

Who Was Harriet Tubman

Harriet Tubman's family

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Harriet Tubman (1822–1913) was an American abolitionist and political activist. Tubman escaped slavery and rescued approximately 70 enslaved people, including members of her family and friends. Harriet Tubman's family includes her birth family, her two husbands, John Tubman and Nelson Davis, and her adopted daughter, Gertie Davis.

Tubman's parents—Benjamin "Ben" Ross and Harriett "Rit" Gene Ross—were enslaved by two different families. Their lives came together when Mary Pattison Broadness, Rita's enslaver, married Anthony Thompson. Ben Ross, enslaved by Thompson, met and married Rit Greene. They lived together until about 1823 or 1824 when Rit and their children went to the Brodess farm. Ben was a timber estimator and foreman, and Rit was a domestic servant. After Ben was freed, he bought his wife's freedom. Ben was a conductor on the Underground Railroad, and enslavers became suspicious of his role in escapes in the area. Tubman, having freed other family members, rescued her parents. After a short period in St. Catharines in Ontario, Canada, Tubman and her parents settled in the Auburn, New York area.

Tubman married a free man, John Tubman, in 1844. In 1849, Tubman fled the area, believing she would be sold. She returned to the area to bring John Tubman north, but he had already married another woman. Tubman operated a boarding house out of her home in Auburn, and Nelson Davis boarded with her for three years before they were married in 1869. Davis fought during the American Civil War. They adopted a girl, Gertie, and operated several businesses out of their farm. They raised pigs and chickens, operating a farm selling eggs and butter.

Tubman made 13 trips to Maryland to bring back her brothers, parents, other family members, friends, and others. Tubman did not know of the whereabouts of her sisters, except Rachel, who was separated from her children and died before the family could be reunited. She did not have any biological children.

Harriet (film)

screenplay with Gregory Allen Howard. It stars Cynthia Erivo as abolitionist Harriet Tubman, with Leslie Odom Jr., Joe Alwyn, and Janelle Monáe in supporting roles

Harriet is a 2019 American biographical film directed by Kasi Lemmons, who also wrote the screenplay with Gregory Allen Howard. It stars Cynthia Erivo as abolitionist Harriet Tubman, with Leslie Odom Jr., Joe Alwyn, and Janelle Monáe in supporting roles.

The film received several accolades and nominations, particularly for Erivo's performance, which garnered her nominations at the Academy Awards, Golden Globes, and the Screen Actors Guild. For the song "Stand Up", Erivo and Joshua Brian Campbell received Oscar, Grammy and Golden Globe nominations.

Harriet Tubman

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people, including her family and friends, using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known collectively as the Underground Railroad. During the American Civil War, she served as an armed scout and spy for the Union Army. In her later years, Tubman was an activist in the movement for women's suffrage.

Born into slavery in Dorchester County, Maryland, Tubman was beaten and whipped by enslavers as a child. Early in life, she suffered a traumatic head wound when an irate overseer threw a heavy metal weight, intending to hit another slave, but hit her instead. The injury caused dizziness, pain, and spells of hypersomnia, which occurred throughout her life. After her injury, Tubman began experiencing strange visions and vivid dreams, which she ascribed to premonitions from God. These experiences, combined with her Methodist upbringing, led her to become devoutly religious.

In 1849, Tubman escaped to Philadelphia, only to return to Maryland to rescue her family soon after. Slowly, one group at a time, she brought relatives with her out of the state, and eventually guided dozens of other enslaved people to freedom. Tubman (or "Moses", as she was called) travelled by night and in extreme secrecy, and later said she "never lost a passenger". After the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 was passed, she helped guide escapees farther north into British North America (Canada), and helped newly freed people find work. Tubman met John Brown in 1858, and helped him plan and recruit supporters for his 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry.

When the Civil War began, Tubman worked for the Union Army, first as a cook and nurse, and then as an armed scout and spy. For her guidance of the raid at Combahee Ferry, which liberated more than 700 enslaved people, she is widely credited as the first woman to lead an armed military operation in the United States. After the war, she retired to the family home on property she had purchased in 1859 in Auburn, New York, where she cared for her aging parents. She was active in the women's suffrage movement until illness overtook her and was admitted to a home for elderly African Americans, which she had helped establish years earlier. Tubman is commonly viewed as an icon of courage and freedom.

Harriet Tubman National Historical Park

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Harriet Tubman National Historical Park is a US historical park in Auburn and Fleming, New York. Associated with the life of Harriet Tubman, it has three properties: the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged, in Auburn; the nearby Harriet Tubman Residence, just across the city/town line in Fleming; and the Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church and parsonage in Auburn. They are located at 180 and 182 South Street and 47–49 Parker Street, respectively. The A.M.E. Zion Church unit is administered by the National Park Service (NPS), and the South Street properties, including a historic barn and a visitor center, are jointly managed and operated by both the NPS and the Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. The church also works with the NPS in park operations. The Harriet Tubman Grave, in nearby Fort Hill Cemetery, is not part of the park.

The group of properties also makes up a National Historic Landmark, with the first parcel being declared in 1974 and two others added in 2001.

Tubman was a major conductor on the Underground Railroad and was known as the "Moses of her people." She moved to Auburn with her parents after she had spent eight to ten years in St. Catharines, Ontario. She continued working as a suffragist and worked all her life to care for others who were unable to care for themselves.

The Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged is the house in which she fulfilled her dream of opening a home for poor and elderly African Americans. In 1911, she was admitted there herself, and she remained there until her death in 1913.

The Harriet Tubman Residence was Tubman's home during much of the time that she lived in Auburn, from 1859 to 1913. The land was sold to her in 1859 by the politician William H. Seward.

Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church is the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in which Harriet Tubman attended services. Later in her life, she deeded the Home for the Aged to the church for it to manage after her death.

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park

former enslaved Harriet Tubman, who became an activist in the Underground Railroad prior to the American Civil War. The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park is a 480-acre (190 ha) National Park Service unit in the U.S. state of Maryland. It commemorates the life of former enslaved Harriet Tubman, who became an activist in the Underground Railroad prior to the American Civil War. The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument was created by President Barack Obama under the Antiquities Act on March 25, 2013. The portion of the monument administered by the National Park Service was later designated a National Historical Park in 2014, and the remainder is managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service as part of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.

Harriet Tubman Grave

Harriet Tubman, who was born into slavery in Maryland in the United States in 1822. The gravestone marker is approximately three feet tall, and was erected

Harriet Tubman Grave is a historic gravesite located in Fort Hill Cemetery at Auburn, in Cayuga County, New York. The granite gravestone marks the resting place of famed African-American abolitionist and Christian Harriet Tubman, who was born into slavery in Maryland in the United States in 1822.

The gravestone marker is approximately three feet tall, and was erected in 1937 by the Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs. The original marker from 1915 was sponsored by the Harriet Tubman Neighborhood Club out of New York, New York. Marie Jackson Stuart was the president of this women's club and designed the original marker.

It is carved with the name "Harriet Tubman Davis (1820–1913)" on the front. On the back is an inscription commemorating Tubman's work with the Underground Railroad and her role as scout and nurse during the Civil War. The religious faith that marked all her activities is noted with the inscription "Servant of God, Well Done." The gravesite is located on Fort Hill Cemetery's "West Lawn C", beneath a large tree, with two small bushes on each side of her headstone.

Harriet Tubman's grave is the focus of an annual pilgrimage by the Thompson AME Zion Church to commemorate her life and work.

The gravesite was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1999.

Legacy of Harriet Tubman

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Widely known and well-respected while she was alive, Tubman became an American icon in the years after she died. A survey at the end of the 20th century named her as one of the most famous civilians in American history before the Civil War, third only to Betsy Ross and Paul Revere. She inspired generations of African Americans struggling for equality and civil rights; she was praised by leaders across the political spectrum.

Harriet Tubman Square

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Harriet Tubman Square (formerly known as Washington Park) is a city square in Downtown Newark, New Jersey.

It is the northernmost of the three colonial era downtown parks in the city, along with Lincoln Park and Military Park. The triangular park is bounded by Broad Street, Washington Street, and Washington Place at the end of Halsey Street. It is home to several public monuments and is surrounded by historic civic and commercial buildings. In a ceremony on Juneteenth 2022, the city re-named the park in honor of Harriet Tubman.

Harriet Tubman's birthplace

Harriet Tubman's birthplace is in Dorchester County, Maryland. Araminta Ross, the daughter of Benjamin (Ben) and Harriet (Rit) Greene Ross, was born into

Harriet Tubman's birthplace is in Dorchester County, Maryland. Araminta Ross, the daughter of Benjamin (Ben) and Harriet (Rit) Greene Ross, was born into slavery in 1822 in her father's cabin. It was located on the farm of Anthony Thompson at Peter's Neck, at the end of Harrisville Road, which is now part of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.

After a few years, she lived on the Brodess farm with her mother and siblings. In the early 1840s, her father was emancipated and received 10 acres of land following Anthony Johnson's death. She was married in 1844 to John Tubman, at the same time, she changed her given name, becoming Harriet Tubman. Realizing she was to be sold following her enslaver's death, Tubman escaped in 1849, when she was 27 years of age. A conductor on the Underground Railroad, she made 13 return trips over 10 years to lead her parents, siblings, and friends to freedom.

In March 2021, archaeologists excavated what they determined to be the site of Ben Ross's cabin. They found artifacts from the 1800s, including broken dishware, glass, a button, and nails. In April 2021, it was said that the site was to be added to the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Scenic Byway. It is a scenic drive with more than 30 stops over 125 miles.

Cynthia Erivo

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Cynthia Chinasaokwu Onyedimanasu Amarachukwu Owezuke Echimino Erivo (?-REE-voh; born 8 January 1987) is a British actress and singer. Known for her work on both stage and screen, she is the recipient of several accolades and one of few individuals nominated for an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar, and a Tony Award (EGOT), winning all but the Oscar.

Erivo made her West End debut in the stage musical *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (2011). She later made her Broadway debut playing Celie in the musical revival of *The Color Purple* (2015–2017). Erivo's work for the production won her the Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical and Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album, as well as a Daytime Emmy Award. She expanded to films in 2018 with the crime thrillers *Widows* and *Bad Times at the El Royale*. Erivo earned nominations for the Academy Award for Best Actress for portraying Harriet Tubman in *Harriet* (2019) and Elphaba in *Wicked* (2024), as well as a nomination for Best Original Song for the song "Stand Up" from the former.

On television, Erivo portrayed Holly Gibney in the HBO crime drama miniseries *The Outsider* (2020) and Aretha Franklin in National Geographic's anthology series *Genius: Aretha* (2021); the latter earned her a nomination for the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie. As a singer, she has released singles as well as two solo albums in 2021 and 2025.

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