

Items for Refugees:

The c. 1850 Benjamin Franklin Vincent list of items contributed for "fugitive slaves."

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Benjamin Franklin Vincent (1805 - 1877) of Villenova (Chautauqua County) NY was listed in 1843 as a "Liberty Friend" in the anti-slavery papers of Judge Elial Todd Foote. According to Foote's son Horace in his later annotations of the Foote papers, the Liberty Friends are assumed to have been Underground Railroad agents of Foote's acquaintance. On 22 September 1939, the *Fredonia Censor* published another list. It was found by the granddaughters of Benjamin Franklin Vincent in Vincent's own papers.

Several people on the Vincent list appear to have been members of the Free Will Baptist Church in Omar (today's Hamlet). Neither the church nor Vincent's home still exists. The church was on the north side of Church Street (today's Butcher Road), and the Methodist Church was across the street, not on Route 83 as it is today. Vincent's home was located at the northwest corner of today's South Hill Road and today's Dybka Road. It is not known what became of Vincent's list after it was published in the *Censor*.

According to census details about persons on it, Vincent's list appears to have been made about 1850. It was headed as follows: "Inventory of articles designed for the fugitive slaves in Canada and by whom contributed." In the list below is the *Censor's* transcription of the Vincent list as published. In brackets are alternate spellings, given names, and maiden names as assumed at this writing in 2016. The dollar amounts following each person's contributions may be monetary gifts, or they may be Vincent's estimation for tithing purposes of the value of the items donated.

Charlotte [Bancroft] Bronson , 1 towel \$.25
Lavina [Button] Farrington, 1 bed quilt \$.25
Lora [Wood(s)] Abbey, 1 towel \$.13
Mrs. [Sarah Steward] Newton , 5 knotts [sic] woollen [sic] yarn \$.10
Ora [Orra] Graves & family, 1 cotton shawl \$1.00 ,1 boy's coat & vest ,1 small shirt \$.50)
LeRoy Roe [Rowe], 1 woollen [sic] vest, 1 cap \$1.25
Palatiah Racy [Rasey], 1 pair pants \$.25
Amarilla [Dow] Aldrich, 1 pair pillow cases \$.25
Mrs. Poucy [Rasey], 10 knotts [sic] yarn \$.25
[Thankful Moon] Mrs. Nathan Smith, 1 bed quilt 1.00
[Julia Ann Barrus] Mrs. Luther Foster, 1 bed quilt \$1.25
[Mariah Barmore] Mrs. P. T. Judd, 1 bed quilt \$1.25
[Mahala Gilbert] Mrs. H. Taft, 1 bed quilt \$.75
Mrs. [Mary (Polly)] Gilbert , 1 weaving quilt and 1 apron \$.75
[Lura Nunn] Mrs. N. Warner, 1 bed quilt \$.50
[Lura Nunn] Mrs. N. Warner [again], 1 coat and one pair pants and one vest \$2.65
Obediah Warner, one pair pants and one vest \$.50
Betsey Waters, 1 pkt. hkf. \$.06
[Daniel Horace] D. H. Bronson , 1 hat and 1 pair stockings \$1.25
[Lydia Brigham] Mrs. N. Stodard , two shirts and one towel and one piece calico \$1.28
[Abilgail Luce] Mrs. C. [O. or Orestes] Thatcher , 1 bed quilt \$.50
[Polly Brigham] Mrs. M. Luce , 2 pillow cases , 2 small dresses, 1 shirt , 1 pair pants \$.44
Wm. Scott , 1 coat \$4.00

[Caroline Dibble] Mrs. James Black ,1 flannel sheet, 2 pillow cases, 1 piece upper leather \$3.75
[Rachel Arnold] Mrs. Wm. Pierce (16 knots woolen yarn \$.38),
Austin Peirce [Pierce] 1 kansey [kersey] blanket \$1.00, one calico dress \$63
D. L. Bronson, 1 bed quilt and 1 cap and 1 hat \$1.50
Benjamin Vincent, 1 bed quilt, 1 small ax, 1 set ivory teeth \$3.11
James Markes [Mark], 10 yards of sheating \$.80
Amey Smith, 1 spare cotton stockings \$.75
Sala [Sally]Sheppard , 1-1/2 yards calico \$.19
Florilla White (half calve skin \$.38),
Orra Tanke [Graves], 1 wooling shall [woolen shawl] \$.75
Savilla Wentworth, rag coverlid \$2.00
James Mount , 1 vest and 1 cap \$1.00
Daniel Ruttenbaugh [Ruttenbur], 1 shirt and 1 vest \$.25
Henry Waters , 1 small blanket \$.38
Lorinda [Laura] Hull , 1 bed quilt \$.75
[Henry C. Sessions] Mr. Sisson , 1 pair thin boots \$.75
John Hamlin [Hamblin] , 1 broadcloth coat \$1.50
John Joy [Jay] , 1 woollen [*sic*] coverlid \$3.00
Lorinda [Laura] Hull again , 1 cap, 2 pair stockings,1 hkf \$1.00
Amarilla [Dow] Aldrich [again], 1 carsey [kersey] blanket \$.50
Mr. [John] Hocum [Holcomb], 1 pair pants, 1 calico dress, 1 pair stockings \$1.25
Charles Marke [Mark], 1 cloak, 1 dress, 1 coat \$4.00,
John Barnes, 1 barrel \$1.25
Loren Wentworth ,1 ax (old) \$.38
Jeremiah Warner , 1 cap,1 weaving quilt, 3 pair pants \$.88
Johnithan Hill , 1 pair pants, 1 cap, 1 small blanket, 1 pair stockings, 1 hoe \$1.13
George W. Chase, 1 pr. Shoes \$.25
[Charlotte Bancroft] Mrs. Horace Bronson, 1 bed quilt \$.63
[Abigail Pierce Hammond] Mrs. W. Sheperd, 1 pair children's socks \$.18
Received of various individuals in cash \$2.18
Mr. [Harvey] Putnam , 1 vest and 1 pair pants and 1 coat \$.88
Martin Crowel [Crowell], 1 cap \$1.28
Lorinda [Laura] Hull [again], cash \$.50
[Orra] Graves family, 1 pair boots \$.25
[Total] \$64.74