

Slavery & Abolition in Connecticut — A Time Line

black text = Connecticut

red text = Glastonbury

blue text = National

c. 1639
Slaves arrive in CT

1650
CT legalizes slavery

1660
African Americans prohibited from serving in the military. This changed in times of war.

1690
Black Codes first enacted, limiting rights of African Americans but still requiring free Blacks to pay taxes.

1712
First documented evidence of enslaved people in Glastonbury.

1774
Glastonbury had 79 African Americans (4% of the population). 64 were listed as slaves.

1774
CT law bans the further importation of slaves.

1777
CT law states that owners are no longer responsible for care of freed slaves — leads to more freeing of slaves to allow them to fight in the Revolutionary War.

1775-1783
Revolutionary War
Slaves & freed Blacks fight in war.

1784
CT passed *The Act of Gradual Emancipation*: children born of slaves after 1784 were freed at the age of 25.

1790
1st Federal Census
3,763 people in bondage in New England. 2,648 in CT. 27 slaves in Glastonbury.

1810-1820
Slavery virtually disappears in Glastonbury.

1818
CT only state in New England to bar all blacks from voting.

1831
Nat Turner's Rebellion—A slave in VA leads a revolt that killed 55 whites.

1830s
Anti-African American sentiment intensifies in CT.

1831
The Liberator
Abolitionist newspaper published by William Lloyd Garrison.

1833
Prudence Crandall starts an all-black female school but is forced to close because of violence against the school, students and Crandall's family.

1837
Garrison speaks against slavery at the Smith's house.

1838
Formation of the CT Anti-slavery Association.

1839
Hannah Smith and her daughters send anti-slavery petitions to Congress.

1850
Fugitive Slave Law passed. People required to aid in the capture of runaways.

1839-1841
Amistad trial — Smith sisters visit the slaves in jail.

1848
Slavery abolished in CT, last state in New England to do so.

1850s
Strong anti-slavery sentiment in Glastonbury, mostly against spread of slavery into US territories.

1852
Uncle Tom's Cabin published by Harriet Beecher Stowe of CT

1854
Republican Party formed to prevent the spread of slavery in the territories.

1856
Many men of Glastonbury join the Republican Party. Republican candidate for Governor, Buckingham, wins in Glastonbury.

1860
Election of Abraham Lincoln. Landslide victory for Lincoln in CT. And in Glastonbury as well.

1861-1865
Civil War
13 Glastonbury men of color enlist

1865
13th Amendment ratified
Slavery abolished.

1868
14th Amendment ratified
Grants citizenship and equal protection under the law.

1870
15th Amendment ratified
Suffrage for African American males.

See page 2 for program details.

Webinar: Slavery and Abolition in Glastonbury, 1639-1865

Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative (GMLKCI) in conjunction with the Historical Society of Glastonbury (HSG) presents a free webinar via Zoom on February 24, 2021.

The first enslaved people arrived in Connecticut in 1639. We don't know exactly when citizens of Glastonbury began to own slaves, but as occurred in other New England towns, few townspeople became slaveholders. Among those who did, most owned one slave (or "servant").

The February 24th webinar features Diane Hoover and Julie Thompson from the Historical Society of Glastonbury who will share the findings of their research into slavery and abolition in Glastonbury, from colonial times through the Civil War. As part of a soon-to-open (late spring 2021) exhibit on this subject created by curator Lin Scarduzio at the Historical Society's Museum on the Green, Diane and Julie have spent countless hours researching the lives of the African American people who lived in the town from colonial times to the mid-19th century.

This story is far from complete, since the African American people who lived in Glastonbury from the early years into the 1800s left virtually no written record of their existence (as is true for women of any color, the poor, and most immigrants who settled in Glastonbury). Researchers must turn to the documents kept by those who wrote them: white men. Records of town meetings, vital statistics, wills, accounts of births, baptisms and deaths kept by the churches, burial records and headstone carvings, articles and advertisements from local newspapers, diaries of daily activities and books kept by doctors and storekeepers all serve as source material. Towns charged fees for the costs of clothes or room & board for poor residents from other towns and these receipts provide additional details. All require careful examination to extract information about slaves and freed blacks written in the ornate script of the time or printed with antique type fonts.

Julie and Diane discuss Glastonbury's role in the abolition movement (including the role of Glastonbury's Smith sisters) and the repercussions from national events such as Nat Turner's Rebellion, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and Prudence Crandall's School for "Little Misses of Color" on Glastonbury residents.

Our guides share true stories of African Americans who became soldiers in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars and of other notable African American residents of the town.



Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative

GMLKCI is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization, formed in 2001*, under the auspices of the Glastonbury Human Relations Commission. GMLKCI's mission is to increase knowledge about, and understanding of, the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to provide leadership and active engagement to build an inclusive community. We believe that bringing people together discuss openly and honestly social justice issues will help build a more inclusive and tolerant community. As Dr. King noted "... whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly..." and "...the quality of a community is determined by how members of the community relate to one another."

More information about Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative: glastonburymlki.org



Historical Society of Glastonbury

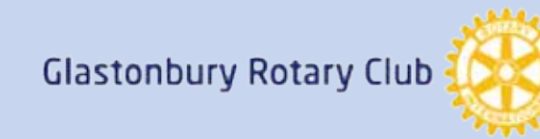
HSG is a non-profit organization with the motto "Knowing our past, guides our future." Its mission is to promote community activities on Glastonbury's heritage through publications, exhibits, and programs, and to maintain and preserve historical properties and materials for education and research. HSG is located on the Museum on the Green on the corner of Main and Hubbard Streets. For more about the Historical Society of Glastonbury, visit hsgct.org.

Diane Hoover is the Director of Education for the Glastonbury Historical Society and coordinates the education programs and tours. She received her Master's Degree in history at SCSU and she is a retired history teacher who taught history in Glastonbury schools for 41 years.

Julie Thompson is the vice-president of the Historical Society of Glastonbury and a co-chair of the Education Committee at the Historical Society. Julie received her Bachelor of Science in Education from Miami University and a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law. She has been a docent (museum guide) with the Historical Society for twelve years and leads tours at many of the Society's annual and special events.

Please complete the online program evaluation/survey. Your opinions are important to our programming and fundraising efforts.

The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative would like to thank our sponsors, who make this work possible.



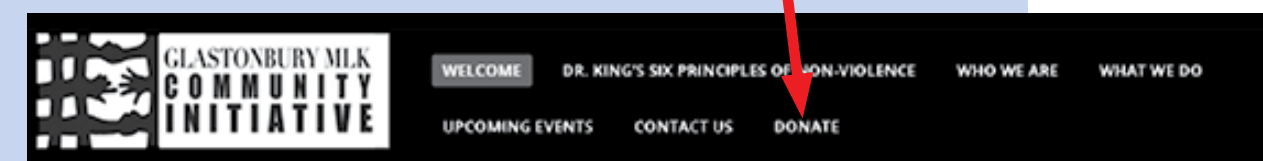
Thank you for attending today's program. Your presence encourages the work we do as members of the Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative (GMLKCI) to make Glastonbury a more inclusive place to live and visit.

This project was accomplished by a handful of committed community members. Please consider joining as a volunteer; there is an opportunity to express interest on the electronic survey.

While all of our programs are free, we are dependent on the community for financial support. The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) corporation and all donations are tax deductible. If you would like to support our efforts with a financial contribution, checks for any amount will be gratefully accepted; payable to GMLKCI, and mailed to:

GMLKCI Treasurer
62 Chimneysweep Hill Road
Glastonbury, Connecticut 06033

You may also donate online by using the DONATE button on our website: glastonburymlki.org



The Town of Glastonbury Human Relations Commission

HRC is available to assist any resident who, because of race, color, age, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or intellectual, mental or physical disability, has been discriminated against in a manner prohibited by the laws of the State of Connecticut or the Town of Glastonbury.

For additional information visit the Town's website or contact the Commission through the Glastonbury Human Resources Department, 860-652-7501.



This webinar was generously supported by the **Norma and Natale Sestero Fund** administered by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The Norma and Natale Sestero Fund was created through the estate of Natale and Norma Sestero, longtime residents of Glastonbury, with the goal to benefit the people and institutions of the town. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is the community foundation for the 29-town Greater Hartford region and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for area residents.

Please consider supporting the GMLKCI through the Amazon Smiles program.

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