LancasterHistory’s Subject Guides follow the same format and are designed to help you identify the types of resources best suited to your needs. The first half focuses on resources that are available remotely. First, you will find helpful online resources from other organizations, and second, materials from our collections that have been digitized and made available online.

The second half of the guide includes materials that are available to access on-site at LancasterHistory in our Research Center. First are materials from our Archives. Each listing includes a link to the Finding Aid so that you can learn more about the items in that manuscript group. Next are materials in the Library collection, which can be found in our catalog by searching for the title and located on-site using the call number listed here. Next are items from our Photograph collection, which include links to the object record with the digital photograph attached. Finally, we have listed items from our Artifact collection, which can be found by searching for the Object ID or by following the direct link to the object record in our catalog.

If you have any questions about how to use these guides or need to report a broken link, please email research@lancasterhistory.org.

If you would like to schedule an appointment at our Research Center or learn more about visiting, you can do so here: https://www.lancasterhistory.org/research/
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Online Resources

The Abolition of the Slave Trade:

Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writer’s Project 1936 to 1938:

Educational Resources for Through Darkness to Light: Photographs Along the Underground Railroad:
https://www.evanstonhistorycenter.org/education/educational-resources-for-through-darkness-to-light-photographs-along-the-underground-railroad/

Enslaved: Peoples of the Historical Slave Trade:
https://enslaved.org/

Escaping Slavery, Building Diverse Communities: Stories of the Search for Freedom in the Capital Region Since the Civil War:
https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/98843655e3474b9ab19a2afe250f0f22
Frederick Douglass Papers at the Library of Congress:  
https://www.loc.gov/collections/frederick-douglass-papers/about-this-collection/

Freedom on the Move – Rediscovering Stories of Self-Liberating People: 
https://freedomonthemove.org/

Harper’s Weekly Civil War Newspapers:  
http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/the-civil-war.htm

“How Peter Oliver Freed Himself” – LancasterHistory:  
https://www.lancasterhistory.org/peter-oliver-freed/

Making of America (pre-Civil War through Reconstruction):  
https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moagrp/

Maryland State Archives Presents Legacy of Slavery in Maryland:  

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center – Online Resources:  
https://freedomcenter.org/learn/online-learning-resources/

Slavery and Remembrance – a Guide to Sites, Museums, and Memory: 
http://slaveryandremembrance.org/

Slavery Images – A Visual Record of the African Slave Trade and Slave Life in the Early African Diaspora:  
http://www.slaveryimages.org/s/slaveryimages/page/welcome

Underground Railroad Journey to Freedom – National Parks Service:  
https://www.nps.gov/subjects/undergroundrailroad/learn.htm

Visualizing Emancipation:  
https://dsl.richmond.edu/emancipation/

Wilbur H. Siebert Underground Railroad Index of Participants:  
https://secure.in.gov/dnr/historic-preservation/learn-about-topics/underground-railroad/underground-railroad-index/

Digitized Articles and Books from LancasterHistory

“How Peter Oliver Freed Himself” – LancasterHistory:  
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo545

“An anti-slavery reminiscence”  
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo7813
“The attitude of James Buchanan (a citizen of Lancaster County) towards the institution of slavery in the United States”
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo7814

“The Christiana Riot: an evaluation of its national significance”
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo824

“The Christiana riot of 1851: a reappraisal”
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo252

“The Christiana Riot and the treason trials of 1851: an historical sketch”
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo7815

“The Columbia Race Riots”
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo4216

“The early abolitionists of Lancaster County”
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo8501

“The impact of the Fugitive Slave Law on Harrisburg: a case study”
https://journals.psu.edu/pmhb/article/view/44087/43808

“John and Mary; or, The fugitive slaves. A tale of south-eastern Pennsylvania”
https://hdl.handle.net/2027/hvd.hx5a5m

“Lancaster County’s Relation to Slavery”
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo562

“Limits of revolutionary radicalism: Thomas Paine and slavery”
https://journals.psu.edu/pmhb/article/view/45309/45030

“Meeting to prevent the introduction of slaves into any territory or state admitted into the Union”
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo2822

“Meetings in Lancaster County to oppose slavery in District of Columbia”
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo2965

https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo1839

“No balm in Gilead: Lancaster’s African-American population and the Civil War Era”
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo93

“Notes and documents: Chattel with a soul: the autobiography of a Moravian slave”
https://journals.psu.edu/pmhb/article/view/44336/44057
Notes and documents: a Pennsylvanian visits the Richmond slave market
https://journals.psu.edu/pmhb/article/view/44088/43809

Plantations for slave labor: the death of the yeomanry
https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.31175035177727

“The position of Lancaster County on the Missouri Compromise”
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo408

Record of the returns made in writing and delivered to me as Clerk of Lancaster by possessor of Negro or mulatto children born after March 1, 1780...agreeably to an Act of Assembly of the State of Pa. entitled "An Act to explain and amend an Act entitled an Act for the gradual abolition of slavery"
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo19309

“A review of the political conflict in America, from the commencement of the anti-slavery agitation to the close of southern reconstruction; comprising also a resume of the career of Thaddeus Stevens: being a survey of the struggle of parties which destroyed the republic and virtually monarchized its government”
https://archive.org/details/reviewofpolitica01harr/page/n3/mode/2up

“Sidelights on slavery”
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo8160

“Speech of the Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, of Pennsylvania, on the subject of the admission of slavery in the territories”
https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc2.arl:/13960/t82j69c1j

“Thaddeus Stevens and slavery”
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo7977

“William Parker, the hero of the Christiana Riot”
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo4079

LancasterHistory’s On-Site Resources

Archives Collection

African American History Records Collection

Beechdale Duck Farm Records (Daniel and Hannah Gibbons):
Finding Aid: https://www.lancasterhistory.org/finding-aids/beechdale-duck-farm-records/
Library Collection

Non-bibliographic Materials

**Microfilm: Drawer 3, sec. 2: #206** Lancaster Co. Clerk of Courts (Clerk of the Peace): Index to slaves, 1780-1834

**Microfilm: Drawer 3, sec. 2: #206** Lancaster Co. Clerk of Courts (Clerk of the Peace): Returns of negro and mulatto children born after the year 1780, June 7, 1788-Nov. 13, 1793

Books

289.6 S679 Quakers & slavery: a divided spirit

301.451 O12 New freedoms, old miseries the emergence and disruption of black communities in southeastern Pennsylvania, 1780-1860

301.451 O12n Negro communities in Southeastern Pennsylvania towns: the formative period, 1780-1860

320.973 A532 Nativism and slavery: the northern Know Nothings and the politics of the 1850's

326 A512 American convention for promoting the abolition of slavery and improving the condition of the African race at Philadelphia, in October, 1819, to the people of the United States

326 B515 Making of African America: The four great migrations

326 B651 African Americans in Pennsylvania: above ground and underground: an illustrated guide

326 B878 The Negro in Pennsylvania history

326 D816 The Philadelphia Negro; a social study

326 G983 The Black family in slavery and freedom, 1750-1925


326 H823 Slavery and the making of America

326 L244h Negro registry; or Mayor's register of coloured persons, 1820 - 1849; or Negro entry book

326 L862 Slave owners in 1790, 1800, etc., in Pennsylvania
326 M482 Biography of an antislavery city: antislavery advocates, abolitionists, and underground railroad activists in Harrisburg, PA

326 M533 Centennial anniversary of the Pennsylvania Society, for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery, the relief of free Negroes unlawfully held in bondage, and for improving the condition of the African race

326 N249 Freedom by degrees: emancipation in Pennsylvania and its aftermath

326 P415 The Pennsylvania Abolition Society & the Pennsylvania Black: two hundredth anniversary exhibition, April 17, 1974-July 17, 1974, at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania: from its collections, those of Charles L. Blockson, and others

326 S631 Slavery and freedom in the age of the American Revolution

326 S643 Blacks who stole themselves: advertisements for runaways in the Pennsylvania gazette, 1728-1790

326 S645 On the edge of freedom: the fugitive slave issue in south central Pennsylvania, 1820-1870

326 S741 Spectrum, the magazine for Columbia and Montour Counties (Pa.): Special double issue: Slavery, the Underground Railroad, and Racism in Pennsylvania

326 S797 States of progress: Germans and Blacks in America over 300 years: lectures from the tricentennial of the Germantown protest against slavery

326 T462 Lest we forget: the passage from Africa to slavery and emancipation

326 T945 The Negro in Pennsylvania; slavery-servitude-freedom, 1639-1861

326 R386 Remembering slavery: African Americans talk about their personal experiences of slavery and freedom

326 W825 Witness for freedom: African American voices on race, slavery, and emancipation

326.9 R294p Oversize Record of the returns made in writing and delivered to me as Clerk of Lancaster by possessor of Negro or mulatto children born after March 1, 1780...agreeably to an Act of Assembly of the State of Pa. entitled "An Act to explain and amend an Act entitled an Act for the gradual abolition of slavery"

326.9 R441 Oversize Register of negroe & mulatto slaves & servants, 1780

342.087 F499 An imperfect union: slavery, federalism, and comity

342.73 B167 Prigg v. Pennsylvania: slavery, the Supreme Court, and the ambivalent constitution

704.9 W877 Blind memory: visual representations of slavery in England and America
Beechdale the home of the Gibbons family, near Bird-in-Hand, a station on the Underground Railroad, and some of the people connected with it

[Fulton Opera House, site of old Lancaster County jail]: Application to National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

Thaddeus Stevens home & law office 45-47 South Queen Street, Lancaster, Pennsylvania: Application to National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

James Buchanan’s attitude toward slavery

Lincoln's fiesty foil: Thaddeus Stevens fought even harder for black equality than the Great Emancipator

Equal but separate: the life and career of an African American businessman in Columbia, Pennsylvania, 1796-1841

In hope of liberty: culture, community, and protest among northern free Blacks, 1700-1860

Race and revolution

Emancipating slaves, enslaving free men: a history of the American Civil War

The Anti-slavery record. Vol. I, for 1835

Making freedom: the Underground Railroad and the politics of slavery

Bound for Canaan: the underground railroad and the war for the soul of America

The ground swallowed them up: slavery and the underground railroad in York County, PA

Vigilance in Pennsylvania: Underground railroad activities in the keystone state, 1837-1861

History of the Underground Railroad in Chester and the neighboring counties of Pennsylvania

Researching the underground railroad in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

The Pilgrim's pathway: the underground railroad in Lancaster County

The Underground Railroad
The trackless trail; the story of the Underground Railroad in Kennett Square, Chester county, Pennsylvania, and the surrounding community

Slavery & the underground railroad in south central Pennsylvania

Memory in black and white: race, commemoration, and the post-bellum landscape

The barbarism of slavery. Speech of Hon. Owen Lovejoy, of Illinois

Non-interference by Congress with slavery in the territories speech of Senator Douglas, of Illinois, delivered in the Senate of the United States, May 15 & 16, 1860

But we have no country: the 1851 Christiana, Pennsylvania Resistance

Treason at Christiana, September 11, 1951 The true story of a Battle of Freedom on the Underground Railroad that Rocked the Nation, Threatened Secession of States from the Union and Brought a Charge of Treason by the Federal Government Against 38 Americans

Just over the line: Chester County and the underground railroad. A catalogue to accompany an exhibition organized by the Chester County Historical Society

The Underground Railroad, explorer's map & guide, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

An underground station in Drumore Township

The incident at Quigg's tavern

Our testimony against the sin of slavery

Journal Articles

“Children stolen: maidens pressed”

“An antislavery agent: C.C. Burleigh in Pennsylvania, 1836-1837”

“Philadelphia and the other Underground Railroad”

“Legal practice and pragmatics in the law: the 1821 trials of John Reed, "Fugitive Slave"
905.748 HSP v.141 “‘To friends and all whom it may concerne’: William Southeby's rediscovered 1696 antislavery protest”

905.748 PHA v.50 “Africans on the Delaware: the Pennsylvania slave trade, 1759-1765”

905.748 PHA v. 50 “‘Am I not a woman and a sister?’ the anti-slavery convention of American women, 1837-1839”

905.748 PHA v.54 “Pennsylvania, “immediate emancipation”, and the birth of the American Anti-Slavery Society”

905.748 PHA v.55 “Pennsylvania's antislavery pioneers, 1688-1776”

905.748 PHA v.85 no.2 “Protest and Participation: Reconsidering the Quaker Slave Trade in Early Eighteenth-Century Philadelphia”

905.748 PHMC v. 4 “Black Harrisburg's resistance to slavery”

905.748 PHMC v. 4 “A black underground: resistance to slavery, 1833-1860”

905.748 PMH v.40 n.2 “Amish, Brethren and Mennonites and the Underground Railroad in the Lancaster County Area”

905.748 QH v.63, no.2 “The charismatic origins of the Christian anti-slavery movement in North America”

905.748 QH v.66 “Mid-eighteenth century British Quakerism and the response to the problem of slavery”

905.748 QH v. 67 “The origins of the Quaker crusade against slavery: a review of recent literature”

905.748 QH v.70, no.2 “The American Revolution and the testimony of British Quakers against slave trade”

Articles from the Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society

“Abolition divides the meeting house: Quakers and slavery in early Lancaster County”
Volume 102, number 1 (2000), p. 2-27

“Episcopalian from the design of the Colonial Period to the Civil War”
Volume 105, number 2 (2003), p. 64-88

“The first protest against slavery in America: Germantown, April 18, 1688”
Volume 107, number 4 (2005), p. 188-193
“German religious groups and slavery in Lancaster County prior to the Civil War”
Volume 107, number 4 (2005), p. 158-187

“Our testimony against the sin of slavery”

“Presbyterians and slavery in Lancaster County from the Colonial Period to the Civil War”

“An underground station in Drumore Township”
Volume 55, number 7 (1951), p. 186-188

Photograph Collection

Object ID 2-04-04-19 Photographic Print, Framed runaway slave handbill from 1844
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/d01b4479-95a6-43e2-94d1-960968104684

https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/765676f2-2650-44ee-b619-149160331745
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/1b168d6c-87e6-443f-a980-695833712750

Object ID 957-004 Postcard, Barn used in the Underground Railroad

Object ID 2-14-06-08 Film Negative, Three framed documents including “Return of Slaves”
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/73342b19-f02c-4e6a-99b0-260652261487

Object ID 2-12-01-15 Photographic Print, Peter Woods and Samuel Hopkins, survivors of the Christiana Resistance, outside William Parker’s house

Object ID 2-25-01-17 Photographic Print, House owned by Levi Pownall at the time of the Christiana Resistance
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/3e66187c-358b-40e9-b338-824679735165
Objects Collection

**Object ID G.86.05** Quilt made by Deborah Simmons Coates
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/9c1b00e7-496a-4674-84bf-001778047837

**Object ID G.03.18** Quilt made by Marianna Gibbons
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/a61c94b5-8376-4bab-bdb4-050232295057

**Object ID G.77.09** Chair from the Pownall home, associated with the Christiana Resistance
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/1a4c7fbf-22cc-4b18-b3ad-989927316703

**Object ID 1927.012.1** Corn Knife used in the Christiana Resistance
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/52a0b0f0-864a-4af6-a839-180627097359