

Young Enos Barnard Leads Freedom Seekers

Helping freedom seekers on the Underground Railroad was a family affair for the Barnards. Not only did Eusebius Barnard and his wife Sarah provide aid, but so did his brother William and sons Eusebius R and Enos. R C Smedley in his book "History of the Underground Railroad in Chester and the Neighboring Counties of Pennsylvania" relays many stories of the family's involvement in the cause including one about a young Enos Barnard. He states "Seventeen men came on foot one evening, when no one was at home but the daughters and the youngest son, Enos. He knew where his uncle William Barnard lived, and being just old enough to ride a horse, he mounted one and rode in front of the men to the place, and delivered his charge safely." A pastel painting by local artist Richard Chalfant, a Great Grandson of Enos Barnard, captures the event and is on display at the Barnard Station Heritage Center.



The likely route of travel between the Eusebius Barnard and William Barnard farms was up present-day Corrine Road, left down the vacated Larkin Baily Road (now a township walking trail), onto Haines Mill Road, right onto Red Lion Road, left onto Marlborough Road. The section of vacated road maintains its early appearance and has a large oak "witness tree" that was living when the Enos Barnard party passed by.





William Barnard's home was located off Marlborough Rd and still exists today. Photo is the house in 1909.



Eusebius R and Enos Barnard