

## **AUBURN, NY: HARRIET TUBMAN HISTORIC SITE**

### **Description**

The 30-acre site where Harriet Tubman (1821-1913) settled with her second husband, Nelson Davis, and where she established the Home for the Aged in 1903. Harriet Tubman entered into a contract with then-Senator William H. Seward in 1859 to purchase the 7-acre parcel on which her brick house now stands (the purchase was settled with Seward's heirs in 1873). The remaining 25 acres were purchased at auction on the steps of the county courthouse in 1896. The Home for the Aged was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1975. The site receives approximately 5,000 visitors per year, including annual pilgrimages from southern African Americans. This year the site will celebrate the 85th anniversary of her death.

The site includes:

- the brick house, built circa 1880, where Nelson and Harriett Tubman Davis lived after their marriage in 1869, and willed to Tubman's relatives upon her death,
- the Home for the Aged, a wooden building, where Tubman spent the last few years of her life; restored in 1949 and now a historic museum open for tours,
- the ruins of the second building of the Home for the Aged, destroyed by fire in 1949; Syracuse University is conducting preliminary archeological digs this summer,
- the Harriet Tubman Memorial Library, built in 1978 (dedicated in 1979), containing historical documents and photos and a computer lab, and
- the Multipurpose Center, built in 1983 (dedicated in 1984) used for special events.

### **Historical Significance**

Though not directly associated with Tubman's activities with the Underground Railroad, the brick home of Nelson and Harriet Tubman Davis and the associated Home for the Aged are two of the very few documented, tangible links to Harriet Tubman, renowned leader in the Underground Railroad movement and known as "the Moses of her people."

Born into slavery in Dorchester County, Maryland, as one of eleven children of Harriet Green and Benjamin Ross, Tubman gained her freedom in 1849 when she escaped to Philadelphia. ["I had reasoned this out in my mind," she said, "there was one of two things I had a right to -- Liberty or death. If I could

not have one, I could have the other, for no man should take me alive, I shall fight for my liberty and when the time comes for me to go, the Lord will let them kill me." Working as a domestic, she saved money until she had the resources and contacts to rescue several of her family members in 1850. This marked the first of 19 trips back into Maryland where Tubman guided approximately 300 people to freedom, many to St. Catharine (correct spelling), Ontario, Canada. Tubman rented a room in a St. Catharine boarding house behind the African Methodist Episcopal Church between 1851 and 1858. At one point, rewards for her capture totalled \$40,000.

In 1859, Tubman relocated to Auburn, New York and entered into a contract with William H. Seward to purchase 7 acres. Shortly afterward, Tubman brought her parents from Canada to settle them on this property.

*→ Who she had rescued from slavery in MD in June 1857*

During the Civil War, Tubman served with the Massachusetts 54th Infantry Regiment (as did Frederick Douglass' sons Charles and Lewis) as cook, nurse, scout and spy.

After the war, Tubman returned to Auburn where she dedicated her life to helping former slaves, especially the children and the elderly. In 1869, she married Nelson Davis, a bricklayer. She became very involved with her church, the Parker Street African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, where her husband was an elder. Davis died in 1886. The existing church is nearly intact from its date of construction in 1892.

Having for years succored the needy in her home, in 1896, Tubman purchased the 25-acre parcel adjoining her home at a public auction held on the steps of the Cayuga County Courthouse. The frame building on the site became the Home for the Aged. Her work at the Home was supported by donations, with Tubman never asking for herself but for the people who depended upon her. Proceeds from the second edition of Sarah H. Bradford's book,     , also supported the Home for the Aged. (Proceeds from the first edition, published in 1869, went to Tubman to help pay for her own home.) In 1903, Tubman deeded this 25-acre property to the AME Zion Church. In 1908, the brick building on this property, lost to fire in 1949 and now just foundation ruins, was opened as the second building of the Home for the Aged.

*→ 50 years after launching Emanc. Proc.*

Tubman died in Auburn in 1913 at the age of 93. Frederick Douglass once wrote of Harriet Tubman Davis, "Excepting John Brown - of sacred - I know of no one who has willingly encountered more perils and hardships to serve our enslaved people than [Harriet Tubman]." She was carried from the Parker Street AME Zion Church to her gravesite across the street in Fort Hill Cemetery where she was buried with military rites. The following year, the

- \* ① *Beacon in the Life of Harriet Tubman (1869)*
- ② *Harriet the Moss of her People (1886)*

City declared a one-day memorial to this courageous champion of freedom, and unveiled the Harriet Tubman Plaque, which, to this day, stands at the entrance to the courthouse.

### **Preservation needs**

The overwhelming preservation need at the site is gathering historic documentation about the site and assessing the historic buildings and landscape (there was an orchard on the site and it is believed some gardening and/or farming occurred here too) so that informed decisions about the preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of the site can then move forward. To that end, the City of Auburn has obtained a \$4,000 from the Preservation League of New York State (source of funds to Preservation League is the NY State Council of the Arts) to hire a contractor to prepare a National Register nomination for the majority of the site which is not included in the National Historic Landmark designation. A grant request has been submitted to the NY State Council of the Arts "Architecture Planning and Design Program" for \$10,000 to prepare measured drawings of existing conditions of the Tubman Davis home and the Home for the Aged. A decision on this grant is pending. State Senator Mozzolio has proposed \$50,000 for the site through the state's Community Facilities Assistance Program (administered through the Empire State Development Corporation).

The Home for the Aged has been owned by the AME Zion Church for 40 years who rehabilitated in 1949 what had become an abandoned shell. Currently the Home is in need of structural repair (roof ) and some interior renovations to more accurately depict the historic appearance during Tubman's time.

Harriet Tubman's former residence, built circa 1880, is currently vacant with the interior mostly demolished. The interior rehabilitation has been put on hold until investigation of the structure itself can provide clues as to the original design of the house. The mortar between some of the bricks on the rear wall is missing causing water to leak into the house. The foundation also leaks. The house is in dire need of restoration and an effort will be made to preserve its historical significance.

The Memorial Library and Multipurpose Center are fairly new constructions, are heavily used by visitors for special programs and are in good condition.

Included in the long term plans for all of the sites are interpretive exhibits.

The total estimate for the preservation of all structures at the Tubman site and the AME Zion Church (see below) is \$1,400,000.

### Related sites

The Parker Street AME Zion Church, a vernacular Victorian style church built in 1892, presents the most outstanding preservation need of all the sites mentioned. The church is in danger of rapid deterioration due to water penetration; they have estimated roof repair may cost \$20,000 - \$30,000. The congregation moved to another place of worship 1-2 years ago. Across the street is Tubman's gravesite at Fort Hill Cemetery. It is understated and simple, a small stone tablet, mid-19th century, accompanied by a large, "striking" tree, it lies close to the street, somewhat isolated from the rest of the gravesites.

William H. Seward House (Governor, Senator, US Secretary of State) is a mile away and was a stop on the Underground Railway. Home is an immaculate mansion that was in the family roughly 100 years. Slaves were hidden in basement but also in rooms above carriage house which the house would like to open to the public. House has a special display case of Tubman memorabilia collected by Seward family members. House has letter written by Seward to his travelling wife which mentions that two people came by to be hidden and then says, "Isn't this underground railroad working well?" Could be site for reception/fundraiser evening before Tubman visit.

Harriet Tubman Birthplace Site, Dorchester County, Maryland. An archeological survey is needed to pinpoint the location of the birthsite and to conduct initial investigations at the site. Work by \_\_\_\_\_ and coordinated by the National Park Service is expected to begin Fall 1998. Projected cost: \$100,000.

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### Local involvement

There is not much local involvement and the majority of the visitors are from out of the area. Currently a consultant is under contract to the City to thoroughly research these sites in order to nominate the Church, gravesite, residence and Home for the Aged for the National Register; they also hope this will spur local involvement and site coordination. Syracuse University is conducting archeological testing this summer around the foundation ruins of

the brick building that was part of the Home for the Aged. Right now the emphasis is on saving the Church.

The site has faced some opposition from neo-nazi groups as recently as 1994.

### **Contacts**

Reverend Paul Carter, 315-252-2081. [hthome@locainet.com](mailto:hthome@locainet.com).

[www.NYHistory.com/harriettubman](http://www.NYHistory.com/harriettubman) 180 South St., auburn, NY 13021 (GC spoke to RC 4/29/98); Marc Peckham with the NY State Historical Preservation Office 518-237-8643 x258; Suzanne Warren -the consultant doing research for the Nat'l Register nomination 802-447-0973; Michael Long with the Planning Department in Auburn 315-255-4115.

**Updated 6/22/98**

**VISIT OF THE FIRST LADY  
TO  
THE WILLIAM SEWARD HOUSE  
AUBURN, NEW YORK  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1998**

**EVENT:** Tour of the William H. Seward House

**DATE:** Wednesday, July 15, 1998

**TIME:** 1:50 PM - 2:05 PM

**LOCATION:** William Seward House  
National Historic Landmark site in Auburn, New York

**ATTENDEES:** The First Lady  
Descendants of William Seward (3)  
Mayor and City Council members  
12 members of the traveling press corps

**PRESS:** TBD

**REMARKS:** Brief Remarks / Presentations

**SCENARIO:**

The First Lady will arrive Auburn, New York via motorcade and proceed to the William Seward House Museum. The First Lady will be greeted by Betty May Lewis, curator of the museum for the last 47 years. She will be introduced to the family members and distinguished guests. Mrs. Lewis will lead a brief tour of the Seward House museum focusing on the connections between William Seward and Harriet Tubman. Seward was Secretary of State under President Lincoln and was instrumental in the Emancipation Proclamation. The tour will include the Washington room, the study, the Harriet Tubman display, the Carriage House and the "dormitory" (where the Seward's hid run away slaves), the formal dining room and living room. The First Lady will then travel by motorcade along the South Street National Register Historic District en route to the Harriet Tubman Home..

Draft 1.

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TO  
THE HARRIET TUBMAN HOME  
AUBURN, NEW YORK  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1998**

**EVENT:** Tour of the Harriet Tubman Residence,

**DATE:** Wednesday, July 15, 1998

**TIME:** 2:10 PM - 3:10 PM

**LOCATION:** Harriet Tubman property  
National Historic Landmark site, Auburn, New York

**ATTENDEES:** The First Lady  
Harriet Tubman Family members  
Distinguished members of the A.M.E. Zion Church  
Mayor and City Council members  
12 members of the travelling press corps

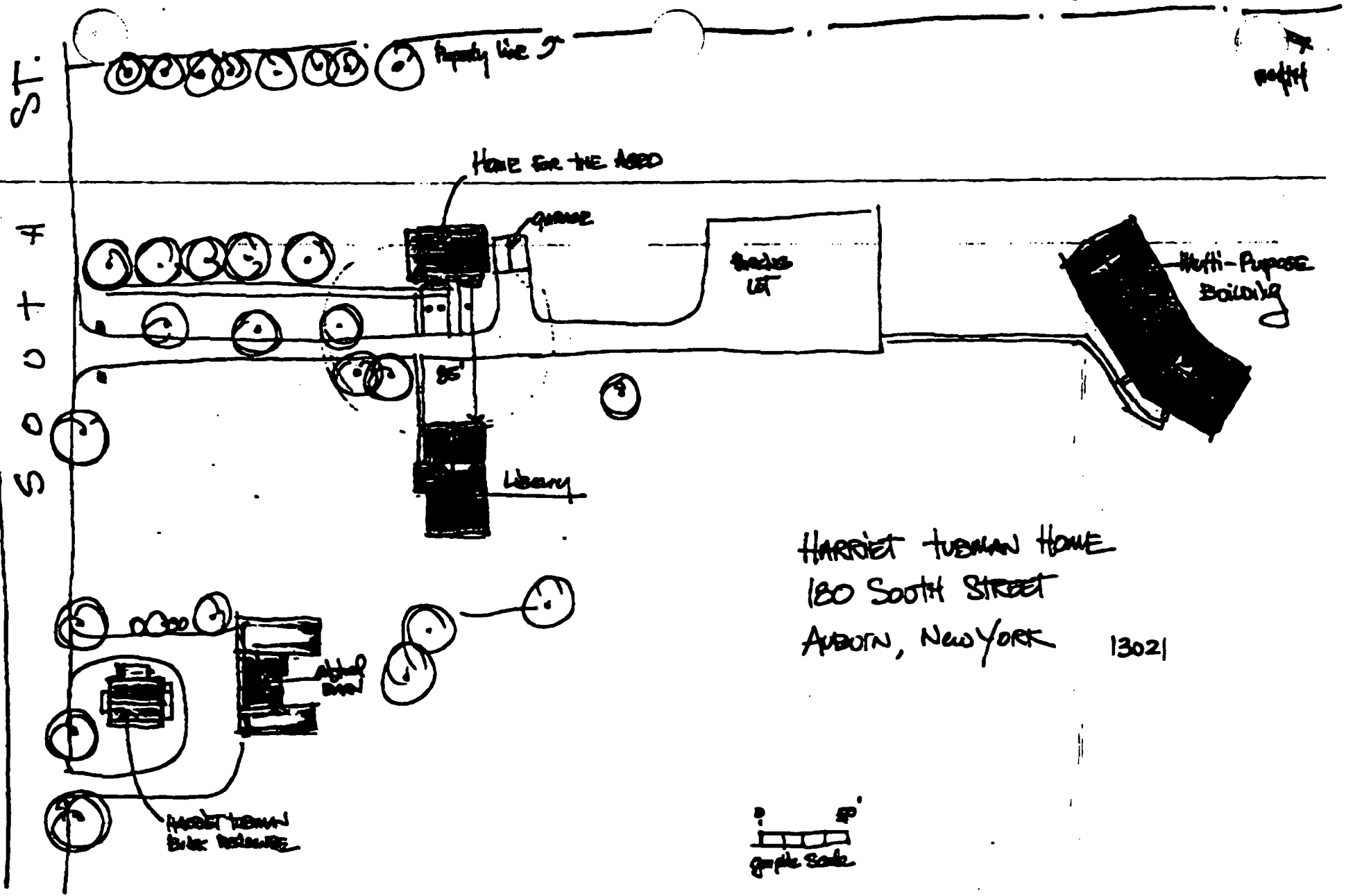
**PRESS:** OPEN

**REMARKS:** Brief Remarks / Presentations

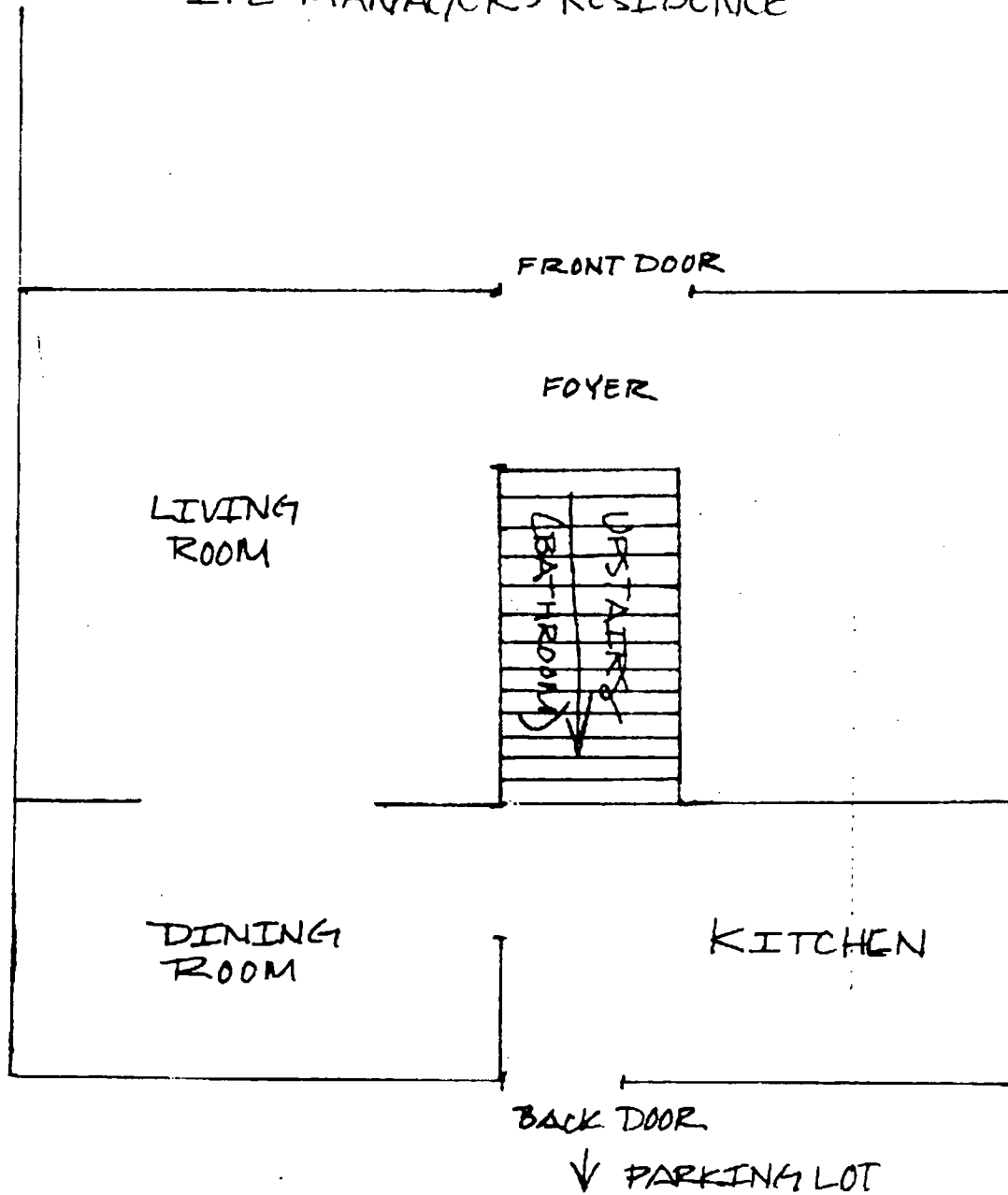
**SCENARIO:**

The First Lady will arrive Harriet Tubman's residence where she will be greeted by Reverend and Mrs Paul Carter. (photo opportunity). The entourage will then tour Harriet's home which is in need of restoration. The First Lady will then proceed to the Harriet Tubman "Home for the Aged" (A small stage will be set up in front of the building.) Reverend Paul G. Carter will welcome the invited guests and present the Thompson Memorial Youth Group to perform a brief play on the life and times of Harriet Tubman. Several of "Aunt Harriet's direct descendants will be included within the performance. The First Lady will then make brief remarks. The First Lady will work ropelines and proceed inside the "Home for the Aged" for a tour enroute to motorcade..

Draft 1.



THURSDAY, 15 JULY 1998  
GANONDAGAN STATE HISTORIC SITE, VICTOR, NEW YORK  
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION W/ CLAN MOTHERS  
SITE MANAGER'S RESIDENCE



A. Bell DRATTI  
1.9.98

## **Auburn, NY: Harriet Tubman Home**

\* William Seward home is a nearby and related site. If we decide to go there, we have information on Seward and on the house.

- The information packet from the Millennium people is very helpful, so I won't duplicate all the information they provide. Here is a summary of a few key points and a few things not included in the Millennium office info.

### Harriet Tubman

Born a slave in either 1820 or 1821, HT was one of 11 children. She originally bore the name Araminta, but soon adopted her mother's name Harriet. In 1844, her master forced her to marry John Tubman, a free black who was unfaithful to her. Though she had heard rumors she was about to be sold, HT's husband nonetheless opposed her plans to escape slavery. Therefore, she fled on her own in 1849, guided only by the North Star. She traveled at night, going through Maryland and Delaware to Philadelphia, and from there to New York and Canada.

Of her escape, HT said: "I had reasoned this out in my mind; there was one of two things I had a right to--Liberty or death. If I could not have one, I could have the other, for no man should take me alive, I shall fight for my liberty and when the time comes for me to go, the Lord will let them kill me."

She soon journeyed back to Maryland in 1850 to rescue her sister and others. HT became the most famous conductor on the Underground Railroad, making 19 trips into Maryland and rescuing over 300 people who she brought to freedom in the North and Canada. Prevented from learning to read or write while she was a slave, HT never learned to do so and hence had only the stars and familiar sites to navigate by. Nonetheless, she was so successful that slave owners took out a \$40,000 bounty on her head. She faced life threatening danger with great courage and continually endured many hardships, repeatedly telling those who she was ferrying to freedom, "Keep Going." She earned the nickname "The Moses of her people." Among those she rescued were her elderly parents, who she got in 1857 and then settled them in Auburn.

\* In 1859 HT also led the rescue of the fugitive slave Charles Nalle in Troy, New York (site of the Kate Mullaney house).

During the Civil War HT served as a scout, spy, nurse, and laundress with the famous Massachusetts 54th Infantry--the famous unit depicted in the movie Glory. (Frederick Douglass' sons Charles and Lewis also served in the 54th). While in the Army, some officers referred to HT as "General Moses."

After the war she returned to Auburn (see Millennium packet for more), where she married Nelson Davis in 1869 and became involved in the Parker Street African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church--which is still standing though in major need of renovation. In addition to raising money for black schools in the South, she began taking in orphans and old people, and because the home for the aged in Auburn would not accept blacks, she founded the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged.

Throughout her life, HT was friends with some of the most important abolitionists in the country including: John Brown, William Lloyd Garrison, Charles Sumner, Wendell Phillips, Frederick Douglass, Gerrit Smith, and William Seward.

HT died in 1913--in the fiftieth year of American Emancipation (dated by Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation).

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**Updated 6/22/98**

Harriet Tubman:

- she was so physically strong that "she could lift huge barrels of produce and draw a loaded stone boat like an ox": John Brown was so astounded at the physical impression of this woman, together with the knowledge of her achievements, that he could only convey his regard for her by applying masculine terms to describe her.

- "There's two things I've got a right to and these are Death or Liberty. One or the other I mean to have. No one will take b\me back alive; I shall fight for my liberty, and when the time has come for me to go, the Lord will let them kill me."



- Long before Harriet decided to leave she had found an ally in a white woman who lived near her, one who had vouchsafed aid to the slaved woman in case she ever wished to escape. Harriet had a bed quilt that she highly prized and had pieced together herself. She gave it to the white woman and the white woman gave her a paper with two names on it and directions how she might get to the first house where she was to receive aid. In the first house, when she showed the woman the piece of paper, Harriet was told to sweep the yard: was like a camouflage because nobody would suspect her of being a runaway slave. The woman's husband loaded her in his wagon and covered her before driving her to the outskirts to another town where he directed her to the second station.

- Harriet had a letter written to Jacob Jackson, a fellow conspirator, who was to notify her brothers that she was coming for them. "Read my letter to the old folks, and give my love to them, and tell my brothers to be always watching unto prayer, and when the good old ship of Zion comes along, to be ready to step aboard." The postal authorities suspected the biblical passage and confronted Jackson as to its meaning. Although he understood the code, he explained that the letter wasn't meant for him because he couldn't understand it. He then notified her brothers of her arrival.

- tricks of travel:

- ability to recognize the North star
- she armed herself with passes which others wrote out for her
- escapes by men in female attire and women dressed like men (Harriet did it once herself)



- after several years of experience, Harriet loved to escape on the first stage of the journey by horse and carriage ( usually this was the master's own property). Tactic based on the theory that slaves would not be so bold as to attempt such means. Negroes driving a horse and buggy must certainly be going on an errand for their masters. She would put the escapees in a cart covering them with vegetables and drive them to some hiding place.

- when she feared the party was closely pursued, she would take it for a time on a train southward bound. No one seeing them going in this direction would for an instant suppose them to be fugitives.

- Once, when Harriet heard men talking about her, she pretended to read a book which she carried. One man remarked, "This can't be the woman. The one we want can't read or write." Harriet devoutly hoped the book was right side up.

- Legend has it that she was discovered by her friends asleep in a local park beneath a sign advertising a reward for her capture, which meant nothin to her, as she couldn't read. Harriet Stanton Blatch said "She made my young blood tingle as she told how she sat right under a poster advertising a reward for her capture and return somewhere in the South."



- On one of her expeditions, she had the incredible nerve to enter a village where lived one of her former masters. This was necessary for the carrying out of her plans for that trip. Her only disguise was a bodily assumption of age. To reinforce this her subtle foresight prompted her to buy some live chickens, which she carried suspended by the legs from a cord. As she turned a corner she saw coming toward her none

## Harriet Tubman

Introduction *(Taken from a web page)*

For more than 20 years before the Civil War, there existed in America a secret system for helping runaway slaves escape to freedom in the northern states or in Canada. Called the Underground Railroad, it was neither underground nor a railroad. It was only referred to as such because railroad terminology was used to describe the secret activities of the system. The slaves were called "passengers," those who aided them were "conductors," escape routes were "lines," and stopping places of safety were "stations."

Lines in the Underground Railroad went from Kentucky and Maryland to stations in New England and Canada. While most conductors were Quakers (whose religion forbids slavery) and abolitionists (northerners who fought against slavery), some conductors were free blacks or slaves who themselves had been passengers on the Railroad. One such escaped slave was Harriet Tubman. She singlehandedly led over 300 slaves to safety in the years 1850 to 1860.

Born around 1820 on a plantation in Maryland, Tubman was one of 11 children of Benjamin and Harriet Ross. Originally named Araminta, Tubman later adopted the first name of her mother. The young Tubman was often hired out to work for other families living near her owner. Unlike many slaves, she had the chance to return to her family between jobs. Like many slaves, however, she did not escape the brutalities of slavery: the permanent scars on her back testified to the many whippings she received while growing up.

Slave uprising spurs desire to escape

Slavery became even harsher after 1831. That year, a slave named Nat Turner led about 60 followers in a slave uprising in Virginia. Moving from plantation to plantation, he and his band killed 55 whites before they were eventually captured by the Virginia militia. Although terrified southern whites enacted stricter slave laws, the revolt had spread the ideas of rebellion and escape throughout the slave community. When Tubman was about 13, a fellow slave attempted to escape. The overseer (slave supervisor) tried to pursue the runaway, but Tubman blocked his path. Enraged, the overseer hurled a

two-pound weight at the fleeing slave, only to strike Tubman in the forehead. The injury left her skull permanently pressed against her brain, and she experienced sudden unconscious spells for the rest of her life.

Although it was unusual for a slave and a free man to marry, Tubman met and married a free black named John Tubman in 1844. Unfortunately, Tubman's husband did not encourage her to escape and even threatened to betray her if she attempted to do so. Despite this threat, Tubman refused to give up her dream of freedom. In 1849 Tubman decided to escape alone. With the help of conductors along the Underground Railroad, she made her way north to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Tubman supported herself by working as a cook and as a household servant. Within a year, she returned to Maryland to start freeing her relatives. She then began a decade-long campaign of conducting runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad. Known by the name of "Moses" (Hebrew prophet who led his people out of slavery in Egypt in 1400 B.C.), Tubman would appear in slave cabins on a Saturday night disguised as a man or as an old woman. She would then lead a group of passengers to safety the following morning, knowing slave owners would not pursue on a Sunday.

Leads "passengers" to safety in Canada

Soon after Tubman had begun her work on the Railroad, Congress enacted the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850. It required all runaway slaves to be returned to their owners without the benefit of a jury trial, and anyone caught helping a slave was heavily fined. Because she feared for the safety of her passengers in the United States, Tubman guided them to the small town of Saint Catherines in Ontario, Canada. Since slavery was outlawed in Canada, slaves were immediately free once they crossed the border. Saint Catherines also became her temporary home.

By 1857 Tubman had rescued her entire family. She then decided to risk settling in Auburn, New York, a strongly abolitionist community. There she met and worked with other reform-minded individuals like the poet and essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson and the women's rights movement leader Susan B. Anthony (see biography). Perhaps the most famous of her associations was with the antislavery crusader John

Brown. She helped him plan a raid on the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Maryland, in November of 1859. Luckily, Tubman was too ill to take part in the unsuccessful raid in which Brown's sons were killed and he was captured.

Nurses Union soldiers

During the Civil War, which began in April 1861, Tubman served as a nurse for sick and wounded Union soldiers in Florida and in South Carolina. She also acted as a spy, gathering information for a number of Union missions. On one occasion, she even organized and led a group of eight black men on a scouting assignment along the coast of South Carolina.

After the war, Tubman returned to Auburn to care for her parents and to continue to work for women's rights and other reform movements. Concerned about the poor condition of newly free black children, she raised money for clothing and schools. In 1908 she helped the elderly by opening the John Brown Home for Aged and Indigent Colored People (later renamed for her). Tubman lived her last two years in this home, dying on March 10, 1913. The following year, a bronze tablet honoring her many achievements was placed on the Auburn courthouse.

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## Tubman's 1854 Raid: "Free For Christmas"

The following essay was written from an article in Ebony magazine published in December 1984. The article is called "Free For Christmas", by Lerone Bennett, Jr., and it is a historical reconstruction of Harriet Tubman's raid during Christmas, 1854. The article is based on the known facts written in the best-documented account of this raid in *Wade in the Water: Great Moments in Black History*, copyright 1979, Johnson Publishing Co., Inc.

By Christmas, 1854, Tubman had already returned to Maryland five times or more lead thirty or forty slaves to freedom. She returned during the Christmas of 1854 for her three brothers who were in danger of being sold. Word of this danger came to her through a premonition. Tubman had been working in the North in order to save money for a slave strike when she became troubled in spirit about her brothers.

In order to alert her brothers of her return to save them, Tubman persuaded a friend to write a letter in code to Jacob Jackson. Jackson was a friend of Tubman who was a free black living near the plantation where her brothers worked. He was suspected of being involved with slave rescues, so his mail was being monitored. The letter's signature was of his adopted son and it contained many normal paragraphs. A paragraph within the letter read: "**Read my letter to the old folks, and give my love to them, and tell my brothers to be always watching unto prayer, and when the good old ship of Zion comes along, to be ready to step on board.**" (Cited from Ebony, December 1984, p.54) The letter caused confusion among the inspectors because Jackson's parents were dead and he had no brothers. The matter was discussed between the inspectors and a decision was made to ask Jackson what the letter meant. Jackson immediately recognized its meaning and then threw it down, refusing it by telling them that it couldn't be for him and that it made no sense. Tubman's premonition was right; her brothers were to be sold South. Jackson immediately informed them that Harriet was on her way.

Harriet arrived in Dorchester County, Maryland on Christmas Eve, 1854. In the thick woods she assembled with a group of slaves which included two of her brothers, Benjamin and Robert, two slaves from a nearby plantation, John Chase and Peter Jackson, and a woman slave, Jane Kane. Her brother Henry was nowhere to be found. Harriet's rule was that time was freedom, and she waited for no one, this caused her to leave the scene without Henry.

The first stop was the cabin where her parents lived, which was forty miles north. Although it was a treacherous hike through forests, hills, rivers, and creeks, Harriet led the group to the cabin without any problems, arriving late Christmas Eve. Since Tubman had not seen her mother in five years, she opted to lead them past the cabin and establish camp at the fodder house. This was a good idea considering that her mother was susceptible to emotional outbursts. She sent two non-family members, John Chase and Peter Jackson, to awaken her father who brought them food. He tied a handkerchief around his eyes because he knew he would be asked if he had seen them after their escape was discovered.

Meanwhile, Henry was attempting to follow the path that Harriet had left him. His wife had gone into labor at the time he was planning to meet Tubman, so he had to go get the granny. Henry, determined to reach freedom, left after the baby was born. He assured his wife that he would return for her and his children. Henry successfully reached the fodder house early on Christmas

morning.

In the morning, Harriet and her brothers looked through the window at their mother. Tubman later told her biographer that they could see their mother through the little window sitting by the fire with

her head on her hand. She was rocking back and forth like she did when she was wondering what had happened to her children. (Cited from Ebony, December 1984, p.56)

The hardest part of their journey was still ahead of them. The trip consisted of going northward and eastward to the Delaware line and once there northward to Wilmington, Delaware. They traveled

by night and hid during the day. Tubman would hide the group and then go on ahead to scout the area for food or assistance and occasionally a change in route was needed.

In Wilmington, they were aided by Thomas Garrett, a famous Underground Railroad conductor. He wrote a letter to J. Miller McKim of the Philadelphia Vigilance committee that he had sent Harriet Tubman with six men and one woman to Annem Agnew's on the night of December 28, and they were to be forwarded across the country to the city. Tubman and her passengers were received and examined by William Still, the courageous black leader of the Underground Railroad. He considered Tubman to be a great leader of her time and one of the most brave women ever to live. According to Still, she was a woman who did not know fear and no human being could ever be compared to her. She was without equal. (Cited from Ebony, December 1984, p.58)

From Philadelphia, the group traveled to New York City, Troy, Syracuse, and Rochester, New York. They walked most of the way, but boats, wagons, and eventually railroads were also used. This part of the journey was not as dangerous as the first few hundred miles, but it was still hazardous. The group rejoiced as they crossed Suspension Bridge into Canada, where they were finally free.

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② Tubman's amazing successes sprang in part from her quick and inventive mind. On one occasion, fearing pursuers were close at hand, she and her fugitives boarded a southbound train to avoid suspicion. On another rescue mission, Tubman had just purchased some live chickens when she saw her former master. She threw down the chickens and chased after them before he could recognize her.

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③ She also had a wry sense of humor. By 1851 the Fugitive Slave Law was forcing conductors to lead slaves all the way to Canada. On one such trip a very frightened slave would not say a word or even look at the scenery while crossing into Canada with Tubman on a real train. But when the man realized he was on free soil, he began to sing and shout so loud that no one could shut him up. An exasperated Tubman finally cried out, "You old fool, you! You might at least have looked at Niagara Falls on the way to freedom!"

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④ Biographer Sarah Bradford called her, "the heaven guided pioneer through dangers seen and unseen."

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⑤ Once in the north, "I looked at my hands to see if I was de same person now I was free," she told Bradford. "Dere was such a glory ober eberything, de sun came like gold through de trees and ober de fields, and I felt like I was heaven."

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Men who are partners in the redemptive task of God Himself have all the dignity of personal life that is required to live them out of mediocrity, but their glorification does not come at the expense of others or by means of antagonism.

**TRUMAN, Harry S**

(1884 - 1972)

In the cause of freedom, we have to battle for the rights of people with whom we do not agree, and whom in many cases we may not like. If we do not defend their rights, we endanger our own.

One of the difficulties with all our institutions is the fact that we've emphasized the reward instead of the service.

We cannot hope to command brotherhood abroad unless we practice it at home.

**TRUTH, Sojourner**

(1797 - 1883)

If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn this world upside down all alone, then we together ought to be able to turn it right side up again.

Religion without humanity is a poor human stuff.

**TSE, Meng**

(c. 372 - 289 BC)

The great man is he who does not lose his child's heart.

**TSE-TUNG, Mao**

(1893 - 1976)

We think too small. Like the frog at the bottom of the well. He thinks the sky is only as big as the top of the well. If he surfaced, he would have an entirely different view.

**TUBMAN, Harriet**

(1823 - 1913)

There were two things I had a right to, liberty and death. If I could not have one, I would have the other.

T'want me, 'twas the Lord. I always told him, "I trust you. I don't know where to go or what to do, but I expect you to lead me," and he always did.

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### Tscherinoff—Tubman

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L. W. L.

#### TSCHERINOFF, MARIE VAN ZANDT [See VAN ZANDT, MARIE, 1858-1919].

TUBMAN, HARRIET (c. 1821-Mar. 10, 1913), fugitive slave, abolitionist, was born in Dorchester County on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the daughter of Benjamin Ross and Harriet Greene, both slaves. She was first named Araminta, but early assumed the name Harriet. In childhood she received a head injury to which have been attributed spells of somnolence which overtook her without warning at intervals during the rest of her life. From her early teens she worked as a field hand—plowing, loading and unloading wood—an activity which developed in her great strength and remarkable powers of endurance. In 1844, her master forced her to marry a man named John Tubman who was unfaithful to her. Much later she married a man named Nelson Davis. About 1849 she made her escape from slavery, guided in her flight only by the north star. It was not long afterwards that she became one of the most conspicuous figures in the work of the "Underground Railroad," winning the appellation "Moses" by leading, in all, more than three hundred slaves from bondage to freedom in the North and Canada.

From the time of her escape until the beginning of the Civil War she was busy making journeys into the South to lead out slaves. An important "station" on one of her routes was the home of the Quaker Thomas Garrett [q.v.] of Wilmington, Del., who gave her all the help within his power. Between her journeys she worked as a cook in order to raise the money she needed to aid the fugitives. In 1857 she rescued her own parents, who were very old, and settled them in Auburn, N. Y., on a little tract of land purchased from William H. Seward. Although she could neither read nor write, her shrewdness in planning hazardous enterprises and skill in avoiding arrest were phenomenal. When rescu-

### Tuck

ing a group of slaves, she enforced a rule which she herself had laid down, threatening with death any passenger who thought of surrender or attempted to return. She seemed absolutely fearless and was willing to endure any hardship. To a remarkable degree she was guided in her work by visions and sustained by her faith in God. John Brown, who met her in Canada and subsequently referred to her as "General" Tubman, confided in her and relied on her for assistance in his campaign against slavery in Virginia. She was well known in the office of the *National Anti-Slavery Standard* in New York and in abolition circles in Boston and from time to time was presented as a speaker at anti-slavery meetings. After the outbreak of the Civil War she was sent to Gen. David Hunter in South Carolina with a letter from Governor Andrew of Massachusetts and attached herself to the Union army, working as cook, laundress, and nurse; frequently acting as guide in scouting parties and raids; and rendering noteworthy service as a spy within the Confederate lines.

After the war Harriet continued to labor for her people. For a time she was concerned with an attempt to establish schools for freedmen in North Carolina. She was able to finish paying for her home in Auburn with the proceeds of a little book, *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman* (1869), written for her benefit by Mrs. Sarah Hopkins Bradford and published through the generosity of Gerrit Smith, Wendell Phillips [q.v.], and certain Auburn neighbors. Here in her own home she supported several children and penniless old people, being further aided by the proceeds of a revised edition of Mrs. Bradford's book, *Harriet the Moses of Her People* (1886). The Harriet Tubman Home for indigent aged negroes continued to exist for a number of years after her death, and the citizens of Auburn erected a shaft in her memory.

[S. H. Bradford, *Harriet the Moses of Her People*, which was reprinted in 1901, contains reminiscences and testimonials from all the prominent Abolitionists mentioned above, a number of the Union officers under whom Harriet served, and others. See also P. E. Hopkins, "Harriet Tubman (Moses)," *Colored American Mag.*, Jan.-Feb. 1902; *Freedmen's Record*, Mar. 1865; Lillie B. C. Wyman, "Harriet Tubman," *New England Mag.*, Mar. 1896; *American Mag.*, Aug. 1912; W. H. Siebert, *The Underground Railroad* (1898); H. H. Swift, *The Railroad to Freedom* (1932); *Albany Evening Jour.*, Mar. 11, 1913; *N. Y. Times*, Mar. 14, 1913.]

D. B. P.

TUCK, AMOS (Aug. 2, 1810-Dec. 11, 1879), congressman, was born at Parsonsfield, Me., fourth of six children of John and Betsey (Towle) Tuck, and a descendant of Robert Tuck who settled on the New Hampshire coast in 1638. His parents were people of strong char-

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## Tryon

Hollywood, such as *All That Glitters: Five Novellas* (1986). He lived in New York City.

**Tryon, William** (1729–88) colonial governor, Loyalist; born in Surrey, England. He served as governor of North Carolina (1765–71) and of New York (1771–75). Later, he led Loyalist attacks on Connecticut (1780). Although a capable administrator, he was too prone to use force.

**Tuan, Yi-Fu** (1930– ) geographer; born in Tients'in, China. He emigrated to England in 1946 and to the United States in 1951. He studied at Oxford and the University of California: Berkeley before becoming a professor at the University of Wisconsin: Madison (1983). One of the newer generation of geographers concerned with broader philosophical issues of the subject, he was a prolific author; his books include *Topophilia* (1974), *Space and Place* (1977), *Landscapes of Fear* (1979), and *Morality and Imagination: Paradoxes of Progress* (1989).

**Tubb, Ernest** (1914–84) country music songwriter, performer; born near Crisp, Texas. After recording for RCA Victor and Decca, he joined the "Grand Ole Opry" in 1943. His own radio program, *Midnight Jamboree*, helped launch the careers of the Everly Brothers and Elvis Presley. Tubb's drawing vocal style, unaffected lyrics, and espousal of the electric guitar made him a major influence on honky tonk music. He was elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1965.

**Tubman, Harriet (b. Ross)** (c. 1820–1913) abolitionist; born in Bucktown, Md. Reared in slavery, she married a free black, John Tubman, in 1844. He opposed her plans to flee north, so she escaped alone via the Underground Railroad (1849); over the next decade she led nearly 300 Maryland slaves to safety, including several siblings and her elderly parents. Known as "the Moses of her people," she was devoutly religious and a believer in decisive action. She helped John Brown organize his 1859 raid on Harper's Ferry, Va., but was prevented by illness from accompanying him. During the Civil War she repeatedly went behind enemy lines to spy for the Union and recruit slaves to fight in the army. In her later years, living in Auburn, N.Y., she helped support relatives and other former slaves and raised money for freedmen's schools and a home for elderly blacks.

**Tuchman, Barbara** (1912–89) historian; born in New York City. After graduating from Radcliffe College (1933) and reporting on the Spanish Civil War for the *Nation* (1937–38), she turned to the study of history. Her career as a nonacademic, best-selling historian began in earnest with her fourth book, the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Guns of August* (1962). *Stillwell and the American Experience in China, 1911–45* (1971) won a second Pulitzer. Her six best-sellers sold many millions of copies.

**Tuchman, Maurice** (1936– ) museum curator; born in New York City. He graduated in art history from City College of New York in 1957 and took a master's degree from Columbia University two years later. He became curator of 20th-century art at the Los Angeles County Museum (1964). An expert on contemporary art, he wrote extensively for professional journals.

**Tucker, Benjamin (Ricketson)** (1854–1939) anarchist, reformer; born in South Dartmouth, Mass. Although he attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1870–73), he was more drawn to social reform than engineering and became a convert to individualist anarchism (1872).

Leaving school, he traveled to France to study the works of French socialist Pierre Joseph Proudhon, on whom he became an authority. He translated and published at his own expense Proudhon's celebrated work under the title *What is Property?* (1876). He founded the *Radical Review* (1877), but his most famous publication was the broadsheet, *Liberty*, which was issued regularly (1881–1908) and became a widely read clearinghouse for unorthodox thought. A brilliant polemicist, he wrote much of *Liberty* himself while on the staff of the *Boston Globe* (1878) and then as editor of the *Engineering Magazine* in New York City (1892). An outspoken, at times literary voice for individualist anarchism, he defied police arrest by selling banned books. His publishing venture collapsed (1908) when his New York establishment was destroyed by fire. He moved to France and never again found much of a public for his writings. He and his family moved to Monaco (1926) and letters from the 1930s reflect a growing despair at the rise of totalitarianism.

**Tucker, Henry St. George** (1780–1848) jurist; born in Chesterfield County, Va. (son of St. George Tucker). Member of the Virginia house and senate and the U.S. House of Representatives (Dem.-Rep., Va; 1815–19), and a superior court judge (1824–31), he was elected president of the Virginia Supreme Court in 1831. In 1841 he became professor of law at the University of Virginia, initiating its "Honor System." A soldier in the War of 1812 and the author of light verse, he wrote important legal commentaries.

**Tucker, John Randolph** (1823–97) lawyer, professor, congressman; born in Winchester, Va. (son of Henry St. George Tucker, 1780–1848). Attorney general of Virginia (1857–65), professor and dean at Washington & Lee University (1870–74, 1889–97), U.S. Representative (Dem., Va.; 1875–87), he maintained a law practice (1865–97), often appearing before the U.S. Supreme Court. He championed states' rights, tariff reform, and the Constitution.

**Tucker, Richard (b. Reuben Ticker)** (1913–75) opera tenor; born in New York City. He started singing in synagogues as a child and was working as a fur salesman in New York when he married the sister of established tenor, Jan Peerce, who challenged him to take voice lessons. He made his Metropolitan Opera debut in 1945, becoming an internationally popular lyric tenor. He continued to sing as a cantor on special occasions.

**Tucker, Robert (C.)** (1918– ) Slavic specialist, educator; born in Kansas City, Mo. A guiding force in the analysis of the modern Soviet state, he taught longest at Princeton University (1962) where he was named professor emeritus (1984). He was chairman of the Council on International and Regional Studies (1977–80) and director of the Program in Russian Studies (1963–73, 1980–82). A member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1975), he was the author of a number of books on the former Soviet Union and Stalinism. These included *Politics As Leadership* (1983), *Political Culture and Leadership in Soviet Russia: From Lenin to Gorbachev* (1987), and *Stalin in Power: The Revolution from Above (1929–41)* (1992).

**Tucker, Sophie (b. Sonia Kallish)** (1884–1966) singer, entertainer; born in Russia. Brought to the U.S.A. as a child, she first performed on vaudeville in blackface, singing ragtime melodies. She almost stole the show in the *Ziegfeld Follies of 1909* and returned as a star to vaudeville, abandoning blackface but continuing in the African-American style. She

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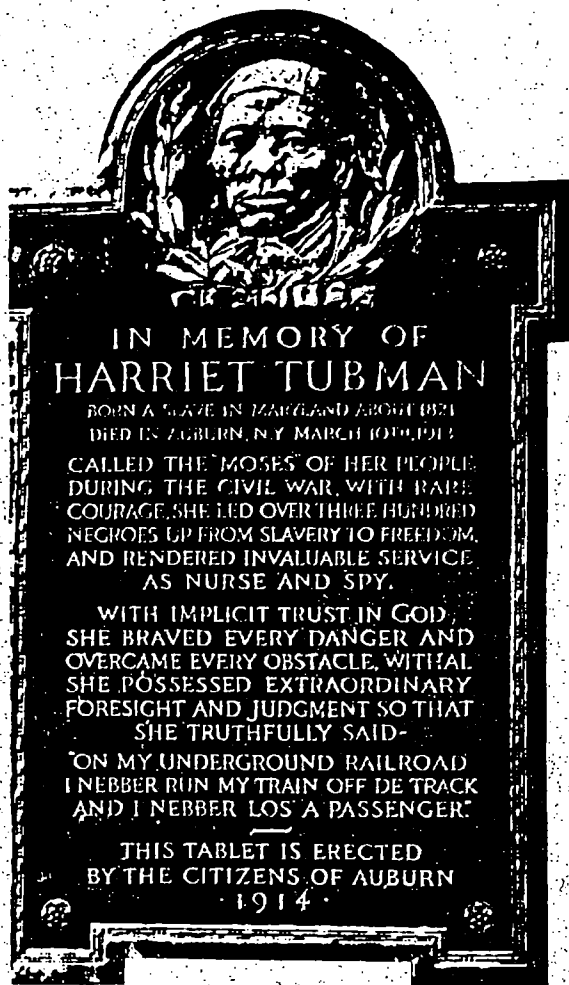
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## Harriet Tubman Home

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**Rev. Paul G. Carter**  
**Resident Manager**

E-mail: [hthome@locanet.com](mailto:hthome@locanet.com)

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<http://www.NYHistory.com/harriettubman>

## Currently Published Books

### Titles For Children:

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Freedom Train \* Dorothy Sterling  
1954 Scholastic, Inc., New York, NY.

*HARRIET TUBMAN,*

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*HARRIET TUBMAN,*

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*GO FREE OR DIE:*

A Story about Harriet Tubman \* Jeri Ferris  
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Minneapolis, MN.

*HARRIET TUBMAN AND BLACK HISTORY MONTH,*

Polly Carter  
1990 Silver Press  
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Englewood Cliffs, NJ.

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Kate McMullan  
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Jeanette Winter  
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Charles L. Blockson  
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New York, NY.

# A Champion of Freedom . . .



## Harriet Tubman

Liberator

Soldier

Missionary

*Harriet Tubman*, born a slave in 1820 or 1821 in Bucktown, near Cambridge on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, was one of eleven children of Harriet Green and Benjamin Ross.

Escaping from the bonds of slavery in the summer of 1849, she traveled by night through Maryland and Delaware to Philadelphia, from there to New York and thence over into Canada. "I had reasoned this out in my mind," she said, "there was one of two things I had a right to -- Liberty or death. If I could not have one, I could have the other, for no man should take me alive, I shall fight for my liberty and when the time comes for me to go, the Lord will let them kill me."

But what did freedom mean to her, when every wind from the South was charged with plaintive cries of her oppressed brethren for deliverance? It was mockery so long as she could hear the crack of the overseer's whip, the clanking of slave chains, and the heart-rending cries of mothers, bereft of their dear ones at the auction block.

Harriet Tubman then began what she knew must be done. She made nineteen trips South, rescuing more than three hundred slaves from the "Jaws of Hell". Most of her traveling was done in the cheerless solitude of night, with no protection other than her cunning, no guide save the north star and no hope of reward save the consciousness that she was "about her Father's business". Such a terror did she become to the slave-holders of Maryland that a reward of \$40,000 was offered for her head. Rightly called "The Moses of her people" she was bold, daring and elusive. All of her trips were carefully planned and brilliantly executed through the use of the "Underground Railroad", a flexible but effective method of spiriting



slaves out of the South by an ever-shifting series of hiding places. The secrets of the "Underground Railroad" were so well kept that, even today, not too much is known about it.

Harriet Tubman's motto was "Keep Going". She was accustomed to saying to the slaves when she led them toward freedom, "Children, if you are tired, keep going; if you are scared, keep going; if you are hungry, keep going; if you want to taste freedom, keep going". On one trip out of the South, she brought her own family. When she found her mother unwilling to leave behind her feather bedtick and her father his broad-axe and other tools, she bundled up bedtick, tools, mother, father and all and landed them in Canada.

During the Civil War, she rendered invaluable service to the Union Army as spy, scout and hospital nurse. With the general of her army, whatever she said, went. She was at the memorable battle of Fort Wagner and it was she who prepared the last breakfast eaten by the gallant Colonel R. G. Shaw.

She numbered among her friends such great abolitionists as John Brown, William

Lloyd Garrison, Charles Sumner, Wendell Phillips, Parker Pillsbury, Massachusetts Governor Andrew, Frederick Douglass, and Secretary of State William H. Seward.

Directly after the war, she settled in Auburn, New York where she lived in a home obtained through her lifelong friend, William H. Seward. Miss Sarah H. Bradford became greatly interested in her and wrote a history of her life, giving "Aunt Harriet" the proceeds of its sale to carry on her mission of mercy. Harriet Tubman came into possession of another property, consisting of twenty-six acres of land, on which two splendid houses stood. At the time, the property was worth \$6,000, but was burdened with a mortgage of \$1,700. It was her daily prayer that this might be removed, so that she could bequeath it, free of debt, to her race, to be used forever as an old folks' home. In 1906, she deeded this property to the A.M.E. Zion Church Connection.

The hope of the A.M.E. Zion Church Connection is to continue the practice begun by Harriet Tubman by planning a National Non-Sectarian Group to expand the property into a home for the aged, a meeting place for youth conferences and a cultural enrichment center. This would fulfill her dream for making this property an institution for the service of all her people.

On March 10, 1913, in the fiftieth year of emancipation, Harriet Tubman died. She was buried with military rites in Fort Hill Cemetery, Auburn, New York. The next year, this city declared an unprecedented one-day memorial to this courageous champion of freedom. On this day, Auburn citizens unveiled the Harriet Tubman Plaque which still stands at the entrance to the Cayuga County Court House in Auburn.

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# Tubman, Harriet



*Harriet Tubman*

Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; neg.  
no. LC USZ 62 7816

(1820?-1913), abolitionist

Born a slave about 1820 on a plantation in Dorchester county, Maryland, Araminta Greene later adopted her mother's first name, Harriet. From early childhood she worked variously as a maid, a nurse, a field hand, a cook, and a woodcutter. About 1844 she married John Tubman, a free Negro.

In 1849, on the strength of rumors that she was about to be sold, she fled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In December 1850 she made her way to Baltimore, Maryland, whence she led her sister and two children to freedom. That journey was the first of some 19 increasingly dangerous forays into Maryland in which, over the next decade, she conducted upwards of

300 fugitive slaves along the "Underground Railroad" to Canada. By her extraordinary courage, ingenuity, persistence, and iron discipline, which she enforced upon her charges, she became the railroad's most famous conductor and was known as the "Moses of her people." Rewards offered by slaveholders for her capture eventually totaled \$40,000. Abolitionists, however, celebrated her courage. John Brown, who consulted her about his own plans, referred to her as "General" Tubman. About 1858 she bought a small farm near Auburn, New York, where she placed her aged parents (she had brought them out of Maryland in June 1857) and herself lived thereafter. From 1862 to 1865 she served as a scout and spy, as well as nurse and laundress, for Union forces in South Carolina.

After the Civil War she settled in Auburn and began taking in orphans and old people, a practice that eventuated in the Harriet Tubman Home for Indigent Aged Negroes. The home later attracted the support of former abolitionist comrades and of the citizens of Auburn, and it continued in existence for some years after her death. In the late 1860s and again in the late 1890s she applied for a federal pension for her Civil War services. Some 30 years after her service a private bill providing for \$20 monthly was passed by Congress. She died in Auburn, New York, on March 10, 1913.

**Bibliography.** Earl Conrad, *Harriet Tubman* (1943, reissued 1969).

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## The Sunday Driver: Harriet Tubman Home honors life, times of a courageous woman

Published Feb. 22, 1998, in the Herald American.

This sign greets visitors to the Harriet Tubman Home in Auburn. Tubman housed elderly African Americans at the home in the years following the Civil War.

Photo by Stephen D. Cannerelli, Staff Photographer

**By Barbara Stith**, Staff Writer, The Syracuse Newspapers

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The home is a clapboard farmhouse, its rooms plain and functional.

The Harriet Tubman Home in Auburn is not a historic site where visitors should expect to admire remarkable architecture or furniture.

Instead, they can admire the remarkable life of one of the giants of American history: Harriet Tubman, Underground Railroad conductor; a Civil War nurse, scout and spy; a woman whose courage remains an inspiration 85 years after her death.

The home opened for the season this month, which is Black History Month, and will remain open through October. But plan on a weekday visit, or make an appointment for a Saturday tour. The home is not open Sundays or Monday.

Tubman escaped from slavery when she was in her late 20s. But she returned south repeatedly to free others, traveling there so often - and helping others escape so well - that a \$40,000 reward was posted for her capture. Tubman was undaunted. "She was willing to go back into the jaws of slavery," says the Rev. Paul G. Carter, resident manager of the Harriet Tubman Home.

Tubman made 19 trips south and led more than 300 slaves to freedom, earning her the title "the Moses of her people."

"One thing she was, she was determined," Carter says.

That a woman would have been pressed into service as a scout and spy for the Union Army was unusual to say the least, Carter says, but Tubman's skills and fearlessness were well known by then. Some Army officers adapted her nickname and called her "General Moses."

Her faith in God kept her going. Tubman suffered blackouts - what probably would be referred to today as the sleep disorder narcolepsy - but she viewed them as a help rather than a hindrance to her work. "She believed that was when God talked to her and directed her," Carter says.

Tubman married twice and had no children. Many details of her life are unknown; even the year of her birth is uncertain, listed as 1820 or 1821.

The lives of other historic figures often are revealed in their journals. But as a slave, Tubman was prohibited from learning to read or write. When the punishment for learning to read was as horrific as having one's eyes gouged out, Carter says, there was hardly an incentive for Tubman to seek an education.

Her literacy was a different kind, he says. She could read nature - the position of the stars, the moss on the north side of a tree - to point her in the right direction.

Tubman settled in Auburn when the Civil War ended, securing a house through the efforts of her friend William H. Seward, the former New York governor who served as secretary of state under Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson. The Seward House is only a mile or so down South Street from the Tubman home.



the Tubman home.

Tubman's work continued even after the war. Elderly African Americans weren't accepted at the home for the elderly in Auburn, so Tubman turned her house into a home for them. That's the building that's open to the public now. Another house on the site, a brick structure, is in the process of being nominated to state and national historic registers and will be renovated. A third house on the property, which was thought to have been part of the Underground Railroad, was destroyed in a fire in 1949.

The home for the elderly barely survived the ravages of time. A photograph in the parlor shows how it looked in 1945: abandoned, windows missing, its clapboards gone. The story that's told, Carter says, is that the clapboards were removed during the Depression because they made good firewood. The home was restored in 1952 under the auspices of the A.M.E. Zion Church, to whom Tubman deeded the property.

Visitors start their tour in a parlor that's dominated by a portrait of Tubman, then move past a bedroom into a kitchen and a dining room. The bedroom furniture and a treadle sewing machine belonged to Tubman, and the other pieces of furniture are antiques that date to the late 1800s, when the house would have been in use. Tubman's descendants, some of whom still live in the Syracuse and Auburn areas, donated her possessions to the home.

The best place to begin a visit is at the library on the site, where a video explains Tubman's work. After the video, visitors are encouraged to look through the library and learn more not only about Tubman but about African-American history.

The library, with 500 books by or about African Americans, is privately operated, but the public is encouraged to use its resources. The A.M.E. Zion Church still owns the property and provides most of the money for its operation. The rest comes from donations and sales; the home doesn't receive state or federal money.

Carter or his wife, Christine, leads visitors through the house, and they end the tour with the hope that visitors will leave with a better appreciation of Tubman's work and the role of African Americans in history. Tubman inevitably leaves people with a positive impression, Carter says.

"She means courage to some people," says Carter. "Courage, determination, steadfastness, hope, freedom, tenacity - all those good words."

### If you go ...

**Where:** Harriet Tubman Home, 180 South St., Auburn.

**Phone:** 252-2081.

**Hours:** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Saturday tours are available by appointment only. Closed Sundays and Mondays. The site has regular hours February through October, with tours by appointment in November and December.

**Directions:** From Syracuse, take Route 5 to Route 20 to Auburn. Once in downtown Auburn, look for South Street (Route 34) on your left. The Tubman home is about 3 miles down South Street on the left; the entrance is marked by brick pillars, each of which has a picture of Tubman.

**Admission:** A donation of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children is requested.

**Tip:** History buffs who want to include a visit to the nearby Seward House, 33 South St., need to wait a few more weeks. The Seward House doesn't open until April. It was the home of William Seward, former New York governor and U.S. secretary of state.

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Talkback! Tell us what you think.

PROJECT PLAN  
FOR  
RESTORATION & INTERPRETATION  
OF THE

**HARRIET TUBMAN HISTORIC SITE**  
AUBURN, NEW YORK

DECEMBER 11, 1997

**Introduction:** The following outline has been prepared to guide research, documentation, planning, and restoration of the buildings and sites which comprise the Harriet Tubman Historic Site. These include the Harriet Tubman House, Home for the Aged, the Multi-Purpose Building, the Library, the Site on South Street which encompasses these buildings, and the Church and associated site on Parker Street.

**Fee Estimates:** Projected fees are based on the services of a team of professionals assembled specifically for this work and comprised of experienced preservation architects, conservation consultants, preservation planners, research assistants, historical archeologists, and historic landscape architects. Additional costs for project coordination and contract administration are included. Many services are interdependent and cannot be isolated from the total scope without increasing the fees for these components.

**Construction Cost Estimates:** The construction cost estimates provided are general figures offered for budget purposes based on limited evaluation of existing building and site conditions.

**PART ONE: PLANNING & RESEARCH**

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- A. **Preliminary Research & Documentation:** Assemble available base information and historical data, take new record photographs, develop preliminary measured drawings, and undertake initial field investigation at the Harriet Tubman House, Home for the Aged, Church, Site, Library, and Multi-Purpose Building.

Fees: \$20,000

- B. **Short-Term Stabilization:** Identify and undertake critical stabilization work necessary to ensure preservation of the buildings and sites until appropriate restoration can begin.

Fees: \$4,000

Construction: \$10,000

Total \$14,000

- C. **Cultural Landscape Report:** Undertake a detailed study of the entire site (including that at the Church) addressing existing conditions, historical conditions and uses, site development, and site associations with Harriet Tubman.

Fees: \$28,000

- D. **Archeological Assessment:** Undertake Stage 1a and 1b archeological assessment in conjunction with research for the Cultural Landscape Report and Historic Structures Reports. Identify areas of potential archeological significance, execute preliminary investigation, and prepare recommendations for additional investigation and/or mitigation.

Fees: \$7,000

- E. **Historic Structures Reports & Restoration Plans:** Undertake intensive research and field investigation of the existing historic buildings (Tubman House, Home for the Aged, and Church) with detailed documentation of specific building features and conditions not recorded previously, documentation of historic finish treatments, and schematic drawings and recommendations for restoration and/or historic interpretation.

Fees:	
Tubman House:	\$13,000
Home for the Aged:	\$8,000
<u>Church:</u>	<u>\$11,000</u>
Total:	\$32,000

- F. **Master Plan:** Assist with program development and long-range planning for the entire complex including identification of use needs, relationships of existing buildings, future building needs, and related site development.

Fees:	\$12,000
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- G. **Preliminary Interpretation & Exhibit Planning:** Conceptual planning for interpretation of the buildings and sites to the public and for the design of exhibits and educational site features.

Fees:	\$6,000
<u>Part One Total:</u>	<u>\$119,000</u>

**PART TWO:  
BUILDING RESTORATION & SITE DEVELOPMENT CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS**

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- A. **Building Restoration Construction Documents:** Prepare drawings, details, technical specifications, and bid documents for restoration of the Tubman House, Home for the Aged, and Church, and limited rehabilitation of the Multi-Purpose Building and Library. All mechanical and electrical systems shall be addressed on a performance basis.

Fees:	\$32,000
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- B. **Site Development Construction Documents:** Prepare drawings, details, technical specifications, and bid documents for site development at South Street and the Church.

Fees:	\$18,000
<u>Part Two Total:</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>

**PART THREE:  
BUILDING RESTORATION & SITE DEVELOPMENT CONSTRUCTION PHASE**

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- A. **Building Restoration & Rehabilitation:** Execution of physical improvements based on documents developed in Part Two above, including related professional services for bidding and construction phase.

Harriet Tubman House:	Fees:	\$7,000
	<u>Construction:</u>	<u>\$120,000</u>
		\$127,000

Church:	Fees:	\$7,000
	<u>Construction:</u>	<u>\$140,000</u>
		\$147,000

Home for the Aged:	Fees:	\$5,000
	<u>Construction:</u>	<u>\$80,000</u>
		\$85,000
Library:	Fees:	\$3,000
	<u>Construction:</u>	<u>\$40,000</u>
		\$43,000
Multi-Purpose Building:	Fees:	\$3,000
	<u>Construction:</u>	<u>\$40,000</u>
		\$43,000
	Total	\$445,000

- B. **Site Development:** Execution of physical improvements based on documents developed in Part Two, including related professional services for bidding and construction phase.

	Fees:	\$8,000
	<u>Construction:</u>	<u>\$150,000</u>
	Total	\$158,000

- C. **Exhibit Design & Construction:** Final design, construction, and installation of exhibits and interpretive devices in the Tubman House, Home for the Aged, Church, Library, Multi-Purpose Building, and Site based on concepts developed in Part One above.

	Fees:	\$35,000
	<u>Construction:</u>	<u>\$100,000</u>
	Total	\$135,000

Part Three Total:	\$738,000
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Project Subtotal:	\$907,000
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Add 10% Contingency:	\$90,700
Add 5% for 1998/1999 Execution:	\$45,350

<b>Total Project Costs:</b>	<b>\$1,043,750</b>
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Prepared and Submitted By:

  
 Randall T. Crawford, A.I.A.

12/11/97  
 Date

\* \* \* \* \*

# Harriet Tubman Centre



for Cultural Services



## Harriet Tubman in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada

Harriet

Church

Tours

Facts

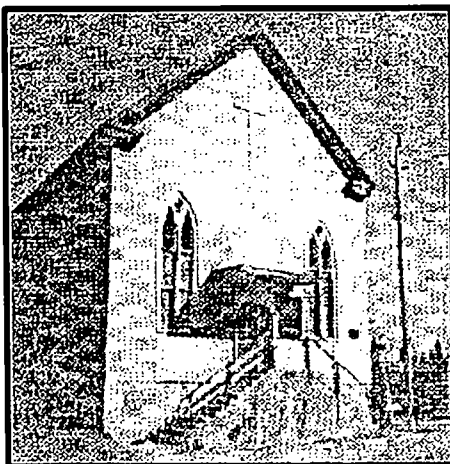


The Honorable Harriet Tubman

### Harriet Tubman

After the passing of the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law Act, Harriet Tubman, one of the famous and certainly one of the most courageous conductors of the Underground Railroad (UGRR) movement, extended her anti-slavery activities further north, to St. Catharines, Canada. Between 1851- 1858, she guided hundreds of her brothers and sisters in bondage to St. Catharines and freedom. **Many of these dangerous rescue missions became the legends of Harriet Tubman.** With rewards set as high as \$40,000, she managed to elude all bounty hunters. This courageous Black woman, who could not read or write, was never captured.

Shortly before the outbreak of the Civil War, Harriet Tubman relocated to Auburn, NY. She founded a Home for the Aged which she bequeathed to the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (AMEZ) in Auburn. This historical site is still maintained by members of the AME Zion Church and some of her descendants



The historical St. Catharines BME Church, home of the Harriet Tubman site in CANADA.

### The St. Catharines British Methodist Episcopal Church - Salem Chapel

In 1851, William Still the notable stationmaster in Philadelphia, instructed Harriet to journey to St. Catharines where she would receive assistance from an African-American Minister and UGRR agent, Hiram Wilson, at the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME). Shortly after arriving with eleven Freedmen Seekers, Harriet immediately became an active member of the church and an indispensable member of the community. She rented a boarding house behind the church to aid her people and she joined the local anti-slavery society. With so many people arriving by way of the UGRR, a new and larger AME Church was built in 1855. In 1856, some of the Canadian AME Churches severed their ties with the USA AME Churches to form the British Methodist Episcopal Church (BME).

Today the historical St. Catharines BME Church that Harriet Tubman attended while she lived in Canada, remains as the oldest property, continuously owned and occupied by African-Canadians in this city.

**It is a forgotten treasure in African-American history.**

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## **Tours - (By Appointment Only)**

Learn about the forgotten extensions of African-American history, and discover the UGRR in St. Catharines, Canada and the surrounding Niagara Region with the **Harriet Tubman Centre for Cultural Services (HTCCS)**. This privatized Centre operates similarly to that of a tour company, which is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of African-Canadian history, heritage and culture. Located in the historical St. Catharines BME Church, the HTCCS offers educational tours and presentations provided by African-Canadians with an ancestral history directly linked to the UGRR. The variety of subject matter encompasses the Honorable Harriet Tubman, the UGRR and the African-Canadian experience.

Journey to the Promise Land -- Canada, and travel the freedom trail once used by the Freedom Seekers. Explore the towns, view the sites and learn the history. Visit the historical St. Catharines BME Church and feel the kindred spirits of the many daring African-Americans who escaped from slavery. Stop at the gravesite of the legendary Baptist Minister, Anthony Burns. It is reported that his recapture in 1854, incited the infamous Boston Slave Riots. View the historic cemetery known as the Negro Burial Ground. See where W.E.B. DuBois initiated the first USA national organization for Black Civil Rights called the Niagara Movement. In 1909 it was restructured to form the NAACP and much more!!!

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## **Facts**

From 1851 - 1858, Harriet Tubman chose St. Catharines as her city of refuge and the British Methodist Episcopal Church as her place of worship.

**Many of the heroic rescue missions about Harriet Tubman were documented by stationmaster William Still, in his 1871 book titled the Underground Railroad.**

In 1852, the Great African-American Emancipator, Frederick Douglass visited Harriet Tubman in this city to discuss the living conditions of the Freedom Seekers.

In April 1858, the famed abolitionist John Brown, first met Harriet Tubman in St. Catharines. During his formal introduction he addressed her as "General Tubman".

Due to the efforts of Harriet Tubman, the City of St. Catharines was heralded as a major UGRR terminal. It would be historically known as the "Last Stop on the Underground Railroad".

### ***HARRIET TUBMAN WAS NOT AN ABDUCTOR***

For additional information please contact the

## **Harriet Tubman Centre for Cultural Services**

**92 Geneva Street, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada L2R 4N2**

**Tel: (905) 682-0993 Fax: (905) 688-9422**

**e-mail: [htccs@netcom.ca](mailto:htccs@netcom.ca)**

**website: <http://www.virtuallyniagara.com/htccs/>**

### Foster Memorial AME Zion Church



Foster Memorial AME Zion Church was founded in 1860 by Amanda and Henry Foster, Rev. Jacob Thomas, and Hiram Jimerson. Amanda Foster, considered the "Mother of the Church," was the driving force in the formation of the congregation whose first meetings were held in her confectionery store. Born in New York in 1806, Amanda, in possession of her "free papers," obtained employment as a nurse to Arkansas Governor Conway. While in Arkansas, she contributed to the Underground Railroad movement by using her "free papers" to help a young fugitive slave girl escape. She moved back to New York in 1837 and established her business in Tarrytown where she met and married Henry Foster around 1845. In 1865, after five years of the congregation meeting in the Foster confectionery store and other business establishments, construction of the church began with funds donated primarily by the local Dutch Reformed and Methodist congregations. During the Civil War, members of Foster AME helped to provide food and shelter to fugitive slaves escaping to Canada, and also provided assistance to those fugitive slaves who decided to settle in Tarrytown. Like most AME churches, Foster AME is a religious and social crossroads for the black community, providing a meeting place for worship and a place for public interaction. Foster AME Zion Church is located in Tarrytown, New York at 90 Wildey Street. It is open to the public.



### Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged

Harriet Tubman (1821--1913), a renowned leader in the Underground Railroad movement, established the Home for the Aged in 1908. Born into slavery in Dorchester County, Maryland, Tubman gained her freedom in 1849 when she escaped to Philadelphia. Working as a domestic, she saved money until she had the resources and contacts to rescue several of her family members in 1850. This marked the first of 19 trips back into Maryland where Tubman guided approximately 300 people to freedom as far north as Canada. Maryland planters offered a \$40,000 reward for Tubman's capture at one point during her time as an Underground Railroad conductor. Active during the Civil War, Tubman aided the Union Army as a spy, nurse, cook, and guide. From Port Royal, South Carolina, in June of 1863, she directed a detachment of 150 African Americans in a raid up the Combahee River, destroying Confederate mines, storehouses and crops, and liberating about 800 slaves. Dedicating her life after the Civil War to helping former slaves, especially children and the elderly, Tubman also became active in the women's rights movement and the AME Zion Church. With the help of the AME Zion Church, Tubman established the Home for the Aged in 1908 on the property that she had purchased at auction 50 years before from Governor William H. Seward. Tubman spent the last few years of her life at this house and died there in 1913 at the age of 93. Though not directly associated with Tubman's activities with the Underground Railroad, the Tubman Home for the Aged, a designated National Historic Landmark, is a tangible link to this brave and remarkable woman who is known as "the Moses of her people." The Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged is located at 180--182 South Street in Auburn, New York. It is managed by the AME Zion Church and is open to the public by appointment.

NHL

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC INVENTORY - NOMINATION

(Type all entries complete applicat

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	6-17	# of pages	11
To	LISA MCCANN	From	AUSTIN DEBIE		
Co./Dept.	MILLENNIUM	Co.	NY-SHPO		
Phone #		Phone #	518 237 8643		
Fax #	202 245 7834	Fax #	X 279		

1. NAME

COMMON: Harriet Tubman Museum

AND/OR HISTORIC: \*Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 180 - 182 South Street

CITY OR TOWN: Auburn

STATE: New York

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Cayuga

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	ST/
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preserved (in)

PUBLIC ACQUISITION:  
 In Process  
 Being Considered

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Uncomm
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

LISA: 1st INSTALLMENT -- HARRIET TUBMAN HOME FOR THE AGED NHI NOMINATION MATERIAL AND HARRIET'S LIB. BROCHURE IF QUESTIONS LET ME KNOW AUSTIN

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

STREET AND NUMBER: 520 Red Cross Street

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington

STATE: North Carolina 28401

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Cayuga Courthouse in Auburn, City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER: 24 South Street

CITY OR TOWN: Auburn

STATE: New York

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: New York

COUNTY: Cayuga

ENTRY NUMBER:

DATE:

**B. SIGNIFICANCE****PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)** Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)****AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

Aboriginal

 Education Political Urban Planning Prehistoric Engineering Religion/Phi- Other (Specify) Historic Industry

losophy

**Afro-American History** Agriculture Invention Science Architecture Landscape Sculpture Art Architecture Social/Human- Commerce Literature

itarian

 Communications Military Theater Conservation Music Transportation**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Harriet Tubman spent almost one-third of her long life in slavery. She emerged from it with a tough, resilient character whose deep reservoir of faith in God and in her own remarkable abilities led to a life-long active concern for the welfare of others. Not content merely to survive, she used slavery as a springboard for asserting her own humanity and that of black people as a whole.

Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery in Dorchester County, Maryland, over the underground railroad to Philadelphia in 1849. The time was propitious. The next year, a new Federal Fugitive Slave Law was passed, designed to make it easier for slaveholders to recover runaways. Three months later, in December 1850, Harriet made the first of her nineteen forays into Maryland in the pre-war decade to bring out slaves via the underground railroad. All told, she guided 300 persons, including brothers, sisters, and her aged parents, to freedom as far north as Canada. At one point, rewards for her capture totalled \$40,000.

In between trips South, she led the rescue of the fugitive slave, Charles Nalle, in Troy, New York, in 1859. She was lionized by the New England reformers and intellectuals. She was privy to the plans of John Brown. Both believed themselves instruments of God's will, and both preferred action to words in the war against slavery. During the Civil War, she employed the skills of the successful underground railroad conductor as scout, spy, and nurse in South Carolina and Virginia. She was already an American folk hero.

After the war, she returned to Auburn, there to continue her humanitarian labors. Herself illiterate, she raised money for black schools in the South. She was also active in the women's rights movement and in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Having for years succored the needy in her home, in 1908 she realized her dream of establishing a home for the Negro aged and destitute on property she had purchased at auction and deeded to the A. M. E. Z. Church. She died there in 1913, aged 93.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a  
(July 1989)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New York	
COUNTY Cayuga	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd.)

The significance of Harriet Tubman lies in her character and in her deeds. Together they symbolize the quest for human dignity that has been so basic to the national self-image. Like the westward-moving pioneers, with whom she shared so much in common, Harriet Tubman and her fellow runaways went North in search of a better life. As in the case of those other frontiersmen, her work on the underground railroad and during the war was the very stuff of romance and adventure, made all the more dramatic by its uniform success. In one significant respect, however, she went beyond them: they did not have anyone pursuing them backed by the law. In the face of mounting danger, she made the northward trek nineteen times! Her courage and selflessness have made her a folk hero. They inspired awe and respect for her among reformers of her era as they endeared her to later generations. Few by their deeds better symbolize the struggle against slavery, the freedom movement of that day.

Her life was not alone a tale of adventure. It was also a story of moral rise and success in the conventional mold of Horatio Alger. Slavery had molded her great character, but she had transcended slavery. She came "up from slavery" to gain international fame as a universal reformer. Such recognition she won despite her blackness, sex, and illiteracy! To women's rightsists she was the symbol of what the liberated woman could do. To black people she symbolized the strength, patience, and faith of the generations of unsung black women who in their less dramatic but equally dedicated way triumphed over the obstacles of color and sex. Harriet Tubman spoke for them -- indeed for all the powerless -- by her deeds and in her insistence that she be dealt with as a moral individual. The freedom and dignified treatment she insisted on as her due she insisted should be extended to others less fortunate. Most revealing are the words most often used to characterize her: courageous, resolute, practical, God-trusting, and philanthropic. In short, what Harriet Tubman has come to symbolize are those qualities Americans have always attributed to themselves as a people when they see themselves at their finest. Her character and deeds and their symbolic value should be commemorated at these sites.

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (cont'd.)

Pauli, Hertha E. Her Name Was Sojourner Truth. New York: 1962.

Siebert, Wilbur H. The Underground Railroad from Slavery to Freedom. New York: 1899.

Still, William. The Underground Railroad. Philadelphia: 1871.

(PARTIAL LISTING)

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed (Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site (Check One)
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>With the aid of Senator William H. Seward, Harriet Tubman acquired the property on which her museum now stands in the late 1850s. Now owned by the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the museum is on twenty-four acres of land. The present building which stands on the site of the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged dates from c. 1947 when the Home for the Aged was rehabilitated. It is a two and one-half story, rectangular frame building with shingled, gabled roof. Chimneys stand at either end of the house. Double hung, vertically sliding, sash windows are positioned throughout the house. A covered porch with lean-to roof supported by nine square pillars extends along two adjoining sides of the house -- the west and south elevations. The house rests upon a raised foundation.</p>	

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bradford, Sarah Elizabeth. Harriet, the Moses of her people. New York: Little and company, 1901.

Conrad, Earl. Harriet Tubman. Washington: The Associated Publishers, Inc., 1943. (Documentation: pp. 227-238)

Conrad, Earl. Harriet Tubman, Negro soldier and abolitionist. New York: International Publishers, 1942.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		42° 54' 40"	76° 34' 4"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Marcia M. Greenlee

ORGANIZATION: The Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation

DATE: July 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 1420 N Street, N. W., Suite 101

CITY OR TOWN: Washington, D. C.

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged, Auburn, NY

SH



**Geography and politics** conspired to make New York State a key link in the Underground Railroad. Though often romanticized, particularly concerning the role of Caucasians in its operation, there is no doubt that many fugitives from slavery followed the Underground Railroad on their way to freedom in Canada, or to destinations in safe proximity to the Canadian border. The purpose of this website is to catalogue information on the People and Places of New York that were involved in the activities of the Underground Railroad, and to provide reliable information about their role in African Americans' struggle for freedom.

The information presented on this site is in table form. Click below to pick a starting point for exploration:

[Why This Site Was Created](#)

[Map of Routes in NYS](#)

[People](#)

[Places](#)

[Sources](#)

[Related Links](#)

[NYS Underground Railroad Freedom Trail Act](#)

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New York  
History Net

Powered by CHOCOLATE!  
6/18  
Sarah - FYI.  
I'll pull info. out  
of them for the Master  
Background Page.  
Lisa

## Why This Site Was Created

The history of the Underground Railroad, as it is now known, was significantly shaped by the work of Wilbur Siebert, whose 1898 book of the same name has been frequently cited as the defining work on the subject. Though frank in assessing the reliability of his sources, Siebert also lionized the mostly Caucasian abolitionists whose recollections were major sources for his work. Siebert did make use of material published by and about African Americans, and corresponded directly with Frederick Douglass, among many others. Nonetheless, his work clearly reflects the limitations of his sources and his personal viewpoint. In part because of the sources used, and in part because much of the story telling has been done by European Americans, tales of the Underground Railroad often have the same "White Heroes of the Black Revolution" quality that is common in contemporary filmmaking.

There is no doubt that many European Americans played a significant role in bringing an end to slavery in America, and in aiding its victims. Their stories deserve to be told, side by side, and in context with those of the African Americans who liberated themselves, and others from slavery. There are two reasons to believe that future histories of the Underground Railroad may achieve greater balance in this regard than has been previously achieved: better sources, and better scholarship.

### Toward a Better History

**Sources are getting better.** What was destroyed before Siebert's time cannot be undestroyed. However, many primary source materials that were still in private hands in 1898 are now available for study, or may yet be. As examples, the massive collection of Gerrit Smith's papers was not placed in the care of Syracuse University until 1928. Siebert was therefore able to reference only the results of Frothingham's biography of Smith. The papers of Frederick Douglass, who was alive during most of Siebert's period of research, are only now being published for widespread use. Other primary sources are yet to be made available. For example, diaries of James Caleb Jackson, going back to the 1830s, are still in the hands of descendants, and not yet available for study.

**Scholarship is getting better.** The biases of a sympathetic historian like Siebert may be less offensive than those evidenced in many books on the abolitionists (such as Harlow's biography of Gerrit Smith), but they still reflect a distinctly Caucasian-centered view. More recent works, such as Hunter's book on Jermain Wesley Loguen, have given focus to the central role of African Americans in the organized operations of the Underground Railroad, and in the larger struggle for freedom in America. With the trend toward more balanced analysis, the quality of the history telling appears to be improving.

### The Role of New York and New Yorkers

As one enters into learning about the Underground Railroad and the struggle against slavery, it is striking that New York State's role in the UGRR is not more widely known. The under-telling of New York's story may be due, in part, to the fact that Siebert lived in Ohio and Massachusetts, and that many more prominent white abolitionists lived there, and in Philadelphia, where William Still worked. It may be in part because the backbone of the UGRR in New York, more so than elsewhere, was so significantly in the hands of African American leaders, whose efforts were given less attention in post-Civil War story telling. It may be in part because the major academic and public libraries in the state are in New York City, while UGRR activity was spread across the state. For whatever reason, it appears that the full story of the UGRR in NYS has yet to be told.

### Goals for This Site

The purpose of this site is not to tell the complete story of the UGRR in NYS. It is intended primarily to serve as a repository for persons who wish to explore, or share available information. Wherever possible, sources of information placed on this site will be identified. Persons with information, documents, photographic images or research papers that may be legally digitized and posted on this site are invited to contact the site editor.



## NYS Underground Railroad Freedom Trail Act

New York has become the first state in the nation to pass its own UGRR Freedom Trail Act, designed to support the proposed National Park Service Underground Railroad Project. The bill was ceremonially signed into law by Governor George Pataki on October 30, 1997 at the Michigan Avenue Baptist Church, the most significant UGRR site in Buffalo. The bill was sponsored by Deputy Assembly Speaker Arthur O. Eve of Buffalo, and Senator Dale Volker of Depew.

Persons wishing to contribute information to this page are invited to contact the site editor.

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## New York State Bill A08458

All available information for bill A08458, except its text, is supplied in this document. You may jump to a particular item by selecting from the menu below, or you may simply scroll down through this document. To view the bill text, select the last item from the menu below.

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[ [Summary](#) ] [ [Actions](#) ] [ [Votes](#) ] [ [Memo](#) ] [ [Text](#) ]

---

### Summary of Bill A08458

BILL NO A08458B

SPONSOR RULES COM Eve

COSPNR Silver, Tokasz, Farrell, Gantt, Hoyt, Keane, Pillittere, Vann, Reynolds, Aubry, Clark, Perry, Smith, Bea, Boyland, Cook, Davis, Griffith, Hill, Meeks, Norman, Ortiz, Pretlow, Scarborough, Schimminger, Towns, Anderson, Wirth, Englebright

MLTSPNSR

Add SS233-b & 233-c, amd S801, Ed L; amd S19.03, Pks & Rec L  
Provides for preservation, education, and commemoration in connection with the national freedom trail and underground railroad; creates the New York state freedom trail commission; provides for duties in connection therewith to be performed by such commission, the department of education, state archives, office of state history, state museum, and the office of parks, recreation, and historic preservation; enacts the "New York state freedom trail program act"

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### Actions on Bill A08458

BILL NO A08458B

06/26/1997referred to tourism, arts and sports development  
07/30/1997amend (t) and recommit to tourism, arts and sports development  
07/30/1997print number 8458a  
07/30/1997amend and recommit to tourism, arts and sports development  
07/30/1997print number 8458b  
08/02/1997reported referred to rules  
08/03/1997rules report cal.1134  
08/03/1997ordered to third reading rules cal.1134  
08/03/1997passed assembly  
08/03/1997delivered to senate  
08/03/1997REFERRED TO RULES  
08/03/1997SUBSTITUTED FOR S5642A  
08/03/19973RD READING CAL.1590  
08/03/1997PASSED SENATE  
08/03/1997RETURNED TO ASSEMBLY  
08/29/1997delivered to governor  
09/10/1997approval memo.66  
09/10/1997signed chap.574

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### Votes on Bill A08458

BILL: A08458B DATE: 08/03/1997 MOTION: YEA/NAY: 146/000

Abbate Y Carrozz Y Eve Y Hill Y Mayerso Y Polonet Y Tedisco Y

Acampor Y	Casale Y	Farrell Y	Hochber Y	Mazzare Y	Prentis Y	Thiele Y
Alfano Y	Christe Y	Faso Y	Hoyt Y	McEneny Y	Pretlow Y	Tocci Y
Anderso Y	Clark Y	Feldman Y	Jacobs Y	McGee Y	Ramirez Y	Tokasz Y
Arroyo Y	Colman Y	Ferrara Y	John Y	McLaugh Y	Ravitz Y	Tonko Y
Aubry Y	Colton Y	Fessend Y	Johnson Y	Meeks Y	Reynold Y	Towns Y
Bacalle Y	Connell Y	Flanaga Y	Katz Y	Miller Y	Rivera Y	Townsen Y
Balboni Y	Conte Y	Galef Y	Kaufman Y	Millman Y	Robach Y	Vann Y
Barraga Y	Cook Y	Gantt Y	Keane Y	Morelle Y	Sanders Y	Vitalia Y
Bea Y	Crouch Y	Genoves Y	Kirwan Y	Nesbitt Y	Scarbor Y	Warner Y
Becker Y	Crowley Y	Glick Y	Klein Y	Nolan Y	Schimmi Y	Weinste Y
Bonacic Y	D'Andre Y	Gottfri Y	Koon Y	Norman Y	Seaman Y	Weisenb Y
Boyland Y	Davis Y	Grannis Y	Labriol Y	Nortz Y	Seminer Y	Weprin Y
Boyle Y	Denis Y	Green Y	Lafayet Y	Oaks Y	Sidikma Y	Wertz Y
Bragman Y	Destito Y	Greene ER	Lentol Y	O'Neil Y	Smith Y	Winner Y
Brennan Y	Diaz Y	Griffit Y	Little Y	Ortiz Y	Spano Y	Wirth Y
Brodsky ER	DiNapol Y	Gromack Y	Lopez Y	Ortloff ER	Stephen Y	Wright Y
Brown Y	Dinga Y	Guerin Y	Luster Y	O'Shea Y	Stranie Y	Mr Spkr Y
Butl DJ Y	Dinowit Y	Gunther Y	Magee Y	Parment Y	Stringe Y	
Butl MW Y	Doran Y	Harenbe Y	Mahoney Y	Perry Y	Sull EC Y	
Calhoun Y	Englebr Y	Herbst Y	Manning Y	Pheffer Y	Sull F Y	
Canestr Y	Espail Y	Hikind ER	Matusow Y	Pillitt Y	Sweeney Y	

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## Memo on Bill A08458

BILL NUMBER: A8458B

### PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL:

This bill establishes the New York State Freedom Trail program to preserve, educate and commemorate the national freedom trail and the underground railroad.

### SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS:

Section 1 - Establishes the New York State freedom trail program.

Section 2 - Legislative findings and intent.

Section 3 - Amends the education law by adding section 233-b which establishes the New York State freedom trail commission and sets forth the responsibilities of the commission.

Amends the education law by adding section 233-c which directs the commissioner of the State Education Department to conduct a study which would assist the Freedom Trail Commission in developing a plan.

Section 4 - Amends subdivision 1 and 3 of S 801 of the education law to require the regents to include the freedom trail and underground railroad in its prescribed courses of instruction to be maintained and followed in all schools within New York State.

Section 5 - Amends S 19.03 of the parks, recreation and historic preservation law by adding subdivision 4 which requires the commissioner to cooperate with the education department and the New York State freedom trail commission.

### JUSTIFICATION:

### BACKGROUND

On May 15, 1997, Congressmen Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) and Rob Portman (R-Ohio) introduced HR 1635- The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1997. The congressional proposal would authorize the National Parks Department to coordinate and facilitate federal and non-federal activities that would honor and help people learn more about the Underground Railroad. In the Senate the bill is sponsored by Senators Carol Moseley-Braun (D-III) and Mike DeWine (R-Ohio). The bill enjoys exceptional bipartisan support in both houses. The sponsors expect the proposal to pass this session. The establishment of the New York State Freedom Trail, this session, will put New York in an excellent position to participate in the development of the national networks.

New York State has many nationally recognized Underground Railroad sites. There are sites in almost every municipality within the state. Sites range from hotels and homes to businesses and places of worship. Historically, New York was either a final stop or a temporary resting site on the road to Canada. New York was a refuge for thousands of courageous escaping slaves who were helped along the way by a network of brave men and women. New Yorkers of every creed and ethnic background, from all walks of life, rallied to the anti-slavery cause and formed a powerful network which sustained the growing movement decade after decade.

New York State was the home of Frederick Douglass, abolitionist governors such as William Seward, and underground railroad conductors such as Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth.

The underground railroad was a success due to the uncommon trust and cooperation between the conductors and the conductees. Without the establishment of a historical program, New York's documented and undocumented underground railroad sites are in danger of being lost or forgotten, along with the names of those who were the heroes and heroines.

Canada has undertaken a number of projects to commemorate the role its citizens played in the success of the underground railroad. Just last year the Niagara Region Tourist Council produced a guidebook and an African American Heritage Tour. It is time for New York to officially document and recognize the sacrifices and contributions of those who sought freedom here and those who helped them reach the promise of freedom.

PRIOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

New Bill

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

Minimal

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Immediately

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**Bill A08458**

[ [Summary](#) ] [ [Actions](#) ] [ [Votes](#) ] [ [Memo](#) ] [ [Text](#) ]

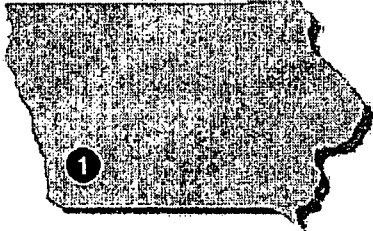
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New York State Assembly

[ [Welcome Page](#) ] [ [Legislative Information](#) ] [ [Bill Searches](#) ]

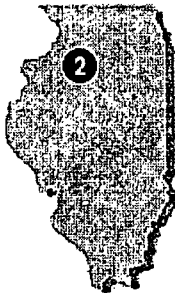


# List of Sites



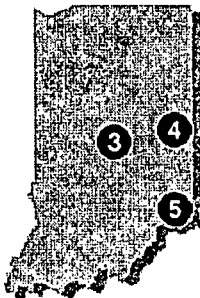
## IOWA

1. George B. Hitchcock House--Lewis vicinity



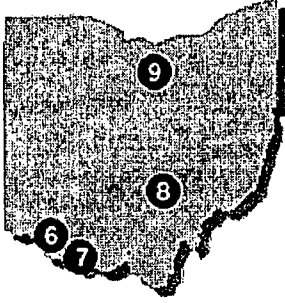
## ILLINOIS

2. Owen Lovejoy House--Princeton



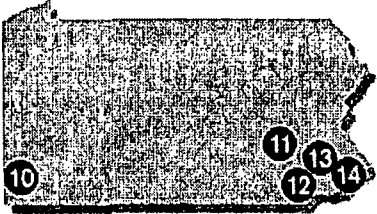
## INDIANA

3. Bethel AME Zion Church--Indianapolis
4. Levi Coffin House--Fountain City
5. Eleutherian College Classroom and Chapel Building--Lancaster



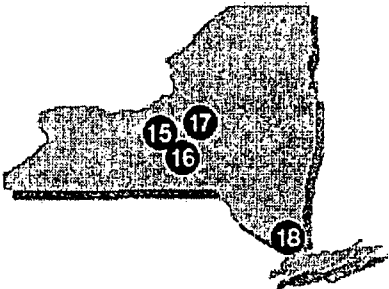
## OHIO

- 6. John P. Parker House--Ripley
  - 7. John Rankin House--Ripley
  - 8. Village of Mt. Pleasant Historic District--Mt. Pleasant
  - 9. Wilson Bruce Evans House--Oberlin
- 



## PENNSYLVANIA

- 10. F. Julius LeMoyne House--Washington
  - 11. Bethel AME Zion Church--Reading
  - 12. Oakdale--Chadds Ford
  - 13. White Horse Farm--Phoenixville
  - 14. Johnson House--Philadelphia
- 



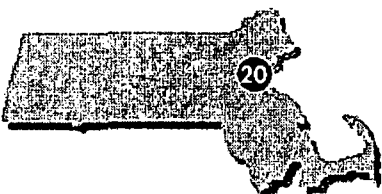
## NEW YORK

- 15. Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged--Auburn
  - 16. St. James AME Zion Church--Ithaca
  - 17. Gerrit Smith Estate and Land Office--Peterboro
  - 18. Foster Memorial AME Zion Church--Tarrytown
- 



## VERMONT

- 19. Rokeby--Ferrisburgh
- 



## MASSACHUSETTS

- 20. African American National Historic Site--Boston



## DELAWARE

21. Appoquinimink Friends Meeting House--Odessa



## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

22. Frederick Douglass National Historic Site



## FLORIDA

23. Ft. Mose Site--St. John's County

[U.S. Map](#) | [Home](#)



Comments or Questions  
Monday, 06-Apr-98 14:12:31EST



Aboard the  
**Underground Railroad**

914 631 2002  
914 686 6392  
Rev. Dr. James G. Flowers  
passage

# Foster Memorial AME Zion Church

**18** Foster Memorial AME Zion Church was founded in 1860 by Amanda and Henry Foster, Rev. Jacob Thomas, and Hiram Jimerson. Amanda Foster, considered the "Mother of the Church," was the driving force in the formation of the congregation whose first meetings were held in her confectionery store. Born in New York in 1806, Amanda, in possession of her "free papers," obtained employment as a nurse to Arkansas Governor Conway. While in Arkansas, she contributed to the Underground Railroad movement by using her "free papers" to help a young fugitive slave girl escape. She moved back to New York in 1837 and established her business in Tarrytown where she met and married Henry Foster around 1845. In 1865, after five years of the congregation meeting in the Foster confectionery store and other business establishments, construction of the church began with funds donated primarily by the local Dutch Reformed and Methodist congregations. During the Civil War, members of Foster AME helped to provide food and shelter to fugitive slaves escaping to Canada, and also provided assistance to those fugitive slaves who decided to settle in Tarrytown. Like most AME churches, Foster AME is a religious and social crossroads for the black community, providing a meeting place for worship and a place for public interaction.



Foster Memorial AME Zion Church  
Photograph by Wes Haynes. Courtesy of New York Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation.

*Foster AME Zion Church is located in Tarrytown, New York at 90 Wildey Street. It is open to the public.*

[Previous](#) | [List of Sites](#) | [Home](#) | [Next](#)



[Comments or Questions](#)  
Last Modified: Monday, 06-Apr-98 12:26:28EST



Harnet Tubman  
Experts

Through National Park Service

Jim & Lois Horton

This date on their calendars - Wed., July 15

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM C LINTON  
WILLIAM SEWARD HOUSE  
AUBURN, NEW YORK  
JULY 15, 1998**

I want to thank all of you in the Thompson Memorial Youth Group for that wonderful performance. Clearly the life of Harriet Tubman is very real to you -- And one of the reasons that I'm here -- is to bring more attention to the life and accomplishments of this remarkable woman, and to make sure that these few tangible links to her life are preserved. I want every American to learn her story -- as all of you have done. So that parents can pass it down to their children -- so that they can hand it down to their children -- as your parents and teachers have done for you. It's an incredible story about her courage; about her. But her story it's also the story of this country -- as we continue to struggle to lift up our citizens, and come together -- as people from every nation and background -- to form one America. To fulfill the promise of freedom and equality that ....

She died 85 years ago;

Given the transforming role that Harriett has played in the life of this country -- it's sad that except for this last home -- so few documented, tangible links to harriet tubman exist.

You know, as I have travelled to these historic sites over the past few days -- and seen the places -- and touched the ... Of the ... I've felt so strongly how we are all tied to this heritage -- and are all participants in its continuing unfolding. . Sometimes -- those links are ...

(A woman who was preparing for this trip walked into this Home a few days ago -- to find a picture of her uncle's family hanging on the wall. A picture she had seen in her own home for many years. She discovered that in fact members of her family had been the caretakers here. ... And that is what we all need to be: caretakers of this rich legacy that is our history -- and ...

She bore the physical scars of slavery -- an overseer threw a rock at her head -- permanently damaging her skull; but ..... she refused to give up her dream of freedom; guided them to safety;

Treacherous trip: through forest, hills, reivers, creeks; always in danger; (on one occasion -- she and her fugitives had to board a southbound train to avoid suspicion; her humor: one terrified slave would not look out the window of the train until she reached free soil in Canada. Tubman, exasperated; cried out: "you might at least have looked at Niagara Falls on the way to freedom!"

just came from the home of William Seward -- President Lincoln's Sect of State -- instrumental in Emancipation proclamation; friend of harriet tubman; and a participant in hiding of slaves on their way to freedom;

"I had reasoned this out in my mind. There was one of two things things I had a right to, liberty

or death. If I could not have one, I would have the other.” Underground railroad -- drew the paths of freedom for fugitive slaves across New York; Indiana; Illinois; Ohio; Pennsylvania; Vermont; Massachusetts; DC; Delaware -- as far as Florida; she could not read the signs but she could read nature; the position of the stars; the moss on the north side of the tree -- to point her in the right direction;

tough; resilient; deeply religious; deep reservoir of faith in God and her own resilience; led to lifelong concern for welfare of others; humanitarian causes: represented the strength, patience and faith of unsung Black women; dedicated way triumphed over the obstacles of color and sex; Harriet Tubman spoke for them; . -- indeed all powerless; and we must continue to speak for her. Freedom and dignified treatment she insisted was her due she insisted should be extended to others less fortunate;

courageous champion of freedom; after war, began to take in orphans and old people; elderly African Americans not accepted at the home for the elderly in Auburn; that eventually led to the establishment of the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged;

courage; determination; steadfastness; hope; freedom; tenacity;

19 trips; rescuing 300 slaves; from the “jaws of hell.” Traveled in the cheerless solitude of night; no protection except her cunning; no guide but the North Star; the Moses of her people; bold, daring; elusive;

not content to survive slavery -- she used slavery as springboard to assert her own humanity; and the humanity of her people; herself illiterate; she raised money for Black schools in the South; herself childless -- she cared for the plight of newly freed Black children and raised money for their clothing; -- active in women’s right movement and in African American Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; 1908; realized her dream of establishing home for Negro aged and poor on her property; died 1913 -- 50th anniversary of emancipation proclamation;

**the significance** of her life is in her deeds -- is her character -- and what it tells us about the possibilities of the American dream. Courage and selflessness;

we all have ties to her life; (tell story of a woman who was working on this tour; walked into the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged; saw a picture of one of her relatives; -- which she had seen hanging in her parents’ home for years -- was hanging there. There had been the caretakers of that house -- image of how we are all connected to this history of freedom;

her house: supported by nine pillars; she was the pillar;

these qualities are commemorated in her sites; but more importantly, they are imprinted indelibly in this nation’s memory; forever transformed by her power and humility;... we must preserve the sites and artifacts that tell her story; -- but more importantly, we must preserve her spirit; and live her .... live her ... every day, as together, we continue to create a more perfect union.

Her motto was Keep going. As she led slaves toward freedom: she would say: "Children; if you are tired; keep going; if you are scared; keep going; if you are hungry; keep going; if you want to taste freedom; keep going." I can't think of a better message to spread as we prepare to meet the challenges of a new century -- and a new millennium. Her spirit -- like the north star -- will guide us.

# William H. Seward

1801-1872

"Although in this journey I have traversed no small portions of four continents—it is not until now, that I have found the place which, above all others, I admire the most and love the best. This...one point on the globe draws me back by an irresistible spell..."



— William H. Seward, *Speech Upon Returning Home to Auburn from Europe, December 31, 1856*  
— Photograph by Mathew Brady, 1863

William Henry Seward was a celebrated statesman, Secretary of State, United States Senator, New York Governor, and abolitionist.

In 1819, on a teaching sojourn in the South, the indignity of slavery first made an impression on Seward later influencing him to become one of the most outspoken anti-slavery politicians of his time...

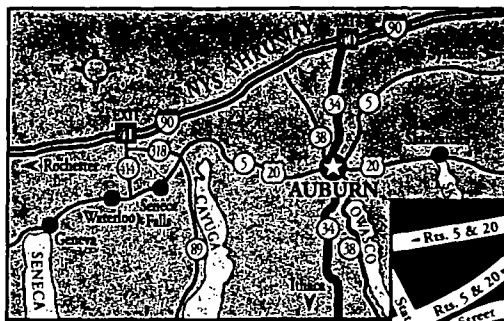
Seward moved to Auburn, New York in 1823 to work for Judge Elijah Miller, soon marrying the Judge's youngest daughter, Frances, and moved into the Judge's home, which is now the Seward House. The Searwards had five children.

Devout abolitionists, Seward and his wife were friends of Harriet Tubman. Frances Seward helped Harriet Tubman and the underground railroad by hiding slaves in the Seward house. After the Civil War, William H. Seward convinced Tubman to leave Canada and make her home in Auburn as an American heroine.

Seward was elected to the New York State Senate in 1830 where he served four years. In 1838, Seward won the race for Governor of New York and served two terms. In 1849, he was elected to the United States Senate. As a senator in Washington, D.C., Seward emerged as one of the leaders in the newly formed Republican Party.

Seward sought but never attained the highest office in the land. Although a front-runner in the 1860 presidential primary, the party ultimately supported Abraham Lincoln. In 1860, Lincoln appointed Seward Secretary of State. The night President Lincoln was shot in 1865, Seward was critically injured when conspirators also visited his Washington residence.

In 1867, Seward negotiated the purchase of Alaska from Russia. At the time, skeptics called it "Seward's Folly" yet it has since proved one of the United States's best investments. In 1870, Seward left Auburn to tour the world bringing home many rare artifacts now on view at the Seward House. He died in the office of his Auburn home



Enjoy guided tours  
and pleasant summer  
garden strolls



## The Seward House

33 South Street  
Auburn, New York 13021  
(315) 252-1283



**HOURS** Tuesdays-Saturdays 1:00-4:00 PM  
April through December  
Closed major holidays

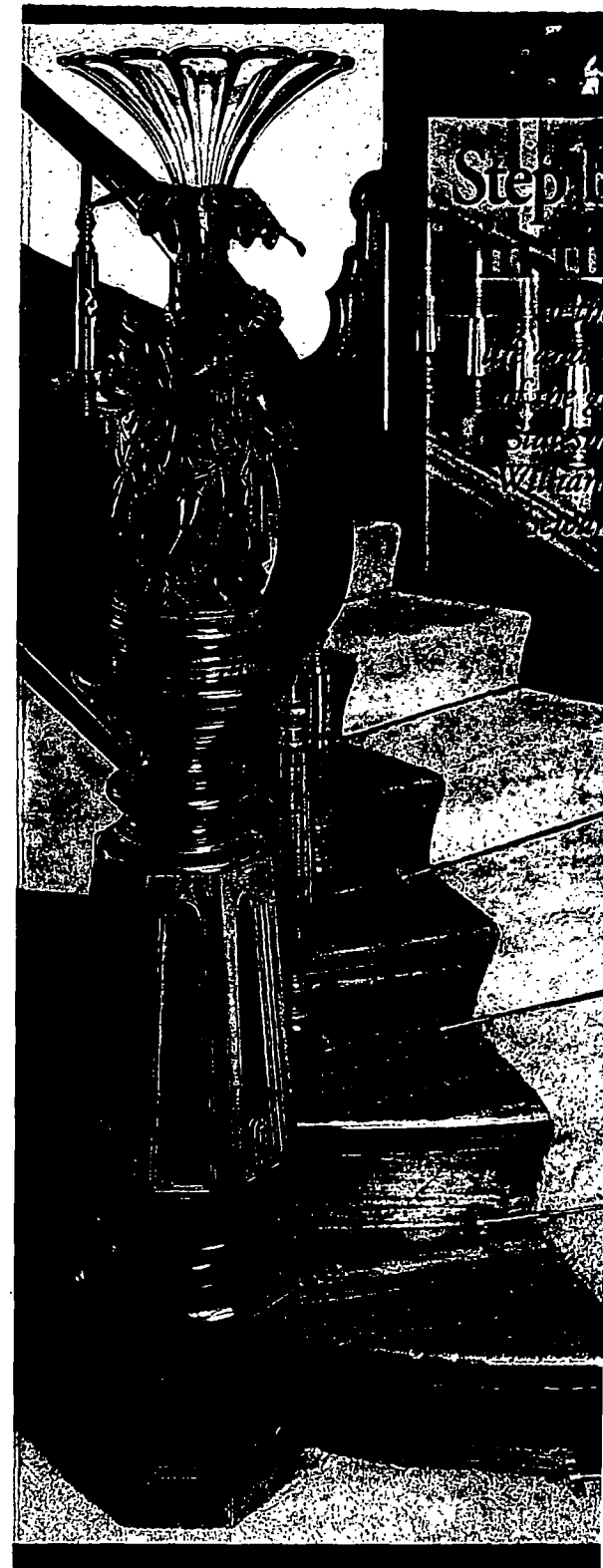
Admission charged  
Call for group appointments

## ANNUAL EVENTS

Holiday Open House in December

Garden Party in July

ABOUT THE COVER: Main staircase in Seward House. The wood is a gift from the Society of California Pioneers. (Gold Rush '49ers), as a thank you for Senator Seward's help to bring California into the Union as a free state. The darker wood of





Tour the 17 public rooms of the Seward House, each arranged and preserved as if Seward and his family were about to return and host one of their famous dinner gatherings. Distinguished statesmen such as Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, General Ulysses S. Grant, General George Custer, Presidents John Quincy Adams, Martin Van Buren, Andrew Johnson and William McKinley have all walked these halls. Discover the works of renowned artists such as Henry Inman, Thomas



"There was scarcely a five-minute period when callers were not at the house."

– Frederick Seward, W.H. Seward's son

One of the most heartwarming displays in the Seward House is a collection of toys in the upstairs nursery, which dates from 1810 to 1855. A tiny pewter tea set, French marionettes, and a special paper theater (The Mignon Theater) with paper characters which belonged to Seward's youngest child, Fanny, are just a few of the delightful and rare 19th-century playthings.



Walking through William H. Seward's front door is like stepping back in time to experience life as Seward and his family did in the mid 1800s. Unlike other historic homes which often integrate period artifacts from other places, the Seward House has a virtually intact collection of original items used by the Seward Family. The house was built in 1816 and 1817 by Seward's father-in-law, Judge Elijah Miller.

"... I found a most beautiful little Theater of paper, I knew at once that it was from my dearest mother."

– Frances "Fanny" Seward, Christmas

Cole, Chester Harding, and Emanuel Leutze in the Seward family's fine art collection.

The Seward House has an impressive collection of souvenirs from Seward's extensive career and travels. Among the items are: a gold ring made from the last spike driven in the Pacific Railroad, a Bidarki (skin boat) from the Aleutian Islands, portraits of world leaders, Tlingit wooden armor from Alaska, and an extremely rare desk that was used during the first Constitutional Congress in New York City in 1789.

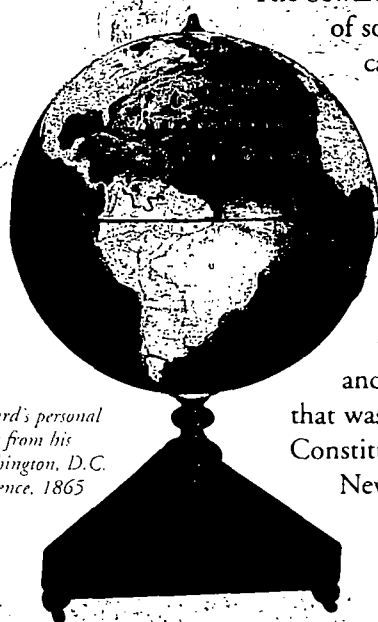


"I cannot exist without books."  
– William H. Seward

William H. Seward loved to read, write letters, and collect books. His house has one of the most extensive Civil War book collections in the nation. Many of the books are autographed by the authors. His book collection includes two original editions of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.



"A typical dinner lasted from six until ten and had 11 courses. The table was brilliant with silver, crystal goblets, and imported china decorated in blue and gold."  
– Frederick Seward



Seward's personal globe from his Washington, D.C. residence, 1865



1823	1824	1830	1838	1849	1855	1857	1860	1861-1869	1865	1867
Maria Frances	Elected Governor of New York State (served two terms)	Becomes one of the leading Republicans after the Whig Party merged into the Republican Party	Works with Harriet Tubman in Auburn by housing slaves traveling to freedom on the underground railroad	Elected to United States	Loses presidential nomination to Abraham Lincoln	Serves as Secretary of State under President Lincoln	Seriously wounded in battle	Negotiates the purchase of Alaska from Russia		

Bidarki from Alaska, 1868



Bishopstoke, England. He came to Boston in 1661, married the daughter of a wealthy shipowner, served as a superior court justice, and became the colony's chief justice in 1718. In 1697, he confessed his error in having been partly responsible for sending people to the gallows during the Salem witch trials (1692). He wrote one of the first antislavery tracts and left a diary (1674-77; 1685-1729) that remains an incomparable record of the life, mentality, and world of a Puritan of his era.

**Seward, William H. (Henry)** (1801-72) public official, cabinet officer; born in Florida, N.Y. A lawyer, he joined the new Whig Party and served as governor of New York (1839-43) and as U.S. senator (N.Y.; 1849-61). Becoming increasingly more liberal, he moved to the new Republican Party for his second term as senator and came to embody Northern antislavery sentiment: he caused a controversy with his claim (1850) that slavery should be excluded from new states by a "higher law than the Constitution." Disappointed in his hopes for the Republican nomination in both 1856 and 1860, he accepted the post of secretary of state in Lincoln's cabinet. After Lincoln squelched his attempts at imposing his own views and policies, Seward settled down to become an excellent secretary of state. He was wounded by one of the conspirators who killed Lincoln (1865), but recovered to continue serving under President Andrew Johnson. He asserted the Monroe Doctrine against French policy in Mexico (1866) and in 1867 bought the area of Alaska from Russia for \$67,000,000 - an action that was called "Seward's Folly." He sided with President Johnson and his Reconstruction policies, and with the end of the Johnson Administration (1869), he toured the world and retired to Auburn, N.Y.

**Sexton, Anne (b. Harvey)** (1928-74) poet; born in Newton, Mass. She studied at Garland Junior College, Boston (1947-48), and was a fashion model (1950-51). Based in Weston, Mass., she married (1948), divorced (1974), and suffered from mental illness. Her autobiographical poetry remains respected and is noted for its highly charged emotional climate, as seen in her first volume, *To Bedlam and Part Way Back* (1960). She committed suicide at the height of her career.

**Seymour, Horatio** (1810-86) governor; born in Pompey Hill, N.Y. (brother-in-law of Roscoe Conkling). A protégé of William Marcy and an "Albany Regency" Democrat, he served in the New York Assembly (1842, 1844-45) and gained a reputation for compromise and moderation. As Democratic governor (1853-55), he improved the prison system and opposed prohibition. He worked in business but remained a respected figure in Democratic politics. Elected to a second term as New York's governor (1863-65), he provided the Union army with soldiers and financing even though he was initially opposed to the war and to Lincoln's war powers. He made an unsuccessful run for the Democratic nomination for president in 1868, helped force Boss Tweed from power, and helped his own protégé, Grover Cleveland, become president.

**Seymour, John** (c. 1738-1818) furniture maker; born in England. In 1785 he emigrated to Maine and then arrived in Boston (1794) where together with son Thomas Seymour he became the leading cabinet maker in the federal style.

**Shahn, Ben (Benjamin)** (1898-1969) painter, photographer, graphic artist; born in Kaunas, Lithuania. He emigrated with his parents to New York (1906), was a lithographer (1913-

30), and studied at the National Academy of Design (1922). After study in Europe (1925-27), he became an activist painter in New York. A sequence of 23 gouaches based on the Sacco-Vanzetti case (1931-32) that ended in the execution of two political anarchists, and his series on the trial of labor leader Tom Mooney (1933), established his reputation. His style was semiabstract and boldly colored, and his posters for activist causes reflect his paintings. As a photographer he recorded the lives of farm workers for the Farm Security Administration (1935-38).

**Shalala, Donna (Edna)** (1941- ) political scientist, educator, cabinet officer; born in Cleveland, Ohio. Of Lebanese descent, she took her B.A. from Western College for Women (Oxford, Ohio) (1962) and then spent two years with the Peace Corps in Iran. She then earned her M.A. and Ph.D. (1970) from Syracuse; while there she participated in programs that taught foreign students and Peace Corps staff. She taught at Bernard Baruch College (N.Y.C.) (1970-72) and then at Teachers College of Columbia (1972-79); she also served with the Municipal Assistance Corporation (1975-77), which helped restore financial stability to New York City. She was assistant secretary for political development and research in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (1977-80). In 1980 she became president of Hunter College (part of the City University of New York City) - the youngest woman ever to head a major college; she greatly increased its endowment, enlarged its faculties, upgraded its student body, and enlarged its building program. In 1988 she moved on to become the chancellor of the University of Wisconsin: Madison, only the second woman (after Hanna Holborn Gray at the University of Chicago) to head a major American research university; she also became a professor of political science and educational policy studies. One of her most publicized programs there was the so-called Madison Plan to deal with racism on campus. In 1993 she was appointed secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services by President Clinton.

**Shaler, Nathaniel (Southgate)** (1841-1906) geologist, geographer; born in Newport, Ky. After graduating from Harvard (1862), he served with the 5th Kentucky Battery in the Union army, then returned to assist Jean Louis Agassiz at Harvard, studying abroad afterward. In 1868 he returned to Harvard for good, becoming an extremely popular professor, writing magazine articles and books, such as *A First Book in Geology* (1884). He headed the Atlantic Coast Division of the U.S. Geological Survey (1884-1900) and revitalized Harvard's Lawrence Scientific School while dean (1891-1906). Books that reflect his interest in conservation and the environment are *Aspects of the Earth* (1889) and *Man and Earth* (1905).

**Shanker, Albert** (1928- ) union leader; born in New York City. He was a confrontational president of New York City's United Federation of Teachers (1964-86), leading repeated teachers' strikes and becoming a major force in city politics. As national president of the American Federation of Teachers (1974) he supported public school reform and his weekly column in the *New York Times* served as a much-quoted forum for ideas on education.

**Shannon, Claude E. (Elwood)** (1916- ) mathematician; born in Gaylord, Mich. His paper, "The Mathematical Theory of Communication" (1958), marked the beginnings of information theory that underlies modern communica-

American relations, restored peace on the Canadian border. He became (1841) general in chief of the U.S. Army and in the Mexican War commanded the amphibious operation that captured Vera Cruz (27 Mar. 1847) and led the overland advance over mountains, winning the battles of Cerro Gordo, Churubusco, Molino del Rey, and Chapultepec, and finally taking Mexico City (14 Sept. 1847). After the strained relations with Polk, he was relieved of the charge of the expedition in the preferring of charges against Scott; the charges, however, were withdrawn, and in 1852 Congress passed a resolution giving Scott the rank of a lieutenant general. The candidate for the presidency in the campaign of 1852, he was decisively elected by Franklin Pierce. In 1859, elected as peacemaker between the United States and Great Britain, on this occasion he had serious trouble in the dispute over the possession of San Juan Island in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Despite his Virginia background, he remained loyal to the Union when the Civil War broke out. He was commander of the U.S. army in the West during preparations for defending the frontier. He retired on 1 Nov. 1861.

Scott, James (b. 1792; d. 1864), statesman, was graduated from Union College (1820), admitted to the bar (1822), and commenced practice in Auburn. Affiliated with the Anti-Masonic party, he was elected to the state senate (1830-34), but defeated for reelection (1832), and was unsuccessful Whig nominee for governor (1834). After election (1838) and reelection (1840) as governor, he resumed the practice of law with notable success in criminal cases and in the patent field. Elected to the U.S. Senate (1848) and reelected (1854), he took an advanced stand against slavery. In his speech of 11 Mar. 1850 attacking the Compromise of 1850 he enunciated "a higher law" than the Constitution. Opposed to the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, he declared at Rochester on 25 Oct. 1858 that the slavery struggle was "an irrepressible conflict" between North and South. Prominent in the new Republican party, he was unsuccessful candidate for president in 1856 and again in 1860, but entered Lincoln's cabinet as Secretary of State. His advocacy of a strong foreign policy to unify the country faced with civil war was fortunately not heeded by Lincoln. His most notable achievements were his negotiations with Great Britain

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Seward, William Henry (b. Florida, Orange Co., N.Y., 16 May 1801; d. Auburn, N.Y., 10 Oct. 1872), statesman, was graduated from Union College (1820), admitted to the bar (1822), and commenced practice in Auburn. Affiliated with the Anti-Masonic party, he was elected to the state senate (1830-34), but defeated for reelection (1832), and was unsuccessful Whig nominee for governor (1834). After election (1838) and reelection (1840) as governor, he resumed the practice of law with notable success in criminal cases and in the patent field. Elected to the U.S. Senate (1848) and reelected (1854), he took an advanced stand against slavery. In his speech of 11 Mar. 1850 attacking the Compromise of 1850 he enunciated "a higher law" than the Constitution. Opposed to the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, he declared at Rochester on 25 Oct. 1858 that the slavery struggle was "an irrepressible conflict" between North and South. Prominent in the new Republican party, he was unsuccessful candidate for president in 1856 and again in 1860, but entered Lincoln's cabinet as Secretary of State. His advocacy of a strong foreign policy to unify the country faced with civil war was fortunately not heeded by Lincoln. His most notable achievements were his negotiations with Great Britain

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Shattuck, Lemuel (b. Ashby, Mass., 15 Oct. 1793; d. Boston, Mass., 17 Jan. 1859), statistician. After briefly attending Appleton Academy, he taught school at Troy and Albany, N.Y., and then in Detroit. Returning to Concord, Mass., he set up a mercantile business at the age of 30 and, in addition, took a leadership role in reorganizing the school system of that town. Around 1836 he moved to Boston to become a successful publisher and bookseller, retiring at the age of 46 to devote himself to public service. A study of the local history of Concord (1835) and then a turn at genealogy suggested to him the value for vital statistics of birth, marriage, and death records. Founding the American Statistical Association (1839), he was instrumental in securing the passage in 1842 of a Massachusetts law requiring the registration of births, marriages, and deaths. Chosen to direct a census of the city of Boston in 1845, he made it one of persons rather than of families. He was instrumental in extending the scope of the U.S. Census of 1850, which marked a notable advance in information gathering. Chairman (1849) of the commission to make a sanitary survey of Massachusetts, his *Report* (1859) used

Seaborg, Glenn Theodore (b. Ishpeming, Mich., 19 Apr. 1912- ), physicist. He was graduated (1934) from the Univ. of California, where he received the degree of Ph.D. in 1935. He came a full professor in 1945. His associates, including Dr. E. O. Lawrence, with whom he shared the Nobel prize in chemistry (1952) for their work in the transuranic elements, he discovered plutonium, which he applied the fuel for the atomic bomb. The researches of Seaborg and his associates on heavier-than-uranium elements led to the discovery of several new elements, including americium (95); curium (96); berkelium (97); californium (98), produced by the alpha bombardment of americium and curium; einsteinium (99); fermium (100); mendelevium (101); and nobelium (102). The instruments and methods which were devised for the determination of these transuranic elements included the use of the Berkeley 184-inch cyclotron, and virtually created the new technique of ultramicrochemistry. Chancellor of the Univ. of California at Berkeley, 1958-61, he served as chairman of the AEC (1961-70).

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*Don't Worry* (1897), and *How to Get Acquainted with God* (1902). He died at the home of his daughter in East Orange, N. J.

[Material for this article has been obtained largely from members of the Seward family, notably from Dr. F. W. Seward, of Goshen, N. Y.; see also *Grove's Dict. of Music and Musicians, Am. Supp.* (1930); *Who's Who in America*, 1901-02; and *N. Y. Times*, Sept. 1, 1902.]

J. T. H.

**SEWARD, WILLIAM HENRY** (May 16, 1801–Oct. 10, 1872), statesman, was born in Florida, Orange County, N. Y., the son of Dr. Samuel S. and Mary (Jennings) Seward. After preparatory studies in Florida and the neighboring village of Goshen, he was sent at the age of fifteen to Union College. Graduating in 1820, he began to read law and was admitted to the bar in 1822, establishing himself the next year in Auburn, N. Y., which was to be his home for the rest of his life. Seward's convivial temperament as well as his profession fitted him for politics; the question was with what political group he would affiliate himself. His family had been Democratic-Republicans of the strictest persuasion, but with praiseworthy independence the rising young lawyer chose to ally himself with the opposing elements. In this decision the principal factors, according to his *Autobiography* (p. 54) written nearly fifty years later, were his distrust of the Southern Jeffersonians, and his great interest in internal improvements. At any rate, Seward voted for DeWitt Clinton for governor, and John Quincy Adams for president in 1824, and wrote a good "Address" in support of the former (*Works*, III, 335). The enthusiasm which he then felt for Adams was never dimmed, and undoubtedly had its part in forming his own political ideals as time went on.

The closing years of the 1820's saw the rise of the Anti-Masonic movement in western New York. To this Seward found himself drawn, both by expediency and by conviction. In the deliberations of the new organization, as indeed in previous political discussions, the rising young politician was drawn close to Thurlow Weed [*q.v.*], whose casual acquaintance he had first made in 1824 and with whom he was to maintain one of the most intimate and long-standing friendships in American political annals. It was due to Weed's influence that Seward stood for and was elected in the fall of 1830 to the state Senate. In this body he served for the next four years, as a distinguished member of the minority and later as its leader. He played a prominent part in the debates on Andrew Jackson's bank policy; he sustained the President in his opposition to Nullification; he continued to advocate internal improvements; he supported abo-

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lition of imprisonment for debt. Defeated for reelection in 1833, he was unanimously nominated for governor in 1834. By this time the Whig party had supplanted the Anti-Masons, and it was under the Whig banner that Seward was to fight for the next twenty years. In this first Whig candidacy, however, he was defeated, by William L. Marcy [*q.v.*]. The next few years Seward devoted to the practice of law, and he acquired a modest competence through his success as agent for the Holland Company, in settling disputes with settlers in Chautauqua County (*Autobiography*, p. 328; *Works*, III, 461).

The Whigs carried the New York legislature in the election of 1837 and Seward's political ambitions, which he professed were dead in 1834, rapidly came to life again, with the governorship as their objective. The contest for the nomination lay between him and the dignified Francis Granger [*q.v.*], nearly nine years his senior. Seward professed to be willing to let the convention decide, but an active organization was set on foot, the young voters being particularly active in his favor. Weed, after some hesitation, decided that his protégé should have the nomination, and in a closely contested convention battle Seward was chosen. In the electoral campaign itself, he was compelled for the first time to face the issue of slavery. His attitude in 1838 can hardly be called an advanced one. By the abolitionists he was asked three questions, whether he was in favor of (1) a law granting trial by jury to all fugitives, (2) of abolishing the special qualifications for negro voters, and (3) of repealing a law permitting the importation and detention of slaves in the state of New York for a period of nine months. He answered the first question in the affirmative, but the other two in the negative, declaring that the subjects with which they dealt did not enter "into the political creed" of his party (*Works*, III, 426-32).

The election of 1838 resulted in a victory for Seward, as did that of 1840, though by a reduced plurality. His four years in the governorship reveal the natural ardor and optimism of his temperament, his strong humanitarian sympathies, and also his impulsiveness and tendency to challenge majority opinion. Always warmly convinced of the desirability of internal improvements, Seward courageously urged them upon successive legislatures (see his message of 1840, *Works*, II, 212-55). In the midst of the depression, he refused to acquiesce in the suspension of activities already undertaken, and from first to last boldly defended large expenditures. In this particular case the policy cannot be said to

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have succeeded. The state's credit was adversely affected, its bonds selling at a discount of twenty per cent. in 1841. When the Democrats regained control of both houses of the legislature in the fall elections, they proceeded to suspend virtually all but the most necessary expenditures, and to levy additional taxes. Seward, however, stoutly insisted that his policy had been wise, and that the obstacles to its accomplishment were merely a blind distrust of the future, on the part of foreign investors and of the American people. His natural impulsiveness, as well as his generosity of feeling, was illustrated also by his attitude on the question of public education in New York City. The schools there, conducted by a private corporation, the Public School Society, had been unacceptable to the rapidly growing Catholic population, and, furthermore, did not attract the children of the immigrant classes. In his message of 1840, after consulting with his old friend, Dr. Eliphalet Nott of Union College, Seward recommended "the establishment of schools in which they (the children of New York) may be instructed by teachers speaking the same language with themselves and professing the same faith" (*Works*, II, 215). This recommendation caused a storm of criticism from the nativist elements in the state, stronger in the Whig than in the Democratic party. Seward was compelled to retreat from the position which he had assumed, though he succeeded in securing the establishment of public schools free from sectarian influence in the city.

On the slavery question Seward took advanced ground during his term of office. He refused to surrender three sailors, who had instigated the flight of a fugitive slave to New York, when the extradition of these men was demanded by the state of Virginia. His act provoked so much irritation in Virginia as to bring about reprisals against New York shipping. But it was typical of his humanitarian spirit, and it won him the ardent support of the growing abolitionist element (for the controversy, 1839-41, see *Works*, II, 449 ff.). No one would maintain, however, that Seward was an uncompromising idealist in the governorship. He dispensed offices on the strict spoils basis, as was the custom of the time; he signed a law requiring registration of voters in New York City under party pressure and very much against his personal convictions; and it may be that other motives than humanitarian interest were operating in the evolution of the policies above described. But he declined to be a candidate for reelection in 1842, and his letters show that he felt himself at this time to be too

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far in advance of public opinion to prosper politically.

The years in the governorship depleted Seward's financial resources. During the next seven years he worked assiduously to restore them, at first in his old field, the court of chancery, but, after a little, more and more in patent cases. From time to time he took criminal cases, involving trial before a jury. One of the most striking involved the death sentence on a poor imbecile negro, Freeman, in whose defense Seward made in 1846 one of the most eloquent of his speeches (*Works*, I, 391-475); this he afterwards declared he would have repeated without the alteration of a word. A case which won him still more fame was that in which in a suit for damages he unsuccessfully defended in 1846-47 Van Zandt, an Ohio farmer, who had assisted in the flight of fugitive slaves (*Ibid.*, I, 476 ff.). In these years of private practice Seward was very far from abandoning his interest in politics. He took part in almost every campaign, often outside the borders of the state. He also ardently championed the cause of Irish freedom, gaining the support of the Irish-American voters as a result. The tide was running more and more his way, also, with regard to the question of slavery. By 1848 anti-slavery sentiment had become so strong that it was possible for him to be elected to the United States Senate, many Democrats, as well as all the Whig members of the legislature, voting for him.

When Seward entered the Senate the slavery question had become acute, and the question of its relation to the disposition of the territories just acquired from Mexico was assuming portentous proportions. In the celebrated debate growing out of Henry Clay's famous resolutions of 1850, Seward took his stand firmly against all compromise, and in favor of the unconditional admission of California as a free state. In his well-known speech of Mar. 11 he declared that there was no reason to jumble together a variety of important questions in a single measure, as Clay had wished to do; he boldly asserted that the fugitive-slave law was impossible of enforcement in the North; he wished to abolish, not only the slave trade, as proposed by Clay, but also slavery in the District of Columbia; he was opposed to leaving the territories to organize themselves with or without slavery. In a prescient sentence he declared that the slave system would either be removed "by gradual voluntary effort, and with compensation," within the framework of the Union, or the Union would be dissolved, and civil wars ensue, bringing on violent but complete and immediate emancipation

(*Works*, I, 80) ing his views, unconstitution the speech of famous phras-tution" (*Ibid.* ly caught up t it appear that beyond the g text of the sp was merely de duties the Se principle as w None the less, ard resorted t ing explanatio

In the year promise mea- dominated. It nourish presi- necessary to n his course. F Whig partisa- Weed, a great party victory. Zachary Tayl served to rais principle; and the nominatio 1852, on muc disliked the c no means con- theless made Whigs from nominating co a vote on the slave law whe fore the Sena meantime his tunity for the ism and repu- felt sincerely, politically, but lessness as to demagogy. H- come to Kos- protest agains- gary; and he : Irish.

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(*Works*, I, 86 ff.). While thus boldly expressing his views, he disavowed any desire to act by unconstitutional or unlawful means. It was in the speech of Mar. 11, 1850, that he used the famous phrase, "a higher law than the Constitution" (*Ibid.*, II, 74). Partisanship immediately caught up the expression, and sought to make it appear that he advocated action outside of and beyond the great American charter. The context of the speech itself clearly indicates that he was merely declaring that in the discharge of its duties the Senate must take account of moral principle as well as constitutional prescriptions. None the less, when taxed with the phrase, Seward resorted to rather shuffling and unconvincing explanations.

In the years immediately following the compromise measures, the politician in Seward dominated. It may be that he was beginning to nourish presidential ambitions, but it is not necessary to make this assumption to understand his course. He was, after all, still an intense Whig partisan, and he had, in common with Weed, a great interest in party manipulation and party victory. He had favored the candidacy of Zachary Taylor in 1848, precisely because it served to raise so few perplexing questions of principle; and now he worked zealously to secure the nomination of General Winfield Scott in 1852, on much the same grounds. Though he disliked the compromise measures and was by no means convinced of their finality, he nevertheless made no serious effort to prevent the Whigs from indorsing them in the national nominating convention of 1852, and he avoided a vote on the question of repeal of the fugitive-slave law when Sumner brought the matter before the Senate in the session of 1852. In the meantime his place in the Senate gave opportunity for the expression of that ardent nationalism and republicanism which Seward doubtless felt sincerely, and which was highly expedient politically, but which he voiced with such recklessness as to lay him open to the charge of demagoguery. He played a leading rôle in the welcome to Kossuth, introducing a resolution of protest against the Russian intervention in Hungary; and he again championed the cause of the Irish.

The elections of 1852 left the Whig party completely routed. The future appeared hardly bright to a rising anti-slavery leader; but soon came the Kansas-Nebraska bill, reopening the whole controversy with regard to slave and free territory. In the debates on this measure, Seward showed greater caution and less forthright courage than in the discussions of 1850. His double rôle of

party leader and opponent of slavery, in a measure imposed such a course. However, though he did not take the lead in opposition to the measure, he spoke vigorously and frankly against it, warning the South of the conflict to which he felt it would inevitably give rise. The year 1854 saw not only the rise of the Republican party in the West, but of the Know-Nothing party, principally in the East and South. For Weed and Seward these new organizations created natural embarrassment. Reluctant to abandon the old partisan vessel, they propitiated the anti-Nebraska men by committing the Whigs to a strong anti-slavery platform; by shrewd subterranean work they managed to inter-penetrate the Know-Nothing party and secure Seward's reelection to the Senate. This latter success was the more remarkable since Know-Nothingism was contrary to the very essence of Seward's political philosophy, and was known to be so. As the Kansas question continued to hold the stage in national politics, the necessity of abandoning the old Whig party, or of merging it in the rising Republican organization, became more and more obvious. The merger was effected in the fall of 1855, and in the campaign of that year Seward signalized the change by speeches of the most forthright character on slavery.

From 1855 to 1860 Seward embodied the growing anti-slavery sentiment of the North as much as any man. That sentiment was grounded on genuine moral convictions; but it was often blindly partisan, and reckless of the crisis which it was rapidly promoting. In the struggle over Kansas in 1856 he took the extreme view, advocating its admission as a free state under the Topeka Constitution (though a fairer solution, perhaps, lay in the Toombs bill, calling for a new election in the territory); in common with other Republicans he denounced the Dred Scott decision as the product of a conspiracy; and on Oct. 25, 1858, he made at Rochester, N. Y., the famous speech in which he declared that the slavery struggle was "an irrepressible conflict" between opposing and enduring forces (*Works*, IV, 292). Yet Seward was not always a firebrand; in 1858, partly perhaps for tactical reasons, he supported the Douglas idea of a decision by popular sovereignty in the territory of Kansas, of course opposing the Lecompton Constitution; and the "irrepressible conflict" speech itself was followed by one in which, perhaps under the influence of the storm of comment which he had aroused, he praised the moderation of the slave-holders, and sought to blame the free Democracy of the North for the events of the last few years. On grounds of political expediency

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he had been passed over in 1856 in the Republican National Convention for Frémont; and some of his shifts of attitude may be attributed to the fact that he had his eye on the presidential nomination of 1860.

In 1859 Seward went abroad, meeting many celebrities in England and France, and returning to a great reception in New York. In February 1860, he again advocated the admission of Kansas as a free state, and made a speech which may be regarded as an expression of the platform on which he would stand for the Republican nomination (Feb. 29, 1860, *Ibid.*, IV, 619-43). Its general tenor was extremely conciliatory and moderate; with rare exceptions, Seward optimistically believed that Republicanism involved no threat to the unity of the American people. When the Republican National Convention met in Chicago in June 1860, he was undoubtedly the leading candidate, but the hostility of Horace Greeley, the opposition of the Know-Nothings, and Seward's own too widely known radical utterances, conspired to deprive him of the nomination. It was a severe blow, but he bore it with his usual outward equanimity and with very real generosity. He campaigned for the Republican ticket throughout the North, minimizing the Southern threats of secession, and urging the election of Lincoln. In the crisis which followed the election Seward showed characteristic elements of strength and weakness. His invincible optimism inclined him to minimize the dangers that lay ahead; yet, in the face of secession, he employed the language and the method of conciliation. He was also one of the Senate committee of thirteen constituted to consider means of composing the situation; as the spokesman of the section, and at the suggestion of Weed, he proposed on Dec. 24 that Congress guarantee slavery in the slave states, and request the repeal of the personal liberty laws in exchange for the grant of jury trial to fugitive slaves (*Senate Report No. 288*, 36 Cong., 2 Sess., pp. 10, 11, 13). His speech of Jan. 12, 1861, made after three more states had seceded, was admirable in its spirit (*Works*, IV, 651-69). Clearly avowing his loyalty to the Union, he again spoke in the most conciliatory vein, advocating a constitutional convention to settle outstanding difficulties, and even suggesting, in departure from the Republican platform, the admission of the remaining territories as two states without regard to slavery. It is entirely possible that he personally favored the Crittenden Compromise; but the influence of the President-elect was thrown on the other side, and Seward voted against this proposal when it came before the Senate on Mar. 2.

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As early as Dec. 8, Seward had been offered the office of secretary of state by Lincoln. He accepted on Dec. 28; and although he was deeply displeased at the selection of Chase and Blair as cabinet colleagues, and even sought to reverse his decision as late as Mar. 2, he yielded to the entreaties of the President. He took office on Mar. 4, no doubt believing that he would be, and deserved to be, the dominant figure in the administration, and the man who could best avert the perils of civil war. In the critical period from Mar. 4 to Apr. 12, 1861 (the date of the firing on Sumter), Seward appears at very far from his best. He still retained the delusion that he might determine the course of the administration; and his famous memorandum, "Some Thoughts for the President's Consideration, Apr. 1, 1861," admits of no apology. In this reckless document he advocated embroiling the United States with most of Europe and waging actual war on Spain and France, as a means of solidifying the Union (Nicolay and Hay, *post*, II, 29). The only concrete grievance on the horizon was the Spanish re-annexation of Santo Domingo, and this had not been officially consummated. A madder or wilder project than Seward's could hardly have been devised. Nor is it possible to imagine anything more arrogant than the last sentence of his memorandum, in which he virtually suggested that the President abdicate his power to the Secretary of State. Seward's course with regard to secession itself is not easy to justify. It is understandable that he entered into negotiations with the Confederate commissioners sent to Washington to demand the surrender of the forts still held by the Union government in the South; but it is not so easy to justify machinations behind the back of the President, by which the reinforcement of Fort Pickens was delayed, and the expedition to Sumter, when it sailed, weakened by the absence of the *Powhatan*. Seward was not even resolutely pacifist; on one occasion he spoke of using force to collect the revenue, and in general he was in favor of holding the Gulf forts, perhaps with a view to a possible war with Spain, though not of holding Sumter. No doubt much to his discomfiture, and with many a wound to his pride, he saw himself overruled and the decisive events which culminated in the opening of the Civil War directed by the chief whose real measure he had not yet taken.

Seward's conduct of the office of secretary of state during the four years of the war deserves high praise. More than any preceding secretary he conducted his diplomatic correspondence with an eye to public opinion at home. It is no chance

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that the publication of diplomatic dispatches in one or more annual volumes put out by the State Department begins with him (*Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States*, 2 vols., 1861). He no doubt wrote almost too much for the American public, as compared with those to whom his dispatches were actually directed. But in so doing he did much both to inspire and to restrain public opinion as occasion demanded. His early dispatches were too blustering in tone, and might have gotten him into serious trouble sometimes had it not been for the wisdom of Lincoln. As time went on, he dropped the truculent tone and expressed the views of the United States with dignity and force. On the occasion of the seizure of Mason and Slidell on board the *Trent*, an act received with something like ecstasy by Northern opinion, he behaved with great coolness in the midst of popular excitement. When the protest of the British government against such action arrived, it was the Secretary, this time somewhat against the opinion of the President, who decided that the protest must be heeded. The dispatch in which he conceded the surrender of the Southern commissioners is a masterpiece (*Works*, V, 295-309). Written with an eye to making palatable an act sure to be violently condemned by the hotheads in the United States, it flattered Northern opinion by its specious reasoning, and made the action appear as in accord with fundamental American traditions.

The possibility of European intervention in the Civil War Seward met, on the whole, with similar adroitness. The optimism of his dispatches, their profound self-confidence, and their array of facts, could hardly fail to make an impression. This tone, maintained through good fortune and bad, and coupled with warning after warning of the dangerous consequences of intervention, was, in general, just what the situation demanded. At times Seward was still a little bumptious, and his habit of publishing many of his dispatches was often irritating, but the general principle was sound. He could depend, too, on the tact and high diplomatic skill of Charles Francis Adams in interpreting his instructions. Seward made skilful use abroad of the question of slavery to check the anti-Northern agitation in France and England. On the Emancipation Proclamation he was at first conservative, because of his fear of its domestic consequences. When it was first discussed in July 1862, he urged Lincoln to postpone action, at least until a Federal victory (Nicolay and Hay, II, 479). But when the preliminary proclamation was issued after Antietam, he used it with great effect in his dispatches to Adams and W. L. Dayton.

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The danger of intervention seemed greatest in the fall of 1862 and the winter of 1863. At the end of October, the French government sought to secure joint action with Great Britain and Russia looking to an armistice. The proposal was rejected, and Seward wisely made no protest. But when the French directly proffered mediation early in 1863, Seward responded in one of his most effective dispatches (Feb. 6, 1863; *Senate Executive Document No. 38*, 37 Cong., 3 Sess., p. 11-16).

In his correspondence Seward adroitly defended the broad interpretation of continuous voyage in dispatches that suggest Sir Edward Grey's half a century later, and he protested vigorously against the outfitting of Confederate privateers in British ports. His steady pressure, combined with the skill of Adams, finally led the British government to take due precautions, in the case of the Laird rams, while his protests in the case of the *Alabama* laid the basis for solid pecuniary claims later. Nowhere was Seward more adroit than in his treatment of the French intervention in Mexico, and the establishment of Maximilian on a Mexican throne. From an early period he made the distaste of the United States for the whole project obvious; yet he suavely assumed the rumors of monarchy to be ill-founded as long as he could do so, and until the end of the war never let anything like menace enter into his tone. When the House of Representatives on Apr. 4, 1864, condemned the schemes of Louis Napoleon (*Congressional Globe*, 38 Cong., 1 Sess., p. 1408), Seward penned a masterly dispatch in which he soothed French susceptibilities, explaining that the opinion of the legislative branch of the government did not alter executive policy (Apr. 7, 1864, *Diplomatic Correspondence of the United States*, 1865, vol. III, 356-57). When the Civil War was over, there was much sentiment for vigorous action against the French. Seward handled this delicate situation magnificently. He temporized while he could; the situation of the French grew more and more difficult; and then in dispatches gradually mounting in tone he edged his adversary, Drouyn de Lhuys, from one position to another, until he finally secured the promise of the evacuation of Mexico in a fixed period of time. In the latter part of the correspondence Seward fell into his old habit of writing for domestic consumption; and the same may be said of his correspondence with Austria on the same subject; but the total effect of his activity is admirable.

Seward was, in temperament and conviction, an expansionist. During the 1850's this senti-

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ment came in conflict with his anti-slavery views, and led him to oppose such projects as the purchase of Cuba. But when the war was over the strong instinct revived. In 1867 he negotiated the cession of Alaska, and with the aid of Sumner secured the prompt ratification of the treaty by the Senate. He sought to acquire the two most important islands of the Danish West Indies; but this agreement was never ratified. He encouraged overtures from the Dominican Republic looking to incorporation in the United States, again unsuccessfully. In his instructions to the American minister at Honolulu he advocated the annexation of Hawaii. Seward's views were those which a later generation was to accept.

In domestic affairs Seward exercised a constant influence both on the Lincoln and the Johnson administrations. He had a large, indeed it may be said the chief, responsibility for the treatment of political prisoners at the beginning of the war, and contrary to his general temperament he here showed much rigor. He exercised, as has been seen, a positive influence on the policy of the administration with regard to the border states and emancipation. He performed heavy labors as a sort of political liaison officer, and his interest in problems of patronage, while not always wisely exerted, was continuous. In the Johnson administration he was a central figure. He advocated a conciliatory policy towards the South, wrote some of Johnson's most important veto messages, and supported the President in many speeches, making "the swing around the circle" with him in 1866. By doing so he lost both popularity and influence, and he valued both dearly; but whatever the reaction of the moment, the judgment of time has been that he was wiser than his opponents.

The burdens of his last four years at Washington Seward sustained in circumstances that would have daunted a man less tenacious and industrious. He had suffered serious injury in a carriage accident in the spring of 1865, and this had been followed by the brutal attack upon him in his house which was contemporaneous with the assassination of Lincoln; yet he was soon transacting the public business with as much skill and coolness as ever. At the end of his term of office, despite the fact that he was partially crippled, he went around the world, the first important American political figure to do so, and much enjoyed the enthusiasm which his visit evoked. He returned to Auburn in the autumn of 1871, and there increasing paralysis overtook him. He died on Oct. 10, 1872. On Oct. 20, 1824, he had married Frances Miller, the daughter of his law

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partner. A woman of liberal sympathies and humanitarian views, she undoubtedly influenced his later career, and especially his attitude toward slavery. They had three sons and two daughters, one of whom died in infancy. Frederick William Seward [q.v.] was closely associated with his father. A nephew, Clarence Armstrong Seward (Oct. 27, 1828-July 24, 1897), who became an orphan in childhood and was brought up in his uncle's family, served for a brief time in 1865 as assistant secretary of state and attained prominence as a corporation lawyer. His cousin, George Frederick Seward [q.v.], another nephew of William H. Seward, was launched upon his diplomatic career under the latter's influence.

In Seward the politician and the statesman are interestingly, and on the whole happily, commingled. It is easy to discover occasions on which he equivocated, as politicians do; it is easy to discover occasions on which he sought the applause of the multitude, not always careful of the consequences. Even in his diplomacy, and strikingly in his early utterances on questions of foreign affairs, this is true. Yet Seward chose his early political creed, it would appear, from conviction; he associated himself with definite policies, and loved to do so; much earlier than most anti-slavery leaders of the political stripe, he adopted that important cause; he often showed real courage in advocating it. He made serious blunders, and might have made more, in estimating the true value of the conflicting forces at the end of 1860 and the beginning of 1861 but his years at the State Department are years of steady growth, and of very creditable achievement, while his rôle in maintaining national morale must not be underestimated. He was the partisan of a wise policy of reconciliation when the war was over. The unswervingly independent mind has its uses in the world; but its possessor is not apt to succeed in politics. It may be fairly argued that Seward combined devotion to principle, and flexibility as to means, in such proportions as to make him most effective.

As a human being, few could have been more lovable. Cheerful, generous, loathing personal controversy, he had a wide range of interests and of sympathies. He read much and widely; he traveled extensively, going to Europe several times, and seeing a great deal of his own country. He was a little vain, and he had his political enemies; he is dwarfed by the master-spirit of his great chief; but, compared with the irascible Stanton, the pompous Sumner, the intriguing Chase, and many others, he looms up as one of the most attractive, as well as most important, figures in a critical period of American history.

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D. P.

# ARTICLE: Seward, William H.

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**William Henry Seward, b. Florida, N.Y., May 16, 1801, d. Oct. 10, 1872, was a Republican party leader and U.S. secretary of state (1861-69). After practicing law he entered New York politics and became a state senator (1830-34), the first Whig governor of New York (1838-42), and a U.S. senator (1849-61). He advocated internal improvements, prison reform, and the education of immigrants in their own languages by teachers of their own religious faiths.**

**Although he did not think blacks equal to whites, Seward was an outspoken opponent of slavery. In 1850 he advocated barring slavery from the territories by appealing to a "higher law than the Constitution." That year he also described sectional controversy as an "irrepressible conflict," thereby earning an unmerited reputation for radicalism.**

**Seward was the front-runner for the 1860 Republican presidential nomination but failed to attain it; many Republicans feared that his record of support for antislavery and Catholic rights did not have a broad enough appeal. Appointed secretary of state by his successful rival, President Abraham Lincoln, Seward succeeded in maintaining good relations with European nations during the Civil War and in preventing them from extending recognition to the Confederacy. After settling the TRENT AFFAIR amicably by releasing two Confederate agents who had been removed from a British ship, he convinced England that British recognition of the South would mean war. He waited until after the Confederate surrender before pressing strongly for French withdrawal from Mexico.**

**Lincoln came to trust Seward's advice on domestic questions, most notably in delaying the announcement of the Emancipation Proclamation until after the Union victory at Antietam in 1862. John Wilkes Booth included Seward as a target in the assassination plot that succeeded in killing Lincoln; although severely wounded, Seward survived. Continuing as secretary of state under Andrew Johnson, he backed the president against Radical Republican attacks. An expansionist, Seward purchased (1867) Alaska for the United States and favored the acquisition of the Danish West Indies (the Virgin Islands) and Hawaii.**

**Mark E. Neely, Jr.**

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**NOTE: *Though it is not mentioned in the above article William Seward lived a good deal***