

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

1850-1877

Leap Back in Time

Transportation and travel in the nineteenth century when Frederick Douglass was alive was very different than it is today. Territories in the western part of the United States were still becoming states, and people traveled long distances by train, boat, or wagon. Instead of the speedy plane travel we enjoy today, travel times between places were often measured in days, months, and sometimes even years. The nation was expanding, and there was still much to be explored. Look at the items on these pages and think of the ways travel and transportation in our country have changed.

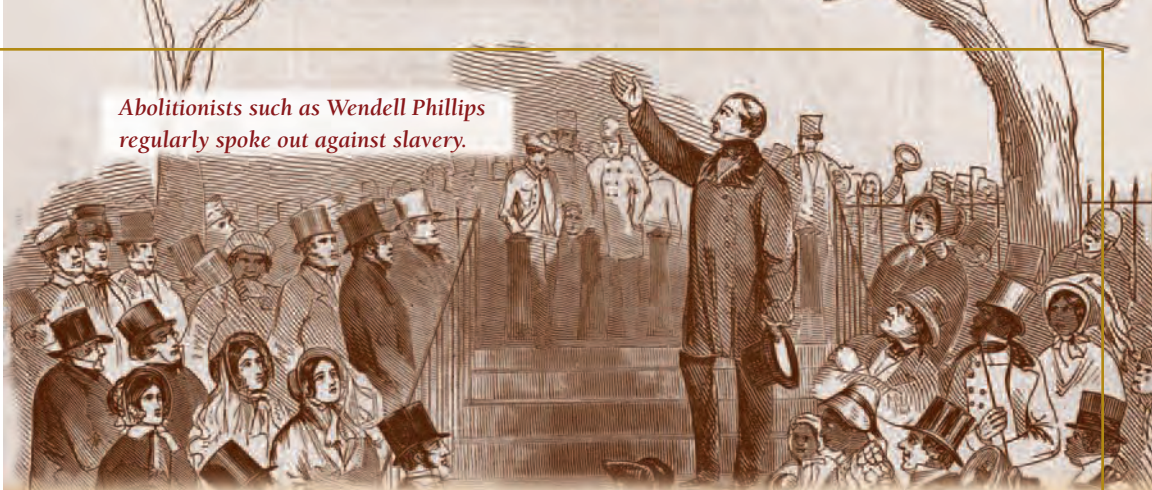


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Abolitionists such as Wendell Phillips regularly spoke out against slavery.



On August 16, 1841, **abolitionist** William C. Coffin asked Frederick to speak at the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society's annual convention. When it was his turn to speak, Frederick rose nervously to his feet. Only 23 at the time, he boldly told the audience about his slavery experience. In his rich, baritone voice he talked about bloody whippings and having dog scraps for supper. The crowd was awed by his fiery speech and moved by the horror of his experiences.



An anti-slavery pamphlet

Did You Know...

An angry mob attacked Frederick Douglass at an anti-slavery rally in Pendleton, Indiana, in 1843. Men rushed the outdoor platform and beat Douglass unconscious. Douglass lost his voice for a time and his right hand was badly broken. His hand never worked the same after that night.