

# Harriet Beecher Stowe

## Biography



- **Occupation:** Author
- **Born:** June 14, 1811 in Litchfield, Connecticut
- **Died:** July 1, 1896 in Hartford, Connecticut
- **Best known for:** Writing the book *Uncle Tom's Cabin* about slavery

### **Biography: Where did Harriet Beecher Stowe grow up?**

Harriet was born on June 14, 1811 in Litchfield, Connecticut. She grew up in a big family with five brothers and three sisters. Her mother died from tuberculosis when Harriet was just five years old. Her father, Lyman, was a minister who wanted all of his sons to be ministers as well.

Harriet loved to read as a child. One of her favorite books was *The Arabian Nights*. She went to school at the Hartford Female Seminary where her older sister Catharine worked. Eventually, Harriet began to teach at the school as well.

### **Moving to Ohio and Getting Married**

In 1832 Harriet and her family moved to Cincinnati, Ohio where her father became president of the Lane Theological Seminary. Harriet got another job teaching and began to write professionally.

Harriet became close friends with Eliza and Calvin Stowe. Eliza became one of her closest friends, but soon became sick and died. After Eliza's death, Harriet and Calvin fell in love and married in 1836. They eventually had seven children together including four boys and three girls.

## Learning About Slavery

Growing up in Connecticut, Harriet had little contact or knowledge with the reality of slavery in the Southern part of the United States. However, Cincinnati, Ohio was just across the river from Kentucky where slavery was legal. Harriet began to see first hand how poorly slaves were treated. The more she learned, the more horrified she became.

## Uncle Tom's Cabin

In 1851, Harriet began writing a story about slavery. She wanted to help people in the North to understand better the realities of slavery. Initially, a new portion of the story came out each week in a newspaper called the National Era. The story became very popular and the installments were published as an entire book called *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in 1852.

## The Story

*Uncle Tom's Cabin* told the story about a kind slave named Tom. Tom is sold a few times between masters until he ends up being owned by plantation owner Simon Legree. Simon Legree is an evil man who likes to beat his slaves. Tom's kindness toward his fellow slaves only makes Simon angrier. When two women slaves escape, Simon tries to force Tom to tell him where they went. Tom refuses and is eventually beaten to death by Simon.

## Reaction

The book became a national best seller. It was not only popular in the United States, but also around the world. People in the North who had not really thought about slavery before, began to understand just how horrible it was. Many people joined the abolitionist movement as a result of reading the book. They wanted slavery outlawed throughout the United States.

## The Civil War

Although there were many issues and causes to the Civil War, there is no doubt that *Uncle Tom's Cabin* educated people on the horrors of slavery and had an impact in helping Abraham Lincoln get elected. It was certainly one of the causes that led to the Civil War.

## Interesting Facts About Harriet Beecher Stowe

- Harriet met President Abraham Lincoln in 1862. Upon meeting her, Lincoln remarked "so this is the little lady who made this big war."
- When writing *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Harriet did her own research visiting a plantation with slaves. She also met with former slaves and had them verify that the events in her story were accurate and realistic.
- After people in the South said that the story was inaccurate, Harriet wrote a book called *A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin* where she documented the real events that occurred on which her story was based.
- The term "Uncle Tom" has become an epithet meaning someone who "sells out" against their own people in order to help themselves. The Uncle Tom in the book is

not like this at all. He is a hero in many ways. However, the story of Uncle Tom got twisted in plays and movies until the name "Uncle Tom" became an insult.

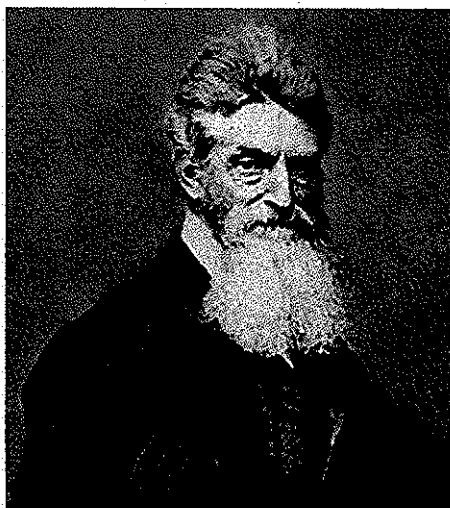
*Harriet Beacher Stowe*

*"The writer has given only a faint shadow, a dim picture, of the anguish and despair that are, at this very moment, riving thousands of hearts, shattering thousands of families, and driving a helpless and sensitive race to frenzy and despair. There are those living who know the mothers whom this accursed traffic has driven to the murder of their children; and themselves seeking in death a shelter from woes more dreaded than death ... "And you, mothers of America ... I beseech you, pity the mother who has all your affections, and not one legal right to protect, guide, or educate, the child of her bosom! ... I beseech you, pity those mothers that are constantly made childless by the American slave-trade! And say, mothers of America, is this a thing to be defended, sympathized with, passed over in silence? Do you say that the people of the free state have nothing to do with it, and can do nothing? Would to God this were true! But it is not true. The people of the free states have defended, encouraged, and participated; and are more guilty for it, before God, than the South, in that they have not the apology of education or custom. "If the mothers of the free states had all felt as they should, in times past, the sons of the free states would not have been the holders, and, proverbially, the hardest masters of slaves ... "... You pray for the heathen abroad; pray also for the heathen at home. And pray for those distressed Christians whose whole chance of religious improvement is an accident of trade and sale; from whom any adherence to the morals of Christianity is, in many cases, an impossibility, unless they have given them, from above, the courage and grace of martyrdom."*

- I wrote what I did because as a woman, as a mother I was oppressed and broken-hearted, with the sorrows and injustice I saw, because as a Christian I felt the dishonor to Christianity — because as a lover of my country I trembled at the coming day of wrath. It is no merit in the sorrowful that they weep, or to the oppressed and smothering that they gasp and struggle, not to me, that I must speak for the oppressed — who cannot speak for themselves.
  - On *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in a letter to Lord Denman (20 January 1853).

# John Brown and the Harpers Ferry Raid

In 1859, around a year and a half before the start of the Civil War, abolitionist John Brown tried to lead a slave uprising in Virginia. His efforts cost him his life, but his cause lived on when the slaves were set free six years later.



John Brown

## Abolitionist John Brown

John Brown was an abolitionist. This means that he wanted to abolish slavery. John tried to help black people who had escaped from slavery in the South. He became passionate about ending slavery once and for all. He also became frustrated with the peaceful nature of the abolitionist movement. John felt that slavery was a horrible crime and that he should use any means necessary to put an end to it, including violence.

## A War to End Slavery

After many years of protesting slavery, John Brown came up with a radical plan to put an end to slavery in the South once and for all. He believed that if he could organize and arm the slaves in the South, they would revolt and gain their freedom. After all, there were around 4 million slaves in the South. If all the slaves revolted at once, they could easily gain their freedom.

## Planning the War

In 1859, Brown began to plan his slave rebellion. He would first take over the federal weapons arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. There were thousands and thousands of muskets and other weapons being stored at Harpers Ferry. If Brown could get control of these weapons, he could arm the slaves and they could begin to fight back.

## **Raid on Harpers Ferry Arsenal**

On October 16, 1859 Brown gathered his small force together for the initial raid. There were 21 total men who participated in the raid: 16 white men, three free black men, one freed slave, and one fugitive slave.

The initial part of the raid was successful. Brown and his men captured the arsenal that night. However, Brown had planned on the local slaves coming to his aid. He expected that, once he had control of the weapons, hundreds of local slaves would join in the fight. This never happened.

Brown and his men were soon surrounded by the local townspeople and militia. Some of Brown's men were killed and they moved to a small engine house that is today known as John Brown's Fort.

### **Captured**

On October 18, two days after the start of the raid, a group of marines led by Colonel Robert E. Lee arrived. They offered Brown and his men the opportunity to surrender, but Brown refused. Then they attacked. They quickly broke down the door and subdued the men inside the building. Many of Brown's men were killed, but Brown survived and was taken prisoner.

### **Hanging**

Brown and four of his men were convicted of treason and were hanged to death on December 2, 1859.

### **Results**

Despite the quick failure of Brown's planned slave revolt, Brown became a martyr for the abolitionists' cause. His story became famous throughout the United States. Although many in the North didn't agree with his violent actions, they did agree with his belief that slavery should be abolished. It would be less than a year later that the Civil War would begin.

### **Facts About Harpers Ferry and John Brown**

- Brown was involved in the "Bleeding Kansas" violence when he and his sons killed five settlers in Kansas who were for legalizing slavery in the state.
- Brown tried to get abolitionist leader and former slave Frederick Douglass to participate in the raid, but Douglass felt the raid was a suicide mission and declined.
- Harpers Ferry was in the state of Virginia at the time of the raid, but today it is in the state of West Virginia.
- Ten of Brown's men were killed during the raid. One US Marine and 6 civilians were killed by Brown and his men.
- Two of John Brown's sons were killed in the raid. A third son was captured and was hanged to death.

- John Brown was a man of action -- a man who would not be deterred from his mission of abolishing slavery. On October 16, 1859, he led 21 men on a raid of the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. His plan to arm slaves with the weapons he and his men seized from the arsenal was thwarted, however, by local farmers, militiamen, and Marines led by Robert E. Lee. Within 36 hours of the attack, most of Brown's men had been killed or captured.

John Brown was born into a deeply religious family in Torrington, Connecticut, in 1800. Led by a father who was vehemently opposed to slavery, the family moved to northern Ohio when John was five, to a district that would become known for its antislavery views.

During his first fifty years, Brown moved about the country, settling in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and New York, and taking along his ever-growing family. (He would father twenty children.) Working at various times as a farmer, wool merchant, tanner, and land speculator, he never was financially successful -- he even filed for bankruptcy when in his forties. His lack of funds, however, did not keep him from supporting causes he believed in. He helped finance the publication of David Walker's Appeal and Henry Highland's "Call to Rebellion" speech. He gave land to fugitive slaves. He and his wife agreed to raise a black youth as one of their own. He also participated in the Underground Railroad and, in 1851, helped establish the League of Gileadites, an organization that worked to protect escaped slaves from slave catchers.

In 1847 Frederick Douglass met Brown for the first time in Springfield, Massachusetts. Of the meeting Douglass stated that, "though a white gentleman, [Brown] is in sympathy a black man, and as deeply interested in our cause, as though his own soul had been pierced with the iron of slavery." It was at this meeting that Brown first outlined his plan to Douglass to lead a war to free slaves.

Brown moved to the black community of North Elba, New York, in 1849. The community had been established thanks to the philanthropy of Gerrit Smith, who donated tracts of at least 50 acres to black families willing to clear and farm the land. Brown, knowing that many of the families were finding life in this isolated area difficult, offered to establish his own farm there as well, in order to lead the blacks by his example and to act as a "kind father to them."

Despite his contributions to the antislavery cause, Brown did not emerge as a figure of major significance until 1855 after he followed five of his sons to the Kansas territory. There, he became the leader of antislavery guerillas and fought a proslavery attack against the antislavery town of Lawrence. The following year, in retribution for another attack, Brown went to a proslavery town and brutally killed five of its settlers. Brown and his sons would continue to fight in the territory and in Missouri for the rest of the year.

Brown returned to the east and began to think more seriously about his plan for a war in Virginia against slavery. He sought money to fund an "army" he would lead. On October 16, 1859, he set his plan to action when he and 21 other men -- 5 blacks and 16 whites --

raided the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry.

Brown was wounded and quickly captured, and moved to Charlestown, Virginia, where he was tried and convicted of treason. Before hearing his sentence, Brown was allowed make an address to the court.

... I believe to have interfered as I have done, ... in behalf of His despised poor, was not wrong, but right. Now, if it be deemed necessary that I should forfeit my life for the furtherance of the ends of justice, and mingle my blood further with the blood of my children, and with the blood of millions in this slave country whose rights are disregarded by wicked, cruel, and unjust enactments, I submit: so let it be done."

Although initially shocked by Brown's exploits, many Northerners began to speak favorably of the militant abolitionist. "He did not recognize unjust human laws, but resisted them as he was bid. . . .," said Henry David Thoreau in an address to the citizens of Concord, Massachusetts. "No man in America has ever stood up so persistently and effectively for the dignity of human nature. . . ."

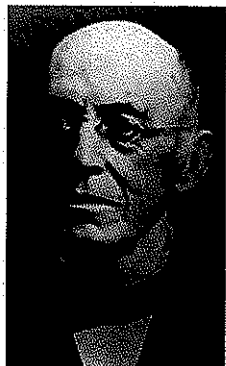
John Brown was hanged on December 2, 1859

- In the first place, I deny everything but what I have all along admitted, the design on my part to free the slaves... [The Bible] teaches me that all things **whatsoever I would that men should do to me, I should do even so to them**. It teaches me, further, to "remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them."... I believe that to have interfered as I have done as I have always freely admitted I have done in behalf of His despised poor, was not wrong, but right.
  - Speech to the Court at his Trial, after his conviction, 2 November 1859
- "Whereas, Slavery, throughout its entire existence in the United States is none other than a most barbarous, unprovoked, and unjustifiable War of one portion of its citizens upon another portion; the only conditions of which are perpetual imprisonment, and hopeless servitude or absolute extermination; in utter disregard and violation of those eternal and self-evident truths set forth in our Declaration of Independence:"
- John Brown, 1858

People & Events

## William Lloyd Garrison

1805 - 1879



In the very first issue of his anti-slavery newspaper, the *Liberator*, William Lloyd Garrison stated, "I do not wish to think, or speak, or write, with moderation. . . . I am in earnest -- I will not equivocate -- I will not excuse -- I will not retreat a single inch -- AND I WILL BE HEARD." And Garrison was heard. For more than three decades, from the first issue of his weekly paper in 1831, until after the end of the Civil War in 1865 when the last issue was published, Garrison spoke out eloquently and passionately against slavery and for the rights of America's black inhabitants.

The son of a merchant sailing master, William Lloyd Garrison was born in Newburyport, Massachusetts, in 1805. Due in large measure to the Embargo Act, which Congress had passed in 1807, the Garrison family fell on hard times while William was still young. In 1808 William's father deserted the family, forcing them to scrounge for food from more prosperous families and forcing William to work, selling homemade molasses candy and delivering wood.

In 1818, after suffering through various apprenticeships, Garrison began work for the Newburyport Herald as a writer and editor. This job and subsequent newspaper jobs would give the young Garrison the skills he would utilize so expertly when he later published his own paper.

When he was 25, Garrison joined the Abolition movement. He became associated with the American Colonization Society, an organization that believed free blacks should emigrate to a territory on the west coast of Africa. At first glance the society seemed to promote the freedom and happiness of blacks. There certainly were members who encouraged the manumission (granting of freedom) to slaves. However, it turned out that the number of members advocating manumission constituted a minority. Most members had no wish to free slaves; their goal was only to reduce the numbers of free blacks in the country and thus help preserve the institution of slavery.

By 1830 Garrison had rejected the programs of the American Colonization Society. By this time he had worked as co-editor of an antislavery paper started by Benjamin Lundy in Maryland, *The Genius of Universal*



*Emancipation*. And on January 1, 1831, he published the first issue of his own anti-slavery newspaper, the *Liberator*.

In speaking engagements and through the *Liberator* and other publications, Garrison advocated the immediate emancipation of all slaves. This was an unpopular view during the 1830s, even with northerners who were against slavery. What would become of all the freed slaves? Certainly they could not assimilate into American society, they thought. Garrison believed that they could assimilate. He believed that, in time, all blacks would be equal in every way to the country's white citizens. They, too, were Americans and entitled to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Though circulation of the *Liberator* was relatively limited -- there were less than 400 subscriptions during the paper's second year -- Garrison soon gained a reputation for being the most radical of abolitionists. Still, his approach to emancipation stressed nonviolence and passive resistance, and he did attract a following. In 1832 he helped organize the New England Anti-Slavery Society, and, the following year, the American Anti-Slavery Society. These were the first organizations dedicated to promoting immediate emancipation.

Garrison was unyielding and steadfast in his beliefs. He believed that the the Anti-Slavery Society should not align itself with any political party. He believed that women should be allowed to participate in the Anti-Slavery Society. He believed that the U.S. Constitution was a pro-slavery document. Many within the Society differed with these positions, however, and in 1840 there was a major rift in the Society which resulted in the founding of two additional organizations: the Liberty Party, a political organization, and the American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, which did not admit women. Later, in 1851, the once devoted and admiring Frederick Douglass stated his belief that the Constitution could be used as a weapon against slavery. Garrison, feeling betrayed, attacked Douglass through his paper. Douglass responded, and the attacks intensified. Garrison and Douglass would never reconcile their differences.

Although Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was a government decree, Garrison supported it wholeheartedly. After the end of the Civil War in 1865, Garrison published his last issue of the *Liberator*. After thirty five years and 1,820 issues, Garrison did not fail to publish a single issue.

## William Lloyd Garrison (1805-1879)

by Karen Board Moran, 3/26/2005

A dedicated journalist and a zealous reformer, Garrison launched *The Liberator* from Boston on New Years Day, 1831 with "I am in earnest—I will not equivocate—I will not excuse—I will not retreat a single inch—and *I will be heard.*"

Pledged to the immediate emancipation of the nation's slaves, Garrison founded the New England Anti-Slavery Society in 1832 and the American Anti-Slavery Society in 1833 to carry out this difficult task.

Garrison inspired Worcester County reformers Abby Kelley Foster and Lucy Stone and supported the equal participation of women in the anti-slavery movement.

Garrison helped promote the first National Woman's Rights Convention held in Worcester, MA in 1850.

- Born December 12, 1805 in Newburyport, MA
- Died May 24, 1879 in New York City
- Buried in Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston, MA.
- Education: Apprenticed at 13 to a printer in the *Newburyport Herald* where he became an expert compositor and began writing anonymous articles.
- Married Helen Eliza Benson (1811-1876) of Brooklyn, CT on September 4, 1834
- Children: "Dordie" George Thompson (1836- ); William Lloyd, Jr. (1838-1909); Wendell Phillips (1840-1907); Charles Follen (1842 -1849); "Fanny" Helen Frances (1844-1928); Elizabeth Pease (1846-1848); Francis Jackson (1848-1916);
- Publication of *The Liberator* ended in 1865 with the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- In his later years he continued to press for prohibition, woman suffrage, better treatment of Indians, and other reforms.

Are right and wrong convertible terms, dependant upon popular opinion?

The success of any great moral enterprise does not depend upon numbers.

**I will say, finally, that I despair of the republic while slavery exists therein.** If I look up to God for success, no smile of mercy or forgiveness dispels the gloom of futurity; if to our own resources, they are daily diminishing; if to all history, our destruction is not only possible, but almost certain. Why should we slumber at this momentous crisis? If our hearts were dead to every throb of humanity; if it were lawful to oppress, where power is ample; still, if we had any regard for our safety and happiness, we should strive to crush the Vampire which is feeding upon our life-blood. All the selfishness of our nature cries aloud for a better security. Our own vices are too strong for us, and keep us in perpetual alarm; how, in addition to these, shall we be able to contend successfully with millions of armed and desperate men, as we must eventually, if slavery do not cease?

"I thank you for your letter of the 31<sup>st</sup> ult., and for the conciliatory spirit expressed in it; but you already know by the letter sent to The Independent, signed by the Mrs.'s and myself, in what light I feel constrained to regard your effort to induce the American Woman Suffrage Association to coalesce with the NY Society or give place to an entirely new organization. I think it is the greatest slip you have ever made, and there fore regret it deeply for your own sake; on the part of those who profess to be for woman's suffrage, which not other organization possesses.

Letter from William L. Garrison to Tilton April 5, 1870

People & Events

## Frederick Douglass

1818 - 1895



Frederick Douglass stood at the podium, trembling with nervousness. Before him sat abolitionists who had travelled to the Massachusetts island of Nantucket. Only 23 years old at the time, Douglass overcame his nervousness and gave a stirring, eloquent speech about his life as a slave. Douglass would continue to give speeches for the rest of his life and would become a leading spokesperson for the abolition of slavery and for racial equality.

The son of a slave woman and an unknown white man, "Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey" was born in February of 1818 on Maryland's eastern shore. He spent his early years with his grandparents and with an aunt, seeing his mother only four or five times before her death when he was seven. (All Douglass knew of his father was that he was white.) During this time he was exposed to the degradations of slavery, witnessing firsthand brutal whippings and spending much time cold and hungry. When he was eight he was sent to Baltimore to live with a ship carpenter named Hugh Auld. There he learned to read and first heard the words abolition and abolitionists. "Going to live at Baltimore," Douglass would later say, "laid the foundation, and opened the gateway, to all my subsequent prosperity."

Douglass spent seven relatively comfortable years in Baltimore before being sent back to the country, where he was hired out to a farm run by a notoriously brutal "slavebreaker" named Edward Covey. And the treatment he received was indeed brutal. Whipped daily and barely fed, Douglass was "broken in body, soul, and spirit."

On January 1, 1836, Douglass made a resolution that he would be free by the end of the year. He planned an escape. But early in April he was jailed after his plan was discovered. Two years later, while living in Baltimore and working at a shipyard, Douglass would finally realize his dream: he fled the city on September 3, 1838. Travelling by train, then steamboat, then train, he arrived in New York City the following day. Several weeks later he had settled in New Bedford, Massachusetts, living with his newlywed bride (whom he met in Baltimore and married in New York) under his new name, Frederick Douglass.

Always striving to educate himself, Douglass continued his reading. He

joined various organizations in New Bedford, including a black church. He attended Abolitionists' meetings. He subscribed to William Lloyd Garrison's weekly journal, the *Liberator*. In 1841, he saw Garrison speak at the Bristol Anti-Slavery Society's annual meeting. Douglass was inspired by the speaker, later stating, "no face and form ever impressed me with such sentiments [the hatred of slavery] as did those of William Lloyd Garrison." Garrison, too, was impressed with Douglass, mentioning him in the *Liberator*. Several days later Douglass gave his speech at the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society's annual convention in Nantucket-- the speech described at the top of this page. Of the speech, one correspondent reported, "Flinty hearts were pierced, and cold ones melted by his eloquence." Before leaving the island, Douglass was asked to become a lecturer for the Society for three years. It was the launch of a career that would continue throughout Douglass' long life.

Despite apprehensions that the information might endanger his freedom, Douglass published his autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written By Himself*. The year was 1845. Three years later, after a speaking tour of England, Ireland, and Scotland, Douglass published the first issue of the *North Star*, a four-page weekly, out of Rochester, New York.

Ever since he first met Garrison in 1841, the white abolitionist leader had been Douglass' mentor. But the views of Garrison and Douglass ultimately diverged. Garrison represented the radical end of the abolitionist spectrum. He denounced churches, political parties, even voting. He believed in the dissolution (break up) of the Union. He also believed that the U.S. Constitution was a pro-slavery document. After his tour of Europe and the establishment of his paper, Douglass' views began to change; he was becoming more of an independent thinker, more pragmatic. In 1851 Douglass announced at a meeting in Syracuse, New York, that he did not assume the Constitution was a pro-slavery document, and that it could even "be wielded in behalf of emancipation," especially where the federal government had exclusive jurisdiction. Douglass also did not advocate the dissolution of the Union, since it would isolate slaves in the South. This led to a bitter dispute between Garrison and Douglass that, despite the efforts of others such as Harriet Beecher Stowe to reconcile the two, would last into the Civil War.

Frederick Douglass would continue his active involvement to better the lives of African Americans. He conferred with Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War and recruited northern blacks for the Union Army. After the War he fought for the rights of women and African Americans alike.

## Frederick Douglass: Great Foe of Slavery

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His first exposure to the Anti-Slavery Society was through reading its newspaper, the *Liberator*. He soon met William Lloyd Garrison, the newspaper's editor and one of the leaders of the Anti-Slavery Society. Douglass gave a speech at a Society meeting, and many people were very much impressed. Douglass then went to work for the Society. He also gave sermons at the Zion Methodist Church.

Douglass worked for the Anti-Slavery Society for many years. He traveled to many states, giving lectures and speaking firsthand about the evils of slavery.

After a time, people began to doubt the sincerity of his stories. How could this man who spoke with such big words and such high-minded concepts have been a slave just a short time ago? To answer these charges, Douglass published his life story, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*. Thousands of people bought this book, and Douglass's popularity grew even more.

Satisfied that his reputation had been restored, Douglass then went to England, where he spent two years traveling the countryside, giving lectures. He made important friends in England, who helped him buy his freedom.

Frederick Douglass returned to the United States in 1847 as a free man. He moved to Rochester, New York, and began publishing a newspaper, the *North Star*. The newspaper's motto was this: "Right is of no sex - Truth is of no color - God is the Father of us all, and we are all Brethren."

Douglass continued to fight for the freedom of slaves. He also took up the cause of women's suffrage. At that time, women couldn't vote. Douglass met Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, and other leaders of the women's suffrage movement.

In the presidential election of 1860, Frederick Douglass supported Abraham Lincoln. After Lincoln's election and the outbreak of the Civil War, Douglass continued to press for the freedom of slaves and a new cause, the introduction of Black soldiers into the Union army. In 1863, both of these things happened. Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, and Congress passed a law approving Black soldiers in the army.

After the war, Douglass took up a new campaign: giving Blacks the right to vote. He campaigned for Ulysses S. Grant for president. Two years after Grant took office, in 1870, the Fifteenth Amendment took effect, guaranteeing Blacks the right to vote.

Douglass was later named marshal for Washington, D.C. For this job, he oversaw the criminal justice system in the nation's capital. He was also named recorder of deeds, another important Washington job.

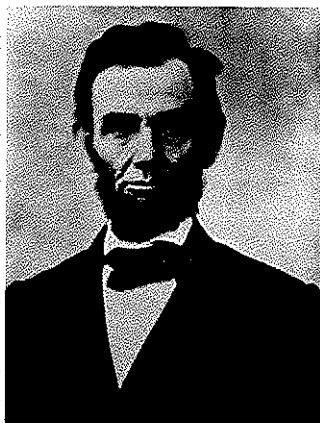
Frederick Douglass died in 1882 after a long illness. His voice continued to be heard long after his death.

When the true history of the antislavery cause shall be written, women will occupy a large space in its pages, for the cause of the slave has been peculiarly woman's cause. [*Life and Times of Frederick Douglass* , 1881]

We hold woman to be justly entitled to all we claim for man. We go farther, and express our conviction that all political rights which it is expedient for man to exercise, it is equally so for women. [at the 1848 Women's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls, according to Stanton et al in [*History of Woman Suffrage*]

# Biography

## President Abraham Lincoln



Abraham Lincoln was the **16th President** of the United States.

**Served as President:** 1861-1865

**Vice President:** Hannibal Hamlin, Andrew Johnson

**Party:** Republican

**Age at inauguration:** 52

**Born:** February 12, 1809, in Hodgenville, Hardin County, Kentucky

**Died:** April 15, 1865. Lincoln died the morning after being shot at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C

**Married:** Mary Todd Lincoln

**Children:** Robert, Edward, William, Thomas

**Nickname:** Honest Abe

### Abraham Lincoln Presidency

Lincoln won the 1860 election and was inaugurated as president in March of 1861. The southern states did not want Lincoln to be president. They did not agree with his policies. Before he was officially in office, they began to secede (leave the country). The first state to leave was South Carolina, but soon six more states followed and together they formed a new country called the Confederacy. This all happened after Lincoln won the election, but before he took the oath of office.



## The Civil War

The Civil War began on April 12, 1861 at Fort Sumter in South Carolina just a month after Lincoln took office. Lincoln was determined to maintain the "Union" of the states. He called for an army from the northern states to defeat the south. What followed was a bloody war that lasted four years and cost the lives of 600,000 Americans. Lincoln faced all sorts of opposition during the war, but managed to hold the country together.

## The Emancipation Proclamation

On January 1, 1863 Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. This was an order that freed the slaves in the Confederate States. Although not all the slaves were immediately set free, it paved the way for the 13th Amendment which would free all slaves in the United States a few years later.

## Gettysburg Address

Today, Lincoln is often remembered for a short speech he gave at Gettysburg on November 1, 1863. It's called the Gettysburg Address. It was only a few minutes long, but is considered one of the great speeches in American history.

**As I would not be a *slave*, so I would not be a *master*. This expresses my idea of democracy. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is no democracy.**

--ca. August 1, 1858 Fragment on Democracy

**I say now, however, as I have all the while said, that on the territorial question -- that is, the question of extending slavery under the national auspices, -- I am inflexible. I am for no compromise which *assists* or *permits* the extension of the institution on soil owned by the nation.**

--February 1, 1861 Letter to William H. Seward

**"A house divided against itself cannot stand." I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half *slave* and half *free*. I do not expect the Union to be *dissolved* -- I do not expect the house to *fall* -- but I *do* expect it will cease to be divided. It will become *all* one thing or *all* the other. Either the *opponents* of slavery, will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or its *advocates* will push it forward, till it shall become alike lawful in *all* the States, *old* as well as *new* -- *North* as well as *South*."**

Letter to the Sangamon 1836

**"All white people should have the right to vote as long as they were willing to carry the responsibilities of making decisions for the government of the United States. These responsibilities included paying taxes, and going to war. This right of suffrage should not exclude females."**