

## Dr. John K Eshleman and Glen Isle Farm

From Eusebius Barnard's house, the next stop on the Underground Railroad was often the home of Dr. John K Eshleman in Downingtown. Sarah Marsh and her parents were familiar with Dr. Eshleman prior to Sarah marrying Eusebius. Eshleman and Eusebius Barnard became good friends. The new combined family connected Pocopson Township to Downingtown on another route within the Underground Railroad. A story in R C Smedley's book "History of the Underground Railroad in Chester and the Neighboring Counties of Pennsylvania" relays one of these transfers.

"A party of six or eight came one First-day (Sunday) morning, just as the family were starting for meeting. Eusebius and his brother William were on a religious visit to Ohio, and were expecting some of the family to meet them on their return to Downingtown the next day. Upon the oldest son, Eusebius R., now devolved the task of conducting these passengers. It was somewhat hazardous to venture out with them at that time of day, but he loaded some in a dearborn so as to give the appearance of going to a colored Quarterly Meeting, then in session nearby. The balance of the party were to walk far enough behind to keep in sight of the dearborn, while he rode on horse-back some distance in advance. He took them to Dr. Eshleman's, left the horse there which he rode, and returned with the dearborn. They met a great number of persons, but no one suspected that the load of dusky humanity which passed, were passengers on the "Underground Railroad," traveling in open daylight, with their conductor in front, piloting them with as much calmness as though he were riding on an ordinary errand. On the following day the dearborn was driven to Downingtown, Eusebius and William returned in it, and the horse was ridden home from Dr. Eshleman's house."



**Eusebius R Barnard**



**Dearborn Wagon**

Dr. Eshleman had moved to Downingtown in 1848 and purchased the property now known as Glen Isle Farm. According to research by Mary Larkin Dugan, Glen Isle Farm began as a 500-acre tract purchased by Quaker Thomas Parke in 1725. It later became the Ship Tavern where George Washington is believed to have stayed. The tavern eventually became a private residence again and has remained so until today..



**Glen Isle Farm 2025**