

Starr Clark: Forming County Anti-Slavery

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ONE of the greatest evils, both natural and moral, with which our beloved country is afflicted, is slavery. That it is an increasing and threatening evil, is generally admitted. To this subject, in all its interesting aspects and relations, is the attention of our country being called at the present period. A variety of circumstances have conspired to bring it prominently before the American people. It claims their discussion and decision. It asks not, nor will the Genius of the land and age permit, a decision without discussion. When this engrossing subject shall have been fully discussed, and then only, will the people be prepared to act, and act right in relation to it. By the interchange of sentiment, and the exhibition of light and truth, we are fitted to act in important, and even difficult matters, and by concert of counsel and effort, become encouraged to engage in the most interesting enterprizes. The exigencies of the times call for this concert among us—Therefore the undersigned in the exercise of their rights as members of this community, without presuming to dictate to others, would respectfully invite a Convention of the citizens of the county of Oswego, who are friendly to the “Immediate Emancipation of the Slaves,” to be held on Thursday the 8th of October next, at 10 o’clock, A. M. at Mexicoville, to consider the propriety of forming a County Anti Slavery



*The Oswego Palladium,
September 30, 1835, page 3*

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Thos C Baker	Geo W Allen
Rev Ralph Robinson	Wm Taylor
Ard H Stevens	A W Baker
A Z McCarty	Roswell Famran
Alfred Wells	Jno Remington
Jas C Jackson	Ephm Barnes
William Savage	John Gratton
Eld Sam'l Davison	Azel M. Law
Levi Mitchell	Wm Guile
Clarke Beebee	Abel M Law
Joel Savage	Hezekiah Nichols
Sabin Wood	Cyrus L Head
Artemas Wheeler	Nathaniel Marvin
Asa McNett	Samuel Allen
Daniel McNett	Joseph Allen
A J Savage	H Schermerhorn
William Goit	Daniel Hitchcock
Starr Clarke	R H Doolittle
Eld Wm Storrs	Asa Scofield
Wm L. Porter	Benj Simmons
Perry N Allen	Chas Nichols
Perry Allen	Edwin W Clarke
Cyrus Allen	Moses Whitney
Stephen Luce	Edward Griffing
Dr Stephen F Kinne	Henry M Willis
Chester R Wells	C C Cooper
Dr John G Ayer	H K Thurber
Hiram Bracey	

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Questions:

1. The article mentions "discussion and decision". What did the group want to discuss and decide?
2. Where, and when, was the meeting going to be held?
3. What did the group want to form?
4. Because of the same surname, make a list of people who signed this letter who might be related to someone else on the list.
5. Use census data and directories to determine any relationship status between the members who signed this letter.
6. What group of people appears to be missing from the list.
7. Why do you think they are missing from this list?
8. Can you locate any more information about the Oswego County Anti-Slavery Society?

For Further Research:

Using a variety of means, select a name from the list above to research and discover more information about the person and his contributions to his community.

Possible resources include: connecting with the town or county historian, old church records, directories, census pages, newspapers (Friend of Man, Oswego county newspapers <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/#>, etc.)