

**Volume 7**

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**Harriet Tubman – III**

**Lead: In 1861, hard against the onset of the American Civil War, Underground Railroad leader, Harriet Tubman, despite the danger, continued her crusade for freedom.**

**Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: By the time the American Civil War broke out, Harriet Tubman, a former slave, was well known for her successful forays into the south where she rescued hundreds of slaves. Between 1850 and 1860 she was a leader or "conductor" on the**

**Underground Railroad, a network of antislavery activists, who facilitated passage of freedom for fugitive slaves in the South. Tubman, herself, took great risks on nineteen rescue missions - all of which were successful.**

**At the onset of the Civil War, Tubman, at the recommendation of her friend Governor Andrews of Massachusetts, served the Union Army by working as a cook, laundress, nurse, scout, and spy. She served as a cook for the 54th Massachusetts Regiment or "Glory Brigade" before its courageous but ill-fated attack on Fort Wagner in 1863. Subsequently, Tubman worked as a nurse in Washington. While in South Carolina she met an army private, Nelson Davis.**

**After the war they would marry.**

**In 1865 Tubman returned to her parents in Auburn, New York, where she continued to assist former slaves through fundraising, food distribution, and the operation of shelters and temporary homes.**

**Working with friend and writer Sarah Bradford, Tubman published her biography, *Scenes From the Life of Harriet Tubman*, in 1869. Sales from the book provided income for Tubman, who like many African Americans, was denied payment for her military service. She did not receive her rightful pension for over three decades.**

**Harriet Tubman died in 1913 at the age of ninety-three. An activist until her death, she was a strong supporter of the suffrage movement for women's rights. Buried with military honors at the national cemetery in Auburn, New York, her epigraph reads:**

**Called the Moses of her People  
With Rare Courage She Led Over  
Three Hundred Negroes up From  
Slavery to Freedom  
And Rendered Invaluable Service  
As Nurse and Spy  
With Implicit Trust in God  
She Overcame Every Obstacle.**

**At the University of Richmond,  
this is Dan Roberts.**

## Resources

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