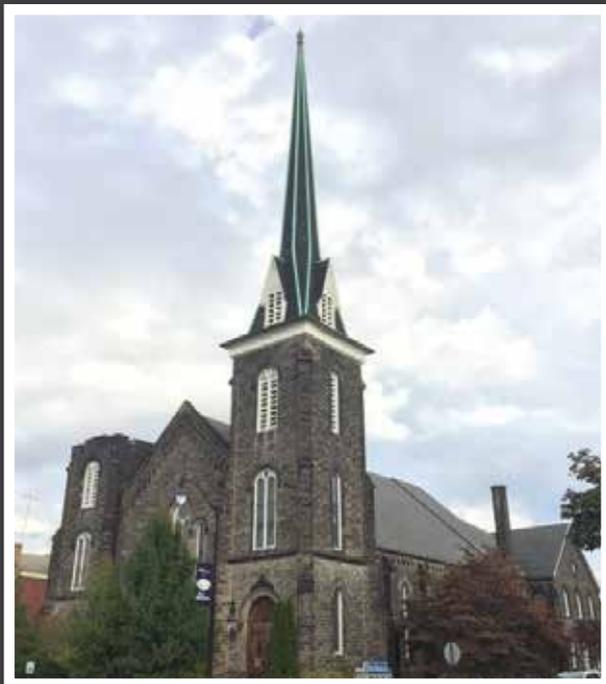


BEAVER COUNTY Pathway to Freedom



First Presbyterian Church

Beaver County, and New Brighton in particular, played a major part in the Underground Railroad thanks in part to the Ohio River. Since it bordered many slave states, the waterway served as a natural pathway for runaway slaves from the South on their way to freedom in Canada. Slaves would come up through Hookstown and then up the Ohio to the Beaver River, where they'd be led to safe houses in Bridgewater.

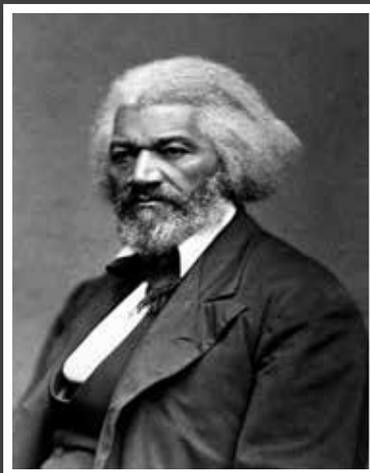
In the 19th Century New Brighton had a large population of Quakers. Also known as The Society of Friends, the Quakers were the original abolitionists in Beaver County, and as early as 1774 they officially declared their opposition to slavery. The Quakers would meet the runaways in Bridgewater and then transport them up the river to various stations in New Brighton. Many of these slaves were then taken to Buttonwood, the home of the

Reverend Arthur B. Bradford, abolitionist and minister of the Free Presbyterian Church in Darlington. From there, the runaways would be sent west to Salem, Ohio, and then north either to Cleveland or Erie and on to Buffalo.

Although the Quakers took an active part in the Underground Railroad, New Brighton's churches were also against slavery. The First Presbyterian Church of New Brighton was the first church in the town to open its doors to abolitionists who traveled the country to speak on the evils of slavery. A frequent visitor and guest speaker was the famous writer and

“A frequent visitor and guest speaker was the famous writer and orator of great eloquence, Frederick Douglass.”

orator of great eloquence, Frederick Douglass, a self-educated freed runaway slave. His speeches on the cruel and inhumane treatment that the slaves endured did much to further the abolitionist cause. Another visitor was Stephen Collins Foster, the composer of many Negro spirituals. Many feel the songs reflected the slaves' longing for the loved ones they were forced to leave behind.



Frederick Douglass



GROVE CEMETERY 1750 Valley Avenue

Just .6 miles from stop #9 on the walking map.

This cemetery, incorporated in 1859, is the final resting place of many notable New Brighton residents, including several who were involved in the Underground Railroad. Many members of the Townsend family are buried here, as well as Sarah J. (Clarke) Lippincott (1823-1904) and James Howard Bruin (1826-1916), a freed slave who served as a sergeant in Company H of the 45th United States Colored Troops during the Civil War.



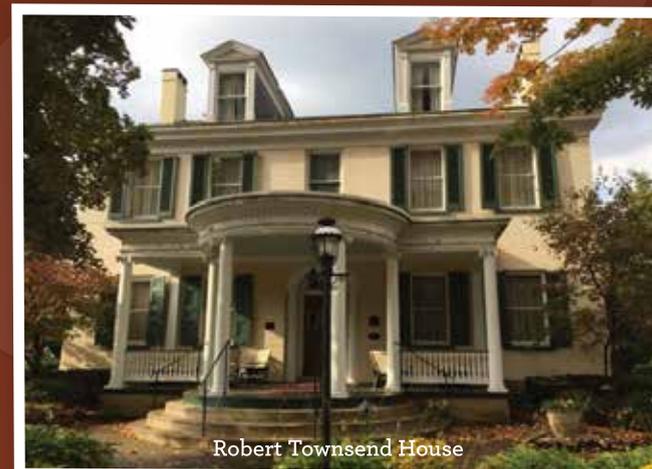
NEW BRIGHTON UNDERGROUND RAILROAD Walking Tour

New Brighton Historical Society

A Very Special Thank You to Odette Lambert



NEW BRIGHTON UNDERGROUND RAILROAD *Walking Tour*



Robert Townsend House

Situated along the east bank of the Beaver River, about two miles from its confluence with the Ohio, you'll find the historic Borough of New Brighton. Incorporated in 1838, this former canal town and center of manufacturing played a major role in the growth and development of Beaver County. Its most important contribution, however, was serving as a key hub of the Underground Railroad.

KNOWN STOPS Along the UNDERGROUND RAILROAD in New Brighton

1 Robert Townsend House 1612 3rd Avenue

The present J&J Spratt Funeral Home, provided sanctuary to fugitive slaves as well as easy access to and from the river via a secret room in the basement. Townsend established the Townsend Company, a wire and rivet mill, located in nearby Fallston in 1828.

2 Dr. David Stanton House 1300 3rd Avenue

The son-in-law of Robert Townsend, Stanton, who served as a surgeon with the First Pennsylvania Cavalry during the Civil War, attended to the medical needs of runaway slaves here in his home. At the end of the war, he and his father-in-law found work and housing for those returning freed slaves who had passed through New Brighton on their way to freedom and returned because of how they were treated with kindness and respect while they were harbored here.

3 Sarah Jane (Clarke) Lippincott House, aka Grace Greenwood 1219 3rd Avenue

Born in 1823, Lippincott, an accomplished writer, women's rights advocate and the first female reporter for the New York Times, lived here as a young girl until her marriage to Leander Lippincott. While spending time on the lecture circuit in the 1850's, she corresponded via letters home to abolitionist Milo Townsend. As a firm believer in the freedom of speech, she wrote and lectured about the evils of slavery. She also organized and invited speakers to the First Presbyterian Church to lecture on the immorality of slavery.

4 First Presbyterian Church 1199 3rd Avenue

This impressive stone church hosted many anti-slavery speakers, including former slave Frederick Douglass, publisher of the abolitionist newspaper, The North Star.



5 David Townsend Flour Mill Big Rock Park, 1st Avenue Entrance is located at the 8th Street Tunnel

Although he was known as the "Father of New Brighton" because he laid out the street plan for the town and was very active in the town's development, few of the town's residents knew that he was also a "conductor" in the Underground Railroad. David owned a flour mill on an island in the middle of the Beaver River where he would harbor fugitives until a "safe house" was available. He would then hide them in the secret false bottom of his delivery wagon under bags of flour and take them to their destination.

6 James Edgar House 1034 5th Avenue

The Inn of James Edgar, from 1850-1870, was across from the Erie-Pittsburgh Railroad passenger station, now the Merrick Art Gallery. Light meals were served and bedrooms were available for the night. In the basement was a large tunnel that led to the train station. It is thought that Edgar, being an abolitionist, would transfer the fugitives arriving by train, through the tunnel to his basement and then to his livery stable, which was located behind his house, and on to a "safe house".

7 Evan Townsend House 809 13th Street

Located on the hill above Rosalind Candy Castle on the opposite side of the street, this known "safe house" had a clever trap door that lead to the cellar where runaways would hide. This house was once a lovely home with a grand ball room on the third floor and the home was surrounded by an orchard. Sadly, today it is disrepair.

8 William Penn Townsend House, along with his son, Charles 1205 Penn Avenue

Following in his father Robert's ideology, William too was an ardent abolitionist. The third floor of his stately 1850 home gave refuge to as many as 10 runaway slaves at one time. From the rear of the property is where the fugitives were brought to the house via Blockhouse Run which was hidden by trees.

9 Benjamin Townsend House Penn Avenue & Allegheny Street (which no longer stands)

The Quaker Townsend families of New Brighton were leading "conductors" in the Underground Railroad and offered up their homes as "safe houses". Townsend owned a stone house where the Middle School is located today. Blockhouse Run ran through the rear of his property along its way to the Beaver River, providing a safe pathway to a concealed cave that he had constructed in the hillside behind the home, where he, his wife and her "little band of silent Quaker women" would feed and clothe the fugitive slaves.



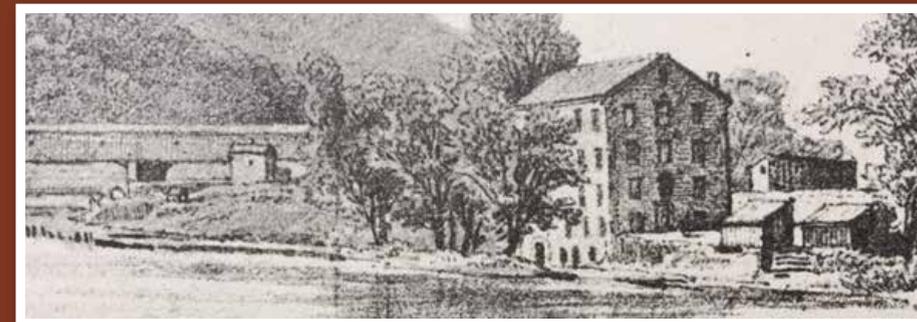
William Penn Townsend House



Dr. David Stanton House



Sarah J. (Clarke) Lippincott House



David Townsend Flour Mill



James Edgar House



Evan Townsend House