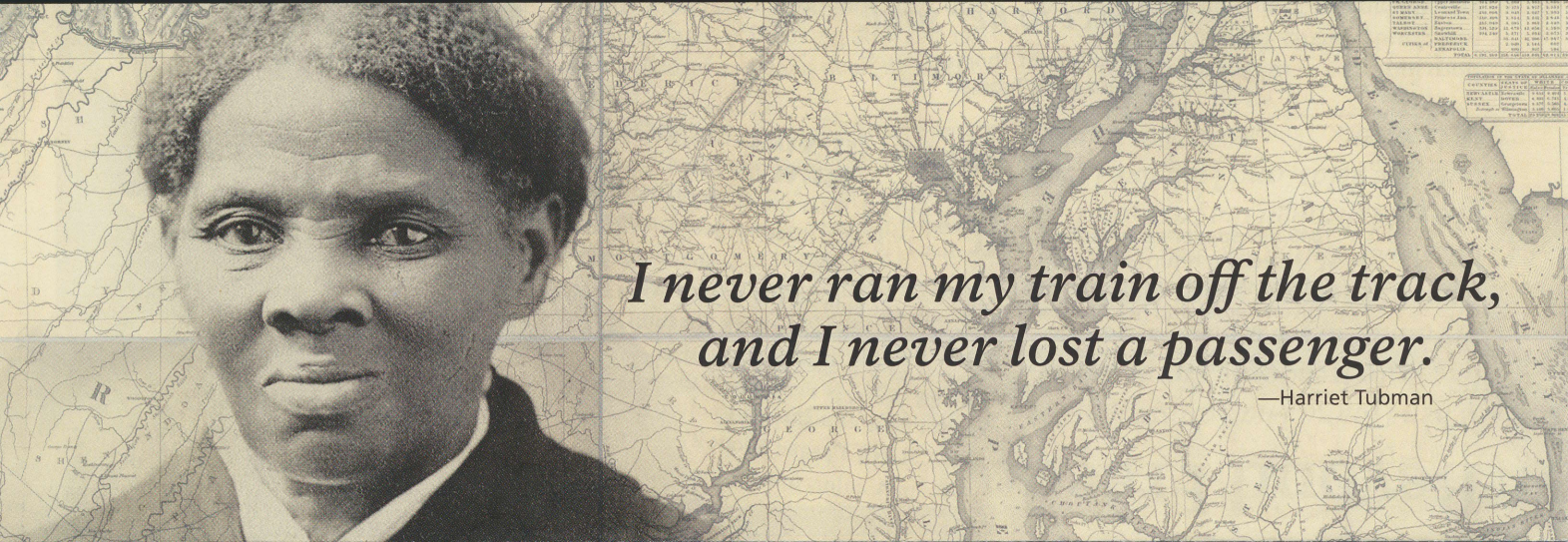


Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



National Historical Park
Maryland



*I never ran my train off the track,
and I never lost a passenger.*

—Harriet Tubman

The Path to Freedom

The Underground Railroad refers to the actions of enslaved people escaping to freedom, those who helped them, and the sites along their journeys. After the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, the Underground Railroad became more deliberate and organized. Freedom seekers were no longer safe in “free” states—they had to get out of the country. This national historical park commemorates those brave souls and the Underground Railroad’s most famous conductor, Harriet Tubman.

Once Harriet Tubman gained her own freedom in 1849, she felt the pain of separation from her loved ones, and she was determined to free them. She said, “But I was free, and they should be free.” Here Tubman is memorialized in the land, water, and sky of this place where she was born and to which she returned again and again to free others. Tubman would easily recognize it. The mazelike paths and waterways that she navigated have changed little.

The landscape of the national historical park is complemented by other federal, state, and privately owned lands that preserve a farming lifestyle in this area where Tubman grew to adulthood.

The park includes the home site of **Jacob Jackson**, a free and literate African American who helped Tubman and her family. He carried a coded letter alerting her brothers Henry, Benjamin, and Robert that she would soon guide their escape to the North. The Conservation Fund, a nonprofit organization, donated the home site to the National Park Service.

Slave labor built **Stewart’s Canal**, a commercial transport corridor, between 1810 and 1832. Tubman learned to navigate the canal while working with her father, Ben Ross, an enslaved timber manager freed in middle age. The canal is inside Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, which is managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Begin your visit at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center, then continue to explore the area’s history on the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway. Along the 125-mile driving tour you will see over two dozen sites and scenic vistas associated with Tubman.

The difference between us is very marked. Most that I have done and suffered in the service of our cause has been in public, and I have received much encouragement at every step of the way. You, on the other hand, have labored in a private way.

—Frederick Douglass to Harriet Tubman, 1868

Harriet Tubman, who served and advised the Union Army, clad in her military uniform

THE GRANGER COLLECTION

Tubman used her survival skills and firsthand knowledge of Dorchester County’s wetlands to help over 70 people escape from bondage.

LANDSCAPE—NPS / MICHAEL LIANG



*I never met with any person of any color who had
more confidence in the voice of God, as spoken
direct to her soul.*

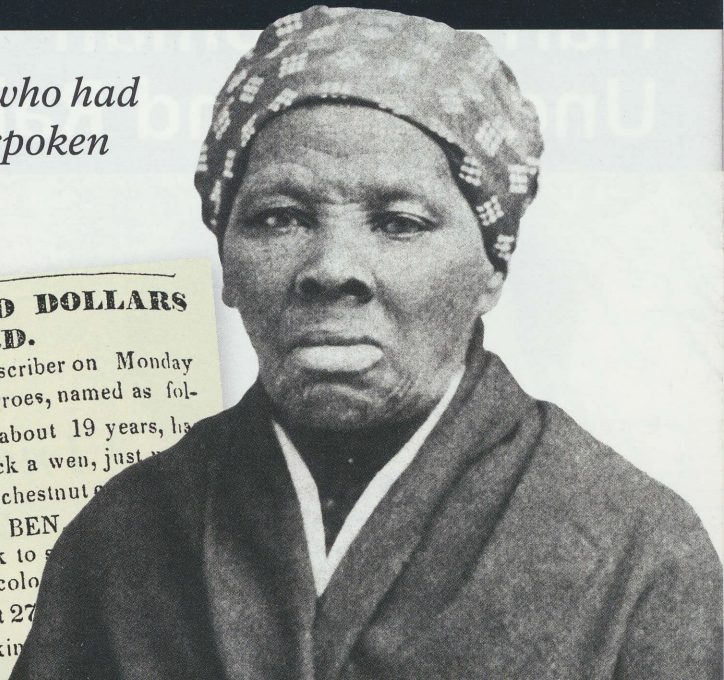
—Abolitionist Thomas Garrett,
describing Tubman

1849 newspaper advertisement
seeking return of Tubman
(Minty, short for Araminta, her
given name) and her brothers

NEAR RIGHT—JAMES AND SUSAN MEREDITH
AND THE BUCKTOWN VILLAGE FOUNDATION
FAR RIGHT—THE GRANGER COLLECTION

**THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS
REWARD.**

RANAWAY from the subscriber on Monday
the 17th ult., three negroes, named as fol-
lows: **HARRY**, aged about 19 years, ha-
ving on one side of his neck a wen, just
above the ear, he is of a dark chestnut color,
5 feet 8 or 9 inches high; **BEN**, aged
about 25 years, is very quick to speak
when spoken to, he is of a chestnut color,
5 feet 8 or 9 inches high; **MINTY**, aged about 27
years, is of a chestnut color, fine looking



Beyond Freedom

When I found I had crossed that line [into freedom], I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person. There was such a glory over everything; the sun came like gold through the trees, and over the fields, and I felt like I was in Heaven.

—Harriet Tubman, 1849

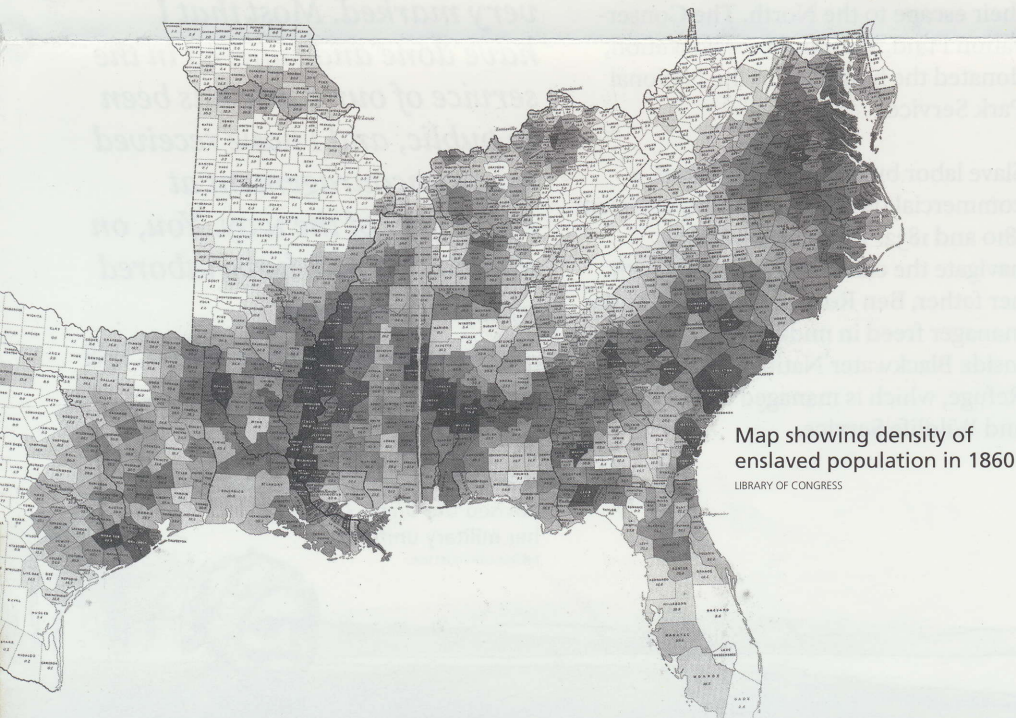
Born into slavery in Dorchester County, Maryland, Harriet Tubman fled to Pennsylvania, a “free” state. A few years later she dared to return repeatedly to guide over 70 others to freedom. Her courageous and selfless actions earned her the nickname “Moses.”

Tubman served the Union Army in the Civil War as a nurse and spy. She used her skills in navigating tidal streams during a raid along the Combahee River in South Carolina. Tubman was the first woman in US history to plan and lead an armed assault. Tubman later settled in Auburn, New York. There she worked for women’s suffrage, practiced her faith, and founded a home for the elderly and disadvantaged.

Harriet Tubman lived her principles, and over her long life many revered her. The *New York Times* reported her death on March 10, 1913. Tuskegee Institute founder Booker T. Washington spoke at her grand memorial. Tubman’s story reminds us that civil rights are hard-won—and individuals must act to defend those rights.



Tubman in 1912
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



Family and friends with Tubman (far left) in Auburn, NY, about 1887
THE GRANGER COLLECTION

Plan Your Visit

Partners and Parks

The visitor center is managed by the National Park Service and the Maryland Park Service. Open daily, 9 am to 5 pm. Exhibits, a film, and programs about Tubman and the Underground Railroad. • Obtain information about the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway (www.harriettubmanbyway.org). • Find out about the other national park dedicated to Tubman: Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn, NY (www.nps.gov/hart).

Tips for Your Visit

The park includes a mix of federal, state, and private land. Please respect others’ rights and privacy. • Cell phone coverage and GPS are unreliable. • For firearms regulations check the park website.

Getting to the Park

The visitor center is approximately 11 miles south of Cambridge, MD. From US 50, turn south on Rt. 16. Follow Rt. 16 to Church Creek (about 7 miles); turn left on Rt. 335 (Golden Hill Rd.). Follow Rt. 335 about 4.5 miles; the visitor center is on the right.

More Information

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park
4068 Golden Hill Rd.
Church Creek, MD 21622
410-221-2290
www.nps.gov/hatu
www.nps.gov/undergroundrailroad
Lat. 38.4445934, Long. -76.1426984

Follow us on social media.

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about parks and National Park Service programs in America’s communities, visit www.nps.gov.

 **National Park Foundation.**
Join the park community.
www.nationalparks.org

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