



Issue Date: February 1, 1978
First Day City: Washington, DC
Designer: Jerry Pinkney
Croton-on-Hudson, New York
Modeler: Clarence Holbert
Press: Gravure
Colors: Yellow, tan, magenta, cyan,
green and black
Image Area: 0.84 x 1.44 inches or
21.3 x 36.5 millimeters
Plate Numbers: Six
Stamps to Pane: 50
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Harriet Tubman Commemorative Stamp

Harriet Tubman, known as the Moses of her people and the Conductor of the Underground Railroad, is the first subject in the new Black Heritage USA Series. She was born into slavery about 1820 in Dorchester County, Maryland and escaped to free soil in Pennsylvania in 1849. She subsequently made at least 19 trips back into slave country at great personal risk and is credited with helping more than 300 slaves escape to freedom. The stamp is being issued on the opening day of the nationwide observance of Black History Month.

Procedures for ordering first day cancellations are as follows:

Customers affixing stamps. Customers are encouraged to purchase their own stamps at their local post offices and affix them to their own envelopes. Covers bearing customer-affixed stamps will be given preferential service. All envelopes must be addressed and peelable return address labels are recommended for this purpose. Stamps must be affixed in the upper right corner of the envelope, approximately one quarter inch from the top and one quarter inch from the right edge. Return addresses should be placed on the right side of envelopes at least $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch up from the bottom. A filler of postal card thickness should be inserted in each cover. Not later than February 16—orders must be postmarked by that date—the envelopes may be forwarded to "First Day Cancellations, Postmaster, Washington, DC 20013" for cancellation and return through the mail-stream. No remittance is required.

Postal Service affixing stamps. Except for affixing stamps and addressing orders, follow the procedures listed above. Address orders to "Harriet Tubman Stamp, Postmaster, Washington, DC 20013." The cost is 13 cents per stamp to be affixed to covers. Do not send cash. Personal checks will be accepted as remittance for orders up to the limit of 200 covers. Postage stamps are unacceptable as payment. Orders must be postmarked no later than February 16.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE





AMERICAN COMMEMORATIVES



HARRIET TUBMAN

Born into slavery about 1820 in Dorchester County, Maryland, Harriet Tubman won her place in history not because she escaped from slavery, but because her own freedom was not enough. As long as others still lived in bondage, she knew her liberty was incomplete.

Years after courageously escaping alone to the free soil of Pennsylvania, Harriet Tubman recalled her first thoughts and feelings: "When I found I had crossed that line, I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person. . . the sun came like gold through the trees, and over the fields, and I felt like I was in Heaven."

It was at that time that Harriet Tubman resolved to help others find their way to freedom. Her operation of the Underground Railroad took place during its last and most vigorous phase—from 1850 until the beginning of the Civil War. Again and again, at ever greater risk to herself, she journeyed into the South to help others lay claim to what was rightfully theirs—their freedom. She made over 19 trips back into slave territory rescuing over 300 slaves.

By the mid-1850's, Harriet Tubman was being called the Moses of her people. She enjoyed little rest. When she was not traveling on the Underground Railroad, she was

circulating through the North to raise money and support. During the Civil War, she served with the Union Army as a nurse, scout and spy.

Harriet Tubman rescued her parents and settled them in Auburn, New York, in 1857. Thereafter, she made Auburn her home as well. Soon many aged and impoverished men and women found their way to her for help. She welcomed, fed and housed as many as she could, even though her means were extremely limited, and was instrumental in establishing other homes for the indigent and aged. She also raised funds for the maintenance of schools for the freedmen in the South and traveled and spoke frequently on behalf of women's suffrage.

Harriet Tubman died at Auburn on March 10, 1913. She had remained active in causes on behalf of liberty and justice for all people until the very last days of her long and heroic life.

One year after her death, the townspeople of Auburn placed a bronze plaque on the entrance to the Cayuga County Court House honoring one of the greatest of American women.

The stamp design, by Jerry Pinkney of Croton-on-Hudson, New York, was based on a photograph of Mrs. Tubman.

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Program
Harriet Tubman
Stamp First Day of
Issue Ceremony
Metropolitan
African Methodist
Episcopal Church
Washington, D.C.

PRESIDING

WILLIAM H. GORDON
 Postmaster
 Washington, D.C.

*NATIONAL ANTHEM AND
 BLACK ANTHEM*

**METROPOLITAN A.M.E. CHURCH
 CHOIR**

INVOCATION

REV. DR. ROBERT L. PRUITT
 Pastor
 Metropolitan African Methodist
 Episcopal Church

WELCOME

J. RUPERT PICOTT
 Executive Director
 Association for the Study of
 Afro-American Life and History, Inc.

*INTRODUCTION OF
 DISTINGUISHED GUESTS*

WILLIAM H. GORDON

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

POSTAL CHORAL ENSEMBLE
 Washington, D.C.

*INTRODUCTION OF POSTMASTER
 GENERAL*

EMMETT E. COOPER, JR.
 Regional Postmaster General

*ADDRESS AND PRESENTATION
 OF ALBUMS*

BENJAMIN F. BAILAR
 Postmaster General

RESPONSE

**REV. DR. CHARLES WALKER
 THOMAS**
 President
 Association for the Study of
 Afro-American Life and History, Inc.

BENEDICTION

REV. DR. PAULI MURRAY
 Episcopal Church



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

The stamp was designed by Jerry Pinkney of Croton-on-Hudson, New York.

This gifted artist is a native of Philadelphia, where he studied at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. He worked as a designer and illustrator in Boston and was involved in design work for the Boston National Center of Afro-American Artists.

Mr. Pinkney has received numerous awards for his work, which has been exhibited in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the National Center of Afro-American Artists, Brooklyn Museum, Society of Illustrators, Brandeis University and Studio Museum, New York.

Sponsor: The 1978 Black History Observance Committee
 Association for the Study of Afro-American Life & History.

The Association was founded in 1915 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a prominent historian from Virginia, who in 1926 began the first annual Black History observance.

Rodney Thomas Sr. Papers
 Special Collections Library

Harriet Tubman 1820-1913

Years after courageously escaping to freedom alone, Harriet Tubman recalled her first thoughts and feelings: "When I found I had crossed that line, 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."

It was at that same time that she resolved to help others find their way to freedom. Her operation of the Underground Railroad took place during its last and most vigorous phase—from 1850 until the beginning of the Civil War.

By the mid-1850s, those she had rescued were calling her Moses and word of her bravery and skills was spreading. "She could not read or write but she had military genius," it was said of her. During the Civil War, she served with the Union Army as a nurse, scout and spy.

Born into slavery about 1820 in Dorchester County, Maryland, she was married to John Tubman, a free Black man, in about 1844. The couple lived together for about five years before Harriet escaped to free land. According to biographer Earl Conrad, two years later, she returned to help John move North. However, he was not interested in moving and had

made a separate life for himself. John Tubman died in 1867 and, in the spring of 1869, Harriet Tubman married Nelson Davis. Davis was not a well man and Harriet nursed him throughout the years of their marriage. He died in 1888 at the age of 44.

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Harriet Tubman died at Auburn on March 10, 1913. She had remained active in causes on behalf of her people until the very last days of her long and active life.



Commemorative
Stamp
Ceremony



Metropolitan African
Methodist Episcopal
Church
Washington, D.C.
February 1, 1978

Harriet Tubman

Lawrence Hurst Sr. Papers
Thomas G. Carpenter Library
Special Collections