

Rev. Jonathan Cable

Timeline of His Life and Works

- 1799** Born June 15, Hartford Co., New York
- 1803** Family moved near Sackett's Harbor, Jefferson Co., Ohio
- 1823** Matriculated, probably from Mr. Slocomb's Academy, Port Harmus, OH
- 1827** Graduated from Ohio University in Athens
- 1828** Reynoldsburg, OH, given as principal operator UGRR, Siebert papers
- 1829** Attended Union Theological Seminary near Hampden, Sydney College, Richmond Virginia. Later writes about 8 yrs. being in a slave state. Says in a letter that the "worst kind (of slavery) is jobbing slavery – that is hiring out slaves from year to year, while the master is not present to protect them. It is the interest of the one who hires them to get the worth of his money out of them and the loss is the master's if they die." He condemns the church for using jobbing slavery to pay ministers' salaries. Aug. 4, 1853 National Era (Washington D. C. newspaper)
- 1830** A.M. (Artium Magister = M.A.) Graduated Ohio University, Athens Co., OH. At the time of the publication of this book, he lived in Greenfield, Indiana.
- 1831** B.D. (Bachelor of Divinity) Union Theological Seminary
- 1831** J. Cable is listed as part of preparatory dept. Woodward College (high school), Cincinnati, OH. Do not know if this is our JC or not.
- 1833-1834** Cable at Babylon, Long Island, NY. Founds First Presbyterian church and 4 months later retires due to failing health
- 1834** Married Sarah Booth
- 1834-1835** Kirkersville, Licking Co., Ohio. Was first Presbyterian minister to preach at Kirkersville.
- March 21, 1834-1838** Rev. Cable first pastor at the Fairmont Presbyterian Church founded, Licking Co., Ohio and first pastor in Jacksontown, Ohio.
- July 1837** A meeting held in Mr. Joseph Baird's barn, in Harrison twp. (Licking Co.), along with Rev. Henry Little. A large number were converted and on Nov. 11, a Presbyterian church was organized at the log school house in Lima township. Hebron, Licking Co., Ohio. Letter published
- August 15, 1839** Cable missionary at Reynoldsburg (Licking Co.) and Jefferson, Ashtabula Co., Ohio
- 1840** Cable at Reynoldsburg, Ohio
- 1840 to 1841 or 1842** Cable starts at the New School Presbyterian Church in Sharon (Sharonville, OH)

Nov. 10, 1842 Vice president of religious anti-slavery convention

Nov. 19, 1842 Cable present at a religious Anti-Slavery Convention held in Cincinnati. He and John Van Zandt were vice-presidents of the meeting.

Dec. 22, 1842 Cable present at Anti-Slavery Synod convention. Presents a bill: "Will the Synod decide whether a slaveholder, one who voluntarily holds his fellow beings as goods and chattels, and deprives them of the privilege of the word of God and holding them liable to be sold, and all the ties of kindred broken, should be received as a communicant in our churches or as a minister in our pulpits?" *Emancipator & Republican* (Boston, Mass.)

Sept. 6, 1843 Cable among a roster of speakers for Liberty Meetings held in Hamilton Co., OH

1844-1847 Presbyterian Church, Kingston, Indiana

From about 1844 to 1847 Rev. Jonathan cable supplied the church, and his wife kept a private school at their home. Mr. Cable was an energetic farmer as well as minister, and an earnest anti-slavery advocate.

Oct. 14, 1845 Cable attends Presbyterian constitutional convention at Lancaster, Iowa

May 19, 1846 Cable appointed to a committee to nominate permanent officers at the Anti-Slavery Convention.

Dec. 31, 1847 "The New School Presbyterian Synod of Indiana have declared against Slavery by resolving unanimously that it should be made a disciplinary offense by the church. This noble decision on the part of that body may be credited to the indefatigable labors of the Rev. Jonathan Cable; the only minister we ever knew, belonging to a Pro-Slavery Church that dare serve God by serving humanity."

April 1848 Cable appointed to committee to employ a missionary, church attached to Presbytery of Indianapolis.

1850 Cable became a Free Presbyterian in the Synod with John Rankin (Free Presbyterian Church established 1847 as a "comeouter sect" and lasted until 1863 when it merged with the New School Presbyterian Church)

1850 Census, College Hill, Millcreek Township, Hamilton Co., Ohio lives near 6011 Belmont by the Witherby farm.

1850 Agricultural census: 15 1/9 improved acres, \$3,000 cash value of farm, 2 horses, 1 milch (milk) cow, 1 other cattle, value of livestock \$125.

Jan. 31, 1850 Cable on a committee "for the purpose of calling a Convention of Christians to consider upon the connection of the American Church with the sin of Slaveholding..." Convention to be held April 17, 1850 Cincinnati. *Farmer's Cabinet* (Amhurst, N.H.)

April 17-20, 1850 Cable and Coffin work together to organize the Convention of Christians "prominent abolitionist churchmen" and condemn the religious fellowship with slaveholders.. They worked with Wm. Brisbane, B. P Aydelott, S.H. Chase, Levi Coffin, James Birney and Charles Boynton as Chairman. They invited non-Garrisonian christian abolitionists. 2,000 people responded to the invitation and 150 attended

The white come-outers in Cincinnati were the Free Missionary Baptists, Indiana Meeting of Anti-Slavery Friends, Free Presbyterians and Wesleyan Methodists. New School Presbyterians praised abolition but had no enthusiasm for coming out of the denomination. The black church, African Methodists and black Baptists in the North and border states grew dissatisfied with unequal treatment in mixed churches and established their own religious institutions. In Cincinnati, a number of members left the Union Baptist church and founded Zion Baptist church to take stronger action against slavery.

“The War against Pro-slavery Religion,” John McKivigan, Cornell University press, 1984, p. 130.

“Abolitionism and American Religion,” John McKivigan, Routledge, p.352.

April 29, 1850 Cable delegate to Free Soil State Convention, hosted by Free Democracy, Hamilton Co., OH

Sept. 17, 1850 Attended Christian Anti-slavery Convention, Ottawa, Canada

Oct. 1,2, 1850 Chosen as a representative to the convention of Western Home & Foreign Missionary Assoc.

Oct. 23, 1850 Traveling agent in Illinois

Jan. 1850 – March 15, 1855 Extensive correspondence of Jonathan Cable while living in College Hill. Most letters are to George Whipple or Lewis Tappan.

July 3, 1851 Attends Christian Anti-slavery Convention at Chicago, Illinois

1852 Jonathan Cable letter to William Narned, Feb. 13, 1852

1853 Cincinnati’s “Escape of the 28” April, 1853, John Fairfield brought a group of 28 slaves across the Ohio River near Lawrenceburg, Indiana and traveled with them to the outskirts of Cincinnati. He left them hidden to go get help. He contacted John Hatfield, (Deacon at the Zion Baptist Church) and, with Hatfield’s family and church friends, assisted Levi Coffin in transporting slaves from Cincinnati. The story has Hatfield getting a coach and taking a group of slaves pretending to be free blacks in a fake funeral procession, traveling to the Methodist (Wesleyan) Cemetery, an integrated cemetery in Northside/Cumminsville. Instead of going to the cemetery they traveled up to College Hill to meet **Jonathan Cable**. Harriet Wilson’s letter picks up the time the group stayed in College Hill where one of the women’s infant had died. This child was buried somewhere in College Hill in either the Gard or Cary Cemetery. The group made it to Canada. This escape was documented by several known abolitionists at the time. References to the “28” can be found in these works:

Levi Coffin, Cincinnati, Ohio Reminiscence

Laura Haviland, Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Canada, A Woman’s Life Work

Harriet N Wilson, College Hill, Ohio, 1892 letter to Wilbur Siebert

Wilbur Siebert, Slavery to Freedom and Mysteries of the Ohio Underground Railroad

1855 Cable delegate of Hamilton Co., Republican, to nominate Salmon P. Chase Governor of Ohio

1856 David Cable graduates from Farmer’s College and starts work at the Athens Manual Univ. the next year.

1856-57 Cable becomes an agent for the Albany Manual Labor University, Athens Co., OH

1858 Jonathan is the Principal and David teaches mathematics in Albany, Ohio (near Athens) at the Albany Manual Labor University. David meets his wife Marsha Marie Lincoln, who is his student. They marry in 1859. The school was integrated as to race and sex. Jonathan also solicited funds for the school, which purchased 300 acres of land. It averaged about 80 students at this time. School was staffed by those that attended Oberlin College. Many students who attended this school became teachers elsewhere in public schools and their antislavery sentiment influenced surrounding towns.

3/1/1859 Cable on committee for nominations to Anti-Slavery Society convention, Worcester, Mass.

7/26/1859 The Republican (Springfield, MA) “Rev. J. Cable of Ohio is in town endeavoring to raise funds to endow a free manual labor, anti-slavery university in the southern portion of that state, where the million may be educated without regard to sex, color or caste. He carries credentials from Governor Chase and J. R. Giddings of Ohio, Rev. Drs. Cheever, Thompson, Storrs and Bellow of New York, and Osgood of this city. From a personal acquaintance and knowledge of him for many years, we can certify to his being a conscientious, self-sacrificing anti-slavery man, and commend him and his cause to the favorable notice of a philanthropic and Christian community.”

1860 Census Albany, Athens Co., Ohio

May 15, 1861 The Attucks’ Guard (named for Crispus Atticus an African-American and the first person and to be killed in the Revolutionary War) headed by Capt. Julius Hawkins, attaché of the US. Dist Court in Cincinnati, marches to the home of Jonathan Cable in Albany, OH where Rev. Cable was presented with a flag by the black ladies of Albany (<http://grosvenor-cwrt.org/our-moh-winner/more-about-master-sergeant-milton-holland/> article by Connie Perdreau, Athens, OH, 92 Grosvenor St, 45701, (740) 592-6022

4/27/1868 House of Representatives, Washington D.C., Rev. Cable of Tabor, Iowa gave the prayer. Page 2331, 1869 The Congressional Globe

Letters to John Todd in Tabor, Iowa (who had stored weapons for John Brown and gave Brown a safe haven in Tabor after Kansas Raids) in Tabor, Iowa as described in Gilead, a novel about John Todd written by Marilyn Robinson, 2004. Todd was a Congregationalist minister who graduated from Oberlin in 1841 and went to Tabor to start a school like that in Iowa (Tabor College). Listed in the bibliography of John Todd and the Underground Railroad: Biography of an Iowa Abolitionist, by James Patrick Morgans

- March 26, Danville Iowa
- April 13 Philadelphia
- May 9th Philadelphia
- May 18th New York City
- May 28 New York City
- June 6th Providence RI

1870 Census Danville, Des Moines Co., Iowa

1/1/1873 Andreas History Atlas of Des Moines County, Iowa
Burlington, Iowa, pg. 35 "Old Settlers of Des Moines"

"Rev. Jonathan Cable was born in Washington Co., New York on June 15, 1799. At the age of four years he moved near Harbor, in Ohio. At age of twenty eight he graduated in the University at Athens, Ohio. He went to the Theological Seminary in Virginia under the charge of Dr. Rise., where he graduated at the end of three years, paying his own expenses. In 1832 Mr. Cable was ordained to preach the Gospel by the West Hanover Presbytery from Virginia. He went to Long Island and there to Ohio during which time he converted hundreds to the Christian faith. In 1834 he was married to Sarah Booth. This union proved one of the happiest events of his life. They have six children, four of whom are living. In 1835 he became a worker in the great cause of anti-slavery and as a lecturer and general worker in that field. We may selflessly say he stands first in the long list of his(?).He is a prominent temperance advocate, and he nor his sons use tobacco or ardent spirits. He now lives on a farm and is without a charge on account of ill health, in good circumstances honored by all who know him." (Note: Optical recognition software used, nothing about Harbor, Ohio. There is currently an Oak Harbor in Ottawa Co. and a Fairport Harbor by Lake Erie)

1880 Census Danville, Des Moines Co., Iowa

April 11, 1881 Returns to Cincinnati for the semi-centennial of the Vine St. Congregational Church

1884 Dies June 13, 1884 buried in Danville, Des Moines Co., Iowa

Further letters:

1. The Salmon P. Chase Papers, John Nivens ed. Vol. 1, 1993, Kent State University
2. Rev. Jonathan Cable was a resident of Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and Philadelphia. He was active in philanthropic endeavors.
 - Cable to Chase Mar 8, July 7, 1849. 12/9/1864 Chase Papers.
 - Chase to Cable 3/7/1864 Chase Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania
3. Catalog of the American Missionary Association Archives p. 405-407 <http://www.tulane.edu/~am2/brewer.pdf>