

Connecticut Slavery Timeline

1650: Connecticut legalizes slavery

1779: **Prime and Prince** are the first slaves in Connecticut to petition the General Assembly for the abolition of all slavery in Connecticut.

1784: **Connecticut passes law for gradual emancipation**, freeing slaves born after March 1st when they turn 25.

1790: The First Federal Census showed that there were 3,763 people held in bondage throughout New England, and 2,648 of them lived in Connecticut. The same census shows that 2,771 free blacks now lived in Connecticut. **By 1790 the state had become, quite literally, half free and half enslaved.**

1798: **Former slave Venture Smith's autobiography is published** in Haddam Neck, Connecticut where he lived as a successful and prosperous freeman. His account is among the only that includes life in Africa, slavery, and freedom.

1818: Connecticut's new constitution specifically **bans African-Americans from voting**

1833: **The Black Law of Connecticut** was passed in legislation. This came as a result of Andrew Judson, a local politician, who pushed legislation through the Connecticut Assembly outlawing the establishment of schools "for the instruction of colored persons belonging to other states and countries."

1848: Connecticut passes final legislation abolishing slavery, becoming the last state in New England to fully abolish slavery.



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