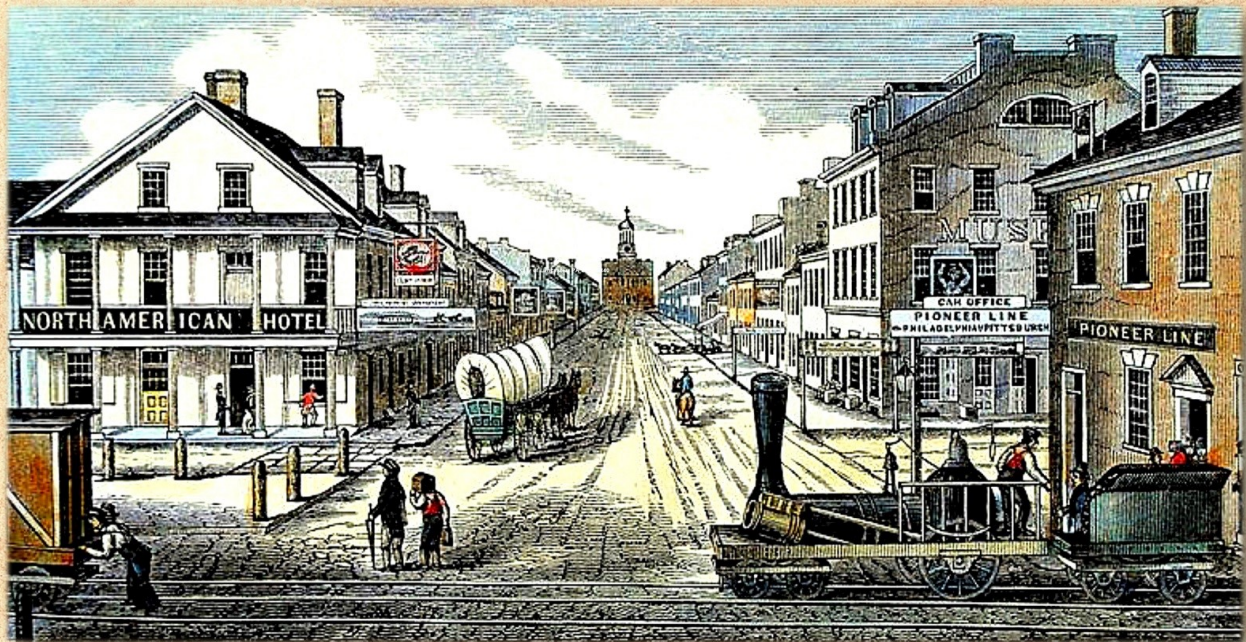


Origins of THE UNDERGROUND RAIL ROAD



Philadelphia & Columbia Railroad at North Queen Street, Lancaster, PA, circa 1840

*Custom tours of heritage sites
in Lancaster County & across
Southeast Pennsylvania*

Conducted by Randolph Harris
Partner, National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom



<http://undergroundrroriginspa.org/>

717-808-2941

rjharris441792@gmail.com

**Tour 5 locations in the City of Lancaster recognized by the
National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom with
authentic connections to this early civil rights movement**

LancasterHistory—A Network to Freedom Facility

**Lancaster County's Historical Society &
President James Buchanan's Wheatland**

The Fulton Theatre

Built on the foundation of the Old Lancaster County Jail

Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Historic Site

Preserved within the Lancaster County Convention Center

Site of the former Philadelphia & Columbia Railroad

Major exhibit about Lancaster City history

Thaddeus Stevens' Grave & Monument

Shreiner-Concord Cemetery

Jan 18, 2021

V2013ZDdavidg

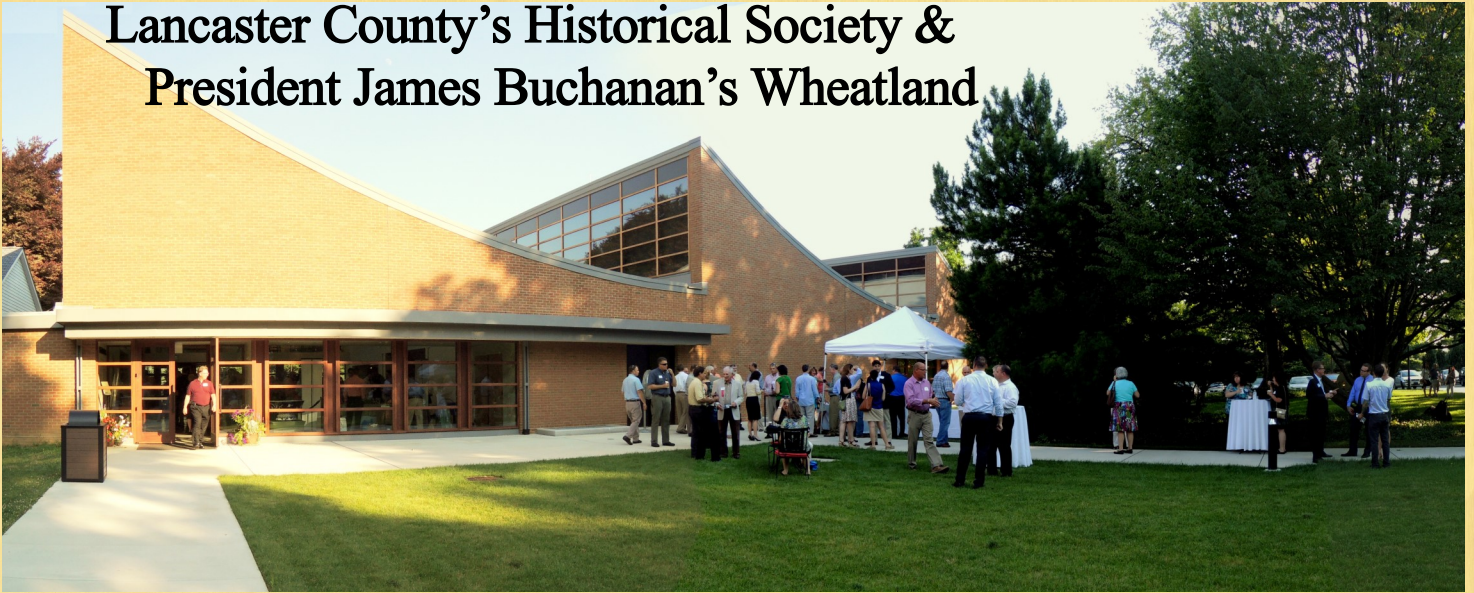
"You will be a better human being by the end of this tour!"

Tripadvisor review: Underground Railroad Walking excursion-City of Lancaster, PA USA

"One of the best tours I have ever taken. If you want a deep understanding of Lancaster's rich history take this tour. Randy is incredibly knowledgeable and willing to answer anything you can think of. Take the tour, see a bunch of incredible things and learn about some pretty amazing people."

LancasterHistory

Lancaster County's Historical Society & President James Buchanan's Wheatland



<https://www.lancasterhistory.org/>

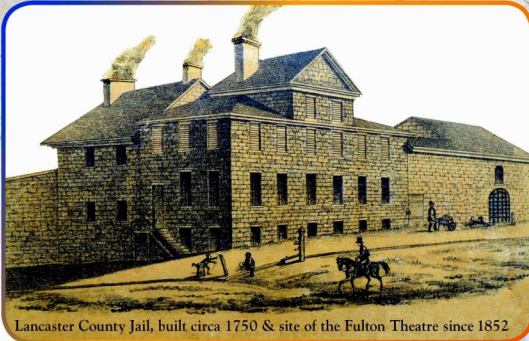
Tours begin on the grounds of this regional museum, research facility and archive. LancasterHistory houses an extensive collection of primary and secondary source material about this area's Underground Railroad heritage. **Access to this facility is not part of this tour.** You are encouraged to make separate arrangements to visit. We meet on the grounds of LancasterHistory for a brief orientation to the walking tour of sites in the nearby heart of the historic City of Lancaster.



The Fulton Theatre

Built on the foundation of the Old Lancaster County Jail

African-American Women Escape County Jail, 1835



Lancaster County Jail, built circa 1750 & site of the Fulton Theatre since 1852



Lancaster County Sheriff, 'Dare Devil Dave' Miller secretly liberated women jailed by bounty hunters

Fulton Theatre, directly opposite of this block, is among the nation's oldest continually operating performance halls. When this site was the location of the Lancaster County Jail, a dramatic episode in Underground Railroad history occurred. The eighteenth-century Prison and Workhouse was demolished down to its foundations in 1851. The Fulton was built on portions of those prison walls, remnants of which are visible along North Water Street.

An unusual escape occurred here in 1835. Two formerly enslaved African-American women, Mrs. John Urick and Mrs. William (Margaret) Wallace, were living freely with their families in rural Lancaster. Bounty hunters abducted the women and Wallace's oldest child and took them by wagon to Lancaster County Jail, with plans to hold them temporarily before returning to the Carolinas.

But an unlikely co-conspirator, Sheriff David Miller, released them.



David Miller (1795-1858)

Surprisingly, the women and child appeared the next morning at the farm of Abolitionist Daniel Gibbons, telling of an incredible escape using only a knife. "I broke jail," one woman said. For several days they moved from safe-house to safe-house telling this story and 'covering' for Miller, who years later admitted to a confidant he opened their cell and let them walk out.

Known as "Dare-Devil Dave," Miller was a veteran, horse racer, entrepreneur and humanitarian. As Sheriff, he suppressed race riots against African Americans in Columbia, Pennsylvania in 1835. The secret jail release was documented in a 2008 report to the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, earning the Fulton and its workhouse foundations the designation as a site with an authentic Underground Railroad connection.

Read this report at: LancasterHistory.org/aah-markers

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
LANCASTER



NATIONAL
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
NETWORK TO FREEDOM

Funding for this marker from Junior League of Lancaster, African American Historical Society of South Central Pennsylvania and Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, a program of The National Park Service/US Department of the Interior. NPS grant applicant and administrator, LancasterHistory.org. Research by Randolph Harris, consulting historian, Lancaster, PA. Design by Sharon Tschudy.



This material is based upon work assisted by a grant from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), funded by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the ASALH or the Department of the Interior.

Sources: Old Jail, Map of the City of Lancaster, PA by Moody & Bridgens, 1850. Courtesy, LancasterHistory.org. Miller portrait by Jacob Eichholtz, 1833, from Jacob Eichholtz, 1776-1842: Portrait Painter of Pennsylvania, Rebecca Beal, 1969.



"Dave delivered the papers to the Courtroom on horseback."

The Sunday News, Lancaster, PA, July 8, 1934. Article details many tales of the swashbuckling sheriff who once rode his steed into a courtroom to impress a judge.

Review

Trip Advisor (Viator) reviews of **Origins of the Underground Railroad** tours conducted by Randolph Harris, Lancaster, PA, a partner in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, an advocate for retaining, conserving and re-purposing historic properties, neighborhoods and landscapes since 1980.

Jun 7, 2021—AshandDeaggo2021

Life Changing!!

Tripadvisor review: Underground Railroad Walking excursion-City of Lancaster, PA USA

This experience was absolutely spectacular. Randy (our guide) has dedicated so much of his time and life into gathering a wealth of information regarding Mr. Stevens and Mrs. Smith. Those 2 people were instrumental in the freeing of slaves and saving the lives of so many African Americans. The fact they have not made it into our children's history book is truly a crime. It is of the utmost importance to learn this history in order to teach our kiddos. If you have the ability to go to Lancaster and take this tour; it will change your life. I feel honored to have been able to spend hours with Randy and soak in the amount of history and knowledge he provides to you on this amazing tour of Lancaster, PA. Randy so kind and explains things in detail that really only he has due to the amount of work he has put into research. This was a highlight of our vacation and we will be back for the tour of Mr. Steven's home/museum once completed in 2022-2023.

Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Historic Site



A heritage attraction work in process.

Expected public opening 2024



Located inside the Vine Street entrance to the Lancaster County Convention Center
City of Lancaster, PA.

Reviews—Published by TripAdvisor

May 23, 2021

kathil241

Great introduction to the city and its history.

Tripadvisor review: Underground Railroad Walking excursion-City of Lancaster, PA USA

The graveyards were my favorite part of the tour, also just walking around downtown Lancaster showed us a lot that we'd like to return for.

Jun 14, 2021

Karen_H

Very accommodating

Tripadvisor review: Underground Railroad Walking excursion-City of Lancaster, PA USA

Randy was very knowledgeable and took his time and patience to explain things to our preteen grandchildren.

May 19, 2021

Theresaevans_E

Underground Railroad tour

Viator review: Underground Railroad Walking excursion-City of Lancaster, PA USA

Absolutely fabulous! We learned so much! The walk is lovely. Mr Harris spoke informatively and precise about everything! Highly recommend!

Response published

undergroundRRorigins, Owner

Posted on: May 23, 2021

The best thing a tour conductor can receive from guests is a comment about learning something they never knew before...a story that they wished they learned in school, and now they will try to find out more. Thanks so much Theresa.

The Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Historic Site

Funding for this display provided by the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, a program of The National Park Service/US Department of the Interior, LancasterHistory.org, and African-American Historical Society of South Central Pennsylvania.

This community history initiative has been assisted by a grant from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), funded by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Any opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the ASALH or the Department of the Interior.

For more information, visit LancasterHistory.org/aah-markers

Research by Randolph Harris, consulting historian, Lancaster, PA. Design by Michael Abel and Randolph Harris. Lighting design by Stephen M. Daniels Electrical Contractors, Lancaster, PA.

Watch this space for announcements about progress toward the launch of a new phase of improvements at this historic site, which will begin in 2020.



LancasterHistory.org

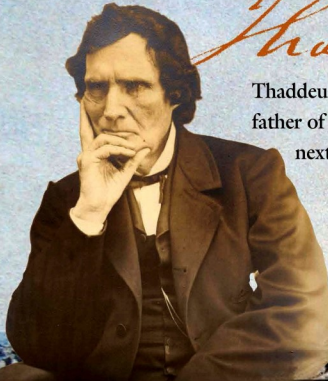


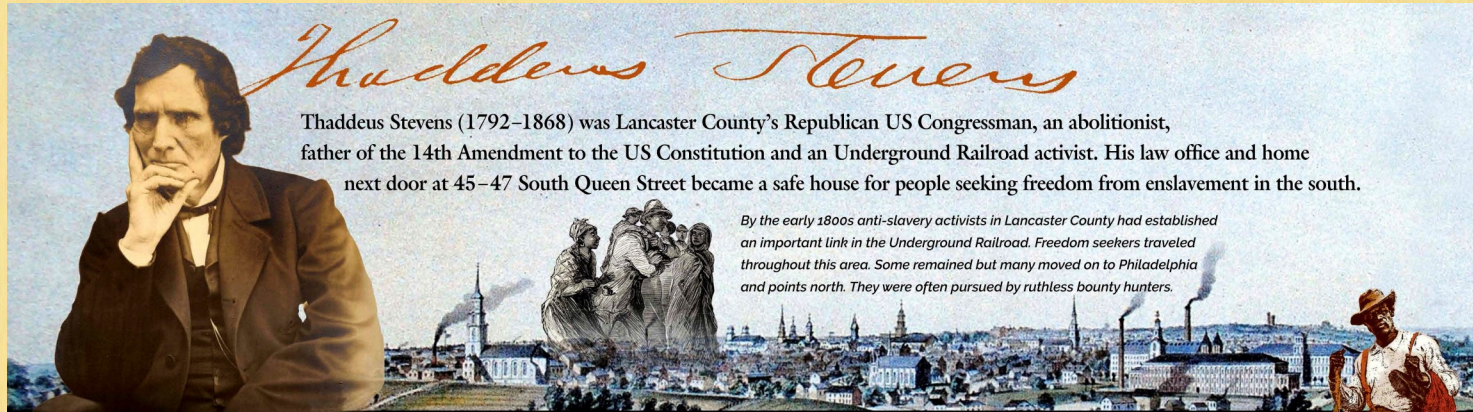
NATIONAL
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
NETWORK TO FREEDOM



Thaddeus Stevens


Thaddeus Stevens (1792–1868) was Lancaster County's Republican US Congressman, an abolitionist, father of the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution and an Underground Railroad activist. His law office and home next door at 45–47 South Queen Street became a safe house for people seeking freedom from enslavement in the south.

By the early 1800s anti-slavery activists in Lancaster County had established an important link in the Underground Railroad. Freedom seekers traveled throughout this area. Some remained but many moved on to Philadelphia and points north. They were often pursued by ruthless bounty hunters.

1786 The Kleiss Family establishes a tavern, brewery and their residence here at 45–47 South Queen Street.	1792 April 4. Thaddeus Stevens is born near Danville, Vermont, to Joshua and Sarah Morrill Stevens.	1815 February 14. Lydia Hamilton Smith is born at Russell's Tavern in Adams County, Pennsylvania, to an African American mother and an Irish father.	1816 Stevens begins practicing law in Gettysburg, PA.	1835 Stevens' speech in defense of the Free Schools Act of 1834, moves the Pennsylvania Senate to support the act. On his death bed, Stevens said this was his greatest accomplishment.	1842 Stevens moves to Lancaster and within a year acquires the Kleiss Tavern, brewery and home at 45–47 South Queen Street through sheriff sale. He rents a town home across the street, allowing the Kleiss family to remain for a time.	1844 Mrs. Smith, widow of free man, Jacob Smith, accepts position as Stevens' housekeeper and moves into the Congressman's Lancaster home with her two young sons.	1847 Stevens regularly pays agents to infiltrate bounty hunters, thwarting their plans by alerting Underground Railroad activists before their arrival.	1848 Stevens occupies Kleiss residence and establishes law office there. A band of freedom seekers from Maryland arrives unexpectedly at Stevens' home in early August. Stevens provides food and directions to the next safe house on the Underground Railroad, seven miles east.
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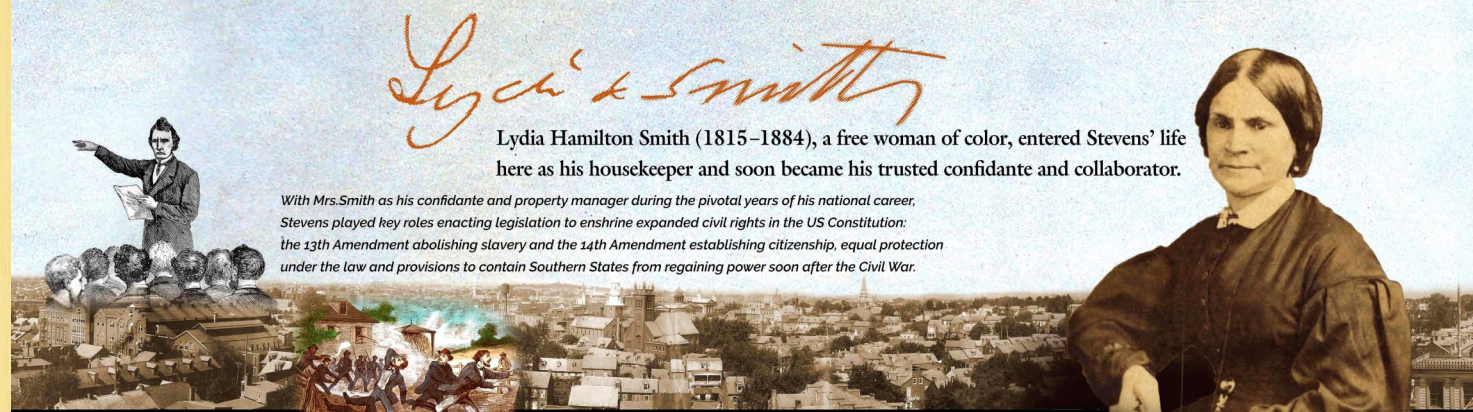
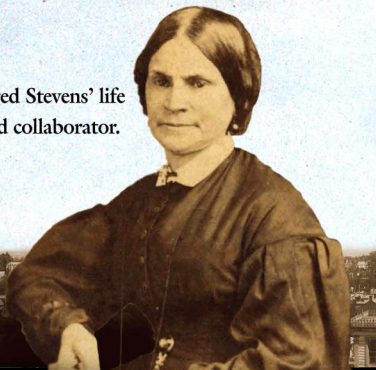
Images left to right: Lancaster from the Southeast, Charles Parsons, Joseph T. Palmistry, publisher, 1843; Thaddeus Stevens, by Matthew Brady, 1865, Library of Congress; American Exodus, from The Underground Railroad, William Still, 1875; Stevens & Smith home, office and former Kleiss Tavern, David McHenry Stauffer, 1882; LancasterHistory.org; Freedom Seeker, New York Public Library; Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

LancasterHistory.org 

Lydia Hamilton Smith


Lydia Hamilton Smith (1815–1884), a free woman of color, entered Stevens' life here as his housekeeper and soon became his trusted confidante and collaborator.

With Mrs. Smith as his confidante and property manager during the pivotal years of his national career, Stevens played key roles enacting legislation to enshrine expanded civil rights in the US Constitution: the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery and the 14th Amendment establishing citizenship, equal protection under the law and provisions to contain Southern States from regaining power soon after the Civil War.

1848 Stevens is nominated by Whig county convention as congressional candidate and later that year is elected to 31st US Congress.	1851 September 11. In Christiansburg, Lancaster County, a group of African Americans and white abolitionists skirmish with a Maryland posse intent on capturing four freedom seekers sheltered on a farm just outside of town. Stevens helps to successfully defend the 38 accused in the Christiansburg Resistance on trial at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, charged with treason against the United States and facing a possible death sentence.	1858 Stevens elected to US Congress as member of the newly formed Republican Party.	1864 March 28. In the House, Stevens introduces 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery.	1868 February 24 in fading health, Stevens leads the effort to impeach President Andrew Johnson. July 28 14th Amendment ratified, regarded by many historians as Stevens' most notable achievement. August 11 Stevens dies in Washington, DC. His body lies in state for two days in the Capitol Rotunda and is returned to his Lancaster home. He is buried at Shreiner-Concord Cemetery, Lancaster.	1875 Mrs. Smith acquires these Lancaster properties from the Congressman's estate, using in part, a \$5000 bequest from Stevens. She also acquired and operated a boarding house in Washington DC near the White House.	1884 February 14 Mrs. Smith dies in Washington DC. Her body is brought to Lancaster with a wake at her property and burial at Saint Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Lancaster.
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Image sources left to right: Lancaster panoramic, photography by Haverkamp, c. 1900; Stevens rallies impeachment forces in Congress, 1868, Harper's Weekly; The Resistance at Christiansburg, 1851, from The Underground Railroad, William Still, 1875; Lydia Hamilton Smith in her later years, circa 1875, photographer unknown, LancasterHistory.org

LancasterHistory.org 

Reviews—Published by TripAdvisor

May 5, 2021

LouiseLouisiana

A walk through time

Tripadvisor review: Underground Railroad Walking excursion-City of Lancaster, PA USA

Randy knew the old stories of the Underground Railroad and the new stories of the difficult fight to preserve the history. We loved this tour and highly recommend it.

Apr 30, 2021

Chad-Christie-Brewer

Better Than Expected!

Viator review: Underground Railroad Walking excursion-City of Lancaster, PA USA

There is so much history in Lancaster, and I didn't realize the role Lancaster played in the Underground Railroad. The best part of the tour, besides the history being quite interesting, was the expertise Randy has as the tour guide. He was excellent. Unbelievably knowledgeable. Highly recommend this tour.



Tour Conductor Randolph Harris with students from the School District of Lancaster at the Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Historic Site

Apr 20, 2021

jamesbB8267RQ

Brought the Underground Railroad to Vivid To Life

Tripadvisor review: Underground Railroad Walking excursion-City of Lancaster, PA USA

Our 3 hour tour in and around Lancaster felt like a trip back in time. Mr Harris, our guide, had abundance of knowledge of life in the era that was matched by his passion for his subject.

Apr 18, 2021

Adventure402643

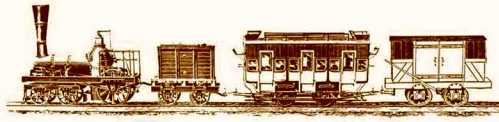
This is a must do in Lancaster.

Tripadvisor review: Underground Railroad Walking excursion-City of Lancaster, PA USA

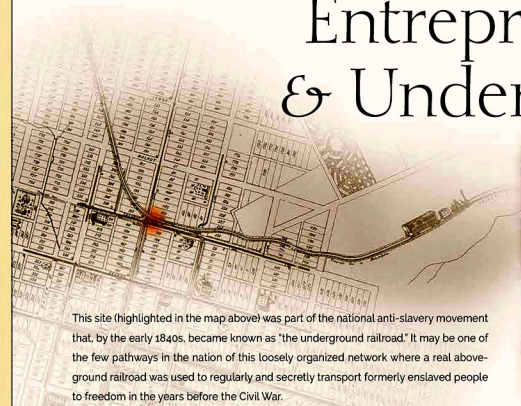
Our guide, Randy was excellent. We learned so much history that none of us had learned in school, especially about Thaddeus Stevens and Lydia Hamilton Smith.

Site of the former Philadelphia & Columbia Railroad

Major exhibit about Lancaster City history



Entrepreneurs, Philanthropists & Underground Railroad Agents



This site (highlighted in the map above) was part of the national anti-slavery movement that, by the early 1840s, became known as "the underground railroad." It may be one of the few pathways in the nation of this loosely organized network where a real above-ground railroad was used to regularly and secretly transport formerly enslaved people to freedom in the years before the Civil War.

Lancaster's downtown railroad station was located on this site beginning in 1834, when the state-owned and operated Main Line of Public Works first spanned the Commonwealth from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. The first leg of the Main Line went into operation as the Philadelphia & Columbia Railroad. By 1838, this railroad became a critical, secret link for thousands of people of African descent who liberated themselves from slavery in the southern states of America.



Many found their way to Columbia, Lancaster County, that "great depot of Underground Railroad" — on the Susquehanna Riverfront twelve miles west to the west. From here, the tracks go east some seventy miles to Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia & Columbia Railroad was the second railroad ever to operate in the United States and both privately owned passenger and freight cars moved through this site. Businesses built their own cars and paid fees to couple with the state-owned steam engines, operated by public employees of the Commonwealth.



WILLIAM WHIPPER



STEPHEN SMITH

William Whipper (1804–1876) and his brother-in-law, Stephen Smith (1796–1873) were prosperous lumber merchants and real estate owners in Columbia, Pennsylvania. They owned some thirteen freight cars to move their products to Philadelphia, through this station. For more than twenty years, with assistance from the notable Underground Railroad activist, William Wright (1788–1846), also of Columbia, they fitted their freight cars with a false wall at one end. Freedom seekers were concealed behind this partition, likely gaining entry from a

secret outside door. This train line enabled them to reach Philadelphia in about eight hours. By the 1840s, Black businessman William C. Goodridge of York, Pennsylvania also used this ingenious transport method, along this same corridor. This secret system operated at least until the mid-1850s. The existing Amtrak corridor from Lancaster to Philadelphia was recognized in 2010 by the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.



NATIONAL
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
NETWORK TO FREEDOM



AFRICAN AMERICAN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
of South Central PA

Funding for this display provided by the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, a program of The National Park Service/US Department of the Interior, the South Central Texas Authority, owner of this site, and a donation by Fred Water of Lancaster to the African American Historical Society of South Central Pennsylvania. This community history initiative has been assisted by a grant from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASAAHL) and support from LancasterHistory.org. Any opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the ASAAHL or the Department of the Interior. Images: William Whipper from the Freedmen Art Museum, Cooperstown, NY; Stephen Smith from the Philadelphia History Museum, Philadelphia, PA. Illustration by Michael Abel, courtesy of The Amtrak Experience Hugs, Lancaster Show at Plum & Fancy Farms, Bird-in-Hand, PA. Train adapted from illustrations in A History of the Pennsylvania Railroad, 1846–1896, Williams, 1896. Research: Randolph Harris, consulting historian, Lancaster, PA, 2000–2012. Design by Michael Abel and Randolph Harris. For more information, visit LancasterHistory.org/raah-museums.

More Reviews—Published by TripAdvisor

Apr 17, 2021

stephanie_b

History can be fun

Viator review: Underground Railroad Walking excursion-City of Lancaster, PA USA

My kids loved Randy, our tour guide. He engaged them and made history interesting. Still talks about what a nice guy he was. Best part is they actually paid attention and retained the information.

Response published

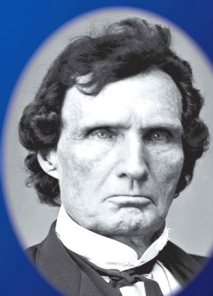
UndergroundRRorigins, Manager

Posted on: Apr 18, 2021

Dear Stephanie and family: Young people transform these tours into a more meaningful learning experience for me. Thank you so much for your comments. Great to be with you.

Thaddeus Stevens' Grave & Monument

Shreiner-Concord Cemetery

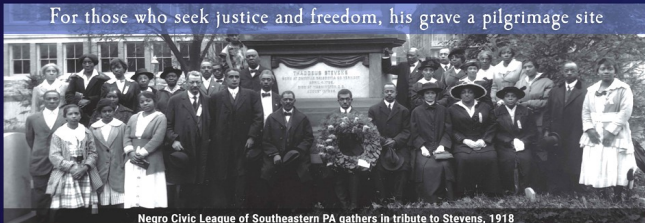


Thaddeus Stevens
"The Old Commoner"
(1792-1868)


- ✦ Employed freedom seekers at his iron furnace in Franklin County, PA 1830s-50s
- ✦ Sheltered formerly enslaved men at his Lancaster home, 1848
- ✦ Paid spies to thwart bounty hunters, 1840s
- ✦ Radical Republican Congressman – Father of the 14th Amendment

Underground Railroad activist, champion for human rights

For those who seek justice and freedom, his grave a pilgrimage site

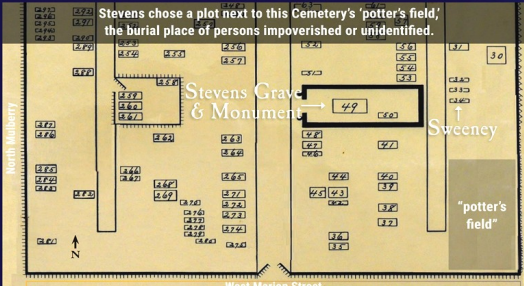


Negro Civic League of Southeastern PA gathers in tribute to Stevens, 1918



Lydia Hamilton Smith
(1815-1884)

Stevens' property manager and confidante, Mrs. Smith provided funds in her will for perpetual care of the Congressman's grave and monument.




Stevens chose a plot next to this Cemetery's 'potter's field,' the burial place of persons impoverished or unidentified.

Stevens Grave & Monument

Sweeney

"potter's field"



Gravestone of Jonathan Sweeney

Funding for this marker from Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, a program of The National Park Service/US Department of the Interior; LancasterHistory.org; additional funds from African American Historical Society of South Central Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania State Representative P. Michael Sturla; and Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology. Research by Randolph Harris, consulting historian, Lancaster, PA. Design by Sharon Tschudy and Randolph Harris. This material is based upon work assisted by a grant from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), funded by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Any opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the ASALH or the Department of the Interior. Sources: Column by Robert Blair Risk (1848-1920). Editor, The Lancaster Daily Examiner, May 30, 1865. Stevens, Smith photographs and cemetery plan courtesy, LancasterHistory.org. Negro Civic League photograph courtesy of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Lancaster. For more information, visit LancasterHistory.org/aah-markers

Review—Published by TripAdvisor

Mar 20, 2021

kreD4ylee

Worth Every Cent and Minute!

Tripadvisor review: Underground Railroad Walking excursion-City of Lancaster, PA USA

This was one of the best historical tours I have been on! Randy, our tour guide, was very knowledgeable and passionate about the history of Lancaster County. He gives you an experience beyond the textbooks and was very accommodating. It was worth the 1:30 drive. We will be ...Show all

Response published

undergroundRRorigins, Owner

Posted on: Mar 27, 2021

Dear Jakreisha - So nice of you to share your kind review of our tour together. My experience is always more rewarding when there are young people in a group. Thank you for organizing this excursion with me for your family and friends. Come back soon.

