

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.



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.

1822 September a key month for young Martin Delany (1812–1885). His free mother Pati moved her family to

Chambersburg so Martin could continue to learn to read and write, which was illegal in Virginia. Noted journalist, author, physician & Civil War military leader; considered the *Father of Black Nationalism*.

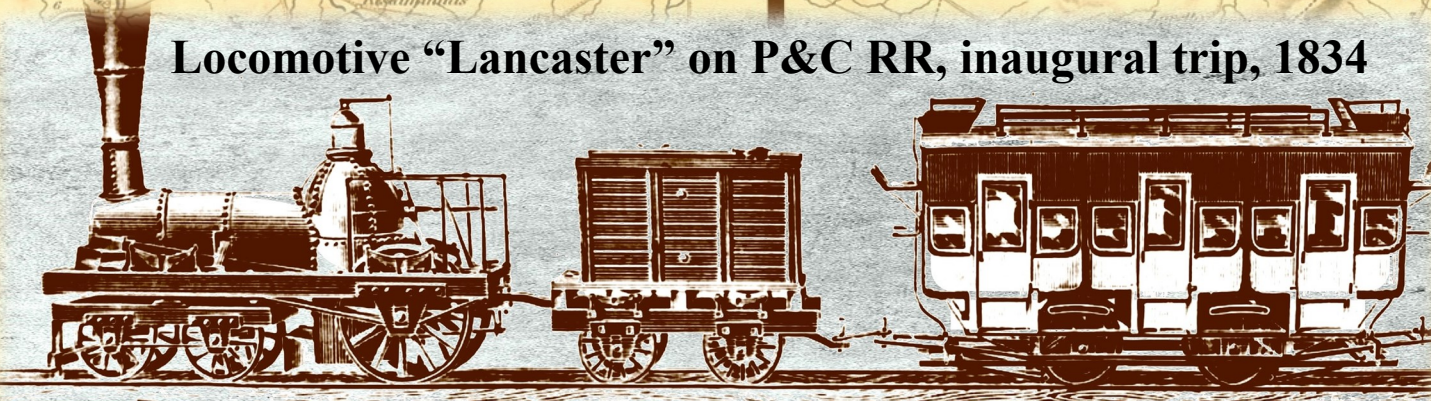
1825 Sep. 24 —

Born: Frances Ellen Watkins Harper. Poet, author, 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.



1832 Sep. 20 —

Philadelphia & Columbia Railroad opens first 20 miles of track west from Philadelphia. By 1838 these trains become a 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. 18 —



Congress adopts Fugitive Slave Act; requires return of enslaved to owners, even if they are living in or found to be in free states.

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.



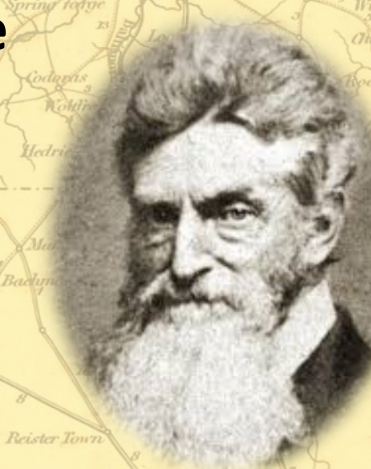
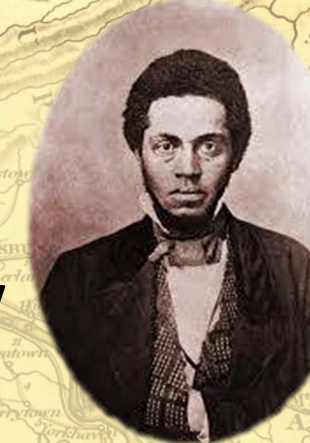
1853 Sep. 3-Wilkes-Barre 'in immortal splendor'

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

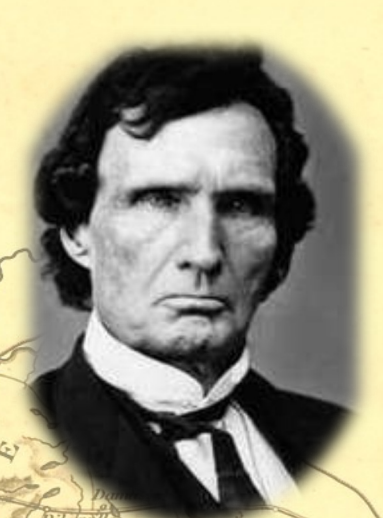
Sep. 24 — Osborne Perry Anderson meets John Brown at Middletown, PA to begin their fateful trek south to the Kennedy Farm and Harper's Ferry.



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.



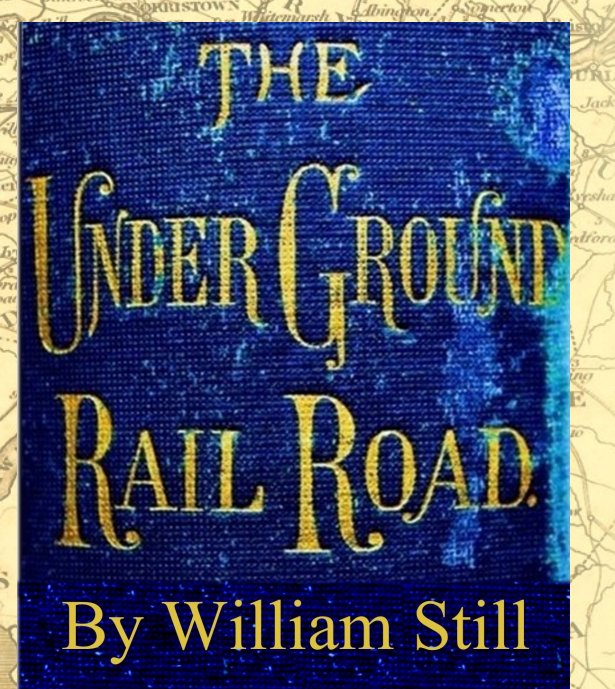
1865 Sep. 6 —

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.



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