

**TOWN OF CLARENCE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**



Summary of Preliminary Findings  
of the History of

**4510 RANSOM ROAD**

APRIL 12, 2021

# QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED - 4510 RANSOM ROAD

- **Does 4510 Ransom Road contain Glezen Fillmore's Carriage House?**
- **Who is Glezen Fillmore and what is the historical significance of the Carriage House?**
- **How can we determine if 4510 Ransom Road contains Glezen Fillmore's Carriage House?**
- **What is being proposed if 4510 Ransom Road does contain Glezen Fillmore's Carriage House?**

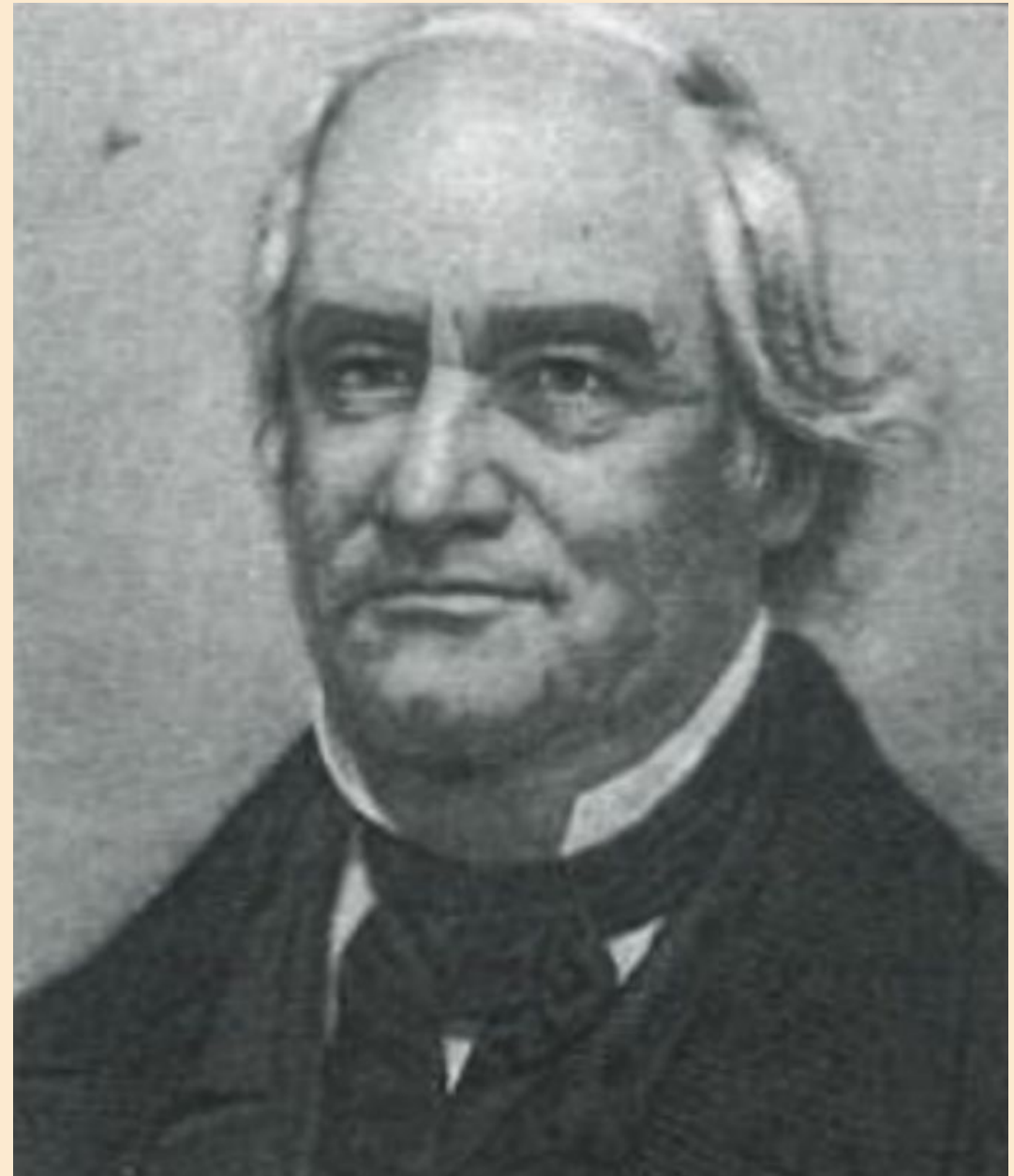


**A TALE OF TWO COUSINS:  
PRESIDENT MILLARD FILLMORE AND  
REVEREND GLEZEN FILLMORE**

**WHO IS GLEZEN FILLMORE?**



- **Traveling Methodist Minister, covering 1200 square miles. 28 preaching locations. 2 services a day in schools, taverns, homes, and forest groves.**
- **Older cousin of President Millard Fillmore.**
- **Moved to Clarence in 1809.**
- **He and his wife Lovina were conductors on the Underground Railroad, assisting fugitive slaves at their home on Ransom Road.**



**Reverend Glezen Fillmore**



Fillmore's saddlebags used as a circuit rider. COURTESY OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE TOWN OF CLARENCE. CLARENCE C. PICARD PHOTO



Antique iron-bound, leather-covered wooden trunk that once belonged to Glezen Fillmore. COURTESY OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE TOWN OF CLARENCE. CLARENCE C. PICARD PHOTO



# Lieut Nathaniel Fillmore

**BIRTH** 20 Mar 1739  
Franklin, New London County, Connecticut, USA

**DEATH** 7 Sep 1814 (aged 75)  
Bennington, Bennington County, Vermont, USA

**BURIAL** [Old Bennington Cemetery](#)  
Bennington, Bennington County, Vermont, USA

**PLOT** Possibly Buried here?

## Children

 **Simeon Fillmore**  
1768–1848

 **Nathaniel Fillmore**  
1771–1863

 **Calvin Fillmore**  
1775–1865

 **Elijah Fillmore**  
1778–1856

 **Darius J Fillmore**  
1781–1864



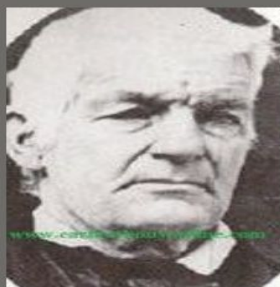
## Simeon Fillmore

**BIRTH** 13 Dec 1768  
Bennington, Bennington County, Vermont, USA

**DEATH** 30 Apr 1848 (aged 79)  
Clarence, Erie County, New York, USA

**BURIAL** [Harris Hill Cemetery](#)  
Clarence, Erie County, New York, USA

**MEMORIAL ID** 68738426 · [View Source](#)



## Nathaniel Fillmore

**BIRTH** 19 Apr 1771  
Bennington, Bennington County, Vermont, USA

**DEATH** 28 Mar 1863 (aged 91)  
East Aurora, Erie County, New York, USA

**BURIAL** [East Aurora Cemetery](#)  
East Aurora, Erie County, New York, USA

## Children

 **Glezen Fillmore**  
1789–1875

 **Asahel Norton Fillmore**  
1807–1880

## Children

 **Olive Armstrong Fillmore**  
1797–1883

 **Millard Fillmore**  
1800–1874

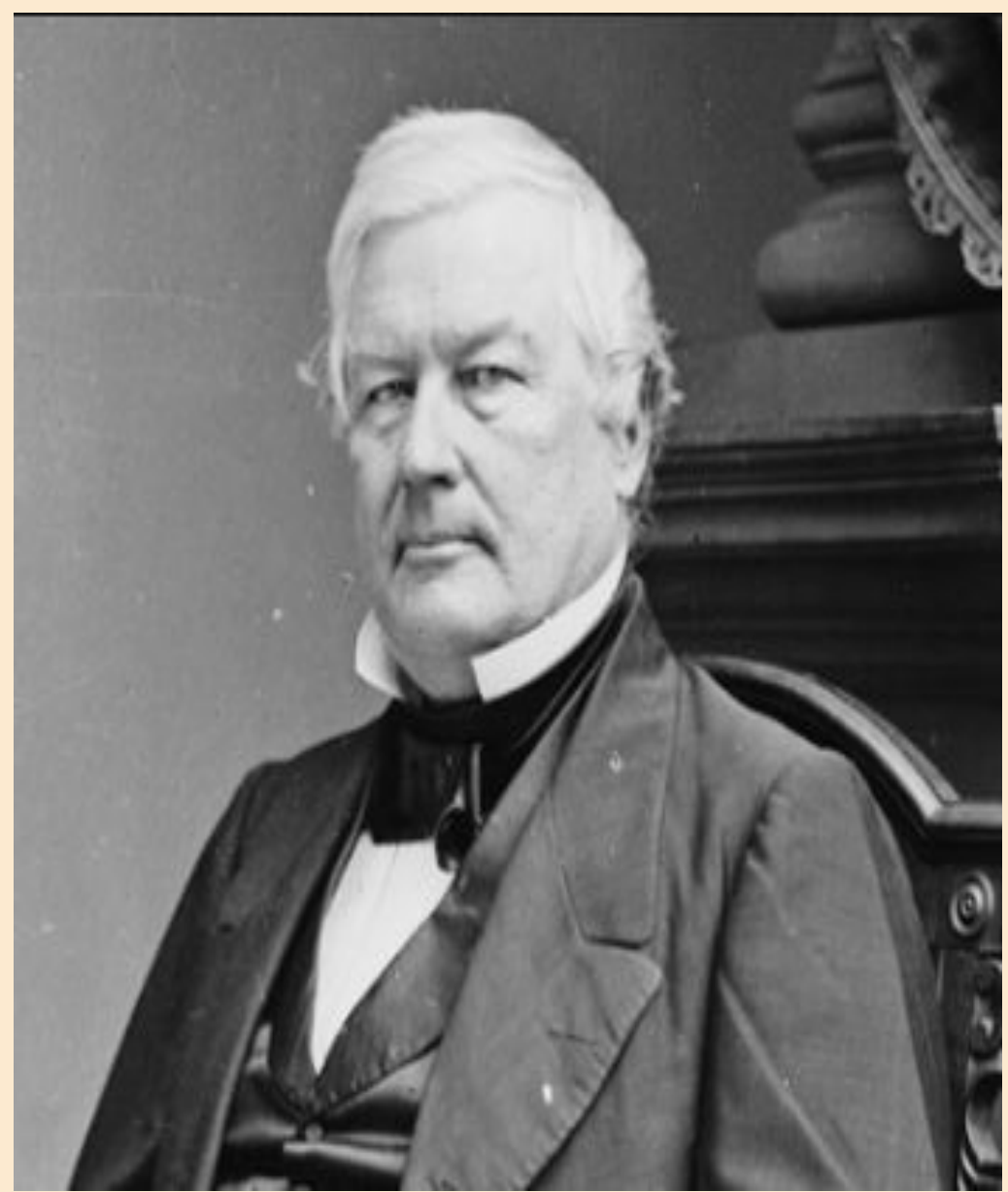
 **Cyrus Fillmore**  
1801–1889

 **Almon Hopkins Fillmore**  
1806–1830

 **Calvin Turner Fillmore**  
1810–1879

**PRESIDENT MILLARD FILLMORE  
AND THE FUGITIVE SLAVE ACT OF 1850**

No study of Underground Railroad work in this region, even though, like the present paper, it aims to be chiefly anecdotal, can neglect recognition of the fact that it was a Buffalo man in the presidential chair who, by signing the Fugitive Slave act of 1850, brought upon his head the maledictions of the Abolitionists, who were so stimulated thereby in their humanitarian law-breaking, that the most active period in Underground Railroad work dates from the stroke of Millard Fillmore's pen which sought to put a stop to it. No passage in American history displays more acrimony than this.

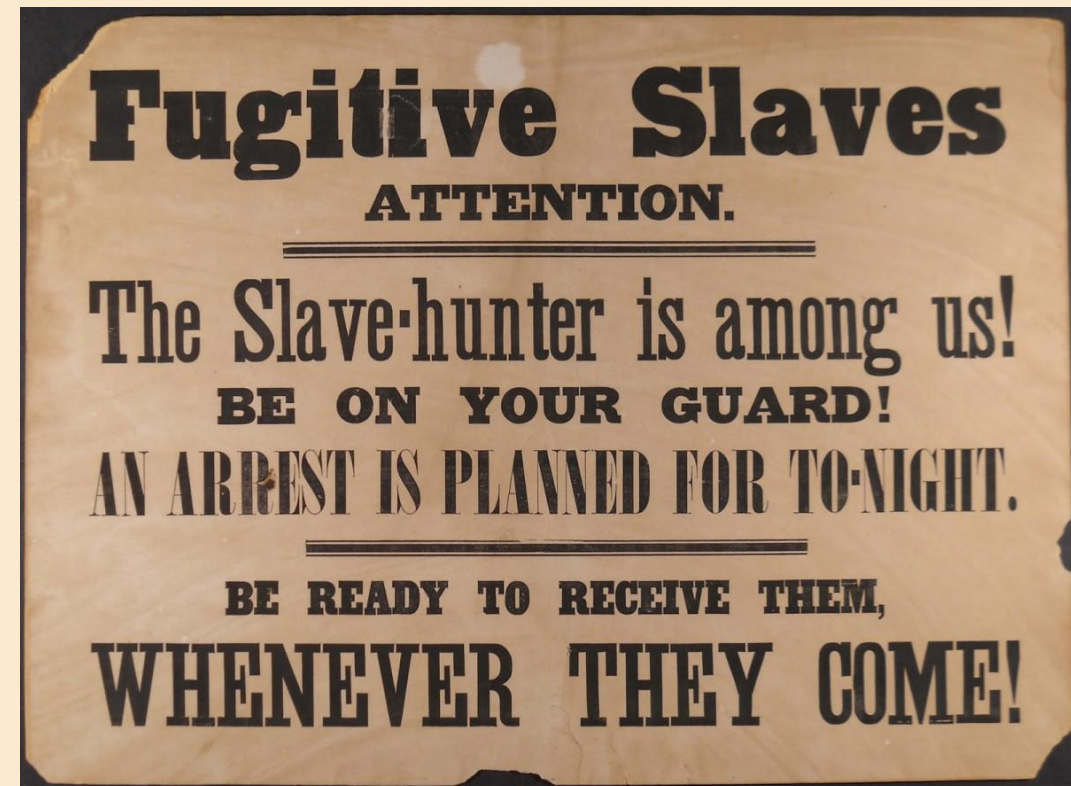


**President Millard Fillmore**





- **Penalties for helping a fugitive slave:  
\$1,000 (\$30,000 today) and 6 months in  
prison.**
- **Plus: Civil Damages of \$1,000 (\$30,000  
today) for each slave lost.**





# GLEZEN FILLMORE AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD





OLD TRAILS  
ON THE  
NIAGARA FRONTIER



FRANK H. SEVERANCE

OLD TRAILS ON THE  
NIAGARA    ♣    ♣  
♣    ♣    FRONTIER

BY FRANK H. SEVERANCE  
*aug 21 18*

*SECOND EDITION*



CLEVELAND: THE BURROWS    ♣  
♣    BROTHERS COMPANY: MCMIII



THE  
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

FROM

SLAVERY TO FREEDOM

BY

<sup>Henry</sup>  
WILBUR H. SIEBERT

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF EUROPEAN HISTORY  
IN OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

WITH AN INTRODUCTION

BY

ALBERT BUSHNELL HART

PROFESSOR OF HISTORY IN HARVARD UNIVERSITY

New York

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

LONDON: MACMILLAN & CO., LTD.

1898

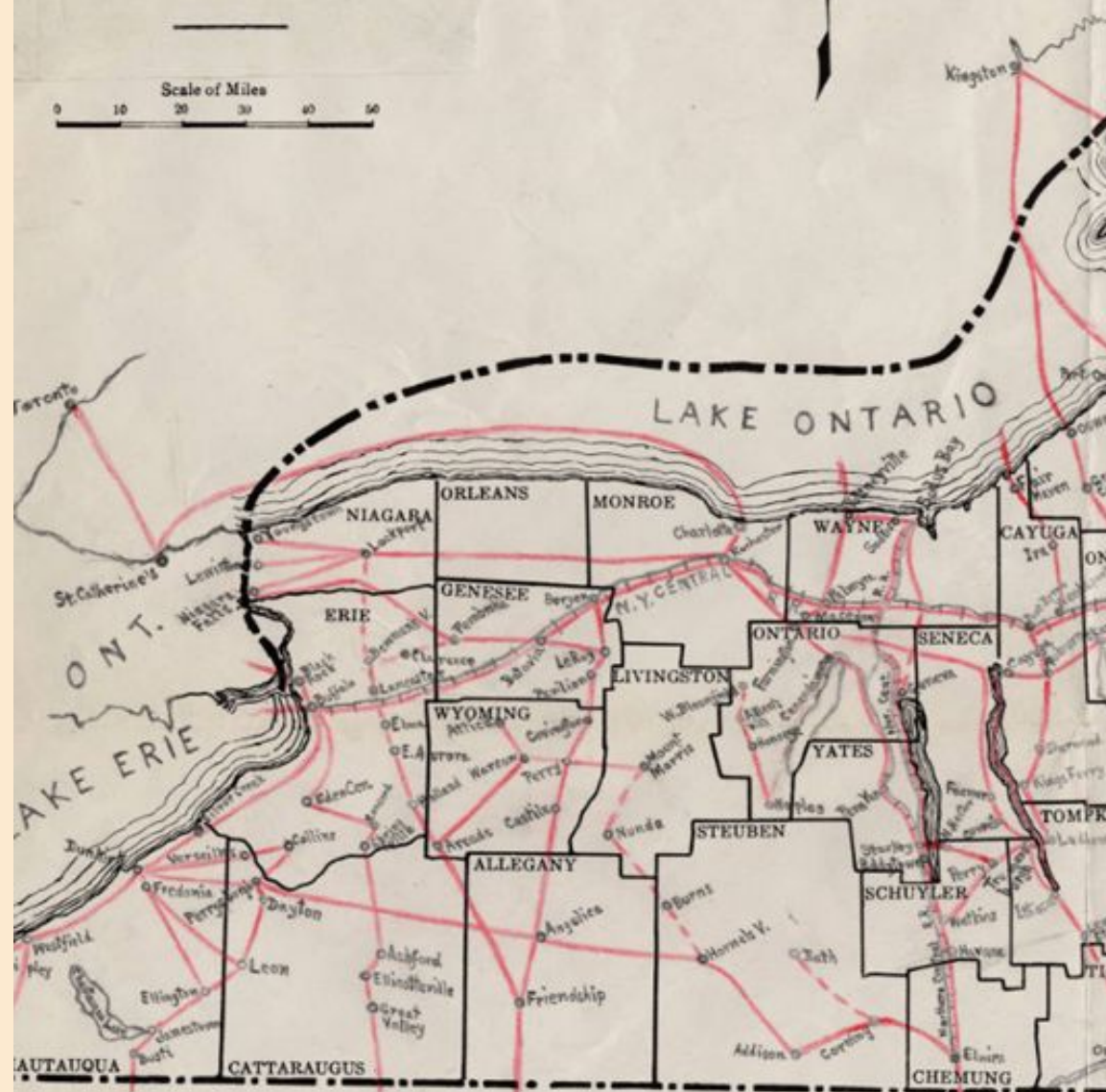
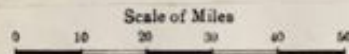
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD ROUTES

OF

NEW YORK STATE

Compiled by

Professor Wilbur H. Siebert



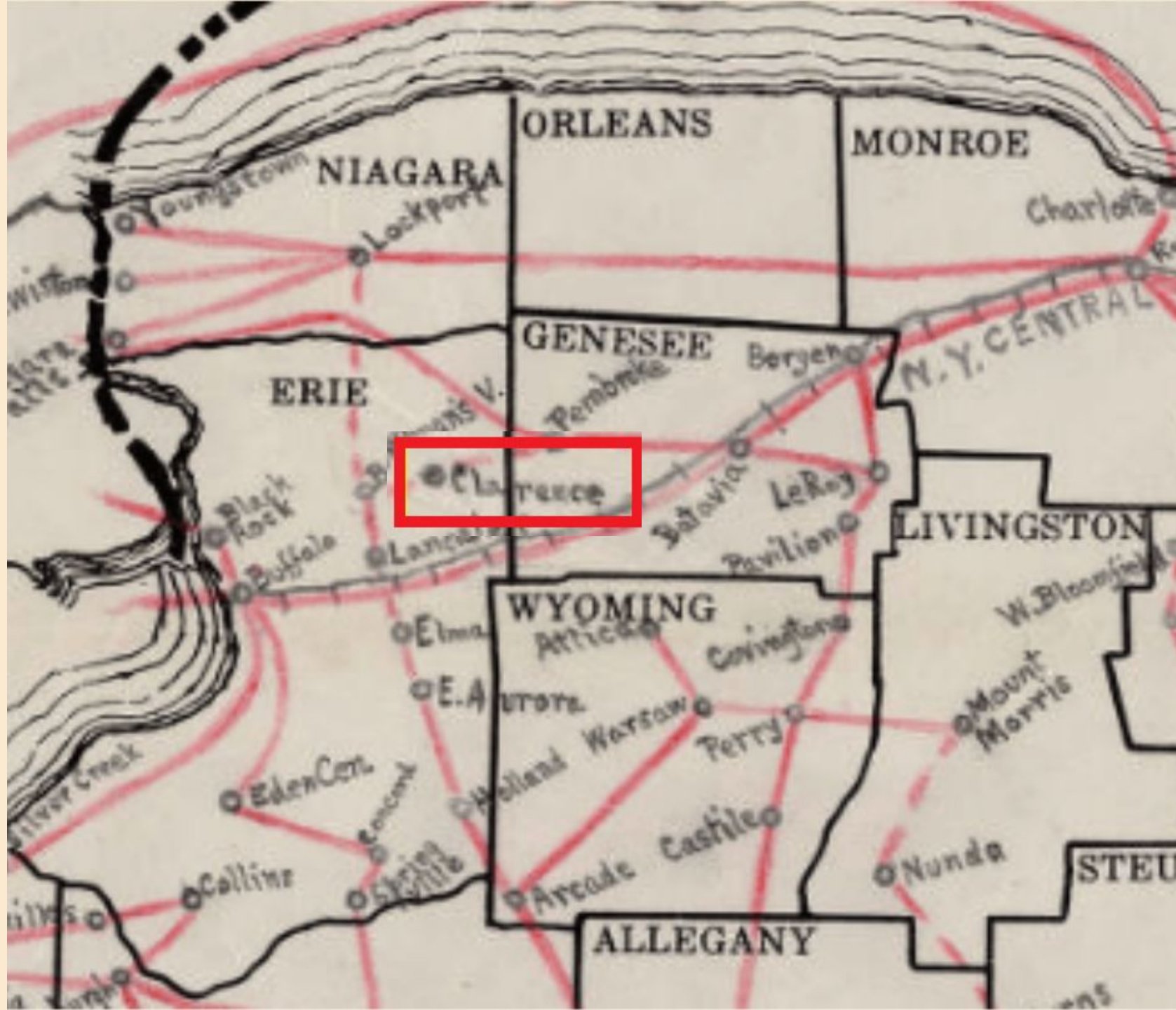
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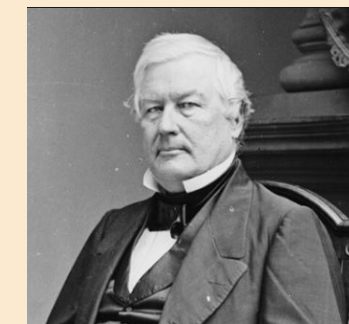
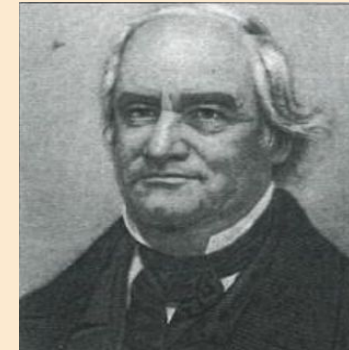




By the 1840s religious diversity was enhanced by the disruption of churches over the slavery issue. At the 1844 General Conference of the Methodist Church in New York City, the Reverend Glezen Fillmore served on the committee of nine who drafted the uncompromising resolutions over which Methodists split into northern and southern churches, not to be reunited until 1939. Fillmore was always a strong defender of what was right.

# REV. GLEZEN FILLMORE AND JACK WATSON

Some years since the Rev. Glezen Fillmore, a famous pioneer of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Buffalo, and for more than half a century an honored member of the Genesee Conference, was engaged in raising funds for the Freedmen's Aid Society. One day his cousin, the late ex-President Millard Fillmore, rode out from Buffalo to visit him. During the conversation the venerable preacher related the story of Watson's escape, as Watson himself had told it while at Fillmore's Underground Railroad depot. The former President was strongly touched by the story, and at its close he drew a check for fifty dollars for the Freedmen. "Thank you, thank you," said the good old parson. "I was praying that the Lord would open your heart to give ten dollars, and here are fifty."



# **THE STORY OF JACK WATSON**



FROM  
DIXIE TO CANADA

ROMANCES AND REALITIES  
OF THE  
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

BY  
H. U. JOHNSON

AUTHOR OF "SEVENTEEN SEVENTY-SIX AND OTHER POEMS"  
AND "OBEY IN THE GREAT CO-PARTNERSHIP."

VOL. I  
FIRST THOUSAND



ORWELL, OHIO  
H. U. JOHNSON  
BUFFALO  
CHARLES WELLS MOULTON  
1894

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OLD TRAILS  
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FRANK H. SEVERANCE

OLD TRAILS ON THE  
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BY FRANK H. SEVERANCE  
*ayur: d*

*SECOND EDITION*

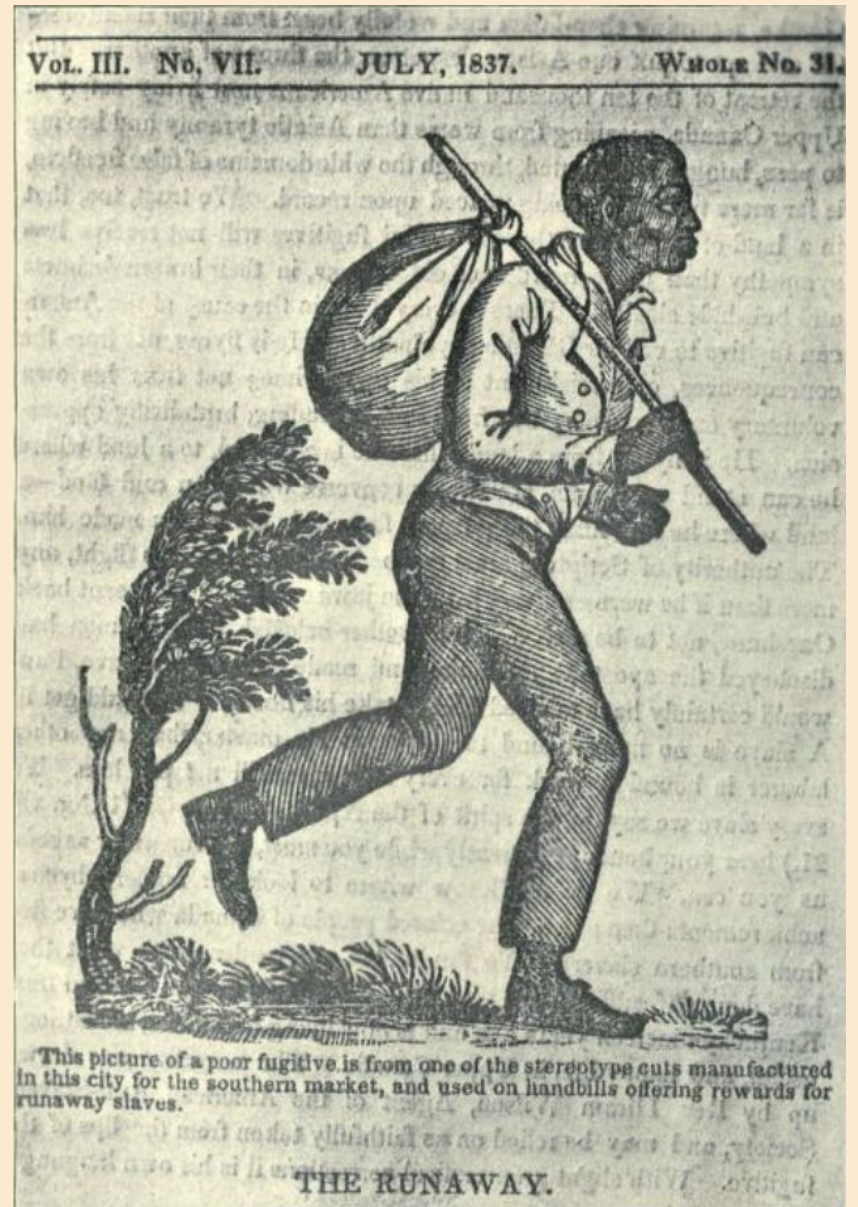


CLEVELAND: THE BURROWS    ♣  
♣    BROTHERS COMPANY: MCMIII



Two of the slaves, Jack and Nannie, a young man and his sister, fell to the lot of a hard master named Watson. The housekeeper dying, Nannie was taken from the field to fill her place. Nothing could have been worse for the poor girl. She was handsome, her young master a brute. Because she defended her honor she was cruelly punished and locked up for many hours. Her brother succeeded in freeing her, and together they fled, only to be recaptured. They were whipped so terribly that the girl Nannie died. Jack survived, heart-broken, quiet for a time, but with a growing resolve in his heart. One night his master came home from a debauch, and ordered Jack to perform some unreasonable and impossible task. Because the poor boy failed, the master flew at him with an open knife. It was death for one of them. The image of poor Nan, beaten to an awful death, rose before Jack's eyes. In a moment he became a tiger. Seizing a cart-stake, he dealt his master a blow that killed him. The blood of his sister was avenged.

Once more Jack fled. The murder of the master had aroused the neighborhood. Blood-hounds, both brute and





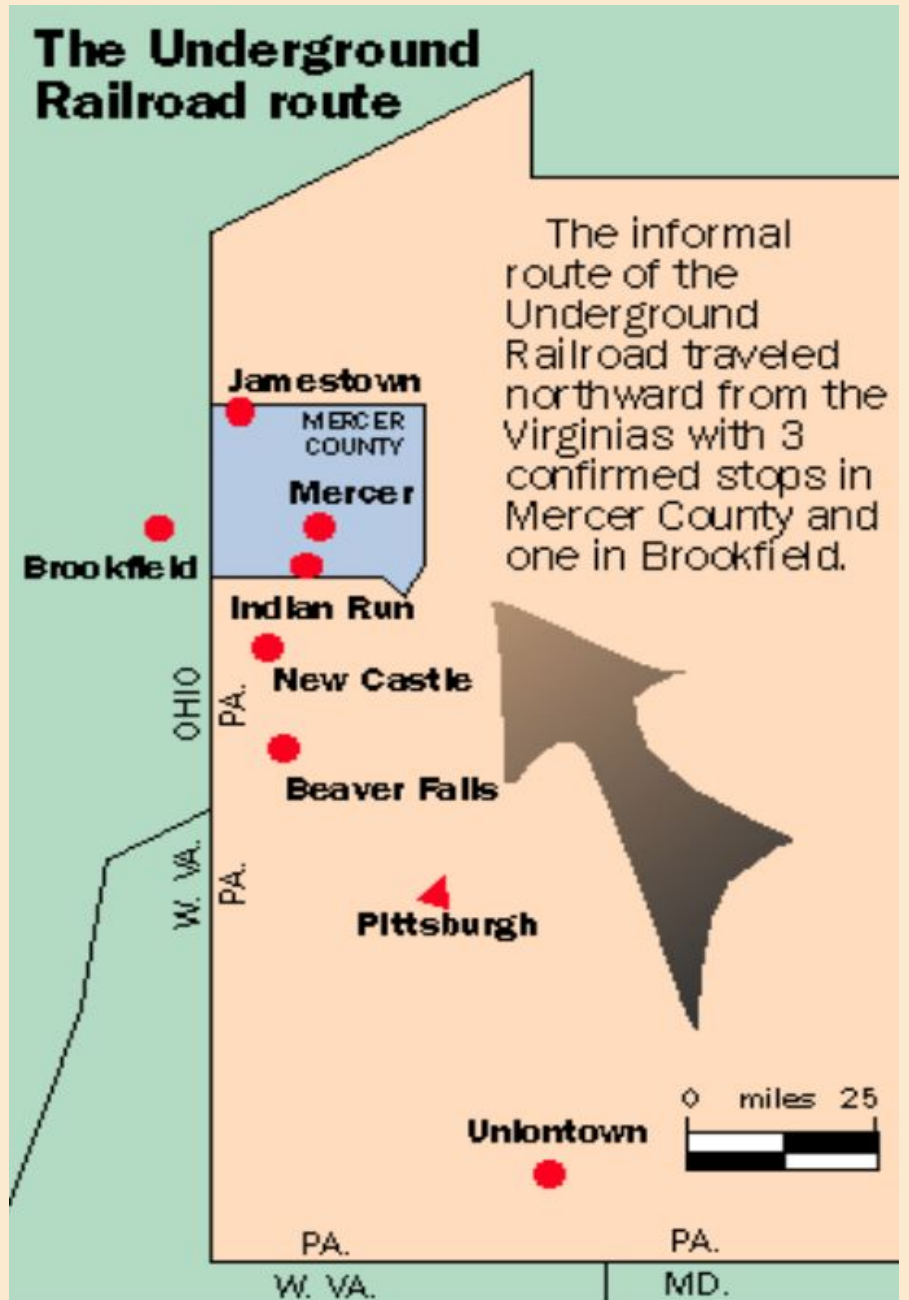
human, scoured the woods and swamps; flaming handbills offered great rewards for Jack Watson, dead or alive. With incredible cunning, and grown wary as a wild animal, Jack lurked in the vicinity a long time. When the excitement had somewhat abated, he found his way to Salem, Ohio, and was for a time in the employ of a worthy Quaker named Bonsell, whose descendants still live in that locality. It was then a neighborhood of Friends, and Jack's life among them brought him great good. He learned to read and write, and became in heart and conduct a changed man. His life, however, was haunted by two ghastly forms; and as often as the image of his murdered master rose before him, that of Nan came also to justify the deed.





Jack now determined to devote his life to freeing his countrymen from bondage. In due time he found his way to the house of Mr. John Young, a noted Abolitionist of Wilmington township, in Mercer County, Pennsylvania. Mr. Young was one of the first men in Mercer County to proclaim his political convictions to the world, and to stand by them, bravely and consistently, and through many a dangerous hour, until slavery was a thing of the past. No man ever asked brave John Young for help and was refused. His house was known among Abolitionists far and wide as a safe station for the Underground Road.

While Jack was at Mr. Young's he fell in with a young minister, himself a former fugitive from Kentucky, and who was at the time an earnest Baptist preacher in Syracuse, New York. This friend, named Jarm W. Loguen, promised Jack shelter if he could but reach Syracuse, and so Jack was "forwarded" along the road.



# Jermain Wesley Loguen



*Yours truly  
J.W. Loguen*

- **Former slave who became a Methodist Minister in Syracuse.**
- **Good friends with Frederick Douglass (his daughter married the son of Douglass).**
- **Helped over 1,500 slaves to freedom.**
- **Recruited fugitives for the Union Army, including Jack Watson.**
- **Member of the UGRR Hall of Fame.**



# SYRACUSE HISTORIC PRESERVATION FAILURE

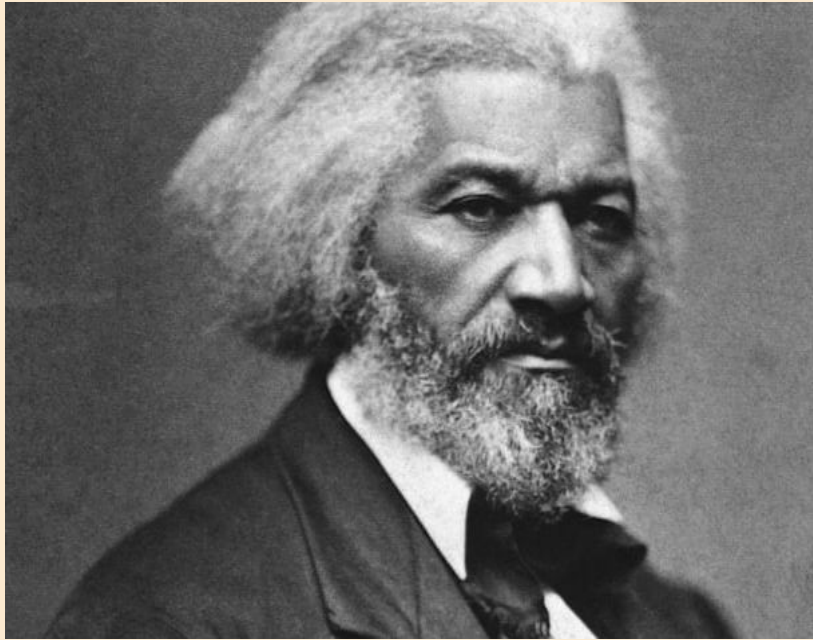
Loguen and his wife, Caroline, lived in their Genesee Street home from 1848 to 1870. A Rite Aid drug store and its parking lot are located there now. There's no marker designating it as the site of Syracuse's main Underground Railroad depot.

"If it were standing today, it would be considered one of the most important Underground Railroad sites in the state," said Dennis Connors, curator at the [Onondaga Historical Association](#).







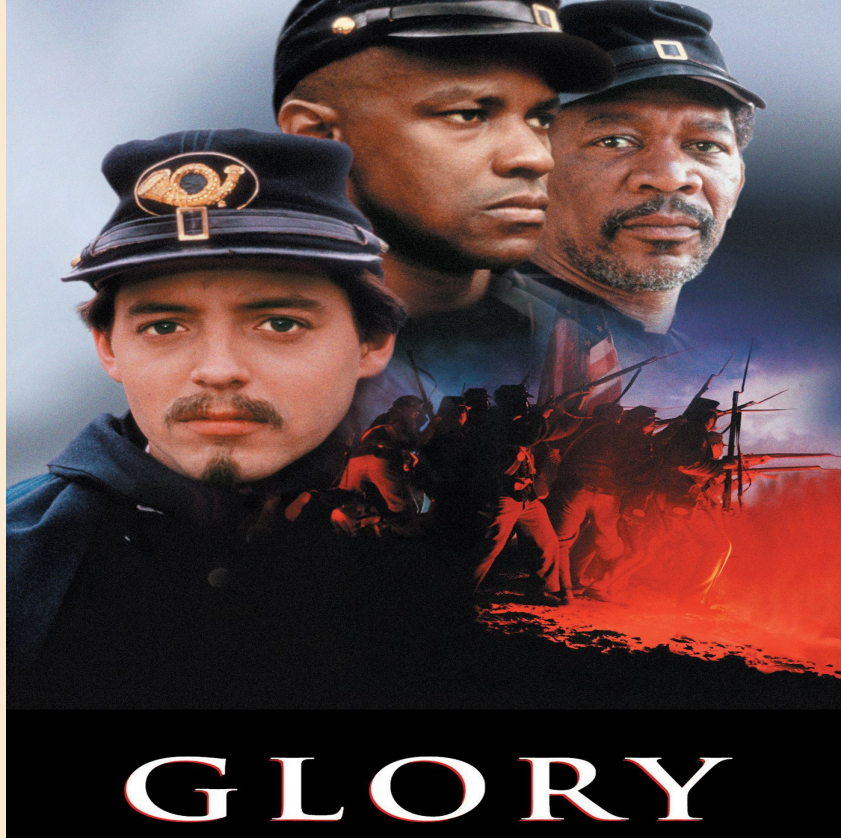


Two years into the Civil War, the former slave Frederick Douglass visited Loguen's church to recruit volunteers for a new Union Army regiment of African Americans forming in Boston.

"The arm of the slaves is the best defense against the arm of the slave holder," Douglass said March 11, 1863, in Syracuse. "Who would be free themselves must strike the blow. I urge you to fly to arms and smite to death the power that would bury the government and your liberty in the same hopeless grave. This is your golden opportunity."









**In due time Jack Watson reached the home of his friend, the Rev. Jarm W. Loguen ; and during the dark days of the war he rendered valuable aid to the Union cause along the Kentucky and Virginia borders, and in one guerrilla skirmish he lost his left arm. A few years since he was still living on a preëmpted land-claim in Rice County, Kansas.**













# GLEZEN FILLMORE'S HOUSE TODAY - 4740 RANSOM ROAD





# WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CARRIAGE HOUSE?





The Rev. Glezen Fillmore home on the west side of Ransom Road in Clarence. The main part of the house was built in 1812 and still stands. The carriage house section has been moved just south of its original site and remodeled into a home.

Is a Portion of 4510 Ransom Road  
Glezen Fillmore's Missing Carriage House?

\*\*\*\*

Method of Inquiry and Findings  
Does 4510 Ransom Road Pre-Date 1900?

## Application for Demolition

Property Address: 4510 Ransom Road

Current Ownership: Brothers of Mercy

Historical Resources Survey:

Non-Contributing

Zoned:

Restricted Business

Land Assessed Value:

\$32,000

Total Assessed Value:

\$140,000

Date of Original Construction:

1820 - assessor records

c. 1900 - Clinton Brown

Square feet Living Area:

2,832

Stories:

1.5

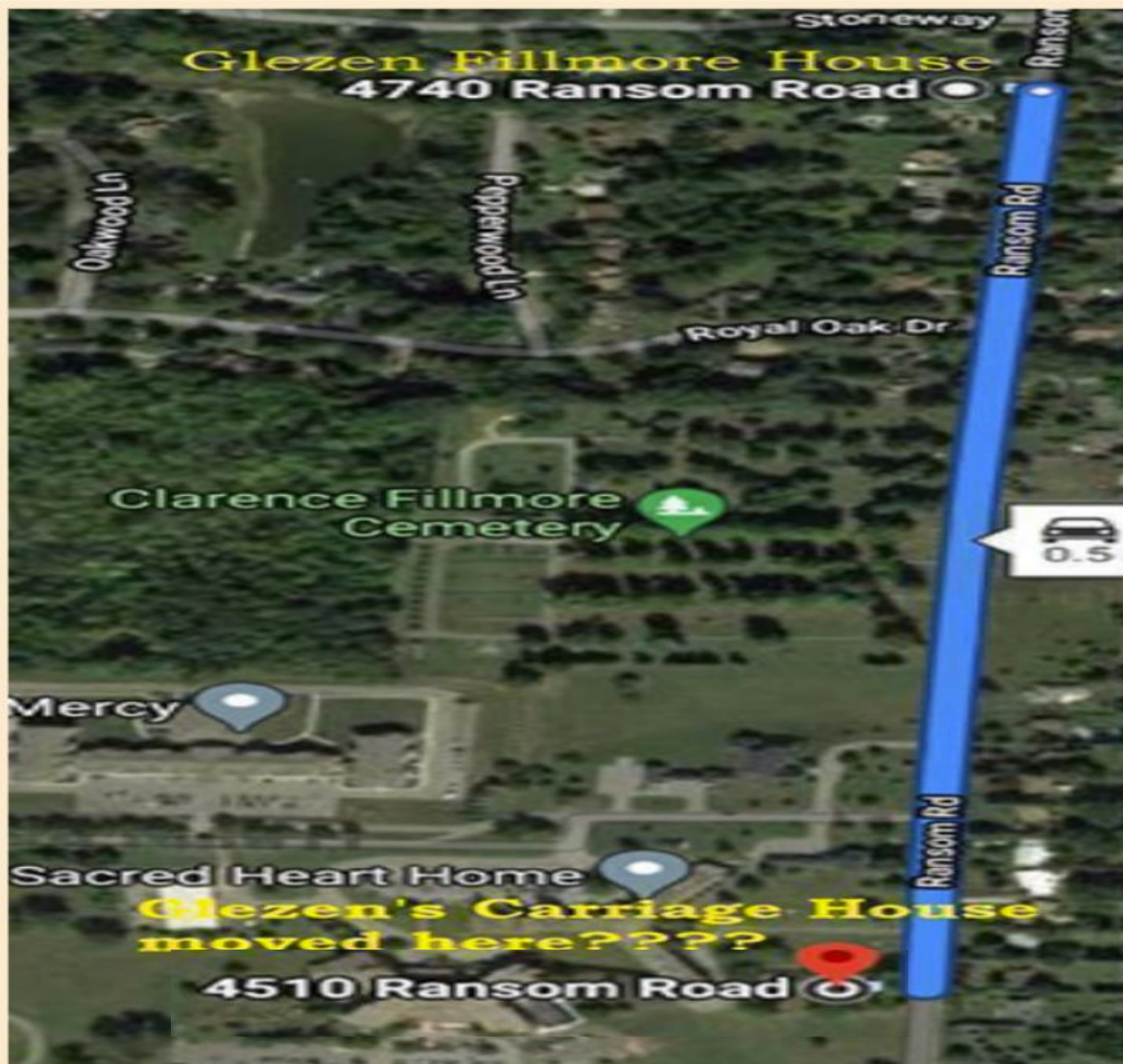
Number of bedrooms:

2

Number of baths:

2





Small size of main structure at 4510 Ransom is size expected of a carriage house and necessitated the additions. It is also the expected age of the carriage house.





**Chimney placement suggests South Face of 4510 Ransom could be the West Face of the Carriage House photo.**



Foundation Footprint Suggest Addition Added at time of placement of main structure –  
Materials in “salt box” addition differ from main structure. “Salt box” is unusual for 1890s.

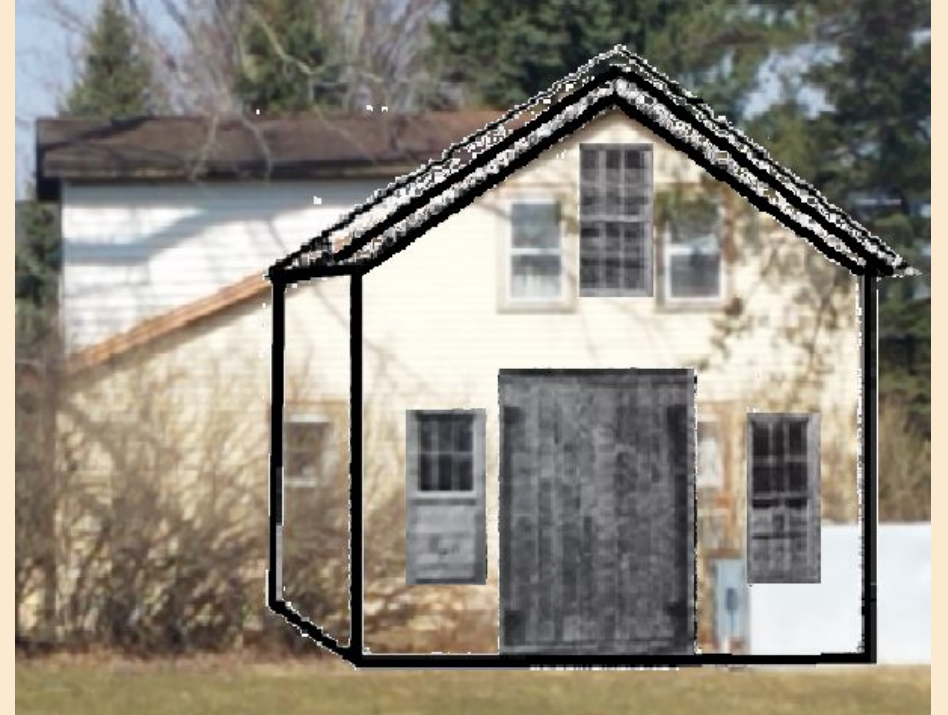




**Different wood types and ages/patinas of wood suggest different build dates, with the main structure, with peg construction, being older. Plaster and lath overlay is consistent with an 1890s construction.**



**General proportional similarity, but roof slope different?**





**Who May Have Moved the Carriage House  
and when?**

---

2. Joseph Ellicott

Warranty Deed

-To-

Dated: July 16, 1823

Rec.: June 10, 1824

Glezen Fillmore

Liber 7 of Deeds, page 378

NO FURTHER SEARCH VS  
GRANTOR SUBSEQUENT  
TO JUNE 10, 1824

378

Conveys: premises and more

---





# Rev Glezen Fillmore

**BIRTH** 22 Dec 1789  
Bennington, Bennington County, Vermont, USA

**DEATH** 26 Jan 1875 (aged 85)  
Clarence, Erie County, New York, USA

**BURIAL** Clarence Fillmore Cemetery  
Clarence, Erie County, New York, USA

**MEMORIAL ID** 22291683 · [View Source](#)



---

3. Will  
-of-  
Glezen Fillmore  
Case No., -----

Will  
Dated: May 1, 1871  
Probated: May 5, 1875  
Recorded: June 23, 1875  
in Erie County Surrogate's Office  
in liber 16 of Wills page 40



Photo added by [jennfier ross](#)

# Lovina *Atwell* Fillmore

**BIRTH** 13 Aug 1787  
Waterbury, New Haven County, Connecticut, USA

**DEATH** 3 Sep 1893 (aged 106)  
Clarence, Erie County, New York, USA

**BURIAL** [Clarence Fillmore Cemetery](#)  
Clarence, Erie County, New York, USA

**MEMORIAL ID** 22299272 · [View Source](#)



Historic photo of Lovina, the aged widow of Glezen Fillmore.







Photo of Mrs. Fillmore in an open carriage on the occasion of her 100th birthday. The front doorway of the historic 1812 house is visible behind the driver.

administrator with the will  
annexed of the last will and  
testament of Glezen Fillmore,  
deceased

-To-

Peter Buechi, Sen.

Dated: April 9, 1896

Rec.: April 9, 1896

Liber 783 of Deeds, page 485

Conveys: premises and more

5. Will

Peter Buechi Sr.  
Case No. 2228

Will

Dated: January 16, 1889

Probated: September 27, 1897

Recorded: October 19, 1897

in Erie County Surrogate's Office

in liber 54 of Wills page 174

Directs that his hereinafter appointed executor pay and discharge all his just debts and funeral expenses. Gives, devises and bequeaths all his estate real and personal to his wife, Christina Buechi, for her use during the term of her natural life. After the death of his said wife, he wills and directs that his said executor pay various money bequests to his grandchildren, all the residue and remainder of his estate, real and personal of every name, nature and kind, he gives, devises and bequeaths to his son, Peter Buechi Jr. Appoints his son, Peter Buechi Jr., executor  
Petition for Probate filed September 27, 1897 recites decedent died on or about September 11, 1897 leaving him surviving his son, Peter Buechi Jr. of full age. That decedent left no widow him surviving  
Letters Testamentary issued to Peter Buechi Jr. October 19, 1897 recorded in liber 22 of Letters page 224

6. Peter Buechi

-To-

Clarence Mutual Natural

Gas Co. of Clarence, N.Y.

OIL AND GAS LEASE

Dated: November 20, 1901

Rec.: April 28, 1903

Liber 968 of Deeds, page 50



A DESCRIPTIVE WORK ON

# ERIE COUNTY

NEW YORK

EDITED BY

TRUMAN C. WHITE

VOLUME I

THE BOSTON HISTORY COMPANY, PUBLISHERS  
1898

**Buechi, Peter, jr** Clarence, was born in Black Rock, Erie county, N. Y., April 8, 1847. His father, Peter Buechi, came to this country in 1830, where he early engaged in farming, in which he was very successful. Mr. Buechi, jr., purchased one of the finest farms on the north side of the city, and so rapid was the growth of the city in that direction, that Mr. Buechi disposed of his holdings at a large advance, and in **1893**

## PERSONAL REFERENCES.

311

**purchased one of the finest farms in Clarence, which comprises 208 acres** with the most modern equipments throughout. In 1871 Mr. Buechi married Elizabeth, daughter of Louis and Elizabeth Zumstine of Buffalo, and they had four children; Edward J., George W., Clara L. and Emma C. Mr. Buechi has always been an earnest Democrat, but except being assessor for one term, he has never been induced to accept office at the hands of his party.

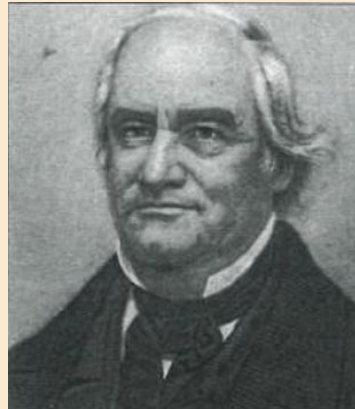
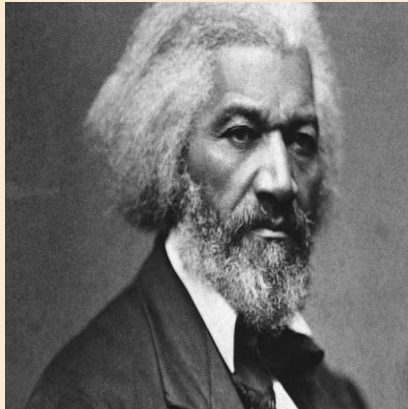
# SUMMARY

- **4510 Ransom Road was built in the late 1890s possibly incorporating a preexisting 1820 structure.**
- **It has hand hewn beams. The foundation of the 1890s “salt box” was built all at once.**
- **A “salt box” was an unusual style for a new build in the 1890s, but makes sense if you want to expand an existing smaller structure.**
- **The materials in the front part of the “salt box” are older than the materials in the back.**
- **The materials in the front portion have peg construction and older patina.**
- **According to the title search, it was built shortly after the passing of Lovina Fillmore by farmer Peter Buechi.**



# SUMMARY

- Glezen Fillmore and his wife Lovina were abolitionists and known “Conductors” on the Underground Railroad.
- There is a widely known historical account of a particular fugitive slave that passed through Glezen Fillmore's care: Jack Watson.
- Special significance because Millard Fillmore’s signing of the Fugitive Slave Act created the need for the Underground Railroad and his own cousin was breaking the law he signed at great risk to himself. As such, the structure could have *NATIONAL* significance.



# SUMMARY

- **4510 Ransom fits the expected size and age for the Carriage House.**
- **It makes sense that Peter Buechi would have purchased the carriage house from the Glezen Fillmore Estate in the 1890s and use it as the basis for his farmhouse on the recently purchased farmland. It was cheaper and quicker to move an existing structure than build one from scratch. The small size of the carriage house, however, necessitated an immediate expansion West to form the original “salt box” (which was an unusual style in the 1890s), as well as later additions to the structure to increase its size.**



**Request: To have the walls opened up (North and South where marked) to determine of signature of old windows and carriage house doors still present in the wall framing.**



**If 4510 Ransom is Glezen Fillmore's Carriage House, explore proposal to move structure to Historical Society Grounds to create The Clarence Underground Railroad Interpretive Center to serve as a reminder of the evils of slavery, and to celebrate the courage of men like Jack Wason and the compassion of Clarence residents like Glezen and Lovina Fillmore. The story of Millard Fillmore, Glezen and Lovina Fillmore, Jermain Loguen, Frederick Douglass, and Jack Watson, is the story of America in microcosm, and it is all connected to Clarence.**

