

Andrew W. **Young** (1802 – 1877)

By Douglas H. Shepard, 2014

Andrew W. **Young**, who published his *History of Chautauqua County* in 1875, was born in Carlisle NY in March 1802. He taught school as a young man, then clerked in a store. In May 1830 he began publishing the *Warsaw Sentinel*. In January 1832 he bought the *Republican Advocate* of Batavia and merged the two newspapers. In April 1835 he sold the combined newspaper to D.D. **Waite**, so that when the *American Citizen* was begun under the auspices of the Genesee County Anti-Slavery Society, **Young** was able to accept their offer of the editorship.

Christopher **Densmore's** list of Underground Railroad (UGRR) "agents" in Western New York includes **Young** as an "agent" based on the ascription in Wilbur **Siebert's** *Underground Railroad from Slavery to Freedom* (1898), p.415. As of this writing in 2014, **Young's** name is prominent in the "Abolitionist Tour" offered by Warsaw NY, where a local Antislavery Society was formed in the 1830s.

On 10 April 1855, Andrew **Young's** wife Eliza bought a house lot in Ripley NY from William B. **Perry** for \$1100. The deed may be found in L.75, p.421. The 1860 Census lists the family in Ripley as Andrew **Young**, Author, 56; Eliza, 50; Lucy, 25; and Elizabeth, 23. Andrew and Eliza and their family remained in Ripley for twelve years. During the antebellum portion of that time, Andrew may have involved himself with the UGRR.

In 1868 they relocated to Red Wing MN, where their son David was living. They were living there when **Young** came back to attend the 1873 Old Settlers Reunion in Fredonia and arranged to use Elial T. **Foote's** historical collection to write **Young's History of Chautauqua County** (1875). The *Jamestown Evening Journal* of 11 June 1873 noted, "Judge E.T. **Foote** has arrived, and brought with him his collection of historical items, consisting of scrap books, etc. amounting to thirty-two volumes, and expects for weeks to assist Hon. A.W. **Young** in the preparation of his history of Chautauqua County."

In another *Journal* issue **Foote** was quoted as referring to his "twenty-four large" volumes, and the *Censor* of 18 June 1873 noted, "Here he pointed to 26 large folio volumes of historic scrap books on the stage as an evidence of his labor." Whatever the precise number of volumes, the collection was enormous, and it was given to **Young** for his use. Less than four years later, on 17 February 1877, Andrew **Young** died. Fortunately, his history of Chautauqua County had been completed and published. **Young** was buried in his home town of Warsaw NY.