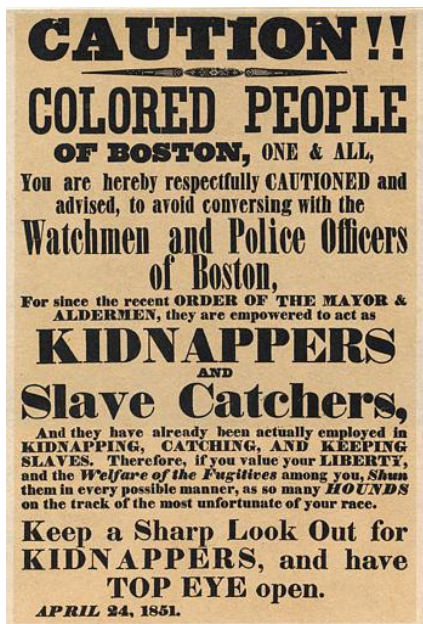


An American Story - THE JERRY RESCUE of 1851

Connections to Women's Rights Activists

There is an often untold story of bravery and conflict that took place less than 50 miles away from Seneca Falls, NY, the site of the first Women's Rights Convention. This is the story of The Jerry Rescue. When you hear the story, you will find many **connections** between people who were active in Seneca Falls and the Abolition movement to end slavery.



On September 18, 1850, the United States Congress passed a law called the Fugitive Slave Act. This law said that all runaway slaves had to be returned to their masters in the South, even if they had gained their freedom by escaping to Northern "free states". Many people in the North were angry about this law, and some Abolitionists (people who fought against slavery) declared that they would not follow the law, but continue to help freed slaves escape to Canada.

On October 1st, 1851, an Abolitionist political party called the Liberty Party was holding an Anti-Slavery Convention in Syracuse, New York. Syracuse was well known for its Abolitionist activities. Many escaped slaves felt safe here.

The very same day, a former slave from Missouri named William "Jerry" Henry, who was working in Syracuse as a cooper, or barrel

maker, was arrested by Federal Marshals under the Fugitive Slave Law. What followed was the largest and most shocking outpouring of anger toward slavery and the South that the North had ever seen. What followed became known as "The Jerry Rescue".



Click on the links below to read the story of the Jerry Rescue of 1851, then go on to the activity Making Connections. (To open link hold control and click on link)

[**The Jerry Rescue - New York History Net**](#)

[**William "Jerry" Henry's escape**](#)

[**Abolitionists Battle Down a Door in Syracuse to Free a Fugitive**](#)

[Click Here for images related to the Jerry Rescue.](#)

Activity: Making Connections

Many of the participants in the 1848 Seneca Falls Women's Rights Convention were active Abolitionists or had connections in the Abolitionist community. Because the Jerry Rescue happened so close to Seneca Falls and only three years afterward, it is likely that many of the women and men involved in the struggle for equal rights for women were also aware of the rescue of William Henry (Jerry). Some even had a direct link to those involved. Let's explore how below.

The Liberty Party: The Liberty Party was a small political party based in the Northern States in the 1840s. Their main goal was the abolition of slavery throughout the United States. The Liberty Party was holding its convention in Syracuse during the Jerry Rescue. With so many abolitionists in town for the convention, it is no wonder that thousands of people gathered in front of the local jail and freed William Henry.

Samuel Ringgold Ward: A Syracuse minister and former slave himself, Ward was very involved in the Jerry Rescue. His outspoken speeches during the conflict made him famous. He began his career ministering to an all white Congregationalist Church in tiny South Butler, NY. Interestingly enough, that same small church would soon become the home church of the country's first ordained woman, Antoinette Brown Blackwell. **Antoinette Brown Blackwell was a friend of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's and Susan B. Anthony's as well as an outspoken advocate of women's rights.**

Samuel Ringgold Ward's involvement in the Jerry Rescue put made Ringgold Ward fear for his own safety under the Fugitive Slave Act. He was helped into hiding by local abolitionists and escaped to Canada.

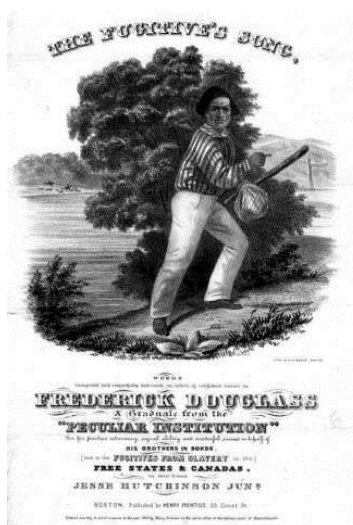
Rev. Jermaine Loguen was a former slave who became the stationmaster of the Underground Railroad in Syracuse, NY. He was present at the Jerry Rescue in 1851 and had to flee from the authorities to avoid being arrested. He was taken to the Waterloo home of the Quaker Abolitionists [Mary Ann and Thomas M'Clintock](#). Follow the link to learn more about the M'Clintock family and their efforts in the reform movements, including Abolition and Women's Rights. It is said that when Loguen arrived. In this [linked document](#), read a paragraph about their harboring of Rev. Loguen.

Below: Rev. Jermain Loguen



Making Connections – Questions to Answer

- 1) We know that the Jerry Rescue was an incident in which thousands of people took part. Who were some of the most important people at the Rescue in Syracuse?
- 2) Can you make any connections to the people who were directly involved in the rescue and those who were directly involved in the Women's Rights Movement?
- 3) Why would people be involved in both of these reform movements?
- 4) You read that Rev. Jermaine Loguen was armed when he was harbored in the home of the Quaker M'Clintock family from Waterloo, NY. Why was this night spent with them probably an unusual one for the M'Clintock family?



For Teachers:

Answers to questions 1-4:

- 1) Several of the most important people of Jerry Rescue include Jermaine Loguen, Samuel Ringgold Ward, and the M'Clintock family, who harbored Loguen after his escape.

- 2) M'Clintock – Loguen connection

- 3) Some of the reformers of the time were Quakers and other progressive thinkers who believed in full equality for all people, regardless of gender or race.

- 4) The M'Clintocks were well known Quakers, a religious group who did not usually believe in using violence. This is why Loguen's having a weapon in the home may have seemed strange to them.