

Davis, Hugh. *Joshua Leavitt: Evangelical Abolitionist*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1990.

p. 176 – 177:

Leavitt's decision to move to Washington for a few weeks to lobby for the antislavery cause was not without precedent. ... Upon arriving in Washington in mid-January 1841, Leavitt moved into Mrs. Sprigg's boardinghouse across from the Capitol, where Giddings and Slade resided while Congress was in session.

p. 188 – 189:

Leavitt invited his old friend Theodore Weld, an indefatigable researcher, to Washington in late December to assist this "select committee." ... He immediately moved into Leavitt's room on the third floor of Mrs. Sprigg's house. ... Weld and Leavitt lived with twenty other boarders at Mrs. Sprigg's. Mrs. Sprigg, a Virginian, hired slaves to work in her boardinghouse but seemed to be essentially apolitical; most of her boarders were Northerners and several were openly antislavery. Relations among the boarders were friendly and open. As Weld reported, the other boarders treated him and Leavitt "exactly as though we were not fanatics, and we talk over with them at the table and elsewhere abolition just as we should at home." Leavitt and Weld found themselves in the somewhat awkward position of being served by slaves, but did not consider moving out of the boardinghouse because of this situation. In fact, Leavitt thought it might be considered indiscreet to talk to the slaves too much, though he did wonder what effect the talk of fugitive slaves and other matters at the dinner table had on the slaves.

p. 199:

Joshua Giddings, Seth Gates and William Slade were waiting to welcome him to Mrs. Sprigg's boarding house (Dec. 1842). Twenty-four boarders now lived in the house, several of them abolitionists; the others, according to Weld, who arrived in late December for a five-week stay, were "favorably inclined." Weld and other boarders seemed protective of Mrs. Sprigg's interests, fearing that the house's reputation as the "Abolition house" would hurt her business. But in fact during the 1842-1843 session it was the only one in town filled to capacity.

p. 211

Soon after the 1843 elections, Leavitt again had to depart for Washington. ... Upon moving into his old room at Mrs. Sprigg's boardinghouse, it became apparent that the ranks of the old insurgency group were depleted. William Slade had retired earlier in the year, as had Seth Gates, who soon joined the Liberty party.

p. 222:

... When he moved into his old room at Mrs. Sprigg's boarding house (Dec. 1844) – the last time he would reside in Washington for any extended period of time – he found most Whigs "exceedingly bitter"; even Joshua Giddings was cool toward him because of his harsh attacks on Clay during the recent campaign.