Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society

- Created in 1833 when women could not join the newly-formed American Anti-Slavery Society
- An interracial organization from the start, members petitioned for abolition and boycotted goods manufactured by slaves.
- Donated money to the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, supported the Underground Railroad through donations and the housing, protection, and transportation of escaped slaves.
- In May 1838, when the second Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women held their second national meeting in Philadelphia’s newly constructed Pennsylvania Hall, a huge mob of pro-slavery protestors, enraged by the presence of white women publicly interacting with both men and African Americans, burned the hall to the ground.

Primary Sources

*An address, delivered before the Female Anti-Slavery Society of Philadelphia: in the session room of the Second Presbyterian Church ... in the first month, (January,) 1834*
By E.P. Atlee, M.D.
Call number: TW* .76
Call number: E 441 .A58 v.16 no.1
Available online: [https://archive.org/details/addressdelivered00atle](https://archive.org/details/addressdelivered00atle)

*(Seal of the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society. From the Pennsylvania Abolition Society Papers. Collection #0490, call number AmS .86. Digital Archive item #1525)*

*Address of the Female Anti-slavery Society of Philadelphia to the women of Pennsylvania: with the form of a petition to the Congress of the U. States. 1936.*
Call number: E 441 .A58 v.16 no.4

*Proclaim liberty! : antislavery and civil rights in Pennsylvania, 1688-1887, essays*
by Ira V. Brown, published 2000
Call number: UPA E 185.93 .P41 B64 2000

*Extracts from the American Slave Code*
by the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society
Call number: Td*.1857 v. 4
An address delivered before the Ladies' Anti-slavery Society of Philadelphia, on the evening of the 14th of April, 1836
by James Forten
Call number: E 441.F737 1836
Available online: http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=inu.32000000099111;view=1up;seq=1

Third annual report of the Philadelphia Female Anti-slavery Society : January 1, 1837.
This version of Third annual report of the Philadelphia Female Anti-slavery Society is actually a clipping from an unidentified 19th century newspaper. Printed in 3 columns. The verso side of the article contains various other news miscellanies relevant to slavery and anti-slavery. The clipping is imperfect, as not the entire item remains in tact; the edges are worn and torn leaving words and the end of the article missing.
Call number: E 441 .A58 v.208 FOLIO

Annual Report of the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society
Holdings: 4th (1838)-36th (1870)
Call number: E 441 .A58 v.114
Available online: http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=umn.31951002246473m;view=1up;seq=1

Many years of Annual Reports have been digitized and are available in the Digital Library: http://digitallibrary.hsp.org/index.php/Search/Index?search=Philadelphia+Female+Anti-Slavery+Society

Secondary Sources

A fragile freedom : African American women and emancipation in the antebellum city
This book is the first to chronicle the lives of African American women in the urban north during the early years of the republic. A Fragile Freedom investigates how African American women in Philadelphia journeyed from enslavement to the precarious status of "free persons" in the decades leading up to the Civil War and examines comparable developments in the cities of New York and Boston.
by Erica Armstrong Dunbar, published 2008
Call number: F 158.9 .N4 D86 2008