

Abolitionists in Wayne County.

[Ohio, Wayne County]

Reply of Albert McFadden of Wooster, Ohio.

To The U.G.R.R. Circular.

Aug. 5, 1893

Wayne Co.
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Mr. W. H. Siebert,

Dear Sir:

The circular you sent to Mrs. Aylesworth of this place was given by her to me, and while I am-as far as I know-the last and only survivor of the old Abolitionists in this County (Wayne). x x

I cannot give you any information that would be worth putting in a book, but I can and will contribute something for your waste-basket.

The first anti-slavery men that I can remember in this County were William Spencer, Elias Smith, Robert Wilson, Robert Taggart, ^AMcCurdy, James Rose and myself. James Rose was general superintendent, section boss, station agent, engineer and conductor on the route through this County, and I was his confidential friend. I was familiar with the running of the road, its profits(c) and soforth. ✓

The forties was the period of the most activity of the U.G.R.R.

Prior to this time, while a few men were met in the house of McCurdy in the village of Wooster quietly discussing the slavery question, the house was assailed by a mob and completely spattered with eggs.

My recollection is that in the fall of 1842 the first political organization was made in the county. Samuel Lewis was the candidate for Governor. We polled but 68 votes in the County. In the township in which I lived out of 400 voters only one other man beside myself voted the ticket.

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Not many years before the death of good old Wm. Lloyd Garrison he wrote me a letter, enclosing his photograph; he called me a co-laborer with him in the work of securing human freedom. This was more satisfaction to me than if the Pope had canonized me and sent me a scarlet cap.

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"God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform."
"And whom the Gods design to destroy, they first make mad." So the soul drivers got mad, and while trying to destroy our Government and set up a republic of their own with slavery as its chief corner stone, they lost all. When the emancipation Proclamation went into effect such was my enthusiasm that I illuminated my domicile from "vestibule to tower top." The neighbors came in to see what was up. I told them that the greatest event that ever occurred since the "morning stars sang together and the sons of God shouted for joy" would take place at 12 o'clock that night when the shackles would be struck off 3000,000 human beings.

x x x

I am past 75 years old. I wish you success in your undertaking.
Respectfully, Good Bye,

Albert McFadden

Wooster, O.