



The Underground Railroad in Kennett Square and Wilmington: How Peace-loving Quakers Helped Win the Civil War



The Underground Railroad in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania and Wilmington, Delaware was a conduit for thousands of slaves to escape and gain their freedom. A Quaker group- the Longwood Progressive Friends- were active abolitionists; they believed that ending slavery would resolve the chaos enveloping the nation. Some members of the group met with Lincoln at the White House in June 1862 to persuade him on this issue; the President later released the Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves in areas controlled by Federal troops. This ingenious move allowed blacks to fight and eventually bring victory for the Union in the Civil War.

Lecture Outline:

- Slavery was the principal cause of America's most calamitous event
- Quakers- the first organized group in the nation to speak out against slavery
- The Underground Railroad- pathway to freedom for thousands
- The Longwood Progressive Friends meet with President Lincoln
- The country lawyer comes up with an ingenious strategy
- The U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) help the Union win the Civil War



Gene Pisasale is an historian and author who lives in Kennett Square, Pa. He's written nine books, conducts an ongoing lecture series and contributes a column titled "**Living History**" to media outlets in the Philadelphia area. Gene earned a Master's Degree summa cum laude in American history at American Public University. He began his career as a petroleum geologist after earning a Master's Degree in petroleum geology from The University of Texas at Austin. He later worked as an energy analyst and portfolio manager in the investment and banking industries after earning an MBA Finance from San Diego State University, the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and Certified Financial Planner (CFP) certifications. Gene has presented his lectures at a wide range of venues, including **Fort McHenry** in Baltimore, **Brandywine Battlefield Park** and **Hamilton Grange** in New York. If your group has guest speakers, he welcomes inquiries for lecture presentations, book signings and other events.

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