

1852. Helping Fugitive Slaves Settle in New York (July 30, 1852).

Source: Grover

In July, 1852, Edwin Barnard, a jeweler in Geneva, New York, sent this letter to Gerrit Smith in Peterboro. Smith was a leading abolitionist and conductor on the Underground Railroad. The letter is torn around the edges so readers can only guess at the complete text, however its message seems clear. While the letter is torn around its edges and some words are missing, Barnard's message seems clear. Smith and Barnard were probably discussing ways to help African American escapees from slavery find work and places to live in upstate New York.

'I learn from J.W. Duffin there has been a fresh importation of Human [torn]
& that you have the care & direction of them. [torn]
supposing that your aim is to locate them [torn]
the best advantage for themselves. [torn]
two friends living in Hamonds Port [torn]
Co. Wm Hastings & LD Hastings, both wishing [torn]
Domestics in their families. My object in [torn]
ascertain if there are any & if they can [torn]
from that quarter it would be natural [torn]
that among the number (50 I learn man [torn]
there would be some that are accust[torn]
and would like this employment. They are men [torn]
lling to care for them & do well by them [torn]
uld be glad to have an answer by return mail [torn]
are here now & should it be favourable [torn]
one of them will come and see you.
'Yours for Humanity Edwin Barnard'