave state of Missouri to a free state of Illinois, and the free territory of Minnesota, did not make him free, and in effect, he did not have a right to bring a suit. Chief-Justice Taney presided.

- Decision sparked the coming together of “conscience” Whigs and Free Soilers to organize the Republican Party, the favorite party of black men, including Garnet, Ray, Douglass.

- 1859 - John Brown led 21 men with an attack on the federal arsenal at Harper’s Ferry, VA, with the idea of acquiring arms, distributing them to local black persons, and seizing the town. Included among the party were Shield Greens and Dangerfield Newby, who were former slaves.
Lincoln and the Slavery Issue

- 1861 - Abraham Lincoln Inaugural - “I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exist. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so.”

- 1861 - Payne, Garnet, Crummell, and others met in April to discuss the war issue, including the enlistment of black men. Others joined in the call. Payne met with Frederick Douglass during the summer.

- 1862 - Payne traveled to Washington, DC to visit Senator George Sumner and President Lincoln. Several months later, Payne relocated to Washington, DC.
Arnold Resolution Ending Slavery
in Washington, DC and Florida Terr.

1862 - Isaac Newton Arnold, a former student of the Hartwick Seminary and Academy, and Republican Congressman from Illinois, was credited with the HR bill that led to the ending of slavery in Washington, DC and the Florida territory. Payne met with Lincoln urging the President to sign Arnold’s bill. The bill was signed into law April 16th.

1862 – President Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation in September providing to Rebel states and territories the opportunity to return to the Union without penalty. There were no takers.

National Anti-Slavery Standard, Anglo-African, and other abolitionist papers were regularly urging the enlistment of black men into the Union ranks.
President Lincoln Urged by Congressman Isaac Newton Arnold

1863 - Emancipation Proclamation included provision for President to bring Freedmen into the Union ranks. Eventually, the USCT included more than 200,000 black soldiers from the United States, the Bahamas, Barbados, Canada, Cuba, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica and other Caribbean territories, in addition to some men of Asian descent and 7,000 white officers.

1863 – President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation took affect on January 1, 1863, providing for the enlistment of newly freed men to enlist in the United States Colored Troops.

1864 – THE ARNOLD RESOLUTION, introduced February 15, 1864, led to the Thirteenth Amendment ending slavery.

“Resolved, that the Constitution should be amended, as to abolish slavery in the United States wherever it now exists, and to prohibit its existence in every part thereof, forever.”
Sample USCT from the Tri-Cities, NY

20th USCT - Samuel Dixon – Co. D, Albany; Thomas Moore – Co. E, Albany


1863 - Massachusetts’s Fifty-fourth Colored Regiment became first Northern regiment of black soldiers organized during the Civil War. The black soldiers of the regiment, however, were not the first black soldiers from the North. Some other men enlisted into white regiments in New York before President Lincoln authorized the enlistment of black men in the Union forces.

The white abolitionist, Gerrit Smith, contributed $500 to support the regiment, as well as urged black men in New York to organize a regiment which he promised to support financially.

In March, Jermain Loguen of Syracuse issued the call, “Men to Arms.” Frederick Douglass soon after issued his call to arms.

Lewis Douglass, son of Frederick, held the highest enlistment rank of Sergeant Major. His brother, Charles, was also a Sergeant.

Stephen Swails of Cooperstown and Elmira, became the first black enlisted soldier to be promoted to Lieutenant. Garnet became the acting chaplain of the three regiments organized in New York. Delany was appointed a field officer.
1864 - Representative Isaac Newton Arnold introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives, which was passed, calling for an amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery in the United States. This sparked debates, defeats, reconsiderations, and finally the House passage of the Thirteenth Amendment following the pace-setting action in the Senate.

1865 - President Lincoln instructed General Benjamin Butler to proceed with developing plans to remove all black soldiers and their families to a colony in Columbia, South America. President Lincoln was assassinated before the plan was put into effect.

1865 - The Thirteenth Amendment ending slavery in the United States became law in December, 1865.
1868 – Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified on July 28, more than two years after it was proposed in 1866.

“Section 1 – All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States of and the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

1870 – Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified on February 3, 1870.

“Section 1 – The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”
Reconstruction Congressmen
Robert Brown Elliott [SC]

- Senator Hiram R. Revels [MS]; Rep. James T. Rapier [AL];
- and John R. Lynch [MS] early black Congressmen.
- Eight black Congressmen from SC, including Elliott, were the largest number of 23 black Congressmen during Reconstruction.
Local History and Family Research: Topic Areas

- Oral History
- Reviewing Local Records and Family Documents
- Surveying Publications and Web Sources
- Ordering Census Records
- Ordering Family Documents
- Documenting Back to 1870
- Surveying Elder Relative’s Community [Before and After Slavery]
- Documenting Probable Families Who Owned Your Ancestors
- Establishing Links
Important Resources for Identifying Local African American Personalities
1. Oral History - Utilize the stories told by elders; examine pictures, family documents, etc., for clues.
2. Free Negro Heads of Families in the United States in 1830, Carter G. Woodson, 1925 - Each family identified with name of head of household along with numerical counts for others in each household. Compilation is by state, county, and town/city. A few locales are missing.
African American Ancestors in Historical Context: Development of an Identity and Civic Infrastructure

4. Church Records - AME, AME Zion, Delaware Methodist, Baptist, and other churches - Include not only names, but frequently cite incidents involving members.

5. Tax Books - Frequently, men of color, negro, black, were listed in a separate listing in the back of tax books.

6. 1865 Township Military Enlistment Book, Military Pension Records, GAR Books, etc. - Each township was required to prepare a book record listing the men from its township who served in the Union ranks.

7. 1850 - 1860 Federal Census and other census records - The name of each free person in a household was first recorded in the 1850 Census; 1860 Census included pre-Civil War free families.

8. 1870 – The census included for the first time most black households.