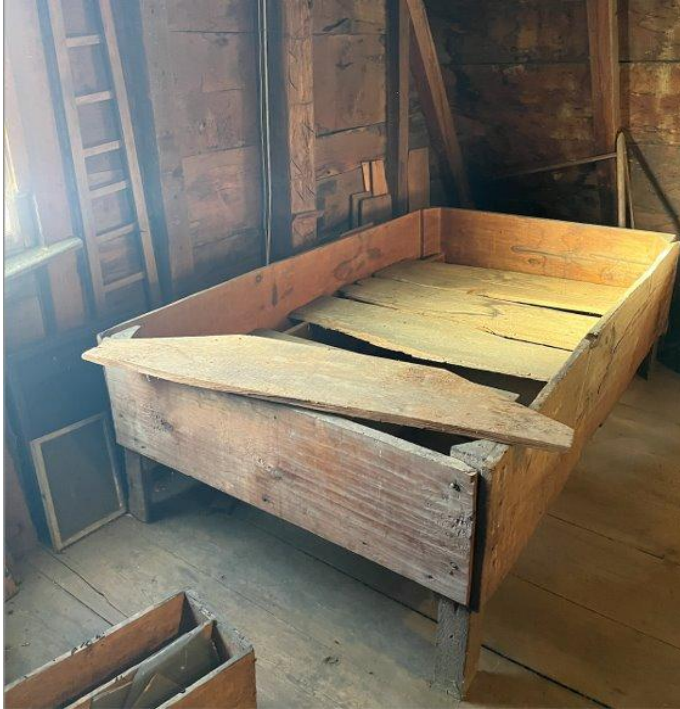


Suffield Academy's American Studies Class: Barbara and Lewis Butler  
illuminating the WSP theme of agency and resistance as well as dann j.  
Broyd's insights about transnational community members



Rochester: A Transnational Community  
for Blacks Prior to the Civil War

by dann j. Broyld



# Suffield Academy's American Studies class 4/18/2023

## Outline for Tonight's Presentation

Part I Shem Burbank and Oliver Phelps, Our Visit

Part II Oliver Phelps Enslaved Lewis and Barbara

Part III Lewis's Trip to Europe, Caribbean, and then Albany

Part IV Barbara and Lewis have Patience in Albany, UGRR

Part V What we know of Lewis and Barbara Butler in Canandaigua

Play Professor Broyld's video: Transnational & International Thesis

Part VI Patience and Austin Steward

Part VII Austin Steward, Family Man, Activist, Educator, UGRR.

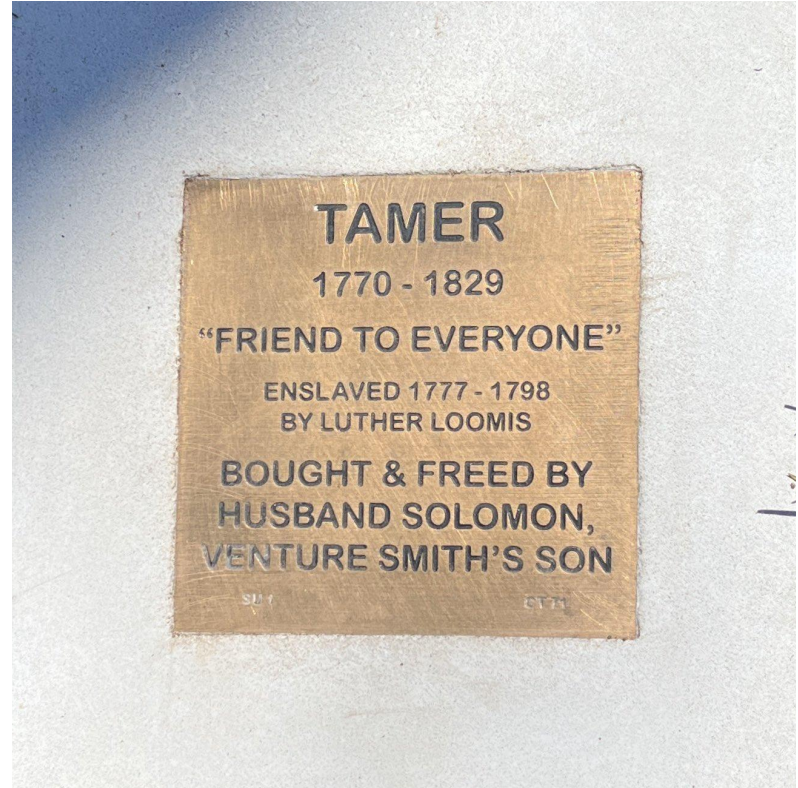
Part VIII Witness Stone Installation Program, May 6, 11am

Conclusion: The Butlers exhibit "Agency & Resistance" and illuminate Professor Boryld's thesis regarding Transnational Black Borderland leaders.

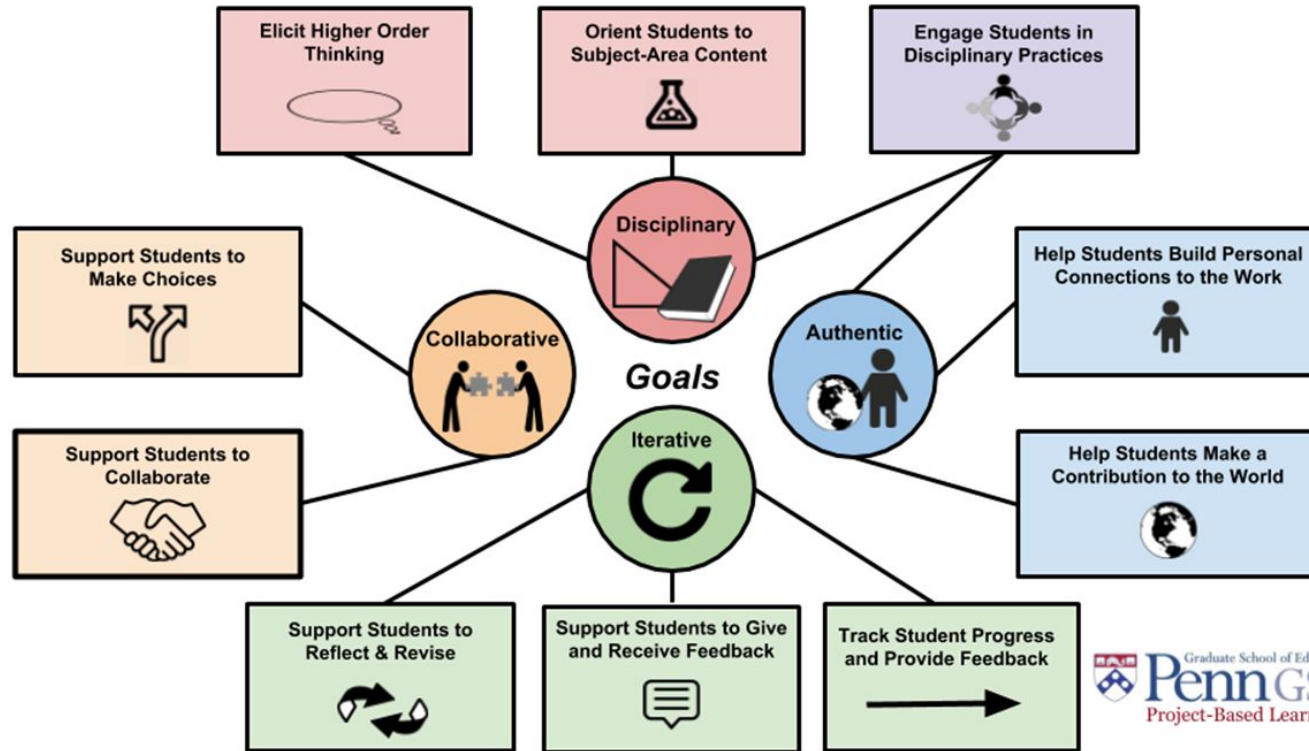
We dedicate tonight's program to Reverend Chester Freeman of Canandaigua and Jan Peak, CT Landmarks Docent and Secretary of the Suffield Historical Society.

# Five Themes of the Witness Stones Project

- **Dehumanization; Enslaved as Property**
- **Treatment of the Enslaved**
- **Paternalism = Inequality**
- **Economics of Slavery and Freedom**
- **Human Agency and Resistance**



# We also work in a project-based learning environment



# Professor Broyld's Essential Questions

How did Blacks resist bondage, from silent sabotage to running away, and where did they seek to go to reach the “outer spaces of enslavement?”

How do Black social networks undermine the integrity of formalized borders?

How did Blacks manage to reconstruct their lives in new locations and “host” nations?

What social and cultural attributes did they maintain despite of crossing regional and national borders?



**Underground Railroad**

Source: <https://www.dannjbroyld.com/>

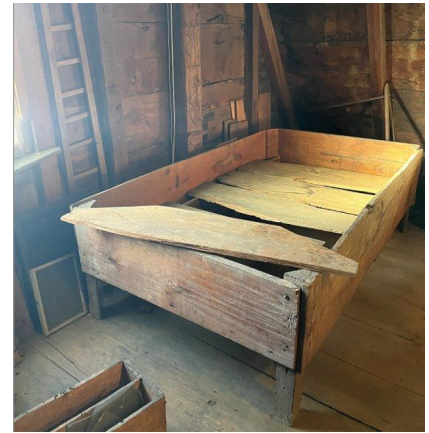




## Part I Our Visit in December 2022:

Shem Burbank inherited the center-chimney house. Wealthy merchant, becomes Tory, business suffered after Revolutionary War

Self-made man, Oliver Phelps buys out Burbank. Hires Asher Benjamin, young innovative architect, and Deputy Commissary connections help his land business flourish after Revolutionary War

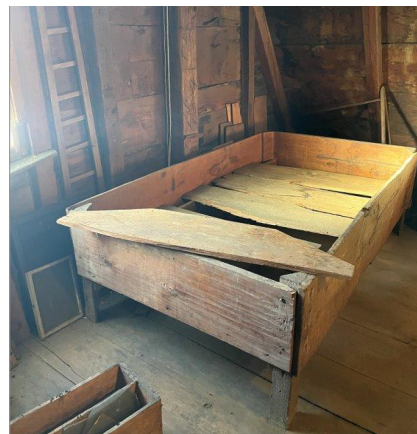


Walking from older part of the house to the Asher Benjamin addition, we entered another world where Oliver Phelps was trying to impress customers in the 1790s to purchase new opportunities, western lands.

- Did he enslave Barbara and Lewis Butler to display his wealth?
- Enslaving another human is evil. How could someone who was indentured as a teenager enslave another human?

<https://ctlandmarks.org/properties/phelps-hatheway-house-garden/>





Our biggest question of the visit: Who lived in the attic and used this bed?

So we began to investigate Lewis and Barbara Butler.

<https://ctlandmarks.org/properties/phelps-hatheway-house-garden/>



## Part II Oliver Phelps Enslaved Lewis and Barbara Butler

### 1790 United States Federal Census for Oliver Phelps

Connecticut > Hartford > Suffield

426

Suffield

Oliver Phelps	3	2	3	2
Alexander King	4	1	5	
John Leavitt	1		1	
Gideon Granger	1	1	2	1

We think that Lewis and Barbara Butler were the “2” in the last column in the 1790s Census, which enumerated enslaved people. Still researching: What exact date did Oliver Phelps purchased Lewis and Barbara?

## 1790 United States Federal Census for Oliver Phelps

Connecticut > Hartford > Suffield

426

*Suffield*

<i>Oliver Phelps</i>	3	2	3	2
<i>Alexander King</i>	4	1	5	
<i>John Leavitt</i>	1		1	
<i>Gideon Granger</i>	1	1	2	1

Source:

<https://www.ancestry.com/sharing/2764499?mark=7b22746f6b656e223a2277625a742b57306d7a66444f7173794b6e4f5654757339537955576a336938557257744f58355143466e673d222c22746f6b656e5f76657273696f6e223a225632227d>

William H. Siles, Doctoral Dissertation, January, 1978, explains that “eastern” and wealthy pioneers, like Oliver Phelps, enslaved people for the sake of status and to exhibit wealth.

University of Massachusetts Amherst

ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst

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Doctoral Dissertations 1896 - February 2014

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1-1-1978

**A vision of wealth: speculators and settlers in the Genesee  
Country of New York, 1788-1800**

William H. Siles

*University of Massachusetts Amherst*

Source, pp. 242-243:

[https://scholarworks.umass.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1857&context=dissertations\\_1](https://scholarworks.umass.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1857&context=dissertations_1)



William H. Siles, Doctoral Dissertation, January, 1978, never mentions Lewis and Barbara at all, yet we can infer that Claimed Oliver Phelps enslaved them for status and to exhibit wealth.

Fashion and status was also reflected by the ownership of slaves. Although relatively few of those settlers who could afford slaves actually owned them, the practice of slavery was a part of community life, and was another example of eastern ways reproduced on the frontier. Slaves were made available to Canandaigua citizens through

Source, pp. 242-243:

[https://scholarworks.umass.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1857&context=dissertations\\_1](https://scholarworks.umass.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1857&context=dissertations_1)

William H. Siles, Doctoral Dissertation, January, 1978, also explains slavery in Upstate New York; never mentions Lewis and Barbara Butler's name. He also considers enslaving others for labor. See here and next slide.

243

slave dealers who advertised blacks for sale in the village newspaper. The process of buying, selling, and leasing slaves is illustrated by the experiences of Oliver Phelps.<sup>61</sup> Phelps was concerned with the problem of retaining a regular work force for his farms, and after searching for free labor he turned to the possibility of buying slaves. Phelps' inquiries produced a response from one Samuel Baker of Bath, New York. Baker explained to Phelps that he

was informed sometime ago that you wanted to purchase negroes. I have some which I will part with to you I will say that they are no such in Genesee nor... America for the farming business. They are young and healthy...and equal to what you may suppose from the above observation. If you are satisfied, you shall have four males of the following ages - 1-25, 1-21, 1-20, 1-18.<sup>62</sup>

Source, pp. 242-243:

[https://scholarworks.umass.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1857&context=dissertations\\_1](https://scholarworks.umass.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1857&context=dissertations_1)

## William H. Siles, Doctoral Dissertation Shows Oliver Phelps thinking about enslaving people in Canandaigua. Rents Tom.

After purchasing the slaves, and apparently satisfied with the results, Phelps requested information regarding black servants. Phelps received a reply from Abraham Simmonds of Farmington, New York who said "I send you my servant Tom to you on trial for one week. You will please to return him at the expiration of the week with an answer... what you will give for him."<sup>63</sup> After trying out Tom, Phelps agreed to rent the servant for one year for \$60.00, providing that Phelps receive "full value" for his money.<sup>64</sup>

Slavery was not profitable either at Canandaigua or elsewhere in the Genesee Country. The cost of caring for slaves usually surpassed the cost of hired help, and slaves were usually much slower workers. As a result of

Source, pp. 242-243:

[https://scholarworks.umass.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1857&context=dissertations\\_1](https://scholarworks.umass.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1857&context=dissertations_1)



## Part III Lewis's Travels to Europe, Caribbean, and then Albany. Finally to Canandaigua



## Lewis Butler's 1845 Obituary, *Ontario Messenger*, Canandaigua, Ontario County, New York. **Amazing Details!**

Died - in this village, Jan. 22d, 1845, Mr. Lewis Butler, a colored citizen, aged 73 years. Mr. B. was one of the early settlers of this village; he came in with the Hon. Oliver Phelps, and though an humble individual, he always maintained a good character for truth and honesty. But Mr. B. was doomed to many trials and misfortunes - he sailed with Mr. Lester Phelps as a servant, for England and France; after he arrived in London he was taken sick and left by Mr. Phelps, who pursued his journey to France. Mr. B. recovered from his sickness and obtained a situation as servant with a British officer, and sailed with the fleet to Puerto Rico, but the British forces failing to take the island, sailed for St. Domingo, where Mr. B. was taken sick with the fever of the country; he was supposed to be past recovery and was left in an old deserted cabin alone to die - but the Lord was good to him - he recovered and returned to the U. S. Mr. B. was an affectionate husband and kind father. Peace be to his remains.

Oliver Leicester Phelps, Son of Oliver Phelps, Married Elisabeth Sherman of New Haven. How did this marriage help Oliver Phelps with his interest in displaying his status?

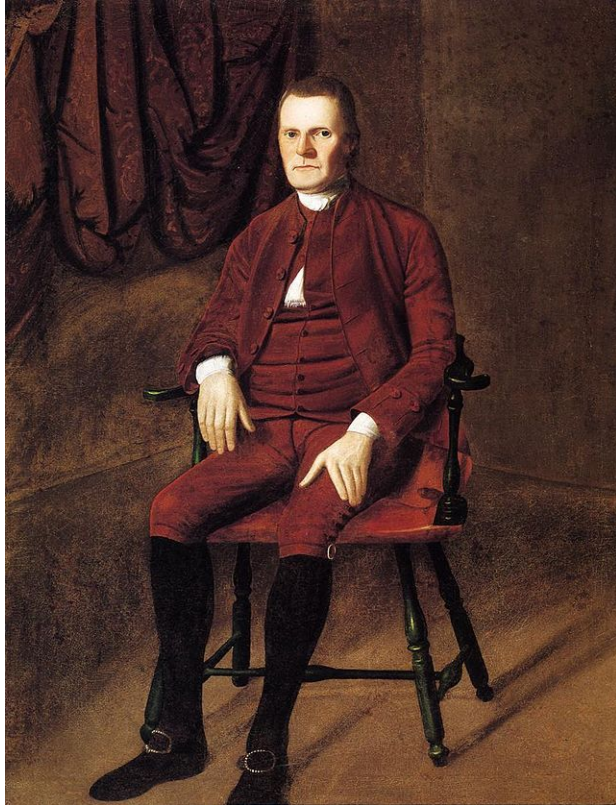
Timothy Phelps & Jennet Broome,	March 21, 1795
Isaac Ludington of East Haven & Sarah Frisbie of Bran-	
ford, at home of Thos. Frisbie, Branford,	April 9, 1795
Josias Wiggins, N. Y., & Catharine Roberts	April 29, 1795
Oliver Leicester Phelps & Elisabeth Sherman,	June 23, 1795
Andrew Morriel & Lucretia Russel, at Branford,	June 23, 1795
John Pardy & Anna Forbes at East Haven, house of Levi Forbes,	Aug. 6, 1795

Source:

<https://www.ancestry.com/sharing/3155088?mark=7b22746f6b656e223a22344d6b6339656b394d70686771725766416c64372f4b70326e503754717a6a4d2b4c704b7a4431754c47673d222c22746f6b656e5f76657273696f6e223a225632227d>



# Roger Sherman, Great Compromiser, Adds Status to Phelp's family



Signed all four major documents: the Continental Association of 1774, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution of the United States.

Source:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/roger-she-rman-dies-july-23/>

Elizabeth Sherman Phelps & Oliver Leicester Phelps in Paris during 1796 birth of “Oliver” (son) in Paris. Lewis abandoned in London. Cross-referenced by Findagrave source.



# Oliver Phelps

**BIRTH**

15 May 1796

Paris, City of Paris, Île-de-France, France

**DEATH**

13 Aug 1872 (aged 76)

Canandaigua, Ontario County, New York, USA

**BURIAL**

Pioneer Cemetery.

Canandaigua, Ontario County, New York, USA

**MEMORIAL ID**

11346475 · [View Source](#)

Source:

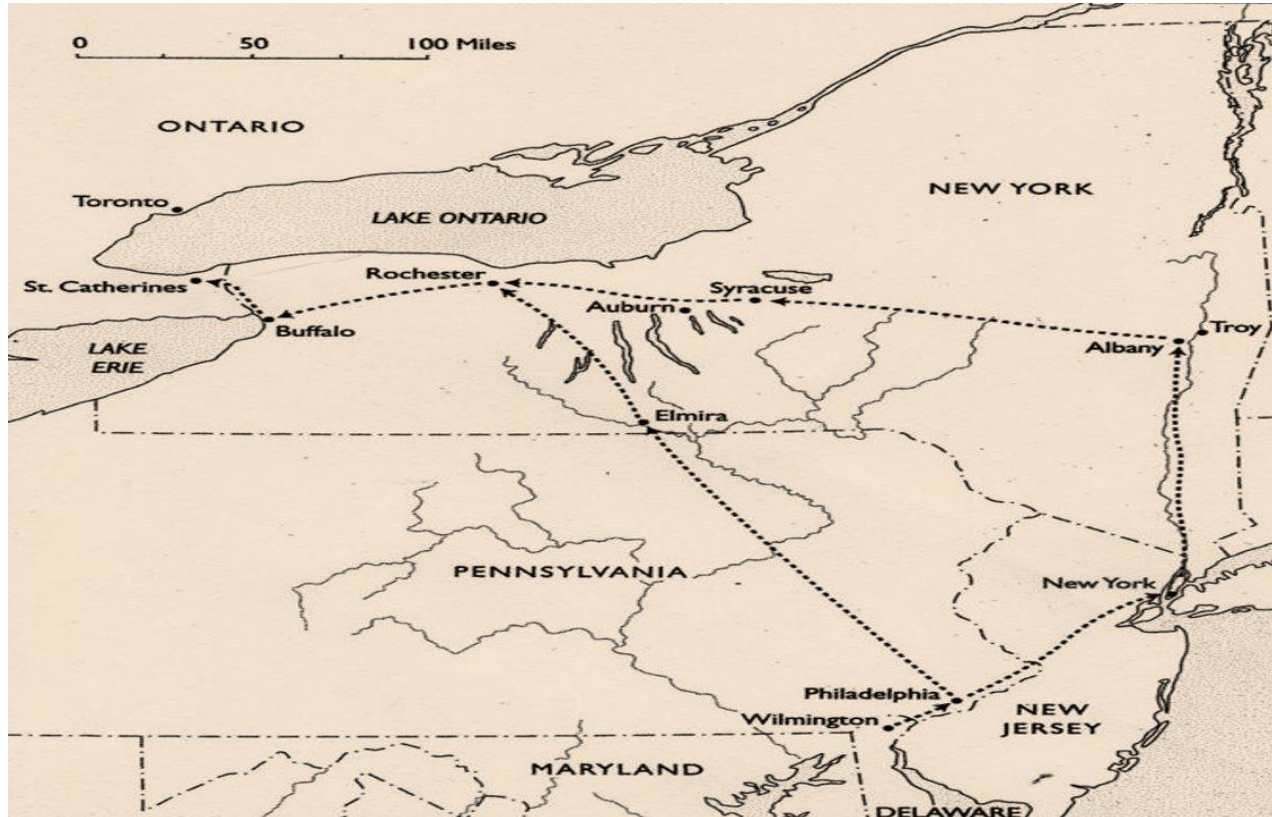
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11346475/oliver-phelps>

This image of Anglo-Spanish War (1796-1802). Attack on Puerto Rico (1797). Lewis Butler aboard one of these vessel.





## Part IV: The Lewis Family Followed The Niagara “Underground Railroad” Trail to Canandaigua from Boston (marriage) and Albany.



Map source from  
Professor dann J.  
Broyld's  
PowerPoint:  
Borderland Blacks:  
Two Cities in the  
Niagara Region  
during the Final  
Decades of Slavery



# Searched Lewis Butler's Marriage Record: November, 1798

Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988 for Lewis Butler

Grafton > Births, Marriages and Death

November 4<sup>th</sup> 1798. Intention of Marriage between Lewis Butler  
of Providence and Barbara Nichols of Grafton

November 4<sup>th</sup> 1798. Intention of Marriage between Lewis Butler  
of Providence and Barbara Nichols of Grafton

Link for document:

<https://www.ancestry.com/sharing/2309962?mark=ffba56b2a881fb888ef639079985fdc3541e7d5061572137710c81c097a514fc>

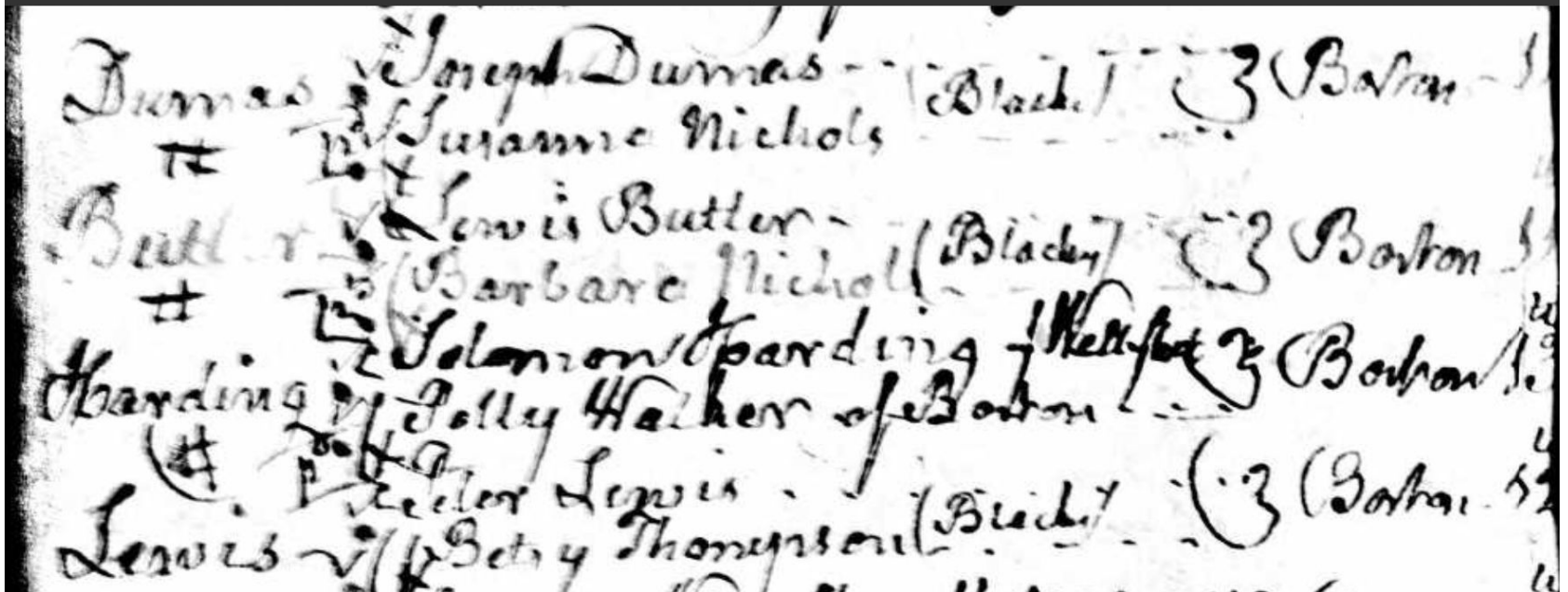
Who will contact Grafton (Mass) Historical Society?

# Searched Barbara Nichols and discovered record, Boston Jan 11, 1798

Source: <https://www.ancestry.com/sharing/2315672?mark=c06709c6574e044f7830b251f478a66853f9a2b44f27949c1fbc762a9388cef9>

## Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988 for Barbara Nichols

Boston > Marriage Publications, 1782-1798; Vol. 6



# United States Census 1800, Lewis Butler, Canandaigua, NY

430	Lewis Hancock	1	2	1	1	1	1	431
	Augustus Porter	2	1	2	4	1	1	
	William Whitting	1		5	2	1	1	
	John Sloughton			1	1			
	Jonathan Phelps		1	3	2	1		
	Nathan Clarke	1		2	1			
→	Lewis Butler						4	
	Ebenezer Johnson		1		1		1	
	Elijah Warron	1	3	1	2		1	
	Orniel Taylor	1	1	1	1	3	1	
	William Chapman	5		1	1	2	1	

The “4” likely indicates:

- Lewis Butler
- Barbara Buter
- Daughter: Patience S Butler Steward
- Son: William Lewis Butler

Source: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XH5B-T2V>

# United States Census 1800

*Schedule of the whole number of persons within the division allotted to A. B.*

	Name of county, parish, town- ship, town, or city where the family resides.
	Name of head of family.
	Free white males under ten years of age.
	Free white males of ten and under sixteen.
	Free white males of sixteen and under twenty-six, in- cluding heads of families.
	Free white males of twenty- six and under forty-five, in- cluding heads of families.
	Free white males of forty- five and upwards, including heads of families.
	Free white females under ten years of age.
	Free white females of ten years and under sixteen.
	Free white females of sixteen and under twenty-six, in- cluding heads of families.
	Free white females of twenty- six and under forty-five, in- cluding heads of families.
	Free white females of forty- five and upwards, including heads of families.
	All other free persons, except Indians, not taxed.
	Slaves.

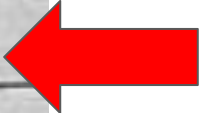


(Slide 1 of 2) We keep returning to the NY 1855 Census of the Butler family because it contains so much valuable information. Ancestry.com link: <https://tinyurl.com/bp6j824p>

<b>I. Population.</b> CENSUS of the Inhabitants in the <u>Second</u> Election District of the <u>Town</u> <u>Canandauqua</u> in the County of <u>Columbia</u> taken by me on the <u>fifth</u> day of June, 1855. <u>Stephen Saxton</u>																			
Drillage numbered in the order of visitation.	Of what material built.	Value.	Family numbered in the order of their visitation.	Name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June was in this family.	Age.	Sex.	Whether black or white.	Relation to the head of the family.	In what county of this State, or in what other State or Foreign Country born.	Married.	Widowed.	Years resident in this city or town.	Profession, Trade, or Occupation.	VOTERS.				Persons of color not taxed.	Persons of color who cannot read and write.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	52	Brume	500	63	L B Wood	28	M		Ontario	1		2	Harness maker 1						
2					Mary A "	21	F	wife	"	1		2							
3					James A "	3	F	daughter	"			2							
4	53	Brume	500	64	Elizabeth Hallister	73	F		Kings co	1	1	20	Seamstress						
5					Rizina "	35	F	daughter	Saratoga co			20							
6	54	Brume	900	65	Austin Stewart	62	M	B	Virginia	1		13	harness maker 1						
7					Patience "	50	F	M	Albany	1		13							
8					Sarah "	22	F	M	Canada			13							
9					Barbara "	20	F	M	"			13							
10					Lena "	18	F	M	daughter	Monroe co		13							
11					Maria A "	12	F	M	"	Ontario									
12					Barbara Butler	78	F	M	mother	Moff		37							
13					James Scott	16	M	B	son	Ontario		16							
14	55			66	John Young	25	M	B	head	"	1	5							
15					Julia "	30	F	M	"	Livingston	1	5							
									Perkins	1	7	Butcher							

(Slide 2 of 2) 1855 Census reported Lewis and Barbara's daughter, Patience, born in Albany. How long did the Butlers live there?

Kezina	"	35	F		daughter	Saratoga
Austin	Stewart	62	M	B		Virginia
Patience	"	50	F	M	wife	Albany
		22	F	M	daughter	Canada




Source:

[https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9B53-9ZDR?i=4&cc=1937366&p  
ersonaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AK63X-LRW](https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9B53-9ZDR?i=4&cc=1937366&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AK63X-LRW)

Part V We also know of Lewis and Barbara in Canandaigua because they own property in 1802. Assessment Year, 1802.

New York, U.S., Tax Assessment Rolls of Real and Personal Estates, 1799-1804 for Lewis Butler

Ontario > 1802 > Canandaigua



*a list of Tax returned of the Town  
of Canandaigua Feb. 7 1803*

	<i>Real</i>		
<i>Lewis Butler</i>	<i>00</i>		<i>36.</i>
<i>John Lanning</i>	<i>282</i>		<i>1- 2-</i>
<i>Abner Hays</i>	<i>800</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>3- 72.</i>

Source: <https://www.ancestry.com/sharing/3152683?mark=7b22746f6b656e223a222f447878357634724262492f4d5a446f6270425052576d35737258684d7164574a71414736492b4c764a733d222c22746f6b656e5f76657273696f6e223a225632227d>

# Canandaigua Real Estate Record/Land Assessment Source (1829-1831)


<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-89WC-4QG2?i=142&cc=2078654>

287										288									
GRANTEE. Index of Deeds, Ontario County, N. Y.										GRANTEE. Index of Deeds, Ontario County, N. Y.									
YR	AS CDS	FOR LT	CL MRO	POR ST	OWN LTZ	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	AMT	VAL	YR	AS CDS	FOR LT	CL MRO	POR ST	OWN LTZ	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	AMT	VAL
1798						Butler	John Jackson	4.25	10	1798						Butler	Edwin Ganges	50	10
1799						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1799						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1799						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1799						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1800						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1800						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1801						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1801						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1802						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1802						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1803						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1803						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1804						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1804						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1805						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1805						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1806						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1806						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1807						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1807						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1808						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1808						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1809						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1809						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1810						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1810						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1811						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1811						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1812						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1812						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1813						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1813						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1814						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1814						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1815						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1815						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1816						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1816						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1817						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1817						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1818						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1818						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1819						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1819						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1820						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1820						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1821						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1821						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1822						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1822						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1823						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1823						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1824						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1824						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1825						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1825						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1826						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1826						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1827						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1827						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1828						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1828						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1829						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1829						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1830						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1830						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10
1831						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	4.25	10	1831						Butler	James H. H. H. H.	50	10



Sometime between 1829-1831, Lewis granted his property to his son-in-law, Austin Steward. Austin and Susan Butler Married in 1825. Lewis Butler will die in 1845. We do not know when Barbara Butler dies or where she is buried.

Source: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-89WC-4QG2?i=142&cc=2078654>



Charles		Butler	William S. Steward	42	587
	Barbra	Butler	David Gould	44	587
Cyrus S.		Butler	Abraham S. Underhill	50	57
Charles		Butcher	Frederick Hayes	50	104
Charles		Butler	Robert Thompson	50	209
	Lewis	Butler	Austin Steward	50	222

# Professor dann j. Broyld <https://www.dannjbroyld.com/>

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## dann j. Broyld

dann j. Broyld is an Associate Professor in African American History at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. He completed his doctoral work in Nineteenth Century United States and African Diaspora History at Howard University. His work focuses on transnational migration and identity in the American Canadian borderlands.



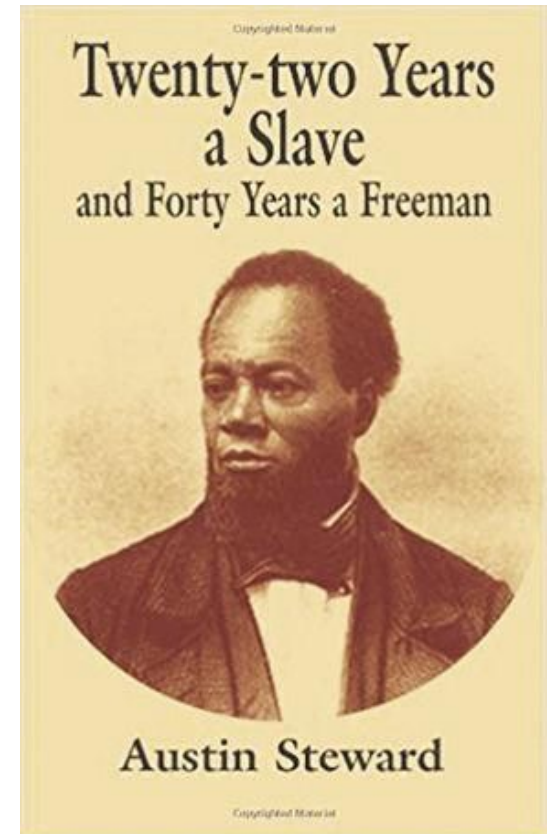
Professor dann J. Broyld Short Video about his book, *Borderland Blacks: Two Cities in the Niagara Region during the Final Decades of Slavery (Anti Slavery, Abolition, and the Atlantic World)*. Play to minute 2:53 for presentation. [Transnational Borderline Black Leaders.](#)



Part VI: Patience and Austin Steward married in 1825. No image of Patience.

### Austin Steward:

- Born into slavery in Virginia
- Activist, Transnational Black Leader
  - Grocery Store Owner, Business
  - Wilberforce Colony Leader
  - Vice President of first national “Colored Convention” in Philadelphia in September 1830
  - Gave speech marking end of slavery in NY on July 5, 1827
  - Abolitionist for UGRR, Temperance
  - Educator, Supported a Black school



Austin Steward published his autobiography in 1857. A Second, Third, and Fourth addition followed.





*Austin Steward. Original drawing  
by James B. Murray.*

Austin Steward (1793-1869)  
Self-Educated. Worked hard to  
catch up on reading and writing  
as a twenty-three year old.  
Freed in 1815 with help from  
Darius Comstock, president of  
the Manumission Society.  
Determined writer and  
educator.

Source:

[https://www.libraryweb.org/~rochhist/v72\\_2010/v72i2.pdf](https://www.libraryweb.org/~rochhist/v72_2010/v72i2.pdf)

# Reference to Patience in Austin Steward's narrative, *Twenty-Two Years a Slave and Forty Years a Freeman*. Married May 11, 1825 in New York

## CHAPTER XVI.

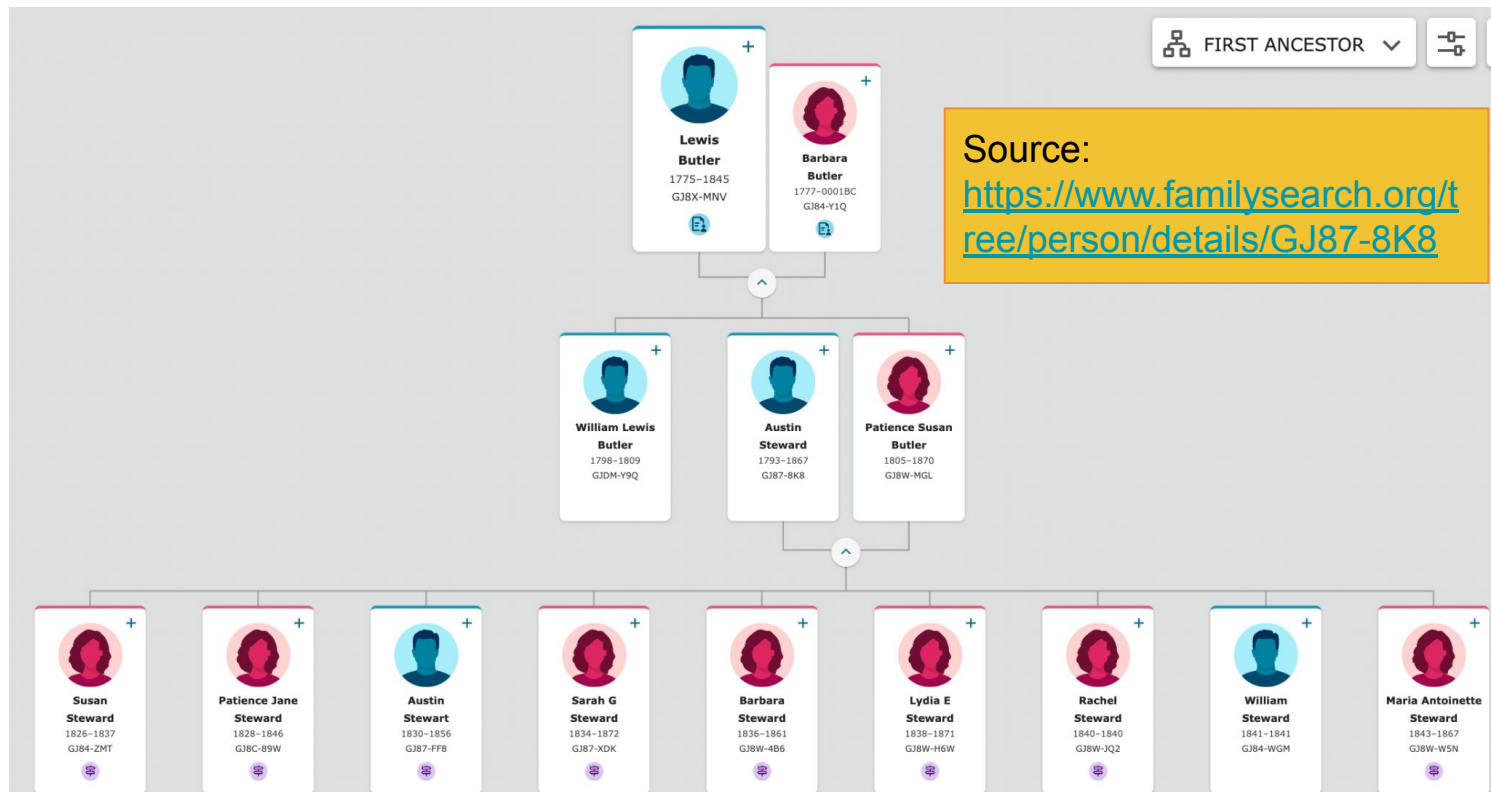
### BRITISH EMANCIPATION OF SLAVERY.

As time passed on I found myself progressing in a profitable business. I had paid for my house and lot, and purchased another adjoining, on which I had erected a valuable brick building. The Lord prospered all my undertakings and I felt grateful for my good fortune. I kept all kinds of groceries and grain, which met a ready sale; and now I began to look about me for a partner in life, to share my joys and sorrows, and to assist me on through the tempestuous scenes of a life-long voyage. Such a companion I found in the intelligent and amiable Miss B----, to whom I was married on the eleventh of May, 1825. She was the youngest daughter of a particular friend, who had traveled extensively and was noted for his honesty and intelligence.

The phrase “particular friend” was coded language for someone helping fugitive slaves on the Underground Railroad.

Source: <https://docsouth.unc.edu/fpn/steward/steward.html>

FamilySearch.org shows that the Butlers did not have grandchildren.  
Lewis (1774/) and Barbara Butler (1777-18??) What year did Barbara pass?  
Patience Susan (1805-1870), her husband Austin Steward (1793-1867)



(Slide 1 of 3) The New York 1855 Census of the Steward family shows how Austin Steward was an transnational activist and family man! Ancestry.com link: <https://tinyurl.com/bp6j824p>

# I. Population.

CENSUS of the Inhabitants in the Second Election District of the Town  
Canandaigua in the County of Ontario taken by me on the fifth day of June, 1855.

Stephen Saxton

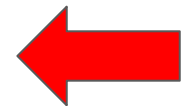
90

Dwellings numbered in the order of visitation.	Of what material built.	Value.	Families numbered in the order of their visitation.	Name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June was in this family.	Age.	Sex.	Whether White or Black or Colored.	Relation to the head of the family.	In what county of this State, or in what other State or Foreign Country born.	Married.	Years resident in this city or town.	Profession, Trade, or Occupation.	VOTERS.			Persons of color over 21 years of age who cannot read and write.	Persons of color under 21 years of age who cannot read and write.		
													Native.	Naturalized.	Alien.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	52	Frame	500	13	L B Wood	28	M		Ontario		1	2	Harness Mch 1						
2					Mary A "	21	F	wife	"		1	2							
3					Frances A "	3	F	daughter	"			2							
4	53	Frame	500	14	Elizabeth Hollister	73	F		Kings co	1	1	20	Seamstress						
5					Kezira "	35	F	daughter	Saratoga co			20							
6	54	Frame	900	15	Austin Stewart	62	M	B	Virginia	1		15	hus maker	1					1
7					Patience "	50	F	wife	Albany	1		13							1
8					Sarah "	22	F	M	daughter	Canada			13						1
9					Barbary "	20	F	M	"			13							1
10					Lidia "	18	F	M	daughter	Monroe co		13							1
11					Maria A "	12	F	M	"	Ontario									1
12					Barbara Butler	78	F	M	mother	Mass		37							1
13					James Scott	16	M	B	servant	Ontario		16	carriage						1
14	55			66	John Young	25	M	M	handman	"	1	5							1
15					Julia "	30	F	M	"	Saratoga	1	5							1
									England	1		7	Butcher						1



(Slide 2 of 3) 1855 Census reports Austin Stewart is listed as a law maker. His house is valued at \$900 while the other houses next to them are valued at \$400.

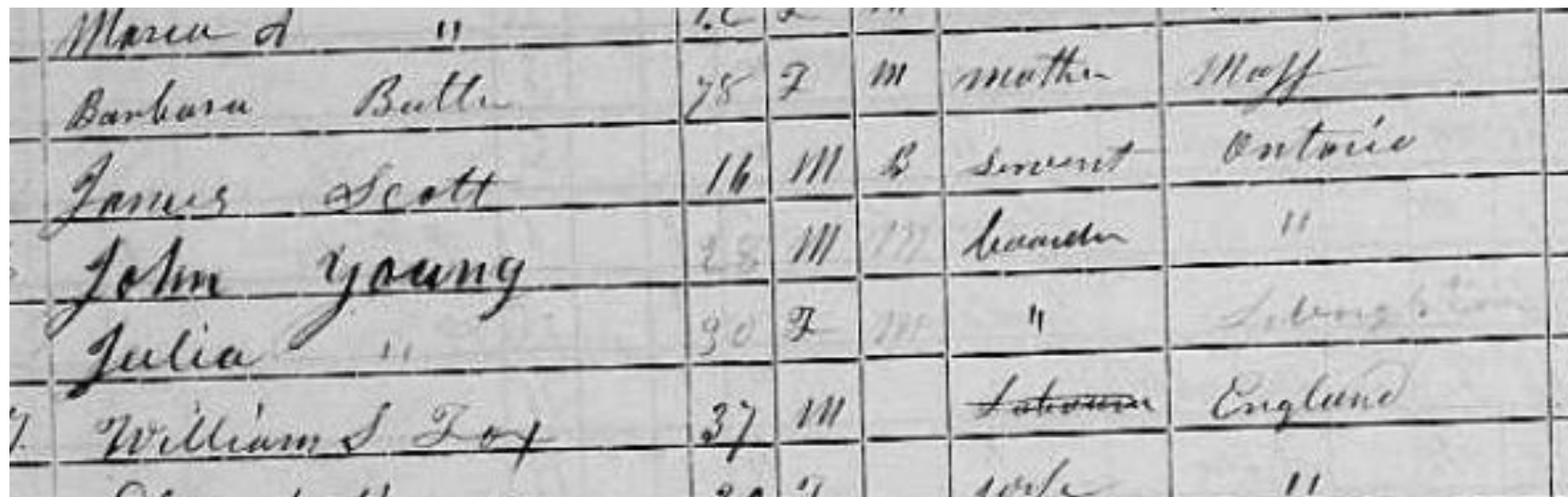
Karina	"	35	F		daughter	Sasolaghi	1	13	
Austin	Stewart	62	M	B		Virginia	1	13	law maker
Patience	"	51	F	M	wife	Albany	1	13	
		29	F	M	daughter	Canada		13	



Source:

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9B53-9ZDR?i=4&cc=1937366&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AK63X-LRW>

(Slide 3 of 3) 1855 Census demonstrates how Austin Steward was not only transnational Black Borderland Leader; he was also international leader who sought Abolitionist financial support from England.



Marcus A	"	20	M	"	"
Barbara Butler		78	F	M	Moff
James Scott		16	M	S	Ontario
John Young		28	M	H	"
Julia	"	30	F	"	London, Ont.
William S. Fox		37	M	"	England
"	"	20	"	"	"

This census also shows how Austin Steward's had a black servant and two borders from Ontario. His neighbor was also from England.

Source:

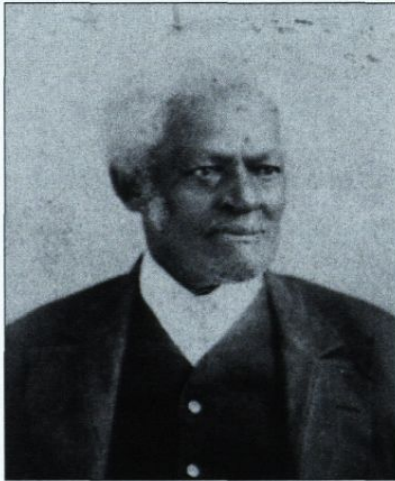
<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9B53-9ZDR?i=4&cc=1937366&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AK63X-LRW>

Family Man: Austin Steward and Patience Created  
Headstone to Remember their children who died young.



## *Rev. Thomas James*

A third important black pioneer, the Rev. Thomas James, was born a slave in Montgomery County, New York. In his early teens, he escaped from bondage and fled across the Canadian border to St. Catharines. There, James supported himself by working as a digger



*Rev. Thomas James,  
from the Rochester Public Library  
Local History Division.*

on the Welland Canal. He called the labor “a rough lot and soon had a mind to leave.”<sup>16</sup> Risking re-enslavement, he came back to the United States after three months and made Rochester his home. James stands as an example that international fugitive traffic flowed in both directions in the Niagara frontier, depending on the prospects for social mobility. In 1823, at age 19, the illiterate James attended the black Sabbath School on Buffalo Street, where the industrious Austin Steward taught. He was employed at a freight warehouse along the Erie Canal and studied during his downtime. Thankful for his education, he returned the

## Impact of Austin Steward's School Black Sabbath School

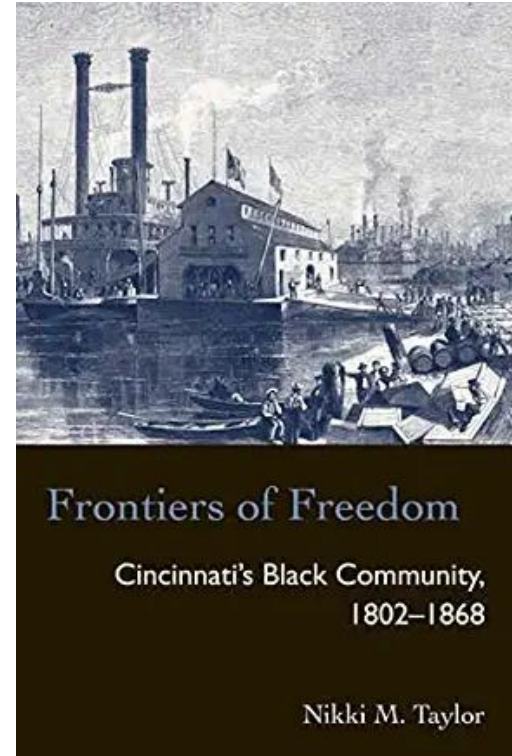
Reverend Thomas James educated by Austin Steward himself and became a minister.

Source:

[https://www.libraryweb.org/~rochhist/v72\\_2010/v72i2.pdf](https://www.libraryweb.org/~rochhist/v72_2010/v72i2.pdf)



# Nikki M. Taylor Frontiers of Freedom: Cincinnati's Black Community, 1802-1868



Source on left: <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/cincinnati-race-riots-1836/>

Source on right: <https://books.google.com/books?id=ZC8xDzjUM-cC&q=those+who+reduce#v=onepage&q&f=false>

## Nikki M. Taylor *Frontiers of Freedom: Cincinnati's Black Community, 1802-1868*

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Before concluding that Wilberforce was a failure, it is important to revisit the goals of the original settlers from Cincinnati. The original objective of the emigration campaign was to find a place where blacks might enjoy citizenship rights and equality under the law. As they made plans to relocate, that definition of freedom evolved to include land ownership and self-sufficiency. Once the emigrants arrived in the colony, the community expanded its definition of freedom yet again to include education and political participation. The short history of this community suggests that freedom was not a state of being, but a state of striving.

## Nikki M. Taylor *Frontiers of Freedom: Cincinnati's Black Community, 1802-1868*

Although Wilberforce passed so quietly and quickly into history, its settlers offered a compelling vision of freedom. In the face of the violent denial of social, political, and economic freedom in Cincinnati, this community had a vista of hope that freedom was obtainable elsewhere. Through land ownership, education, moral development, social and legal equality, and suffrage, these colonists—even if briefly, even if slightly—tasted freedom.

Lewis and Barbara Butler Contributed to this Transnational Borderland Community. The prosperous land explains the region's prosperity and liberal developments.

## Two Freedoms Insights by S. Brent Rodriguez Plate

“There is a kind of freedom that can be expressed as freedom from: freedom from enslavement, freedom from economic centralization putting money in the hands of kings, and freedom from church authorities tightly regulating salvation and access to the sacred. As early Americans followed the canal westward, farther from the institutional churches and governmental structures of old England and New England alike, freedom from the past became a central preoccupation.

On the other side is freedom to: freedom to work and create one's own business; freedom to worship and assemble and perhaps even form one's own religious movement; and freedom to enable others to escape the bonds of slavery and start a new life. Such positive freedom entails effort, as Steward's life suggests: distributing newspapers, establishing utopian societies and schools, delivering speeches and community organizing.”

Source: <https://www.americamagazine.org/arts-culture/2017/08/16/did-erie-canal-help-put-end-slavery>



The prosperous land influenced the region's prosperity and liberal developments. Women's rights and numerous religious organizations emerged in this region along with the UGRR.



Map showing the counties of New York considered part of the "Burned-over District"<sup>[1][2]</sup>

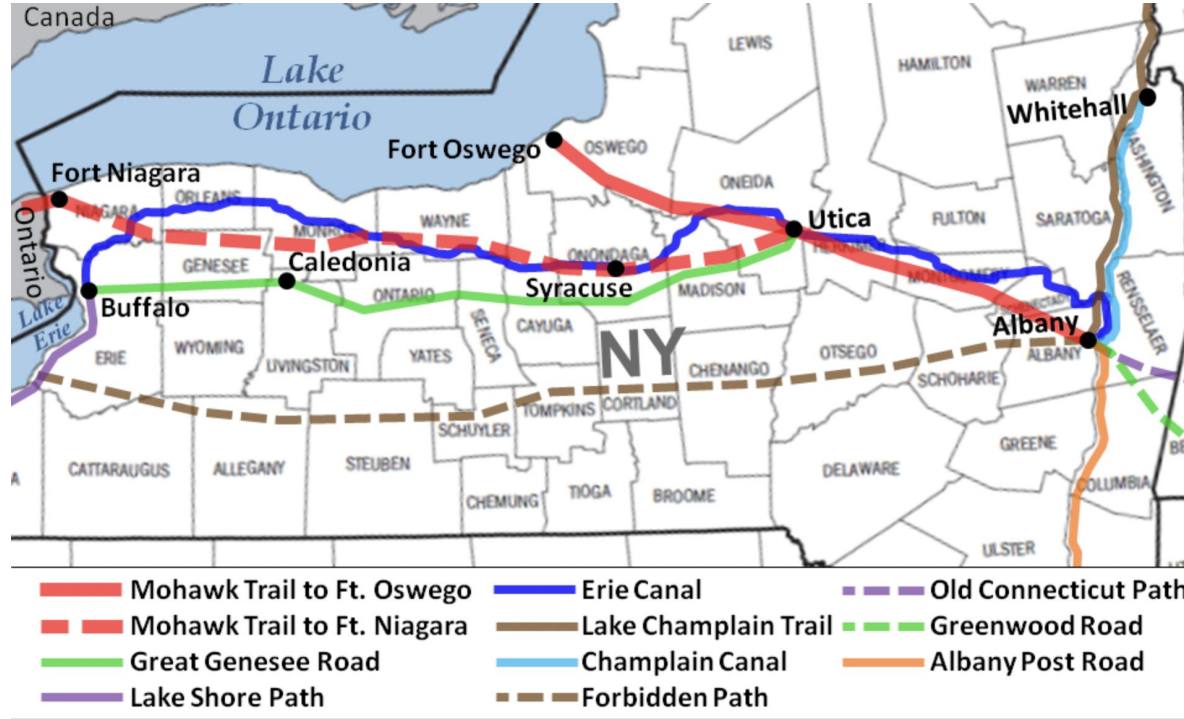
The term "burned-over district" refers to the western and central regions of New York State in the early 19th century, where religious revivals and the formation of new religious movements of the Second Great Awakening took place, to such a great extent that spiritual fervor seemed to set the area on fire. Source:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burned-over\\_district](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burned-over_district)

The Erie Canal created boomtowns and was developed around previous Native American trails and settlements.



The Native Americans originally created great trails that are today's highways and canal paths.



Source: [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Mohawk\\_or\\_Iroquois\\_Trail#/media/File:Mohawk\\_Trail\\_map.png](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Mohawk_or_Iroquois_Trail#/media/File:Mohawk_Trail_map.png)

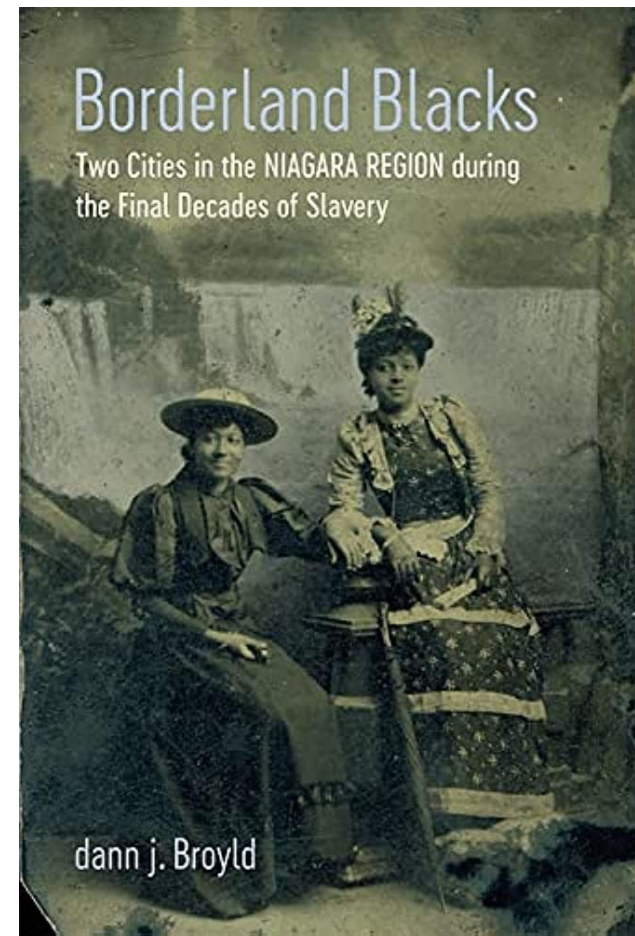




# Will's Closing Thoughts on Barbara and Lewis Butler

Even though we have more research to conduct and more questions for other historians and experts in this field, our class has a sense of satisfaction in that we now know the untold stories about the enslaved couple who lived in the attic and slept in the bed. We now know that Barbara and Lewis Butler, after they were enslaved here in Suffield, eventually journeyed to Canandaigua where they helped establish a new transnational community along with Austin Stewart, a significant Black Borderland leader.

Looking over their entire life, Lewis and Barbara Butler exemplify the Witness Stones Theme of agency and resistance because they faced problems and managed them. They chose to leave Suffield and get married in Boston; then they traveled to Albany and the UGRR route to Canandaigua. Stepping back, they are role models for us today. Reflecting on their resilient spirit, we too should have the courage to face and confront our hard history to “restore the history and honor the humanity of the enslaved individuals who helped build our communities” (Witness Stone Project).



Again, we are still looking for Barbera Butler's death year. Patience and Austin Steward's 1860 Census. Perhaps Barbara Butler passed away sometime before 1860.

1860 United States Federal Census for Patience L Steward													
New York > Ontario > Canandaigua													
Dwelling No.	Family No.	Name	Age	Sex	Color	Occupation	Real Estate	Personal Estate	Birthplace	Married 1	Attended	Cannot R	Condition
833	22	Austin Steward	66	M	B	Bookseller	1	100	Virginia				
		Patience L. "	34	F	B		1000		N.Y.				
		Abraham G. "	26	F	B	Shoemaker	1		"				
		Barbara "	24	F	B	Lecturer	1		Canada				
		Lydia E. "	22	F	B	Shoemaker	1		N.Y.				
		Antoinette "	17	F	B				"			1	

Source:

<https://www.ancestry.com/sharing/3294223?mark=7b22746f6b656e223a225161636f396830747a664930784573437557682f426b414c35474f7233716766524762643573776d5a43593d222c22746f6b656e5f76657273696f6e223a225632227d>

Do you want to join us in organizing a Witness Stone Installation Program for Barbara and Lewis Butler on Saturday, May 6, 2023? Contact Bill Sullivan.

## Text Sent to Artist Who Makes Each Witness Stone Memorial

Barbara Nichols Butler

Mother

Born In Massachusetts

C. 1777

Enslaved Here

Gained Her Freedom

Married in Boston - 1798

Moved to Canandaigua, NY

SU 3

CT 152

Lewis Butler

Abolitionist

Born in Rhode Island

C. 1774

Enslaved Here

Father-in-law of Austin Steward

Married in Boston - 1798

Moved to Canandaigua, NY

Died 1845

SU 4

CT 153

Thank you for coming out  
and Zooming into tonight's  
program!

Any Questions?





**We appreciate the help with our learning this year!**

**Suffield's Third Baptist Church**, Deacon Chairman, Bill Hill, Sonia Hill. **Suffield's The First Church of Christ, Congregational**, The Rev. Diann H. Bailey, Senior Minister,

**Suffield Historical Society:** Jan Peake, Art Sikes, Jackie Hemond, Anne Borg, Dianne Seaman, Rick Seaman, Joey Artioli, Norm Noble, Bob Stewart, Laurie Tavino, Barry Sisk, Chris Childs, Jennifer Yergeau, Sara Zak, Jim Reeves, Nancy Noble, Klaire Bielonko, Amanda Miller, Christine Ritok, Justin Drenzek, and Lester Smith.



**We appreciate the help with our learning this year!**

**Town of Suffield:** First Selectman, Colin Moll; Selectman Kathleen Harrington; Selectman Mel Chafetz; Selectman Jerry Mahoney, and Selectman Pete Hill; Director of Suffield's Public Works, Chris Matejek. Bob Heim for his design and creation of Tamer's Witness Stone memorial.

**CT Landmarks, Phelps-Hatheway House and Garden:** Lynn Mervosh, site administrator, North Central Region; Aaron Marcavitch, Executive Director of CT Landmarks; Shaelyn Amaio, Public Engagement Manager of CT Landmarks.



We appreciate the help with our learning this year!

**Venture Smith Day Festival Friends:** Susi Ryan, Angi Perron, Corinne Henry Brady, and Dr. Karl Stofko. Elizabeth Normen, author of *Venture Smith's Colonial Connecticut*.

**Ontario Historical Society:** Ben Falter, Director of Education, Wilma Townsend, Curator, and Preston E. Pierce, Museum Educator. **The Rev. Chester Freeman**, who dedicated an historic plaque on 150th anniversary of Steward's death at Steward's gravesite in Canandaigua's West Avenue Cemetery.





We appreciate the help with our learning this year!

**The Witness Stones Project:** Patricia Wilson Pheanious, J.D., M.S.W, Chair of the Board of Directors; Dennis Culliton, Executive Director & Co-Founder of; Liz Lightfoot, Director of Operations. Dr. Gamesha Scruggs, CCSU. Other Suffield's supporters of the **Witness Stones Project in Suffield:** Susan and Ted Ruddocks , Kacy Colston, Dave Gauthier, Temporary Chair of the Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee and thoughtful, committed citizen. Amy Healy, thoughtful, committed citizen.

Bryna O'Sullivan, proprietor of **Charter Oak Genealogy:** <https://charteroakgenealogy.com/>





We appreciate the help with our learning this year!

**The Sibbil Dwight Kent Chapter (Suffield & Windsor Locks) of The Daughters of The American Revolution, especially** Judy Hanmer, Ellen Banks, Liz Stanley, Sarah Donahue, and others.

**ABAR Suffield** and all of the Suffield residents who celebrated Tamer's life during Suffield's first Juneteenth event in 2021.

**Kent Memorial Library:** Julie Stylers, Wendy Taylor, *et al.*



**We appreciate the help with our learning this year!**

**Suffield Academy:** Lindsey Fava, Sidney Kent Legare Librarian; Sara Yeager, Dean of Academics and Faculty; Liz Warren, Cultural Diversity Director; Molly Vianney, AP History, Kelli Tosone, Hillary Cahn, and Molly Gotwals; critical friends Chris Brown and Josh Hillman. Jason Healy, Matt Graham, and Andrew Kanehl's for their great support in the Technology Department.

**Special thanks** goes to these organizations for this and our other community programs: The Amiel P. Zak Public Service Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The Friends of Suffield Grant. The 2022 Suffield Greater Together Community Fund.



We appreciate the help with our learning this year!

**President of the Pioneer Valley History Network**, Cliff McCarthy, who also works for Wood Museum of Springfield History and the Stone House Museum, Belchertown.

**dann j. Broyld** is an Associate Professor in African American History at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. He completed his doctoral work in Nineteenth Century United States and African Diaspora History at Howard University. His work focuses on transnational migration and identity in the American Canadian borderlands. <https://www.dannjbroyld.com/>