

## WORKING GROUP ON RACISM WORKSHOP TIMELINE

Inspired by the publication in 2008 of *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship* by Vanessa July and Donna McDaniel, the Working Group on Racism will make a presentation on the response to enslavement by Quakers in the BYM area at its workshop on Saturday, August 7 during Annual Session. That presentation will be greatly indebted to Jay Worrall II of Charlottesville Friends Meeting, who died on March 16 of this year. A number of the stories we will tell come from his history of Quakers in Virginia, *The Friendly Virginians, America's First Quakers*, which he published in 1994. As part of our preparation we developed this timeline:

- 1619**—First enslaved Africans arrived in Jamestown
- 1655**—First Quaker arrives in Hampton.
- 1672**—Maryland (later Baltimore) Yearly Meeting and Virginia Yearly Meeting created. Colony of Virginia authorities prohibit Quakers from bringing Negroes to their Meetings.
- 1681**—Philadelphia Yearly Meeting created (meetings in northern Virginia, central Pennsylvania and western Maryland that were then part of PYM are now in BYM).
- 1740**—Virginia Quaker enslavers refuse to participate in night patrols to break up meetings of enslaved persons.
- 1746**—John Woolman makes his first trip to visit Quaker enslavers in Virginia and Maryland to persuade them to stop enslaving people.
- 1755**—PYM prohibits members from buying or importing enslaved people.
- 1757**—John Woolman returns to Virginia and is told by members of Cedar Creek (now Richmond) Friends Meeting that black people have been designated by God to be enslaved because they are descendants of either Cain or Ham. Language from a PYM query disapproving of buying enslaved people is adopted by VYM only after altering it to limit it to buying enslaved people for purposes of trade.
- 1759**—MYM adopts minute disapproving of Quakers' enslaving people.
- 1760**—PYM disownments of enslavers begins, but MYM minute opposing enslavement by Quakers is repealed.
- 1762**—MYM makes enslaving people or selling those already enslaved a disownable offense unless the transaction is approved by the Monthly Meeting.
- 1768**—MYM decides to disown buyers and sellers of enslaved people.
- 1770**—MYM enslavers are made ineligible for appointment to committees of ministers and elders.
- 1782**—Quakers persuade Virginia legislature to making it lawful for enslavers to free those they enslave.
- 1786**—Alexandria Quaker William Hartshorne is treasurer of the Potomac River Company, which uses the labor of from 100 to 200 enslaved persons a year to make the Potomac River navigable.
- 1788**—Philadelphia Quaker Sarah Harrison visits Virginia Quaker enslavers to persuade them to free those they have enslaved.
- 1790**—Maryland's Eastern Shore meetings that had been part of BYM are assigned to PYM and meetings in Northern Virginia, Western Maryland, and central Pennsylvania that had been part of PYM are assigned to BYM. Quakers and Methodists establish Virginia abolition society.

- 1800**—Plot by enslaved persons in Richmond to kidnap Virginia Governor James Monroe is discovered before it could get underway. Gabriel, the leader of the plot, is reported to have instructed his followers not to harm Frenchmen, Methodists or Quakers.
- 1801**—District of Columbia created out of land from Virginia and Maryland.
- 1802**—Alexandria Quaker William Hartshorne and Goose Creek Quaker Phineas Janney, are treasurer and president respectively of the Little River Turnpike Company, which uses enslaved labor to build the Little River Turnpike.
- 1809**—William Hartshorne is President of Alexandria Marine Insurance Company, which insured a ship carrying 30 enslaved persons to New Orleans.
- 1816**—William Hartshorne urges member of Alexandria Friends Meeting to boycott businesses that use enslaved labor.
- 1818**—Virginia Quakers participate in the resettlement near Cincinnati, Ohio, of several hundred enslaved people in Virginia after they were freed in the will of their enslaver.
- 1821**—Baltimore Quaker Moses Sheppard helps organize the Maryland State Colonization Society to settle recently enslaved people in Africa.
- 1824**—When Baltimore Quaker Elisha Tyson dies, thousands of African-American march in his funeral because of his work that kept more than 2,000 free African-Americans in Baltimore from being enslaved.
- 1827**—Goose Creek and Alexandria Quaker Samuel Janney helps organize petitions to Congress to abolish enslavement in DC. First Virginia-wide convention of anti-slavery organization is held in Goose Creek Meeting school house. Nathaniel Crenshaw of Cedar Creek Meeting arranges freedom and resettlement in Pennsylvania for 65 persons who had been enslaved by his family.
- 1828**—BYM divides into separate Hicksite and Orthodox Yearly Meetings, but VYM remains united.
- 1831**—Enslaved man Nat Turner leads a rebellion of enslaved people in southeastern Virginia that kills 63 people.
- 1832**—A VYM petition for gradual emancipation is considered by the Virginia legislature, which rejects it by a vote of 65 to 58.
- 1834**—London Yearly Meeting writes to U.S. Quakers urging an “uncompromising end to slavery in America. BYM responds that the subject of abolition is “encompassed with difficulties—difficulties we fear you cannot appreciate” and observes, that the abolition movement “has more connection with politics and fanaticism than with morality and religion.”
- 1836**—VYM declares that “the extreme attitudes being voiced in the North have closed the doors of usefulness in behalf of the slave...we must now warn Friends against all abolitionists.”
- 1842**—U.S. John President Tyler meets with Lucretia Mott and reminds her of a recent BYM epistle condemning Quaker abolitionists. She said she thinks the epistle was calculated to set the enslavers’ consciences at ease.
- 1843**—VYM is laid down and remaining meetings are joined to BYM (Orthodox).
- 1845**—Five Quakers from Menallen Friends Meeting testify for the prosecution in a case against persons accused of kidnapping an Adams County, Pennsylvania, family to enslave them again.
- 1846**—Virginia portion of DC is retroceded with the support of Alexandria enslavers concerned that Congress might abolish enslavement in DC.

- 1850**—The Federal Fugitive Slave Act makes it illegal for people in Pennsylvania and elsewhere to help enslaved people escape enslavement.
- 1854**—Samuel Ford McGill, a physician who received his education through the sponsorship of Moses Sheppard, become the first President of the Republic of Maryland on the west coast of Africa.
- 1859**: Two Quaker brothers join John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry, Virginia. One is caught and hanged with Brown. The other escapes.
- 1861**—Most Virginia counties secede from the Union.
- 1862**—Enslaved people in the DC emancipated by federal statute that compensates the enslavers.
- 1863**—President proclaims the end of slavery in Virginia, except for the 48 counties that did not secede and certain counties in the Tidewater area. Virginia counties that did not secede become the State of West Virginia.
- 1865**—Enslavement, except as punishment for a crime, prohibited by the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.