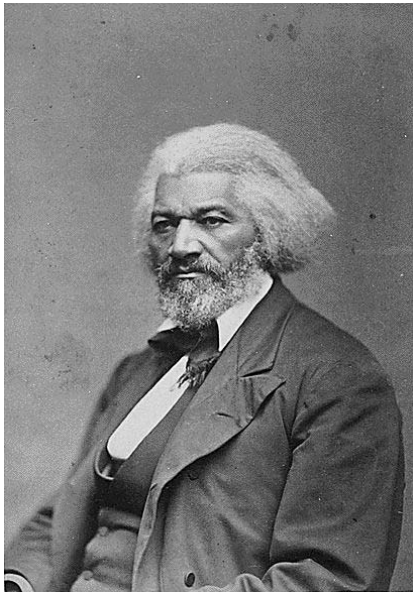


## THE ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENT

Many slaves often heard stories about freedom in the north and Canada. In the early 1800s, many of the northern states were campaigning against the immorality of slavery. Strong coalitions were being formed that consisted of free Black and White people. One of the first of these societies was the American Anti-Slavery Society, established by 1833.

As the nation learnt more about the slavery situation in the South, many more prominent black leaders began to join this organization. Among them were notable people in American history such as Frederick Douglass, Highland Garnet, David Walker, James Forten, Sarah Parker Remond, Charles Lenox Remond, Sojourner Truth, William Whipper, Harriet Tubman, David Ruggles, William C. Nell, Robert Purvis, and Martin R. Delany.



Frederick Douglass



Sojourner Truth

Many whites led the cause for the abolitionist movement. The most noted were: Theodore D. Weld, Lewis Tappan and Arthur Tappan, William Lloyd Garrison, Levi Coffin, Charles G. Finney, Wendell Phillips, Lucretia Mott, James Birney, and James Miller McKim.

The goal of the American Anti-Slavery Society was to campaign for and achieve the complete abolition of slavery everywhere in the United States. To achieve their goal, they used every conceivable method, including politics and moral persuasion.

## THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Many of the abolitionists endorsed a secret movement that had formed that helped the African slaves escape to freedom. The Underground Railroad was created to help these slaves escape to the north and Canada. It created a series of hidden routes and trails that the slaves used at night. To navigate they followed the bright north star. In addition there were safe houses, known as "stations" - where a light in the window would be an indicator of a slave hideaway.

Some slaves were hidden in barns or behind secret wall passages in these homes. The leader who knew the way was called the "conductor." The "station masters" were in most cases free people of color or wealthy white benefactors who provided food, shelter, or money along the way for the escaping runaways.

The most skilled and successful "conductor" of the Underground Railroad was Harriet Tubman. She was credited with leading over 300 runaways to freedom. Amazingly, in order to assist these people, she had to make a total of 19 trips through the south. It was later stated that she never lost a "passenger" on these risky escape routes.



Harriet Tubman

The Underground Railroad, from 1800 up until the end of 1865, assisted more than 40,000 slaves to freedom up north and into Canada. Raymond Bial's book, *The Underground Railroad*, published in 1995, depicted the essence both in text and with superb pictures of those mystical hidden passageways which made up the Underground Railroad.



## HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896) became one of the best known abolitionists in America. She wrote a book that was based on the life of a runaway slave named Josiah Henson. This narrative, once completed by Stowe, was called *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

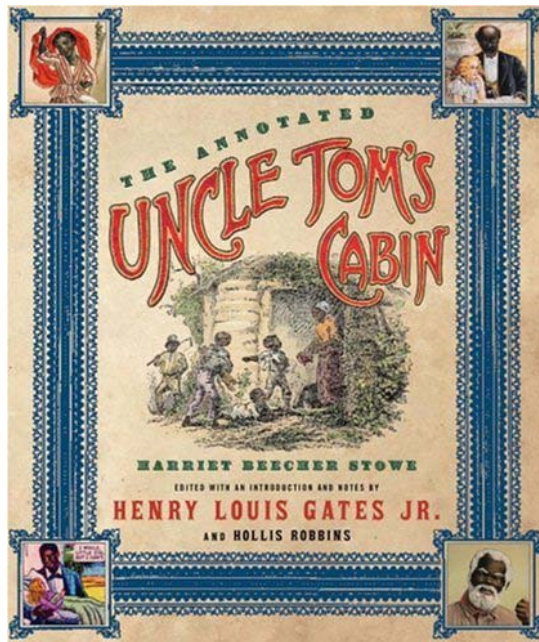
Her serialized publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* first appeared in the *National Era* weekly newspaper, starting June 2, 1851. It was originally printed as a serialized publication; only parts of Henson's story were published at a time. It became so popular that in 1851, she decided to do a completed version of his story. The book was written, finished and then published in March, 1852.

The first printing of the book was for 5,000 copies. They sold out in the first week that the book was sold in Boston, Massachusetts. The demand for *Uncle Tom's Cabin* quickly took hold, and by the summer of 1852 ended, Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel had earned her over \$10,000 in royalties.

Another production of over 300,000 copies of the book took place that year. Several translations were made into differently languages, and suddenly the world community knew about the cruel and inhumane treatment of enslaved blacks in America.



Harriet Beecher Stowe



The original cover to *Uncle Tom's Cabin*