

From The Cincinnati Inquirer, June 1999

Street named for abolitionist-Charles Cheney Way

The green street signs honor Charles Cheney who lived in Mount Healthy for 7 years while he tried to start a silkworm business and mulberry grove. But from 1835 to 1842 he also led another life as an abolitionist, befriended other abolitionists in the area, and was active in the underground railroad. Along with a free black man named Jim who worked for him, they began helping slaves on their journey toward freedom. No one knows exactly how many slaves Mr. Cheney may have helped to freedom, but perhaps 50 or more might be a good guess. It was a secretive task, and Mr. Cheney's son would recall years later the "peculiar knock" at the door after dark that meant slaves had arrived.

That son was Col Frank Cheney who served in the Civil War and was seriously wounded at Antietam.