THROUGH DARKNESS TO LIGHT: Seeking Freedom on the Underground Railroad

1610 | 1700 | 1780 | 1790 | 1800 | 1810 | 1820 | 1830 | 1840 | 1850 | 1860 | 1870

1612 **First commercial tobacco crop raised** in Jamestown, VA; production is at 20,000 lbs.

1775 **Revolutionary War begins;** Black Minutemen participate in the fighting

1776 **The Declaration of Independence signed,** declaring "All men are created equal"; eventhough slavery remains legal in all 13 of the newly-established states

1777 **Vermont** amends its constitution to ban slavery

1780 **Massachusetts** enfranchises all men regardless of race

1783 **New Hampshire** begins gradual Emancipation

1784 **Connecticut** and **Rhode Island** begin gradual Emancipation

1785 **New York Manumission Society** organized

1787 **The Northwest Ordinance** bans slavery in **Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan** and **Wisconsin**

1789 **Pennsylvania Abolition Society** organized

early 1790's American cotton exports are negligable

1791 **Successful slave insurrection** on Sante-Domingue (Haiti)

1792 **Kentucky** becomes a state, allows slavery

1793 **Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin,** increasing the need for slaves

1796 **Tennessee** becomes a state, allows slavery

1800 **Tobacco production** has more than tripled since 1700; reaching almost 114 million lbs.

1801 **American cotton exports** reach 20 million lbs.

1808 **Congress bans further importation of slaves**

1810 **1.2 million total slaves** in the U.S. or almost 17% of the total population

1817 **The American Colonization Society** founded to settle free Negroes in Africa

1821 **Benjamin Lunday, a Quaker, publishes his anti-slavery paper,** *The Genius of Universal Emancipation*

Garrison nearly lynched in Boston 1835

Censorship: Southern states forbid mailing of anti-slavery propaganda and expel abolitionists 1835

William Lloyd Garrison publishes the *Liberator*, an anti-slavery paper in Boston, making him famous in the abolitionist movement 1831

Emancipation narrowly defeated at VA constitutional convention 1831/32

New England Anti-Slavery Society founded in Boston 1831

Nat Turner leads a slave rebellion in VA killing 55 whites who then kill at least 200 African Americans 1831

Black Baptist Church congregations number around 10 1830

Now around 2 million total slaves in the U.S. or almost 16% of the total population 1830

1822 **Denmark Vesey, a freedman, leads a slave revolt** in Charleston, SC; Vesey and 34 co-conspirators are hanged

1820 **The Missouri Compromise** admits **Missouri** as a slave state, **Maine** as a free state; but prohibits slavery in the Louisiana Territory north of the 36° 30' line of latitude

Slavery ended in the British Empire, including Canada 1833

The American Anti-Slavery Society founded in Philadelphia 1830

1812 **African Americans called to help fight** the Spanish during the War of 1812

1804 **New Jersey** is the last northern state to abolish slavery

Prudence Crandall's school for Negro girls in Canterbury, CT was closed by vandalism and mob destruction 1834

1800 **900,000 total slaves** in the U.S. or 17% of the total population

AME (African Methodist Episcopal) church congregations number around 86 1836

1800 **Slave revolt plot uncovered** in Virginia; Gabriel Prosser and a number of others are hanged

Office of James G. Birney's Philanthropist sacked in Cincinnati, OH 1836

1799 **New York** begins gradual Emancipation

Elijah Lovejoy, a minister, journalist, newspaper editor and abolitionist is killed in Alton, IL 1837

1796 **American cotton exports** reach 6 million lbs.

1794 **American Convention of Promoting the Abolition of Slavery** founded, first national society of its kind

Slaves revolt aboard the *Amistad* ship off of Cuba 1839

1793 **First Federal Fugitive Slave Act passed** providing for return of slaves who have escaped and crossed state boundaries

In *Prigg v. Pennsylvania,* the U.S. Supreme Court upholds the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793 1844

1791 **Vermont** becomes a Free State

AME church congregations have grown to nearly 300 1846

1791 **Upper Canada (Ontario)** starts to pass laws banning slavery

Frederick Douglass publishes the anti-slavery *North Star* newspaper 1846

1790 **Britain imports** 28 million lbs. of cotton

Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery and becomes an instrumental leader in the Underground Railroad 1849

1787 **U.S. Constitution signed,** including compromise to count slaves as three-fifths of one person for taxation and representation purposes

Republican party forms 1854

***Dred Scot v. Sanford* case** determines Congress does not have the right to ban slavery in the states; black Americans (slaves or free) are not considered citizens 1857

John Brown raids Harper's Ferry to form and support a slave revolt; veteran of "Bleeding Kansas" and a radical abolitionist 1859

1783 **Britain imports** 9 million lbs. of cotton

South Carolina is the first state to secede from the Union 1860

1780 **Pennsylvania** begins gradual Emancipation

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia secede, joining South Carolina and forming the Confederacy 1861

1776 **The Society of Friends, the Quakers,** forbids its members from holding slaves

Abraham Lincoln issues his Emancipation Proclomation, proclaiming that "all persons held as slaves" within the Confederate states "are, henceforward shall be free" 1863

1700 **Tobacco production** is up to 38 million lbs.

Lincoln is assassinated 1865

1619 **First African American indentured servants arrive** in Virginia

The 14th Amendment is ratified – defining African American citizenship; overturns the *Dred Scot* decision 1868

15th Amendment is ratified, giving African American men the right to vote 1870

The 13th Amendment to the Constituion is ratified, prohibiting slavery 1865

Civil War ends 1865

Massachusetts 54th regiment of African American troops marches to combat in the Civil War 1863

Civil War begins 1861

4 million total slaves in the U.S. or 13% of the total population 1861

Abraham Lincoln is elected President, angering the Southern states 1860

Lincoln condemns slavery in his 'House Divided' speech during the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate in Illinois 1858

Miniature Civil War erupts in Kansas over the issue of slavery 1855/56

Kansas/Nebraska Act passed, allowing slavery to be determined by popular sovereignty effectively nullifying the Missouri Compromise of 1820 1854

***Uncle Tom's Cabin* published,** a novel condemning slavery by Harriet Beecher Stowe 1852

Congress passes a harsher **Fugitive Slave Act as part of the Compromise of 1850,** mandating government participation in the capture of escaped slaves; **California** admitted as Free state; **Utah** and **New Mexico** to be decided by popular sovereignty; and the slave trade in **Washington D.C.** is prohibited 1850

The Wilmot Proviso, attempting to ban slavery in territory gained during the Mexican War, is blocked by Southerners 1846

Frederick Douglass, former slave, publishes his autobiography 1845

Black Baptist church congregations have grown to around 34 1844

Josiah Henson, a runaway slave, founds a fugitive slave school in Ontario, Canada 1841

Pennsylvania Hall burned during the Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women in Philadelphia 1838

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