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Timeline of Abolition

1644

March 25, 1644

The first group manumission in North America: 11 blacks successful petition the government of New Amsterdam for their freedom.

1646

November 4, 1646

Massachusetts Bay Colony declares two Africans free and orders their return to Africa at public expense.

1663

September 13, 1663

The first recorded slave conspiracy in American colonies surfaces in Gloucester County, Va.

1688



February 18, 1688

The German Mennonite Revolution Against Slavery passes, the first formal anti-slavery protest in colonial America.

1712

April 6, 1712

A slave insurrection takes place in New York City; 21 slaves were executed.

[Related Web Site](#)

1713**January 31, 1713**

Anthony Benezet, a pioneering Quaker abolitionist, is born.

1731**November 9, 1731**

Benjamin Banneker, the black scientist and inventor, is born.

1732**June 20, 1732**

The colony of Georgia is founded with a prohibition on slavery.

1748**September 12, 1748**

Price Hall, a black leader in Boston and founder of the first black Masonic lodge, is born.

1749**January 10, 1749**

The colony of Georgia ends its prohibition of slavery.

1750**September 30, 1750**

Crispus Attucks escapes from slavery in Framingham, Mass. aboard a whaling ship.

1753**July 6, 1753**

The National Council of Colored People is founded in Rochester, N.Y.

1755**March 27, 1755**

Rufus King, an anti-slavery senator, is born.

1758**September 29, 1758**

The Yearly Meeting of Philadelphia Quakers adopts a ban on members participating in the slave trade.

1759**January 17, 1759**

The black sea captain Paul Cuffe, a pioneer in colonization, is born.

1766**September 2, 1766**

James Forten, a Revolutionary War soldier and abolitionist, is born.

1767



July 11, 1767

John Quincy Adams, the 6th president and an anti-slavery congressman, is born.

1770



March 5, 1770

Crispus Attucks is killed in the Boston Massacre.

1772



June 9, 1772

Black patriots join in the burning of the British ship, Gaspee, in Providence, R.I.

1775



April 19, 1775

The opening engagements of the American Revolution take place at the battles of Lexington and Concord. Some 700 British soldiers sought to destroy a patriot cache of supplies at Concord. 70 Minutemen met the British at Lexington Common, where eight colonists were killed. The British lost 73 killed, 174 wounded and 26 missing; the colonists suffered 93 casualties.

[Related Web Site](#)

1775

October 24, 1775

General John Thomas asserts blacks' right to serve in the military.

1775**November 7, 1775**

Lord Dunmore, the Royal Governor of Virginia, promises freedom to slaves who join loyalist forces in the Revolution.

1775**December 30, 1775**

George Washington authorizes the enlistment of blacks in the Continental Army.

1776**January 16, 1776**

The Continental Congress approves the reenlistment of black soldiers.

1776**April 6, 1776**

The Continental Congress suspends the slave trade.

1776**September 9, 1776**

George Washington writes to friend John F. Mercer: "It is among my first wishes to see...slavery...abolished by slow, sure, and imperceptible degrees."

1777**January 13, 1777**

Massachusetts slaves petition the legislature for their freedom.

1777**July 2, 1777**

Vermont becomes the first jurisdiction to abolish slavery.

1778**June 10, 1778**

The Rhode Island General Assembly suspends military enlistment of enslaved blacks, but more press to join.

1779



April 29, 1779

Myron Holley, an abolitionist and a founder of the Liberty Party, is born.

1780



February 10, 1780

Blacks of Dartmouth, Mass., led by Paul Cuffe, petition against "taxation without representation" and refuse to pay taxes.

1780



March 1, 1780

Pennsylvania adopts a gradual emancipation law.

1781

August 22, 1781

In *Brown and Bett v. Ashley*, a Massachusetts judge rules that the state constitution "free and equal clause applies to blacks.

1782

May 20, 1782

The black patriot Deborah Sampson Garnett enlists in the Continental Army disguised as a man.

1783

July 8, 1783

The Massachusetts Supreme Court declares slavery unconstitutional in *Commonwealth v. Jennison*.

1784**January 8, 1784**

The Connecticut Legislature approves a gradual emancipation plan.

1784**April 23, 1784**

The Continental Congress prohibits slavery in the Northwest Territory.

1784**May 5, 1784**

Black Methodists form their own church in Philadelphia.

1784**October 23, 1784**

Virginia emancipates slaves who fought in the Revolutionary War.

1784**December 5, 1784**

The African American poet, Phillis Wheatley, dies.

1785



January 25, 1785

The New York State Anti-Slavery Society is founded

1785



March 16, 1785

Rufus King proposes a ban on slavery in western U.S. territories.

1786

November 14, 1786

The Virginia legislature emancipates Caesar Tarrant for his naval service during the Revolutionary War.

1787

April 12, 1787

The Free African Society is formed in Philadelphia.

1787



July 13, 1787

The Confederation Congress adopts the Northwest Ordinance, which states that Congress would create three to five states in the Northwest Territory, which would be equals with the older states. The measure also bars slavery from territory.

1787

August 28, 1787

The Constitutional Convention debates the fugitive slave clause.

1787**October 17, 1787**

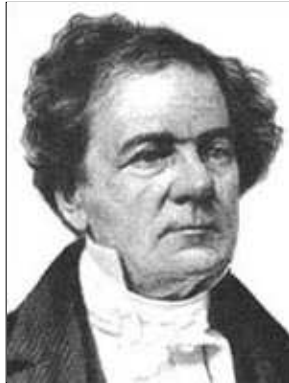
Boston blacks petition for equal schools.

1787**November 1, 1787**

The African Free School opens in New York City.

1788**January 20, 1788**

The first African Baptist church is founded in Savannah, Ga.

1788**May 23, 1788**

The abolitionist Lewis Tappan is born.

1789**January 4, 1789**Benjamin Lundy, editor of the *Genius of Universal Emancipation*, is born.

1789



February 3, 1789

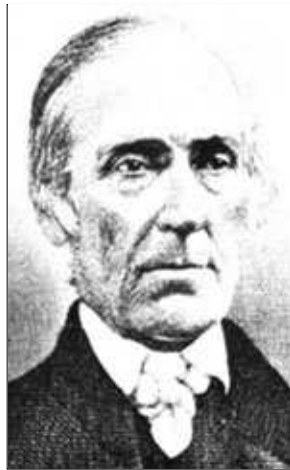
Delaware outlaws the slave trade

1789

September 8, 1789

The Maryland Abolition Society is founded.

1789



October 28, 1789

Levi Coffin, the Quaker "president" of the Underground Railroad, is born.

1790

March 8, 1790

The Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery petitions Congress to end slavery.

1792



February 4, 1792

James G. Birney, Liberty Party presidential candidate, is born.

1792



April 4, 1792

Thaddeus Stevens, anti-slavery politician, is born.

1792



August 29, 1792

Revivalist Charles Grandison Finney is born.

1792



November 26, 1792

Sarah Moore Grimke, abolitionist and women's rights advocate, is born.

1793



January 3, 1793

Lucretia Coffin Mott, abolitionist and women's rights advocate, is born.

1793**February 12, 1793**

The Fugitive Slave Law of 1793 becomes law.

1793**March 14, 1793**

Eli Whitney obtains a patent for the cotton gin.

1793**December 19, 1793**

Georgia prohibits the importation of slaves.

1794**March 22, 1794**

Congress prohibits Americans from taking part in the international slave trade.

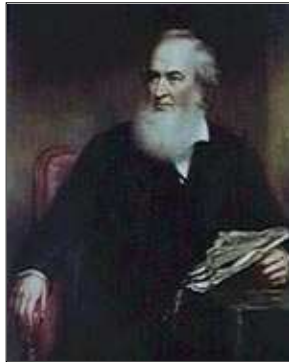
1796



May 4, 1796

Educator Horace Mann is born.

1797



March 6, 1797

Gerrit Smith, abolitionist and Liberty Party founder, is born.

1799



July 4, 1799

New York implements gradual emancipation.

1800



January 2, 1800

Free blacks in Philadelphia petition Congress to end slavery.

1800



May 9, 1800

John Brown is born.

1800



October 2, 1800

Nat Turner, the slave rebellion leader, is born.

1802



January 18, 1802

Congress defeats an amendment to the 1793 Fugitive Slave Law requiring blacks seeking jobs to show certificates of freedom.

1802



February 11, 1802

Lydia Maria Francis Child, abolitionist and women's rights advocate, is born.

1802



November 9, 1802

The abolitionist and editor Elijah P. Lovejoy is born.

1805



February 20, 1805

Angelina Emily Grimke, the abolitionist and women's rights advocate, is born.

1805

August 8, 1805

The African Baptist Church is founded in Boston.

1805



December 10, 1805

Abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison is born.

1806



July 25, 1806

Abolitionist Maria Weston Chapman is born.

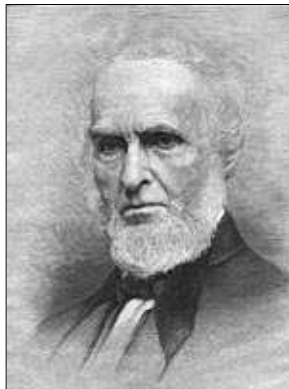
1807



March 2, 1807

Congress prohibits the importation of slaves effective January 1, 1808.

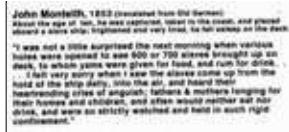
1807



December 17, 1807

The poet and abolitionist John Greenleaf Whittier is born.

1808



January 1, 1808

The importation of slaves into the United States is outlawed.

[Related Web Site](#)

1809



February 12, 1809
Abraham Lincoln is born.

1809

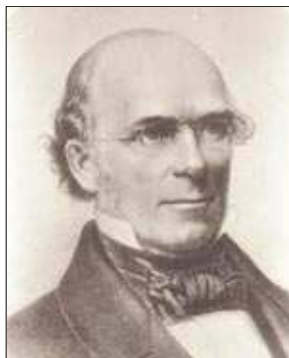
November 17, 1809
Abolitionist Stephen S. Foster is born.

1810



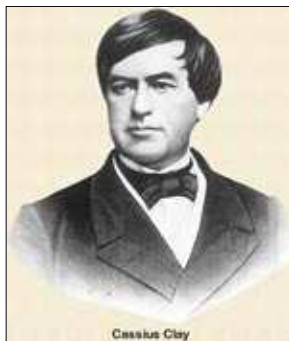
January 15, 1810
Abolitionist and women's rights activist Abigail Kelley Foster is born.

1810



August 24, 1810
Abolitionist clergyman Theodore Parker is born.

1810



October 19, 1810
Kentucky abolitionist Cassius Clay is born.

1811**January 6, 1811**

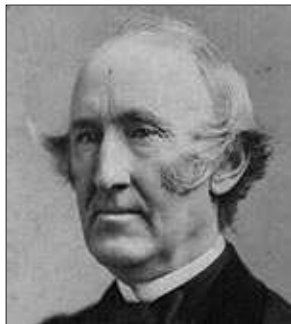
Charles Sumner, antislavery Senator from Massachusetts, is born.

1811**February 3, 1811**

Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune, is born.

1811**June 14, 1811**

Author Harriet Beecher Stowe is born.

1811**November 29, 1811**

Abolitionist Wendell Phillips is born.

1813



June 24, 1813

The Rev. Henry Ward Beecher is born.

1816



April 9, 1816

The National African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church is founded

1816

December 20, 1816

William C. Nell, black author and abolitionist, is born.

1817

January 15, 1817

Black Philadelphians reject a colonization plan.

1817

June 23, 1817

Abolitionist John Jay III is born.

1818



August 13, 1818

Lucy Stone, the abolitionist and women's rights activist, is born.

1819

February 5, 1819

Robert Carter, abolitionist writer, is born.

1820**March 3, 1820**

Under the provisions of the Compromise of 1820, Maine is admitted as a free state and Missouri as a slave state and slavery is excluded from the northern half of the Louisiana Purchase.

[Related Web Site](#)

1820**May 15, 1820**

Congress declares the international slave trade piracy punishable by death.

1822**July 26, 1822**

Denmark Vesey and his followers are executed in South Carolina as insurrectionists.

1823**October 9, 1823**

Abolitionist and editor Mary Ann Shadd Cary is born.

1827**March 10, 1827**

Mexico prohibits the introduction of slaves into Texas.

1828**January 22, 1828**

On the floor of the U.S. Congress, Rep. Henry Martindale lauds black military service in the Revolutionary War.

1828**March 28, 1828**

The anti-slavery journal *Rights of All* is first published.

1828**August 11, 1828**

William Lloyd Garrison says the purpose of anti-slavery societies is to "unite the moral strength of the country."

1829**September 28, 1829**

David Walker's militant *Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World* is published and calls for the overthrow of the slave system.

1830**November 30, 1830**

The American Society of Free Persons of Color is founded.

1831**January 1, 1831**

William Lloyd Garrison begins publishing the militant antislavery newspaper *The Liberator*. On the first page of the first issue, Garrison defiantly declared: "I will not equivocate—I will not excuse—and I will not retreat a single inch—AND I WILL BE HEARD."

[Related Web Site](#)

1831



March 26, 1831

The Reverend Richard Allen dies.

1831

June 6, 1831

The first annual convention of Free Persons of Color meets in Philadelphia.

1831



August 21, 1831

Nat Turner leads about 70 slaves in an insurrection in Southampton County, Virginia, in which about 57 whites were killed.

[Related Web Site](#)

1831



September 24, 1831

The Liberator publishes the first proposal for the use of "African-American" as a term for blacks.

1831



October 30, 1831

Slave rebellion leader Nat Turner is captured in Virginia.

1831

**November 11, 1831**

Nat Turner, who led about 70 slaves in a violent insurrection in which about 57 whites were killed, is executed in Virginia. Altogether, approximately 100 slaves were killed when the uprising was suppressed and another 20 were executed following trials.

[Related Web Site](#)

1832**January 6, 1832**

The New England Anti-Slavery Society is founded.

1832**February 22, 1832**

The Salem, Mass. Female Anti-Slavery Society is founded, the first such organization founded by black women.

1832**July 1, 1832**

The Rhode Island Anti-Slavery Society is founded.

1832



September 7, 1832

William Lloyd Garrison declares: "without the organization of abolitionists into society, the cause will be lost."

1833



April 1, 1833

Prudence Crandall opens a school for African American girls in Connecticut.

1833



October 2, 1833

The first meeting of the New York Anti-Slavery Society is held.

1833



November 18, 1833

The first Maine Anti-Slavery Society is founded in Hallowell.

1833**December 4, 1833**

The American Anti-Slavery Society is founded and pledges "immediate emancipation without expatriation."

1834**April 30, 1834**

The Philadelphia Anti-Slavery Society adopts its constitution.

1834**July 7, 1834**

New York blacks celebrate Emancipation Day.

1835**March 18, 1835**

The Kentucky Anti-Slavery Society is founded.

1835**April 22, 1835**

The Ohio State Anti-Slavery Society is founded.

1835**July 14, 1835**

Amos Dresser is whipped publicly for distributing abolitionist literature.

1835**August 31, 1835**

Prompted by rising abolitionist activity, defenders of slavery meet in Boston.

1835**September 10, 1835**

Anti-abolition mob erects gallows outside William Lloyd Garrison's home in Boston.

1835**October 21, 1835**

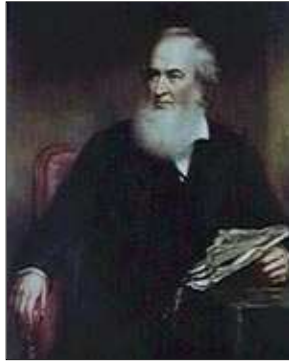
William Lloyd Garrison narrowly escapes lynching in Boston.

1835**November 20, 1835**

A committee of vigilance is founded in New York City to protect African Americans from

slave catchers.

1835



December 11, 1835

Beriah Green congratulates Gerrit Smith on his recent conversion to abolition.

1836



April 11, 1836

William Lloyd Garrison protests Arkansas's admission to the Union as a slave state.

1836



May 26, 1836

The House of Representatives passes the "Gag Rule," tabling petitions dealing with slavery.

1836

June 8, 1836

Aaron W. Kitchell is tarred and feathered by a Georgia mob for inciting slaves.

1836



August 1, 1836

A mob attacks abolitionist James Birney's newspaper office in Cincinnati, Ohio.

1836

October 27, 1836

Henrietta Ray, a black abolitionist in New York City, dies.

1836



November 28, 1836

The Vermont anti-slavery newspaper The State Journal ceases publication.

1837



October 10, 1837

Robert Gould Shaw, commander of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, is born.

1837



December 15, 1837

The Liberator proclaims its mission: "to redeem woman as well as man from a servile to an equal Condition."

1838



May 17, 1838

Pennsylvania Hall, site of the second Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women, is burned by a pro-slavery mob.

1838



August 12, 1838

Maryland slave Frederick Bailey (later Frederick Douglass) resolves to escape from bondage.

1838



September 3, 1838

Frederick Bailey (later Frederick Douglass) reaches Philadelphia in his flight from slavery.

1838

November 19, 1838

The Adelpic Library Association is founded to serve Boston's black community.

1839



February 19, 1839

The Ohio House passes a fugitive slave law in support of Kentucky slave owners.

1839



March 12, 1839

Frederick Douglass denounces colonization at a meeting in New Bedford, Mass.

1839



May 2, 1839

James Birney, a former slave owner, publishes Letter on the Political Obligations of an Abolitionist.

1839



July 31, 1839

John Quincy Adams predicts privately that slavery will lead to civil war.

1839

August 26, 1839

The Amistad is seized by U.S. officials off Long Island, N.Y.

1839



November 13, 1839

The Liberty Party holds its first national convention in Albany, N.Y.

1839

December 12, 1839

Charles Stuard Weld, abolitionist and son of Theodore and Angelina Grimke Weld, is born.

1840



April 24, 1840

William Lloyd Garrison urges the World's Anti-Slavery Convention to recognize women as "equal beings."

1840

June 12, 1840

The World Anti-Slavery Convention opens in London.

1840



July 21, 1840

Christian Abraham Fleetwood, a black Civil War hero and recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, is born.

1840



October 12, 1840

Abolitionist James Birney asks the Archbishop of Canterbury to urge the American Episcopal churches to turn against slavery.

1840



November 11, 1840

John Quincy Adams agrees to serve as co-counsel for the Amistad defendants.

1841



January 21, 1841

The Portland (Maine) Anti-Slavery Society is founded.

1841



March 9, 1841

The Supreme Court frees the Amistad rebels, who had been enslaved in violation of international treaty, had rebelled aboard the Spanish ship the Amistad in 1839, and had subsequently been charged with murder and piracy.

[Related Web Site](#)

1841

**August 9, 1841**

Frederick Douglass hears William Lloyd Garrison speak for the first time in Bristol, Mass.

1841**October 15, 1841**

The Liberator reports racially-motivated eviction of Frederick Douglass from a train in Massachusetts.

1841**November 27, 1841**

Thirty-five survivors of L'Amistad, now free, embark for Africa.

1842**January 28, 1842**

5,000 attend an abolition rally in Boston.

1842**February 17, 1842**

The Liberty Party holds its third annual convention in Boston.

1842



April 15, 1842

Former Amistad captives write to report their arrival in Sierra Leone.

1842

May 1, 1842

A party of slaves led by William Wells Brown crosses Lake Erie and reaches freedom in Canada.

1842

October 20, 1842

Fugitive slave George Latimer is recaptured in Boston. Abolitionists later purchased his freedom.

1842

November 10, 1842

The U.S. and Britain sign a treaty suppressing the Atlantic slave trade.

1843

March 24, 1843

Massachusetts bans official state involvement in the recapture of fugitive slaves.

1843



June 1, 1843

Former slave Isabella Van Wageningen renames herself Sojourner Truth.

1843

August 15, 1843

The National Convention of Colored Men meets in Buffalo, N.Y.

1843**September 16, 1843**

Frederick Douglass is beaten by a mob in Pendleton, Indiana.

1844**January 5, 1844**

The Liberator reports the first meeting of the Western New York Anti-Slavery Society.

1844**February 2, 1844**

The Liberator prints Cassius Clay's speech denouncing the annexation of Texas.

1844**April 27, 1844**

William Lloyd Garrison writes a support: "immediate emancipation is the duty of the master and the right of the slave."

1844

June 22, 1844

Jonathan Walker leaves Pesacola, Fl. for the Bahamas with seven fugitive slaves.

1844**December 3, 1844**

The Gag Rule is lifted in the U.S. Congress.

1845**June 11, 1845**

More than 2,000 delegates attend the Liberty Party convention in Cincinnati.

1845**August 6, 1845**

Frederick Douglass departs for a speaking tour in England.

1846**January 7, 1846**

Black activist Mary Eleanore McCoy is born on the Underground Railroad.

1846



April 21, 1846

In Scotland, Frederick Douglass urges Christians to distance themselves from American slaveholders.

1846



August 17, 1846

Frederick Douglass joins in the public launch of the English Anti-Slavery League.

1846



December 22, 1846

In a letter to Henry C. Wright, Frederick Douglass describes the purchase of his freedom by English supporters.

1847



June 30, 1847

Dred Scott files suit to claim his freedom.

1847



August 2, 1847

William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass begin a speaking tour in Ohio.

1848



March 31, 1848

Frederick Douglass lectures on abolition in Bath, N.Y.

1848

April 18, 1848

70 slaves are captured aboard the Pearl while attempting to escape Washington, D.C.

1848



May 14, 1848

Abolitionists Theodore Weld and Angelina Grimke marry in Philadelphia.

1848



June 29, 1848

Frederick Douglass becomes the sole editor of The North Star.

1848



July 19, 1848

Frederick Douglass attends the first Women's rights Convention in Seneca Falls, N.Y.

1848

December 25, 1848

Fugitive slaves Ellen and William Craft arrive in Philadelphia, gaining freedom.

1849



July 15, 1849

Frederick Douglass addresses the Ohio Senate.

1849



October 22, 1849

Frederick Douglass addresses an anti-slavery meeting in New York City.

1849

November 3, 1849

The Anti-Slavery Bugle editorializes: "fugitive slave literature is destined to be a powerful...means of abolitionizing the free states."

1850



February 8, 1850

Frederick Douglass publishes an attack on the Compromise of 1850.

1850



May 7, 1850

Frederick Douglass defies street gangs to address the American Anti-Slavery Society in New York City.

1850



September 18, 1850

Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act, which requires the return of runaway slaves seeking sanctuary in the North.

[Related Web Site](#)

1850

October 4, 1850

Syracuse (N.Y.) Vigilance Committee is founded to obstruct the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law.

1850



November 15, 1850

Frederick Douglass delivers a speech to the 15th annual meeting of the Rhode Island Anti-Slavery Society.

1851



January 24, 1851

The Liberator's 20th anniversary is celebrated in Boston.

1851



May 29, 1851

Sojourner Truth delivers her "Ain't I a Woman" speech at the Women's Rights Convention in Akron.

1851



June 5, 1851

Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* begins appearing in serial form in an antislavery newspaper.

[Related Web Site](#)

1851



July 3, 1851

William Wells Brown, a fugitive slave living in London, publishes an article detailing American black flight to England.

1851

September 11, 1851

Violent confrontation between local blacks and fugitive slave catchers takes place in Christiana, Pa.

1851

October 1, 1851

Abolitionists storm the Syracuse, N.Y. jail to free fugitive slave Jerry McHenry.

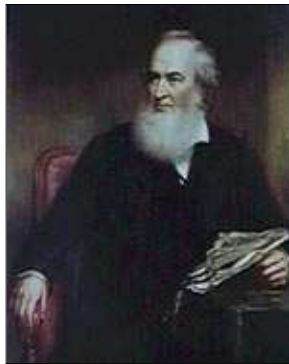
1851



August 26, 1852

Charles Sumner delivers a speech against the Fugitive Slave Law in the U.S. Senate.

1852



November 5, 1852

Abolitionist Gerrit Smith thanks New York voters for electing him to Congress.

1852



December 14, 1852

Harriet Beecher Stowe prophesizes victory: "Why has He given [Uncle Tom's Cabin] this success unless He means some mercy to the cause?"

1853



March 15, 1853

The first theatrical performance of Uncle Tom's Cabin takes place in New York.

1853

June 21, 1853

Harriet Brent Jacobs' Letter from a Fugitive Slave is printed in the New York Tribune.

1853



September 4, 1853

Sojourner Truth addresses the New York City Anti-Slavery Society.

1854



February 23, 1854

Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes an attack on the pending Nebraska bill.

1854

March 10, 1854

The citizens of Racine, Wisc. Protest the arrest of Joshua Glover under the Fugitive Slave law.

1854



April 26, 1854

The New England Emigrant Aid Society is organized to encourage opponents of slavery to settle Kansas.

1854



May 24, 1854

Fugitive slave Anthony Burns is arrested in Boston; despite massive protests he is returned to Virginia, but is bought out of slavery.

[Related Web Site](#)

1854



July 20, 1854

The Massachusetts Republican Party is founded.

1854

August 3, 1854

The New York-Kansas League meets to promote anti-slavery emigration into Kansas Territory.

1854



December 28, 1854

Harriet Tubman leads seven slaves from Maryland to freedom in Pennsylvania.

1855



April 13, 1855

Frederick Douglass publicly declares "our elevation as a race is almost wholly dependent upon our own exertions."

1855

November 21, 1855

California blacks hold a convention in Sacramento.

1856

January 27, 1856

Margaret Garner and 16 other slaves escape from a Kentucky plantation.

1856



May 18, 1856

Senator Charles Sumner delivers his "Crime Against Kansas" speech.

1856



June 17, 1856

The Republican Party holds its first convention in Philadelphia, and nominates explorer John C. Fremont for the presidency. The party slogan is "Free Labor, Free Men, Free Speech, Fremont."

[Related Web Site](#)

1856

July 23, 1856

Lincoln's speech in Galena, Ill., condemns the spread of slavery to new territories.

1857



March 6, 1857

In its *Dred Scott* decision, the Supreme Court rules that African American are not citizens and that the Compromise of 1820 is unconstitutional because Congress could not prevent slaves from being brought into a territory.

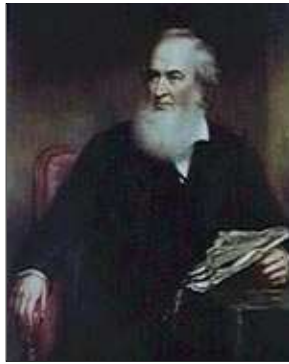
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1857



June 4, 1857

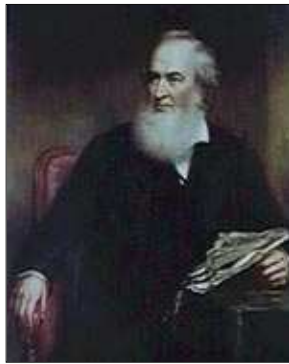
Harriet Tubman rescues her parents from slavery.

1857**August 25, 1857**

In a speech in Cleveland, Ohio, Gerrit Smith proposes compensated emancipation.

1858**March 11, 1858**

Frederick Douglass and John Brown confer on ways to assist fugitive slaves.

1858**August 5, 1858**

The Radical Abolition Party nominates Gerrit Smith for governor of New York.

1859**January 12, 1859**

Black abolitionist Sarah Parker Remond begins a speaking tour of England.

1859

March 7, 1859

Ableman v. Booth deems the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law constitutional.

1859**May 8, 1859**

John Brown holds an anti-slavery convention in Chatham, Ontario.

1859**June 3, 1859**

William Lloyd Garrison endorses the Republican Party as representing the "political anti-slavery feeling of the North."

1859**August 20, 1859**

John Brown invites Frederick Douglass to join his raid on Harpers Ferry, Va. Douglass declines.

1859



October 16, 1859

John Brown and his allies, including five African Americans, capture the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Va.

1859



November 12, 1859

Frederick Douglass embarks from Canada for a speaking tour in England.

1859



December 2, 1859

John Brown is executed for his raid on Harpers Ferry, Va.

1860



May 16, 1860

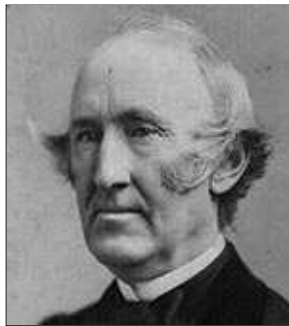
The Republican National Convention in Chicago nominates Lincoln for president.

1860

October 13, 1860

In Cincinnati, former slave Louisa Picquet publicly thanks donors who helped purchase her mother's freedom.

1860



November 2, 1860

Wendell Phillips declares: "Liberty first, Union afterward."

1860



December 24, 1860

South Carolina officially secedes from the Union.

1861



January 29, 1861

Kansas is admitted to the Union as a free state.

1861**March 4, 1861**

Lincoln's first presidential inauguration.

1861**April 23, 1861**

Boston blacks demand the right to serve in the Union army.

1861**June 16, 1861**

Frederick Douglass calls for an emancipation proclamation.

1861**July 24, 1861**

John Jay III argues that the abolition of slavery is a "military necessity."

1861**September 1, 1861**

Mary Chase starts a school for escaped slaves in Alexandria, Va.

1861**November 26, 1861**

Delaware presents President Lincoln with a draft of a bill for gradual, compensated emancipation.

1862**January 23, 1862**

Citizens of Cayuga County, N.Y. petition Congress for abolition and black suffrage.

1862**February 7, 1862**

The New England Freedman's Aid Society is founded in Boston.

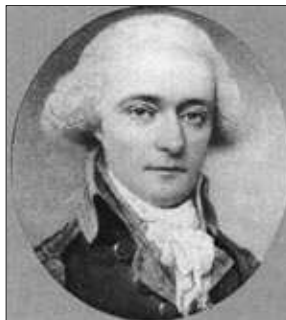
1862**March 6, 1862**

President Lincoln recommends that the federal government provide compensation to those states that adopt emancipation laws.

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1862**April 10, 1862**

Congress offers to compensate owners who emancipate their slaves.

1862**May 3, 1862**

William A. Jackson, Jefferson Davis's personal servant, flees to Union lines with military information.

1862**July 12, 1862**

President Lincoln unsuccessfully appeals to the border states to accept compensated emancipation.

1862**August 14, 1862**

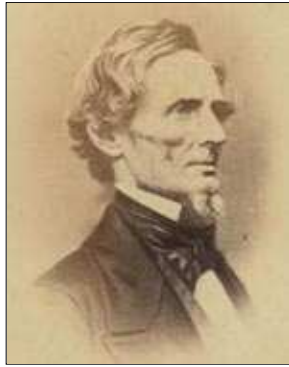
President Lincoln welcomes a black delegation at the White House, the first president to do so.

1862**September 22, 1862**

President Lincoln issues the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that all slaves in the rebel states would be free as of January 1, 1863.

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1862



December 23, 1862

Jefferson Davis denies prisoner of war status to captured black soldiers.

1863



January 1, 1863

President Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that slaves in rebellious states "forever free."

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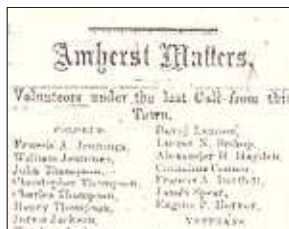
1863



February 13, 1863

Frederick Douglass delivers his "Mission of War" speech at Cooper Institute in New York City.

1863



April 2, 1863

The 54th Massachusetts Infantry conducts its first dress parade.

1863

May 27, 1863

African American soldiers join the unsuccessful Union assault on Port Hudson, La.

1863**June 2, 1863**

Harriet Tubman helps Union troops free 700 slaves at Combahee River, S.C.

1863**July 18, 1863**

The 54th Massachusetts Infantry spearheads assault on Fort Wagner, S.C.

1863**August 10, 1863**

Frederick Douglass and President Lincoln meet privately for the first time.

1863**October 3, 1863**

The Yearly Meeting of American Quakers petitions Congress to end slavery.

1863**December 7, 1863**

Union Army success move Lincoln to call for a national day of prayer.

1864

February 9, 1864

The Women's Loyal National League presents Congress with 100,000 signatures demanding the abolition of slavery.

1864**March 21, 1864**

The New York Workingmen's Democratic Republican Association visits President Lincoln to discuss the rebellion as "war upon the rights of all working people."

1864**April 5, 1864**

President Lincoln thanks the children of Concord, Mass., for their petition on behalf of slave children.

1864**June 15, 1864**

Congress makes black soldiers' wages equal to whites' in the Union army.

1864**September 5, 1864**

Louisiana voters approve a new state constitution abolishing slavery.

1864



October 29, 1864

Sojourner Truth meets President Lincoln: "I was never treated by anyone with more kindness and cordiality than...by that great man."

1864



November 8, 1864

President Lincoln is elected to a second term.

1865



January 11, 1865

Missouri's constitutional convention abolishes slavery.

1865



February 1, 1865

Illinois becomes the first state to ratify the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery.

1865

March 3, 1865

Congress establishes the Freedmen's Bureau.

1865**April 3, 1865**

The Union Army captures the Confederate capital, Richmond, Va.

1865**May 6, 1865**

William T. Sherman writes: "I am not yet prepared to receive the Negro on terms of potential equality."

1865**June 19, 1865**

Juneteenth: News reaches Texas that slavery is ended.

1865**October 7, 1865**

Blacks in Jackson, Miss. meet to demand equal rights.

1865**November 25, 1865**

An African American convention in Charleston, S.C. demands equal rights and repeal of the black codes.

1865**December 6, 1865**

Georgia's vote completes ratification of the 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery.

1866**January 9, 1866**

Fisk University opens in Nashville, Tenn.

1866

April 9, 1866

The first of two Civil Rights Acts passed during Reconstruction declares that all persons born in the United States, except untaxed Indians, are citizens and have equal legal and property rights. Adopted over President Andrew Johnson's veto, the act sought to counteract the Black Codes adopted in former Confederate states.

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1866**June 13, 1866**

Congress passes the 14th Amendment and sends it to the states for ratification.

1866**July 16, 1866**

Congress authorizes the Freedmen's Bureau to establish schools.

1866**October 11, 1866**

Elizabeth Cady Stanton proclaims: "free speech, free press, free men, and free trade."

1867**March 29, 1867**

Congress gives the Freedmen's Bureau the power to compensate black veterans.

1868**July 28, 1868**

The 14th Amendment, which extends citizenship to all persons born in the United States and guarantees due process and equal protection of the law, takes effect.

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1869**February 26, 1869**

Congress passes the 15th Amendment declaring that the right to vote shall not be restricted on the basis of race.

1869**March 19, 1869**

Harriet Tubman marries ex-slave and Civil War veteran Nelson Davis.

1869**October 8, 1869**

Virginia ratifies the 15th Amendment.

1869**December 1, 1869**

The first black labor union, the Colored National Labor Union, convenes in Washington, D.C.

1870

**March 30, 1870**

The 15th Amendment, declaring that the right to vote shall not be abridged on account of race, takes effect.

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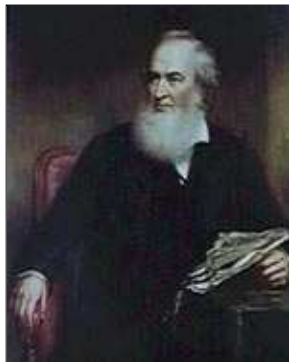
1870**May 31, 1870**

Congress votes to enforce the 15th Amendment, protecting black suffrage.

1870**December 12, 1870**

Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina becomes the first black member of Congress when he is sworn into the US House of Representatives.

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1873**February 14, 1873**

Gerrit Smith speaks out against Cuban slavery at an anti-slavery meeting in New York.

1882**August 4, 1882**

Anna Murray Douglass, Frederick Douglass's first wife, dies.

1890**December 27, 1890**

Oliver Johnson, abolitionist and journalists, is born.

1895**February 20, 1895**

Frederick Douglass, the fugitive slave and abolitionist leader, dies.

1964**June 19, 1964**

The Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination in employment, public facilities, the application of voting laws, and the use of federal funds, is approved despite an 83-day Senate filibuster.

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