

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

was a secret network supported by courageous people who risked everything to offer transportation, refuge and comfort to escaping slaves. Famous conductor Harriet Tubman was born in Dorchester County, and the following information provides a time line during this difficult period.

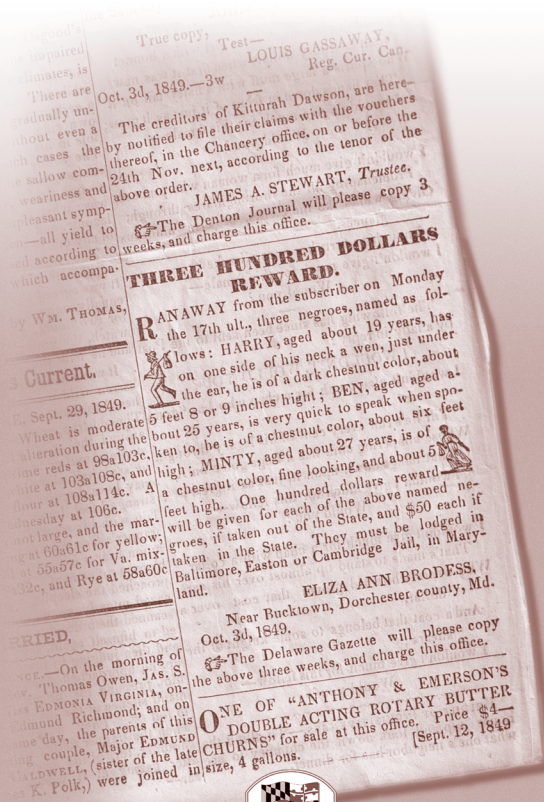


A TIME LINE OF DORCHESTER & CAROLINE COUNTIES



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THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

in Dorchester and Caroline Counties, Maryland

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| 1660 | Maryland and Virginia legalized slavery of Africans. | 1835 | Araminta Ross, later known as Harriet Tubman, seriously injured in her first act of defiance. |
| 1669 | Dorchester County settled by whites, free blacks, and enslaved Africans. | 1843 | In East New Market, land deeded to black trustees of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. |
| 1684 | Cambridge established as the Dorchester County seat. | 1844 | Araminta Ross married John Tubman, taking the name of Harriet (after her mother) Tubman. |
| 1773 | Caroline County created from Dorchester and Queen Anne's Counties. | 1849 | Quaker Meeting House in Preston served as a focal point for abolitionist activities. Harriet Tubman escaped to freedom after hearing she might be sold. |
| 1780 | A secret network of people opposed to slavery helped fugitive slaves escape to free states. | 1850 | Congress enacted Fugitive Slave Law requiring escapees to be returned. |
| 1781 | The Town of Denton established as the Caroline County seat. | 1851 | Cambridge African Colonization Society founded. |
| 1783 | Maryland stripped blacks who owned property of the right to vote. | 1852 | Two free blacks from Dorchester County visited Africa to report on African American emigration for the African American Colonization Society. |
| 1785 | Citizens of the Maryland's Eastern Shore petitioned the state legislature to abolish slavery. | 1852 | Harriet Beecher Stowe published <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> , a story critical of slavery and slave hunters. |
| 1793 | The U.S. Congress passed the first Fugitive Slave Law, affirming rights of slaveholders to their property. | 1857 | The U.S. Supreme Court's Dred Scott Decision ruled that free and enslaved blacks are not citizens. |
| 1797 | Choptank Abolition Society formed. | 1857 | Rev. Samuel Green Sr. of East New Market sentenced to ten years in prison for possession of a copy of <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> . |
| 1808 | The U.S. abolished trade in slaves from Africa. | 1860 | More than one half of the African Americans in Dorchester County were free. Having helped about 70 slaves to freedom, Harriet Tubman was forced to abandon her efforts, because it was too dangerous. |
| 1822 | Araminta "Minty" Ross, later known as Harriet Tubman, was born enslaved in Dorchester County. | 1861 | Confederate States of America established. The Civil War began. |
| 1826 | Wauagh Methodist Episcopal Church founded in Cambridge to serve the large, black congregation. | 1863 | President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, abolishing slavery in Confederate states. |
| 1830s | Vigilance Committees in Northern cities prevented the return of fugitive slaves to the South. | 1864 | Slaves in Maryland freed. |
| 1831 | The Underground Railroad (after the new steam rail roads) became the name of the network that helped slaves escape to freedom. | 1865 | The 13th Amendment to U.S. Constitution outlawed slavery. The Civil War ended. |
| 1833 | British Parliament passed Emancipation Act freeing all slaves and outlawing the slave trade. Canada abolished slavery. | | |
| 1835 | Maryland passed a law forbidding the circulation or sale of literature "having a tendency to create a discontent among or stir up insurrection of the people of colour of this state...." | | |