

## - TIMELINE -

### 1816 FARMINGTON FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE

1754 – “To live in ease and plenty, by the toil of those whom violence and cruelty have put in our power, is neither consistent with Christianity nor common justice...”

From “*An Epistle of Caution and Advice, Concerning the Buying and Keeping of Slaves*,” – Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) condemning slavery.

1767 – Quakers – the Religious Society of Friends – issued the first protest against slavery in Colonial New York, at a meeting in Purchase. They made an effort to rid their communities of the sin of slavery. Several Friends meetings even compensated individuals who had been held as slaves by their members.

1785 – The New York Manumission Society was organized.

1788 – The New York State Legislature banned the sale of any enslaved person brought into the state after June 1, 1785.

1790 – February 11<sup>th</sup>, the first petition for the abolition of slavery was sent to the United States Congress by the Society of Friends.

1789-90 – Pioneer Friends settled in Farmington, Ontario County, coming from Adams, Massachusetts. They left their ‘home’ meeting without due form, and so, were ‘disowned.’

1793 – February 12<sup>th</sup>, the first Fugitive Slave Act was passed by Congress.

- October 28<sup>th</sup>, Eli Whitney applied for a patent on a cotton gin.

1794 – Pennsylvania Friends arrived in Western New York to oversee the Canandaigua Treaty process between the Senecas and the United States.

They found that the Farmington Quakers were holding meetings in good order and recommended that they be brought ‘under the care’ of an established Friends meeting. Easton Meeting, in Saratoga County, accepted Farmington Meeting as a ‘preparative meeting.’

1796 – Farmington Friends constructed a double log house [One-half for a meetinghouse and one-half for a school.] on 15 acres of land deeded by Nathan Comstock “...with provision for a graveyard ...for Friends and friendly people.”

1803 – Farmington Meeting became a Monthly Meeting, consisting of three large preparative meetings at Farmington, Macedon and Palmyra. (One must understand that Quakerly monthly business meetings are always “Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business.”)

1804 – During 1803, the original log meetinghouse burned and Friends constructed a frame building the next year, 44' by 32', covered with cedar boards.

1807 – The Embargo Act passed by Congress deeply affected trade with Canada, the surest area of commerce for those on New York State's frontier.

1808 – January 1st, a congressional bill of 1807 barring the importation of slaves into the United States went into force, but it provided that *smuggled slaves were to be turned over to the state concerned to be sold.*

1810 - Farmington became the site of Farmington Quarterly meeting made up of all monthly Friends Meetings in Western New York. (See also, 1825.)

1812-15 – The War of 1812 drew the development of New York State's western and northern frontier to a halt, stopping commerce and settlement; also causing periodic action for the State Militia units, as well as bringing on a naval arms race on Lakes Erie and Ontario.

1814 – In March, freedom seeker Austin Steward became a member of the Otis Comstock family. He 'hired to' Mr. Comstock for the season, and from that time *"...lived with him nearly four years."*

1816 – Soon after the close of the War of 1812, so many settlers migrated to the Farmington area that local Friends decided to enlarge their meetinghouse. According to Sunderland P. Gardner, *"...there was no other meeting-house in the town for many years, and the consequence was that the inhabitants generally attended their (Quaker) meetings."*

- The building 'comite' decided by 3 Mo. 28, 1816 that *"...it would be better to build a new meetinghouse on a site ...within a few rods of the present one, sixty by forty feet and 22- foot posts."* When finished, it was a six-bay building, 60' 2" wide by 47' deep, with six windows on the east and west sides of the building and three on the north and south sides, each with 'twelve-over-eight' sashes.

- Two doors opened off the east side and one door opened off the south side onto a simple one-story porch that enclosed the east and south sides of the building. A smaller building with center doorway and window on each side, was attached to the southwest corner, likely used for separate meetings of ministers and elders.

- In the main building, ministers and elders sat on tiered seating across the north side, facing the south door, and members sat on plain board seats on the main floor or the gallery around the east, south and west sides. Walls were plastered. Floor, benches and woodwork were unpainted. Two iron stoves [from the previous building] heated the room. Board panels could be raised or lowered down the middle of the room to separate men's and women's meetings for business.

1816 – During April, Negroes in Philadelphia established the independent African Methodist Episcopal Church.

- July 27<sup>th</sup>, American forces invaded Spanish Florida and razed Fort Apalachicola, a former British Fort where the Seminole Indians had harbored slaves escaping from the United States.

- Also during this year, the American Colonization Society was founded to promote emancipation by settling freedmen in Africa.

1817 – Austin Steward set up a permanent business in Rochester, with stock and encouragement furnished by the Comstocks. [Several years of exposure to an intelligent, ambitious freedom seeker seems to have left a deep impression on several young people related to the Comstocks who later became involved in the area's Anti-slavery activities and organizations.]

1819 – The House of Representatives rejected an amendment offered by John W. Taylor of New York, to the bill organizing the Arkansas Territory that would have barred the future importation of slaves.

- Alabama, a slave state, was admitted to the Union as the 22<sup>nd</sup> state, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1819.

1820 – March 1<sup>st</sup>, Missouri was admitted as a free state and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of that month the so-called Missouri Compromise was adopted by Congress.

- May 15<sup>th</sup>, a bill proclaiming the foreign trade in slaves to be piracy was adopted by Congress. Any United States citizen who imported slaves was to be subject to the death penalty. [Fully enforced only once, in 1862.]

1823 – Wayne County was created from the northern part of Ontario County, leaving the neighboring Towns of Macedon and Farmington in separate counties. The split in county territories, left the Farmington Meeting members in at least two different political venues.

1825 – Between 1803 and this date, 25 preparative or monthly meetings were organized under the care of Farmington Monthly Meeting or of meetings set up by Farmington. During this time period, known as the Second Great Awakening, religious revivals swept many eastern U. S. churches every few years.

1825 - A particularly impressive revival swept the country this year, associated in upstate New York with Charles Grandison Finney.

- Many Friends were profoundly disturbed by this preaching, singing and enthusiastic religious movement. All were contrary to Quaker silent worship. Theologically, revivalists emphasized the inherent sinfulness of human beings, preached that Christ's death on the cross was the only possible atonement, and advocated the Bible as the revealed word of God.

c. 1825 - Many Quakers viewed human beings as essentially good. If Christ were the 'Inner Light,' part of every human being, how could people be inherently evil? Why, then, was there a need for death as atonement? And how could anyone know 'Truth,' anywhere, including the Bible, except by reliance on continuing revelation? The Spirit continued to speak, all the time, and it was the duty of all Friends to listen and act on 'divine requiring.'

- Quakerly opposition to new values became associated with Elias Hicks, Long Island Quaker preacher, a strong advocate of not only the Inner Light and of ongoing revelation but also of the Free Produce Movement – avoiding the use of any products grown by people held in slavery.

1827 – Freedom's Journal, the first newspaper published by Negroes in the United States, was issued in New York City, with Samuel B. Cornish and J. B. Russwurm as editors.

1827 – Elias Hicks visited the Farmington area, holding several "*large favored meetings in which truth was exalted over all.*" He wrote in his journal, "*We parted with them in true peace of mind.*"

1828 – On June 26, almost half of the Farmington Friends belied Hicks' parting comment by walking out of the Farmington Monthly Meeting, held in the 1816 meetinghouse. They eventually took over the 1804 meetinghouse on the east side of the road and were known as Farmington Friends Meeting (Orthodox).

- This was part of the 'Great Separation of Friends' throughout North America into Orthodox and Hicksite branches. The remaining members of the original meeting stayed in the 1816 meetinghouse and were known as Farmington Friends Meeting (Hicksite), so the old building eventually became known as the Hicksite Quaker Meetinghouse.

1831 – January 1<sup>st</sup>, abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison began publishing the abolitionist newspaper, The Liberator, in Boston.

- Nat Turner's Rebellion in August of the same year, in Southampton County, Virginia, brought on wide-spread panic in the slave-holding South – and a hardening of pro-slavery attitudes. [Nearly sixty whites were killed, Turner and twelve others were executed and about 100 other Negroes were killed during the search for rebels.]

1831-1833 – The American Anti-Slavery Society was developed in NYC, by several well known abolitionists, and formally organized December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1833.

1834 – On July 4<sup>th</sup>, rioting between groups favoring and opposing the abolition of slavery occurred in New York City.

1835 - In the May, at the American Anti-Slavery Convention, in New York City, Asa B. Smith was listed as President of the Farmington Anti-Slavery Society, with Joseph C. Hathaway as Secretary. (Both were part of the Comstock extended family.)

1835 - By early October, several men from Farmington's Orthodox Meeting, as well as others from the Macedon and Palmyra meetings, signed a call to the organizing convention of the New York State Anti-Slavery Society to be held in Utica on the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month.

- The Utica Anti-Slavery meeting was threatened by mob action, and at the invitation of Gerrit Smith, the session was moved to the Presbyterian Church in Peterboro. (This marked Smith's switch from the "elitist" attitudes of the American Colonization Society to his backing of Immediate Abolition.)

1836 – In January, James G. Birney, a former slave owner and southern ex-patriot, founded the antislavery newspaper, *The Philanthropist*, in New Richmond, Ohio.

1836 – In November, Farmington Quarterly Meeting (Orthodox) adopted a strong abolitionist statement, published as a pamphlet titled: "*An Address from Farmington Quarterly Meeting of Friends, to its Members on Slavery.*" Quarterly Meeting clerks signing the minute of the pamphlet were Lindley Murray Moore for the men's meeting and Abigail Lydia Mott Moore for the women's meeting.

1837 – In March, 100 men in Farmington formed a men's anti-slavery society, with J. C. Hathaway as President. Phoebe Hathaway, his sister, was the president of the women's anti-slavery society, with 32 members.

- In May 1837, the Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women was held in New York City, with many Quakers, led by Lucretia Mott, as delegates. They "turned the world upside down," by barring men from the meeting – and the press – and by having black and white women meet together at such a public event. [Many people were against such open 'amalgamation.']

- By June 10<sup>th</sup>, *The Colored American*, New York, New York, listed Otis Clapp of Palmyra and Asa B. Smith of Farmington as agents for the newspaper.

1837 – August 4, the government of the Republic of Texas requested annexation by the United States. The request was refused on August 25, in order to side-step the slavery question.

- November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1837, Elijah P. Lovejoy, Illinois publisher of an abolitionist paper, was killed by a mob.

1838 – February 14<sup>th</sup>, despite the adoption of a new gag rule by the House of Representatives on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 1837, John Quincy Adams presented 350 anti-slavery petitions to the House.

– The night of May 17<sup>th</sup>, a well-primed Philadelphia mob ransacked and burned the Abolitionists' newly built Pennsylvania Hall because of objections to the 'amalgamated' [integrated] Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women that was being held there.

1838 – By July, Farmington women formed one of the most active of the twenty female anti-slavery societies in New York State, and they connected abolitionism explicitly to woman's rights in a published address.

1839 – On November 13<sup>th</sup>, "immediatist abolitionists formed the Liberty Party at a convention held in Warsaw, New York. The delegates nominated James G. Birney of Kentucky for President and Thomas Earle of Pennsylvania for Vice President.

1840 – Lucretia Coffin Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton met at the First World Anti-Slavery Convention in London, where none of the women delegates, including Mrs. Mott, were allowed to take their places on the floor of the convention. Lucretia, then attaining the height of her Quakerly leadership powers and the younger, newlywed Mrs. Henry Stanton, even then, knew that they must do something together to win equal rights for women.

1841 – In February, Chairman of the Board, J. C. Hathaway of Farmington, signed a newspaper notice of the convention of the Western New York Anti-Slavery Society at Northville in Cayuga County, under the heading of "Remember the Slave."

- The same year, British Orthodox preacher John Joseph Gurney visited Farmington, preaching in the Hicksite Meetinghouse to accommodate the large crowds.

1841 – March 9<sup>th</sup>, the Supreme Court upheld a decision by a lower court that freed the African mutineers of the *Amistad*. Being transported in a Spanish slave ship in 1839, the native Africans had mutineered against the crew, then had been taken into custody by a United States warship.

1842 – During the spring and summer, J. C. Hathaway, residing in, "Pumpkin Hook," (Once known as New Salem), just north of the 1816 Farmington Meetinghouse, reported several freedom seeking incidents to The National Anti-Slavery Standard.

- During this year, when the American anti-Slavery Society was holding conventions all across the northeastern United States, William Lloyd Garrison visited Central and Western New York, speaking throughout the Farmington Area.

1842 – In January, the Supreme Court ruled that a Pennsylvania law forbidding slaves was unconstitutional, but that enforcement of the Federal Fugitive Slave Act of 1793 was entirely a federal responsibility. Subsequently, personal liberty laws were adopted in Northern states.

- March 23rd, the House of Representatives censured Rep. Joshua R Giddings of Ohio for having presented resolutions opposing slavery and the shipment of slaves in the coastal trade.

1844 – July 1<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, In two letters, Henry Clay, who had opposed the annexation of Texas, stated that he favors it under certain conditions. This stand lost him anti-slavery voters support in the North.

June 8<sup>th</sup>, because of anti-slavery sentiment the Senate refused to ratify the Texas annexation treaty.

1845 – Griffith M. Cooper, a recorded minister of Farmington Monthly Meeting (Hicksite) – and an Underground Railroad activist – was “released” as a minister by the Farmington Meeting of Ministers and Elders. It was during this year, that Isaac and Amy Post, also active in the Underground withdrew from Rochester Monthly Meeting and Farmington Quarterly Meeting and began to hold “free meetings,” in their own home. (The Doty family did the same in Farmington.)

1845 – March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Florida, a slave state, was admitted to the Union as the 27<sup>th</sup> State.

- Also during this year, Frederick Douglass published his first autobiography.

1846 – May 11<sup>th</sup>, War was declared on Mexico. During May and June the Mexican ports on the Pacific and the Gulf of Mexico were blockaded by the U.S.A. The war, which was popular in the West, was bitterly disliked by anti-slavery forces in the North.

August 8<sup>th</sup>, \$2 million dollars is voted for the Mexican peace negotiations bill... The bill is amended by what became known as the “Wilmot Proviso.” Introduced by Rep. David Wilmot of Pennsylvania, it would have prohibit slavery in any territory acquired from Mexico. The Senate adjourns without acting on the bill.

1847 – J. C. Hathaway wrote the Preface to the, Narrative of William Wells Brown, A Fugitive Slave, published in Boston. Wells spent several years in the area as an agent of the Western New York Anti-Slavery Society apparently living in Farmington for part of that time. He helped to conduct freedom seekers to Canada, following a stint as a temperance worker among them.

1847- February 19<sup>th</sup>, Senator John C. Calhoun, in the debate on the Wilmot Proviso, presented four resolutions in which he defended the right of states to make their own decisions on slavery and denied the power of Congress to require prospective states to agree to special conditions. “The states each have rights in the territories which they own jointly...”

- 1847, 10<sup>th</sup> Month, William R. Smith, son of Asa B. and Hannah Comstock Smith, advertised his Macedon Nursery in *The National Era*, a moderate abolitionist newspaper, published in Washington, D. C.

1847, (by) December 12<sup>th</sup>, Frederick Douglass, who had spoken in the area as early as 1843, moved to Rochester, New York and established the *North Star*, [Later *Frederick Douglass' Paper*]. He became active in the Western New York Anti-Slavery Society, speaking throughout the region with “agents” J. C. Hathaway and Charles Lenox Remond over the next several months.

1847 - February 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Western New York Anti-Slavery speakers were scheduled to speak in Farmington.

1848, April 15 – “The Escape on *The Pearl*,” occurred when over seventy slaves tried to leave the District of Columbia, on the schooner *Pearl*. The incident, which W. R. Smith’s good friend William Chaplin had helped plan, was meant to call national attention to the slave sales pens in the capital of the nation. *The Pearl* was apprehended before it could navigate north in the Chesapeake Bay, the crew imprisoned and many of the re-captured slaves were sold south. Emily and Mary Edmonson were among them.

- In the summer of 1848, when James and Lucretia Mott visited her sister, Martha Coffin Wright in Seneca Falls, New York, Lucretia and Elizabeth Cady Stanton met once more, and with Martha and Waterloo friends, Jane Hunt and Mary Ann McClintock planned the first Woman’s Rights Convention, held July 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> in the Wesleyan Chapel at Seneca Falls.

- At the 1848 Genesee Yearly Meeting of Hicksite Friends, some reformist” Friends walked out of the 1816 Meetinghouse over the issue of sparate meetings for Ministers and Elders, and the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings of the local Hicksite Friends literally closed the doors to reformers.

- Decembeer 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, the area’s Female Anti-Slavery Society held a “Rochester Anti-Slavery Bazaar” in Minerva Hall, with severral Farmington Orthodox Quaker women in the list of organizers.

1849 – October 26, a “Circular of the Provisional Committee for the Promotion of Education among the Colored People, in ... the Slave States...” was published in *The North Star*, signed by five Farmington women: Hannah C. Smith, Phebe Hathaway, Maria E. Wilbur, Anna P. Adams, and Cassandra Green Hamblin. This action was inspired by teenagers Mary and Emily Edmonson, from the escape on *The Pearl*, who were then living with the William R. Smith family in Macedon and attending a “home” school.

- During this year, Quietist Minister, Sunderland Pattison Gardner became the leading minister in the Farmington Hicksite Friends Meeting maintaining that role until his death in 1893.

1850 – August 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Cazenovia Anti-Slavery Convention of 1850 was held by “fugitives from Slavery and their friends.” A famous daguerreotype, taken in Mrs. Wilson’s apple orchard, shows the leaders of the meeting, including Frederick Douglass of Rochester (President), J. C. Hathaway of Macedon (One of the Vice-Presidents) and George W. Clark of Victor, the “Liberty Singer,” Among those also identifiable in the photo, are Gerrit Smith of Peterboro, and Mary and Emily Edmonson.



c. 1850 – Myrtilla Miner, who later opened a school for slaves and former slaves in Washington, D. C., spent some time at the home school near the William R. Smith family, in South Macedon.

1850- September 6<sup>th</sup>, Congress adopted the first of five measures ... of the Compromise of 1850.

- September 12<sup>th</sup>, the Congress adopted the Fugitive Slave Act, which was signed by President Fillmore on September 18<sup>th</sup>; it authorized the imposition of large fines, imprisonment and the assessment of civil damages in cases of interference with the capture of fugitive slaves. The northern states adopted new personal liberty laws, and individuals openly aided the Underground Railroad.

- September 17<sup>th</sup>, Congress adopted a bill forbidding all trade in slaves within the District of Columbia. It was signed by the President on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

1852 – October 20<sup>th</sup>, “A Mass Convention of the Free Democracy of Ontario County” was held at the Court House in Canandaigua. Douglass reported that the ticket nominated for county and local office, “are thorough temperance men...”

1853 – June 10<sup>th</sup>, *Frederick Douglass Paper* reported on the sessions of the Women’s State Temperance Union, presided over by their president, Mrs. E. C. Stanton, including in-depth coverage of her opening speech.

1853 – June 24<sup>th</sup>, Douglass reprinted an article from *The Rochester American*, covering the State Temperance Society’s two-day meeting in St. John’s Church. Asa B. Smith made himself a bit obnoxious to those in charge, by arguing for the admission of women to speak and vote for the Society.

1854 – January 4<sup>th</sup>, In order to organize the Nebraska Territory, Senator Stephen A. Douglas introduced a bill that he hoped would dilute opposition sufficiently to permit passage. In it, the question of slavery was to be decided by “Popular Sovereignty.”

- January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Senator Douglas’ second bill provided for two territories, Kansas and Nebraska. This bill still contained Popular or ‘Squatter’ sovereignty, which abrogated the Missouri Compromise of 1820, which had banned all slavery north of 36 degrees, 30’ latitude. Anti-slavery leaders were aroused and on January 24<sup>th</sup>, issued an “Appeal to the Independent Democrats.”

1854 - February 28<sup>th</sup>, Opponents of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, met in Ripon, Wisconsin, to propose the creation of a new political party.

- April 26<sup>th</sup>, Eli Thayer founded the Massachusetts Emigrant Aid Society, to encourage anti-slavery settlers to go to Kansas. About 2,000 settlers were aided by the group, re-named the New England Emigrant Aid Society in 1855.

- July 6<sup>th</sup>, Anti-slavery Michigan men meet in Jackson and assumed the name “Republican Party;” they demanded that the Fugitive Slave and the Kansas-Nebraska Acts be repealed. Other state conventions were held on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

1856 – March 17<sup>th</sup>, Republicans want Kansas admitted as a state under the Topeka (Anti-slavery) Constitution.

May 19<sup>th</sup> – Senator Charles Sumner, a Massachusetts Republican, made a speech: “The Crime Against Kansas,” savagely denouncing the supporters of slavery, among them Senator A. P. Butler of South Carolina. Three days later, Butler’s cousin, Representative Preston S. Brooks, beat Sumner with a walking stick as he sat in the Senate Chamber, injuring him so severely that Sumner did not recover until late in 1859.

May 21<sup>st</sup> – Pro-slavery Kansans and “Border Ruffians,” attacked and looted Lawrence, Kansas, killing one man. On May 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, John Brown and a small band killed five pro-slavery men at Pottawotamie Creek, provoking the popular phrase, “Bleeding Kansas!”

1857 – March 6<sup>th</sup>, just two days after the Inauguration of James Buchanan, in the Dred Scott case, the Supreme Court, under Chief Justice Roger Taney, ruled that Scott – a Negro slave of Missouri, who had sued to obtain his freedom – was not a citizen with the constitutional right to sue in federal court. In this case, the Court also held that the Missouri Compromise of 1820 was unconstitutional. Anti-slavery Northerners were quick to condemn the decision.

1857 – Austin Steward published his autobiography, “Twenty-two Years a Slave and Forty Years a Freeman,” documenting his personal journey to freedom, with the help of the Otis Comstock family of Macedon and Farmington.

1858 – June 16<sup>th</sup>, Abraham Lincoln, addressing a Republican state convention in Springfield, Illinois, that had endorsed him for the United States Senate, made a strong anti-slavery speech in which he stated: “A house divided against itself cannot stand.’ I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free...”

- July 24<sup>th</sup>, Lincoln challenged Senator Douglas, the Democratic candidate in the Illinois Senatorial campaign to a series of debates. (Held across the state from August 28<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>.) Lincoln presented his views on the immorality of slavery, while Douglas defended “popular sovereignty.”

1859 – March 7<sup>th</sup> – In Ableman vs. Booth, the Supreme Court ruled that state courts may not issue writs of habeas corpus to free federal prisoners – and that the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 was constitutional.

- October 4<sup>th</sup> – The people of the Kansas Territory ratified an anti-slavery constitution at Wyandotte.

1859 - October 16<sup>th</sup> – John Brown’s forces raided the Harper’s Ferry, Virginia federal arsenal. Two days later, the survivors of that citizen’s army, including “The Old Man,” himself, were captured by Colonel R. E. Lee.

1859 - Frederick Douglass, whom John Brown had tried to persuade to join the ill-fated raid, immediately left the country for a prolonged stay in England. The death of his dear, young daughter, Annie, would bring him back to Rochester the following year.

1859 - December 2<sup>nd</sup> – John Brown is hanged at Charlestown for treason and criminal conspiracy.

- December 19<sup>th</sup> – President Buchanan told Congress that the foreign slave trade would be stopped. The original bill barring importation of slaves had been enacted over fifty years earlier! (Please see 1807-8 and 1820.)

1860 – February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Senator Jefferson Davis presented resolutions on slavery based on the extreme Southern position: ...'slavery cannot be prohibited in territories and should be protected there' ... 'it is unconstitutional to attack the practice of slavery in the slave states' ... 'there should be no state interference with each others' institutions.' The Senate approved the resolution on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

- April 23<sup>rd</sup>, The Democratic party convenes in Charleston, South Carolina. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, after the convention refused to adopt an extreme pro-slavery platform, the delegates from eight Southern states left. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the convention adjourned without making a decision.

- November 6<sup>th</sup>, In the presidential election, Lincoln was elected president. He received 180 electoral votes to 72 to Breckinridge, 39 for Ball and 12 for Stephen A. Douglas.

- December 3<sup>rd</sup>, South Carolina held a state convention in Columbia, and voted to secede from the United States.

1861 – April 13<sup>th</sup>, the Fort Sumter garrison surrendered.

- April 15<sup>th</sup>, Lincoln issued a proclamation asking the "Union" states for 75,000 volunteers to combat an insurrection.

- August 30<sup>th</sup>, In St. Louis, Major General Fremont, commander of the Western Department, ordered the emancipation of rebel slaves. Lincoln felt compelled to countermand this order and Fremont was transferred.

1862 – September 22<sup>nd</sup>, following the battle of Antietam, President Lincoln issued the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, ordering the freeing of all slaves in those areas in rebellion on January 1, 1863.

1863 – The first unit of Union Colored Troops came into being with the organization of the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, following intensive lobbying for inclusion of African Americans in the war effort, led by Frederick Douglass, whose two sons join the new regiment.

1865 – March 3 – An Act of Congress created the Freedmen's Bureau to aid former slaves, helping them to obtain jobs, schooling, land and medical care.

- April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Civil War ended when Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox.

- April 15<sup>th</sup>, President Abraham Lincoln died after being shot by Booth, and Andrew Johnson of the border state of Tennessee became president.

- November 22-29<sup>th</sup>, The Mississippi Legislature adopted laws on vagrancy, labor service, and the like, constituting the first of the "black codes" ... to regulate Negroes.

1865 - December 6<sup>th</sup>, the Thirteenth Amendment, abolishing slavery, was ratified. (During this year, the Ku Klux Klan was created in Tennessee.)

1866 – April 9<sup>th</sup>, The Civil Rights Act, which had been vetoed by President Johnson as interfering with the rights of the states, was adopted by Congress. All those native-born, except untaxed Indians, are citizens with equal rights – *regardless of race*.

1866 – June 13<sup>th</sup>, Congress adopted the Fourteenth Amendment, which stipulated the requirements to cover Negroes' civil rights – and prohibited former office holders who had engaged in rebellion from holding office. No state could be restored to the Union without ratifying this amendment.

- July 19<sup>th</sup>, Tennessee ratified the Fourteenth Amendment; on July 24<sup>th</sup>, it was restored to the Union.

1866 - November 20<sup>th</sup>, The Grand Army of the Republic, a national organization of Union veterans, held its first national encampment in Indianapolis.

1867 – March 2<sup>nd</sup>, The initial Reconstruction Act was adopted over the veto of President Johnson.

1876 – The healing factions of the Farmington meeting of the Religious Society of Friends came together to build a new meetinghouse just south of the site of the 1804 meetinghouse, which had been used by the Orthodox branch for many years. The Hicksite Meetinghouse across the road to the north was then used for special Friends meetings for a number of years.

The 1876 structure forms the main part of the present Farmington Friends Meetinghouse, which actively serves the larger community as well Friends Meetings – both local and regional.

1927 – The 1816 Meetinghouse was sold to a local farmer, and became a potato warehouse, remaining in private hands until 2006.

1929 – A historical monument was dedicated by Farmington Friends on the site of the original 1796 meetinghouse: “the first Quaker church west of Utica, New York.

1939 – A Sesquicentennial Celebration was held by Farmington Friends Meeting in honor of the pioneering local Friends of 1789, who are believed to have formed the first church organization west of Utica.

c. 2000 – The former meetinghouse was struck by a vehicle at high speed, damaging the timbers of the southwest corner.

2005-6 – Several individuals from this area, and across Central New York organized and became involved in trying to save the 1816 Hicksite Friends Meetinghouse, for restoration as an educational center for Anti-Slavery, the Underground Railroad, Native American Land Rights, Women's Rights and Quakerly Heritage.

2006 – The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Foundation agreed to take over ownership of the 1816 Hicksite Friends Meetinghouse building and the restoration committee remained active, opting for minimum stabilization of the structure as a first step to an on-going moving an----d restoration project.

2007 – The 1816 building has been stabilized and there is an on-going financial development and grants-writing campaign to move the building to a site donated by the present Farmington Meeting, which is part of the Farmington Friends Meetinghouse Historical Site, now accepted to the State and National Registers.

- September 28, 2007, several Friends from Farmington and Rochester Meetings took part with other from throughout the area in a reading presentation of "Voices of the Light," at the International Frederick Douglass Underground Railroad Conference in Rochester's Riverside Convention Center. The script was based on overviews of Farmington Meetinghouse history and direct quotations from those who took part through the years.

For more information please see:  
([www.farmingtonmeetinghouse.blogspot.com](http://www.farmingtonmeetinghouse.blogspot.com)).

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