

Pennsylvania Abolition Society in Context: A Timeline

- 1688 First protest against slavery by Quakers of Germantown
- 1775 Formation of the Society for the Relief of Free Negroes unlawfully held in Bondage at the Sun Tavern
- 1777 Vermont is the first state to abolish slavery
- 1780 Pennsylvania legislature passes act for the gradual abolition of slavery
- 1784 PAS resumes activities
- 1787 PAS revises constitution to include non-Quaker membership
Benjamin Franklin elected honorary president
Richard Allen and Absalom Jones organize the Free African Society
The Northwest Ordinance outlaws slavery in the region northwest of the Ohio River by
The Constitution of the United States allows a male slave to count as three-fifths of a man in determining representation in the House of Representatives.
- 1788 PA amends 1790 slavery act to forbid removal of African Americans from the state
- 1790 Society incorporated.
PAS creates Committee for the Improvement of the Condition of Free Negroes
- 1793 First fugitive slave law enacted by US Congress
Eli Whitney patents the cotton gin, making possible the expansion of slavery in the South
- 1794 First American Anti-Slavery Convention held in Philadelphia
PAS Committee on Education establishes a school for black males.
First census of African American community conducted by PAS
Richard Allen founds the Mother Bethel African Methodist Church
- 1803 Benjamin Rush elected president of PAS
- 1808 Federal law enacted prohibiting the importation of African slaves
- 1813 PAS forms a new Committee on Education and erects a school building on Cherry Street that will become Clarkson Hall
- 1818 American Colonization Society formed
- 1820 Missouri Compromise
- 1822 Denmark Vesey conspiracy

- 1826 Pennsylvania legislature passes personal liberty law
- 1827 Pennsylvania Free Produce Association formed in Philadelphia
- 1828 Second PAS census of free African American community
- 1829 Clarkson Institute formed
David Walker's militant antislavery pamphlet, *An Appeal to the Colored People of The World*, is published
First National Negro Convention meets in Philadelphia
- 1831 Nat Turner revolt
- 1832 Nullification Crisis
- 1833 Formation of the American Anti-Slavery Society and the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society
- 1837 New Pennsylvania constitution disenfranchises African Americans
- 1839 Formation of Vigilant Committee
- 1838 Formation of the American Free Produce Association
Burning of Pennsylvania Hall
Third PAS census of free African American community
- 1840 Organization of Liberty Party, first anti-slavery political party
- 1842 Prigg v. Pennsylvania declares PA personal liberty laws unconstitutional
- 1843 PAS opens the Lombard Street Infant School
- 1847 N. Kite's PAS census of free African American community
Pennsylvania passes personal liberty law requiring trial by jury for accused fugitive slaves
- 1848 Free Soil Party organized
- 1849 Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery
- 1850 Fugitive Slave Act passes as part of the Compromise of 1850
- 1857 Dred Scott decision
William Still begins his UGRR journal
- 1859 John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry

- 1860 PA passes second liberty law outlawing use of state facilities or officials to enforce federal Fugitive Slave Act, among other protections
- 1861 Civil War begins
- 1862 PAS creates a Committee on Employment to aid black refugees
Congress allows the enlistment of blacks in the Union Army
- 1863 Emancipation Proclamation issued, freeing all slaves in confederate states
PAS sells Clarkson Hall
- 1865 Civil War ends
Congress passes Thirteenth Amendment
PAS unites with the PA Freedman's Association to form the Freedmen's Employment Agency
- 1866 School for blacks, later known as the Laing School, is founded at Mount Pleasant, SC by Cornelia Hancock
Petition to desegregate Philadelphia streetcars
- 1868 Fourteenth Amendment passes
- 1870 Fifteenth Amendment passes
- 1872 PAS advocates for an equal rights clause for the new PA state constitution
- 1894 PAS acquires the Laing School
- 1895 WEB DuBois' *Philadelphia Negro* published
- 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson establishes "separate but equal" policy for public facilities
- 1909 NAACP founded
- 1912 PAS establishes "Fertilizer Fund" to aid southern black farmers
- 1931 PAS minute books deposited at the HSP
- 1940 PAS relinquishes Laing School trusteeship
- 1954 Brown v. Board of Education
- 1963 March on Washington
- 1964 Twenty-fourth amendment
- 1975 200th anniversary of the PAS