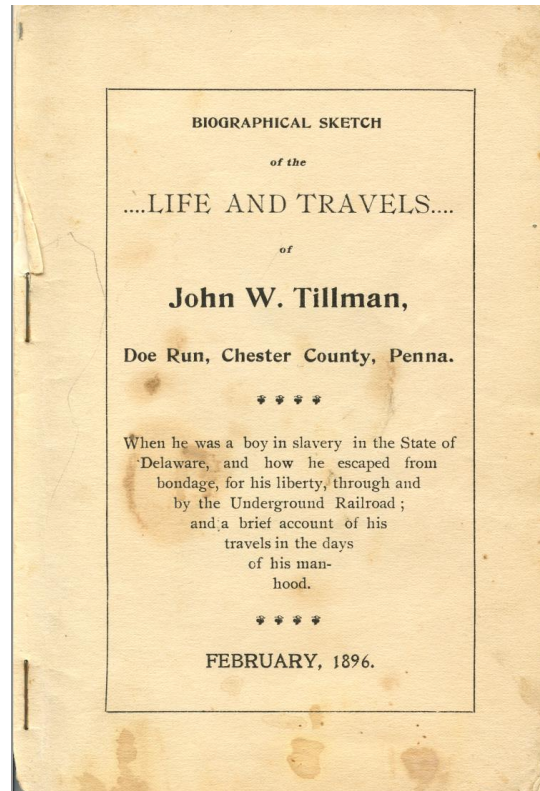


This small, time-worn book, published in 1896, is one of the Delaware Historical Society's greatest treasures. It is one of only 3 known slave narratives written by a Delawarean, and is one of only 2 copies known to have survived. When you look at the book and read John Tillman's story, you are having a close encounter with a core American and Delaware Story: the experience of slavery.



In his book Tillman tells the story of his life as a slave in Delaware, as a freedom seeker on the Underground Railroad, and finally as a free man living in Chester County, Pennsylvania. During his years in bondage, Tillman was separated from his mother and brother, was sold several times, and suffered cruel treatment. When Tillman finally escaped to freedom, he lived the rest of his life as a free man, working as a farm laborer. He served in the Union army during the Civil War, proud to fight for his country and for the end of slavery. He was also proud to receive the right to vote with the adoption of the 15<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

**What does John Tillman's story tell us about the experience of African Americans in Delaware?**