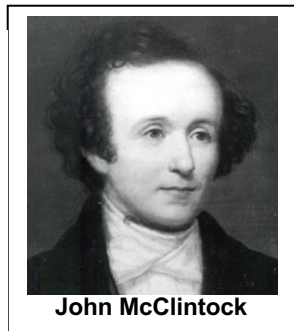


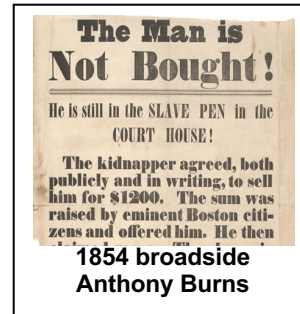
## The Crisis Over Fugitives and the Coming of the Civil War

In June 1847, Dickinson College professor John McClintock and black residents of Carlisle tested Pennsylvania's new personal liberty law by interfering with the seizure of three fugitive slaves. A Maryland man died three weeks following the melee—probably the first time that a southerner was killed while chasing slaves in the North. The episode made national headlines.



John McClintock

In May 1854, federal troops arrived in Boston to guarantee the return of a fugitive named Anthony Burns. The case galvanized anti-slavery opinion like no other, but it was another incident earlier that year in Milwaukee, involving abolitionist Sherman Booth, that eventually led to a landmark Supreme Court decision in *Abelman v. Booth* (1859) outlawing northern personal liberty laws altogether.

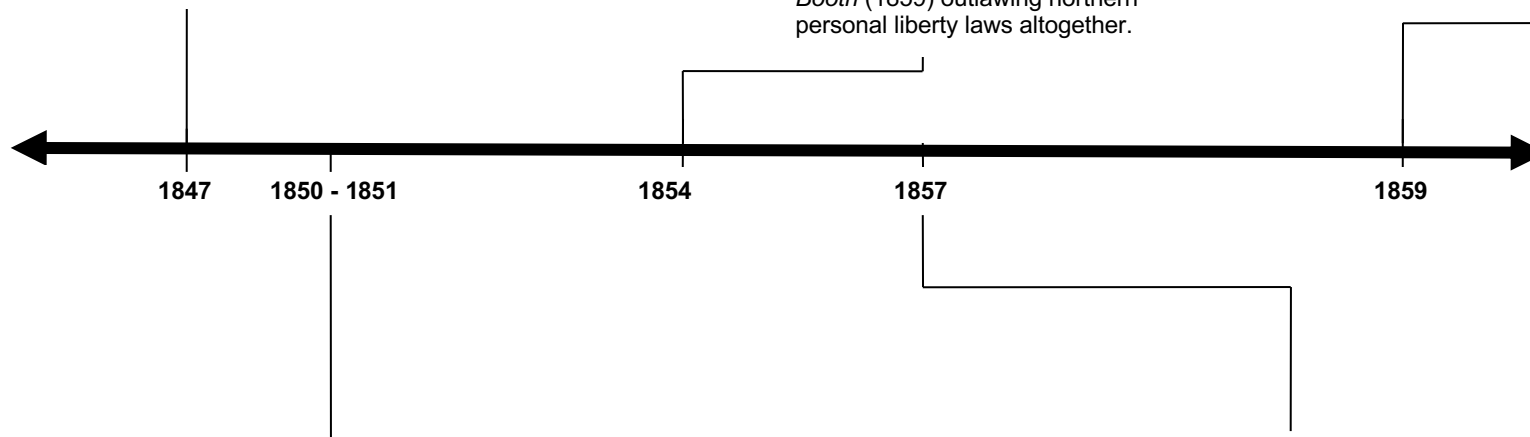


1854 broadside Anthony Burns

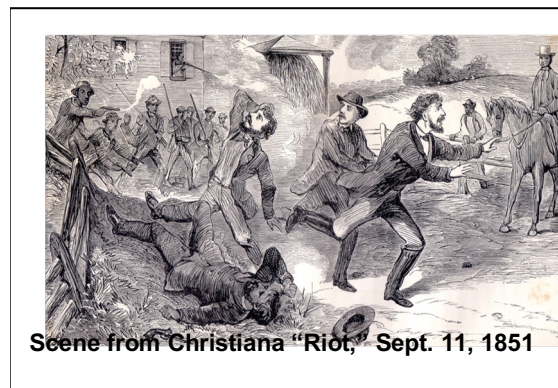
After years working with the northern "Subterranean Pass Way," John Brown took his fight south. He led a raid into Missouri in 1858 and held a meeting at the home of William Webb in Detroit to plan more revolutionary action. In October 1859, he launched his failed raid against the arsenal in Harpers Ferry, Virginia. His trial and execution riveted the nation.



John Brown

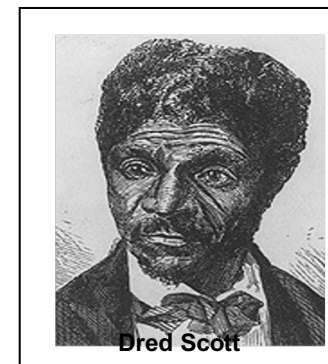


In September 1850 the Congress passed a tougher federal fugitive slave law as part of the Compromise of 1850. The new law infuriated many northerners. Violent resistance occurred in places such as Boston, Mass., Christiana, Pa, and Syracuse, NY, thereby inflaming sectional tensions to greater heights. One consequence of this new confrontational era was that Missouri slaves Dred and Harriet Scott found their earlier freedom suit victories in circuit court reversed in 1852.



Scene from "Christiana "Riot," Sept. 11, 1851

In March 1857, the Supreme Court finally ruled against Dred Scott, who had sued for his freedom along with his wife under the doctrine of "once free, always free." The decision denied blacks citizenship rights, repudiated the doctrine of state comity, and invalidated the Missouri Compromise. Scott was freed anyway in May by the heirs of his first owner.



Dred Scott