

## Selected Anti-slavery Petitions from Chautauqua County

By Douglas H. Shepard, 2015

Revised as to Petitions 3, 4, 5, and 6 by Douglas H. Shepard, 2016.

Revised as to Petitions 1, 7, and 8 by Douglas H. Shepard, 2018.

Revised as to Petitions 2, 9, 10, 11, and 12 by Douglas H. Shepard, 2019.

Identified persons are mapped (or in the process of mapping) at [www.orbitist.com/ugrr](http://www.orbitist.com/ugrr).

*The following, approximately in chronological order from 1844 through 1851, and numbered by the transcriber as Petition 1 through Petition 12, are transcriptions of anti-slavery petitions from Chautauqua County. They were found by Dr. Judith **Wellman** in the National Archives (Washington, DC) and sent to Chautauqua County historian Michelle **Henry** about 2006. In some instances, the transcriber has added punctuation for clarity. Copies of two additional petitions may be found in the anti-slavery collection in [the Foote papers](#).*

### Petition 1

*Dated 25 December 1844, this petition is most likely from the Towns of Ellicott, Carroll, and Busti. It sought to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia. The cover note, preamble, and signatures are all handwritten.*

#### [Cover note]

“New York Chautauque &c The memorial of John P. **Shearman** & others of the County of Chautauque New York praying for the abolition of slavery & the slave trade in the District of Columbia & the territory of the United States. Feby 15<sup>th</sup> 1845 Refd to Com on Dist of Columbia. Presented by A. **Tyler** Feby 15, 1845.”

#### [Petition]

“To the Hon. the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

“The undersigned citizens of the county of Chautauque in the State of New York, respectfully ask your honorable body to abolish slavery and the slave trade in the district of Columbia and the territories of the United States, as well as the internal slave trade, which we consider derogatory to the principles of our government and humanity.

“The law in the district of Columbia, that a slave convicted of arson shall be punished by having his head cut off & his body “divided into quarters and the parts set up in the most public places,” is a national disgrace and only finds a parallel in heathen countries or in the dark ages.

“The imprisonment and sale of a freeman into perpetual slavery without any crime committed, or the selling into slavery of a freeman for jail fee and charges where he has proved himself a freeman is derogatory to humanity and the spirit of the laws of every civilized country.

“The foreign slave trade has justly been declared by Congress to be piracy punishable with death, while the international [*sic*] slave trade is tolerated. We believe the international [*sic*] slave trade equally reprehensible & cruel with the foreign. And as in duty bound &c Decr. 25<sup>th</sup> 1844.”

#### [Signatures]

John Peck **Shearman**

Charles **Kennedy**

Jackson **Bristol**

Frederick Augustus (F. A.) **Fuller**

Obed G. **Chase**  
Madison **Burnell**  
Joseph H. **Mayborne**  
Chs **Williams** (unidentified)  
William **Mayborn**  
Wm.(?) **Wheeler**(?) (unidentified)  
Samuel Augustus **Brown**  
Alexander **Brown**  
Calvin Nelson **Butler**  
David **Palmer**  
Henry Clark (H. C.) **Shearman**  
Safford **Eddy**  
Reuben Fitz **Randolph**  
Eli **Holloway**  
Nicholas Jonas **Shearman**  
James **Smiley**  
James **Ploss**  
Abraham **Riley**  
George **Chase**  
Shepard **Wilbur**  
Alonzo **Kent**  
Jason **Hazzard**  
Horace P. **Allen**  
Julius **Alvord**  
Augustus Franklin **Allen**  
Elijah E. **Shedd** (unidentified)  
Franklin E. **Edson**  
Albert C. **Edson**  
William H. **Atherly**  
William R. **Rogers**  
William H. **Strunk**  
George West **Parker**  
Rufus **Jones**  
Charles C. **Brown**  
Ezekiel **Roberts** (unidentified)  
Levant B. **Brown**  
John Owen **Street**  
Jacob **Rice**  
Sylvanus **Knapp**  
Mansel M. **Marsh**  
Abraham **Ploss**(?) (unidentified)  
Reuben **Crandell**  
Amon **Smith** (unidentified)  
John **Gifford**  
Anthony **Harris**

## Petition 2

*Dated December 1844, this petition from the Town of Ellicott sought to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia. The cover note, preamble, and signatures were all handwritten. A handwritten copy of this petition and its signers was made and preserved by Elial Todd (E. T.) Foote.*

[Cover note]

“New York. The Petition of E. T. **Foote** & other citizens of Chautauqua Co. New York Praying for the ---- abolition of Slavery & the Slave trade in the District of ---- Columbia & the territories of the United States as well as the internal Slave trade & for the repeal of certain – laws in relation to slavery in the District of Columbia. ~~Presented by Wm Tyler Jan 3 1845.~~ Jan 3 1845 Referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.” [In the margin:] “Chau. Co. – 1/9/45 3P. Entire HR28AG5.1 Wm Tyler.” [Upside down:] “Dist Col &c.”

[Petition]

“To the Hon the Senate & House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled. The undersigned citizens of the County of Chautauqua in the State of New York Respectfully ask your honorable body to abolish Slavery and the Slave trade in the District of Columbia and the territories of the United States, as well as the internal Slave trade, which we consider derogatory to the principles of our government and of humanity.

The law in the District of Columbia that a Slave convicted of a certain crime shall have his head cut off & his body divided into quarters and the parts set in the most public places, is a national disgrace and only finds a parallel in heathen countries or the dark ages.

The imprisonment & sale of a human being into perpetual slavery without any crime, or for goal [i.e. gaol/jail] fees & charges where he has proved himself innocent, is derogatory to humanity and a violation of the spirit of the laws of every civilized country.

The foreign slave trade has justly been declared by congress piracy punishable with death while the internal slave trade is tolerated is an inconsistency wholly [sic] unjustifiable.

Dated December 1844.”

[Signatures]

Elial Todd (E. T.) **Foote**

Smith **Seymour**

(Rev. Ephraim) E. **Taylor**

Elick **Jones**

Zalmon (Z. G.) **Keeler**

Samuel H. **Barrett**

John S. (J. S.) **Gates**

Stephen **Temple**

Philo **Morgan**

Russell **Willson**

Samuel Cobb (S. C.) **Crosby**

Wm McCary **Eddy**

Addison Wood (A.W.) **Warren**

Stephen I. **Green**

Increase Sumner (I. S.) **Blodgett**

Joseph H. **Green**  
Wm. (Sanford) **Bullock**  
Abram (A.) **Jones**  
John **Phetteplace**  
Ebenezer **Jones**  
(Abner) A. **Hazeltine**  
(Adolphus) A. **Fletcher**  
(Harvey) H. **Low**  
James **Harrison**  
Albert **Jones**  
Alpheus Fenn (A. F.) **Hawley**  
W. N. **Lathrop** (unidentified)  
(Nathaniel) N. **Eddy**  
Dwight Marshall (D.M.) **Allen**  
Thomas **Stewart** (unidentified)  
Dana Horace (D. H.) H. **Allen**

Petition 3 [*Transcription revised and re-annotated 2016.*]

*Undated but probably sometime in 1844, this petition from the Town of Hanover sought to prevent the admission of Texas to the Union as a slave state. The cover note and signatures were handwritten; the preamble had been typeset by a printer.*

[*Cover note*]

**Cross** Catherine 23 Hanover Chautauque Co N.Y. [*Regarding*] Texas

[*Preamble*]

“To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

“The undersigned Females of Hanover Chatauque County State of New York respectfully pray your honorable body, promptly to reject [the] proposition [---?] the annexation of TEXAS to this Union, from whatever source they may come, for the following, among other rea[sons]

“1. Although the independence of Texas has been recognized by this government, yet, it has not been acknowledged [---?] is now forcibly resisted by that power: -- therefore its annexation to the Union, might involve this nation in [---- ?] Against any measure, tending to such a result, we remonstrate.

“2. While we do not claim for Congress, the power to *abolish* slavery in the several States, we are opposed to its *further [extension?]* by that body, and hence are decidedly hostile to the annexation of Texas to the Union, with a Constitution which expressly sanctions slavery, and encourages the slave trade between that country and the United States.

“3. Texas has a territory of sufficient extent to make six large States. It being the avowed intention to continue it a slave holding country, its annexation to the Union will give predominant power, in our national councils, to the slave-holding interests, and [---- ?] duce to complete subjection, *the interests of the free States*, and especially the interests of their FREE LABOR, which is the foundation of their wealth and prosperity. Such a result would probably lead to A DISSOLUTION OF THE UNION, --- an event we sincerely deprecate.”

[Signatures]

Catherine **Cross**

Sally M. **Smith**

Susan **Nevins**

Maria **Davis**

Anna **Ostrom**

Ruth **Chase**

Lois **Chase**

Nancy H.C. **Ransom**

Louisa **McKee**

Olive **Clark**

Silvy **White**

Hannah **Cramton**

Sally **Kirkland**

Philena **Chapman**

Flora **Sackett**

Adaline **Brown** or **Brownell** (unidentified)

Rosella **Cross**

Mary **Cross**

Lucy **Cross**

MaryAnn **Cookingham**

Jane **Hulbert**

Lucinda **Hulbert**

Fanny **Day**

Petition 4 [*Transcription revised and re-annotated 2016.*]

*Undated but probably sometime in 1844, this petition from the Town of Hanover sought to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia. The signatures were handwritten; the preamble had been typeset by a printer.*

[Preamble]

“To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

“The undersigned legal voters of Hanover Chautauque Co in the State of New York Respectfully pray your honorable body immediately to abolish SLAVERY and the SLAVE TRADE, in the DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.”

[Signatures]

Levi **Cross**

Lyman **Kirkland**

Samuel **Smith** (unidentified)

Nathan **Smith**

Rufus W. **Nevins**

Alva **Davis**

John P. **Ostrom**

George G. **Handy**

Orrin **Ransom**  
Amaziah **Clark**  
Peter **White**  
David B. **Allen**  
Neri **Cramton**  
Joseph K. **Bagley or Bayley** (unidentified)  
Curtis **Hopkins** (unidentified)  
Samuel **Green** (unidentified)  
Nelson **Chapman**  
Joseph **Cookingham**  
Stephen **Day**  
Abel **Cross**  
Jarius **Cross**  
Judah **Cross**  
George **Handy**  
Essek **Chase**  
Alonzo **Cookingham**  
Lyman **Hulbert**  
Nelson **Hulbert**  
John **Day**

Petition 5 [*Transcription revised and re-annotated 2016.*]

*Undated but probably sometime in 1844, this petition from the Town of Hanover sought to prevent the admission of Texas to the Union as a slave state. The cover note and signatures were handwritten; the preamble had been typeset by a printer.*

[*Cover note*]

**Cross** Levi 31. Legal voters. Hanover Chautauque Co N.Y. [*Regarding*] Texas.

[*Petition*]

“To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

“The undersigned Legal Voters of Hanover Chatauque County State of New York respectfully pray your honorable body, promptly to reject [the] proposition [---?] the annexation of TEXAS to this Union, from whatever source they may come, for the following, among other rea[sons]

“1. Although the independence of Texas has been recognized by this government, yet, it has not been acknowledged [---?] is now forcibly resisted by that power: -- therefore its annexation to the Union, might involve this nation in [---- ?] Against any measure, tending to such a result, we remonstrate.

“2. While we do not claim for Congress, the power to *abolish* slavery in the several States, we are opposed to its *further [extension?]* by that body, and hence are decidedly hostile to the annexation of Texas to the Union, with a Constitution which expressly sanctions slavery, and encourages the slave trade between that country and the United States.

“3. Texas has a territory of sufficient extent to make six large States. It being the avowed intention to continue it a slave holding country, its annexation to the Union will give predominant power, in our national councils, to the slave-holding interests, and [---- ?] duce to

complete subjection, *the interests of the free States*, and especially the interests of their FREE LABOR, which is the foundation of their wealth and prosperity. Such a result would probably lead to A DISSOLUTION OF THE UNION, --- an event we sincerely deprecate.”

[Signatures]

Levi **Cross**

Lyman **Kirkland**

Samuel **Smith** (unidentified)

Nathan **Smith**

Alva **Davis**

Rufus W. **Nevins**

John P. **Ostrom**

Stephen M. **Ball**

Orrin **Ransom**

Amaziah **Clark**

Peter **White**

David B. **Allen** (unidentified)

Neri **Cramton**

Joseph K. **Bagley** or **Bayley** (unidentified)

Samuel **Green** (unidentified)

George **Kirkland**

Curtis **Hopkins** (unidentified)

Nelson **Chapman**

Theron **Sackett**

Richard **Cookingham**

Joseph **Cookingham**

Stephen **Day**

George **Handy**

Abel **Cross**

Judah **Cross**

Jarius **Cross**

Essek **Chase**

Alonzo **Cookingham**

Lyman **Hulbert**

Nelson **Hulbert**

John **Day**

Petition 6 [*Transcription revised and re-annotated 2016.*]

*Undated but probably sometime in 1844, this petition from the Town of Arkwright sought to prevent the admission to any more slave states to the Union. It was entirely handwritten. There is a fold or wrinkle or paste-over in the document, and it obscures at least three signatures, across three columns. Regarding the columns, it appears that multiple members of some families may have signed one after another across three columns, while multiple members of other families signed one after another within columns. The following order of names is based strictly upon a reading up and down columns.*

[*Petition*]

“Against the admission of more slave states into the Union.

“To the Congress of the United States.

“The undersigned Citizens & electors of the State of New York residing in Arkwright in the County of Chautauque respectfully pray that no State be hereinafter admitted into the Union unless the Constitution of such State shall expressly prohibit the existence of Slavery within its limits.”

[*Signatures*]

Harvey **Baldwin**

Silas **Matteson**

James **Matteson**

John P. **Matteson**

Asa **McClenathan**

Robert **McClenathan**

John A. **Whipple**

Henry **Lewis**

D. **Whipple**

Jacob **Lewis**

Wm. **Henry**

John F. **Clark**

Elias **Baker**

Hamilton **Clothier**

Alva **Toles**

A.M. **Huyck**

E. B. **Kingsley**

W. S. **Weaver**

H.? R.? **Wilcox**

O. **Huyck**

H. **Ramsey**

Caleb **Weaver, Jr.**

Benj. P. **Hill**

S. A. **Huyck**

Chas. **Tyler**

Hector **Wilcox**

John **Arlis**

Pliny **Putnam**

Freeman **Calkins**

Carlton **Fuller**

J. **Burge**

Orin **Weaver**

J. A. **Baldwin**

James **Clinton**

August **Cardot**

Oliver **Markham**



Robert D. **Rider**

*[The fold appears here; at least one name is obscured.]*

Irwin **Stebbins**

Alphonse **Mathewson**

Nelson **Johnson**

Francis **Town**

S. A. **Stoddard**

Seth **Griswold**

Dean **Griffith**

Elsworth **Griswold**

Albert **Tarbox**

George P. **Briggs**

Henry M. **Tarbox**

Dudley **Tarbox**

John B. **Cardot, Sr.**

Horace **Dexter**

Amos **Baker**

Edwin **Howe**

A. **Howe**

Solomon **Snow**

Alpheus **Jenks**

Joel **McWethy**

Wm. C. **Burr**

Holland **Sessions**

Uriah **Merrifield**

Chas. **Cole**

H. C. **Sessions**

Leonard **Sessions**

Edwin **Crawford**

Wm. **Johnson**

Benjamin **Jones**

Harvey **Clark**

Isaac C. **Cole**

William H. **Jones**

Elijah R. **Gould**

Geo. H. **Rich**

Caleb **Weaver**

John **Weaver**

E. J. **Weaver**

Eben **Thatcher**

Levi **Baldwin**

Porter **Phelps**

L. S. **Maltby**

Hiram **Harrington**

Lyman B. **Merrill**

Sylvester **Ackles**

**Jas. S. Johnson**

**Lemuel Hart**

**Francis Cardot**

**Samuel Davis**

**Joseph Day**

*[The fold appears here; at least one name is obscured.]*

**Lyman Stebbins**

**Daniel Mathewson**

**Clark Thompson**

**D. J. Rider**

**H. J. Town**

**John Griswold**

**Sidney Burnham**

**B. Merrill**

**Silas Stebbins**

**Abner R. Mattoon**

**R. W. Mattoon**

**A. M. Durfee**

**F. A. Butterfield**

**Elisha Perry**

**David Durfee**

**Joel White**

**Holton J. White**

**Enoch Wood**

**Sumner Emmons**

**John C. Clute**

**Henry M. Tygert**

**Thornton Walker**

**Albert Sharp**

**Simeon Clinton**

**Lathrop Wood**

**Mathew Jones**

**Joseph D. Clark**

**Milton Cole**

**Samuel Rockwood**

**George W. Damon**

**Isaac Damon**

**John Snow**

**Timothy Cole**

**Daniel Landers**

**Oliver C. Wilcox**

**Lawson P. Phelps**

**Leander S. Phelps**

**Ezra Potter**

**Lester Woods**

**Francis B. Elbridge**

Jeremiah **Burge**  
Stedman **Burnham**  
Stephen **Burnham**  
Horace **Hill**  
Moses **Luce**  
[*The fold appears here; at least one name is obscured.*]  
Asa **Thompson**  
George **Mathewson**  
Jeremiah **Palmer**  
Wm. **Burnal**  
Hiram **Town**  
Orastus **Thacher**  
Renslaer **Luce**  
Morris **Griswold**  
Benjamin **Howe**  
\_\_\_\_? **Reed?**  
Joseph R. **Briggs**  
Leonard **Dalrymple**

Petition 7

*Dated 4 February 1845, this petition mostly likely from the Town of Ellicott sought to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia. It was entirely handwritten.*

[*Cover note*]

“New York Chautauque Co The Petition of Jas. **Giddings** & others of Chautauque Co New York praying for the abolition of slavery & the slave trade in the District of Colulmbia & in the territories of the United States as well as the internal slave trade & for the repeal of certain laws in the District of Columbia in relation to slavery Feby 4<sup>th</sup> 1845 Refd to Com on Dist Columbia. ~~Referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.~~ Presented by Wm A. **Tyler** Feby 4<sup>th</sup> 1845.” [*Upside down:*] “Dist. Columbia.”

[*Petition*]

“To the Hon the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in congress assembled. The undersigned citizens of the County of Chautauque in the State of New York, respectfully ask your honorable body to abolish slavery and the slave trade in the district of Columbia and in the Territories of the United States, as well as the internal slave trade, which we consider derogatory to the principles of our Government and humanity.

“The law in the District of Columbia that a Slave convicted of arson shall be punished by having his head cut off & his body divided into quarters and the parts set up in the most public places, is a national disgrace and only finds a parallel in heathen countries and in the dark ages.

“The imprisonment & sale of a free man into perpetual slavery without any crime committed, or the selling of a freeman into slavery for jail fees & charges after he has proved his freedom, is derogatory to humanity and the spirit of the laws of every civilized country.

“The foreign slave trade has justly been declared by congress to be piracy punishable with death while the internal slave trade is tolerated. We believe the internal slave trade equally reprehensible and cruel with the foreign.

“And as in duty bound will ever pray Dec 1844.”

[Signatures]

James **Giddings**

Wm. S. **Hedges**

Richard Fletcher (R. F.) **Fenton**

N.(?) or A(?) **Fenton** (unidentified)

M.(?) L.(?) **Close**(?) (unidentified)

George B. **Ford**

Russell **Morgan**

Silas Edwin **Stoddard**

Timothy **Freeman**

Samuel **Barrett** ?

Robert V. **Cunningham**

James R. **Dinnin**

Louis S. **Morgan** (unidentified)

Luman **Hubbard**

John(?) **Cushing** (unidentified)

Heris **Willard**

(Rev.) Joseph **Lesly**

Onerimus **Hitchcock**

Philip **Sherman**

John Warren **Fletcher**

James **Plum**(?) (unidentified)

Frederick **Miller**

Francis **Wood** (unidentified)

Levi C. **Barrows**

Reuben Lorenzo (R. L.) **Lunt**

James Dodds (J. D.) **Wellington**

Albert Adams (A.A.) **Partridge**

Norval **Bishop**

Hazeltine(?) **Mitchell**

James H. **Conie**

Wm. E. **Mallory**

#### Petition 8

*Dated 18 February 1845, this petition most likely from the Town of Portland sought to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, to prevent the addition of any more slave states to the Union, and to abolish the seizure and slavery of free persons. The cover note and signatures were handwritten; the preamble had been typeset by a printer.*

[Cover note]

“New York Chautauque Co. Thompson James and 54. Slavery. Feby. 18, 1845. Refd to Com on D.C. Mr. Adams Dist Cola.”

[Petition]

“To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled. The undersigned inhabitants of Chautauqua County, in the State of New-York, humbly beg leave to represent to your Honorable Body: That notwithstanding the Constitution of the United States provides, that, “The right of the people to be secure, in their persons, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, -- nor be deprived of liberty without due process of law,” and that “Congress shall make no law abridging the right of the People peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” Yet many of the people of these United States, its Territories, and the District of Columbia, have been forcibly seized without the accusation of any crime, and without due process of law, deprived of their liberty for life, and others sold for 99 years; And petitions in their behalf have been refused even a reception, by one, or both Houses of Congress, by a standing rule against the reception of such petitions --- And should your memorialists be seized by their own, or any other Government, and sold as slaves, the rules of the house of representatives, as they have existed for the last few years, would exclude any petition on their behalf, from being received, by that Honorable Body. Your Memorialists, therefore, in view of their own Constitutional rights, as well as the unalienable rights of *all men*, petition your Honorable Body, to receive any, and every petition (if couched in respectful language) sent to either House of Congress, by any rational being of the United States, praying for an redress of any alledged [*sic*] grievance.

“Your Memorialists do humbly remonstrate, against any, and every attempt under any circumstances however plausible, to *annex Texas* to these United States. And your Memorialists further beg leave to represent, that we can discover no power in the Federal Constitution, to authorize the General Government, to establish, much less to perpetuate slavery. But that it was reserved to the States, and consequently, cannot extend beyond State jurisdiction. We therefore respectfully remonstrate against the continuation of slavery in the Territories, and the District of Columbia, and respectfully request Congress to stop to the very verge of their Constitutional powers, to prohibit the perpetuity of slavery in said District and Territories, and refuse to admit any new State in to the Union, without a prohibition against Slavery, and also so to regulate Commerce between the several States, so as to prohibit the International Slave trade, which we humbly conceive ought to be placed on the same footing as the African Slave trade. Your Memorialists, further beg leave to represent, that the African Slave trade, is still rigorously carried on by our citizens. That many thousands of Africans are annually smuggled into the United States, which help to swell the flood of our national disgrace and guilt. In vain do our laws prohibit this nefarious traffic. In vain do they declare it PIRACY, so long as we insist that our *national colors*, shall protect all our vessels from being searched, or visited by vessels of any other nation, and prescribe the same scrupulous forbearance, as to our own vessels visiting vessels sailing under foreign colors. Notwithstanding all the civilized world, with the exception of the United States, have entered into treaty to search each other’s vessels for African Slaves --- -yet your Memorialists would be disposed to hope for the honor of their Government, that some other motive, aside from the policy and extension of slavery was the cause of their Government: declining to join the other civilized nations, in a mutual examination of each other’s vessels for African slaves, had not our Government in 1824, when importuned by England on the subject, consented that vessels owned but not Chartered by our Citizens, might be searched on the coast

of Africa. This proposal while it admitted the propriety of a mutual examination of vessels for slaves, indicated a disposition on our part, to provide means of escape to any slaver who chose to *Charter* instead of *purchase* a vessel. And now Slavers heaving in sight of a United States Ship of war, are safe by hoisting any other than American colors, and the American colors give a safe passport against any other national vessel except our own. Your Memorialists, in view of this monstrous national sin, curse and disgrace, respectfully memorialize Congress, to use their influence in the councils of the nation, to cause our Government to join other nations in a mutual search for African Slaves.”

[Signatures]

James **Thompson**

Richard Waterman Moffit (R.W.M.) **DaLee**

James (?) (unidentified)

John G. **Capwell**

John Kinnicutt **DaLee**

Field **DaLee**

Elijah **Fay**

Samuel **Hall**

G. F. **Needham** (unidentified)

Samuel Wood (S.W.) **Hall**

J. B. **Hazzard**(?) (unidentified)

Henry A. S. **Thompson**

Benjamin Franklin (B.F.) **Post**

Ethan **Post**

Paul C. **DaLee**

Sidney W. (S.W.) **Keyes**

Marcus D. L. F. **Johnson**

Luther L. **Riggs**

G. R. **Babbitt** (unidentified)

(Rev.) Levant **Rathbun**

Victor **Struve** (unidentified)

Nathan **Butterfield**

Clark **Walker**

Edmund L. (E.L.) **Ellis**

Zeba **Simmons**

Samuel F. **Cook**

Samuel **Cook**

James Ahira **Hall**

Ahira **Hall**

Benjamin F. (B.F.) **Baldwin**

G. or C. **Hulbut** (unidentified)

Frederick H. **Ely**(?) (unidentified)

Lemuel **Cottrell**

Oren **Churchill**

John **Couch**

Wm. **Case**

Philander **Simmons**  
Alacsus **Wright**  
Dwight Ross **Utley**  
(Horace) Luther **Clark**  
Stephen Hopkins **Shaw**  
Austin D. **Haines**  
Joseph **Corell**  
Joseph E. (J.E.) **Harris**  
Jonathan **Bennett**  
Nicholas **Lake**  
Zuriel **Hunt**  
Morris **Burr**  
Benjamin **White**  
William **Mackey**  
Wm. H. **Hill** (unidentified)  
L.(?) D.(?) **Dye(?)** (unidentified)  
Benjamin Franklin (B.F.) **Pecor**

Petition 9

*Dated 27 January 1850, this petition, most likely from the Town of Ellington and nearby, sought to repeal the Fugitive Slave Law. The signatures were handwritten; the preamble had been typeset by a printer.*

[*Visible Fragment of Preamble*]

“\_\_tional Republican character; with every portion of this Confederacy, and above all, plainly repugnant to a primary Law of Nature, or in other words, directly incompatible with the Sovereign Law of God. As such, we cannot comply with its requisitions; and deeming it wrong silently to evade or resist, its application, it becomes our imperative duty to ask, and we hereby, most earnestly solicit of your respective Bodies, an early reconsideration and repeal of said Law.”

[*Signatures*]

Blodgett G. (B. G.) **Kingsbury**  
David G. (D. G.) **Devoe**  
Amos **Leach**  
Elery **Bentley**  
Harrison **McClenathan**  
Charles **Fisk**  
Francis **Green**  
Archelaus **Mosher**  
John **Leach**  
Job **Eddy**  
Russel **Newton**  
Franklin S. (F. S.) **Demmon**  
Benjamin **Henderson**  
Jeremiah **West**

Chas. B. **Green**  
Merrill T. (M. T.) **Jenkins**  
Mason Dexter (M. D.) **Hatch**  
John F. (J. F.) **Farman**  
(Rev.) Justus **Todd**  
Salmon T. **Case**  
J.? John? \_\_\_\_\_? (unidentified)  
(Rev.) Harvey Frink  
Russell B. (R. B.) **Clark**  
Henry (Quincy) **Ames**  
Otis **Page**  
Jeremiah **Olds**  
Edwin L. (E. L.) **Crumb**  
Joseph B. **Nessel**  
(Rev.) David Morse  
David H. (D. H.) **Chandler**  
Jabez P. **Fargo**  
David **Ransom**  
Myron **Walden**  
Corydon P. **Stoughton**  
Albro S. **Brown**  
Wm. **Todd**  
Daniel **Eigenbroadt**  
J.? M.? **Wilcox?** (unidentified)  
David (D.) **Torrey**  
Jeremiah (J.) **Torrey**  
Alonzo (A.) **Palmer**  
Palmer G. (P. G.) **Strong**  
Alonso **Todd**  
Gilber (G.) **Strong, Jr.**  
Horatio N. (H. N.) **Jacobs**  
Joseph **Seekins**  
Warren **Arnold**  
Samuel W. **Ware**  
(Dr.) William **Ware**  
Elizur **Bagg**  
Lemuel R.? **Ware**  
Elijah **Clark**  
Sanford O. (S. O.) **Crumb**  
Ira **Day**  
Benj. J. **Campbell** Poor overseer  
Lorenzo M. **Day**



*Dated 17 April 1850, this petition from the Town of Ellington sought to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia. The signatures were handwritten; the preamble had been typeset by a printer.*

[Preamble]

“For the Repeal of all Laws, enacted or adopted by Congress for the support of Slavery in the District of Columbia.

“To the Congress of the United States: The undersigned, citizens and electors of the State of New York residing in Ellington, in the county of Chautauque, respectfully pray for the repeal of all laws and parts of laws adopted or enacted by Congress, by which Slavery or the Slave-trade is authorized or sanctioned in the City of Washington or the District of Columbia; and that, in the event of their non-repeal, the seat of the National Government may be removed to some more suitable location.”

[Signatures]

Albro S. **Brown**

Samuel D. **Fuller**

David H. **Chandler**

Joseph B. **Nessel**

Lewis **Leet**

N. M. **May**

D. F. **Milspaugh**

Mason Dexter (M. D.) **Hatch**

Frank **Wheeler**

G. M. **Morris**

Winfield Scott (W. S.) **Leach**

Blodgett G. (B. G.) **Kingsbury**

Nelson **Brown**

Samuel (Saml) **Case**

W. G? **Campbell**

John F. **Farman**

(Rev.) Wm. **Todd**

Andrew P. (A. P.) **White**

(Dr.) Benj. **Potwein**

Eleazer P. **Mather**

A.? G.? **Farnham**

Henry H. (H. H.) **Nichols**

J. W. **Frink**

J. **Bush**

(Daniel?) Kimble (D.? K.?) **Sleeper**

Jabez P. **Fargo**

Franklin S. (F. S.) **DeMmon**

Alonso (A.) **Todd**

David W. (D. W.) **Knight**

Geo. J. **Phipany**

Almanson (A.) **Hadley**

(Dr.) Jeremiah **Ellsworth**  
Seth Wheeler (S. W.) **Chandler**  
Jeremiah (J.) **Torrey**  
Andrew P. (A.P.) **White**, 2nd.  
Joseph **Seekins**  
Wm. **Collins**  
Horatio N. (H. N.) **Jacobs**  
Charles B. **Green**  
Palmer G. (P. G.) **Strong**  
Gilmore **Baldwin**

Petition 11

*Dated 5 November 1850, this petition from the Town of Sherman sought to repeal the Fugitive Slave Law. It was entirely handwritten. Many of the names seem to have been written in the same hand.*

[*Preamble*]

“To the Hon the Senate of the United Sta[tes].

“We the undersigned citizens of this town of Sherm[an] county of Chautauque and state of New York, do here[by] respectfully petition your honorable body for th[e] repeal or radical amendment of the fugiti[ve] slave law passed at the last session of congre[ss] and adduce the following as our reasons for su[ch] a course. We believe that law to be unjus[t] in its action, contrary to the spirit of our constitution and laws, radically opposed to the feelings of humanity and sympathy with the oppressed inherent in the breast of every one no[t] wholly controlled by selfishness or else basely yielding to the dictates of political expediency, totally contradictory to those eternal principles of justice which are far above all merely human la[w] and lastly, and in bold defiance of the express commands of the eternal God. We therefore without distinction of party, would hereby add our mite to the protest of that noble band of freeman whose mighty voice will be heard on this subject, in tones louder than the thunder of Niagara, approving the course of those tried and faithful patriots who have bravel[y] and unflinchingly battled for the right, unawed by the threats and scorn of open enemies and regardless of the rebukes and anger of the pretended friends of Liberty.

“Sherman November 5<sup>th</sup> 1850.”

[*Signatures and/or handwritten list of names*]

John P. **Hall**  
Charles C. **Palmer**  
Harvey **Hull**  
Wm. S. **Edwards**  
Nehemiah **Myrick**  
George W. **Phelps**  
Joseph W. **Huntley (Huntly)**  
Henry Willis (H. W.) **Sperry**  
Samuel **Stowel**  
Reuben G. (R. G.) **Merrill**  
Austin **Gleason**

Truman **Whitney**  
Henry **Dutton**  
John **Bly**  
Aretus S. **Graham**  
Wm. G. **Wait(e)**  
Philander A. **Nichols**  
Milutus **Barrows**  
Asa **Selden**  
Albert **Briggs**  
David **Pratt**  
Jacob P. **Clute**  
Allen **Dutton**  
Timothy **Dutton**  
John Z. **Atkins (Adkins)**  
Archibald H. (A. H.) **McMurphy**  
F. R. **Case** (unidentified)  
Benjamin **Boorman**  
Dewitt C. **Tracy**  
S. L. **Brigham**  
Lorenzo? L?. **Houston?** or **Newton?** (unidentified)  
Abner **Morton**  
Joseph **Boorman**  
Thomas **Green**  
George **Ransom**  
Emery (Emory) K. **Wood(s)**  
Isaac J. **Parker**  
John G. **Simpson**  
Ashley C. **Bennett**  
Addison **Beebe**  
George W. (G. W.) **Cross**  
Hazard H. **Wilcox**  
Samuel T. **Hawley**  
Henry W. **Palmer**  
Kiler **Dean**  
Joel **Eggleston**  
John S. **Cushing**  
Joel **Richards**  
Eliphlet **Hide (Hyde)**  
Charles **Richards**  
Ellis A. (E. A.) **Owen**  
Jacob **Willbur (Wilbur) (Wilber)**  
John Case **Palmer**  
Heartwell (Hartwell) (H. H.) **Smith**  
Chauncey (C.) **Harris**  
Philander (P.) **Jones**  
Daniel O. **Knapp**

Alpheus **Selden**  
Calvin W. **Burt**  
Ora (Orra) (Ona) P. **Barly (Barley)**  
Luvern **Dorman**  
Franklin **Case**  
Orville T. **Clark**  
Horace **Selden**  
Oliver **Dutton**  
Ira **Dutton**  
David C. **Osborn Jnr**  
Wm. **Sweet**  
Joel **Hill**  
Perry C. **Davey**  
Nahum N. **Grimes**  
A. E. **Hill** (unidentified)  
Hiram A. **Case**  
Henry **Ransom**  
Elijah **Miller**  
Joel V. **Cornish**  
Lester R. **Dewey**  
Walter **Strong**  
Isaac E. **Hawley**  
Lucius A. (L. A.) **Chapin**  
John T. (J. T.) **Green**  
David O. (D. O.) **Keeler**  
Charles R. **Spicer**  
Wm. H. **Murphy**  
Moses **Stebboms**  
Dresser B. **Vincent**  
Cyranus **Ripley**  
James **Vincent**  
Joseph Allen **Hubbard**  
Sylvester **Stearns**  
Walker B. **Vincent**  
Abraham **Casler**  
Prescott **Williams**  
Thomas Munger **Sparkes (Sparks)**  
Walton (Walter) D. **Gallop**  
Hezekiah M. (H. M.) **Pearce**  
Elijah **Heath**  
Nehemiah **Sperry**  
Wm. **Williams**  
Joel Denton **Cornish**  
Hazeltine (H. D.) **Reynolds**  
Major D. (M. D.) **Reynolds**  
Talcott P. **Dewey**

David J. **Winnie**  
Mathew **Winnie**  
Charles **Pelton**  
James **Albro**  
Sylvester **Pelton**  
Lewis **Sperry**  
George F. **Child**  
Willis Delancy (W. D.) **Gallop**  
Mitchell? **No**\_\_\_\_? or **Ho**\_\_\_\_? (unidentified)  
Shubael **Reynolds**  
Hugh **Cushing**  
Charles **Hall**  
Elkanah **Hewitt (Hewett)**  
Marcus L.? **H?**  
Charles **Sanderson**  
Shelden B. **Miller**  
James \_\_\_\_\_? (unidentified)  
George **Grinnell**

Petition 12

*Dated 12 February 1851, this petition is most likely from the Town of Villenova, in and around the settlement today known as Hamlet and then known as Omar. The petition sought to repeal the Fugitive Slave Law. The copy from which this is transcribed is a typewritten transcription by unknown others of an unknown date; it is corrected at this writing, via information from the Federal Census of 1850 and the New York State Census of 1855. The actual signatures may still exist at a presently unknown location, but they have not been viewed by this transcriber at this writing.*

[*Preamble*]

“PET. FROM CHAUTAUQUE CO., Dated Feby. 12th, 1851

“To the Hon., the Sen...

“The undersigned, citizens of the Co. of Chaut. & St. of New York resp. ask a repeal of the law of the last session of Congress, entitled the Fug. Sl. Bill – Your petitioners would most resp. represent that they deem the requirements of this law, in the language of the Supreme Court in the case of Priggs versus Penn, extra constitutional, also vir [paper torn here] annihilating the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, and the invaluable right of trial buy jury. Your petitioners also would resp. express that they regard the claims of this law as opposed to the higher law, the enactments of Jehovah (Deut. 23 ch. 15 verse) and that while as law abiding citizens, we feel bound to obey the laws of the land, we regard the law of god as of paramount obligation, we henceforth most earnestly entreat your honorable body to release us from the requirements of this law.”

[*Typewritten transcribed names from probable signatures*]

Worthy **Putnam**

(Rev.) Benjamin **McKoon**

(Rev.) J. A. **Henderson**

S. P.? **Simonds (Simons)**  
Russel **Nunn**  
**R. Howard**  
Geo. W. **Warner**  
J.? W. **Collins**  
Wm. Riley (R.) **Ewing**  
Orlando M. **Wilber (Wilbur)**  
Geo. **Cory (Corey)**  
(Frederick) Smith **Bronson**  
T.? G. **Walker**  
Ira **Whitcomb**  
Curtis(s) **Smith**  
John **Stevens**  
Washington **Shepard**  
John C. **Mount**  
James L. **Brown**  
Thomas **Howard**  
John **Gordinier (Gardiner)**  
Lorenzo **Davis**  
A. **P\_\_\_\_\_?** (unidentified)  
Nath. **Smith**  
Joel **Shepard**  
John M. (J. M.) **Hamblin**  
Ichabod **Congdon**  
Julius **Ferry**  
Orville (Eldridge) E. **Wright**  
Desse? **Day?**  
Hezekiah **Mount**  
Perla H. **Johnson**  
Lemuel **Hickey?**  
Allen L. **Bronson**  
Wm. **G\_\_\_\_\_?** (unidentified)  
Charles S. **Marke (Mark)**  
Nathl. **Warner**  
W. B. **Parks**  
H. W. **Bronson**  
James **Mark**  
Amos **Congdon**  
**R. Gordinier**  
E. A. **Pierce (Pearse)**  
Isaac **Holland**  
Caleb **Mathews**  
Wintrup (Winthrop) **Johnson**  
Warren **Bennett**  
Geo. **Dunning (Dunnin)**  
Hiram **Gilbert**

Franklin E. **Dunning** (**Dunnin**)

Russel O. **Smith**

Obed **Young**

Eliphalet **Hull**

John **Dibble**

Hiram B. (H. B.) **Davis**

Alphonso **Mathewson**

Sylvester **Stilwell**

R. H. **Baldwin**

Isaac **Starnes** (**Stearns**)

Samuel C. **Churchill**

H. B. **Smith**