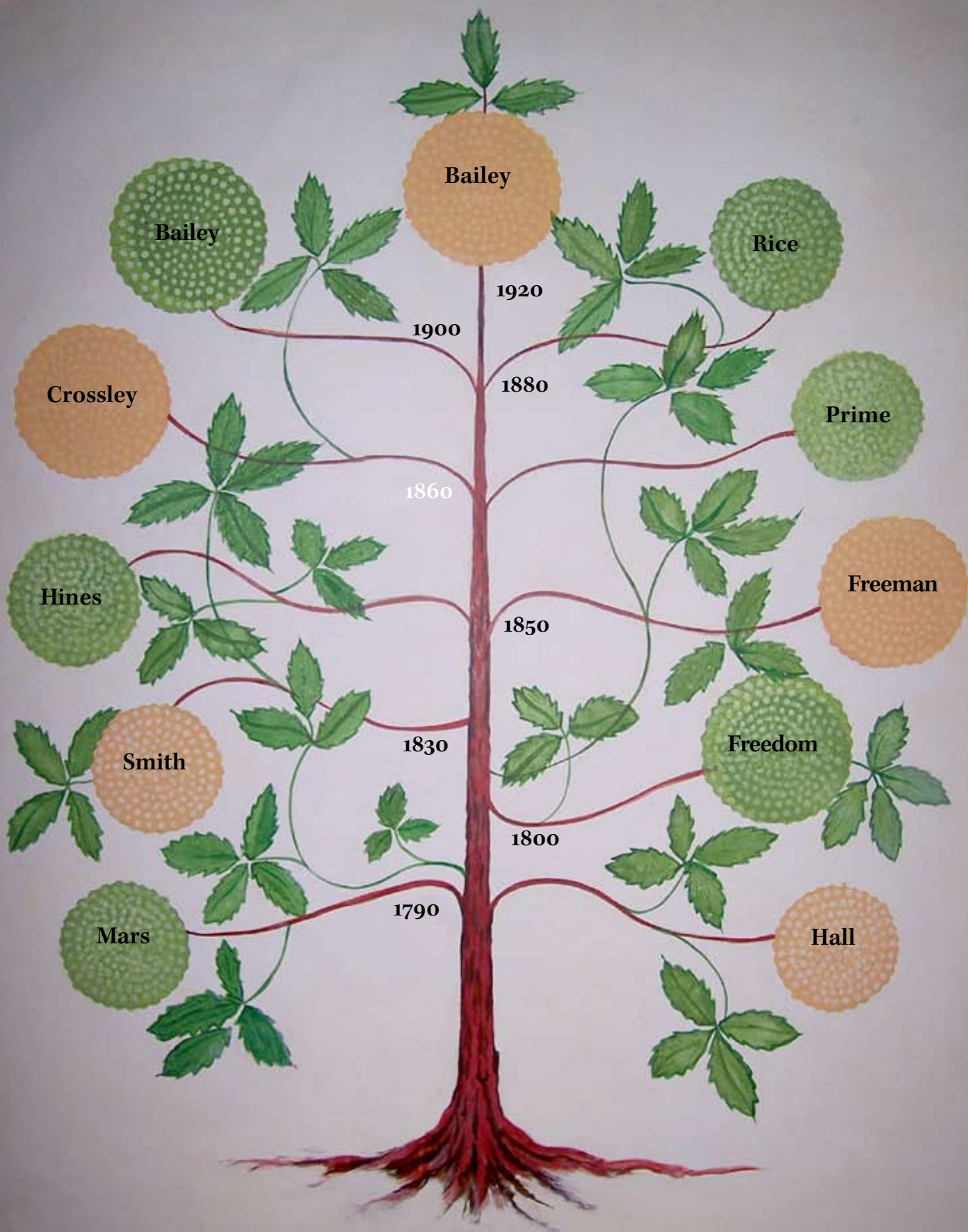
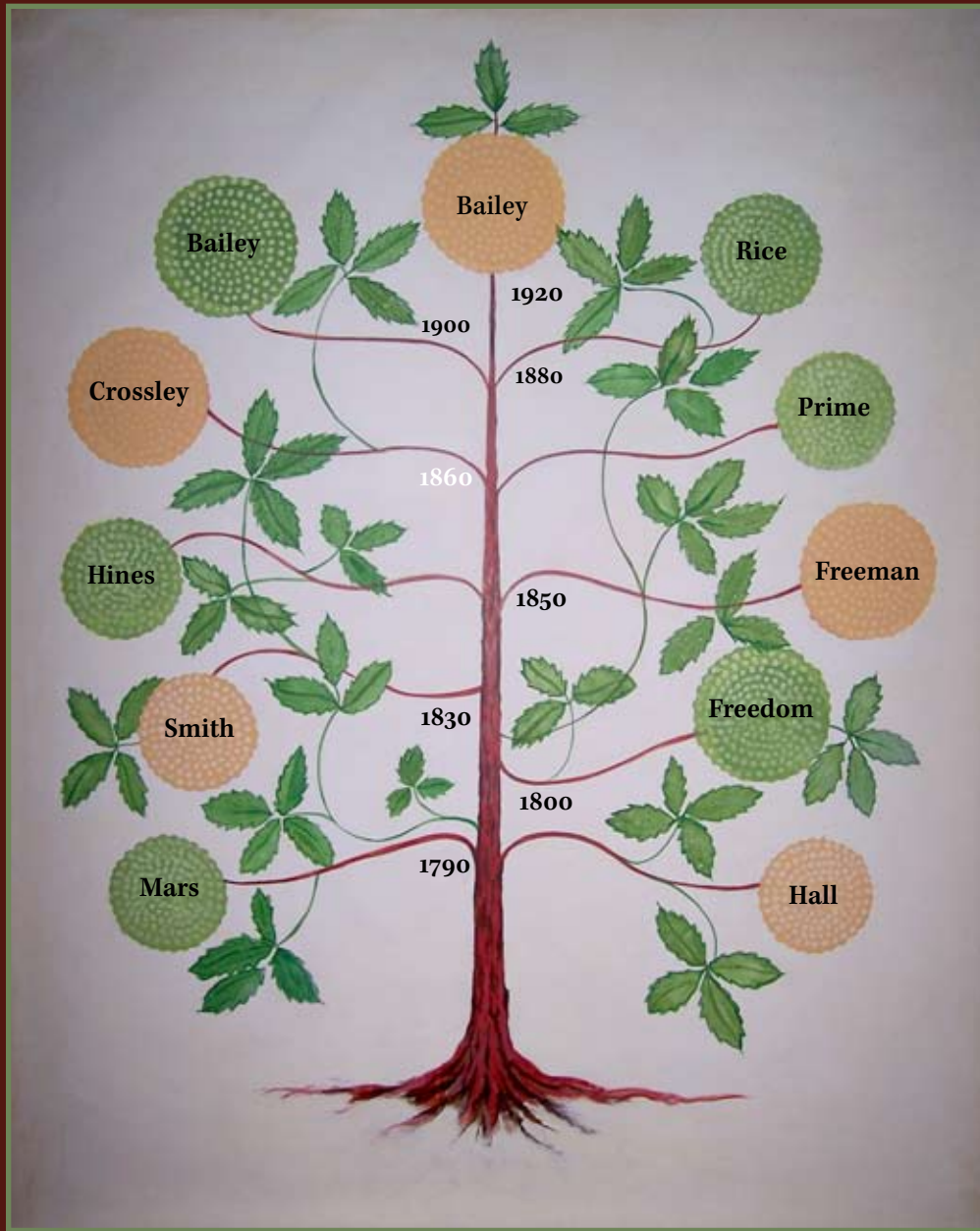




Of African and Princely descent: Norfolk's Black History



Few persons in the whole history of the town, regardless of name, race, color or condition have been more respected and loved than was 'Aunt Bilhah' Freedom. So wrote Theron Crissey in his 1900 *History of Norfolk*. When this much-loved Black woman died, townsfolk placed a marble monument at her grave with this inscription:

*Of African and Princely descent.
Of queenly yet deferential demeanor.
Greatly respected and beloved.*

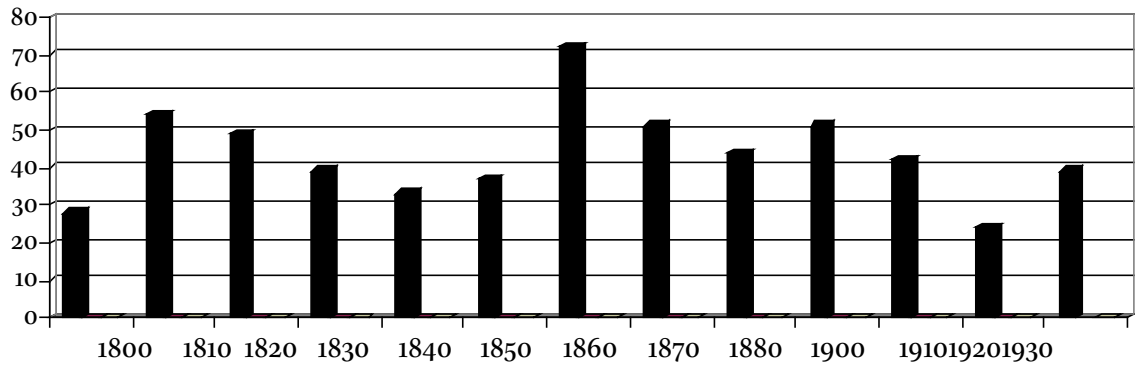
The Black history of a town is often an unwritten one. Theron Crissey, however, devoted a chapter of his book to Norfolk's African Americans, featuring several residents of excellent character and worth. Among them is James Mars, a deacon of the Talcott Street Congregational Church in Hartford, whose 1864 autobiography about his early days of slavery in Norfolk went through 11 editions. While his story is well-known, others have been forgotten. This exhibition chronicles their lives.

Norfolk's Black population grew from 28 residents in 1800 to a high of 72 in 1860. Their story unfolds in small pieces: through birth and death records, property transactions, district maps, cemetery stones, school records and census data. Dolphin Freedom bought three acres of land on the Canaan Mountain road in 1792 and leased a lot on the Village Green for 20 pounds and one peppercorn annually. Solomon Freeman, Harry Hines, and Samuel Smith all owned farms in the 19th century. Most Black men at that time worked either as farm laborers or day laborers.

With the demise of farming at the turn of the 20th century, the Black population declined as many left to look for work in cities. The growth of the summer resort provided employment as maids, cooks, housekeepers, and coachmen, often at one of the hotels. William Bailey was a stone mason, a lucrative profession during the residential building boom. His children appear in a number of Marie Kendall's photographs. Other photographs portray the children of William and Emma Rice. In 1900 the seven Rice children were among the twelve students enrolled at the North Middle School on Ashpohtag Road making it a predominantly Black school.

Although Connecticut did not abolish slavery until 1848, Norfolk played an important role in the fight for equal rights: from Jupiter and Fanny Mars' flight to freedom to the formation of the Norfolk Anti-Slavery Society and the operation of the Underground Railroad; from Reverend Joseph Eldridge's daring 1861 sermon *Does the Bible Sanction Slavery* to the painting of John Brown commissioned by Robbins Battell. During the Civil War, six Norfolk men served in the 29th Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Colored Infantry. Chauncey Crossley and Edward Hines joined the 54th Massachusetts, the first Black regiment to be organized after the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. Its courageous assault on Fort Wagner led by Commander Robert Gould Shaw was memorialized in the 1989 movie *Glory*. Edward died in the assault. He was just 18 years old.

Norfolk's Black Population



Year	Norfolk Population	Blacks	Black households
1800	1649	28	5
1810	1441	54	8
1820	1422	49	9
1830	1485	39	6
1840	1393	33	0
1850	1728	37	7
1860	1815	72	10
1870	1664	51	9
1880	1418	44	9
1900	1614	51	8
1910	1542	42	9
1920	1229	24	8
1930	1301	39	11

Census Records

Beginning in 1800, Norfolk residents were enumerated in the United States Federal Census, taken every ten years. The 1800 and 1810 census recorded the name of the head of each household, the number and age ranges of free white males and females in the household, the number and age ranges of free persons of color, and the number of slaves. There were no recorded slaves in the Norfolk census. The 1820 census also included occupation (agriculture, manufacturing, and commerce). By 1840 mining, navigation of sea and waterways, and learned profession were added to the list of occupations.

The 1850 census is considerably more comprehensive. It is the first to list the names and exact age of *each* person in the household. We therefore know the names of the Black servants and farm hands that resided in white households as well as the composition of each Black household. Color is recorded as White, Black, or Mulatto. Place of birth, marriage status, student status, and the value of real estate owned are recorded in addition to profession, occupation or trade.

Most of the 1890 United States Federal Census Records were destroyed in a fire at the Commerce Department in Washington D.C. on January 10, 1921. The 1930 census records are the most recent that have been made available to the public. Census records can be accessed online at www.ancestry.com.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000
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29
SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in Norfolk **in the County of** Sitchfield **State**
of Connecticut **enumerated by me, on the** 28th **day of** Oct **1850.** E. Cunningham Ass't Marshal

1	2	3	DESCRIPTION.			7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	Age.	Sex.	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	Place of Birth. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Males within the year. Attended School within the year.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, lame, idiotic, pauper, or convict.		
46	46		Elisha B. Norton	45	M	Shoe-Maker		Conn				
			Amira "	41	F			"				
			Amelia R. "	20	F			"				
			Harlow P. "	12	M	Redder		N.Y.				
			Frances "	10	F			Mass				
			Millicent "	3	F			"				
47	47		Frederick A. Shelding	40	M	Farm	3500	Conn				
			Mary J. "	41	F			"				
			Charles J. "	13	M			"			✓	
			Sarah P. "	10	F			"			✓	
			Mary A. "	8	F			"			✓	
			Ellen H. "	6	F			"			✓	
			Amira G. "	5	F			"			✓	
			Alia M. "	3	F			"				
			Sarah Shook	74	F			Ireland				
			Abner Whiting	18	M	Farm		N.Y.				
48	48		George Rockwell	56	M		1400	Conn				
			Myra "	51	F			"				
			Elther "	52	F			Mass				
49	49		Shirley J. Cowley	46	M	Farm	5000	Conn				
			Amira R. "	47	F			"				
			Joseph R. "	19	M	Farm		"			✓	
			Alva S. "	11	M			"			✓	
50	50		Thomson H. "	32	M	Farm	750	"				
			Caroline S. "	32	F			"				
			Harriet A. "	5	F			"			✓	
			Hiram P. Ford	78	F			"				
51	51		Riley Stillman	38	M	Farm	2300	"				
52	52		Timothy C. Gaylord	58	M		2500	"				
			Percy "	52	F			"				
			Martha "	32	F			"				
			Harmon Clark	41	M			"			✓	
			John Rogers	40	M	Farm		Ireland				
53	53		Samuel Smith	40	M	Farm	2500	N.Y.				
			Sarah "	34	F			Conn				
			Samuel "	2	M			"				
			James "	8	M			"				
			Henry Pierce	14	M			"			✓	
54	54		John C. Hall	53	M	Farm		P.S.				
			Clara "	55	F			Unknown				
			Sarah "	8	F			Conn			✓	
55	55		Amira Rogers	74	F		3000	"				

1800

Black households: Jupiter Mars, Dolphin Freedom, Peter Freedom, John George, Hector Williams. Black people also resided in seven white households, including James Mars at the Munger farm.

1810

Black households: Cyrus Besco, Cuff Cyprian, Jacob Dalson, John George, Nedra James, Jupiter Mars, Jacob Savoy, Isaac Thompson. Blacks also resided in four white households.

1820

Black households: George Bridget, John Dreen, Peter Freedom, John Gray, John Hall, James Harrow, Cato Hector, Fanny Mars, Thomas Noble. Blacks also resided in six white households.

1830

Black households: Thomas Calder, Peter Freedom, John Hall, James Mars, Thomas Noble, Moses Pierce. Blacks also resided in six white households including Samuel Smith at Jospeh Battell's.

1840

There were no Black households enumerated in the 1840 census. Blacks resided in 13 white households including those of Rev. Joseph Eldridge and Joseph Battell.

1850

Black households: Bilhah Freedom, Thomas Calder, John Hall, Moses Hall, Harry Hines, Samuel Smith. Sarah and Anna Battell in Whitehouse employed Mary Rogers (27) and Sally Fagan (16). Across the Green, Lucy Waterman (50) lived at home of Robbins and Ellen Mills Battell.

1860

Black households: Robert Brown, Chauncey Crosley, Bilhah Freedom, Solomon Freeman, Moses Hall, Harry Hines, Robert Jones, James Prime, Samuel Smith.

1870

Black households: Robert Brown, Chauncey Crosley, William Fagan, Bilhah Freedom, Solomon Freeman, Moses Hall, Harry Hines, Robert Hines, Robert Jones, James Prime, Samuel Smith, Henry White.

1880

Black households: William Fagan, Alanson Freeman, John Freeman, Solomon Freeman, Lewis Hines, Robert Hines, James Prime, Jane Smith.

1900

Black households: John Bailey, William Bailey, Floyd Crosler, Robert Crosler, Alfred Jackson, Robert Leggins, William Rice, James Smith.

1910

Black households: John Bailey, John E. Bailey, William Bailey, Alanson Freeman, Alanson Freeman Jr., Henry Freeman, Charles Rice, James Smith.

1920

Black households: Alice Bailey, William Bailey, William Bailey Jr., Alanson Freeman, Charles Freeman, Fred Freeman, James Smith.

1930

Black households: Emma Bailey, John E. Bailey, John W. Bailey, William Bailey (2), Susan Harriett, Arthur Johnson, Russell Johnson, William Saundro, Seth Sharp.

John Hall

Church records kept by the Reverend Ammi Ruhamah Robbins, pastor of Norfolk from 1761 to 1813, provide information about people of color in Norfolk prior to the first census enumeration in 1800. Among the baptisms, marriages, and burials recorded by Robbins was the baptism of *George Indian's child* in 1790.

A Pequot Indian, John Hall was born John George in Rhode Island about 1767 and had moved to Norfolk with his wife by 1790. He is one of 28 persons of color listed in the 1800 census. Crissey tells us that *an Indian named John George lived for a time in the old Avery house. He had two sons, John George and Stephen George*. The Avery house was located on the Colebrook Road near the farms of James Mars and abolitionist Thomas Cowles. Property transactions for John George include the 1809 purchase of land and premises near Pond Hill and Loon Meadow.

Family history recounts that John adopted the surname Hall in 1813 upon his marriage to second wife Clara. While standing in the church hall, he was asked by the pastor what his Christian name was. Taking his name from his surroundings, he chose the name Hall. Thereafter in census records, he is listed as John Hall.

John and Clara had three children: Moses, Jane, and Nelson. Moses and his wife Jerusha may be pictured in the tintype image at the right. They lived in Norfolk with their children before moving to North Canaan. Jane married Samuel Smith, the Battell's farmer, and lived near her parents with her sons Samuel and James. In the 1850 census, John Hall (83) is described as a mulatto laborer. He died later that year. Church burial records include that of *John Hall Indian*.





James Mars

James Mars was the son of slaves. His father, Jupiter, had three successive owners in New York state and fought in the Revolutionary War while serving the Van Rensselaer family before he was sold to a man in Salisbury, Connecticut. His next master was the Reverend Thompson of North Canaan. Thompson's wife had brought her slaves with her from Virginia when she came to Canaan, and one of them—Fanny—was soon married to Jupiter. While in Canaan, Jupiter and Fanny had five children, three of whom died in infancy. James was born in 1790.

In his autobiography, James Mars paints a vivid picture of his father's maltreatment by the minister's wife who threatened to have Jupiter stripped and flogged when they returned South. When this return became imminent, Jupiter decided to escape with his wife and two sons. The story of the Mars family's flight to Norfolk, their capture, and eight-year-old James' sale as an indentured laborer to Elizur Munger is recounted in the autobiography. Jupiter and Fanny were given their freedom and settled in Norfolk where they had a daughter Charlotte and a son John. It is possible Jupiter worked as a blacksmith because the property Fanny sold after his death included a blacksmith shop. Crissey tells us that Jupiter played the fiddle for the young people in town who enjoyed dancing. Son John became a minister and twice preached at the Congregational Church at the request of Reverend Eldridge in 1872. As a young man John lived at the home of William Oakley whose daughter remembered: When I was a baby [he] was very fond of me. I used to pat his face as he held me, as I have been told, and he would say, 'My black skin does not make any difference to her.'

Although Connecticut law mandated that slaves born before 1792 must serve until they were 25 years old, James Mars negotiated his freedom when he turned 21 in 1811. He spent some time in the West but returned to Norfolk and in 1825 bought a 23-acre farm on the Colebrook Road. It was next to the farm of Deacon Amos Pettibone and near that of Thomas Cowles. Both were staunch abolitionists and active in the Underground Railroad. James Mars married and had two children before he sold his farm in 1828 and moved to Hartford where he worked in a dry goods store and enjoyed a prominent place in the Black community. He was a founding member of the African Religious Society in 1833 and a deacon at the Talcott Street Congregational Church, a center for abolitionist activities. James played an important role in reforming national and Connecticut laws pertaining to Blacks. However, he was disappointed at Connecticut's failure to enfranchise Blacks, and he eventually moved to Pittsfield, Massachusetts where, in his words, *it has been my privilege to vote in five presidential elections [and] to help elect the lamented and murdered Lincoln.*

James Mars had eight children. Two sons enlisted in the Navy; three served in the military during the Civil War; and one daughter immigrated to Africa to teach. After twenty years in Massachusetts, James returned to Norfolk and, at the request of his sister, decided to write his autobiography to educate people that slavery did indeed exist in Connecticut. When the book was first published in 1864, James was 74 years old and working as a field hand. By the time the 11th edition was published, he was unable to work and dependent on sales of the book to support himself. James Mars died in Ashley Falls on May 28, 1880 and is buried in Norfolk's Center Cemetery.

God Never Made a Slave

*Columbia's sons, though slave ye be,
God, your Creator, made you free,
He life to all and being gave,
But never, never, made a slave!*

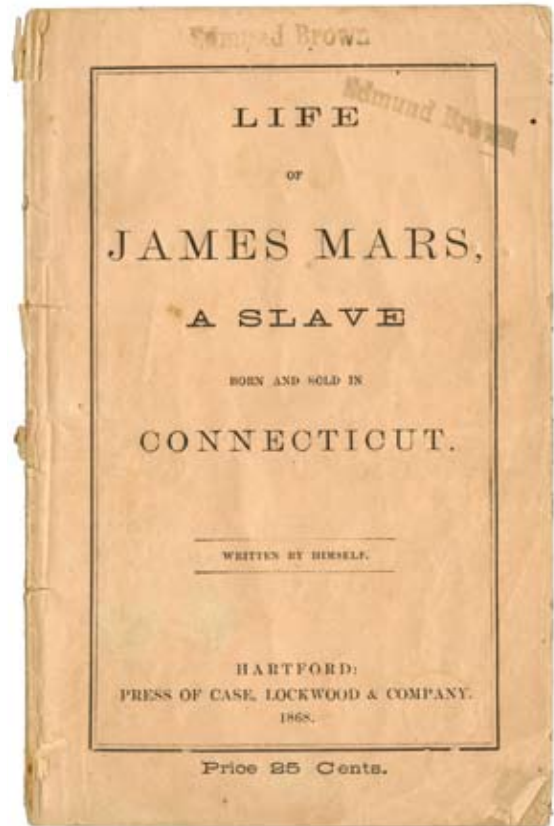
*His works are wonderful to see,
All, all, proclaim the Deity;
He made the earth, and formed the wave,
But never, never, made a slave!*

*He made the skies with spangles bright,
The moon to shine by silent night,
The sun, and spread the vast concave,
But never, never, made a slave.*

*The verdant earth on which we tread
Was by his hand all carpeted;
Enough for all he freely gave,
But never, never, made a slave.*

*All men are equal in his sight
The bond, the free, the black, the white:
He made them all, them freedom gave
He made the man, man made the slave!*

—James Mars



From "Original and Selected Pieces for Declamation and Recitation in Primary Schools,"
in *The Primary Union Speaker* by John D. Philbrick, Superintendent of Public Schools (Boston, 1867).

Know all Men by these Presents, That *I James Mars of*
Norfolk Litchfield County State of Connecticut

for divers good causes and considerations
thereunto moving; especially for *the* Consideration of two Hundred dollars
received to *my* full satisfaction of *Edmund Brown of Norfolk afore said*

Have remised, released, and forever quit-claimed, and do by these presents for *my full and my heirs*
justly and absolutely remise, release, and forever quit-claim unto the said *Edmund his heirs*

to *his* heirs and assigns forever, all such right and title as *I* the said *James Mars*
have or ought to have in or to *the following described land and*
Building lying in the East part of Norfolk and is the
farm I Bought of Samuel & Pettibone Bounded as follows
North on Highway East and South on Joseph Rockwells
land west on Amos Pettibones land with a house
and Barn and other Building Standing thereon
Containing twenty three acres Be the same
more or Less

To have and to hold, the premises unto *him* the said *Edmund*
his heirs and assigns, to the only use and behoof of the said *Edmund*

his heirs and assigns forever, so that neither *I* the said *James nor my heirs nor any*
person in my name and behalf, shall or will hereafter claim or demand any right or title to the
premises, or any part thereof, but they and every of them, shall by these presents be excluded and forever
barred.

In witness whereof, have hereunto set *my* hand and seal this *Seventh*
day of *January* in the year of our Lord 1828

Signed, sealed and delivered,

In presence of
Jym Lawrence
Joseph Battell

James Mars

Litchfield Co. Norfolk, Jan. 7. 1828.

Personally appeared

James Mars.

signer and sealer of the

foregoing instrument, and acknowledged the same to be before me *his* free act and deed

Joseph Battell Just of Peace

Norfolk Anti-Slavery Society

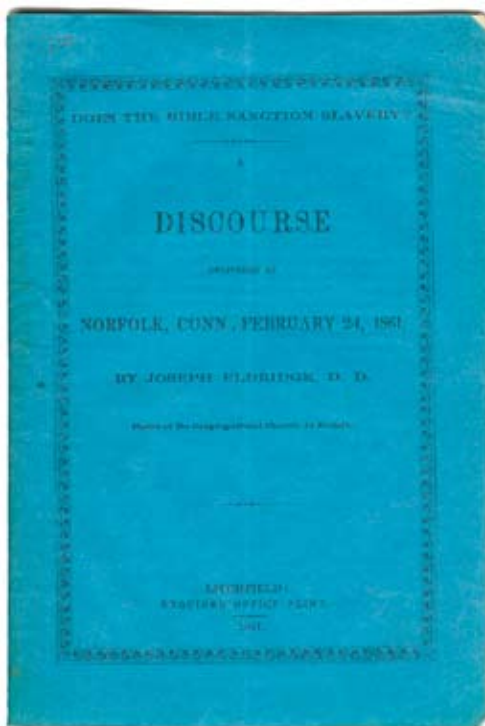
The Norfolk Anti-Slavery Society was formed in 1844. An auxiliary of the state organization, it included among its members many of the most notable men in the community. The first man in Norfolk to publicly oppose slavery was Thomas T. Cowles. In the presidential election of 1840, Cowles cast his vote for Abolitionist candidate James Birney. Although they were in a minority at the time, a handful of Norfolk men were so opposed to slavery that they thought it wrong to vote as long as the United States Constitution sanctioned slavery.

Thomas Cowles proposed a church resolution on the subject of slavery. It began with these words:

Resolved that slavery is a sin against God and an invasion of the rights of our fellow men, awfully comprehensive of evil.

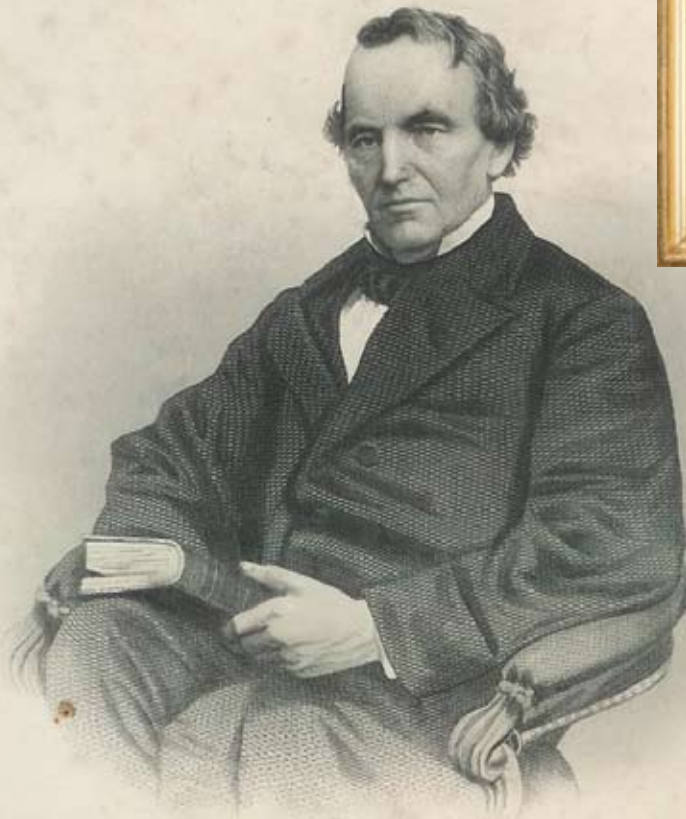


On Sunday, February 17, 1861, Reverend Joseph Eldridge told his congregation that he intended to speak on the subject of slavery on the following Sabbath. He said that he was giving advanced notice in order that those who might not wish to hear the sermon could stay away. Very few members of his congregation were absent the following Sunday when Reverend Eldridge considered the question: *Does the Bible Sanction Slavery?* The answer in the Scriptures, he said, was an emphatic *No*.



The Bible teaches me to call no man master; that my fellow creatures are in the sight of God just as important as I am. No human foresight can now determine the when and how of slavery's demise; but that it will die, I regard as only a question of time. And who is not prepared with me to say, 'O Lord, hasten the day.'

—REV. JOSEPH ELDRIDGE, FEBRUARY 24, 1861



Eng. by Geo. E. Parnall N. York.

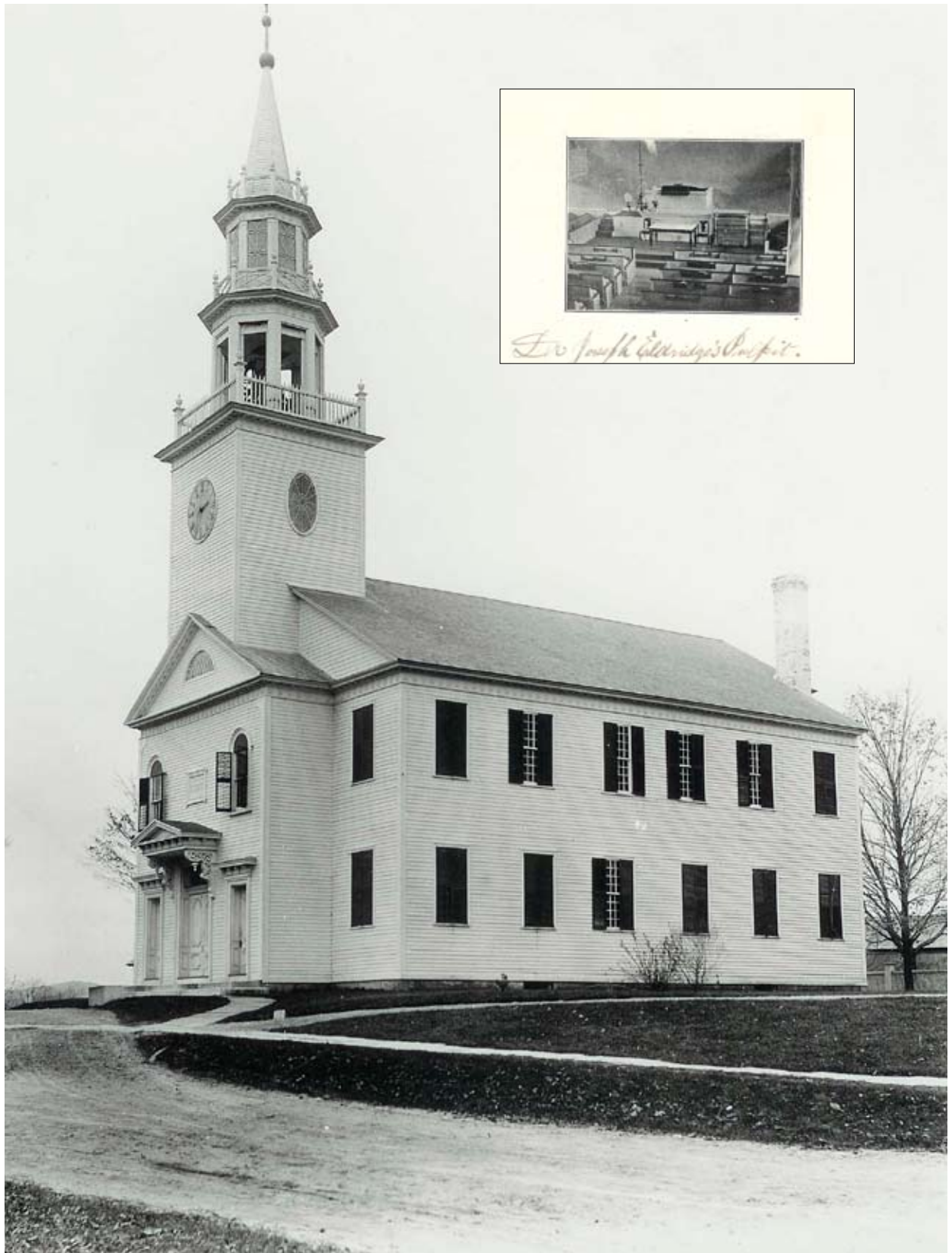
Joseph Eldridge

Resolved that slavery is a sin against
God & an invasion of the rights of our fellow
men awfully comprehensive of evil.

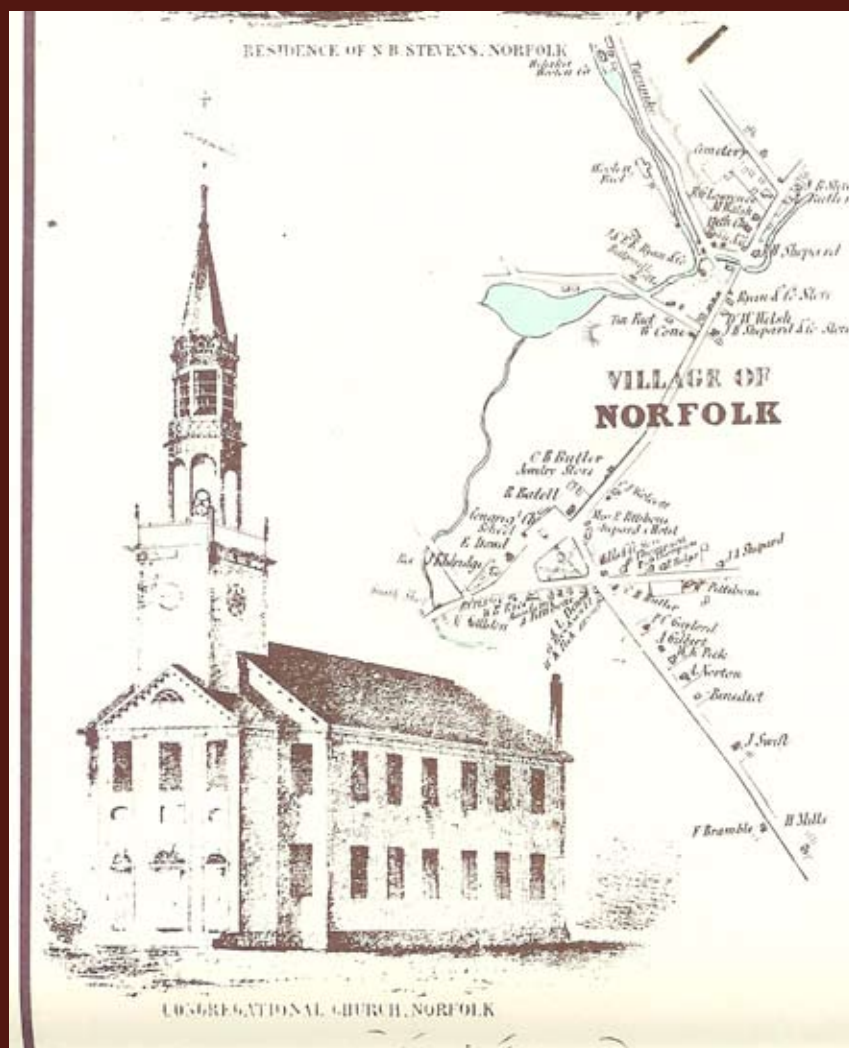
Resolved that slavery is a sin against
 god & an invasion of the rights of our fellow
 men awfully comprehensive of evil
 the laws of any country
 Whereas, are an index to its religion and the
 the religion an index to the laws of that coun-
 try the religion giving & creating that public
 sentiment that creates and sustains its laws
 and whereas the church of christ with which we
 are connected is implicated in the guilty copartnership
 by silently consenting thereto & by inviting to our
 communion & pulpit those known to be guilty of this
 and are therefore living in known sin contrary
 to our covenant vows by longer refusing to speak
 and act against it as becometh Gospel of Christ

Therefore resolved that we will refuse to invite
 to our communion and pulpit those known to be
 guilty of the sin of slave holding or who approve
 of the same





Dr. Joseph Ellsworth's Parsonage.



The Underground Railroad in Norfolk

In the years before the Civil War, abolitionists established a clandestine system to assist escaping slaves reach the safety of Canada. The network of trails and hiding places called stations was known as the Underground Railroad and crossed Connecticut from south to north. There were 34 towns and at least 86 principal “agents” involved in the Underground Railroad in Connecticut.

The Underground Railroad was active in Norfolk, but because its activities were shrouded in secrecy and few records were kept, it is difficult to find documentation. Crissey’s *History of Norfolk* (1900) tells us that the house of Deacon Amos Pettibone on the Village Green was among several stations in town:

Dea. Pettibone used to take passengers on to the next station in New Marlborough. I remember his stopping one morning at my home to have us children see a young runaway slave whom he had kept overnight, and was then on his way to the next ‘station.’ He showed the scars on his ankles where he had worn irons.

Deacon Pettibone was the head of the Abolition Party in Norfolk, and members would gather around the fireside at his home for caucuses. Other abolitionists very likely sheltered runaway slaves as well. Oral tradition suggests that houses such as that of Thomas Cowles on the Colebrook Road were stations on the Underground Railroad. The 1853 and 1859 maps of Norfolk show the location of the Pettibone house on the Village Green. The 1874 map of Norfolk shows the Cowles farm on the Colebrook Road.





The Rice, Jackson, and Bailey families are among several extended families that lived in Norfolk in 1900. William and Emma Rice rented a house on North Street. Emma's mother, Mary Jackson, lived with them and helped care for the seven Rice children: Frank (14), George (13), Ward (10), Edith (8), Willie (7), Harry (4), and McKinley (3). Young Harry boarded nearby at the home of his uncle Alfred Jackson. The Rice children attended the North Middle School with their cousin, Retta Jackson. Some of the children are pictured in the school photographs. Both William Rice and Alfred Jackson worked as laborers. Other members of the Rice clan—William's brother Charles (25) and sister Nellie (19)—lived at the Phelps homestead on North Street where they were employed as servants. Charles would later find work driving an ice wagon.

William Bailey was a stone mason married to Mary Williams, the daughter of John Williams and Margaret Crosley. They had nine children: Susan, Ada, Annie, Emma, William, Andrew, Kate, Margaret and John. The Bailey children attended Center School and the Church of Christ Sunday School. They appear in Marie Kendall's photographs including the *Ups and Downs of Life* and *Christmas Caroling*. William's brother John also worked in Norfolk as a stone mason.

Another Bailey family moved to Norfolk in 1924: John Edward, his wife Jeannette, and their daughter Martha. John and Jeannette hailed from Virginia where John had been educated at the Hampton Institute and trained as a blacksmith. A son Edward and daughter Ann were soon born. Although he found employment as a blacksmith, racial prejudice prevented John from financing and operating his own business, and he had to look elsewhere for work. He held various jobs including groomsman and cook at the Hillhurst Hotel before he was hired as a butler by architect Alfredo Taylor. Jeannette worked as a cook and a waitress at Crissey Place and operated a home laundry. The Baileys owned the house on the northwest corner of Mountain Road and Sunset Ridge. Their daughter Martha Bailey Davis, an artist, returned to Norfolk for the last years of her life. She was affectionately known as Maba. This is her story:

My father and mother came to Norfolk in 1924. I was 4½ years old. John Edward Bailey was a skilled blacksmith and wheelwright. He worked for a short time for the "Norfolk Village Smithy" on Westside Road. Because of Bailey's expert work, he was in great demand which caused professional jealousy on the part of his employer. Soon this situation became intolerable, and my father sought financial backing to open his own shop. In 1925 this was unrealistic dreaming for a Black man in Norfolk. His efforts were blocked.

He worked on various jobs before Mr. Robbins Battell Stoeckel hired him as groom for his horses and later employed my mother, Jeannette, as cook. After working for Mr. Stoeckel for a few years, my father changed jobs and worked as butler for the noted architect Alfredo S. G. Taylor for nearly 30 years.

John retired and moved to Danville, Va. in 1957. Our family's years in Norfolk were hard years but full of love, nature, beauty and learning. Learning about life, people and animals (all kinds) that inhabit the earth. I have come back to live for a while in the town that feels like home to me. For this is where I learned to know the reality of the only thing that matters in living on planet earth—love.

Maba Bailey Davis, 1980





Mrs. Spring's Sunday School Class on the steps of Battell Chapel. Circa 1902.

William Bailey was one of 50 blacks living in Norfolk in 1900. He and his wife Mary had five children who figure in several of Marie Kendall's photographs at this time. Susan is pictured in the second to last row on the left in Myrtie Botelle's class at the Center School. The children also attended Sunday School at the Church of Christ.



Myrtie Botelle's Class at Center School , circa 1898.



Miss Philbin's Class at Center School (above), Miss Botelle's Class at Center School (below), 1913. By 1913 the Bailey household had expanded as four more children had been born. William, now 15, and his younger brother Andrew (11) are pictured in Rose Philbin's class at the Center School. Katie (10) and her sister Maggie (8) were in Myrtie Botelle's class.





Miss Relihan's Class at Center School, 1915.

By 1915 Center School was housed in a new brick building which stood on the present site of Meadowbrook Apartments. Katie and Maggie Bailey had advanced to Katherine Relihan's 3rd and 4th grade class.



30.53.76
(51)



"Ups and downs of life."

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

State Connecticut
County Stafford

Supervisor's District No. 24 Sheet No. 9
Enumeration District No. 241

Township or other division of county Stafford Name of Institution, X

Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, X Ward of city, X

Enumerated by me on the 14th day of June, 1900, Joseph Howland Enumerator.

LOCATION.	NAME.	RELATION.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.										NATIVITY.			CITIZENSHIP.		OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION.		EDUCATION.					SPECIAL INQUIRY.	
			AGE.	SEX.	RACE.	HEIGHT.	WEIGHT.	HAIR.	EYES.	SKIN.	SCARS.	MARKS.	Place of birth of this person.	Place of birth of father of this person.	Place of birth of mother of this person.	Is he a native-born citizen?	Is he a naturalized citizen?	Occupation, trade, or profession.	Years of age when he began to work.	Years of school.	Years of college.	Years of university.	Years of special training.	Is he deaf or dumb?	Is he blind?	Is he insane?
111 24	Kendall, John	Head	24	M	W	5' 10"	170	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut			Physician	24	12	4	0	0			
	Marion H.	Wife	22	F	W	5' 4"	125	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Helen	Daughter	10	F	W	4' 8"	75	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Agnes H.	Daughter	8	F	W	4' 2"	65	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Charles H.	Son	15	M	W	5' 10"	150	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Alfred H.	Son	12	M	W	5' 4"	125	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
112 24	Charles H.	Head	24	M	W	5' 10"	170	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut			Physician	24	12	4	0	0			
	Marion H.	Wife	22	F	W	5' 4"	125	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Agnes H.	Daughter	10	F	W	4' 8"	75	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Charles H.	Son	15	M	W	5' 10"	150	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Alfred H.	Son	12	M	W	5' 4"	125	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
113 24	Donald H.	Head	24	M	W	5' 10"	170	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut			Physician	24	12	4	0	0			
	Marion H.	Wife	22	F	W	5' 4"	125	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Agnes H.	Daughter	10	F	W	4' 8"	75	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Charles H.	Son	15	M	W	5' 10"	150	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Alfred H.	Son	12	M	W	5' 4"	125	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
114 24	Donald H.	Head	24	M	W	5' 10"	170	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut			Physician	24	12	4	0	0			
	Marion H.	Wife	22	F	W	5' 4"	125	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Agnes H.	Daughter	10	F	W	4' 8"	75	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Charles H.	Son	15	M	W	5' 10"	150	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Alfred H.	Son	12	M	W	5' 4"	125	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
115 24	Donald H.	Head	24	M	W	5' 10"	170	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut			Physician	24	12	4	0	0			
	Marion H.	Wife	22	F	W	5' 4"	125	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Agnes H.	Daughter	10	F	W	4' 8"	75	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Charles H.	Son	15	M	W	5' 10"	150	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Alfred H.	Son	12	M	W	5' 4"	125	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
116 24	Donald H.	Head	24	M	W	5' 10"	170	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut			Physician	24	12	4	0	0			
	Marion H.	Wife	22	F	W	5' 4"	125	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Agnes H.	Daughter	10	F	W	4' 8"	75	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Charles H.	Son	15	M	W	5' 10"	150	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Alfred H.	Son	12	M	W	5' 4"	125	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
117 24	Donald H.	Head	24	M	W	5' 10"	170	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut			Physician	24	12	4	0	0			
	Marion H.	Wife	22	F	W	5' 4"	125	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Agnes H.	Daughter	10	F	W	4' 8"	75	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Charles H.	Son	15	M	W	5' 10"	150	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Alfred H.	Son	12	M	W	5' 4"	125	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
118 24	Donald H.	Head	24	M	W	5' 10"	170	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut			Physician	24	12	4	0	0			
	Marion H.	Wife	22	F	W	5' 4"	125	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Agnes H.	Daughter	10	F	W	4' 8"	75	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Charles H.	Son	15	M	W	5' 10"	150	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Alfred H.	Son	12	M	W	5' 4"	125	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
119 24	Donald H.	Head	24	M	W	5' 10"	170	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut			Physician	24	12	4	0	0			
	Marion H.	Wife	22	F	W	5' 4"	125	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Agnes H.	Daughter	10	F	W	4' 8"	75	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Charles H.	Son	15	M	W	5' 10"	150	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Alfred H.	Son	12	M	W	5' 4"	125	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
120 24	Donald H.	Head	24	M	W	5' 10"	170	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut			Physician	24	12	4	0	0			
	Marion H.	Wife	22	F	W	5' 4"	125	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Agnes H.	Daughter	10	F	W	4' 8"	75	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Charles H.	Son	15	M	W	5' 10"	150	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											
	Alfred H.	Son	12	M	W	5' 4"	125	B	Brn	Fair			Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut											



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Few persons in the whole history of the town, regardless of name, race, color or condition, have been more respected and loved than was 'Aunt Bilhak,' as she was called by almost everyone. ~~For~~ the south she would have been to everyone 'Mammy'.

Some of those who loved and esteemed her in life, caused to be placed at her grave a monument of enduring marble, which bears the following inscription:-

"Bilhak Freedom, widow of Peter Freedom; Born initchfield Conn., January 1783. Lived in this town, greatly respected and beloved. Died. November 10, 1871. Of African and princely descent. Of queenly yet deferential demeanor. Grateful and happy in her humble lot, tender and true. Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

One of the earliest records of the Freedom family in Norfolk is a property transaction. In 1792 Dolphin Freedom bought three acres of land and a house from Nathaniel Roys for six pounds. A year later he added another three acres to this property on the Canaan Mountain road. Between that time and his death in 1801, Dolphin was involved in several more property transactions listed in the Norfolk Land Records, including the purchase of 40 acres of land in 1796.

Peter Freedom is listed in the 1800 federal census with his family of four. After the death of his wife Clorony, Peter moved to Litchfield with his children and in 1812 married 29-year-old Bilhah, a native of that town. The family returned to Norfolk, and Peter found work at the grist mill. He and Bilhah would bury two children before their daughter Amanda was born in 1814. That year Bilhah was admitted as a member of the Congregational Church by letter of recommendation from the Church in Litchfield. The Freedoms lived in a house at the south end of the Village Green, and the 1820 census lists Peter's occupation as manufacturing. Daughter Jane was born in 1819. By 1830 Peter and Bilhah also had a son.

After Peter died in 1837, Bilhah went to live with her daughter Amanda Van Ness in upstate New York. While there are no Freedoms listed in Norfolk in the 1840 census, a John Freedom enrolled at the Norfolk Academy that year. The Academy attracted students from nearby states who boarded with families, and it would make sense for John to have returned to the town in which his family had lived for 40 years if he was a particularly able student.

By 1850 Bilhah had returned to Norfolk, and her daughter Amanda followed soon after with her five children. Betsy, Henry, Sarah, and Jane attended the Schoolhouse on the Green. Irene Van Ness was a domestic servant. It is possible that Amanda's poor health was the reason for her return as she died a few years later at the age of 53. Bilhah Freedom was 85 years old at the time and doing occasional housework. At the end of her life she lived in a small house on Greenwoods Road just north of Whitehouse. It had been built and used as a shoe shop. According to the 1870 census records, the real estate she owned was valued at \$200. Bilhah lived with her granddaughter Jane and Jane's husband, Lyman Moore.

Theron Crissey included a portrait of Aunt Bilhah, as she was called, in his *History of Norfolk*. He tells us that she was famous as a cook, in great demand on Thanksgiving and at weddings, and known for the gingerbread which she would sell to the children in town. After she died on November 10, 1871, a marble gravestone was inscribed by townsfolk:

*Bilhah Freedom, Widow of Peter Freedom;
Greatly respected and beloved.
Of African and Princely descent.
Of queenly yet deferential demeanor.
Grateful and happy in her humble lot, tender and true.*

SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in Norfolk in the County of Stafford State
of Connecticut enumerated by me, on the 3rd day of July 1880. Col. H. H. H. Asst. Marshal.
Post Office Norfolk

1	2	3	Description			7	Value of Estate Owned		10	11	12	13	14
			Age	Sex	Color		Real Estate	Personal Estate					
		The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1880, was in this family.				Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.			Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Assessed value of real estate owned on the first day of June, 1880.	Assessed value of personal estate owned on the first day of June, 1880.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
1		Minnie Hock	22	f					Ireland	✓			
2	133	Martin P. Bell	52	m	black		✓	200	Connecticut				
3		Julia H. "	51	f					New York	✓			
4		Henry J. "	17	f					"	✓			
5		Martha H. "	15	f					Connecticut				
6		Polina H. "	22	m	Scandinavian	✓			New York	✓			
7		Harriet H. "	26	f					Connecticut				
8	134	Robert Bell	41	m	Scandinavian	✓	2000	50.00					
9		Anna "	43	f				500					
10		William H. "	9	f									
11	135	Eliza Gooden	77	f				300					
12		Annanda Turner	77	f					New York				
13		Calley J. "	15	f					"				
14		Henry "	16	m					"				
15		Frank H. "	12	f					"				
16		John A. "	7	f					"				
17	136	Unoccupied											
18	137	Theresa L. Gault	52	m	Scandinavian	✓	6500	1200	Connecticut				
19		Samuel H. "	58	f					"				
20		Joseph H. "	29	m	Scandinavian	✓		200	"				
21		John L. "	21	m			✓		"				
22	138	Edith Perkins	59	m	Scandinavian	✓	300	200					
23		Anna H. "	52	f					"				
24		Lucy "	25	m	Michigan	✓			"				
25		Alfred "	28	m	Scandinavian	✓			"				
26		Edmund "	18	m			✓		"				
27		Agnes "	11	m					"				
28		Samuel Birdsey	95	m					"				
29		Philly Whitney	64	f					"				
30	139	Agnes Robbitt	74	m	Scandinavian	✓	2000	200					
31		John "	69	f					New York	✓			
32	140	Charles D. Gault	58	m	Scandinavian	✓		150	Connecticut				
33		Emily "	45	f					"				
34		George H. "	21	m					"				
35		Sarah L. Gault	25	f					"				
36	141	Unoccupied											
37	142	Samuel Mayday	24	m	Scandinavian	✓			Ireland	✓			
38		John "	25	f					"				
39		Timothy "	1	m					Connecticut				
40	143	William C. Ryan	26	m	Scandinavian	✓			Ireland	✓			
No. white males, 15. No. colored males, 1. No. foreign born, —. No. blind, —. No. white females, 12. No. colored females, —. No. deaf and dumb, —. No. insane, —. No. paupers, —. No. convicts, —.													

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Schoff, in the County of Leitchfield, State of Kentucky, enumerated by me on the 25th day of June, 1870.

Post Office: Leitchfield

J. M. Brooks, Asst. Marshal.

1	2	3	Description.			7	Value of Real Estate		10	Profession		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			4	5	6		8	9		11	12								
1		John McMillan	16	M	Attending school				New York										
2		Robert McMillan	6	F	Attending school				New York										
3		James May	28	F	Domestic servant				Kentucky										
4	17	172	John Watson	24	M	Merchant	1000	2000	Kentucky										
5			John	28	F	Keeping house			New York										
6			Kelley	1	F				New York										
7			Robert	22	M	Merchant	1000	2000	Kentucky										
8			John Eli	24	M	Teacher			New York										
9	17	172	Frederick Hylah	17	F	Housewife	200		Kentucky										
10			John Symon	27	M	Farmer	2100		Kentucky										
11			John	17	F	Keeping house			New York										
12	17	172	Frederick Hylah	64	F	Keeping house	900		Kentucky										
13			John	21	F				Kentucky										
14			John	10	F				Kentucky										
15			Elizabeth	25	F				Kentucky										
16	17	172	Frederick Hylah	27	M	Farmer	1200	2700	Kentucky										
17			John	27	F	Keeping house			Kentucky										
18			John	13	F	Attending school			Kentucky										
19			John	12	F	Attending school			Kentucky										
20	17	172	Frederick Hylah	23	M	Farmer	700	200	Kentucky										
21			John	31	F	Keeping house			Kentucky										
22			William	7	M	Attending school			Kentucky										
23			John	5	F	Attending school			Kentucky										
24			John	12	M				Kentucky										
25	17	172	Frederick Hylah	64	M	Farmer			Kentucky										
26			John	26	F	Keeping house			Kentucky										
27			Elizabeth	24	F	Attending school			Kentucky										
28			John	17	F	Attending school			Kentucky										
29	17	172	Frederick Hylah	23	F	Keeping house	2000	1000	Kentucky										
30			John	50	F		500	1000	Kentucky										
31	17	172	Frederick Hylah	27	M	Farmer	200		Kentucky										
32			John	40	F	Keeping house			Kentucky										
33			William	14	M	Attending school			Kentucky										
34			John	9	F	Attending school			Kentucky										
35			John	20	M	Attending school			Kentucky										
36	17	172	Frederick Hylah	72	F	Keeping house	200		Kentucky										
37			John	18	F	Attending school			Kentucky										
38	17	172	Frederick Hylah	74	F	Keeping house	1000	1000	Kentucky										
39			John	65	F	Keeping house			Kentucky										
40			John	22	F				Kentucky										
Totals																			
No. of dwellings		No. of white families		No. of males, foreign born		No. of females, foreign born		No. of males, colored		No. of females, colored		No. of males, white		No. of females, white		No. of males, colored		No. of females, colored	
10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10	

HALL, PHOTO. G.T. BARRINGTON, MASS.



HALL, PHOTO. G.T. BARRINGTON, MASS.