

## **Short History**

Slavery is an unfortunate part of America's history and was a reality, especially in the southern states. Ohio's original state constitution (1802) banned slavery, however by 1804; the Ohio General Assembly enacted the Ohio Black Codes to govern black and mulatto people residing in the state.

These Codes required free blacks and mulattos to register their names with their local court. This registration process required one to provide emancipation papers or witnesses that could corroborate a person's "free" status.

Many free blacks migrated to Greene County, Ohio where there was a strong abolitionist movement and cheap fertile farmland. Several families settled around the Wilberforce area and established prosperous communities.