
The Influence of Harriet Tubman to African American Slaves in the United States

Harriet Tubman

Harriet Tubman had previously been a fugitive slave out of Maryland that continuously risked her life sneaking into the slave territories of the United States to aid slaves attempting to escape to their freedom.

Tubman had been known by several different names such as Harriet Garrison, General Tubman, and primarily by the slaves she aided, Moses; however, her maiden name had been Araminta Ross. Tubman was born in either 1820 or 1821 as the granddaughter of a native African without a single drop of white blood in her body.

Despite her mistress being a pious woman, her religion did not keep her from whipping the young Harriet; the whippings became something of a daily morning ritual, thus Harriet would prepare herself with thick clothing and act as if the whippings did truly hurt to satisfy her mistresses need to whip her. Harriet received multiple injuries throughout her time as a slave, including having been hit in the head with a large blunt object that had been intended to hit another slave that had been near her.

After her head injury, her master had made plans to try and sell her; while her master tried to find a buyer for her, Tubman felt her life would be better off as a free woman and made her escape up North, despite her family heavily disapproving of her actions.

Tubman spent two years in Philadelphia saving all of the money she had earned; with this she set aside a room and bought a full set of men's clothing, then went on to sneak back into Maryland and bring her husband back up North with her. Her husband had remarried another woman and had refused to leave Maryland without his new wife; his refusal brought out Tubman's determination to help any slave who was willing to risk their lives to escape slavery.

Tubman's trips to bring slaves to freedom occurred during the night when slave masters would be asleep. Any slave that felt that they would not be able to complete the journey because of their own fear would not be left alive on the off chance that they would reveal the secrets of those who were attempting to help the escaping slaves.

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