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(This page of the 1840 census shows that Elijah Boardman had 6 slaves.)

Elijah Boardman's dwindling slave population may be another example of several other instances where slaves were either freed or sold off before the Civil War. Elijah's 1840 household had 4 female slaves, who were probably household servants. The one male slave was probably a husband to one of the household servants, and he may have been utilized as a butler in the Boardman house. It is highly doubtful that Elijah would have continued farming with so few slaves, and he seems to have sold all of his land before 1850, perhaps retiring into Huntsville or going to Hartford, Connecticut. Wherever he went, he was not found, nor was Lucretia, in the 1850 U. S. census records.