

Appendix A

Fugitive Slave Clause: U.S. Constitution

Directions: Read about the laws and then answer the prompts.

By the time of the Constitutional Convention in 1787, many Northern states including Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut had abolished slavery.

Concerned that these new free states would become safe havens for freedom seekers, Southern politicians saw that the **U.S. Constitution** included a “**Fugitive Slave Clause**.” This stipulation (Article 4, Section 2, Clause 3) stated that, “**no person held to service or labor**” **would be released from bondage in the event they escaped to a free state.**

Fugitive Slave Act of 1793

Despite the inclusion of the Fugitive Slave Clause in the U.S. Constitution, anti-slavery sentiment remained high in the North throughout the late 1780s and early 1790s, and many petitioned Congress to abolish slavery outright.

Bowing to further pressure from Southern lawmakers—who argued the slave debate was driving a wedge between the newly created states—Congress passed the **Fugitive Slave Act of 1793**.

This law was similar to the Fugitive Slave Clause in many ways, but included a more detailed description of how the law was to be put into practice. Most importantly, it decreed that **owners of enslaved people and their “agents” had the right to search for escapees within the borders of free states.**

In the event they captured a suspected runaway, these hunters had to bring them before a judge and provide evidence proving the person was their property. If court officials were satisfied by their proof—which often took the form of a signed affidavit (document)—the owner would be permitted to take custody of the enslaved person and return to their home state. The law also imposed a \$500 penalty on any person who helped harbor or conceal escapees.

Source

History.com Editors (2020, Feb. 11). *Fugitive Slave Acts*. History.com. <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/fugitive-slave-acts>

The Fugitive Slave Act of 1793 was immediately met with a firestorm of criticism. Many Northerners bristled at the idea of turning their states into a stalking ground for bounty hunters, and many argued the law was legalized kidnapping. Some abolitionists organized secret resistance groups and built complex networks of safe houses to aid enslaved people in their escape to the North.

Refusing to be complicit in the institution of slavery, most Northern states intentionally neglected to enforce the law. Several even passed so-called “Personal Liberty Laws” that gave accused freedom seekers the right to a jury trial and also protected free blacks, many of whom had been abducted by bounty hunters and sold into slavery.

Did you know? The passage of the Fugitive Slave Acts (1793 and 1850) resulted in many **free Black citizens being illegally captured and sold into slavery**. One famous case concerned Solomon Northup, a freeborn black musician who was kidnapped in Washington, D.C. in 1841. Northup would spend 12 years enslaved in Louisiana before winning back his freedom in 1853.

The legality of Personal Liberty Laws was eventually challenged in the 1842 Supreme Court case **Prigg v. Pennsylvania**. The case concerned Edward Prigg, a Maryland man who was convicted of kidnapping after he captured a suspected slave in Pennsylvania.

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Prigg, setting the precedent **that federal law superseded any state measures that attempted to interfere with the Fugitive Slave Act.**

Despite decisions like Prigg v. Pennsylvania, the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793 remained largely unenforced. By the mid-1800s, thousands of enslaved people made it to free states via networks like the Underground Railroad.

Appendix A (cont.)

<p>What were the intentions of such laws? What roles did fear and power play in these laws? What was the role of race?</p>
<p>Revisit the inquiry assumptions. What did this investigation expose?</p>
<p>What questions do you have?</p>

Appendix B

Fugitive Slave Act 1850

Directions: As you read, summarize the sections of the act. After reading, answer the prompts.

Section 1

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the persons who have been, or may hereafter be, appointed commissioners ... are authorized to exercise the powers that any justice of the peace, or other magistrate of any of the United States, may exercise in respect to offenders for any crime or offense against the United States...

Section 2

And be it further enacted, That the Superior Court of each organized Territory of the United States shall have the same power to appoint commissioners to take acknowledgments of bail and affidavits, and to take depositions of witnesses in civil cases, which is now possessed by the Circuit Court of the United States ...

Section 3

And be it further enacted, That the Circuit Courts of the United States shall from time to time enlarge the number of the commissioners ... to reclaim fugitives from labor...

Section 4

And be it further enacted, That the commissioners above named ... shall grant certificates to such claimants, upon satisfactory proof being made, with authority to take and remove such fugitives from service or labor ... to the State or Territory from which such persons may have escaped or fled.

Summary (Section 1-4)

Section 5

And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of all marshals and deputy marshals to obey and execute all warrants and precepts issued under the provisions of this act, when to them directed; and should any marshal or deputy marshal refuse to receive such warrant, or other process, when tendered, ... he shall, on conviction thereof, be fined in the sum of one thousand dollars, to the use of such claimant, on the motion of such claimant ... and after arrest of such fugitive, by such marshal or his deputy, or whilst at any time in his custody under the provisions of this act, should such fugitive escape, whether with or without the assent of such marshal or his deputy, such marshal shall be liable, on his official bond, to be prosecuted for the benefit of such claimant, for the full value of the service or labor of said fugitive in the State, Territory, or District whence he escaped:

Appendix B (cont.)

and the better to enable the said commissioners... to execute their duties ... they are hereby authorized and empowered, within their counties respectively, to appoint, ... any one or more suitable persons, from time to time, to execute all such warrants ... to summon and call to their aid the bystanders, or posse comitatus of the proper county, when necessary to ensure a faithful observance of the clause of the Constitution referred to ... and all good citizens are hereby commanded to aid and assist in the prompt and efficient execution of this law, whenever their services may be required ... and said warrants shall run, and be executed by said officers, any where in the State within which they are issued.

Summary

Section 6

And be it further enacted, That when a person held to service ..., has heretofore or shall hereafter escape into another State or Territory of the United States, the person or persons to whom such service or labor may be due... may pursue and reclaim such fugitive person, either by procuring a warrant from some one of the courts, judges, or commissioners aforesaid, of the proper circuit, district, or county, for the apprehension of such fugitive from service or labor, or by seizing and arresting such fugitive, where the same can be done without process, and by taking, or causing such person to be taken, forthwith before such court, judge, or commissioner, whose duty it shall be to hear and determine the case of such claimant in a summary manner; and upon satisfactory proof being made... that the person so arrested does in fact owe service or labor to the person or persons claiming him or her, in the State or Territory from which such fugitive may have escaped as aforesaid... with authority to such claimant, or his or her agent or attorney, to use such reasonable force and restraint as may be necessary, under the circumstances of the case, to take and remove such fugitive person back to the State or Territory whence he or she may have escaped as aforesaid.

In no trial or hearing under this act shall the testimony of such alleged fugitive be admitted in evidence; and the certificates in this and the first [fourth] section mentioned, shall be conclusive of the right of the person or persons in whose favor granted, to remove such fugitive to the State or Territory from which he escaped, and shall prevent all molestation of such person or persons by any process issued by any court, judge, magistrate, or other person whomsoever.

Summary

Appendix B (cont.)

Section 7

And be it further enacted, That any person who shall knowingly and willingly obstruct, hinder, or prevent such claimant ... from arresting such a fugitive from service or labor, either with or without process as aforesaid, or shall rescue, or attempt to rescue, such fugitive from service or labor, from the custody of such claimant ... or shall aid, abet, or assist such person so owing service or labor as aforesaid, directly or indirectly, to escape from such claimant ... or shall harbor or conceal such fugitive, so as to prevent the discovery and arrest of such person ... shall, for either of said offences, be subject to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, and imprisonment not exceeding six months ... and shall moreover forfeit and pay, by way of civil damages to the party injured by such illegal conduct, the sum of one thousand dollars for each fugitive so lost as aforesaid, to be recovered by action of debt ...

Summary

Section 8

And be it further enacted, That the marshals, their deputies, and the clerks of the said District and Territorial Courts, shall be paid, for their services ... and where such services are rendered exclusively in the arrest, custody, and delivery of the fugitive to the claimant...then such fees are to be paid in whole by such claimant... and in all cases where the proceedings are before a commissioner, he shall be entitled to a fee of ten dollars in full for his services in each case ... or a fee of five dollars in cases where the proof shall not, in the opinion of such commissioner, warrant such certificate and delivery ... to be paid, in either case, by the claimant.... The person or persons authorized to execute the process to be issued by such commissioner for the arrest and detention of fugitives from service or labor as aforesaid, shall also be entitled to a fee of five dollars each for each person he or they may arrest, and take before any commissioner as aforesaid, at the instance and request of such claimant, with such other fees as may be deemed reasonable by such commissioner for such other additional services as may be necessarily performed by him or them; such as attending at the examination, keeping the fugitive in custody, and providing him with food and lodging during his detention, and until the final determination of such commissioners; and, in general, for performing such other duties as may be required by such claimant ...

Summary

Appendix B (cont.)

Section 9

And be it further enacted, That, upon affidavit made by the claimant of such fugitive...that he has reason to apprehend that such fugitive will be rescued by force from his or their possession before he can be taken beyond the limits of the State in which the arrest is made, it shall be the duty of the officer making the arrest to retain such fugitive in his custody, and to remove him to the State whence he fled, and there to deliver him to said claimant.... And to this end, the officer aforesaid is hereby authorized and required to employ so many persons as he may deem necessary to overcome such force, and to retain them in his service so long as circumstances may require. The said officer and his assistants, while so employed, to receive the same compensation, and to be allowed the same expenses, as are now allowed by law for transportation of criminals, to be certified by the judge of the district within which the arrest is made, and paid out of the treasury of the United States.

Summary

Section 10

And be it further enacted, That when any person held to service or labor in any State or Territory, or in the District of Columbia, shall escape therefrom, the party to whom such service or labor shall be due, ... may apply to any court of record therein, or judge ... and make satisfactory proof to such court, or judge ... of the escape aforesaid, and that the person escaping owed service or labor to such party. Whereupon the court shall cause a record to be made of the matters so proved, and also a general description of the person so escaping, with such convenient certainty as may be; and a transcript of such record, authenticated by the attestation of the clerk and of the seal of the said court, being produced in any other State, Territory, or district in which the person so escaping may be found, and being exhibited to any judge, commissioner, or other office, authorized by the law of the United States to cause persons escaping from service or labor to be delivered up, shall be held and taken to be full and conclusive evidence of the fact of escape, and that the service or labor of the person escaping is due to the party in such record mentioned. And upon the production by the said party of other and further evidence if necessary, either oral or by affidavit, in addition to what is contained in the said record of the identity of the person escaping, he or she shall be delivered up to the claimant, And the said court, commissioner, judge, or other person authorized by this act to grant certificates to claimants or fugitives, shall, upon the production of the record and other evidences aforesaid, grant to such claimant a certificate of his right to take any such person identified and proved to be owing service or labor as aforesaid, which certificate shall authorize such claimant to seize or arrest and transport such person to the State or Territory from which he escaped: Provided, That nothing herein contained shall be construed as requiring the production of a transcript of such record as evidence as aforesaid. But in its absence the claim shall be heard and determined upon other satisfactory proofs, competent in law.

Approved, September 18, 1850.

Appendix B (cont.)

Summary

What were the intentions of such laws? What roles did fear and power play in these laws? What was the role of race?

Revisit the inquiry assumptions. What did this investigation expose?

What questions do you have?

Appendix B (cont.)

Directions: Watch the PBS video (2:19) *Fugitive Slave Act* at [pbs.org/video/american-experience-fugitive-slave-act](https://www.pbs.org/video/american-experience-fugitive-slave-act) and answer the prompts.

Revisit the Underground Railroad assumptions. What did this investigation expose?

What questions do you have?

Appendix C

Ohio's Black Laws of 1804

Directions: As you read, summarize the sections of the laws. After reading, answer the prompts.

Source: BlackPast, B. (2010, December 06). (1804) Ohio Black Codes. BlackPast.org. <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/1804-ohio-black-codes/>

Section 1

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio , That ... no black or mulatto person shall be permitted to settle or reside in this state, unless he or she shall first produce a fair certificate from some court within the United States, of his or her actual freedom...

Summary

Section 2

And be it further enacted , That every black or mulatto person residing within this state... shall enter his or her name, together with the name or names of his or her children, in the clerk's office in the county in which he, she or they reside, which shall be entered on record by said clerk, and thereafter the clerk's certificate of such record shall be sufficient evidence of his, her or their freedom; and for every entry and certificate, the person obtaining the same shall pay to the clerk twelve and an half cents. Provided nevertheless, That nothing in this act contained shall bar the lawful claim to any black or mulatto person.

Summary

Section 3

And be it further enacted, That no person or persons residents of this state, shall be permitted to hire, or in any way employ any black or mulatto person, unless such black or mulatto person shall have one of the certificates as aforesaid, under pain of forfeiting and paying any sum not less than ten nor more than fifty dollars, at the discretion of the court, for every such offense, one-half thereof for the use of the informer and the other half for the use of the state; and shall moreover pay to the owner, if any there be, of such black or mulatto person, the sum of fifty cents for every day he, she or they shall in any wise employ, harbour or secret such black or mulatto person, which sum or sums shall be recoverable before any court having cognizance thereof.



National Underground Railroad
FREEDOM CENTER



513-333-7500 | freedomcenter.org |



Appendix C (cont.)

Summary

Section 4

And be it further enacted , That if any person or persons shall harbour or secret any black or mulatto person, the property of any person whatever, or shall in any wise hinder or prevent the lawful owner or owners from retaking and possessing his or her black or mulatto servant or servants, shall, upon conviction thereof, by indictment or information, be fined in any sum not less than ten nor more than fifty dollars, at the discretion of the court, one-half thereof for the use of the informer and the other half for the use of the state.

Summary

Section 5

And be it further enacted , That every black or mulatto person who shall come to reside in this state with such certificate as is required in the first section of this act, shall, within two years, have the same recorded in the clerk's office, in the county in which he or she means to reside, for which he or she shall pay to the clerk twelve and a half cents, and the clerk shall give him or her a certificate of such record.

Summary

Section 6

And be it further enacted , That in case any person or persons, his or their agent or agents, claiming any black or mulatto person that now are or hereafter may be in this state, may apply, upon making satisfactory proof that such black or mulatto person or persons is the property of him or her who applies, to any associate judge or justice of the peace within this state, the associate judge or justice is hereby empowered and required, by his precept, to direct the sheriff or constable to arrest such black or mulatto person or persons and deliver the same in the county



National Underground Railroad
FREEDOM CENTER



513-333-7500 | freedomcenter.org |



Appendix C (cont.)

or township where such officers shall reside, to the claimant or claimants or his or their agent or agents, for which service the sheriff or constable shall receive such compensation as they are entitled to receive in other cases for similar services.

Summary

Section 7

And be it further enacted , That any person or persons who shall attempt to remove, or shall remove from this state, or who shall aid and assist in removing, contrary to the provisions of this act, any black or mulatto person or persons, without first proving as hereinbefore directed, that he, she or they, is or are legally entitled so to do, shall, on conviction thereof before any court having cognizance of the same, forfeit and pay the sum of one thousand dollars, one-half to the use of the informer and the other half to the use of the state, to be recovered by action of debt, qui tam, or indictment, and shall moreover be liable to the action of the party injured.

Summary

What were the intentions of such laws? What roles did fear and power play in these laws? What was the role of race?

Revisit the inquiry assumptions. What did this investigation expose?

What questions do you have?

Appendix C (cont.)

Ohio's Black Laws of 1807

Directions: Read about the laws and then answer the prompts.

Source: Ohio History Central (n.d.). Black Laws of 1807. Ohio History Connection. https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Black_Laws_of_1807

The Ohio legislature passed a series of laws in 1807 to discourage African American migration to the state.

Although slavery was not allowed in Ohio as part of the Constitution of 1803, most African Americans were not treated as equals to white people in the new state. Many Ohioans had come from Southern states that allowed slavery and were not willing to grant rights to African Americans. Other Ohioans were concerned about economic competition from free blacks who might choose to move to the state. As a result of these sentiments, as early as 1804, Ohio legislators had implemented black laws. The 1807 laws were a continuation of these earlier laws.

Among other provisions, these laws required black people to prove that they were not slaves and to find at least two people who would guarantee a surety of five hundred dollars for the African Americans' good behavior. The laws also limited African Americans' rights to marry whites and to gun-ownership, as well as to several other freedoms that whites held. The Black Laws and other policies deterred some African Americans from settling in Ohio.

In the late 1840s, the Black Laws became a political issue once again. Members of the Free Soil Party pushed to have the laws repealed and were partially successful in doing so in 1849. The changes in the laws were accomplished in part because Ohio Democrats backed the Black Laws' repeal in exchange for Free Soil Party support of their candidates in the state legislature.

What were the intentions of such laws? What roles did fear and power play in these laws? What was the role of race?

Revisit the inquiry assumptions. What did this investigation expose?

What questions do you have?

Appendix D

Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe

Uncle Tom's Cabin, in full Uncle Tom's Cabin; or, Life Among the Lowly, novel by Harriet Beecher Stowe, published in serialized form in the United States in 1851–52 and in book form in 1852. An abolitionist novel, it achieved wide popularity, particularly among white readers in the North, by vividly dramatizing the experience of slavery.

Summary

Uncle Tom's Cabin tells the story of Uncle Tom, an enslaved person, depicted as saintly and dignified, noble and steadfast in his beliefs. While being transported by boat to auction in New Orleans, Tom saves the life of Little Eva, an angelic and forgiving young girl, whose grateful father then purchases Tom. Eva and Tom soon become great friends. Always frail, Eva's health begins to decline rapidly, and on her deathbed she asks her father to free all his enslaved people. He makes plans to do so but is then killed, and the brutal Simon Legree, Tom's new owner, has Tom whipped to death after he refuses to divulge the whereabouts of certain escaped slaves. Tom maintains a steadfastly Christian attitude toward his own suffering, and Stowe draws parallels between his death and the death of Christ on the cross.

The second story line follows Eliza Harris, an enslaved young mother who runs away with her young child after her older son is sold away. The narrator details how Eliza, carrying her young boy in her arms, crosses the partly frozen Ohio River in order to escape to freedom. Her flight will become the most famous scene in the novel and a symbol of the desire for freedom.

The huge green fragment of ice on which she alighted pitched and creaked as her weight came on it, but she staid there not a moment. With wild cries and desperate energy she leaped to another and still another cake; stumbling—leaping—slipping—springing upwards again! Her shoes are gone—her stockings cut from her feet—while blood marked every step; but she saw nothing, felt nothing, till dimly, as in a dream, she saw the Ohio side, and a man helping her up the bank.

Reception

Uncle Tom's Cabin was an immediate sensation and was taken up eagerly by abolitionists in the North, while, along with its author, it was vehemently denounced in the South, where reading or possessing the book became an extremely dangerous enterprise. Nonetheless, some 300,000 copies of Uncle Tom's Cabin were sold in the United States during the year after its publication, and it also sold well in England.

Sources

The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. (n.d.). *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Britannica.com. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Uncle-Toms-Cabin>

Sparknotes. (n.d.). *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/uncletom/quotes/character/eliza-harris>



National Underground Railroad
FREEDOM CENTER



513-333-7500 | freedomcenter.org



Appendix E

Underground Railroad: The William Still Story

Directions: As you watch the video, answer the prompts.

1. What was the secret purpose of the Philadelphia Anti-Slavery Society's newspaper, *The Pennsylvania Freeman*?

2. What was unique about the Underground Railroad when it began?

3. How did industry replace slavery in the North?

4. Why was Philadelphia important to the Underground Railroad?

5. How did slave-owners justify slavery?

6. What was the main incentive for the enslaved to run?

7. Describe the Underground Railroad. List the methods and resources used. What did it require?

Appendix E (cont.)

8. What were the risks in recording escape stories?

9. Why did Still take the risk of recording the stories?

10. How did the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 effect the Underground Railroad?

11. Did freedom mean equality? Explain.

12. Why are the stories of the Underground Railroad essential?

Source

PBS: *Underground Railroad: William Still Story*. <https://www.pbs.org/video/wned-tv-history-underground-railroad-william-still-story/>



National Underground Railroad
FREEDOM CENTER



513-333-7500 | freedomcenter.org



Appendix F

Tips for Sourcing and Analyzing Newspapers (1800-1860)

Directions: Watch the video (25:00) *American Newspapers, 1800-1860: An Introduction*, created by the History, Philosophy and Newspaper Library at the University of Illinois at library.illinois.edu/hpnl/tutorials/antebellum-newspapers-introduction. As you watch, record information that will help you sources and analyze newspapers of the era. After watching, answer the prompts.

Revisit the inquiry assumptions. What did this investigation expose?

What questions do you have?

Frederick Douglass's Newspapers

Directions: Visit Library of Congress at <https://www.loc.gov/collections/frederick-douglass-newspapers/about-this-collection/> and read selections from *Collection Frederick Douglass Newspapers, 1847 to 1874*. Answer the prompts.


Revisit the inquiry assumptions. What did this investigation expose?

What questions do you have?

Appendix G

“Runaway” Advertisements

Directions: Read the Newspaper advertisement for “runaways” and answer the prompt.



RUNAWAY—\$20 REWARD.
The Negro Woman **HANNAH**, about 45 years of age, absented herself from my dwelling last February, without cause. She is low in stature and inclined to be fat. It is supposed she is harbored in the upper faubourg. Twenty dollars reward will be paid for her apprehension.
Jy7 4Ulaw W. M. LAMETH.

20 Dollars Reward.
RUNAWAY from the subscriber on **TUESDAY** the 30th inst. a bright colored Negro Man named
ABNER,
bought by me of Wm. S. Brown of this city: the said negro is about 21 years old, 5 feet 7 inches high, or thereabout. Very slim and straight, speaks English only, no scars about him perceptible; had on when he went away a blue surtout Coat, a fur Hat, a pair of Bennets Cord yellow Pantaloon, a pair of brokans, and coarse shirt. The above reward and all reasonable charges will paid, for apprehending and lodging said negro in jail, or returning him to the subscriber in Fouché st. one house from Julie-st. No. 43.
WHO HAS FOR SALE,
Two first rate **HORSES**, a **DRAY**, and a Negro **WOMAN**, cook, washer, &c.
D. L. PEIRCE.

RUNAWAY, about four months ago, the negro woman named **MARY**, aged about 26 to 30 years, ordinary size, having lost almost all her front teeth; her under lip is thick and hangs down; she speaks French and English with the same facility; she has a small child six months old, which she commonly carries with her. Said negro woman is very intimate with a negro named William, belonging to Mde Gaudin; and both of them have had for a long time relations with the negro fishermen at the Bayou. A reward of *Twenty Dollars* will be given to whoever will bring her back to the subscriber, or lodge her in jail. (Jy 26) E. FORSTAL.

Revisit the Underground Railroad assumptions. What did this investigation expose?

Appendix G (cont.)

Directions: Visit smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/archive-fugitive-slave-ads-could-shed-new-light-lost-histories-180959194 and read about advertisements for fugitive slaves. Afterwards answer the prompts.

Revisit the inquiry assumptions. What did this investigation expose?

What questions do you have?

Appendix H

How early U.S. newspapers brokered slavery

Source: Merrefield, C. (2020, Aug. 10). How early U.S. newspapers brokered slavery. The Journalist's Resource. journalistsresource.org/race-and-gender/newspapers-brokered-slavery

Modified from original text

Institutional slavery supported many aspects of early American industry. Newspapers were no exception. Slave owners paid newspapers to publish advertisements that described the physical traits of slaves who had run away, offering rewards for their return. Those ads “were a lucrative and consistent source of revenue” for newspaper printers, writes Jordan Taylor, visiting assistant history professor at Smith College, in a new paper published in the journal *Early American Studies*.

But colonial newspapers weren't only messengers for slavers. Taylor chronicles more than 2,100 unique ads from 1704 to 1807 that show newspaper publishers also acted as brokers, facilitating the buying and selling of up to 3,400 men, women and children as chattel. For most of that century or so, slave brokerage ads appeared primarily in Northern newspapers, Taylor finds in his paper. “Newspaper editors and printers jumped enthusiastically into brokering the slave trade,” he says.

Ads were often standardized and brief, and most newspapers charged a flat rate for short ads. “For sale,” reads one ad Taylor found from 1792 in the *Independent Gazetteer* out of Philadelphia, “A Young Negro Woman, With three Children. Inquire of the Printer.” An interested buyer would go to the offices of the *Gazetteer* to find out how to reach the seller. Sometimes a printer would provide further details about the sale, such as price terms and attributes of the person or people being sold.

On the same page as that *Gazetteer* ad are poems exalting freedom, offering sympathy to slaves. Today, those odes to equality appear weakened by the slave-for-sale ad — by the printer's profit motive.

Threads through time: Journalism's legacy of slave brokerage today

On Jan. 1, 1808, the federal government outlawed the transatlantic slave trade. Internal slave trading then grew across state lines, rather than across national boundaries. Large numbers of slaves were moved from the North and upper South to the Deep South over the next decades. The buying and selling of slaves evolved into a profession.

“The image of the auction block starts to pick up at that point,” Taylor says.

Slave brokers and traders were relatively common in slaveholding states during the run-up to the Civil War. By 1860, a quarter of households in the South held slaves. Northern states barred slavery around the turn of the century, but newspaper printers there had already helped grow America's economy of slave labor.

It's important to note that because the North industrialized well before the South, it had many more newspapers during colonial times. And many of those Northern papers have been preserved, whereas “a lot of Southern newspapers don't exist anymore,” Taylor says.

While the *Independent Gazetteer* and other newspapers that brokered slave sales closed decades before the

Revenue – income

Broker – arrange or negotiate buying and selling



National Underground Railroad
FREEDOM CENTER



513-333-7500 | freedomcenter.org |



Appendix H (cont.)

Civil War, a handful of media outlets today can trace their histories to this legacy of slave brokerage (buying and selling).

Publish or perish (die)

Newspapers in colonial America were often shoestring operations, operating with little money and limited staff. A newly formed paper would likely be family run, sometimes with an apprentice. Newspapers were easy to start, Taylor explains, and quick to fail.

“One bad year and they would go belly up,” he says.

Colonial newspapers didn’t simply deliver news — they were marketplaces. They connected buyers and sellers of a range of goods and services. They centralized a decentralized world.

Imagine a farm selling butter. A potential customer with business in a nearby city might be more willing to travel to a newspaper office there to learn the terms of the butter sale, rather than to the farm miles outside the city. In addition to ad revenue, newspapers stood to profit when readers came through their offices. For the same reason museums direct visitors to exit through the gift shop, “printers thrived when their shops buzzed with attention,” Taylor writes. “A visitor inquiring about a slave sale in the print shop might offer news, share a letter, or even purchase an almanac.”

A slave-for-sale ad might cost several shillings. These ads were a non-trivial revenue stream for newspapers. Benjamin Franklin, one of the nation’s founding fathers and a vocal abolitionist in the twilight of his life, printed 277 slave-for-sale ads in his Pennsylvania Gazette over the course of 37 years in the mid-1700s, earning him a total of about 90 pounds, Taylor estimates. That’s roughly half of what Franklin paid to buy the paper in 1729. The printer — Franklin — was listed as the slave-sale broker in 113 ads, Taylor finds.

“Franklin’s newspaper was unusually profitable,” he writes, but prominent and less-prominent printers alike acted as slave-sale brokers for the simple reason that doing so helped maintain their livelihoods.

While journalism’s profit motive remains strong among major media outlets, the industry has changed substantially since the colonial era. Objectivity as a guiding principle was, by and large, unheard of in colonial media. Most news outlets now retain strong barriers between their editorial and business shops.

Still, the image of the objective, critical journalist — fostered by white men who historically dominated the field — is a modern phenomenon.

“There was a moment in the early-to-mid 20th century when journalists were able to project themselves as people standing apart from the marketplace,” Taylor says. “That was an aberration in the larger sweep of American history.”

Revisit the inquiry assumptions. What did this investigation expose?

What questions do you have?

Appendix I

The U.S. Abolitionist Movement Timeline

1720s-1740s: The Great Awakening was a spiritual movement that emphasized Christian morals and taking responsibility for your own actions. This movement occurred during the Enlightenment, an intellectual movement that emphasized individual responsibility. Among the many influenced by these two movements were The Society of Friends, or Quakers. Quakers in England and Colonial America believed that everyone was able to experience a relationship with God, which meant that no one man was more valuable or important than another. Some extended this belief to reject the institution of slavery.

1750-1914: Industrial revolution caused growing political, economic, geographic, and social, and changes. Growing industry caused Northern cities to grow. Those who would have worked small farms, moved to urban areas and became reliant on a paycheck instead of the land. Such people grouped together and socialized in cities, causing conflict with the established upper class and newly formed middle class.

1775 & 1784: The Pennsylvania Abolition Society and The New York Manumission Society was formed to support the anti-slavery activities of Quakers and others. They aided free Black people in court, drafted legislative petitions, spread the word about anti-slavery activities, and fought to end the international slave trade. Notably, they left a legacy of schools established for the children of Black freemen.

Abolitionists at this time relied on their prominence in communities to work at the local, state, and national levels to change laws. They believed the **gradual abolition** of the international slave trade would cause the end of slavery in the U.S.

1790-1840: The Second Great Awakening swept the U.S., reacting to the “social ills” of urban life. Sin was seen as the selfish choices made by those who had the free will to choose otherwise. Social Movements such as abolitionism were seen as key to reforming American society.

1807 and 1808: Britain and the U.S. abolished the international slave trade and abolitionism dies down.

1810s: Abolitionism regains momentum in the U.S. as the internal slave trade supports and grows U.S. reliance upon slavery in the South. Regardless of race, gender, or class, reformers came together in local, regional, and national organizations to redeem American society.

1815: States began to revoke property qualifications for voting and holding elected office meaning many more white men, specifically working class who couldn't afford property, now had a say in political concerns.

1817: The American Colonization Society (ACS) was founded to promote colonization as a safe alternative to emancipation. They argued that relocating the Black community to Africa. They believed slave owners would free their slaves if they were sent to Africa. The ACS has white and Black supporters. However, many abolitionists came to see them as anti-black.

1810s and 1820s: Slave revolts in Barbados (1816), Demerara (1823), and Jamaica (1831-1832)

1820s: Black abolitionists organized anti-colonization groups to combat the ACS

1827: *Freedom's Journal* began publishing. It was the first Black owned and operated newspaper in the U.S., founded by free born John Russwurm and Samuel Cornish in New York City. The newspaper contained both

Appendix I (cont.)

foreign and domestic news, editorials, biographies, births and deaths in the local African American community, and advertisements. Editorials against slavery, racial discrimination, and other injustices against the Black community provided an opposing viewpoint to many of the white newspapers of the time period which openly supported slavery and racial bias.

Freedom's Journal was born from a desire within the black community to create a forum that would express their views and advocate for their causes.

1829: The “Appeal” by David Walker was published in *Freedom's Journal*. It was arguably the most radical of all anti-slavery documents, calling for slaves to revolt against their masters. David Walker, a free Black originally from the South wrote, “. . .they want us for their slaves, and think nothing of murdering us. . . therefore, if there is an attempt made by us, kill or be killed. . . and believe this, that it is no more harm for you to kill a man who is trying to kill you, than it is for you to take a drink of water when thirsty.

1831: William Lloyd Garrison published the first issue of *The Liberator*. Garrison left the AOC and took up the cause of **immediate not gradual abolition**. Garrison was deeply influenced by the Quakers, black activism, and suffragists. He condemned the ACS, arguing that the racist spirit of the ACS assumed that whites and black could not live together.

1831: Nat Turner’s Rebellion occurred in Virginia. It was the bloodiest slave revolt in antebellum America, resulting in the deaths of nearly 60 white people.

1832: Garrison helped found the New England Anti-Slavery Society in Boston in a Black Baptist church. It called for immediate abolition and condemned all slave holders as sinners. Many such institutions arose in the coming years.

1832: Black women formed the Salem Female Anti-Slavery Society.

1833: Abolitionists from 9 states formed the American Anti-Slavery Society (AASS) and included Black and female delegates. Their Declaration of Sentiments declared their commitment to immediate racial equality.

1833: The interracial Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society formed and supported Garrison. It lasted until 1870, challenging gender norms and promoting racial equality.

1834: Britain abolished slavery their colonies.

1835: Abolitionists organized a postal campaign targeting ministers, politicians, and newspaper editors throughout the South, sparking a violent wave of mob violence in the North and South. A mob in South Carolina broke into a post office and burned abolitionists literature and an effigy of Garrison. Later, a mob in Boston dragged Garrison through the streets.

1837: A mob in Illinois burned down the printing house of abolitionist Elijah Lovejoy and shot him as he fled the burning building. He was the first martyr for the movement.

1840: American abolitionists split over the question of strategies and tactics. The AASS supported women’s rights, and recruited all abolitionists regardless of religious, social, and political views. They believed that slavery had so corrupted society that America need a total, radical change in cultural values. They believed that slavery



National Underground Railroad
FREEDOM CENTER



513-333-7500 | freedomcenter.org |



Appendix I (cont.)

had corrupted the government and churches, so reform had to happen outside of those institutions. The AASS continued to operate through the Civil War.

1840: Conservative abolitionists formed their own groups and supported actions that supported traditional culture norms including traditional gender roles. It stops holding meeting in 1855.

1850: Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. Thousands of Black people, regardless of their status, fled to Canada.

1852: Abolitionist Harriet Beecher Stowe published *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

1861: The Civil War began.

Sources

Africans in America. (n.d.). *David Walker's Appeal*. PBS. <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4h2931.html>

Elliot, V. (2020, Dec. 10). *A Great Inheritance: Reflected Shortcomings in Abolition and the Women's Rights Movement*. National Parks Service. <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/a-great-inheritance-reflected-shortcomings-in-abolition-and-the-women-s-rights-movement.htm>

Holcomb, J. L. (2012). *The Abolitionist Movement*. The Essential Civil War Curriculum. <https://www.essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com/assets/files/pdf/ECWC%20TOPIC%20Abolitionist%20Movement%20Essay%201.pdf>

Partin, E. (2011). *Freedom's Journal (1827-1829)*. Blackpast.com. <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/freedom-s-journal-1827-1829/>

Identify at least 3 examples of cause and effect?

What inferences can you make?

When did you notice shifts in the abolitionist movement? Describe them.

Appendix J

Abolitionist Strategies

Source: Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections. (2002). Abolitionism in America: Abolitionist Strategies. Cornell University Library. <https://rmc.library.cornell.edu/abolitionism/strategies.htm>

Modified from original text

Abolitionists used all sorts of strategies to persuade the American public and government leaders to end slavery. One of their first strategies was to unite groups of like-minded individuals to fight as one large unit. Initially, groups like the American Anti-Slavery Society used lecturing and moral persuasion to attempt to change the hearts and minds of individuals. Many later activists found moral persuasion tactics insufficient and turned their attention to political lobbying.

Most famous of all abolitionist activities was the Underground Railroad, a network of assistance and safe houses for runaway slaves. The Underground Railroad stretched from the Southern states to Canada, and until 1865 provided shelter, safety, and guidance for thousands of runaway slaves.

Activists used the press to spread the abolitionist message. Newspapers like William Lloyd Garrison's *The Liberator* circulated passionate attacks on the institution of slavery supported by the government. Other publications, such as pamphlets and leaflets, contained anti-slavery poems, slogans, essays, sermons, and songs. Abolitionists also looked to future generations to carry on their work, creating a body of children's literature to bring the harsh realities of slavery before a young audience. These materials were deemed so threatening in slave states that they were outlawed.

Still other abolitionists felt that violence was the only way to end slavery. These militants resorted to extreme and deadly tactics, and incited violent insurrections. These acts of terror aroused fear in slaveholders, but also led to the execution of perpetrators.

Anti-Slavery Society Emblems

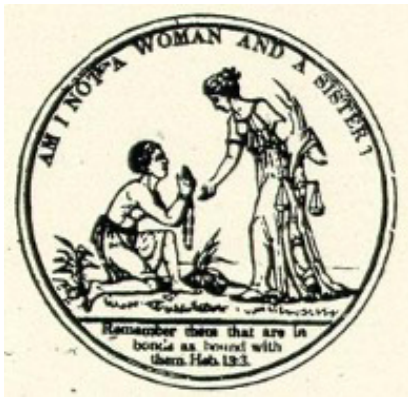
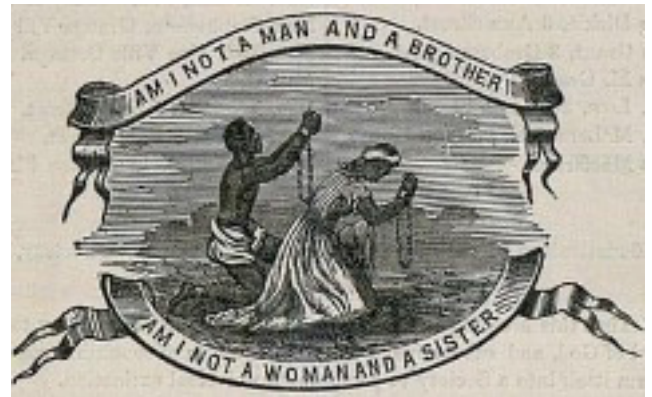


Figure 1: Unsigned black and white illustration used in *The Slave's Friend*
Source: <https://willardandwells.omeka.net>



Figure 2: Seal of the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society based on an image of Elizabeth Margaret Chandler who was a member.



Appendix J (cont.)

What do these images have in common?
What is the message of these images?
What is the implied assumption about African Americans? White Americans?
What are your thoughts regarding the purpose and messaging of these emblems?