

Uncovering Parish Histories: First Steps for Research

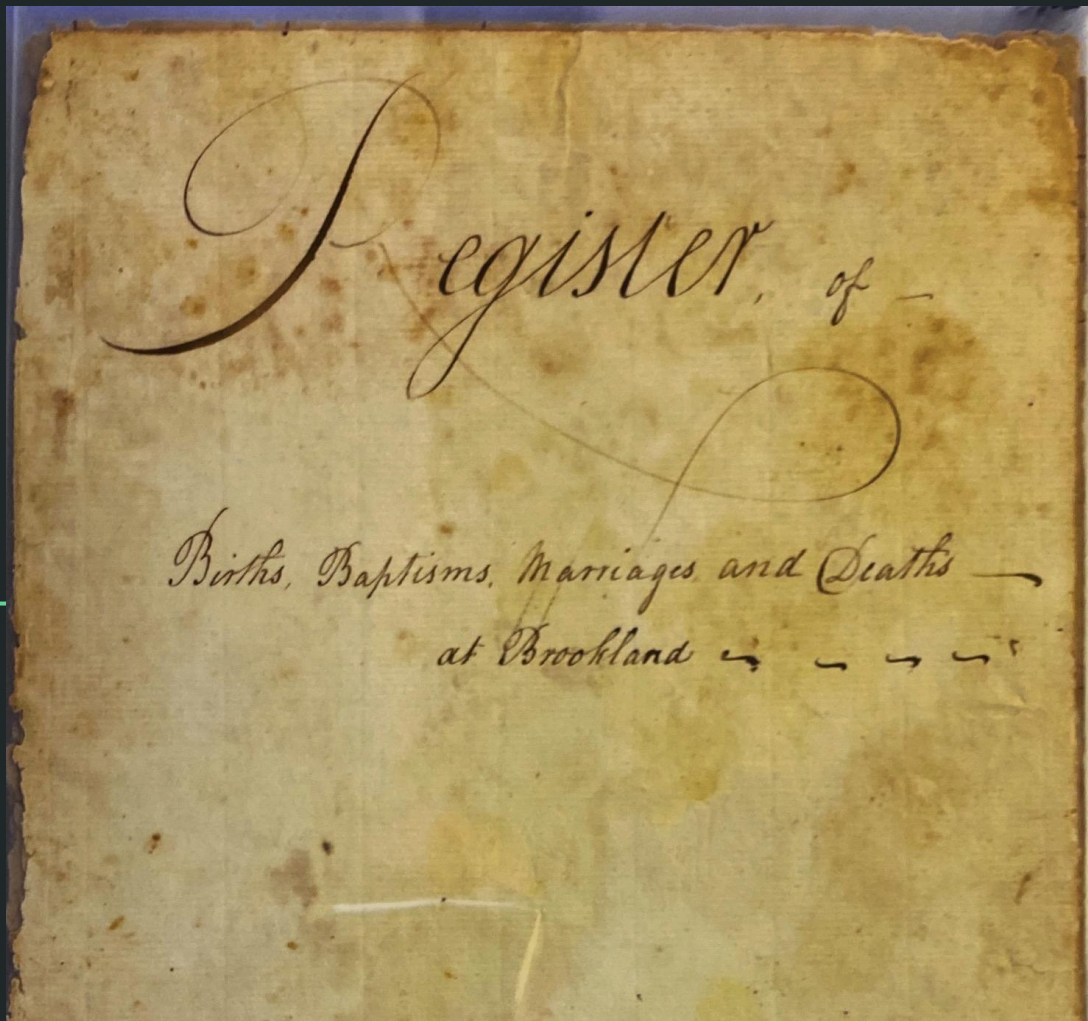
The Rev. Dr. Craig Townsend, Historian in Residence
for Racial Justice for the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

Bryan Clarke, Project Assistant

Goals of this research:

- to find out whether early members of the parish enslaved people
- to find out whether early members of the parish profited from the slavery economy - through investments or other commercial connections with Northern and/or Southern slavery
- to find out whether any early parishioners were involved in antislavery activism
- to find out whether any parish connections can lead us to new knowledge about enslaved persons in our community - persons largely lost to history





Find records - **vestry minutes, parish registers** - for the earliest years of the parish (through 1870 or so)

Is there a written or even
published **history of the
parish?**

Church of the Holy Trinity

Brooklyn Heights in
the City of New York

1847-1922

A Historical Sketch Commemorating
the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of
the Opening of the Church

By
Roscoe C. E. Brown

The Dunlap Press, Inc.,
New York
1922



If none of these exist,
we'll explore other
options together (see
below)

Last name	First name	Slaveowner?	Antislavery?	Address	Business	Connections/family	Other info

Compile a **list of names** of parishioners with their known church connections and dates

Last Name	First Name	Warden, Years	Vestry, Years	Other church connection
Adams	James L/A		1851-53	
Baldwin	Augustus O		1860-66	
Barnard	Daniel P		1855-61	
Bartow	Edgar J		1851-56	memorial tablet, 1871
Baxter	Charles H		1860-61	
Brush	Conklin	1851-56		
Carter	William H		1854-58	
Clark	Peter		1854-55	
Cook	Moses		1851-54	
Deming	George		1857-59	
Fenton	Aaron D	1857-60	1851-56, 61	

From the vestry minutes:

- those serving as wardens and vestrymen and their dates of service
- those running for election and not being elected (if recorded), and the year(s) of those elections
- anyone else mentioned in the minutes for any reason, the reason for mentioning them, and the date

From parish registers:

- start with confirmation and communicant lists, as those will be active parishioners - list them with dates
- then look for those names in marriage, baptism, and funeral listings to add family members - list with dates
- note that other marriages, baptisms, and funerals may not be active members, so names found there should be added to the list only if there is evidence of attachment to the parish

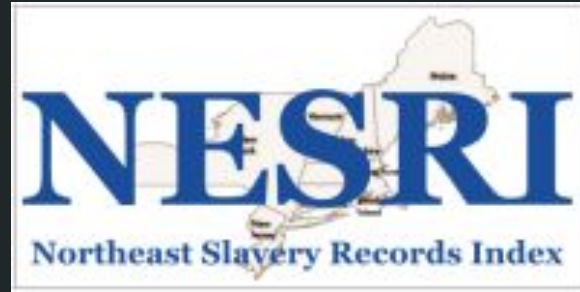
CONFIRMED.			
NAMES.	DATE OF CONFIRMATION.	BISHOP.	
Albert H. Camp	April 18 1873	Ab. Rev. A. N. Littlejohn	
Mrs. Ellen M. Camp	April 18 1873		
Saml. H. Davis	April 18 1873		
Mrs. Mary Anne Davis	April 18 1873		
Ann. Mayhew Birch	April 18 1873		
Mrs. Charlotte Waterman Bell	April 18 1873		
Sarah W. Guion	April 18 1873		
Mary C. Clegg	April 18 1873		
Frank Orwood Redman	April 18 1873		
Laura Isabel Redman	April 18 1873		
Miss Ellen Bennett	April 18 1873		
Mrs. Young	April 18 1873		
Charlotte Emily Ringham	April 18 1873		
Mrs. Birch	April 18 1873		
Madeleine Newhouse	April 18 1873		
Isabel Newhouse	April 18 1873		
Mrs. Alice C. Carl	April 3 1874		
George James	April 3 1874		
Robert J. Stole	April 3 1874		
Josephine Corlie Leatham	April 3 1874		
Mary Jane Marshall	April 3 1874		
William J. Nelson	April 3 1874		
Annie E. Drake	April 3 1874		
Marion D. Birch	April 3 1874		
Jennie E. Friedrichs	April 3 1874		
Mrs.	April 3 1874		
Mary E. Altman	April 3 1874		
Frances Louisa Stole	April 3 1874		
Louise M. Harrison	April 3 1874		
Elizabeth C. Harrison	April 3 1874		
Ellen V. Dwyer	April 3 1874		
Mary S. Bennett	April 3 1874		
Harrison G. McCadden	April 3 1874		
Henry Lang	April 3 1874		

If there's a history of the parish:

- look for a list of communicants, founding vestry members, or other names that can be compiled

MEMBERS....1788 to 1845.													
Date.	COMMUNICANTS.	Wright.	Katooone.	Hull.	Nesbit.	Irland.	Fellus.	Henshaw.	Smith.	OnderPK.	McIvaine.	Center.	REMARKS.
1788	Mrs. SARAH MIDDAGH.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Wid. of John. Died. [Aug. 13, 1837, aged 92.]
	Mrs. ANN SANDS.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
	Mrs. JANE BOGART.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
1790	JOHN VAN NOSTRAND.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Died, Probably Mathew.
	MARTHA GLEAVES.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
	MARGARET GLEAVES.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
	MRS. ELIZABETH BROWN.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	D'd Oc. 16, 1805, a. 61.
	JOHN MIDDAGH.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
	Dr. SHREAVES.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Died,
	MARTHA SHREAVES.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
	SARAH CARPENDER.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
	ABIGAIL PATCHEN.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
	TIMOTHY NOSTRAND.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
	ELIZAB. CORNELL, Sen.	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Removed to N. Y.
	MARG. VAN MATER.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Died 1798.
	ELIZABETH GILLES.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Removed.
	ELEON'A McMULLIGAN.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Deceased.
	MARY MIDDAGH.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Do.
	JANE BOGART.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Removed.
	ELIZAB. HORSFIELD.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Do.
	GEORGE POWERS.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Died, 1826, aged 82.
1791	GIDEON WEIRS.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Removed to N. Y.
	PAUL DAYRELL.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Died, 1803, aged 68.
	MARY DAYRELL.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Died, June, 1809.
	Mrs. CATH. PLACE.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Died, Sep. 30, 1816.
	SARAH POWELL.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Removed.
1792	Mrs. SARAH CORNELL.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
	HANNAH CORNELL.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
	Mrs. AYKINS.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
1799	Mrs. HANNAH IRELAND.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Died 1820.
	--- BOHULTZ.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Removed to N. Y.
	Mrs. ELLEN GRIGG.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Died 1831.
	Mrs. HARRIS.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Removed to N. Y.
	Mrs. ELIZAB. CORNELL.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
	Miss CORNELL (d. E. sen.)	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
	Mrs. ROBBINS.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
1800	Mrs. MARY DAWSON.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Rem. 1831.
	Mrs. SARAH MORRIS.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Of the Vestry.
1801	WM. GRIGG.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
	Mrs. LUCY CARPENDER.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
	Mrs. BUCKNER.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
	Mrs. ELIZA MAMER.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Deceased.
	CLEMET WERHAM.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Rem. to Conn.
1802	Mrs. MARY TITUS (late Miss Van Nostrand).....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Rem. to N. Y.
	Mrs. LUDLAM.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Do.
	MARTHA DEMOTT.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Do.
	JOHN VAN PELT, Sen.	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Deceased.
	JOHN VAN PELT, Jr.	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
	Mrs. VAN PELT, Jr.	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
	Mrs. CARPENTER, Sen.	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Rem.
	Mrs. HICKS, Widow.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Do.
1803	SUSANNAH BROWN.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Died Dec. 19, 1802.
	THOMAS BARFE.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
	ALICE BARFE.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
	WM. CORNELL.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Died 1803, aged 60.
	Miss FOOTE.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Rem.
	FRERE ATLEE.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
	MARY DEHUAH.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	
May	ELIZAB. MACKAY.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Died Oct. 10, 1803.
July	ELIZAB. SACKETT.....	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	Died June 1816.

If the parish was founded before 1827, the end of legal slavery in New York State, then look up all names dated before 1827 on **NESRI** to determine if any were owners of enslaved persons

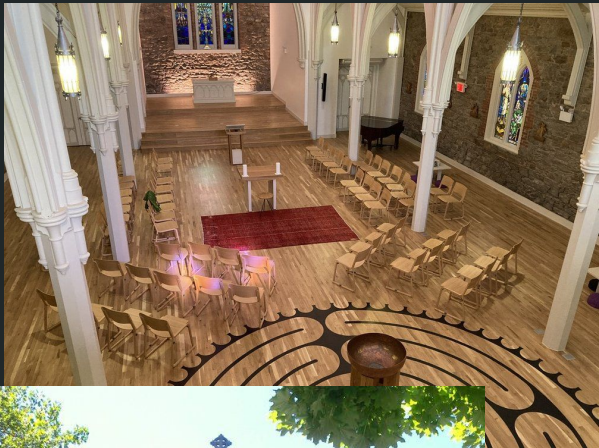


Last Name	First Name	Warden	Vestry	slaveowners?
Bach	Robert		1824, 32-36	Yes
Carpender/Carpenter	John			Yes
Carpender/Carpenter	William		1795	Yes
Carter	Robert		1824	No
Clarke	James B		1824	Yes
Cornell	John		1795	Yes
Cornwell	William	1824		No
Durell/Dayrell	Paul		1795	Yes
Fisher	John			No

Keep a list of those who were not slaveowners as well: these are people who chose not to participate in this practice

- their reasons may never be illuminated, but their choice is itself a powerful statement
- see below regarding the New York Manumission Society and anti-slavery movements

Whenever your
parish was
founded:





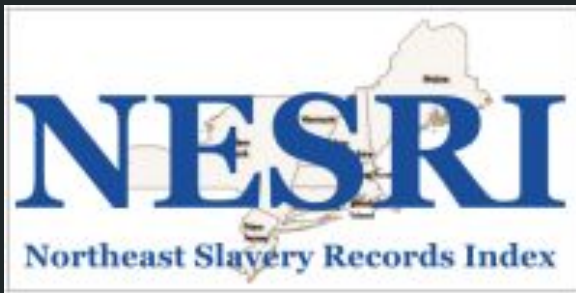
Research names on
ancestry.com or
familysearch.org to find family
members, especially parents
and grandparents





Check [findagrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com) for
similar information

Then: look up parents and/or grandparents on **NESRI** to see if any of them were slaveowners (did early members grow up in a household with enslaved persons?)



THE
New-York Directory,

AND
REGISTER,

FOR THE YEAR

1796.

ILLUSTRATED WITH A Plan OF THE City AND PART
OF Long-Island, LAID DOWN AGREEABLY TO
THE LATEST SURVEY.

CONTAINING

The Names, Occupations, and Places of Abode of the Citizens arranged in alphabetical Order;

A Register of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Magistrates of the United States, and the State of New-York;

The Officers, both Civil and Military, of the City and County of New-York.

ALSO,

An Account of the different Societies, Literary and Charitable Institutions in this City; with the names of their Officers.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

THE NAMES OF THE INHABITANTS OF BROOKLYN,

AND IS
PUBLISHED WITH

An Alphabetical account of the Streets, Lanes, Wharves and Slips of this City;

By JOHN LAW.

New-York:

PRINTED BY JOHN BULL, corner of Water-Street and Fly-Market,
and JOHN BULL, 113 Church-Street:
M,DCC,CXCVI.

Next: Find a local town or city **directory** for the period (try local historical societies), and look up all names for addresses and occupations: are any of these people making their living from the slavery economy?

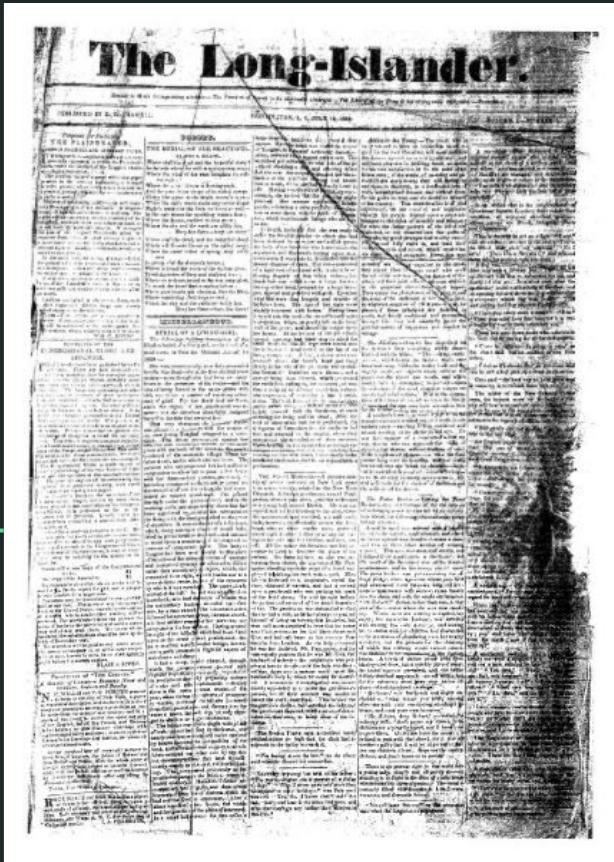
Look up names (including ancestors and children) on websites for the [New York Manumission Society](#) and [American abolitionists](#) to see if any early members were **antislavery activists**

A handwritten ledger on aged paper with columns for names, dates, and amounts. The entries are as follows:

Date	Name	Amount	Notes
dec ^r	Agnella Cole	11 April 1810	Life Guard
rem ^d	Samy Mott Jun		Rem ^d
rem ^d	330 Charles Miller	13 Jan	
✓ X	129 1/2 Hugh M ^r Cronick	129 1/2	830
rec ^d	John Wadsworth		
rec ^d	Robert Cole	2 11 24 1/2	(part paid)
✓ X	William Poir		111 1/2
✓ X	335 Joseph Corlies		285 Paul & Co
✓ O	Joseph Garbis		71 Corlies
dec ^r	John S. Cromwell		Repos ^d
rem ^d	Robert Mott Jun	15	South & Dick
✓ X	121 Michael M ^r Titus	121	Lentoury 30 market
✓ X	310 John Clapp		South & Down 22 market
✓ X	Joseph S. Shorne	27	Paul 76 Baker
rec ^d	William F. Cook	38	Ellis
rec ^d	William Shorne		
✓ X	Wager Hull	24	Paul 32 Vander
dec ^r	345 Stephen Hattaway jr	176	Durat
rec ^d	Israel Horsfield	116	Gulden
rec ^d	Anna Martin	260	Street
✓ X	Samuel Shorne	53	Frankfort
rem ^d	George S. Hattaway		

Look for other sources of information:





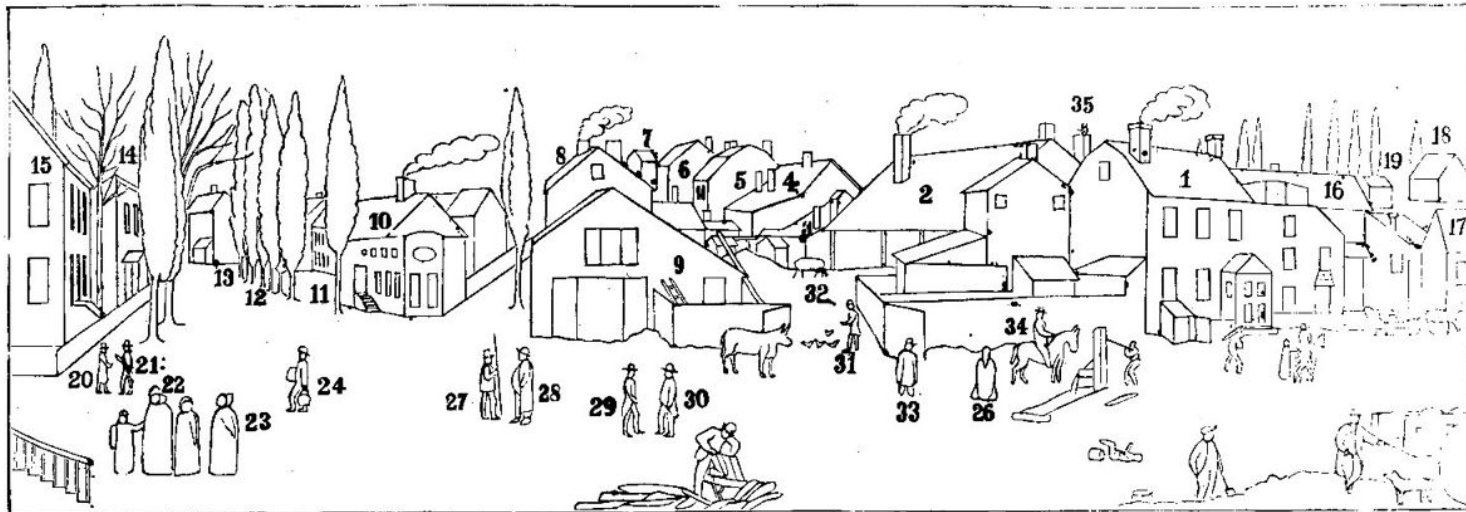
local newspapers - look especially for announcements of births and marriages, and obituaries, involving either your parish or names you've connected to the parish

local birth records,
 especially 1799-1827, for
 registration of those born
 to enslaved parents: can we
 compile a list of names of
 enslaved persons who can
 then be further
 researched?

INFANTS BAPTISED.			
DATE.	NAME.	BORN.	PARENTS.
	Geo. Edson	Nov. 6 1868	John & Lucy Cooper
	Suey Ellen	Jan. 25 1868	Geo. & Elizabeth J. Mitchell
	Willard S. Willmore	Nov. 20 1856	Wm. & Fannie Crumpton
	Carrie E. Leworth	Oct. 25 1857	Wm. & Fannie Crumpton
	Felix Bertrude	Jan. 22 1862	Wm. & Fannie Crumpton
	Willie J.	Dec. 12 1864	Wm. & Fannie Crumpton
	Geo. Daniel	Aug. 31 1849	Christopher W. & Henrietta Wilson
	Charles William	April 12 1849	Chas. W. & Ellen A. Barry
	John	April 11 1849	Chas. W. & Ellen A. Barry
	Nicolas Beckwith	Sept. 15 1868	Albert W. & Ellen M. Camp
	Carrie Amelia	May 27 1867	William & Alicia T. Wilson
	Kenny Remson	Jan. 24 1859	Wm. A. & Henrietta Wick
	Caroline	Nov. 8 1864	Smith & Jane Tuttle
	Margaret	July 31 1866	Smith & Jane Tuttle
	Froth. Rompout Chan	July 25 1859	Annie A. & Grace Swace
	Kenny Alfred	Mar. 15 1870	Chas. W. & Ellen A. Barry
	Frederick Benwin	Dec. 3 1859	Kenny & Maria James
	Archiebald John	Nov. 26 1849	Robert & Ann Jamieson
	Chas. Francis	Nov. 23 1870	Jno. & Caroline Jamieson
	Hubert Smith		Smith & Jane Tuttle
	James Kenney	Oct. 21 1849	Geo. & Elizabeth J. Mitchell
	Sarah Bensen	July 17 1861	William & Ann Agnelt
	Robert	April 22 1871	Robert & Ann Jamieson
	Calvin Young	Jan. 20 1871	Calvin & Young
	Robert Kerry	Feb. 27 1870	Christopher W. & Henrietta Wilson
	Marvin Hely	Dec. 22 1870	Marvin D. & Louisa Savage
	Wm. Harvey	Aug. 17 1870	Jno. J. & Mary M. Conam
	Woodford Chley	Sept. 19 1866	Harvey & Lucy Denison
	Mary Elmon Annie	April 15 1869	Harvey & Lucy Denison
	Horace Martin	Feb. 24 1862	Ferdinand & Catharine Hoat
	Annie Sophia	Feb. 29 1870	Jno. & Annie Brownbridge
	Wm. Abrah	Feb. 24 1872	William Wilson
	Jane Gales	Feb. 25 1872	Henry A. & Mary E. Brown Mr. & Mrs. De Threidge



paintings or other art from that period that might illuminate the community and practices of slavery or antislavery

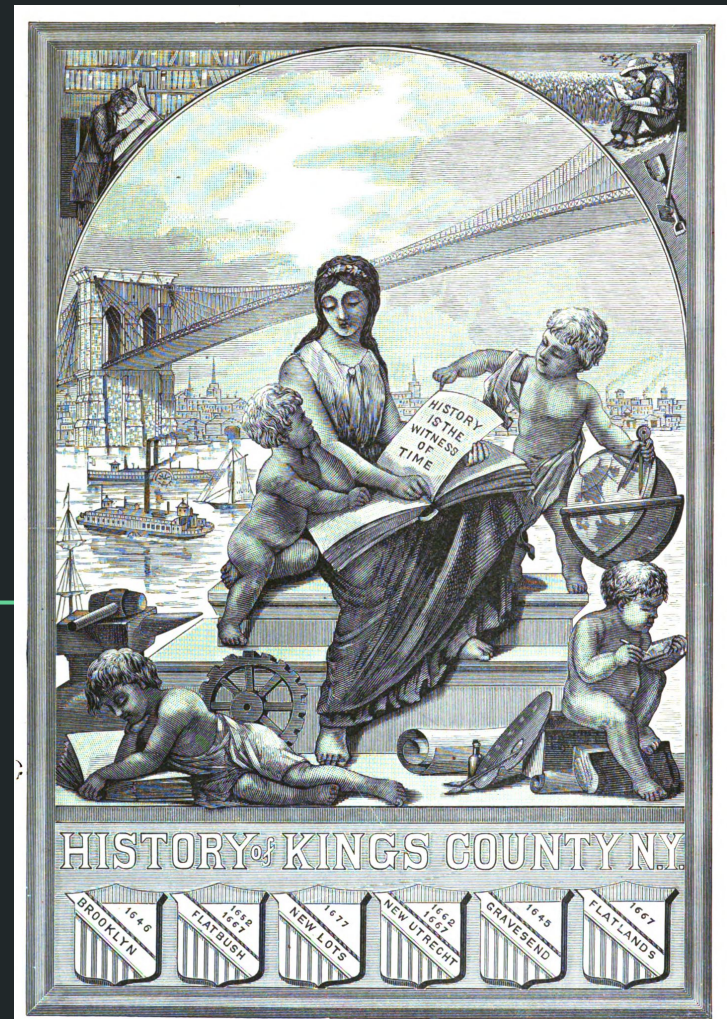


KEY TO GUY'S BROOKLYN SNOW SCENE.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Dwelling and store of Thos. W. Birdsall (still living, 1869). | 11. Mrs. Chester's "Coffee Room." | 23. Mrs. Guy (the artist's wife). |
| 2. House of Abiel Titus — see page 59. | 12. Robert Cunningham's. | 24. Jacob Patchen. |
| 3. Edward Coope's blacksmith shop. | 13. Jacob Hicks's woodyard, corner Main street. | 26. Mrs. Burnett. |
| 4. Geo. Fricke's carriage shop. | 14. Joshua Sand's residence. | 27. Benjamin Meeker, talking with |
| 5. Diana Rapelle's house. | 15. Augustus Graham's residence, corner Dock street. | 28. Judge John Garrison. |
| 6. Mrs. Middagh's house. | 16. Burdet Stryker's house and butcher shop. | 29. Thos. W. Bird-sall. |
| 7. St. Ann's Church, corner of Sands and Wash-
ington streets. | 17. Selah Smith's tavern. | 30. Jacob Hicks. |
| 8. Residence of Edward Coope. | 18. Morrison's, on the heights. | 31. Abiel Titus. |
| 9. Abiel Titus's barn and slaughter house. | 19. Dr. Ball's house, opposite Morrison's. | 32. Mrs. Gilbert Titus. |
| 10. Benjamin Meeker's house and shop. | 20. Augustus Graham, conversing with | 33. Abiel Titus's negro servant "Jeff." |
| | 21. Joshua Sands. | 34. James (son of Abiel) Titus, on horseback. |
| | 22. Mrs. Harmer and daughters. | 35. Samuel Foster (negro). |

paintings or other art from that period that might illuminate the community and practices of slavery or antislavery

local histories: is your parish mentioned? are there any names listed in a description of its early years?



BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY



Take care of each other -
this is difficult work

- try to have a team of volunteers working together, so they can talk to each other about what they're learning and how they're feeling about it - and can pray for each other and with each other

- as you uncover the difficult information about parishioners enslaving people, remember those who chose not to



UNCOVERING PARISH HISTORIES

An Antiracism Project

Link to the UPH website:

- there are valuable resources here
- there is also the reassurance that your church is not alone -
look at the other parishes doing this same work