

Samuel Ringgold Ward references in other letters to Foote  
By Douglas H. Shepard, 2015

Rev. Samuel Ringgold **Ward** appeared in seven letters which were preserved in the anti-slavery collection of [the Foote papers](#). At the time of the letters, **Foote** was located in Jamestown (Chautauqua County) NY. In addition to two letters from **Ward** himself to Judge E. T. **Foote** ([Ringgold Letters to Foote](#)), **Ward** was mentioned in five other letters written to **Foote** in 1844 and 1845.

With regard to the five letters from others, listed in chronological order below are: the name of each letter's author, the author's location at the time of the letter, the date of the letter, and the relevant passage from each letter. Some punctuation has been added for clarity.

(1) James **Pettit**, Fredonia (Chautauqua County) NY, 27 July 1844:

“Elder **Galusher** is gone to Ohio, & as it is important that an able lecturer be presented [?] for this Co [County] will it not be well for us both to announce the fact to C. O. **Shepard** Esq of Arcade & request his aid in the premises [?] to arrange with Mr. **Ward** to spend some two weeks at least with us the latter part of August (after harvest)....”

(2) William **Shattuck**, Randolph (Cattaraugus County) NY, 21 September 1844:

“Elder **Wilaby** [*sic*] informed me this morning that some of your old loco-foco friends in Leon who have lately set their faces towards Liberty wish to see you at their place. Can you make it convenient to be there next Thursday & meet the Rev. Mr. **Ward** who is to be there at 2 P.M. I calculate to meet **Ward** at Little vally [*sic*] & wate [*sic*] on him to this place if no farther.”

(3) E. S. **Colman**, Ellicottville (Cattaraugus County) NY, 21 January 1845:

“Dear Sir, A liberty convention is to be held at this place on the first Tuesday of Feby [*sic*] next at 10 o clock A.M. & perhaps continue two days – Will you not meet with us & aid us in our deliberations against the common enemy – Bring as many with you from your county as you can – I have written to **Ward**, **McKay** & **Shepard** to come & think they will attend.”

(4) Olney **Nichols**, Westfield (Chautauqua County) NY, 22 January 1845:

“Brother **Foote** Sir, I intended to be at Jamestown 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> to attend the liberty meeting, but was prevented by sickness of my family --- Brother **Ward** did great good here. I trust he has caused a tumult in some of the darkest corners of proslavery. He drove them from their hyding [*sic*] places ---- Alexander **Montgomery** closed the meeting by prayer, and he pled like a convicted sinner. I cannot meet a man in the streat [*sic*] but says cant he **Ward**, be obtained in this County. He (say they) will do more than all that has gone before him ---- some of the Whigs say he will brake [*sic*] their ranks which is the only true abolition party there is -----I wish Brother **Ward** could be obtained here before Town meeting he would do good. We shall expect you here this winter to talk to us I hope you will not disappoint us.”

(5) Samuel **Hall**, Salem X Roads (Chautauqua County) NY, 22 March 1845:

“Dear Brother **Foot**e, Your letter & Draft is just now rec<sup>d</sup>, which shall be attended to in good season. As to your desired information in regard to the labors of Brother **Ward** – He came to this place from the Meeting at Westfield & lectured to a full House on Friday evening. We took especial pains to get out some Democrats who had never heard him, They are nearly dumb ever since. It is hoped they will begin to speak liberty before long – Saturday eve’ & Sunday at the Free will House in Chautauque – Sunday eve’ at the congregational House in Centreville – Monday eve’ Milford in Pomfret – Tuesday eve’ at Van Buren Harbor. Wednesday eve’ at Laona. Thursday eve’ at Delanti – Friday eve’ at the School House in the neighborhood of Oliver **Birch**, about 3 miles from Westfield This eve’ (Saturday) & tomorrow He is to be on Nettle Hill. In all those meetings (except that at **Birch**’s in which there were some oppositions & a little disturbance) were a large attendance, good attention, & much encouragement that good was done – We think of sending an agent through those districts to solicit subscriptions for papers &c, **Ward** will be in (?) Monday evening at Fredonia, on his way home – a large gathering is expected – The roads were so bad over the hills south and his calls so numerous & urgent elsewhere, that after consultation had among the Friends, it was thought not best to go to Dewittville at this time, contrary to my own wishes However I had a desire to surround (?) Mayville that her capture might be more readily accomplished by & by....

“I find the constitution is very little read, & less understood among the people. Some of **Ward**’s lectures gave rise to much discussion in regard to the Constitution of the U. S. Good – I now stop writing until I shall have seen **Ward** on Monday.—Monday 1 O’clock P.M. Mr. **Ward** is in this place, also Elder **Rathbun**. They will both be at Fredonia this evening. **Ward** is of the opinion, from what information he could get from the Friends at Nettle Hill & elsewhere, that the Month of May will be as good a time as any for him to resume his labors in this county – It is important he should know in season, and it is also important that the people among whom he labors should have due notice.... Mr. **Ward** put up at Mr. **B. Miller**’s when at Delanti – thinks he & his son will be with us &c. – perhaps it would be best for you, & what Friends you can consult in your section to make out the appointments in the different places, have it published in the Westfield paper, and send **Ward** a paper that he may [know?] where to begin &c. write to him, or me as early as convenient....”