

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA  
CONVENTION, ASSEMBLED TO  
ORGANIZE A STATE  
ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY, AT  
HARRISBURG, ON THE 31ST OF JANUARY  
AND 1ST, 2D AND 3D OF FEBRUARY 1837**

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Proceedings of the Pennsylvania Convention, Assembled to Organize a State Anti-Slavery Society, at Harrisburg, on the 31st of January and 1st, 2d and 3d of February 1837 by Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society

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# **PENNSYLVANIA ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY**

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CONVENTION, ASSEMBLED TO  
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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
**PENNSYLVANIA CONVENTION,**  
ASSEMBLED TO ORGANIZE  
**A STATE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY,**

AT

**HARRISBURG,**

On the 31st of January and 1st, 2d and 3d of February

1837.



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1837.



## PROCEEDINGS

*Of a Convention of Delegates, assembled from various parts of the State of Pennsylvania, at Harrisburg, Dauphin County, on Tuesday, the 31st of January, 1837, at 10 o'clock, A. M., in Alter's Hotel, agreeable to the following Call:*

### **To the Friends of Immediate Emancipation in the State of Pennsylvania.**

In the progress of our just and righteous cause towards the redemption of our country from the iniquitous system of Slavery, the period, we believe, has arrived, when the friends of equal rights throughout the State should awaken from the apathy in which they have so long slumbered, and prepare for renewed and more vigorous exertions. Hitherto, our labours have been divided, our efforts weakened, and our energies repressed, for want of co-operation and efficient organization. Our opponents though conscious that the principles of civil and religious liberty are as deeply rooted in the hearts of our Yeomanry as the foundations of their native mountains are imbedded in the earth, have, *for selfish purposes*, represented Pennsylvania as possessing no sympathy for the contemned slave, nor his generous advocates. Fellow Citizens, shall we continue to merit this tacit reproach upon our patriotism? Have we indeed no feelings of compassion for the captive?—no aid or encouragement for those who are manfully contending for his rights? Shall we remain inactive until this moral warfare shall have been decided, recreant to our faith, and degraded in the estimation of the honest and conscientious? Or rather, shall we not proclaim to friend and foe, in a voice that may not be misunderstood, that the principles which actuated our fathers in 1780, have still a dwelling place in the bosoms of their descendants,—that Slavery, in every form, and in every clime, is abhorrent to our feelings; at variance with our convictions of truth and justice; and that we shall not hesitate to use all lawful and honourable means for its complete and final destruction.

If we were disposed to forget the claims of oppressed humanity, self-preservation alone would arouse us to action.

Do we value the inherent liberty of our nature, bestowed upon us by a beneficent Providence, and guaranteed by the laws of the land? Do we cherish and wish to perpetuate the freedom of speech and of the press? Do we desire to see the Constitution of our country preserved inviolate?—"Citizens of each state entitled to all the privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states?" Then must we "remember those who are in bonds as bound with them." In the present crisis, our cause is identified with theirs. The moment we cease to advocate their claims to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," we endanger our own. Can we then hesitate on the course we ought to pursue? Urged by a sense of duty; by the calls of suffering millions; by all we hold dear on earth and sacred in Heaven, let us prepare for fresh and energetic action.

Come from the crowded city, the obscure hamlet; from the shop of the artizan, the labour of the field; come from the various useful employments of civilized life, and let us unite as one band, in a State Society, for the overthrow of this mighty evil. Societies already organized on the principle that all men are born free and equal, and consequently entitled to freedom and rational equality now, will send delegates. Where these do not exist, let all who entertain our sentiments and are willing to co-operate, meet and appoint them. Our friends from other states will be with us; the spirit of love, we trust, will accompany us, and characterize our proceedings, that our influence may be felt in every section of this our beloved country.

The above Call was signed by upwards of Twelve Hundred gentlemen from various parts of the State.

The Convention was called to order by Bartholomew Fussell, of Chester County, and, on motion, a Committee was appointed to nominate officers for the Convention, who reported as follows:

FOR PRESIDENT.

F. JULIUS LE MOYNE, *of Washington County.*

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

BARTHOLOMEW FUSSELL, *Chester County.*

LINDLEY COATES, *Lancaster.*

BENJAMIN BOWN, *Allegheny.*

WILLIAM A. ADAIR, *Eric.*



BENJAMIN ALLEN, *Westmoreland*.  
 WILLIAM H. SCOTT, *Philadelphia*.  
 JOSEPH M. TRUMAN, *Philadelphia*.  
 NATHAN STEM, *Dauphin*.

## SECRETARIES.

*James Rhoads*, Delaware County.  
*A. L. Post*, Susquehanna.  
*Benjamin S. Jones*, Philadelphia.  
*William B. Thomas*, Montgomery.  
*Henry Duffield*, Cumberland.

The credentials of the Delegates having been called for, it appeared that the following gentlemen were appointed to represent the friends of Emancipation in Pennsylvania, most of whom were present and took their seats as members of the Convention:—From the

*Y. M. A. S. S. of Philadelphia.*

William H. Scott,	Charles Evans,	J. Willis,
Benjamin Lundy,	J. Longstreth,	George Pennock,
William Harned,	N. W. Ellis,	S. R. Evans,
Lewis C. Gunn,	Edward M. Davis,	J. W. Gaskill,
Daniel Neall, jr.,	Ebenezer S. Davis,	J. W. Morris,
Joshua Coffin,	William Hawkins,	George Grogg,
Caleb Clothier,	William Marot,	Isaac Shotwell,
Warner Justice,	Alfred Woodward,	James M'Crummil,
William Eyre,	C. C. Jackson,	William Canler,
William Dorsey,	George Alsop,	C. H. Roberts,
James A. Wright,	Charles Wise,	B. C. Bacon,
Isaac Parrish,	William A. Garrigues,	J. C. Bowers,
Benjamin S. Jones,	William Thompson,	Eli Dillin.
Robert Purvis,	James M. Jackson,	

*Citizens of Philadelphia.*

Joseph M. Truman,	Charles Kirk,	Biddle Reeves,
Samuel Webb,	Daniel Neall, sen.,	Thomas B. Longstreth.
Henry Grew,	Powell Stackhouse,	W. W. Perrine,
A. W. Thayer,	Peter Wright,	William Neall,
James Wood,	Henry Sterling,	Robert S. Clark,
James Barker,	Thomas Parker,	Marshall Attmore,
William H. Ellis,	Abraham L. Pennock,	Jacob Wise,
Dillwyn Parrish,	James Mott,	James Sellers,
William S. Lower,	Arnold Buffum,	Edward Needles,
C. W. Gardner,	James Forten, sen.,	Samuel Scattergood,
Ralph Smith,	Nathan Thorne,	William Johns,
John Dickinson,	Benjamin Whitaker,	Joseph R. Evans,
John H. Cavender,	John Robinson,	George W. Metz.

*Frankford A. S. S.*

George L. Gillingham.

*Delaware County A. S. S.*

John Sellers, jr.,	Charles Cadwallader,	Samuel Sellers, jr.,
James Rhoads,	Abraham Powell.	

*Montgomery County A. S. S.*

Alan W. Corson,	Abel Fitzwater,	David E. Wood,
William B. Thomas,	John Barnett,	John P. Rotter,
George Corson,	Joseph Lukens,	Robert Potts.

*Bucks County A. S. S.*

Wm. H. Johnson,	Hector C. Ivins,	Joskua Dungan,
	James Townsend.	

*Susquehanna County A. S. S.*

A. L. Post, Chapman Baldwin.

*Clarkson A. S. S.*

William Jackson,	Jacob Pierce,	Joshua Brinton,
Lindley Coates,	Joseph Fulton,	Daniel Gibbons
Thomas Whitson,	Caleb Brinton,	Joseph Moore,
Thomas Hambleton,	Robert W. Burrows,	Issac Moore,
Thomas Worrall, jr.,	Thomas Pearl,	Jonathan Lamborn.
B. Fussell,	Joseph Gibbons,	
Eli Hambleton,	Moses Powndle,	

*Citizens of Schuylkill Township, Chester County.*

Joseph Pennypacker, E. F. Pennypacker, John Hinewalt.

*Citizens of Willistown Township, Chester County.*

David Evans.

*Uwehlan A. S. S.*

Paxson Vickers, Simon Hawley.

*Westchester A. S. S.*

Henry Fleming,	Samuel M. Painter,	P. F. Smith,
O. V. Pennypacker,	Edward M. Bartlett,	Aaron Vickers.

*Kennett A. S. S.*

John Cox,	Pennock Marshall,	Charles Hamilton,
Isaac Mendenhall,	William Way, jr.,	Henry M. Paxson.

*Kimberton A. S. S.*

Emmor Kimber.

ANTI-SLAVERY CONVENTION.

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*East Fallowfield A. S. S.*

Benj. Clendenon,	Samuel Pennington,	A. L. Stanton.
William Taylor,	James Fulton, jr.,	
Stephen Smith,	George J. Miles,	

*Colrain A. S. S.*

Thomas Wood.

*Citizens of Berks County.*

Elijah Deebert,      William Sterling.

*York A. S. S.*

Jonathan M'Murdy.

*Harrisburg A. S. S.*

A. O. Hiester,	W. W. Rutherford,	Washington Barr,
Wm. Grimshaw,	William Root,	John Wolburn,
M. M'Kenny,	P. Eslinger,	Philip Irwin.
Samuel Cross,	David Simple,	
Alexander Graydon,	James Todd,	

*Dauphin County A. S. S.*

Junius C. Morel.

*Adams County A. S. S.*

Jesse Russell,	Wm. C. Reynolds,	Adam Wert,
William Wright,	Charles Martin,	Wm. C. Wierman.
Joel Wierman,	R. M. Middleton,	
Allen Robinett,	Josiah Renner,	

*Carlisle A. S. S.*

H. Aurand,	John Peck,	Charles Ogilby,
H. Duffield,	Levi Merkle,	Robert Hofbert,
W. C. Chambers,	William Parkinson,	David Scoby,
Jacob Dooy,	John Gormany,	George L. Lyne.

*Citizens of Mifflin County.*

James Nourse,      S. Macky.

*Westmoreland County A. S. S.*

Benjamin Allen,	James Gemmiel,	James M'Clelland,
Isaac Fulton,	Samuel Welty,	Wm. H. Cochran.