



## HARRIET TUBMAN

(1820-1913)

Underground Railroad Abolitionist,  
Civil War Nurse, Hero

Perhaps the best-known figure associated with the Underground Railroad—freeing 300+ enslaved persons—Harriet Tubman moved to Auburn, NY, in 1859. New York was an active area for progressive thought, abolition, and women’s rights, where Tubman fought for human dignity until her death in 1913.

Learn more with the “Travel with Tubman” Virtual Planning Tool, an app offered through the National Park Service.

### THE HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

The Harriet Tubman Home is charged with sharing Harriet Tubman’s core values with visitors through a guided tour of the property. On January 10, 2017, the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park was established.



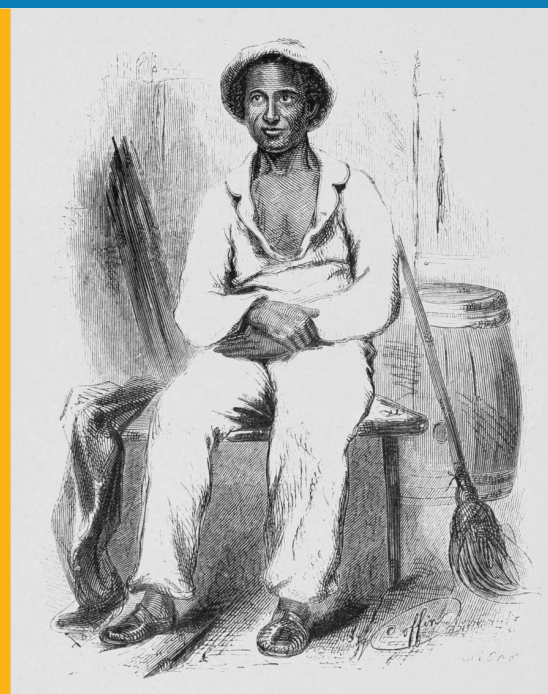
THE HARRIET TUBMAN JOURNEY TO FREEDOM STATUE  
(The Harriet Tubman National Historical Park, Auburn, NY)

## DID YOU KNOW...

The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 was passed by Congress on September 18, 1850. This act required that enslaved persons be returned to their enslavers, even if they were in a free state.

Prior to the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, African Americans—especially freedom seekers—were thought to be safe in New York, but that proved misleading.

Consequently, the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 was a major turning point—changing public opinion in the North against slavery.

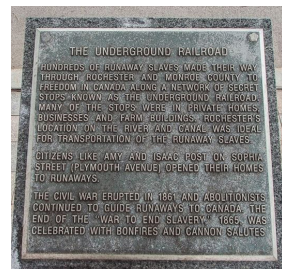


### TWELVE YEARS A SLAVE

Affected by this act—Solomon Northrup was born a free man. He was a resident of Saratoga County where he repaired and navigated the Champlain Canal. He was lured from Saratoga, kidnapped and sold into slavery for 12 years. After he was rescued, he would go on to write “Twelve Years a Slave.”

## HISTORICAL MARKERS ALONG THE CANAL

Look for Underground Railroad historical markers as you explore the Canal!



**Rochester, NY Markers**  
Find this Underground Railroad marker—and eight others nearby in Rochester, NY. It is at the intersection of West Main Street and North Plymouth Avenue on the right when traveling west on West Main Street.

**Solomon Northrup Marker in Saratoga Springs, NY**  
Author of “Twelve Years a Slave,” Solomon Northrup was born a free man. He was lured from Saratoga, kidnapped and sold into slavery in 1841, then rescued in 1853. Marker is in Saratoga Springs, New York.

### EXPLORE THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD ALONG THE BANKS OF THE CANAL CORRIDOR

**The National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum**  
5255 Pleasant Valley Road  
Peterboro, NY 13134

**Harriet Tubman National Historic Park**  
180 South Street  
Auburn, NY 13021

**Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Monument**  
5304 Oxbow Road  
Peterboro, NY 13134

**Seward House Museum**  
33 South Street  
Auburn, NY 13021

**Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center**  
825 Depot Avenue West  
Niagara Falls, NY 14305

**Equal Rights Heritage Center**  
25 South Street  
Auburn, NY 13021

**Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor Commission**  
111 Genesee Street, Suite 401  
Buffalo, NY 14203

**The Erie Canal Museum**  
318 Erie Boulevard East  
Syracuse, NY 13202

**Underground Railroad Educational Center**  
194 Livingston Avenue  
Albany, NY 12210



## VITAL PATHWAYS

In the early-to-mid-1800s, people were seeking new routes to financial gain and personal freedom.

The creation of the Erie Canal—connecting the East Coast to the West—would be an economic game-changer, not only for New Yorkers but all Americans.

African Americans, however, were not free everywhere. Many African Americans moved to cities along the Erie Canal in search of not only economic opportunity—but freedom, sometimes using the canal as an escape route.

Along with European and Native Americans, many African Americans assisted enslaved persons on the Underground Railroad in and around the canal corridor.

**LEARN MORE:** [www.canals.ny.gov/history](http://www.canals.ny.gov/history)

### Underground Railroad Tours

Take a self-guided walking tour!

**The Freethought Trail**  
Rochester, NY

**Frederick Douglass Sites**  
Rochester, NY

**Pathways of Resistance Tour**  
Syracuse, NY

**Trail to Freedom**  
Oneida, NY

FOR EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS ABOUT  
FREEDOM SEEKERS, ABOLITIONISTS AND  
THEIR CONNECTIONS TO THE CANAL, VISIT:

[canals.ny.gov/history](http://canals.ny.gov/history)

## MORE VOICES

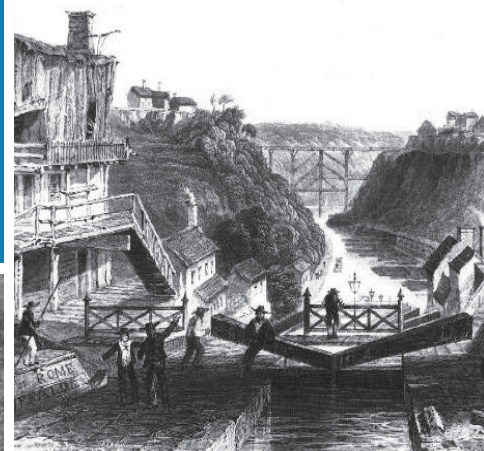
Untold Stories of Extraordinary African Americans and the Canal Corridor



Canal Corporation

[canals.ny.gov/history](http://canals.ny.gov/history)  
[info@canals.ny.gov](mailto:info@canals.ny.gov)

The Underground Railroad Consortium of New York State (URCNYS) is a coalition of organizations across New York State with programs and sites related to the Underground Railroad. Most of these key Underground Railroad sites are in the New York State canal corridor.



[canals.ny.gov/history](http://canals.ny.gov/history)



Canal Corporation



Canalway Trail



1. Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center
2. The Freedom Wall
3. Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor
4. Buffalo Niagara Freedom Station Coalition
5. University of Rochester Rush Rhees Library
6. The Former Site of the Douglass Family Farm
7. Original Site Where 'The North Star' was published
8. Site of Douglass' Funeral
9. The North Star & Frederick Douglass Paper published here
10. Near the site of Douglass' first home in Rochester
11. AKWAABA: The Heritage Associates
12. 1816 Farmington Quaker Meeting House
13. John W. Jones Museum
14. NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center
15. Harriet Tubman National Historic Site

16. Seward House Museum
17. Judith Wellman, Historian
18. Starr Clark Tin Shop & UGRR Museum
19. National Abolition Hall of Fame & Museum
20. James Mereness, Historic Marker at Ames Museum
21. Montgomery County Dept. of History & Archives
22. Green Hill Cemetery in Amsterdam
23. Calvary Church in Hagaman
24. Underground Railroad Project
25. The Stephen and Harriet Meyers Residence
26. John Brown Lives
27. North Star Underground Railroad Museum

## MAKING HISTORY AROUND THE CANAL CORRIDOR

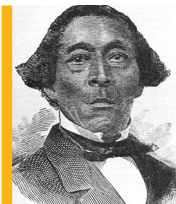


### GARNET DOUGLASS BALTIMORE

(1859-1946)

Landscape Engineer

Garnet Baltimore's most notable contribution was Prospect Park—an 84-acre park with a 25-mile view of the Hudson River—in Troy, NY. He also developed a system to test cement, later adopted by the state of New York and supervised the extension of the "mud lock" on the Oswego Canal.



### STEPHEN A. MYERS

(1859-1946)

Abolitionist, Leading Figure of the Underground Railroad

He was born in 1800 in Rensselaer County as an enslaved person and freed at eighteen. He lived at his wife Harriet's house two blocks away from the Erie Canal's docks. They were both active in the Underground Railroad and led the Vigilance Committee in Albany, New York. He was newspaper editor for these established papers Northern Star and Freeman's Advocate. At the time of his death, he was the oldest and most celebrated African American in the Albany area.

### PEYTON HARRIS (CA. 1791-1882)

Canal Boat Owner and Operator

In the 1830s Harris moved to Buffalo and became involved with the Erie Canal, owning and operating several boats. He was integral to the formation of the Michigan Street Baptist Church, a historic African American church.

### EDNA D. SMITH (CA. 1791-1882)

Canal Boat Owner and Operator

In 1836, the Lockport Female Anti-Slavery Society was founded, a smaller chapter of the larger New York State Anti-Slavery Society, where Smith was elected manager. She later married prominent canal engineer David Thomas who developed the Cayuga-Seneca Canal. Both were dedicated to equal rights and abolitionism.



### SOJOURNER TRUTH

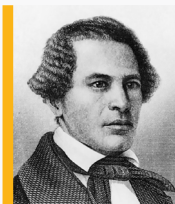
(CA. 1797 – 1883)

Suffragist, Outspoken Abolitionist

Bought and sold four times before she finally freed herself and her infant daughter in 1826, Sojourner Truth dedicated her life to helping enslaved people and women who had no rights. Find Sojourner Truth's 7-foot bronze statue at the Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park, minutes from the Empire State Trail.



THE SOJOURNER TRUTH MONUMENT STATUE (Ulster Welcome Center Plaza on the Highland side of Walkway over the Hudson)



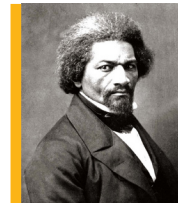
### WILLIAM WELLS BROWN

(CA. 1814-1884)

Abolition Lecturer, Novelist, Playwright, Historian, Steamboat Worker

Widely considered to have been the first African American to publish works in several major literary genres, Brown was known for his untiring political activism. At one point, he lived in Buffalo, NY and worked on a steamboat. He was able to help many enslaved people to safety.

By learning about African Americans who made meaningful contributions in and around the canal corridor, we can better understand the history and culture of our state and our nation. We invite you to plan a visit to a historic site along the canal and share the stories of those who helped shape our world.

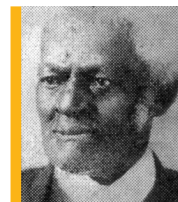


### FREDERICK DOUGLASS

(CA. 1817-1895)

Abolitionist, Orator, Publisher

The most prominent African American orator and anti-slavery leader of the 19th century, Douglass—once an enslaved person—lectured in the Michigan Street Baptist Church in Buffalo, NY. He embarked on a lecture tour to promote the Irish edition of his publication Narrative in Ireland. He also spent some time in Scotland and Wales. He returned to America in 1847 and founded The North Star newspaper in Rochester, NY.



### REVEREND THOMAS JAMES

(CA. 1804-1891)

Minister, Freight Operations Supervisor

James escaped slavery and followed the newly staked-out route of the Erie Canal via Lockport to Canada. He later returned to New York and oversaw the Hudson and Erie line's freight operations. In 1823, James built the first AME Zion church in Rochester. He went on to assist runaway enslaved persons on their journeys to Canada and helped form an anti-slavery society.



### JERMAIN WESLEY LOGUEN

(1813-1872)

"The king of the Underground Railroad"

Loguen operated a very large Underground Railroad station in Syracuse, NY. In 1863, Frederick Douglass and Loguen gave speeches in Rochester to recruit African Americans for the 54th Massachusetts—the first black regiment to see combat in the country. Most were boatmen: Black canal workers from the Erie Canal or sailors from Albany (Hudson River) and Buffalo (Lake Erie.)