



Recommended Reading List

General background on the Underground Railroad

Blackett, R.J.M. The Captive's Quest for Freedom. Fugitive Slaves, the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law, and the Politics of Slavery (New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2018)

Bial, Raymond. The Underground Railroad. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1995)

Blight, David W. Passages to Freedom: The Underground Railroad in History and Memory (Washington: Smithsonian, 2001) Available free from the Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/details/passagestofreedom0000unse>

Blockson, Charles L. The Underground Railroad. (New York: Prentice-Hall, 1987)
--- Hippocrene Guide to the Underground Railroad. (New York: Hippocrene Books, 1994)
--- The Underground Railroad: Dramatic Firsthand Accounts of Daring Escapes to Freedom. (New York: Prentice Hall, 1987)

Bordewich, Fergus M. Bound for Canaan: The Underground Railroad and the War for the Soul of America. (New York: HarperCollins, 2005)

Buckmaster, Henrietta, Let My People Go: The Story of the Underground Railroad and the Growth of the Abolition Movement. (New York: Harper Collins, 1941)

Calarco, Tom People of the Underground Railroad: A Biographical Dictionary (Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing, 2008)

Chadwick, Bruce. Traveling the Underground Railroad. (New York: Citadel Books, 1999)

De Ramus, Betty. Forbidden Fruit: Love Stories from the Underground Railroad (New York: Atria Books, 2005)
--- Freedom by Any Means: Con Games, Voodoo Schemes, True Love and Lawsuits on the Underground Railroad (New York: Atria Books/Simon and Schuster, 2009)

Fogel, Robert William Without Consent or Contract: The Rise and Fall of American Slavery. (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1989)

Foner, Eric Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad (New York: W.W. Norton, 2015)

Franklin, John Hope, From Slavery to Freedom, A History of African Americans, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 5th Edition, 1980)

Gara, Larry The Liberty Line: The Legend of the Underground Railroad.
(Lexington: Lexington University Press, 1961)

Hendrick, George, & Willene Hendrick, eds. Fleeing for Freedom: Stories of the Underground Railroad/ As Told by Levi Coffin and William Still (Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 2004)

Hudson, J. Blaine Encyclopedia of the Underground Railroad (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co Publishers, 2006)

McGraw, Marie Tyler, & Kira A. Badamo. Underground Railroad Resources in the United States: Theme Study. (Washington, DC: US Department of the Interior, 1998)

Mitchell. Rev. William M. The Underground Railroad (1860) (Madrid: Hard Press Publishing, 2019)

Pettit, Eber M. 1800 or 1801- Sketches in the History of the Underground Railroad, Comprising Many Thrilling Incidents of the Escape of Fugitives from Slavery, and the Perils of Those Who Aided Them. (Fredonia, N.Y., W. McKinstry & Son, 1879)

Pybus Cassandra Epic Journeys of Freedom: Runaway Slaves of the American Revolution and Their Global Quest for Liberty, (New York: Beacon Press, 2006)

River, Charles The Underground Railroad: The History and Legacy of America's Greatest Abolitionist Network (Scott Valley CA: Createspace Ind. Pub. Platform, 2013)

Shane, Scott. Flee North (New York: Celadon Books, 2023)

Siebert, Wilbur H. The Underground Railroad from Slavery to Freedom. (New York: MacMillan, 1898. Reprint - New York: Dover Edition, 2006) Available free from the Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/details/DKC0090> or Book Fusion <https://www.bookfusion.com/books/95575-the-underground-railroad-from-slavery-to-freedom-a-comprehensive-history>

Snodgrass, Mary Ellen The Underground Railroad: An Encyclopedia of People, Places and Operations. 2 Volumes (New York: Routledge, 2015)

Still, William The Underground Railroad: A Record of Facts, Authentic Narratives, etc.
(Philadelphia: Porter and Coates, 1872 Rep. New York: Arno Press, 1968)
Original available free from the Smithsonian <https://library.si.edu/digital-library/book/undergroundrail00stil>

--- Still's Underground Railroad Records, with a Life of the Author - Revised Ed.
(Philadelphia: Published by the Author, 1883) (New York: Modern Library, 2019)

Wingert, Cooper Slavery and the Underground Railroad. (Mt. Pleasant, SC: The History Press/Arcadia Publishing, 2016)

Books about the Underground Railroad in Pennsylvania

Bacon, Margaret Hope. Rebellion at Christiana (New York: Crown Publishers, 1975)

Baker, H. Robert Prigg v. Pennsylvania: Slavery, Supreme Court, and the Ambivalent Constitution (Lawrence: University of Kansas, 2012)

Bishop, Robert. "Underground Railroad and Antislavery Movement on the Upper Main Line," Radnor Historical Society Bulletin 1 (Spring 1955), 22-24.

Blackson, Charles. The Underground Railroad in Pennsylvania. (Jacksonville, NC: Flame International, 1981)

Calarco, Tom The Underground Railroad in the Adirondack Region. (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co Publishers, 2004)

Diggins, Milt Stealing Freedom Along the Mason Dixon Line: The Maelstrom of Slavery, Slave Catching, and Kidnapping in the Baltimore- Wilmington-Philadelphia Corridor (Baltimore: The Press of the Maryland Historical Society, 2015)

Forbes, Ella But We Have No Country: The 1851 Christiana, Pennsylvania Resistance (Cherry Hill, NJ: Africa Homestead Legacy Publishers, 1998)

Harper, Douglas R. West Chester to 1865: That Elegant and Notorious Place. (Chester County Historical Society, 1999)

Hensel, W.U. The Christiana Riot and the Treason Trials of 1851: An Historical Sketch (Lancaster, PA: New Era Printing co., 1911)

Jacobs, Norma (ed) Quaker Roots: the Story of the Western Quarterly Meeting of Philadelphia Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Kennett Square, PA :Western Quarterly Meeting, 1980)

Kashatus, William C. Just Over the Line: Chester County and the Underground Railroad (Chester County, PA: PSU & Chester County Historical Society, 2022)

Katz, Jonathan Resistance at Christiana: The Fugitive Slave Rebellion, Christiana, PA, September 11,1851 (New York: Thomas Cromwell, 1974)

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Linville, Susan U. & Dirisio, Elizabeth Hoover. In Hot Pursuit: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad in Lawrence County Pennsylvania (New Castle, PA: Pokeberry Press, 2016)

McCauslin, Debra Sandoe Yellow Hill: Reconstructing the Past – Puzzle of the Lost Community at Yellow Hill. (Gettysburg, PA: For the Cause Productions, 2007)

Mearkle, Kevin L The Underground Railroad in Bedford County Pennsylvania (self published with Bedford County Historical Society, 2004)

Mealy, Todd Biography of an Antislavery City: Antislavery Advocates, Abolitionists, and Underground Railroad Activists in Harrisburg, PA (Baltimore: PublishAmerica, 2007)

Mingus, Scott. L. Jr. Guiding Lights: Underground Railroad Conductors in York County, PA (York, PA: Scott Mingus Enterprises, 2021)

Nash, Gary B. and Jean Soderland. Freedom by Degrees: Emancipation in Pennsylvania and Its Aftermath. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1991)

Okus, Nilgun. Underground Railroad and Abolitionists of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: Temple University, 1998)

Payne, Daniel Alexander, History of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (Charles Spencer Smith, Editor, 1852) (Nashville, Tenn., A. M. E. Sunday-School Union, 1891)

Pinkster, Matthew. Vigilance in Pennsylvania: Underground Railroad Activities in the Keystone State, 1837-1861 [Context Study] (Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, 2000)

Rohrbaugh, Carroll G., Jr. Operation Underground Railroad in York County (Gettysburg: Gettysburg College, 1953)

Slaughter, Thomas P. Bloody Dawn: The Christiana Riot and Racial Violence in the Antebellum North (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994)

Smedley, R.C. History of the Underground Railroad in Chester and the Neighboring Counties of Pennsylvania (Lancaster, PA: Office of the Journal, 1883; reprint, Arnos Press and the New York Times, 1969)

Smith, David. On the Edge of Freedom: The Fugitive Slave Issues in South Central Pennsylvania, 1820-1870. (New York: Fordham University Press, 2012)

Spotts, Charles Dewey. The Pilgrims Pathway: The Underground Railroad in Lancaster County (Lancaster, PA: Franklin and Marshall College Library, 1966)

Stewart, Rev. Reid W. The Underground Railroad in Northern Westmorland County, PA.... (Leechburg, PA: Allegheny Township Historical Society, 2005)

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Taylor, Francis Cloud. The Trackless Trail Leads On: An Exploration of Conductors and Their Stations. (Kennett Square, 1995)

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Webb, Samuel. History of Pennsylvania Hall, which was Destroyed by a Mob, on the 17th of May 1838. (Philadelphia: Merrihew and Gunn, 1838)

Wingert, Cooper H. Slavery and the Underground Railroad in South Central Pennsylvania (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2016) [YouTube Podcast interview with Wingert available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rlhi3ryuajU>]

Wood, Jerome H., Jr. Conestoga Crossroads: Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1730-1790 (Harrisburg, PA: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1979)

Biographies and Autobiographies Of Key Pennsylvania UGRR Leaders & Influencers

Rev. Bishop Richard Allen

- Allen, Richard. The Life, Experience, and Gospel Labours of the Rt. Rev. Richard Allen.: To Which is Annexed the Rise and Progress of the African Methodist Episcopal ... to the People of Colour in the United States
- Wesley, Charles H. Richard Allen, Apostle of Freedom (Washington, 1935)
- Newman, Richard S. Freedom's Prophet: Bishop Richard Allen, the AME Church, and the Black Founding Fathers (New York: NYU Press, 2002)

Anthony Benezet

- Brookes, George S. Friend Anthony Benezet (Philadelphia, 1937)

Henry “Box” Brown

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John Brown

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Levi Coffin

- Reminiscences of Levi Coffin. (Cincinnati: Western Tract Society, 1876)

William and Ellen Craft

- Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom; or, The Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery. (London: William Tweedie, 1860)

Martin Delaney

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- --- Martin R. Delany: A Documentary Reader (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2003)
- Adeleke, Tunde. Without Regard to Race: The Other Martin Robinson Delany (Jackson, MI: University of Mississippi Press, 2003)

Frederick Douglass

- Douglass, Frederick. My Bondage and My Freedom – 8Vols (New York and Auburn: Miller, Orton and Mulligan, 1855/1857)
 - The Frederick Douglass Papers. Edited by John W. Blassingame. 7 Volumes. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1979)
 - The Life and Writings of Frederick Douglass. 5 Volumes. Edited by Philip S. Foner. (New York: International Publishers, 1950-1975)
 - The Heroic Slave, 1852. In Three Classic African American Novels, edited & with an introduction by William L. Andrews. (New York: Mentor, 1990)
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Thomas Garrett

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William Lloyd Garrison

- Garrison, Wendell P. & Francis Garrison. William Lloyd Garrison, the Story of His Life Told by His Children (New York: 1885-1889)
- Mayer, Henry. All on Fire: William Lloyd Garrison and the Challenge of Emancipation (New York, NY: St. Martin's Press, 1998)
- Merrill, Walter. Against Wind and Tide: A Biography of William Lloyd Garrison (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1965)
- Thomas, John L. The Liberator, William Lloyd Garrison: A Biography. (Boston, MA: Little, Brown, and Company, 1963)

Mary Grew

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Sarah & Angelina Grimke

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- Salitan, Lucille and Eve Lewis Perera. Virtuous Lives: Four Quaker Sisters Remember Family Life, Abolitionism, and Women's Suffrage. (New York: Continuum, 1994)
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Harriet Jacobs

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Benjamin Lay

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Lucretia Mott

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Warner Mifflin

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Robert Purvis

- Purvis, Robert. Appeal of Forty Thousand Citizens, Threatened with Disfranchisement, to the People of Pennsylvania by Robert Purvis.
- Bacon, Margaret Hope. But One Race: The Life of Robert Purvis (Albany, NY, 2007)

Benjamin Rush

- Binger, Carl Revolutionary Doctor: Benjamin Rush (1746–1813). (New York: Norton & Co., 1966)
- Brodsky, Alyn. Benjamin Rush: Patriot and Physician. (New York: Truman Talley Books/St. Martin's Press., 2004)
- Fried, Stephen, Rush: Revolution, Madness, & the Visionary Doctor Who Became a Founding Father. (New York: Crown, 2018).
- Goodman, Nathan G. Benjamin Rush, Physician and Citizen, (1746–1813). (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1934)

Thaddeus Stevens

- Stevens, Thaddeus. Speech of Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, of Penn., on the Presidential Question; and the Slavery Issue: Delivered in the House of Representatives, August 12, 1852. (Washington, DC: Congressional Globe Office, 1852)
- --- Speech of Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, of Pennsylvania, in the U.S. House of Representatives, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 1850, in the Committee of the Whole State of the Union, on the Reference of the President's Annual Message. (Philadelphia: Anti-Slavery Office, 1850)
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- Palmer, Beverly Wilson and Holly Byers Ochoa. The Selected Papers of Thaddeus Stevens, 2 Vols. (Pittsburgh: The University of Pittsburgh Press, 1998)
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William Still

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Charles Sumner

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Pennsylvania, 1780-1847.” Ph.D. dis., Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., 2021