

John Brown, Jr., James Montgomery and A. C. Hawkes were all school boys at the Grand River Academy in Austingburg. At the same time, J. R. Giddings' eldest daughter attended the school. (Lampson, pg. 8.)

According to James Redpath in his "The Public Life of Capt. John Brown", their plan was as follows:

"They sought no offensive warfare against the South, but only to restore to the African Race its inherent rights, by enabling it to demand them of its oppressors, with the power to enforce and maintain the claim. Not revolution, but justice; not aggression, but defense; not Negro supremacy, but citizenship; not war against society, but for freedom: such were the beneficent objects which they designed to effect."

A. C. Hawkes of Chapel Road, said, "I found the old-time Austinburg Militia Company rifles, boxed them securely and sent them to James Montgomery in Kansas as part of the arms the settlers used there to protect themselves from the Missouri ruffians." (Lampson, pg.8.)

Mr. A. C. Hawkes of Chapel Road, Jefferson, Ohio, told me: "brought John Brown from Ashtabula to confer with Congressman Giddings at his law office." (Lampson, pg. 27.)

Benajmin Wade, a member of the Ohio Senate, lost his reelection because he so strongly argued his opposition to the "Kentucky Laws. This law was structured so it would prohibit anyone from aiding a fugitive slave. (Lampson, pg. 10)

The purpose of the "Black Strings" formed by B. F. Perry of West Andover, "was to protect any Ashtabula County resident, or anyone coming to the county, to escape from legal process by the United States Senate, the State of Virginia, or any other civil government seeking participants or associates of anyone connected with the Brown attack on the Federal Arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Va., occurring on Sunday night, October 16th, 1859." (Lampson, pg. 8.)

Leverett and Harriet Osborn

Leverett Osborn was born in Massachusetts and moved with his wife to Jefferson before coming to Andover in 1831. He built his house for the purpose of harboring slaves moving on the Underground Railroad. Built with a Captain's Lookout, the house was so constructed that a secret room was located between the floor of the lookout and the ceiling of the room below. Only three feet in height, the room, which tapered off under the eaves, could hold as many as 12 people. To allow for a second means of escape, Osborn made a trap door with a shaft which was disguised as a chimney. This allowed for a passageway from the secret room to the cellar (or to the woodshed as some accounts say). The only entrance to the room from inside the house was by removing a section of the stairs leading to the lookout room.

After the Civil War, a former slave who had been secreted in the house, returned to see it. The person who owned the house was totally unaware of the existence of the hiding place and was amazed when the man removed the steps and revealed the secret room. The escaping slave's name was George Howard. He was being chased by slave catchers and found refuge with Mr. Osborn. He was quickly secreted in the room and the slave catchers were invited in to search the house. Mrs. Osborn was in the lookout room with a number of ladies who were quilting. The ladies were very uncomplimentary to the men and the work they were doing. Up and down the steps they went as they search each and every room. Mr. Howard could hear their footsteps on the stairs which were his only protection from being found out. Had he been discovered he would have been returned to his master, flogged and sold on to hard labor in Mississippi. Mr. Osborn would have been fined one thousand dollars, half of which would have gone to the owner and half to the slave catchers.

Mr. Osborn died in 1858, a year before John Brown's raid at Harpers Ferry and almost three years before the Civil War. His son, however, carried on the family tradition by becoming a member of the "Black Strings." This group was formed to prevent federal marshals and others from coming in and arresting those who were actively supporting the abolition of slavery. (Quarterly Bulletin of the A. C. H. S., Vol. 11, No. 4, 1964)

Anson Kirby Garlick - Anson Garlick, an ardent abolitionist, was one of the first men of his time to wear long whiskers in the county. He said, "I will not cut them until all of the slaves are freed." When Abel Bogguess escaped slavery and came to Ashtabula County, he found a trusty friend in Anson Garlick. Mr. Garlick's home was a safe haven for slaves like Abel who were passing through on their way to Canada. This time, however, Anson suggested that Abel stay with him and go to school since he had not had the opportunity to do so before. From 1843-46, Abel stayed, went to school and worked on the farm. It was during this time that Abel dropped his given name and choose instead to be called Charlie Garlick. In 1846, Charlie went to find his brothers in Pennsylvania and remained there for a year. When he returned to Andover, Charlie found that Anson Garlick had moved to Dorset. He went there and just as before, he was considered a member of the household and worked on the farm. In the fall of 1847, Charlie, on the recommendation of the Rev. N. T. Chamberlain of the West Andover Congregational Church, went to Oberlin to attend school. He returned the following spring and again resided with Mr. Garlick. When Anson Garlick died in 1852, the farm was sold and Charlie went to Canada. Later he would return and move to Jefferson. (Quarterly Bulletin of the A. C. H. S., Vol. 29, Nos. 1, 2, 1989)

JERRY

A colored lad, Jerry, made his escape to Austinburg with his Kentucky owner in hot pursuit. The boy was taken care of by Mr. Austin, the leading merchant of the county, who lived in the big brick house north of the business section. The Austin House, the three-story brick across the road, the Capt. Miller home south of the Austin house, and the Coweles residence Autinburg center frequently sheltered fugitive Negroes.

This particular colored lad was hidden one morning under the bed of Mrs. Austin. She feigned illness and was in her bed when the slave-owners knocked at the side door. Mr. Austin had seen the man on the search and invited him inside.

The slave-owner charged Austin with harboring his "livestock." Austin invited him to search the house, which the man did. When he came to Mrs. Austin's bedroom, he waited until Mr. Austin opened the door and said, "My wife is ill, but you can search her room."

The slave-hunter thanked Mr. Austin, but he did not enter.

The next day was Sunday. The slave-owner, who rode a fine horse, accepted the invitation to attend church services, where he had to listen to an excoriation of the slave trade by the local Congregational pastor. On leaving the church, the visitor discovered that some of the boys about town had shaven his horse's tail. This needless affront was not applauded by the villagers. They offered the Kentuckian another horse. He knew the slave boy was concealed somewhere in the town, and so offered to give the lad his freedom for \$300.

Because the Kentuckian's horse had been disfigured while he was at church, the townspeople agreed to buy the boy. I have seen a copy of the letter written in the Wade and Giddings law office, donating \$20 to the redemption fund. The colored boy was liberated. It would be gratifying to relate that the lad appreciated what had been done for him. He did not. He became a drunkard and a public charge. (Lampson, pg. 14) This story is also available in the book "From Dixie to Canada, by H. U. Johnson. Page 48.