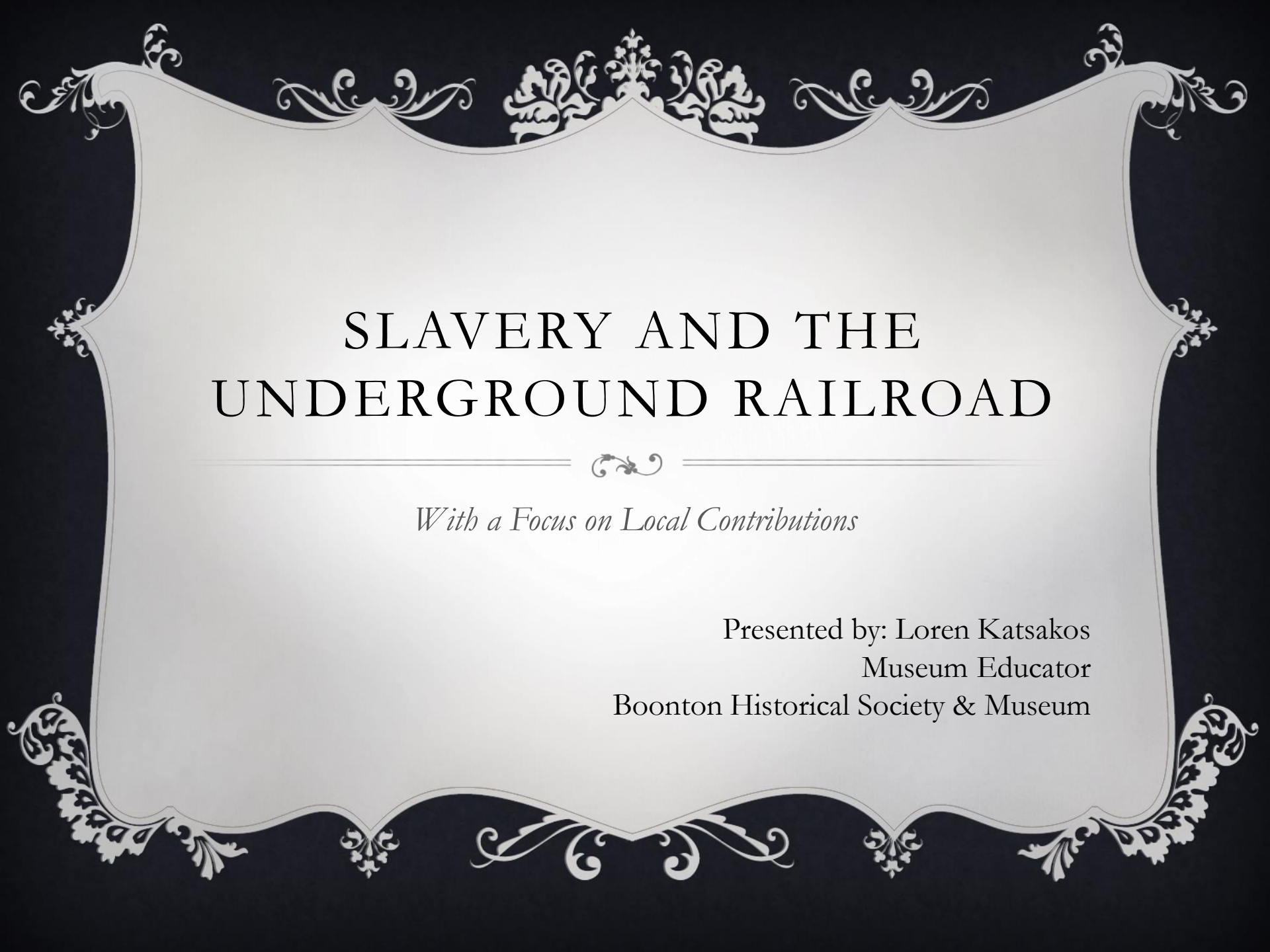




SLAVERY AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

With a Focus on Local Contributions

Presented by: Loren Katsakos
Museum Educator
Boonton Historical Society & Museum

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SLAVERY

- ❖ First record of slavery: 3500 BCE
- ❖ Sumner, now Iraq, slavery was common fact of life.
- ❖ Prisoners of war became slaves: Prisoners can be more useful alive than dead.
- ❖ Slaves considered inferior.
- ❖ Empires of Babylon, Greece, and Rome captured thousands of prisoners of war.

SLAVERY

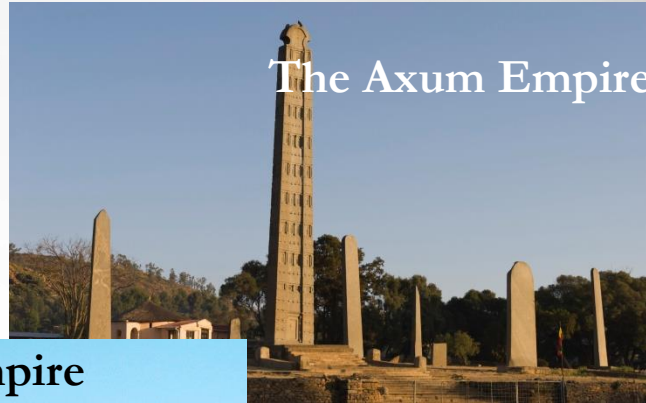
- ❖ Chattel Slavery: Humans treated as possessions with no rights and can be bought, sold, and used in any way the owner wished.
- ❖ Serfdom: During the Middle Ages this became commonplace throughout Europe, first in the West then the East.
 - Tilled the land or any chore assigned. No equal rights.
 - But they earned money!
 - Manumission was available to them. Many chose NOT to buy their freedom because the protection provided.
 - They could buy land, but then paid a tax (portion of the land's produce).
 - In times of war, serfs could be recruited for the fyrd.
- ❖ Serfdom faded around the 16th century.

EMPIRES OF AFRICA

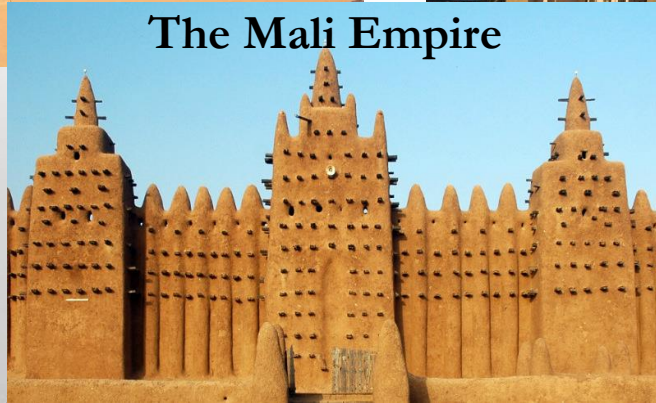
Kingdom of Kush



The Axum Empire



The Mali Empire



THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

- ❖ 25 Million Africans were exported as slaves.
- ❖ The total population of the entire continent failed to grow for a long period.
- ❖ Africa's economic growth stalled
- ❖ Due to the “inferior” viewpoint, Europeans conquered and colonized African countries rather than enter into trade with them.

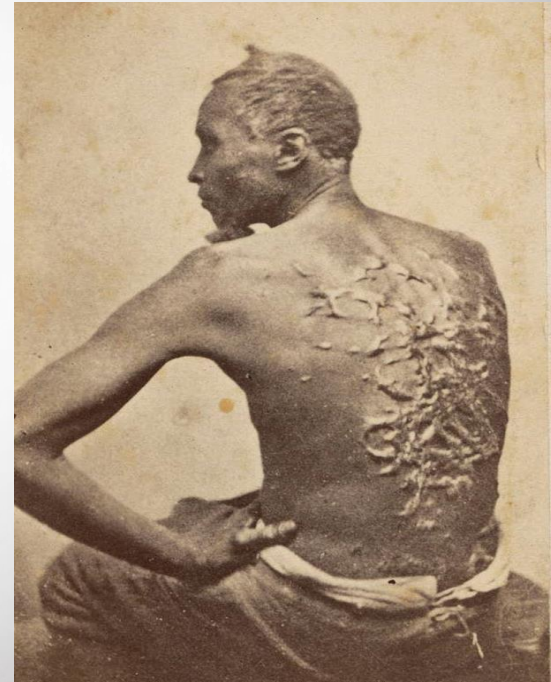
QUEEN NZINGA MBANDE



- ❖ Ascended to the throne: 1624.
- ❖ Found herself ruling over a country that was being plundered.
- ❖ Made a failed pact with Portugal.
- ❖ Packed up her entire country and left.
- ❖ Matamba grew into a sanctuary and the center of trade in South Africa.
- ❖ Located near modern day Luanda, the capital city of Angola in South Africa.

LIFE AS A SLAVE

- ❖ Slavery legal after the Revolution.
- ❖ Enslaved people were status symbols.
- ❖ Poor working conditions & housing*
- ❖ Enslaved people did not grow old.
- ❖ Could not testify against a white person.
- ❖ No education



SLAVERY IN NEW JERSEY

- ❖ Earliest record of slaves in NJ is 1680.
- ❖ Slaves were judged in separate courts.
- ❖ To discourage revolt, NJ reserved cruel forms of punishment.
- ❖ Slave sentenced to death; slaveowner received \$\$ from the state.
- ❖ Families were separated.



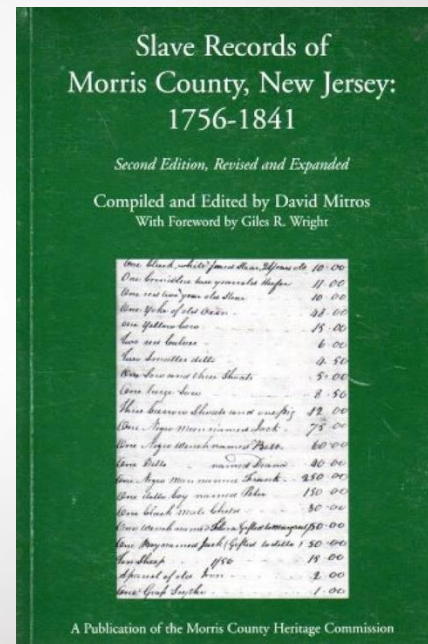
NEW JERSEY FACTS

- ❖ NJ had the second largest slave population in the North.
- ❖ By 1735, over 8% of NJ's population consisted of slaves. 1776: 12%
- ❖ Most lived in East Jersey.
- ❖ 1786: An Act to Prevent the Importation of Slaves into the State of NJ and to Authorize the Manumission of Them Under Certain Restrictions, and to Prevent the Abuse of Slaves.
- ❖ 1804: An Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery. Citizens in Morris County quickly petitioned the legislature to repeal the 1804 act. Petition DENIED.
- ❖ New Jersey never passed a law actually abolishing slavery.

MORRIS COUNTY SLAVE RECORDS

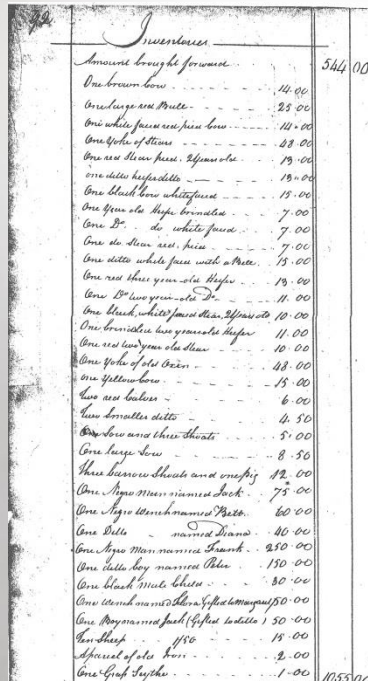
1756 - 1841

- ❖ Estate Inventories
- ❖ Birth Certificates
- ❖ Marriage Certificates
- ❖ Manumissions
- ❖ Newspaper Ads and Notices



SLAVEOWNERS AND SLAVES IN ESTATE INVENTORIES – MORRIS

John H. Vreeland's Estate.



Inventory

Amount brought forward 544 00

One brown cow 40 00
 One large red Bull 25 00
 One white face red horn cow 10 00
 One York of steers 48 00
 One red steer face 19 00
 One white hoghead 18 00
 One black cow white face 15 00
 One grey old high horned cow 7 00
 One B. do white face 7 00
 One do steer red face 7 00
 One white face with a black 15 00
 One red three year old heifer 19 00
 One B. two year old do 11 00
 One black white face old heifer 10 00
 One brownish two year old heifer 11 00
 One red two year old cow 10 00
 One York of old Oxen 48 00
 One yellow cow 15 00
 One red bull 6 00
 One cow with calf 4 50
 One cow with calf 5 00
 One large cow 8 50
 Three brown sheeps and ewes 12 00
 One Negro man named Jack 75 00
 One Negro man named Peter 60 00
 One white named David 40 00
 One Negro man named Frank 250 00
 One little boy named Peter 150 00
 One black male child 30 00
 One black named John 50 00
 One boy named Jack 50 00
 One sheep 15 00
 Appraisal of old cow 2 00
 One Girl Liza 1 00

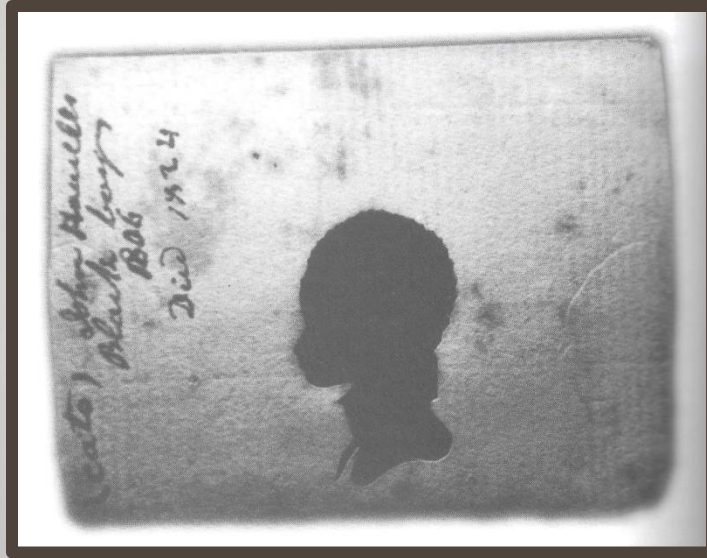
1055 00

Decade	Owners	Slaves
1751-1760	4	6
1761-1770	2	2
1771-1780	7	13
1781-1790	9	21
1791-1800	25	68
1801-1810	43	87
1811-1820	37	90
1821-1830	38	88
1831-1840	7	21
1841-1850	3	6

MORRIS COUNTY SLAVE DATA

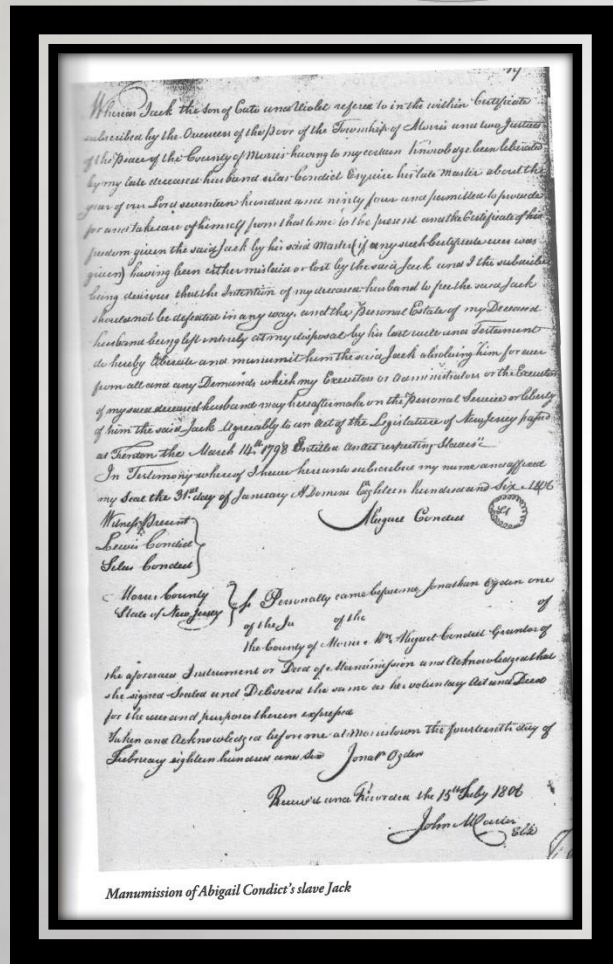
Township	Owner	Slaves
Chatham	10	25
Chester	15	29
Hanover	28	66
Mendham	8	11
Morris	26	79
Pequannock	51	127
Randolph	4	4
Roxbury	27	52
Washington	5	9

Township	Slave Births
Chatham	12
Chester	30
Hanover	64
Jefferson	6
Mendham	4
Morris	73
Pequannock	46
Randolph	9
Roxbury	12
Washington	8



**CATO, JOHN HOWELL'S
BLACK BOY**

- ❖ Despite the gradual emancipation law of 1804, slavery lasted longer in NJ than in other northern states.
- ❖ NJ Slavery continued mostly in NJ's rural economy.
- ❖ By 1830's the practice sharply declined due largely because of the gradual emancipation law.
- ❖ 1846, a second emancipation law almost abolished slavery in NJ.
- ❖ Remaining slaves were reclassified as "apprentices for life."
- ❖ The 1860 census listed 18 of these apprentices for life as slaves.



Manumission of Abigail Condict's slave Jack

MANUMISSIONS

- ❖ Even before the 1804 law, NJ slaveholders could free their slaves.
- ❖ 1776, the first manumission in Morris County came from Pequannock!
- ❖ Adam Miller, a Quaker, declared his intent to free Jack.
- ❖ Slaveholders had to post a bond for every slave freed.
- ❖ Required bond abolished in 1786.



New Jersey Journal

RUNAWAY SLAVE NOTICE

FIVE DOLLARS REWARD.

RUN-away from Samuel Ogden, of Boontown, in the County of Morris, and Province of New- Jersey, on Sunday the 18th of October last: A Negro Man named Mingo or Tim, he is about 30 years of Age, has a Scar either on his Nose or on one of his Cheeks; is about 5 feet 7 or 8 Inches high, plays on the Violin, speaks good Dutch and English, and is much addicted to Strong drink; Had on when he went away a dark brown broad cloth Coat, with brass Philadelphia buttons, a brown broad cloth waist-coat, with basket mohair Buttons, a Pair of red coating Trowsers, a ozenbrig Shirt and wool Hat. He was formerly the property of Isaac Wilkins, Esq; of West-Chester, about which Place it is not unlikely he may be lurking. Whoever apprehends said Negro and returns him to his master, or secures him in any of his Majesty's goals, shall be paid the above Reward, and all reasonable charges by

SAMUEL OGDEN.

[1772]

THE GRIMES HOMESTEAD



- ❖ House constructed in the late 18th century.
- ❖ 45 Bloomfield Avenue (Parsippany in it's day)
- ❖ John L. Grimes born 1802
- ❖ Quaker family
- ❖ 1977: Placed on the National Register of Historic Places
- ❖ Moved to 4 Craven Road

AKA: GRIMES FARM



Pictures taken in 1975 with application
to the National Park Service

THE ABOLITIONIST



No. 2

4. That as wisdom is justified of her children, so Liberty is justified by hers—and as the children of the one, *everywhere and always* testify against folly; so those of the other, *everywhere and always* testify against slavery.

... O. A. Bowe. - The **New** **J**
many I can now call to mind.
The first name
edited by

September 12, 1844, pg. 47

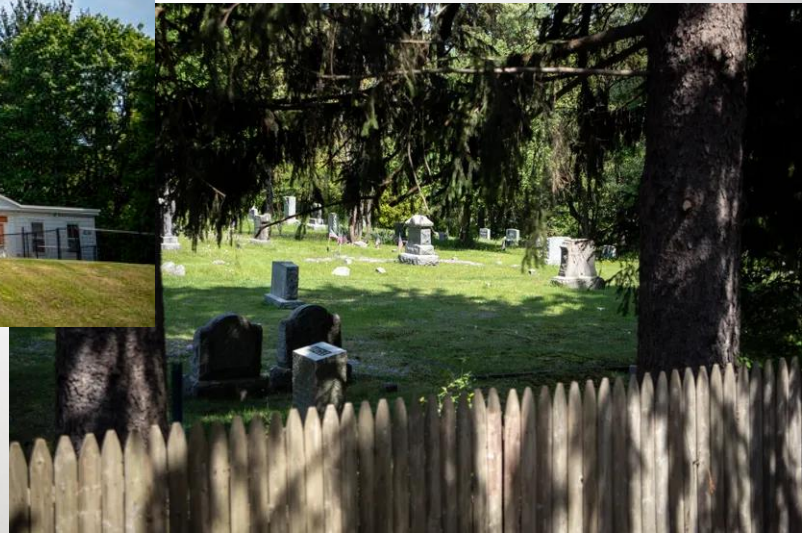
LIBERTY PAPER.—Saying always
As an evidence of the increasing aversion
of political action against slavery, it may
be proper to state, that instead of some half
dozen in 1850 there are now about half
a-dozen anti-slavery newspapers which advocate
concentrated political action against slavery.
One recently the Liberty Herald, published
at Corland N. Y. has made its appear-
ance.—The Middlesex Standard, published
at Lowell Mass. and edited by Wm. C.
Whittier.—The Granite Freeman, pub-
lished at Concord N. H. and edited by John G.
Hood.—The Liberty Courier, published at
Caziz, Hamilton County Ohio, and edited
by M. H. Upham.—The Western Free-
man, published at Lith Springs N. Y. and
edited by A. A. Bowe.—The New Jersey
Freeman, published at Roseton N. J. So
many I can now call to mind of recent or-
igin. The first named papers appears to be
named by an association, and the last has no
name as editor, but the name of John Grimes
is inserted as publisher. I have as yet
hardly become acquainted with the talents
and editorial tact of some of these con-
tributors. But O. A. Howe and John G.
Whittier I know, and can say, I consider
them well fitted for the stations they occupy.
and so far as I have seen the writings of
J. G. Hood, consider him a good writer.
I have not pressed with matters of war,
nor kind since the foregoing papers arrived,
to the merits of them, except in my de-
sign aspect, which I can cheerfully and gladly
say is high toned. And in this one trait sec-
ond to any in the anti-slavery papers, which
I am all acquainted. This I consider a
good omen, and one which betokens suc-
cess. May these Freedom Trumpets suc-
ceed in one after another and trouble the slave-
power, until, like the unjust Judge, rather
than be troubled, the request will be grant-
ed.

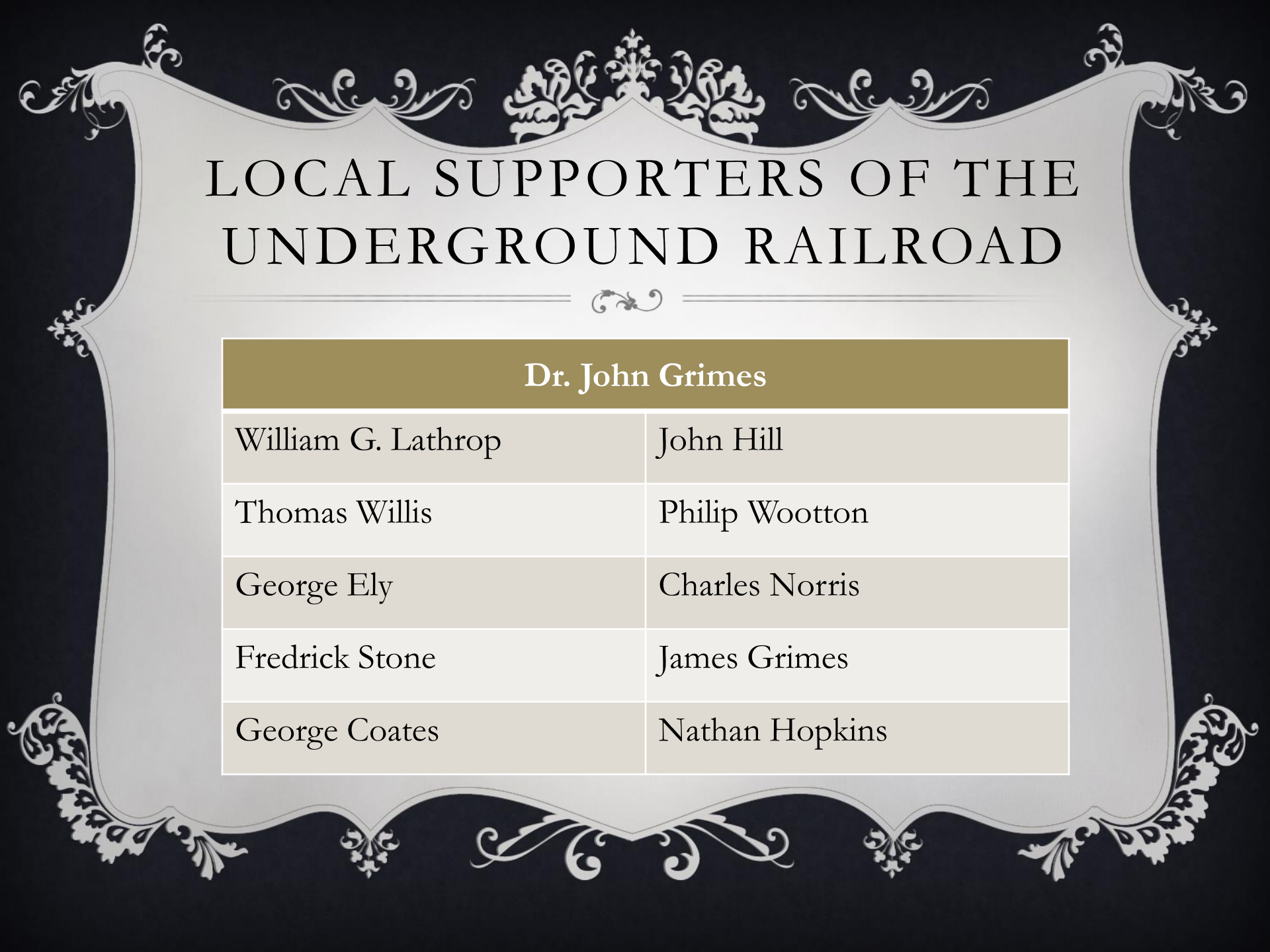


REMEMBERING DR. JOHN GRIMES

- ❖ Leader of the Anti-Slavery Society of New Jersey
- ❖ Never feared to speak out.
- ❖ Published and edited 1st Newspaper in Boonton
- ❖ Published the 1st Abolitionist newspaper in NJ
- ❖ Grimes worked tirelessly on the cause for 30 years!

NEWFOUNDLAND, NJ





LOCAL SUPPORTERS OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Dr. John Grimes

William G. Lathrop

John Hill

Thomas Willis

Philip Wootton

George Ely

Charles Norris

Fredrick Stone

James Grimes

George Coates

Nathan Hopkins



CHARLES F. HOPKINS

- ❖ Moved to the Powerville section of Boonton in 1856: Powerville Hotel.
- ❖ Dad, Nathan, very strong advocate of Anti-slavery and an active conductor on the Underground Railroad.
- ❖ At 14, Charles helped his Dad by driving runaways on the Underground Railroad.
- ❖ Price of a runaway slave: “from \$50 to \$300 and \$500”
- ❖ His personal story...

HOPKINS' POWERVILLE HOTEL



BOONTON'S WAR HERO



HARRIET TUBMAN



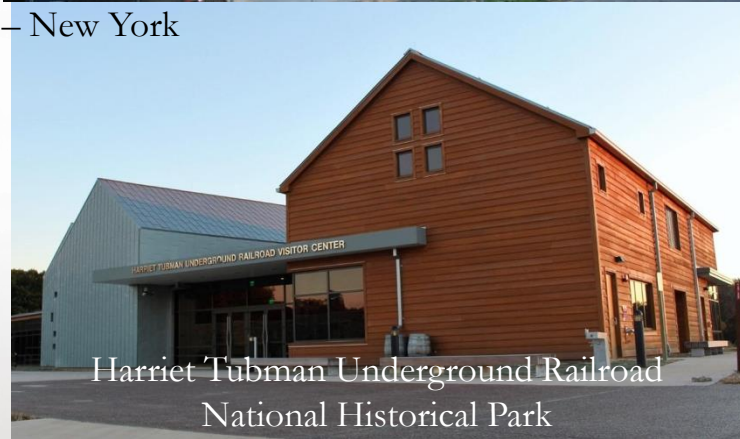
Harriet Tubman in 1868 or 1869
Library of Congress

- Born Araminta by her enslaved parents in 1822: Maryland's Eastern Shore.
- Changed name to Harriet when she married freeman John Tubman in 1844.
- She escaped 5 years later when she was to be sold.
- Ten years and 13 trips to rescue family and friends
- Gave instructions to about 70 more.
- Nicknamed "Moses" by William Lloyd Garrison, abolitionist.
- Joined the U.S. Army during the Civil War: Spy, Scout, Nurse, and Cook.



Harriet Tubman National Historical Park

- New York



Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad
National Historical Park

- Maryland



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD...A REFLECTION

- ❖ Gave freedom to thousands of enslaved women, men, and children and hope to others.
- ❖ First hand knowledge and able to spread the word
- ❖ Became members and supporters of the Underground Railroad
- ❖ But southern slaveowners became bitter.
- ❖ Unfortunately, racism is still rampant across the US.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

- ❖ There are more humans trapped in slavery today than any other time in history – including when slavery was legal. (**Sound of Freedom**; directed by Alejandro Monteverde)
- ❖ The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000
- ❖ The State Department implemented the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. **Fact Sheets for 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report.**
- ❖ Human trafficking is a 150 billion dollar-a-year-business. The United States is one of the top destinations for human trafficking and is among the largest consumers of children.
- ❖ <https://www.state.gov/20-ways-you-can-help-fight-human-trafficking/>

SOURCES

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- ❖ **Boonton, The Gem of the Mountains, 1910: *The Underground Railroad* by Charles F. Hopkins**
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- ❖ Amy Newman/NorthJersey.com/USA Today Network
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