

John Johnson
SAFA Summer Fellowship

Artist's Statement

My project thesis and argument is that Gabriel Furman's views on slavery changed as a result of the strong and active Abolitionist and Underground Railroad movements in both his native Brooklyn and the country at large.

I argue this because in the 1830's, he wrote at least two Journal entries in which He supported slavery. But in 1854, he wrote that he no longer supported the expansion of slavery.

I make this argument in the form of an animated movie done in Adobe AfterEffects, showing both Furman's Journal writings, and images and document from the Abolitionist and Underground Railroad movements. I also include a background and history of these movements in both Brooklyn and the country as a whole. I use lighting effects and masks in this animation to try to highlight various words. I also use various colors in the animation to try to emphasize certain points. Music and a sound effect with hopefully further emphasize my argument.