

Celebrate Women's History

Harriet Tubman

(c.1822 –1913)



Harriet Tubman was an African-American abolitionist, humanitarian and Union spy during the American Civil War. In the post-Civil War era, Tubman also participated in the women's suffrage movement.

Tubman escaped from slavery in 1849. Four years later, she led a series of rescue missions to free enslaved family and friends using the Underground Railroad, a network of safe houses and antislavery activists. Tubman also helped abolitionist John Brown recruit men for his 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry in Virginia. Abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison termed Tubman the “Moses” of her people, an analogy to the biblical prophet who led the enslaved Israelites to freedom.