

# Finding Antislavery Ancestors

Susan L. Well 2018

Identify the abolitionists in your family tree by considering their:

- Location
- Religion
- FAN club
- Support for other progressive causes
- Political party

## General Resources

- Newspapers, especially obituaries and club notices
- County history books/mug books
- Local historical societies
- “city directories” The earliest ones begin at the time of the civil war.

[www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)  
[www.USgenweb.org](http://www.USgenweb.org)

## National Resources - Newspapers

*The Liberator* 1831-1865; published weekly in Boston by William Lloyd Garrison.

Online at [www.fair-use.org/the-liberator/](http://www.fair-use.org/the-liberator/) all issues, all years

*North Star* 1847-1851; published by Frederick Douglass, former slave

*The National Era* 1847-1860; weekly; published works by associate editor, John Greenleaf Whittier.

*National Anti-Slavery Standard* 1840-1870; official weekly newspaper of the American Anti-Slavery Society (AASS), published continuously until the ratification of the 15th Amendment to the Constitution.

## Local, Regional Resources - Newspapers

*The Liberty Bell, by Friends of Freedom* (1839-58): an annual book edited and published by Maria Weston Chapman, distributed to participants at the Anti-Slavery Bazaar organized by the Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society.

*The Philanthropist* 1836-1846 newspaper in Cincinnati area for the Ohio Anti-Slavery Society.

[www.genealogybank.com](http://www.genealogybank.com)  
[www.fultonhistory.com](http://www.fultonhistory.com)  
[www.news.google.com/newspapers](http://www.news.google.com/newspapers)

## Books

Bordewich, Fergus M., *Bound for Canaan: The Underground Railroad and the War for the Soul of America*. New York: Amistad/Harper Collins, 2005.

Foner, Eric. *Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2010. (Covers activity in New York City primarily.)

Hagedorn, Ann. *Beyond the River*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2002. (The Ohio River)

McPherson, James. *The War That Forged a Nation*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Siebert, Wilbur H., *The Underground Railroad from Slavery to Freedom*. New York: Macmillan, 1898. (Names of over 3000 Underground Railroad workers nationwide; not fully verified.)

Wagner, Patricia Martineau. *It Happened on the Underground Railroad*. Guilford, Connecticut: Globe Pequot Press, 2015. (Series of stories of famous fugitives and railroad workers.)

Heritagequestonline.com - (Library database you can access at home using your library card number. It has digitized genealogy and local history books.)

[www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com)

[www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org)

## Museums and Miscellaneous

[www.americanabolitionists.com](http://www.americanabolitionists.com)

[www.nps.gov/subjects/UGRR/discover\\_history](http://www.nps.gov/subjects/UGRR/discover_history)

<http://Library.haverford.edu/places/special-collections> - Haverford College, PA Quaker History

<https://www.swarthmore.edu/libraries> Home of Friends Historical Library

<https://web.tricolib.brynmawr.edu/speccoll/quakersandslavery/>

<https://hsp.org/> Historical Society of Pennsylvania

[www.heinzhistorycenter.org/fromslaverytofreedom](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/fromslaverytofreedom) Pittsburgh, PA

<https://freedomcenter.org/> National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati, OH

[www.nationalabolitionhalloffameandmuseum.org](http://www.nationalabolitionhalloffameandmuseum.org) National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum, Peterboro, Madison Co, NY; small museum in church where the NYS Anti-Slavery Society was formed in Oct 1835; website talks about opposition to meeting in Utica; open summer only and when space not used for concerts.

[www.northcountryundergroundrailroad.com](http://www.northcountryundergroundrailroad.com) North Country Underground Railroad Historical Association, Ausable Chasm, NY - small museum with great website that covers the Upper Hudson and Lake Champlain region - see people and places on lower right side of home page.