



Tubman (far left) poses for a photograph with her family and neighbors in Auburn, N.Y.

Continued Struggle

When the war ended in 1865, Tubman returned to Auburn to live with her parents and siblings. Although she struggled financially, Tubman opened her home to people in need. Her former husband, John Tubman, was gunned down in 1867 by a white man in Maryland. She then married Nelson Davis, a veteran of Civil War from the U.S. Colored Troops, the black soldiers of the U.S. Army.

Tubman, who had survived slavery, illness, heartbreak, and even battle, experienced hardship in her later life. Even with the help of powerful friends like William Seward, it took 30 years for Tubman to receive payment for her wartime services from the U.S. Army. She also struggled to receive widow's benefits when Nelson Davis died.

In 1896, Tubman bought the land where she and Nelson had lived to create a home for aging, poor African Americans. With only a \$20 per month pension, she could not afford upkeep of the property. She donated the land to the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. The Harriet Tubman Home officially opened in 1908.

In the meantime, Tubman became active in the women's suffrage, or voting rights, movement alongside

Susan B. Anthony and others. As a war hero, Tubman stood as an example of equality between women and men. She spoke at suffrage meetings throughout the Eastern states and also used her respected status to continue speaking out for equality for African Americans.

Former slave and influential abolitionist Frederick Douglass admired her greatly and wrote about her. After lengthy bouts with illness, Tubman died in 1913. Prominent African American reformer

Booker T. Washington gave the eulogy at her funeral.

During her lifetime, she had become widely known. In 1869, a biography of her sold well. Though criticized for inaccuracies, the book spread her fame, and she was invited many places to speak about her experiences with the Underground Railroad and the war. Many biographies have been written since. Although for a period after her death, her story lapsed into obscurity, it has since risen into the stuff of legend.

DISCUSSION AND WRITING

1. Why do you think it was called the Underground Railroad?
2. What was the Fugitive Slave Law? What effects did it have on the Underground Railroad?
3. What made Harriet Tubman an unlikely person to be a leader? What do you think motivated her? Explain.
4. Tubman made many decisions in her life. Which do you think was the bravest? Which do you think was the most questionable? Explain your answers.

ACTIVITY

The Traits of Leadership

Harriet Tubman was a great leader. In this activity, students discuss what makes a great leader and evaluate Tubman's leadership qualities.

1. Form small groups.
2. Each group should:
 - a. Discuss traits that leaders should have.
 - b. Choose the five most essential traits of a leader.
 - c. Evaluate Harriet Tubman's leadership based on these five traits.
 - d. Discuss what other leadership traits Tubman possessed.
 - e. Be prepared to report your conclusions and reasons for them to the class.
3. Call on groups to report their conclusions and hold a class discussion on the traits of leadership.



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