A black and white photograph of two men in front of a stone building. One man stands holding a sword, the other sits.

The Struggle Against Slavery

The Local Perspective on a National Divide



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Questions to Consider

- How would you compare the process of abolition in Pennsylvania to that of the rest of the states?
- How does religious background and theology play into the abolition movement?
- How can we make connections between these stories and objects to create a more holistic view of the abolition movement in Lancaster County?
- How should historians take steps to tell these stories?

Gradual Abolition Timeline

How did the process of Gradual Abolition distinguish Pennsylvania from other states?

What feelings does the poem by Harriet Beecher Stowe evoke?

Runaway Slave Handbill

**Ranaway from the Subscriber, on
Tuesday Morning last, 4th June,
Two Negro Men:**

☞ One of them named WILSON,—he is about 23 years old, 5 feet 9 or 10 inches high, dark complexion, nearly black, tall and straight, tolerably stout built, bushy hair, clothing not recollected.

☞ JOHN (brother to Wilson) is about 21 or 22 years old, about 5 feet 8 inches high, not quite so dark as Wilson. He had on when he went away, a pair of thick white cotton duck trousers and drab roundabout.

☞ The above reward will be paid if arrested and secured out of this State or the District of Columbia, and 50 dollars for each of them if arrested and secured in this State.

DAVID M. BROGDEN,
Near Davidsville, A. A. County, Md.

BALTIMORE, 6th May, 1844.

Printed by LUCAS & DEEVER, Calvert street, (second door from Lovely Lane.)—Baltimore.

The boys brought this Handbill

**200 Dolls.
REWARD!**

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The boys brought this handbill
44
25

Runaway Slave Handbill

A handbill requesting the return of two runaway slaves, advertising a reward. This was issued by David M. Brogden out of Baltimore, MD in 1844.

This was printed before the Fugitive Slave Act, so it was based out of capital interest, not legislation at the time.

Why would this have been advertised in the Lancaster County/ Central Pennsylvania area?

Imagine being someone who was formerly enslaved living in Pennsylvania. What would it be like to see posters and handbills like this?

Slave Owners Book

Are you surprised by the number of slaves and slave owners in Lancaster County? Why or why not?

Which township(s) had the most slaves? Why might some townships have had significantly more slaves than others?



The Underground Railroad

A Letter from William Whipper to Still

“Now the slaves are emancipated, and we are all enfranchised, after struggling for existence, freedom, and manhood – I feel thankful for having had the glorious privilege of laboring with others for the redemption of my race from oppression and thralldom; and I would prefer to-day to be penniless in the streets, rather than to have withheld a single hour’s labor or a dollar from the sacred cause of liberty, justice, and humanity.”

-William Whipper



The Underground Railroad

A Letter from William Whipper to Still

How did William Whipper contribute directly to the cause of emancipation?

How did things change after the passing of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850?

The Christiana Resistance



Peter Woods, left, and Samuel Hopkins pose with the corn knife used in the Christiana Resistance in front of the ruins of the home of William Parker.

The Christiana Resistance (1851)

The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 required that all captured runaway slaves be returned to their owners and that those aiding runaways suffer the full legal consequences of their actions. On September 11, 1851, William Parker, a freedman living near Christiana, chose to oppose this law when Maryland slave owner Edward Gorsuch and a posse of supporters arrived to claim his property. The skirmish ensued left Gorsuch dead, his son wounded and William Parker and several others charged with treason. Parker and his family sought freedom in Canada. The Christiana Resistance was a spark in the mounting tension between North and South.



The Christiana Resistance (1851)

How did the Fugitive Slave Act contribute to rising tensions?

How does this photo portray the survivors of the resistance?



Habeas Corpus Papers

“These are to command you the said Const: forthwith to convent and deliver into the Custody of the said Keeper of the said Common Jail: the Body of Gillmore Hull charged before Sam Slokum, a Justice of the Peace in and for the said County with Kidnapping a free colored man in said County. And you the said Keeper are hereby required to receive the Gillmore Hull into your custody in the said Common Jail, and him there safely Keep until carefully discharged & c.”

a noteworthy
side-note

“& c” can be
read as “etc.”



Habeas Corpus Papers

What can we learn about how free people of color were viewed at this time?

What are some of the challenges that come with analyzing primary sources?

A Stop on the Way

The Thaddeus Steven & Lydia Hamilton Smith Site



The Thaddeus
Stevens & Lydia
Hamilton Smith
Historic Site at 45 S
Queen St, now
built into the
Marriot
Convention Center
building

A Stop on the Way

The Thaddeus Steven & Lydia Hamilton Smith Site

Thaddeus Stevens (1792-1868), a powerful statesman, fought in Congress and in the courtroom for the abolition of slavery and for the equality of Americans of African descent in the decades prior to and during the Civil War, and in the era of Reconstruction. His legacy is aligned with two of the great reforms of the nineteenth century: the establishment of free public education and the codification of the principle of equality before the law for all Americans, regardless of race. Recent research has confirmed the long-held conviction of Stevens' active involvement in the Underground Railroad, assisting fugitive slaves by harboring them at his property at 45 South Queen Street.

A Stop on the Way

The Thaddeus Steven & Lydia Hamilton Smith Site

Lydia Hamilton Smith was an accomplished African American businesswoman in her own right, as Stevens' house manager and confidant for twenty years, Smith helped shape Stevens' philosophy toward equal rights and strengthened his abhorrence of slavery. Smith worked with Stevens to help enslaved people escape to freedom using the network of the Underground Railroad. Following Stevens' death she prospered as an entrepreneurial woman, an accomplishment made all the more remarkable by the fact that she was a black woman in a largely segregated society. Smith's story provides a unique opportunity to explore the lives of women, especially enterprising black women, in nineteenth-century America.

A Stop on the Way

The Thaddeus Steven & Lydia Hamilton Smith Site

Why is it important to preserve historic sites?

What can we learn from these sites?

As a woman of color, Lydia Hamilton Smith identified with several minority groups at this time. Why is it important, as historians, to tell her story?

Abolition Divides the Meeting House

“While some Quakers in eastern and southern Lancaster County possessed slaves, a score and more of these peace-loving people believed slavery to be contrary to their faith and were engaged in helping victims of the practice gain freedom.”

Abolition Divides the Meeting House

How did the Yearly Meetings rule on issues of slavery and abolition?

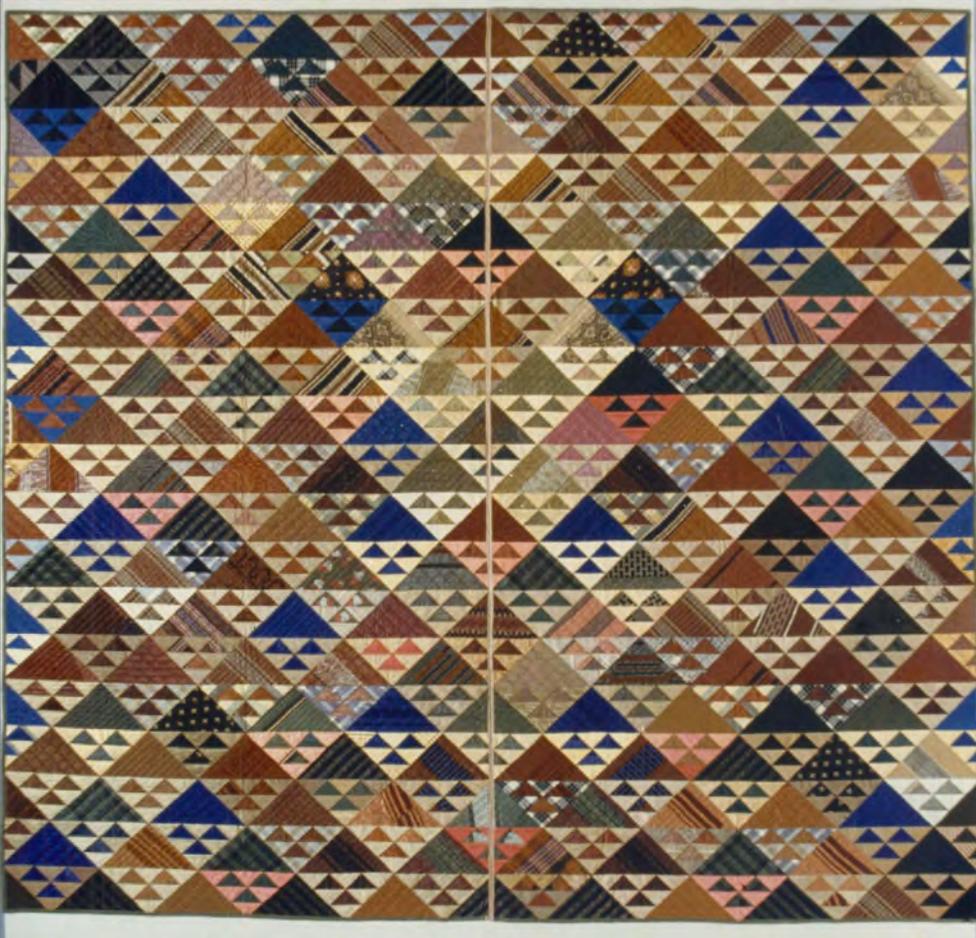
What was the theological justification for and against slavery?

How did the Quakers, as a group, take a stand against slavery?

How did individuals take action?

Stitching Together a Divided Nation

Quilt with Abolitionist Imagery



Stitching Together a Divided Nation

Quilt with Abolitionist Imagery

Pieced quilt of silks, cotton batting, glazed cotton back, cut in 2 halves, made by Quaker Deborah Simmons Coates, wife of Lindley Coates (1794-1856). Has 19 horizontal bands of dress silks (many produced by Harmonist Community) in alternating triangles arranged in Birds in the Air or Flying Geese pattern using the template method. Large triangles of varying patterns alternate with large triangles with 3 smaller appliqued triangles of contrasting patterns. Colors are browns, tans, beiges, electric and royal blue, peach and green. Each quilt half has a green silk binding on the three outside edges, and tan silk on the inner vertical cut edge. Quilting patterns are clamshell, diamond, cross in a square and diagonals.

Stitching Together a Divided Nation

Quilt with Abolitionist Imagery

At quilt center is a cream-colored triangle with an abolitionist stamp depicting a kneeling black male slave in chains over the words: "Deliver me from the oppression/ of man." This stamped triangle was cut in two when quilt was divided; image now hidden by modern binding. According to Cuesta Benberry research, this kneeling slave image originated with the English ceramic firm of Wedgwood in the late 1700s. The Wedgwood family were ardent abolitionists, decorating various ceramics with this image, resulting in its rapid adoption by American anti-slavery groups. Used in many forms and media over the years, it remains the logo of the still-existing Pennsylvania Abolition Society and appears on organization's official publications.



Stitching Together a Divided Nation

Quilt with Abolitionist Imagery

What statement did Coates hope to make with this piece?