

*Fugitives Brought from Four Miles West
of Millersburg and from Holmesville to
Hopedale and on to Oberlin.*
[Ohio, Holmes County]

Thomas L. Smith of

Fredericksburg, Ohio.

[Wayne Co.]

Sept 18, 1894

Mr. Smith said: I was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, May 11, 1811; lived in Pennsylvania till General Harrison was elected President of the U. S. I got my anti-slavery sentiments there in hearing the subject debated. I belonged to the Seceder Church in Washington, Pennsylvania. Dr. John Anderson was President of the College there. It was through debate between Dr. Joseph Scroggs—a minister and Joseph Pollocks—who had come home from Virginia where he had married into a slave-holding family. After Harrison's election I went to Cleveland and was there nearly two years; then I moved here to Fredicksburg ^{*[Wayne Co.]*} the last of '42. I came onto this farm in '58 and have been here ever since. I traveled a good deal through the south and west part of the State and wasn't careful about expressing my views. I removed from Fredicksburg down near Hopedale, in Holmes County, in the Spring of '50, and knew many anti-slavery men through the County, and they knew my sentiments after I moved on to my farm on the Lower Wooster road, two miles from Fredericksburg.

I think that some of the fugitives were sent to me by Reverend Whitten—a minister in the Free Presbyterian Church, four miles west of ^[Holmes Co.] Millersburg, and by Ebenezer Bigham. Sometimes John Crocko and Kieffer Crocko—brothers living adjoining Holmesville, Holmes County, where they came through—brought fugitives here to my place. I delivered to Isaac Daniels—who lived out near the State road—between old Edinburgh ^(Wayne Co.) town and the State road 7 miles. This was not considered the direct line for Oberlin—for which place they were all heading. They came this way to escape detection. Sometimes I would direct 6 or 8 at a time to David Clark in ^(Wayne Co.) Apple Creek, or give them a card to him to direct them to Daniels'. Most of those passing through here crossed the River at or near Parkersburgh out of Virginia.