



Biographers have depicted Dr. Jonathan J. Bradford as a compassionate humanitarian who promoted temperance throughout his life. He championed the Union cause and became a Republican after the dissolution of the Whig party. In 1830 Bradford inherited two of the sixteen slaves in his father's estate, Eliza and Malvina. Jonathan's first marriage was to Amanda Thome, the sister of James Armstrong Thome who became noted for his incendiary attacks on slavery. His father, Arthur Thome, came to agree with him and he freed his fourteen slaves before becoming active in the Underground Railroad in Bracken County, Kentucky. The Bradfords were cousins of John Gregg Fee, the leading abolitionist in Kentucky. Their anti-slavery associations did not persuade any of them to free household slaves. The 1870 Census for Jonathan Bradford showed three blacks: Charles Holland age 70, Ann Holland age 22, Amanda Boston age 12, at school.¹

¹ Bracken County (Brooksville, KY), Will Book C, 284; John G. Fee, *Autobiography of John G. Fee: Berea, Kentucky* (Chicago, Ill.; National Christian Association, 1891), 9; John M. Gresham, *Biographical Cyclopedia of the Commonwealth of Kentucky* (Chicago; John M. Gresham, 1896), 208; J.M. Armstrong & Company, *The Biographical Encyclopedia of Kentucky of the Dead And Living Men of the Nineteenth Century* (Cincinnati, Ohio; J. M. Armstrong & Company, 1878), 101-02; Carolyn Miller, "Underground Railroad, Bracken Co.," *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky* (Lexington; University of Kentucky, 2009), 902.