



FOURTH STOP: The Amish Quest for Freedom

There is no hiding that we are in the midst of the oldest Amish settlement in America. While those enslaved were brought to America where they were denied fundamental human rights and dignity, before them the forefathers of the Amish in Europe were being persecuted, and even put to death, for their religious beliefs. Both looked for routes to freedom... the enslaved via the "Underground Railroad," and the Amish by a treacherous voyage to William Penn's colony in the New World.

As our tour ends, you learn that the Amish flight to religious freedom has many parallels to the flight of freedom on the Underground Railroad.

Thus, we finally return to the theater for the special effects five-screen showing of "Jacob's Choice," tracing the Amish story from 16th Century Europe and the religious persecution they faced, to their eventual voyage across the Atlantic to the America.



Through the eyes of a young boy, the challenge Amish teenagers face in determining whether to join the faith or leave family and community behind to live in the outside world, resonates at many levels in today's world, and reinforces the importance of history in the choices we all make today.

