

Tudor E. Grant: From Slave to Business Owner

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This is not a photograph of Tudor E. Grant but rather Robert Morris, a lawyer, admitted to the Suffolk Bar in 1847. No photograph of Tudor E. Grant has been found. This image is in the public domain in the United States because it was published (or registered with the US Copyright Office before January 1, 1923.

Use articles, city directories, and census entries to discover more about Tudor E. Grant, a fugitive slave who came to the city of Oswego and became a well-respected barber.

Note: This series of activities expanded from the work by the Oswego County Historical Society and Judith Wellman, in conjunction with the Oswego County Freedom Trail Commission, 1999.

Vocabulary

Abolitionist: A person who wanted to **abolish** or put an end to slavery

Census: An official counting of all the people in a country or area, to find out how many there are and of what sex, age, occupation, etc. The United States census has been taken every ten years since 1790.

Chattel (Chattelhood): Any article of personal property (slavery).

Fugitive: A runaway slave.

Fugitive Slave Law of 1850: This act made it illegal to help an escaped slave in any way. People could be fined and jailed for helping a suspected escaping slave, and the fugitive could be captured and sent back to the owner.

Slave: A person who is owned by another person.

Enslaved Person: Currently considered a more appropriate term than “slave” because it stresses humanity (a person, not a thing)

Underground Railroad: The name given to the many ways fugitive slaves took to escape slavery in the southern United States to freedom in the north before the Civil War.

Vigilance Committees: Groups of people who organized to help fugitive slaves escape from slavery.

Oswego Palladium, November 29, 1837, page 3

MORE STOCKS. The subscriber has just received a new and well selected capply of satin and bombasin Stocks, cheap for cash, at his Barber's shop, directly opposite of the Welland House, (east.) Come quick or they'll be gone.
T. E. GRANT.
Oswego, June 15, 1837. 2511

T. E. GRANT.

The Oswego Palladium, January 27, 1836, page 3

These are advertisements taken from the Oswego Palladium. What do you know about Tudor E. Grant from these posts?

The Oswego Palladium, July 29, 1835, page 4

THE subscriber returns thanks for past favors received from this vicinity, and hopes by his assiduity to merit a continuance of public favor. Having employed a first rate Hair Dresser from Boston, ladies can have their hair made into curls, or puffs, or ringlets, and old curls dressed over, at short notice. As usual, kept on hand, a full supply of stocks, collars and bosoms, of the first quality. Old stand at black striped pole opposite the Welland House, West Oswego.
T. E. GRANT.
June 2, 1835.

THE Royal Jessemine and Windsor SOAP.—The subscriber has just received Johnson's Purified Windsor Soap, in consequence of being freed by a chemical process from the alkaline salts, corrosive substances and blistering particles, which soaps in general contain, will be found to render the most imperfect complexion—beautifully white, smooth and soft. It braces up and cherishes the skin, effectually prevents letters, ringworms, &c. It will when used make the skin free from pimples and freckles.

It is particularly recommended to those Ladies and Gentlemen who have fair skins when free from those eruptions. You will please try the article which you will find at the old stand—black striped pole, West Oswego, by
T. E. GRANT.
Oswego, Jan. 5, 1836.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

SUPREME COURT, OSWEGO COUNTY:

Edward F. Crawford, Plaintiff vs. The First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Oswego, the First African Methodist Episcopal Bethel of Oswego; John Smith, Nimrod D. Thompson, Charles Thompson, Thomas Maberry, Oberton Lee, as Trustees of both The First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Oswego and The First African Methodist Episcopal Bethel of Oswego, "John Doe," "Richard Doe," "John Rowe," "Richard Rowe," "James Jones," as successors in office to said Trustees, their names being fictitious, their true names being unknown, The First African Methodist Episcopal Church of the City of Oswego, Charles Peterson, Henry Gray, Tudor E. Grant, Charles H. Smith, Phillip Phillips, "John Jones," "Richard Cole," as successors as Trustees of The First African Methodist Episcopal Church of the City of Oswego, "John Coe," "Richard Coe," "Henry Jones," "John Jones," "Richard Cole," as successors in office to said Trustees, their names being fictitious, their true names being unknown, The City of Oswego, and all other persons having or claiming to have an interest in the hereinafter described real property, Defendants.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

You are hereby summoned to answer the complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the plaintiff's attorney within twenty days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, Judgement will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Trial to be held in the County of Oswego, New York.

Dated: this 25th day of July, 1831.

Dearborn V. Hardie,
Attorney for Plaintiff,
Office and P. O. Address,
193 West First Street,
Oswego, New York.

To: The First African Methodist Episcopal

To: The First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Oswego, The First African Methodist Episcopal Bethel of Oswego, John Smith, Nimrod D. Thompson, Charles Thompson, Thomas Maberry, Oberton Lee, as Trustees of both The First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Oswego and The First African Methodist Episcopal Bethel of Oswego, "John Doe," "Richard Doe," "John Rowe," "Richard Rowe," "James Jones," as Successors in office to said Trustees, their names being fictitious, their true names being unknown, The First African Methodist Episcopal Church of the City of Oswego, Charles Peterson, Henry Gray, Tudor E. Grant, Charles H. Smith, Phillip Phillips, as Trustees of The First African Methodist Episcopal Church of the City of Oswego, "John Coe," "Richard Coe," "Henry Jones," "John Jones," "Richard Cole," as Successors in office to said Trustees, their names being fictitious, their true names being unknown, and all other persons having or claiming to have an interest in the hereinafter described real property.

The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of Hon. Don A. Colony, Oswego County Judge, dated the 27th day of July, 1831, and filed with the complaint in the office of the Clerk of the County of Oswego at the City of Oswego, New York.

TAKE NOTICE, that this action is brought to compel the determination of a claim to the following described real property, viz: All that tract or parcel of land situate in the City of Oswego, County of Oswego and State of New York, known and described as Oswego City, West side of the River, Original Village Block twenty-eight (28) Sub-division eighteen (18) being thirty-three and one-third feet (33 1-3) on Oneida Street by ninety-nine (99) feet deep. Thirty-three and one-third feet (33 1-3) East from Eighth Street.

Dated, July 27th, 1831.

Dearborn V. Hardie,
Attorney for Plaintiff,
Office and P. O. Address,
193 West First Street,
Oswego, New York.

Questions:

1. What is a plaintiff and who is the plaintiff in this legal notice?
2. Who is this legal notice against?
3. When was this legal notice written?
4. Some of the names are real names while others are fictitious. Why do you think there are fictitious names in this legal notice?
5. What is this legal notice about?
6. How can you determine that Tudor Grant and Charles Smith might know each other?
7. Where would you find the result of the trial?

The Oswego Palladium, October 6, 1846, page 4

Always Dying, Yet Living.
FANCY Dying and Scouring Establishment
No. 2, Barber's Row.
All the various shades of dying done,
Of all the colors under the sun;
From the lilly and the rose, all the tints that can be blue,
On the rich shiny silks, to transfer the color fine,
Which to fashion and beauty add many a grace,
To former improvements I've added another,
Which never before has been in this place.
You are not aware, and can have no conception,
The gloss and the polish the machine doth impart—
Do you wish to enjoy all the latest improvements,
The art has attained, you have but to arrive
At the Oswego Silk Dying Establishment.
Where I am always Dying you will find me alive.
If unwearied exertions and a fixed resolve
to spare no labor or expense which may tend
to elevate the character of his establishment,
can avail anything, the undersigned is justifi-
fied in cherishing a confidence that his estab-
lishment will, at any rate, maintain the stand-
ing it has already attained in the public esti-
mation.
T. E. GRANT,
Opposite the Welland House.
Oswego, August 27, 1845. 10

The Oswego Daily Palladium,
June 5, 1857, page 5

Notice.
The subscriber will open his Shaving Saloon on Sun-
day morning, April 5th, and keep it so through the sea-
son until further notice. Rooms in Buckhout Block
corner West First and Bridge streets.
Oswego, April 2, 1857. dtf T. E. GRANT.

Always Dying, Yet Living.

Fancy Dying and Sourcing Establishment

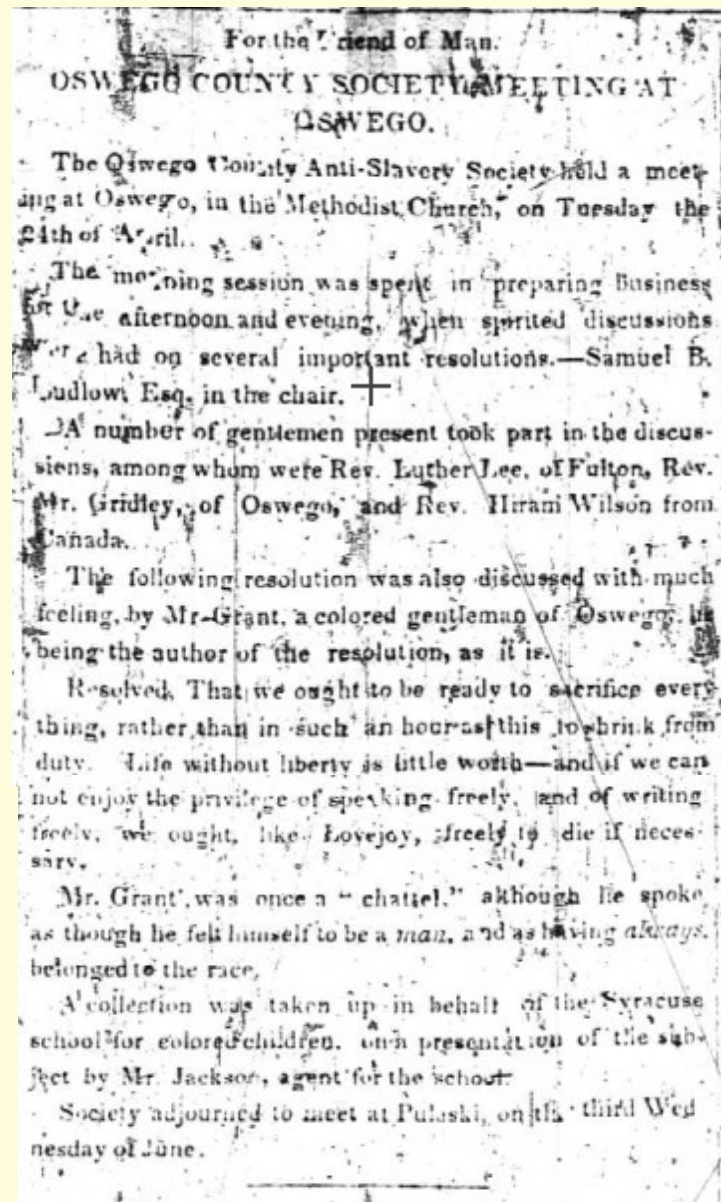
No. 2, Barber's Row

All the various shades of dying done,
Of all the colors under the sun,
From the lilly and the rose, all the tints that _____,
On the rich shiny silks, to transfer the color fine,
Which to fashion and beauty add many a grace,
To former improvements I've added another,
Which never before has been in this place.
You are not aware, and can have no conception,
The gloss and the polish the machine cloth _____
Do you wish to enjoy >>>>the latest improvements
The art has attained you have but to arrive
At the Oswego Silk Dying Establishment.
Where I am always Dying you will find me alive.

If unwearied exertions and a fixed resolve to spare no labor or
expense which may tend to elevate the character of his establishment,
can avail anything, the undersigned is justified in cherishing a
confidence that his establishment will, at any rate, maintain the
standing it has already attained in the public _____.

T.E. Grant
Opposite the Welland House
Oswego, August 27, 1845

**Tudor Grant was a
writer and a poet!**



The Friend of Man, Volume 2, Number 48,
May 16, 1838

For the Friend of Man

Oswego County Anti-Slavery Society Meeting at Oswego

The Oswego County Anti-Slavery Society held a meeting at Oswego, in the Methodist Church, on Tuesday the 24th of April.

The morning session was spent in preparing Business for the afternoon and evening, when spirited discussions were held on several important resolutions – Samuel B. Ludlow Esq. in the chair.

A number of gentlemen present took part in the discussions, among whom were Rev. Hiram Wilson from Canada.

The following resolution was also discussed with much feeling by Mr. Grant, a colored gentleman of Oswego, he being the author of resolution, as (_?_).

Resolved. That we ought to be ready to sacrifice everything, rather than in such an hour as this to shrink from duty. Life without liberty is little worth – and if we can not enjoy the privilege of speaking freely, and of writing freely we ought like Lovejoy*, freely to die if necessary.

Mr. Grant was once a “chattel”*, although he spoke as though he felt himself to be a man, and as having always belonged to the race.

A collection was taken in behalf of the Syracuse school for colored children, in appreciation of the effort by Mr. Jackson, agent for the school.

Society adjourned to meet in Pulaski on the third Wednesday of June.

*Lovejoy: Elijah Lovejoy was an Illinois abolitionist editor who had just been killed.

*chattel: Any article of personal property (slave)

Questions:

1. What did Tudor Grant do at this meeting?
2. How did the author of this article describe Mr. Grant?
3. Does this prove that Tudor Grant had once been a slave?
4. What do you think Tudor Grant meant when he said he felt he had “always belonged to the race”?
5. Who was Lovejoy?

