

Bates College Founding Documents and Resources

Free Will Baptist background material:

[Free Baptist Cyclopaedia](#), 1889 - Selected entries:

- [Freewill or Free Baptist](#)
- [Anti-Slavery](#)
- [Oren B. Cheney](#)
- [Bates College](#)

Morning Star newspaper articles on anti-slavery views:

Vol. XXVI No. 1, April 16, 1851, page 2:

Editorial Correspondence: [Great Anti-Fugitive Slave Law meeting in Boston](#).

Vol. XXVI No. 1, April 16, 1851, page 4:

[Speech of Horace Mann](#)

Vol. XXVI No.2, April 23, 1851, page 2:

[Editorial Correspondence](#)

Vol. XXVI No.3, April 30, 1851, page 12:

[Speech of Horace Mann](#)

Vol. XXVI No.4, May 7, 1851, page 16:

[Speech of Horace Mann](#)

Digitized issues of [The Morning Star](#), 1850-1894. More issues to be added.

Oren B. Cheney materials:

Full copy of the biography of Oren B. Cheney, [The Story and life of Oren B. Cheney](#) by Emeline Burlingame Cheney.

[Cheney diary, 1864 \(transcript\)](#)

Maine State Seminary and Bates College early documents:

Maine State Seminary catalogues: [1857](#), [1858](#), [1859](#), [1860](#), [1861](#), [1862](#), No catalogues issued 1863-1864.

[Treasurer's ledger 1854-58](#) - Funds received tend to be on the left page while funds paid are on the right. There are a few exceptions, but there are notes at the bottom of the page indicating which page the number carries over to.

Trustees meeting minutes:

- [1855](#) - includes by-laws
- [1864](#)
- [By-laws 1864](#)

Other materials:

[The Seminary Advocate](#), 1856-1864. This was published by the Freewill Baptists to promote the new institution that would become Bates College, the Maine State Seminary. Issues usually contained information about the school, fundraising pleas, local news (weddings, funerals, etc), as well as more general religious instruction.

[The Maine Register and business guide, 1856](#)

Abolitionist pamphlets held by Bates Special Collections:

(Please also search the [library catalog](#) under the subject 'antislavery movements' for related items held at Colby and Bowdoin, many with online access.)

Slavery, and the death of John Brown: A Sermon preached in Auburn Hall, Auburn [Me.], Sabbath Afternoon, December 11th, 1859. Samuel N. Tufts. Lewiston, Me., 1859. [Bates link](#)

The Tyrant Paupers; or, Where the Money Goes. Emancipator Extra, tract no. 6. Boston, 1843.

American Anti-Slavery Almanac for 1840. Vol. 1, no. 5. Boston, 1840. [Bates link](#)

Annual report of the American Anti-Slavery Society. New York, 1836. [Bates link](#)

Proceedings of the Great Convention of the Friends of Freedom in the Eastern and Middle States, Held in Boston, Oct. 1, 2, & 3, 1845. Lowell, Ma., 1845. [Bates link](#)

Appeal to the Christian Women of the South. Angelina E. Grimké. New York, 1836. [Bates link](#)

The Legion of Liberty: Remonstrance of some free men, states, and presses, to the Texas rebellion, against the laws of nature and of nations. Albany, NY, 1843. [Bates link](#)

The Liberty Almanac for 1848. New York, 1847. [Bates link](#)

The Liberty Almanac for 1849. New York, 1848. [Bates link](#)

The Liberty Almanac for 1850. New York, 1849. [Bates link](#)

The Liberty Almanac for 1851. New York, 1850. [Bates link](#)

Letter to a member of the Congress of the United States of America, from an English clergyman; including a republication, with considerable additions, of the tract entitled "Every Man His Own Property." London, 1835. [Bates link](#)

Sermon delivered at Wilton, on the day of the national fast. Rev. H.A. Lounsbury. Farmington, Me., ca. 1860.

The compact, or What have our state politics to do with slavery? Emancipator Extra, tract no. 9. Boston, 1843.

The anti-slavery spirit of the Revolution. N.H. Liberty tract, no. 1. New Hampshire, ca. 1839.

How to settle the Texas question. Massachusetts State Texas Committee. 1845. [Bates link](#)

Proceedings of the New York anti-slavery convention, held at Utica, October 21, and New York anti-slavery state society, held at Peterboro, October 22, 1835. Utica, NY, 1835. [Bates link](#)

Proceedings of the first annual meeting of the New-York state anti-slavery society, convened at Utica, October 19, 1836. Utica, NY, 1836. [Bates link](#)

The Bible against slavery. An inquiry into the patriarchal and Mosaic systems on the subject of human rights. The Anti-Slavery Examiner, no. 5. New York, 1838. [Bates link](#)

An appeal on the subject of slavery: addressed to the members of the New England and New Hampshire conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church: Together with a defense of said appeal, in which is shown the sin of holding property in man. Boston, 1835. [Bates link](#)

Other printed materials in Bates Special Collections:

The Non-Slaveholder and The Louisville Examiner. Newspapers (bound together) from Philadelphia, PA, and Louisville, KY, respectively, ca. 1850. ([Bates link](#) to 1849 volume.)

The Quarterly Anti-Slavery Magazine. New York, 1835-1837. (Bates holds a physical copy of vol. 1, no. 1 only) [Bates link to vol. 2](#)

Student thesis - Larson, Tim, [Faith by Their Works: Our Progressive Tradition](#)

Student paper - Larson, Tim, [The Abolitionism of Oren B. Cheney](#)

Comparison idea and resources:

Berea College, Berea, Kentucky is a liberal arts college with a similar early history, and provides a point of comparison for students looking into the founding of Bates and how we came to be the institution we are today.

Like Bates, Berea College was founded by abolitionists and with a strong religious backbone in 1855. Berea admitted both men and women of all races from the start. Berea's mission statement begins, "Berea College, founded by ardent abolitionists and radical reformers, continues today as an educational institution still firmly rooted in its historic purpose "to promote the cause of Christ." The two institutions have similar founding histories, and yet there are profound differences in how the colleges have developed over the years. A striking difference is the demographics of enrolled students. For example, Berea's student body in 1866-1867 totaled 187 with 96 black students and 91 white students. This trend continued for the remainder of the 19th century. Links below offer an opportunity to explore how institutions with similar values diverge into different experiences, the challenges and impact of location, as well as other points of comparison.

[Early History page](#)

[Mission statement](#)

[Digital Berea College docs including Founders and Founding](#)

Legislative History from Law & Legislative Reference Library and Maine State Archives:

Year	Title	Published Link	Original Papers
1855	An Act to incorporate the Trustees of the Maine State Seminary	1855 PS 529	1855 PS 193
1858	An Act to amend An Act entitled "An Act to incorporate the Trustees of the Maine State Seminary," approved March sixteenth, eighteen hundred and fifty five	1858 PS 145	1858 PS 18
1858	An Act additional to "An Act to incorporate the Maine State Seminary," approved	1858 PS 245	1858 PS 160

	March sixteenth, eighteen hundred and fifty-five		
1859	Resolve authorizing the payment of the sum of ten thousand dollars to the Trustees of the Maine State Seminary	1859 RS 212	1859 RS 2
1859	An Act to repeal an Act entitled "An Act additional to an Act to incorporate the Maine State Seminary"	1859 PS 333	1859 PS 114
1864	An Act to change the name of the Maine State Seminary to that of Bates College, and to otherwise alter the charter of said corporation	1864 PS 293	1864 PS 3
1868	An Act to separate the Seminary Department from Bates College and incorporate the Trustees of the Maine State Seminary	1868 PS 495	1868 PS 117
1868	An Act to amend the charter of Bates College	1868 PS 496	1868 PS 118
1869	An Act to separate the Literary Fraternity from Bates College and connect the same to the Maine State Seminary	1869 PS 131	1869 PS 152
1871	An Act surrendering the charter of the Maine State Seminary	1871 PS 604	1871 PS 100
1873	An Act granting a new charter to Bates College	1873 PS 192	1873 PS 1