

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

International Underground Railroad Month

1780

Pennsylvania becomes first government in the Western world to pass an act for the gradual abolition of slavery.



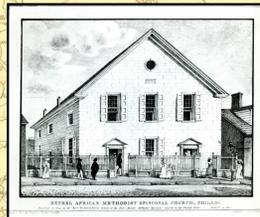
Although it did not free any of the state's roughly 7,000 enslaved men and women immediately, people born after it took effect were liberated at age 28. This drew more and more people to seek their freedom here, laying the groundwork for the extensive Underground Railroad activity to come.

1787 Sep. 17 —

Framers of US Constitution in Philadelphia allow a male slave to count as three-fifths of a person to determine representation in the House of Representatives.



1825 Sep. 24 —
Born-Frances Ellen Watkins Harper: author, poet, teacher, abolitionist, suffragist. Died, Philadelphia, 1911.



1830 Sep. 20-24

Constitution of the American Society of the Free Persons of Color creates the Colored Conventions Movement. Inaugural meeting at Mother Bethel AME Church, Philadelphia.



Locomotive "Lancaster" on P&C RR, inaugural trip, 1834

1832 Sep. 20 —

Philadelphia & Columbia Railroad opens first 20 miles of track westward from Philadelphia. In full run, 1834; by 1838 these trains become a fast, secret corridor of the Underground Railroad.

1834 Sep. 2 —

White supremacists riot in Columbia, Lancaster County, attack office of Stephen Smith, wealthy lumber merchant & Underground Railroad operative.



1837 Sep. 20-24

William Whipper, business partner of Stephen Smith, publishes "Address on Non-Resistance to Offensive Aggression."

1850 Sep 30 —

At Allegheny City rally, Martin Delany's response to Fugitive Slave Act —if anyone came to his home in search of a slave, "and if he did not lay that person as a lifeless corps at his feet, may the grave refuse his body a resting place."

1851 Sep 11-Christiana Resistance

In a major test of Fugitive Slave Law, Maryland farmer is killed, son badly wounded in Lancaster County melee as they attempt to apprehend and return formerly enslaved men. 38 accused of treason; none convicted.



1853 Sep 3-Wilkes-Barre 'in immortal splendor'

Flourishing oratory by Frederick Douglass thus depicts the Luzerne County seat as a place notable in the growing opposition to slavery, especially when its barbarity is openly revealed. The attempted arrest of William Thomas by federal agents enforcing the Fugitive Slave Law, and the violent resistance it sparked, is another pivotal

case on Pennsylvania soil that tested conflicting national and state laws over the "peculiar institution."

1859

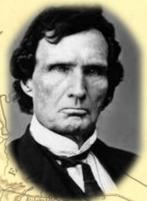
Sep. 24 — Osborne Perry Anderson meets John Brown at Middletown, PA to begin their trek south to the Kennedy Farm and Harper's Ferry.



1862

Emancipation

Sep. 22 — President Lincoln issues preliminary proclamation that he would order the emancipation of all enslaved people in any state of the Confederate States of America that did not return to Union jurisdiction by January 1, 1863.



1865 Sep. 6 —

RECONSTRUCTION!

Congressman Thaddeus Stevens delivers address to citizens of Lancaster, pledging laws to punish Southern rebellion and to uplift the lives of those formerly enslaved.

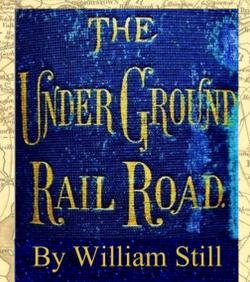
1872 Sep. 30 —

William Still, a leader of Vigilance Committee, Philadelphia, publishes his seminal work, *The Underground Railroad*.



1862 Sep. 27 —

First regiment to become a United States Colored Troop (USCT) officially brought into the Union Army. More Black soldiers hailed from Pennsylvania—8,612—than any other Northern free state.



SEPTEMBER

2020