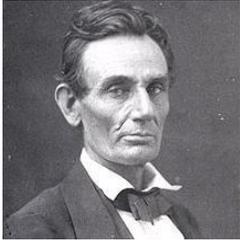


**By Loraine Lucas**



## **Abraham Lincoln's Quaker Roots Traced to the Barnard's of Chester County and The Kennett Underground Railroad**

Abraham Lincoln knew he had Quaker ancestors in Pennsylvania since his Great Grandfather John Lincoln and his Great Grand Half Uncle Abraham married Quaker women. John (born 1716 in New Jersey), married Quaker Rebekah Flowers (born in Chester County PA, then in 1729 that area became part of Lancaster County), they owned & sold several pieces of land in Monmouth County NJ, Lancaster County PA and Berks County PA before moving to Virginia. John's half brother Abraham married Quaker Anne Boone, first cousin of Daniel Boone, and they settled near the Boone Homestead, in Amity Township, Philadelphia County which is today Exeter Township, Berks County PA.

Lincoln's Great Grandmother Rebekah Flowers Lincoln, was the granddaughter of Quaker Richard Barnard who arrived in America @ 1682 from Wiltshire England. Richard settled in Chester County PA and many of his descendants spread into the area around Kennett Square with several of them being notable Abolitionists. Lincoln's Barnard relatives had been active in the Underground Railroad for years and William Barnard (Lincoln's third cousin once removed, although they were not aware of their relationship) along with 5 other delegates from Longwood Progressive Friends Meeting, met in June 1862 with President Abraham Lincoln at the White House urging him to end slavery. Some note it's possible this meeting may have had some influence on Lincoln moving forward to issue The Emancipation Proclamation in September 1862. The Civil War was in progress at this time and its purpose now was to preserve the Union and end slavery. The Civil War ended on April 9, 1865 with General Robert E. Lee surrendering at Appomattox Courthouse then five days later, on April 14, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated (he died April 15, 1865) and 8 months later in December 1865 the U.S. adopted the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution which abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime. Years of effort and conviction from abolitionists like the Barnards of Chester County, along with their cousin Abraham Lincoln in Washington D.C, were of significant contribution during this historic period.

The Kennett Square area of Chester County PA was a "hotbed of abolition" from the 1830's into the 1860's. With the proximity of the slave states of Delaware and Maryland, and the sympathies of the Quaker and African-American population to "freedom seekers" from the south, Chester County was truly border country. William Kashatus, author of "Just Over the Line: Chester County and the Underground Railroad", listed 132 agents in the Underground Railroad in Chester County with the majority of these being of The Religious Society of Friends aka "Quakers".

Four of Abraham Lincoln's prominent Quaker Abolitionist Barnard relatives were the Barnard brothers Eusebius (1802-1865) and William (1803-1864), their cousin Simon Barnard (1802-1886) and William's son Vincent Barnard (1825-1871). Eusebius & William were born in Newlin Township Chester County and were originally members of Marlborough Friends Meeting. This meeting was built in 1801 on land donated by two Quaker farmers, Richard Barnard (1723-1813, the brother's Grandfather, he participated in anti-slavery conferences and committees when Pennsylvania was formulating the 1780 Gradual Abolition of Slavery Act) and Isaac Baily. These two men spent years in bitter dispute over water rights until Richard Barnard defused the situation by washing Baily's feet. Their gift of land to the new meeting was an outward sign of their truce.

In the 1830s, the anti-slavery movement in the United States was revitalized, involving to a large extent the Quakers in Chester County, PA. In 1838, the Kennett Anti-Slavery Society declared that anyone "who aids in the restoration of the fugitive to his master is guilty of a crime against humanity and religion". Many Quakers maintained their witness against slavery by assisting the fugitive or by refusing to consume the products of slave labor (Free Produce Store in Hamorton 1844-1858, building at RT 1 & RT 52 is current Encore Shop a quality resale shop benefitting The Chester County Hospital). Other Quakers felt that personal witness was not enough and slavery should be vigorously addressed. Local Quaker meetings were often divided on how to respond to slavery and Meetinghouses frequently became forums for anti-slavery and temperance speakers. This caused growing aggravation & criticism amongst the members. In the mid 1840's a series of "conferences" were conducted at Marlborough Meetinghouse to openly discuss whether time had come to leave

the Society of Friends for some more open and activist society. The issue simmered for years and came to a head in 1852 when William Barnard invited Oliver Johnson, a radical abolitionist Progressive Friend from New York state who had relocated to eastern Pennsylvania, to speak at Marlborough Meeting. The conservative faction at Marlborough Meeting arranged for the arrest of Johnson for disturbing the quiet of their meeting, this episode is known as the “Marlborough Riot”. Soon after this, in 1853, fifty-eight remarkable women and men temporarily left their original meetings (many “read out” or disowned and not accepted back until @ 1874) and created the Pennsylvania Yearly Meeting of Progressive Friends based on moral accountability and “practical righteousness”. The annual meetings, held from 1853 to 1940, were a beacon to reformers throughout the United States.

John and Hannah Cox sold a piece of their property for the building of The Longwood Progressive Meetinghouse. The cornerstone for this new building, to be used for "moral, literary and scientific purposes", was laid on September 3, 1854 and the new building was dedicated on May 19, 1855. Most of the founders of Longwood Progressive Friends lived within a few miles of this spot, including Eusebius & Sarah Barnard, William Barnard, Coxes, Fussells, Hambletons, Mendenhalls, Pennocks, and others. These local Quaker founders had been the core of the anti-slavery movement in Chester County for the past twenty years and actively involved in the “Underground Railroad”. A handful of like-minded reformers from Philadelphia and Thomas Garrett of Wilmington DE also joined in the call.

Longwood Progressive Friends Meeting has a long list of renowned speakers and visitors. It always had a Quaker core, but quickly attracted reformers of various religious groups. Active participants at Longwood included: Lucretia Mott, the Quaker advocate for abolition and woman's rights; William Lloyd Garrison, editor of the “*Liberator*”; Sojourner Truth, a former slave turned lecturer; Frederick Douglass, an African-American social reformer/abolitionist/orator/writer/statesman; Susan B. Anthony, the champion of the women's suffrage movement; Theodore Parker, Unitarian clergyman; Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of “*Uncle Tom's Cabin*”; John J. Whittier, Quaker poet; Thomas Garrett, abolitionist from DE; and others. There are notations that Harriet Tubman, former slave who became a prominent African American Abolitionist on the Underground Railroad, likely traveled near Longwood on occasion.

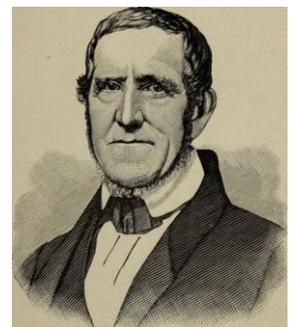
June 20, 1862, The Longwood Progressive Friends Meeting sent a delegation consisting of three men and three women to visit the White House. Three Congressmen and one Senator, David Wilmot, all from Pennsylvania, led the delegation into the White House to introduce the six to the President. The three men in the delegation were William Barnard (Lincoln's third cousin once removed, although not aware of their Quaker relationship), Thomas Garrett (prominent abolitionist from DE) and Oliver Johnson (the one who spurred the Marlborough Riot 10 years earlier). The three women were Alice Eliza Hambleton, Dinah Mendenhall and Eliza Agnew. The delegation, all ardent supporters of the Underground Railroad, presented Memorial (petition) to President Abraham Lincoln urging him to issue orders of widespread emancipation. Lincoln was gracious to his visitors but he did not quickly yield to their reasoning. He noted from his Springfield speech that the American people would either agree to slavery's “extinction,” or they would agree to its inclusion in all states. Lincoln had disappointed many abolitionists already by his placing the preservation of the Union higher than his moral objection to slavery. However, just over a month after the meeting, on July 22, Lincoln shared with his cabinet the first draft of what was to become the Emancipation Proclamation. In September 1862 he issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which was to take effect January 1, 1863. Could the Longwood Progressive Friends delegation have had an influence on one of the most important decisions in American history? William Lloyd Garrison hailed the proclamation as "a great historic event, sublime in its magnitude, momentous and beneficent in its far-reaching consequences."



**Longwood Progressive Friends Meeting**  
owned by Longwood Gardens & currently houses  
Brandywine Valley Conference & Tourist Center



**Eusebius Barnard House in Pocopson**  
owned by Pocopson Township, being preserved, is a  
park, portion will house Kennett Underground Railroad  
Center office



**Eusebius Barnard**  
(1802-1865)  
Quaker third cousin once  
removed to Abraham Lincoln

### **Additional information to the article:**

One story of a “freedom seeker”, sometime in the 1850’s, who traveled through Kennett Square area to freedom is that of a fugitive slave from Maryland who had injured his foot badly when he jumped from a train to avoid capture near the Wilmington DE train station. He was taken by wheelbarrow to the home of James Walker, an African American who lived in Kennett Square. Walker called Dr. Isaac D. Johnson to care for the foot and the fugitive slave stayed hidden for weeks over the Walker’s small kitchen nursed by Ester Hayes and visited nightly by Dr. Johnson. Word came that someone was on the fugitive’s trail so despite his foot still in bad condition he was sent off to another UGRR station where he received further care then eventually to Boston where he received a prosthetic foot. Several years later, a well-dressed black man walked into Dr. Johnson’s office, and introduced himself as the slave the doctor had cared for years before. He said his name was Johnson Hayes Walker, in honor of his three benefactors, Dr. Johnson, Ester Hayes and James Walker.

### **Some Underground Railroad Landmarks in the Kennett Square area relating to this article:**

- Marlborough Meeting in Marlborough Village, still an attended Quaker Meetinghouse.
- Longwood Progressive Friends Meeting at 300 Greenwood Road, across from the entrance gate to Longwood Gardens and across from Longwood Cemetery. It has been recognized by the National Park Service as a significant historic site. Today the building houses The Brandywine Valley Conference and Tourist Center (part of the Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau which originated in 1963 as The Chester County Tourist Promotion Bureau of which Charles E. Lucas Jr. was an incorporator).
- Eusebius Barnard’s farm in Pocopson, a station on UGRR. PA Historical Marker <http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=42520>. The park with a walking/running trail and picnic area is located at Pocopson RT 52 turnabout on Wawaset Road. The house is under restoration and a portion will be home to the Kennett Underground Railroad Center office.
- William Barnard’s house in Marlborough Village, station on UGRR, currently a residence.

### **2 working Barnard generation farms where you can buy products today:**

- Barnard’s Orchard on RT 842 near Marlborough and Unionville, address is 1079 Wawaset Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348.
- Baily’s Dairy of Pocopson Meadow Farm short distance west of the Pocopson RT 52 turnabout at 1821 Lenape Unionville Rd. West Chester, PA 19382