

Quaker split over slavery

– notes from correspondence with Gwen Gransberg – November 2016 –

In corresponding with Gwen Gransberg, she is the direct descendant of Miriam Bundy (1766-1834), wife of John Brown (1762-1824). Their daughter Elizabeth is Gwen's ancestor, linking her to Miriam and John. Miriam's line goes to the Symons family via her great grandmother Tamar Symons. Tamar is her father's father's mother. Gwen and I have a common ancestor in William Symons (1620-1684). His daughter Mary married John Morris III, grandson of Damarius (Demaris) Shattuck Page.

Also, Gwen mentioned there is a book out (See <http://www.undergroundrailroadhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Freedom-Seeker-IV-2.pdf>) about the Brown brothers and their eventual disagreement over slavery which goes back to one becoming a Quaker. John Brown moved south while his brother Moses moved to Michigan. There is potentially a wealth of information that may be found by tracking the groups that moved alongside them (through records), both directions.

It is actually Elizabeth Brown, daughter of John Brown and Miriam Bundy, who completed the move to Michigan, which the family began in the Carolinas in the late 1700s-early 1800s. They first went to Indiana, then on to Michigan. It is in the Bundy family that Gwen believes where there are some very interesting Underground Railroad stories; she thinks it was Moses Bundy who has written histories about his involvement, as a fiery, fearless and fierce anti-slavery advocate. It is through the Bundy's that she believes the story unfolds, tracking back to their Quaker roots in Perquimans, North Carolina. Gwen is digging into materials but recalls thinking is through the Quaker meeting records that the split over slavery issues is revealed, and then we find the migration of the anti-slavery Quakers moving northwards well before the Civil War.