

educated Creole elite and French authorities, occupies the Spanish Santo Domingo, and thus rules the entire island.

- 1797** The African-American Masonic Lodge is organized in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by James Forten Jr., a sail maker and abolitionist; Absalom Jones of the African Episcopal Church; and Richard Allen of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
- 1797** Four former slaves from North Carolina, now living free in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, petition the U.S. Congress to overturn North Carolina's slave laws, which had been passed to counter the efforts of those who freed their slaves, and which allowed once freed slaves to be recaptured. The petitioners had to leave North Carolina and escape pursuit after their masters had freed them, but Congress does not accept their petition.
- 1798** The Alien and Sedition Acts passed by the U.S. Congress and signed by President John Adams give the president the power to expel any noncitizen posing a threat to the country and to muzzle the freedom of the press. The acts are opposed by Thomas Jefferson, then vice president, and James Madison and expire in 1801, during Jefferson's presidency.
- 1798** The U.S. Congress passes the Naturalization Act, increasing the number of years an immigrant must live in the United States before applying for citizenship from 5 to 14.
- 1799** New York State passes a law beginning a gradual freeing of slaves.
- 1799** The Society for Missions in Africa and the East of the Church of England is founded in Great Britain to create missions in Africa and India in the hope that conversion, religious instruction, education, and self-improvement will end the slave trade. With an evangelical mission, the society believes that religious-based British civilization will bring progress to the Africans.
- 1800** Gabriel Prosser, son of an African-born mother and a slave of Thomas Prosser, a Virginia planter, plans to seize the arsenal in Richmond, Virginia, and lead a slave army to revolt and create an independent black state in Virginia; the slaves assemble on the outskirts of Richmond, but Governor James Monroe orders the militia to retaliate. Gabriel and about 34 confederates are arrested, tried, and hanged.
- 1800** Free blacks in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—including Absalom Jones, a former slave and the first minister of Saint Thomas's African Episcopal Church in Philadelphia—petition the U.S. Congress to abolish slavery and the 1793 Fugitive Slave Act. Jones asks Representative Robert Wain of Pennsylvania to introduce the petition, which dies in a House committee, where it is stated that the petition has "a tendency to create disquiet and jealousy."
- 1801** The royal family of Korea decides to free the slaves working on its farms.
- 1802** Denmark rules slavery illegal.

- 1802 Arthur, a slave owned by William Farrar of Henrico County, Virginia, calls on American slaves to rebel and join him in an armed uprising. A few months later, an anonymous letter arrives at the home of a Mr. Mathews of Norfolk, Virginia, warning him of the coming rebellion.
- 1802 Napoleon Bonaparte's rise to power in France and his desire to use Saint Domingue as the center for his foreign-policy designs bring large numbers of French troops to the island, although he is unable to reinstate plantation slavery. Captured by French forces, Toussaint Louverture is arrested and sent to France, where he dies in jail in 1803 at Fort Joux.
- 1803 With years of military experience behind them, combined with a yellow-fever epidemic that strikes the French armies, the former slaves of Saint Domingue rout the French, and, in 1804, Haiti proclaims its independence.
- 1804 The so-called Black Laws passed in Ohio restrict the civil rights of free blacks.
- 1806 President Thomas Jefferson sends a message to the U.S. Congress, asking it to "withdraw the citizens of the United States from all further participation in those violations of human rights which have been so long continued on the unoffending inhabitants of Africa, and which the morality, the reputation, and the best interests of our country, have long been eager to proscribe."
- 1807 The General Abolition Bill passed in Great Britain makes it illegal for British subjects to trade in slaves and calls for fines of 100 pounds for each slave purchased, transported, or sold by a British subject. British ships used for transportation of slaves can be confiscated, and insurance companies indemnifying slave ships or property used for the slave trade can be fined.
- 1807 The African Institution is founded in Great Britain with the aim of encouraging the enforcement of existing legislation against the slave trade, convincing other nations to enact similar legislation, establishing non-slave-trading opportunities with African nations, promoting written versions of African languages, and bringing better medical care to Africa. A moderate group, it is founded by members, including Zachary Macauley, the former governor of Sierra Leone in Africa, and the bishops of London, Bath, and Wells; James Stephen of the institution creates a registry of slaves, documenting the names, dates, and family members of each slave and recording tales of ill-treatment.
- 1808 The U.S. Congress passes a law prohibiting the importation of African slaves and setting a fine of \$800 for buying an illegally imported slave and a fine of \$20,000 for transporting slaves in a slave vessel. The law is never adequately enforced.
- 1808 The Reverend Peter Williams of the New York African Church writes praising the law against the slave trade.
- 1808 An essay on the origin of slavery is published by the Sons of Africa in Boston, Massachusetts.

- 1808** After the enactment of the 1807 British General Abolition Bill, the British Navy establishes the antislavery squadron, also known as the African or preventive squadron, and Great Britain sends ships to interdict the maritime slave trade and to enforce the rule barring British subjects from participating in slavery. The ships concentrate on the 2,000 miles of the West African coast, and by 1838 as many as 36 ships are involved; because of the enormous territory patrolled, the squadron encounters fewer than 15 percent of the slave ships at sea between 1811 and 1867 and liberates only about 160,000 slaves of the almost 3 million transported from Africa.
- 1810** Henry Burch, a free black man, petitions the general assembly of Virginia, requesting permission for his two sons, slaves he had purchased, to continue residing in the state. The petition is sent in response to a 1806 Virginia law mandating that all slaves who had purchased their freedom leave the state unless the legislature grants permission to stay.
- 1811** In Louisiana, slaves belonging to the plantation owner Manuel Andry rebel, kill him, and wound his son; then, continuing their onslaught, they move south along the river toward New Orleans, led, it is believed, by Charles Deslonded, another slave of Andry. Whites retaliate by dispatching militias and federal troops, commanded by Major Homer Virgil Milton; almost 300 well-armed troops meet between 150 and 500 slaves armed only with knives used to cut sugarcane and massacre them; 21 slaves are found guilty by Saint Charles Parish judge Pierre Bauchet St. Martin and sentenced to death.
- 1813** Argentina decides to abolish slavery gradually.
- 1813** At the African Methodist Episcopal Church in New York City, George Lawrence makes a speech denying black inferiority: "the noble mind of a Newton could find room, and to spare, within the tenement of many an injured African."
- 1813** The British Society for Missions in Africa and the East changes its name to the Church Missionary Society and soon after centers its operation in Freetown, now the capital of Sierra Leone and the best harbor in West Africa, where many slaves captured by British antislavery-squadron vessels are brought. The society operates schools and missions for the captured slaves and sometimes even purchases slaves to be educated and converted.
- 1814** Pope Pius VII writes a letter to the king of France, denouncing the support of the slave trade by any members of the Roman Catholic Church.
- 1814** The Netherlands rules that slavery is illegal.
- 1816** A law is enacted in Georgia prohibiting anyone from enticing a slave to run away. Any free black who entices a slave to flee from his or her master would serve a year in jail and face sale as a slave for life.
- 1816** The American Colonization Society is established in the United

States by people who believe that American slaves cannot adequately participate with other Americans in a democratic society and urge them to return to Africa; many prominent white Americans, including Francis Scott Key and Andrew Jackson, endorse the society, which receives financial support from the U.S. Congress and several state legislatures. African-Americans generally oppose the initiative, and even slaves given the opportunity of colonization in Africa refuse to go; Richard Allen, pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and James Forten Sr. and Absalom Jones of the African Episcopal Church, all of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, organize active opposition to the society.

- 1817** A group of free black men in Richmond, Virginia, responds to the campaign of the American Colonization Society to export blacks back to Africa. The men agree that it would ultimately benefit blacks to be colonized but state that they prefer living in their country of birth rather than being exiled to a foreign land; they ask Congress to grant them some territory in the West for this purpose.
- 1817** A meeting of African-Americans in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, chaired by James Forten, responds to the campaign of the American Colonization Society to export blacks back to Africa. The group strongly disapproves of the society's suggestion and feels itself entitled to enjoy the benefits of America; the men also condemn the implied stigma cast on black people by the notion that they must be returned to Africa.
- 1817** Great Britain and Spain negotiate a treaty to abolish trading in slaves.
- 1818** General Andrew Jackson defeats a combined force of blacks and Native Americans at the battle of Suwannee in Florida, ending what Jackson describes as a "savage and negro war."
- 1818** The preamble of the Constitution of the Pennsylvania Augustine Society for the Education of People of Colour is issued; the Society was organized by some of Philadelphia's most active free African-Americans.
- 1818** Abraham Camp, a free black man, writes to the American Colonization Society, volunteering to participate in the campaign of exporting blacks back to Africa. Camp states that he, his family, and friends love America, but, as they do not share in its liberties, they prefer to leave.
- 1819** International courts of mixed commission are established to try cases involving slave ships seized in apparent violation of treaties between Great Britain, nations of Europe, and the Americas. Each case is heard by a commissioner of the same country as the slave-ship owner and a commissioner from the country that had seized the vessel; if the case ends in conviction, the slaves are freed and the ship sold at auction, with the moneys split between the two countries.
- 1819** The Congress of Angostura, held in Venezuela, meets to establish the preliminary laws for the new republic of Colombia, created

after Simon Bolívar, a South American revolutionary and statesman, leads inhabitants of northern South America to victory in the battle of Boyacá (in modern Colombia), winning independence from Spain. The 140,000 slaves in the area play a critical role on the plantations and in the mines and serve as soldiers for both sides; Bolívar argues for the immediate abolition of slavery, but the congress endorses a more gradual approach, giving slaves who served in the war against the Spanish colonial forces their freedom; new slaves cannot be introduced, and the remaining slaves gain freedom over time.

- 1819–1871** International courts of mixed commission are held in Sierra Leone, Rio de Janeiro, Havana, Suriname, Luanda, the Cape Verde Islands, New York, and Cape Town.
- 1820** The *Mayflower of Liberia* sets sail from New York City for the West African country of Sierra Leone, with 86 blacks aboard.
- 1820** The U.S. Congress passes the Missouri Compromise, whereby slavery is prohibited north of latitude 36°30' and permitted to the south. Maine thereby becomes a free state and Missouri a slave state.
- 1820** The home of John Read, a free black living in Kennet Township, Pennsylvania, is invaded by two white men: Griffith, a slave owner, and his associate Shipley. Asserting that he is a free man, Read attacks the invaders and kills them; he is acquitted of killing Griffith, but is convicted of manslaughter of Shipley and sentenced to nine years in prison.
- 1821** The *Alligator*, a ship of the U.S. Navy, departs America for West Africa, to interdict slave vessels, enforce the American ban on the slave trade, and transport a delegation from the American Colonization Society to Africa in search of land to purchase so that American slaves might be returned to the African continent. Dr. Eli Ayres of the society purchases land in exchange for muskets, knives, hats, and shoes and names it Liberia; the *Alligator* successfully seizes slave vessels, including a Portuguese vessel, the *Mariano*, which sinks in 1822 in the Florida Keys after action against pirates from Cuba.
- 1821** The *Moral Advocate*, a magazine devoted to the abolition of capital punishment, is published by Elisha Bates, a Quaker, in Mount Pleasant, Ohio.
- 1821** Supported by the American Colonization Society, the republic of Liberia is established in West Africa as the future home for American blacks whom the society hopes to repatriate. Monrovia, named for the U.S. president James Monroe, is the capital.
- 1822** Rolla, a slave of Governor Bennett of South Carolina, makes a statement about the Vesey slave revolt before he, along with 36 other blacks, is hanged. The rebellion is planned by Denmark Vesey, a slave, who is believed to have enlisted thousands of slaves within 80 miles of Charleston, South Carolina; several informers betray the revolt, and 137 blacks and 4 whites are arrested.

- 1822 Great Britain negotiates a treaty with Zanzibar in East Africa, halting the slave trade.
- 1822 In the American Colonization Society's colony of Liberia, it is estimated that by 1899 more than 15,000 former slaves have been resettled. In the years before 1842, more than 40 percent of the slaves are estimated to die in the first six months of their resettlement; the society maintains political control of the territory until 1847, when Liberia gains its independence.
- 1823 The Society for Mitigating and Gradually Abolishing Slavery throughout the British Dominions (also known as the Anti-Slavery Society) is established in Great Britain to help enact measures ensuring better treatment for slaves, while continuing efforts to ban slavery. The society hopes to attract the support of moderate people who advocate humane treatment even if they do not fight for the abolishment of slavery.
- 1823 U.S. president James Monroe formulates the Monroe Doctrine, asserting the preeminence of U.S. power and interests in the Americas: "The American continents, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintained, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for further colonization by any European powers. . . . We . . . declare that we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety."
- 1823 A law abolishing slavery is passed in Mexico, although Mexico is party to a settlement allowing slaves in Texas.
- 1824 One year after the Central American Federation of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua separates from Mexico, slavery is abolished there. At this time, there are relatively few slaves in the territory, and many slave owners disregard the new law.
- 1826 After Levi and Catherine Coffin move from the slave state of North Carolina to Indiana, they allow runaway slaves to stay in their home, feed and encourage them, and take them to other sympathetic abolitionists farther north. The Coffins help about a hundred people a year to make the trip on the Underground Railroad safely to the North and Canada; they also help establish a school for local black children and journey to Canada to help provide better living conditions for former slaves.
- 1827 Slaves living in New York State are freed.
- 1827 The first African-American newspaper published in the United States is *Freedom's Journal*. Published by Samuel Cornish and John B. Russwurm in New York City, the paper aims to present a true picture of the black condition.
- 1827 The U.S. newspaper *Freedom's Journal* publishes an account of the lynching of a black man near Tuscaloosa, Alabama. After a planter seized a black man whom he accused of theft and began to beat him, the black stabbed the planter, who died; a mob of 70 or 80 white men, presided over by the justice of the peace, con-

demns the black; they tie him to a tree and burn him to death.

- 1827** The U.S. newspaper *Freedom's Journal* publishes a letter from a black woman declaring the importance of education for women and stating that mothers should make sure that their daughters are educated in more than housekeeping.
- 1828** The Cherokee Republic in the state of Georgia is organized, with a constitution modeled on the U.S. Constitution. The Cherokee constitution includes laws regulating enslavement of blacks, such as instituting punishment of Cherokee slave owners for marrying their slaves, buying goods from them, or selling them liquor; slaves cannot vote or hold political office and are considered as property, being bought and sold to settle debts.
- 1829** David Walker, a dealer in old clothes in Boston, Massachusetts, who had been born to a free mother in North Carolina, becomes active in the Boston Colored Association and publishes a militant antislavery pamphlet entitled *Walker's Appeal, in Four Articles: Together with a Preamble, to the Coloured Citizens of the World, but in Particular, and Very Expressly, to Those of the United States of America, Written in Boston, State of Massachusetts, September 28, 1829.*
- 1829** The president of Mexico, Vincente Guerrero, of mixed Indian and European descent, a hero of Mexican independence and advocate of poor people, declares the slaves free and commits himself to a program of financial compensation to slave owners. Fiercely opposed by the Americans in the Texas section, he exempts that area but is overthrown and executed shortly thereafter.
- 1829** In Cincinnati, Ohio, whites attack black residents, forcing 1,200 African-Americans to flee to Canada for safety.
- 1830** A *firman*, or decree, emancipating Christian slaves who had maintained their religious beliefs is issued in the Ottoman Empire.
- 1830** An annual national convention of African-Americans first occurs at the Bethel Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The convention elects the Right Reverend Richard Allen as president and states that it has met to consider the possibility of establishing a homeland in Upper Canada, to escape the recently enacted laws subjecting free black people to restrictions on their residence.
- 1830** The American abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, coeditor of the Baltimore, Maryland, newspaper *Genius of Universal Emancipation*, is imprisoned after a slave trader brings a suit for libel.
- 1831** The American abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison publishes the newspaper the *Liberator*, demanding the immediate dismantling of slavery. Arthur Tappan, a wealthy supporter of abolition, provides funding for the *Liberator*, and the paper is published until 1865.
- 1831** Nat Turner, leader of a slave revolt in Virginia, is hanged; during the rebellion, 60 whites and more than 100 blacks were killed; 13 slaves and 3 free black men are captured, tried, and executed by

hanging. While imprisoned, Turner writes his autobiography, describing his singularity as a child and his God-given mission to free slaves.

- 1831** On the island of Jamaica, Samuel Sharpe, a slave from Montego Bay, and other slaves born on Jamaica, lead a rebellion that erupts after slaves are prohibited from worshipping in churches of their choice. The British send two companies of troops to Montego Bay to repel the thousands of slaves; 300 are executed by hanging following their conviction, and plantation owners burn Baptist and Methodist churches in retaliation for the rebellion.
- 1832** Thomas Roderick Dew publishes the *Review of the Debate in Virginia Legislature of 1831 and 1832*, responding to the debate in the Virginia House of Delegates over the issue of abolishing slavery after Nat Turner's rebellion; Dew argues that the costs of deporting slaves would be prohibitive and that most slaves would never adjust to conditions in Africa. Emancipation would never work, he claims, because white Virginians would be unwilling to absorb black slaves into the social and economic fabric; Dew insists that slavery works well for slaves and foresees a gradual replacement of slave labor in Virginia by free white immigrants, while slavery would be confined to the deeper Southern states.
- 1833** The U.S. Supreme Court rules in *Barron v. Baltimore* that the Bill of Rights is held to apply only to actions by the federal, not the state, government. This principle is eroded through a series of court decisions beginning in the 1920s with First, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Amendment rights extended to state action.
- 1833** Prudence Crandall's boarding school for girls in Canterbury, Connecticut, is the first school in the state to accept black students, when Crandall decides to accept Sarah Harris. The school orders Crandall to dismiss Harris or the white students would be dismissed; Crandall refuses and begins a school for black girls instead, but state legislators pass legislation making it difficult for out-of-state black children to attend Connecticut's schools. Crandall is arrested, convicted by the Connecticut Supreme Court, and imprisoned, but later freed on appeal on a technicality. Townspeople harass her, and a mob attacks the school, until Crandall is forced to close the school.
- 1833** The Reverend Nathaniel Paul of London, England, writes to Judge Andrew T. Judson, criticizing his conviction of Prudence Crandall. Paul writes that he is lecturing on slavery in the United States and will use the Crandall affair in his talks.
- 1833** Rhode Island is the first state in the United States to ban public executions, ordering them all to be held in private.
- 1833** In Great Britain, Parliament passes the Emancipation Act, which makes it illegal for British subjects to trade in slaves throughout the empire. Abolitionist pressure combined with rising public concern about, and knowledge of, recent slave uprisings in British Guiana, Jamaica, and Barbados lead to the Act,



which allows a transitional period of five years before the end of slavery.

- 1833** A statute allowing for the extradition of fugitive criminals from foreign countries is passed in Canada, and U.S. slaveholders institute suits demanding recovery of fugitive slaves, based on the fact that their slaves had stolen property from them by running away. A Canadian court rules that Solomon Mosely had committed theft when he stole his owner's horse, took it to Buffalo, New York, sold it, and kept the money when he crossed into Canada; ordered to be extradited, Mosely escapes.
- 1833** William Lloyd Garrison, the publisher of the *Liberator*, an anti-slavery journal, founds the American Anti-Slavery Society; by 1839 the society has grown to 200,000 members. Critical of the prejudice that he thinks characterizes the American Colonization Society's attempts to send slaves back to Africa, Garrison advocates the immediate end of slavery with compensation to slave owners.
- 1833** The Philadelphia Negro Library is founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by a group of black residents, with the intention of cultivating literary pursuits in young people.
- 1834** Although the British Emancipation Act threatens the economic interests of British colonists, who try to subvert and ignore it, more than 775,000 slaves have been freed from plantations in the British colonies.
- 1834** South Carolina passes a law prohibiting the education of black children, slave or free.
- 1834** The first U.S. patent granted to an African-American is to Henry Blair, for a seed planter.
- 1835** U.S. president Andrew Jackson tries to prohibit the sending of abolitionist literature through the U.S. mail to Southern states.
- 1835** North Carolina passes a law prohibiting whites from teaching free blacks.
- 1836** Angelina Grimké, daughter of a slaveholder in Charleston, South Carolina, publishes *An Appeal to the Christian Women of the South*, in which she tries to convince other women that slavery violates Christian teachings and human and natural law. Reaction in the South is hostile; postmasters seize and intercept copies of the pamphlet.
- 1836** Sarah Moore Grimké, the older sister of Angelina Grimké, publishes *An Epistle to the Clergy of the Southern States*, arguing that the rights of slaves and of women are equally important and that abolition and women's emancipation are moral imperatives. In 1839, the two sisters and Sarah's brother-in-law Theodore Weld edit the study *American Slavery As It Is*.
- 1836** A letter published in the *New York Sun* by David Ruggles describes the kidnapping of a free black man. George Jones is falsely charged with assault and battery, and, when he goes

before the court to answer the charge, the judge takes the word of some men present in the court who claim that Jones is a run-away slave.

- 1836** White settlers break away from Mexico to declare the independent republic of Texas, whose constitution states that all inhabitants living in the territory at the time of independence would be granted citizenship unless they had been disloyal. White settlers then begin a campaign to expel Mexicans from their land and force them back to Mexican territory.
- 1837** Elijah P. Lovejoy, a newspaper editor and publisher and a dedicated abolitionist, is shot and killed by an angry mob in Alton, Illinois, where he had moved to publish the *Alton Observer*. In 1833, he had been forced to leave Saint Louis, after publishing in the *Saint Louis Observer*, a Presbyterian weekly that advocated pacifism and an end to slavery, a strong criticism of the public burning of a mulatto sailor for the death of a white police deputy and of the judge's lenient treatment of those who were guilty of the killing of the sailor.
- 1837** Canada passes legislation allowing blacks to vote.
- 1837** At a mass meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, African-Americans protest the decision of the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention denying them the right to vote. An appeal endorsed at the meeting states that the Pennsylvania Constitution gives every freeman over the age of 21 the right to vote, without reference to color or caste.
- 1837** The Reverend Theodore S. Wright gives a speech in Utica, New York, about prejudice in the abolitionist movement, at the convention of the New York State Anti-Slavery Society. Wright urges people to discuss openly the evils of slavery and the rights of blacks to equal treatment until slavery is abolished.
- 1838** Thomas Van Renselaer of Boston, Massachusetts, describes his treatment as a free black man on a steamboat bound for Providence, Rhode Island. Although he had bought a ticket for a berth at \$3.50 above the regular fare, a man forces him to leave the cabin and stay on deck, and the captain of the steamboat does not intervene.
- 1838** Angelina Grimké publishes a philosophical treatise on women's rights entitled *Letters on the Equality of the Sexes and the Condition of Women*, analyzing the conditions of women in the United States and around the world. She writes about legal discrimination, the lack of educational and employment opportunities, and the subjugation of wives by their husbands and argues for new biblical interpretations supporting the equal rights of women as moral beings.
- 1839** Because bringing slaves into Cuba is no longer permitted, the slave traders on the Portuguese slave vessel the *Tecora* claim their slaves are Cuban, and they are put aboard the Spanish slaver *Amistad* for the trip from Havana to Principé, Cuba. The slaves had been illegally brought to Havana on the *Tecora* from

the island of Lomboko in West Africa; during that voyage, more than half the human cargo of men, women, and children died.

- 1839** Off the coast of Cuba, the *Amistad* is seized by 53 black men who had been sold into slavery in Africa; in the mutiny, the rebels kill the captain and cook. The U.S. Coast Guard captures the *Amistad*, which is brought to New York City. U.S. president Martin Van Buren decides to return the ship and the mutineers to Cuba.
- 1839** Several members of the Homes Missionary Society, together with the Western Evangelical Missionary Society and the Committee for West Indian Missions, organize the American Missionary Association to provide support for the captured Africans who had seized control of the Spanish slave ship *Amistad*. Largely white, the association nevertheless has African-Americans actively participating and voting; all the members are ministers or lay participants of integrated church congregations.
- 1839** The Liberty Party is founded as an antislavery political party in Warsaw, New York, by Samuel R. Ward and Henry Garnet and others breaking away from the more radical American Anti-Slavery Society. Garnet, a clergyman, had been born a slave in Maryland and works for abolition among blacks.
- 1839** The U.S. Department of State refuses to issue a passport to a black man, on the grounds that African-Americans are not citizens.
- 1839** The Danish islands of Saint Thomas, Saint John, and Saint Croix in the West Indies introduce free, compulsory, universal education for all, including slaves. This is prompted in part by continuing efforts of the Lutheran Church, which began providing education for slaves in 1790.
- 1840** Some members of the American Anti-Slavery Society challenge William Lloyd Garrison's fervent views that the U.S. Constitution is pro-slavery and that the Union itself might have to be dissolved over the critical issue of slavery. They leave to form the more moderate Foreign and American Anti-Slavery Society.
- 1840** British authorities in the Bahamas, acting to enforce Great Britain's 1833 ban on slavery, seize 38 slaves from the U.S. ship *Hermosa* when it comes aground near Abaco (in the Bahamas) on a trip from Virginia to New Orleans, Louisiana. Despite protests from the ship's owners and the U.S. consul, a court in Nassau, the Bahamas, frees the slaves.
- 1840** A report from the World Anti-Slavery Conference in London reveals that the female delegation is excluded from the meeting. Charles Remond also addresses the racial prejudice rampant in the Northern states of America, where blacks are segregated in churches, stagecoaches, and steamboats.
- 1840** Massachusetts repeals the law forbidding the marriage of whites with blacks, mulattos, or Native Americans.
- 1841** South Carolina passes a law forbidding black and white mill workers to look out the same window.