Timeline of the Abolitionist Movement

1828: New York State abolishes slavery.
1829: David Walker’s Appeal.
    Nat Turner Slave Rebellion.
1833: American Anti-slavery Society formed.
1837: Abolitionist Elijah Lovejoy is murdered.
1838: Frederick Douglass escapes slavery and becomes active in the abolitionist cause.
1840: Formation of the Liberty Party which ran presidential candidates in 1840 and 1844
1844: John Quincy Adams finally wins repeal of the Gag Rule in Congress.
1846: Wilmot Proviso, prohibiting slavery in any territory taken from Mexico, is passed in the House, but defeated in the Senate.
1847: Frederick Douglass begins publication of the North Star.
1848: Mexican Cession of western territory to the United States; North and South resume struggle over the status of slavery in federal territory.
1850: Compromise of 1850
    Passage of Fugitive Slave Act.
1852: Abolitionist Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes *Uncle Tom’s Cabin.*
1854: Passage of Kansas-Nebraska Act which determines the status of slavery in these two territories according to the principle of “popular sovereignty.”
    “Bleeding Kansas.”
    Formation of the Republican Party.
1857: Dred Scott Court Decision which stated that the Missouri Compromise was unconstitutional, and that slaves were not citizens but the property of their owners
1858: Lincoln-Douglas Debates.
1859: Abolitionist John Brown’s raid at the federal arsenal in Harper’s Ferry, Virginia.
1860: Presidential election of Republican Party candidate, Abraham Lincoln, and the start of southern secession.
1861: The beginning of the Civil War.
1863: Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation.
1865: Thirteenth Amendment is added to the Constitution, which abolishes slavery.