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LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY

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Past Operators of Underground Railroad Stations (including the station's current address)

ROCHESTER AREA

Kelsey's Landing

Located on Driving Park behind the entrance to the Maplewood Rose Garden. This was a key spot because it marks the place where slaves were placed aboard Canadian vessels. Once aboard, they were safely under the Canadian flag. The landing is at the foot of the cliff; a trail leads halfway down.

Frederick Douglass's Homes

Frederick Douglass lived in several different places in Rochester and sheltered fugitive slaves in all of them. Two of the more well-known:

- Near the Lily Pond in Highland Park (then 1023 South Avenue, southeast of Linden). This house was destroyed by fire in 1872.
- 4 Alexander Street (demolished sometime in the 1900s).

Isaac & Amy Post

**36 North Sophia Street (present-day Fitzhugh Street North)
Rochester, NY**

The Posts were progressive social reformers and ardent abolitionists. Close friends of Frederick Douglass, the Posts once sheltered 15 slaves in one night.

William S. Bishop

**129 Troup Street (was 39 Troup St.)
Rochester, New York**

Mr. Bishop was a lawyer. He may have had his office in the Reynolds Arcade, East Main Street, Rochester, N.Y.

Asa Anthony House
446 Post Avenue
Rochester, New York

Anthony was a distant relative of Susan B. Anthony, a Quaker, a member of the Friends of Human Progress, and a founding member of the Rochester Anti-Slavery Society.

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
42 Favor Street
Rochester, New York

Founded in 1827 by Rev. Thomas James, this building has the distinction of being the home of the first black church in the city of Rochester. Not only did Harriet Tubman hide slaves there, it also served as a meeting place for notable abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass. Douglass published the *North Star* in the church's basement before moving his office to the Talman Building. The church was said to have contained a trap door by the pulpit and escape tunnels leading to Plymouth Avenue and the Genesee River.

SURROUNDING AREAS

Thomas Warrant Homestead (M)
1956 West Henrietta Road (corner of East River Rd. & W. Henrietta Rd.)
Brighton, New York

Mr. Warrant came to Rochester in 1818. He was a coppersmith and a charter member of the Rochester Anti-Slavery Society. He hid fugitives in his barn which stood across the street.

Gideon and Jeremiah Ramsdell**
173 Mason Road, Hamlet of Egypt
Perinton, New York

The Ramsdells were devout Quakers who, in addition to being conductors on the Underground Railroad, were temperate and put an end to horse racing in the area. The house still stands today.

John Tallman, Sr.
2187 East Whitney Road
Perinton, New York

Mr. Tallman's occupation was farming. After feeding and caring for the runaways, he transported them in a large lumber wagon under the cover of night to the next station in Pultneyville or Charlotte.

Mr. & Mrs. Ard Weeks
2990 Atlantic Avenue
Penfield, New York

Mr. Weeks was a 'lightning rod' in his church. He was expelled from the Baptist Church for his abolitionist stand, and for harboring runaways.

Gideon and Mary Archer (M)
286 South Avenue, Village of Hilton
Parma, New York

The Archers were devout Free-Will Baptists who would shelter runaways overnight before sending them on to Walter Yond and his boat. (The Archers lived in the small house at the rear of the lot).

The Chase Family (M)**
1191 Manitou Road (near Rt. 18 & Latta Rd.)
Parma, New York

Isaac Chase, Jr. was a State Assemblyman; plus, he was elected Parma Town Supervisor nine times. Until the home was recently remodeled, there was an accessible trapdoor that opened to a stairway leading to a secret room.

The Reverend Robert McMath
118 East Main Street
Webster (Village), New York

The Rev. McMath was the pastor of the Presbyterian Church (now demolished) across from his home. He sheltered runaways in his cellar before transporting them by wagon to Pultneyville where they boarded boats to Canada and freedom.

David H. Richardson Farm (M)
East Henrietta Road (Route 15A)
Henrietta, New York

Richardson, known as “Uncle Dave” to runaway slaves, was a big man – standing 6 feet tall and weighing 250 pounds – who was known for his booming voice as well as never turning away an escaped slave. Richardson’s barn is still standing and features an historic marker.

(M) -Historic Site

* * -Quaker Operator

† Structure still standing