

0. Harriet Tubman: Freedom Fighter - Story Preface

1. Harriet's Early Life
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4. The Underground Railroad
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Harriet Tubman, photo online via the Library of Congress. Public Domain.

*I had reasoned this out in my mind,
there was one of two things I had a right to,
liberty and death; if I could not have one,
I would have the other.*

Harriet Tubman

In or around 1820 (no one is certain of the exact date as birth records were not kept then), a baby girl was born near Chesapeake Bay in Dorchester County, Maryland. Her mother loved this child—just as she loved her other 10 children—and named her Araminta. She also gave her daughter a nickname: "Minty."

Even from that day, Minty's mother knew this little baby was going to have a hard life, as she already had many things going against her.

- First, she was born female in a society where women did not have the same rights that men enjoyed. They couldn't vote, buy or sell property, and education for women was thought "unnecessary" (since, so the stories were generally told, women weren't smart-enough to become leaders).
- Second, Minty was born black. In the early 1800s, black people were thought to be inferior to white people and were looked down on throughout society.
- Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, Minty was born a slave.

In America, during the the early 1800s, slaves were legally treated as property. Due to America's system of chattel slavery, such individuals could be bought and sold (and it was their lot-in-life to work for their "owners" without pay).

The livelihood of slaves depended entirely on their owners, and they had to follow imposed rules setting-out what they could (and could not) do.

Minty's parents were both slaves. This meant that Minty, at the moment of her birth, was also a slave. Like her parents, she was "the property" of Edward Brodas (a slave-owner who farmed crops and sold lumber).

With so much against her from the start, no one could have predicted that this baby girl would become one of America's most courageous and fearless fighters against slavery.

This is her story.

Footnotes:

1) opkis, Sarah, Harriet Tubman: The Moses of Her People, <http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/harriet/summary.html>, Aug/23/1886, Aug/23/2015, <http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/harriet/summary.html>

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Harriet-Tubman-Freedom-Fighter>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Harriet-Tubman-Freedom-Fighter>

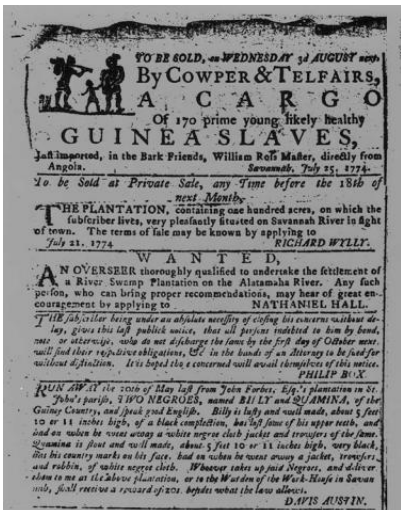
Media Stream



Harriet Tubman

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Slaves - Notice of Sale

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