

# HARRIET TUBMAN IS DEAD

## "I Go to Prepare a Place for You" the Last Words She Uttered.

### BORN IN SLAVERY NEARLY 100 YEARS AGO

She Rendered Wonderful Service to the Cause of the Abolitionists and Her "Underground Railroad" Had a Record of Never Running a Train Off the Track or Losing a Single Passenger—Too Feeble to Withstand Pneumonia—A Sketch of Her Career.

Harriet Tubman-Davis, Aunt Harriet, died last night of pneumonia at the home she founded out on South Street road near here. Born lowly, she lived a life of exalted self-sacrifice and her end closes a career that has taken its place in American history. Her true services to the black race were never known but her true worth could never have been rewarded by human agency.

Harriet's death was indeed the passing of a brave woman. There was no regret but on the contrary she rejoiced in her final hours. Conscious up to within a few hours of her passing she joined with those who came to pray for her and the final scene in the long drama of her life was quite as thrilling as the many that had gone before.

Yesterday afternoon, when the trained nurse, Mrs. Martha Ridgway of Elmira, and Dr. G. B. Mack had decided that her death was but the question of a few hours, Harriet asked for her friends, Rev. Charles A. Smith and Rev. B. U. A. Beola, clergymen of the Zion A. M. E. Church. They, with Eliza E. Peterson, national superintendent for temperance work among colored people of the W. C. T. U., who came here from Texas, Tex., to see Harriet, and others, joined in a final service which Harriet directed. She joined in the singing when her cough did not prevent, and after receiving the sacrament she sank back in bed ready to die.

### LOVE TO ALL THE CHURCHES.

To the clergymen she said: "Give my love to all the churches" and after a severe coughing spell she blurted out in thick voice this farewell passage which she had learned from Matthew: "I go away to prepare a place for you, and where I am ye may be also." She soon afterward lapsed into a comatose condition and death came at 8:30 o'clock last evening. Those present when she died included Rev. and Mrs. Smith and Miss Ridgway, the colored nurse.

Two granddaughters of Harriet, Miss Alida Stewart and Miss Eva Stewart, were in Washington attending the inaugural and had not returned to Auburn. Harriet's nephew, William H. Stewart, and his son, Charles Stewart, were in attendance during the final hours.

Harriet's age was unknown. Born a slave of slave parents her lowly origin did not become a matter of sufficient moment to demand chronicling until it was too late to obtain other than a vague story of her childhood.

Today, more than half a century after John Brown said: "I bring you one of the bravest and best persons of this continent" when he presented Harriet to Wendell Phillips, a glance over her remarkable career shows that the hero of Harper's Ferry might well be quoted in selecting Harriet Tubman's epitaph.

### First Married in 1844.

Harriet was first married to John Tubman, the marriage taking place in 1844. She became separated from her husband at the time of the Civil War when she was active in the violation of the fugitive slave law. Her husband died during this period. A number of years ago she married Nelson Davis of this city.

Harriet Tubman-Davis, or "Aunt Harriet" as she was familiarly known to her neighbors, lived in the modest institution she founded here several years ago under the name of the Harriet Tubman Home for Aged and Indigent Negroes. The building is located out on South Street road and the property on which it is located adjoins a place that was given to Harriet by William H. Seward, Lincoln's secretary of state. The place had been deeded to the African Methodist Episcopal Church and among the leading colored people who are interested in it is Bishop N. H. Harris, D. D. of Salisbury, N. C., one of the most prominent clergymen of the most prominent clergymen of Washington, on his visit here two years ago, considered a visit to Harriet Tubman as the most important duty he had here on that occasion. It had been Aunt Harriet's hope that her home in Auburn would receive support on a par with that extended to Hampton and Tuskegee, but her hopes were not realized. Up to the last, however, Harriet labored faithfully for her home and spent much of her time about town seeking local aid for her charges.

### Exact Age Not Established.

Her age has never been established, but it is known that she was over 90 years and possibly was even more than 95 years. To a reporter who met her some time before she was finally compelled to remain at the home, she replied to the question of her age: "Indeed I don't know, Sir. I am somewhere about 90 to 95. I don't know when I was born, but I am pretty near 95." She was in the office of Superintendent of Charles F. J. Lattimore at the time and her mind was unusually clear.

### Wedal from Queen Victoria.

It is no exaggeration to say that Harriet Tubman, as she is best known, furnishes a career of self-sacrifice that, in her services to the negro race, does not fall far short of the brilliancy of Joan of Arc, Grace Darling or Florence Nightingale. She has been honored by thousands and exalted personages have been equally eager to pay homage with the humble folk that she labored for. She was the friend of William Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips, John Brown, Gerrit Smith, Seward, Lincoln and others connected with the Anti-Slavery period. One of the treasured possessions that she



HARRIET TUBMAN DAVIS  
The "Moses of Her People," Who Lived to Be Almost 100 Years Old and Who Died Last Night at the Home She Founded.

century when she last talked with the reporter.

### Skull Fractured at 12 Years.

As a child of six years she was apprenticed to a weaver but was turned to work in the fields. When she was about 12 years of age she was struck on the head by a metal weight thrown by an angry overseer at a feeling insubordinate slave. The blow resulted in a fracture of Harriet's skull and caused her to be subjected to periodic fits of insensibility during her after life. This injury was largely relieved after the Civil War when she submitted to an operation at the Massachusetts General Hospital. There, despite the fact that the use of anesthesia had come into general use, Harriet insisted that the operation go on without ether, and it is recorded on good authority that the task was accomplished by the surgeons.

In her youth Harriet's injury had caused her to be unfitted for high class labor and she was put to work driving oxen, carting plowing and hard manual labor. This developed her physically so that in time her strength became so great that she did more work than a male slave and her market value stood at the current rate paid for a first class male slave, \$150.

In 1844 Harriet's owner was a kind man and she was allowed to marry a free negro, John Tubman. Soon afterward, however, her owner died and she became the property of a minor son and in turn she was placed in charge of a Doctor Thompson, guardian for the minor. The sale of the slaves was ordered in settling the estate, and then Harriet conceived the great idea of liberation. She resolved to break her own shackles and one night stole away, following the North star as her guide. By day she hid and by night she traveled ever northward until she reached Philadelphia where the good Quakers befriended her. Establishing herself as a free negro her work of liberating other slaves began.

### Big Reward for Her Capture.

In December, 1850, she visited Baltimore where she secretly met her sister and two children who were fugitives and brought them to Philadelphia. The next year she went "down into Egypt" to get her husband, but he had married another negro and she had pointed their way to freedom. Instead of taking her husband to freedom she took a party of fugitives, and her success and their gratitude caused her to devote her life to this work.

She established headquarters at Cape May, N. J., and in the Fall of 1852 disappeared from her usual haunts to reappear in a few weeks with nine fugitives. Then the Fugitive Slave Law drove her from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York into Canada, her only refuge. With Thomas Garrett, the well known Quaker abolitionist of Wilmington, Del., she aided in freeing over 1,000 slaves, her personal conduct taking 300 of them into Canada. Through Garrett she met the leaders in the Anti-Slavery movement and soon had established her Underground Railroad, stations being located in every abolitionist center where fugitives were concealed and fed by day and aided on their way to Suspension Bridge and Canada by night. Journey followed journey to the South and Harriet's deceptions became so great among the slaves that the Legislature of Maryland was forced to act and a reward of \$2,000 was put on her head while slave owners privately headed together and put up \$40,000 for her capture. Detectives everywhere, North and South, were on the watch for her and she had many narrow escapes, but a divine providence seemed to watch over her. Many times she sat huddled in Southern railway trains while the cars used by the "niggers" were placarded inside and out with rewards for her capture. Her activities showed her aside to read one bill. Harriet in her ignorance not knowing the import of the signs. On one occasion she went back to her own home and found a former overseer, who knew her well, coming down the street. Her ready wit had caused her to prepare for such an

emergency. On entering the town she had purchased two chickens which she tied together, and as she carried them along the highway she was unsuspected. When about to be confronted by her former overseer she allowed one of the chickens to escape and giving chase created a laugh but eluded close inspection and probable discovery. She laughed last. Her remarkable career is filled with such incidents and that a complete volume on her life has not been written leaves a peculiar vacancy in Abolitionist bibliography.

### Freed Mother and Father.

In 1857 Harriet made one of her most important trips South and brought away to freedom her mother and father. They were conducted by Underground to Auburn, an important "station" where the coming secretary of state for Lincoln, Sewall, resided. Out on South Street, where William H. Seward's mansion is, that kind gentleman sold to Harriet on easy terms a plot of ground where she built a home for her fugitive slave parents. It was in this house that Harriet spent many years, and she lived long enough to see her last ambition gratified in the foundation on adjoining premises of the Harriet Tubman Home for Aged and Indigent Negroes. One time, however, she broke off active participation in its behalf, because, as she explained to the writer: "When I gave de Home over to Zion Church, 'at you s'pose dey done? Why, dey make a rule dat nobody should cum in widout a hundred dollars. Now I wanted to make a rule dat nobody should cum in 'less dey didn't hab no money. 'Wat's de good of a Home if a p'uson 'at wants to git in has to have money?"

### Scout Army Nurse and Spy.

Harriet's possessions at one time included many letters and documents of interest to the historian. They included letters from the most prominent abolitionists and generals of the Federal Army during the war-time period.

It must be said that Harriet Tubman was probably the only woman who served through the war as scout, army nurse and spy, taking her life in her hands many times in the fact that she had worn "pants" and carried a musket, canteen and haversack, accoutrements which she retained after the war and left as precious relics in her colored admirers. When the war broke out she did not wait for the Emancipation Proclamation but began at once forcibly to free slaves. In 1862 she was decided to use negro troops. Harriet was instantly alert to become nurse for a regiment, and when the famous Fifty-fourth Massachusetts marched away from Boston, the event now commemorated by the bronze tablet of Col. Robert Gould Shaw and his men opposite the State House in Boston. Commons, Harriet followed a few days later with a commission in her pocket from Governor Andrew. She cooked for Colonel Shaw and dined with him, too, on certain occasions, and when she was not acting cook she was turned loose as "escaped contraband" to browse around in the enemy's lines, only to reappear soon with valuable news of the Confederate movements.

On one occasion she informed Major General Hunter at Hilton Head of mines planted in the river and several gunboats sent to the scene removed a lot of torpedoes that would certainly have destroyed an expedition about to pass over that dangerous ground. Harriet went to Fort Wagner after that famous charge was made there and aided in burying the black soldiers and their white officers, and in nursing the injured. Her success as a nurse, especially her ability to cure the men of dysentery by means of native herbs, became so well known to the army surgeons that she was transferred by the War Department to Fernandina, Fla., which in 1865-65 was a military base, as in the Spanish-American War of 1898.

She drew a Pension.

Her services were subsequently recognized by Congress which granted her a pension, which during the past seven years, owing to the efforts of Hon. Seneca E. Payne, leader of the

Auburn, was increased. Yet she died in poverty, all of her money having been expended as fast as acquired in aiding indigent negroes.

Among Harriet's effects are papers indicating her intimate friendship with men and women of prominence before and after the war. She lived for a time at the home of Emerson in Concord, then with the family of William Lloyd Garrison, and visited the Alcotts, the Whitneys, Mrs. Horace Mann and Phillips Brooks. A letter written by Wendell Phillips to an Auburn lady in June 16, 1868, says regarding Harriet Tubman: "The last time I ever saw John Brown was under my own roof when he brought Harriet Tubman to me saying, 'Mr. Phillips, I bring you one of the best and bravest persons on this continent—General Tubman, as we call her. The famous leader of Ossawatimmitte migrating to Boston's famous preacher the career of Harriet and concluding for himself, said: 'In my opinion there are few captains, perhaps few colonels, who have done more for the colored race than our fearless and sagacious friend, Harriet.'"

### A Treasured Poss.

Letters from such important personages are found in abundance among Harriet's belongings and these are tributes from Frederick Douglass, Gerrit Smith, Queen Victoria, John Brown, Seward, Phillips, Generals Baird, Gilmore, Hunter, Montgomery, Saxton, Surgeon General Barnes, etc., etc.

One of her most treasured "posses," most of which are hardly depreciable owing to wear and tear in service during the war, and now dim with age, is the following: issued to her by Maj. Gen. David Hunter of Fort Royal near Hilton Head, S. C., headquarters of the Department of the South in 1863 at a time when carte blanche privileges were conferred only upon the most trusted persons in the service of the Federal government. The pass reads: "Pass the bearer, Harriet Tubman, to Beaufort and back to this place, and wherever she wishes to go; and give her free passage at all times, on all government transports. Harriet is a colored woman, and is a valuable woman. She has permission, as a servant of the government, to purchase such provisions from the Commissary as she may need."

### "DAVID HUNTER."

"Major General Commanding."

In Auburn there has grown up a wealth of anecdotes about Harriet that illustrate her unique character. None is better known, perhaps, than her adventure with the late Anthony Shimer. In this Harriet has been generally conceded to have been an innocent pawn moved by clever swindlers who mulcted the Auburn miser of \$2,000. A negro named Stevenson had some interest in the matter and the story that another negro, Harris, had come from the vicinity of Charleston, S. C., with a hoard of \$5,000 in gold which he had found during the war and had concealed and which he dared not to exchange for the more convenient greenbacks in the South because the government would seize the gold. The negro, it was said, would gladly change his gold for greenbacks and after some interest had been taken in Seneca Falls the people who like to obtain much for little in Auburn began to warm up to the proposition.

Through the late John Stewart, a brother of Harriet Tubman, the latter was interested in the matter and she called upon many prominent citizens. They advised her not to have anything to do with the offer but she had faith in it and finally after Shimer had got out of the proposition through the Seneca Falls negro, he accepted as corroborative the stories told by Harriet. Shimer knowing that gold bore a premium of 15 per cent, at the time, agreed to give \$2,000 in greenbacks for \$2,300 in gold, and a party consisting of Shimer, Charles O'Brien, then cashier of the City Bank, Harriet Tubman and her husband, her brother, John Stewart, and the man Stevenson started out for the mountains in the South end of the county. They drove to Fleming Hill expecting to find the representative of the owner of the gold there, but he was not there so they drove on to Poplar Ridge where they got out and put up at the tavern. Then the man Stevenson explained that the transaction was of such a secret character that the exclusion of forest in the South end of the county they could meet the mysterious stranger with the gold and Shimer easily handed over his money to Harriet, who departed with Stevenson. They were to return as soon as the gold had been passed for the greenbacks. After due time had passed and they failed to return the party became suspicious for the first time and started out to search for the missing gold. The man Stevenson, however, was never seen again. Harriet as found bleeding and gagged, her clothing torn and making her way along as best she could. She was taken back to the tavern where she told a story that was generally accepted as a romance. It was apparent that the man Stevenson and his pal, Harris, were swindlers and that having taken Harriet's money they had fled to some place they had foolishly taken the money from her. Harriet, however, narrated a story that included hypnotism and ghosts to account for the loss of the money and her injuries, and Shimer, who was the "goat," probably for the first time in his life, almost suffered heart disease at his loss. He attempted in his characteristic manner to hold Harriet and her brother Stevenson for his losses, charging that they had "borrowed" the money from him. He was never able to collect the money.

Harriet leaves very little property, and so far as known her possessions include only the seven acres, little brick house and barns on the place out on South Street road where she lived so many years.

### Seneca Was Freed.

Sam Seneca, the Italian arraigned yesterday afternoon before Recorder Anderson on complaint of Patrick J. Scullin who charged him with assault, third degree, because he had struck Scullin over the head with a shoe last, was discharged because of lack of evidence.

### Man Found Unconscious Beside Tracks at Cayuga.

An unidentified man, apparently about 40 years of age, was brought from Cayuga to Auburn this morning on passenger train No. 4, arriving at 9:37, and immediately hurried to the City Hospital in the hospital ambulance. The man was very ill and was partially unconscious upon his arrival in this city.

He was accompanied to Auburn by Constable John Walker of Cayuga and James Heffer, the night operator at the Central station in Cayuga. From them it was learned that the unknown man either left or was put off the late passenger train west-bound leaving Auburn at 8:50 p. m., at the Cayuga station. He remained in the station for a time and seemed to be nervous and ill. When the operator closed the office the man was found lying on the ground where he remained until 11 o'clock when the proprietor ordered him out as he was about to close the hotel for the night. For a time he wandered aimlessly about the station platform.

This morning Constable Walker found him lying beside the track near the station in a dazed condition. There was no evidence that he had been struck by a train. He was removed to the lock-up and Dr. J. H. Whitbeck summoned. The physician decided that the man was suffering from a stroke of apoplexy and ordered him removed to the Auburn City Hospital.

When found he had no money in his pockets. He had a pair of eye-glasses in his pockets with the name of an optician dealer on the case, also a note book containing many sets of figures and a number of blue-prints, but with no name to indicate who he was or where he came from.

He is about 5 feet, 9 inches tall, dark complexion, black mustache and weighs about 150 pounds. He died at 2:15 p. m. He did not recover consciousness after being brought in and nothing as yet has been found on him or about him whereby he may be identified.

The train struck a man and injured him severely. "Was the man on the track?" "He was. No engineer. I trust, would run the train in to the woods after a man."

# FEW CAYUGA ROADS

## Will Be Constructed by the State This Year.

### DAYTON IS IN IGNORANCE

#### Of Plans at Albany but from Any Viewpoint Outlook Is Not Very Promising.

The reports sent out from Albany of the probable hold up of many proposed roads this Spring by the State Highway Commission is causing no little uneasiness to County Superintendent of Highways Dayton as well as to people in towns through which it was thought sure last Fall highways would be constructed this season.

Mr. Dayton receives many calls daily for definite information regarding highways to be constructed and when contracts will be let but he is not on the inside of the workings of the highway officials at Albany has very little information of any kind to give.

With the head of Highway Commissioner Reel and some of his right hand assistants reposing in Governor Sulzer's basket matters are at a standstill and nothing definite can be learned as to whether any road contracts will be let in Cayuga County or not.

Residents of Auburn and along the Union Springs proposed route are more anxious for the construction of that road this year but if the highway regime proposes to finish all contracts in construction before the end of the season, that highway will have to go over until next year. The same fate will also apply to other roads which looked sure for this season.

County Superintendent Dayton does not let an opportunity go by to talk about his pet project of building roads in the county under a county system, the building of roads by town officials and town machinery and bonding to pay the cost of labor and construction. Mr. Dayton believes that better roads can be built, more mileage constructed and the cost would be much less by the elimination of the overhead charges and contractors' profits.

It has been stated that about 250 miles of road might be constructed in the state this year. Awarding the work in 54 counties would give about five miles as the share for Cayuga County. It is said that the 100 miles of road petitioned for by the supervisors at the last session has no chance of being built inside of five years. Mr. Dayton takes the view under a county system of highways good roads can be built for \$2,500 per mile.

### A MYSTERIOUS CASE

#### Man Found Unconscious Beside Tracks at Cayuga.

Q. Are you one of the defendants in this case? A. I am.  
Q. How old are you? A. 30.  
Q. Are you married? A. I am.  
Q. How long have you been married? A. Nearly six years.  
Q. Have you any children of your own? A. No.  
Q. Where is your home? A. Wildwood, N. J.  
Q. How long has that been your home? A. Well, I have swung between Wildwood and Washington, D. C. My wife's parents live in Wildwood and mine in Washington.  
Q. Is your father the Spooner that is spoken of as the chaplain of the House of Representatives? A. He is one of the candidates for the chaplaincy of the Senate.  
Q. What has been your course of education? A. Public school until I went to Temple College, Philadelphia preparing for West Jersey Military Academy, Brighton, N. J., graduated in 1902. From there I went to Lafayette, where I had part of my freshman year. After that I specialized in music.  
Q. Professor Spooner denied that he had been expelled from La Fayette College. He also denied that he had ever had his arms pinned to his back while on a train. He also denied that he had in any way transgressed the prohibitions with her.  
Q. I am not going to individually ask you about the innumerable charges made against you, but I am going to ask you one question in regard to all of them. I want to know of on any occasion if Miss Cartwright has entered your room in the night time, at any improper hour, say after 11 o'clock and remained in the room with you under improper conditions? A. No, sir.  
Q. Professor Spooner explained the purchase of pills and drugs, saying that in his lectures to boys he used them for illustrations, and denied purchasing or using the contents of the bottle, Bloom of Life, alleged to have been used by the defendant.  
Q. Youngster Badly Burned.  
Stanley Wiltzek, five years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Wiltzek of No. 10 Pulister Street, was severely burned yesterday afternoon when in the absence of the mother, who left him to go to a bakery, the youngster played with the kitchen fire and ignited his clothing. Neighbors heard screams and extinguished the fire, and the boy was taken to the City Hospital. Today it was said there that he would recover but that his injuries are very painful and severe.

### QIED AT AUBURN HOSPITAL

#### No One Knows the Victim Nor from Whence He Came—Believed to Be Apoplexy.

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Q. Professor Spooner denied that he had been expelled from La Fayette College. He also denied that he had ever had his arms pinned to his back while on a train. He also denied that he had in any way transgressed the prohibitions with her.  
Q. I am not going to individually ask you about the innumerable charges made against you, but I am going to ask you one question in regard to all of them. I want to know of on any occasion if Miss Cartwright has entered your room in the night time, at any improper hour, say after 11 o'clock and remained in the room with you under improper conditions? A. No, sir.  
Q. Professor Spooner explained the purchase of pills and drugs, saying that in his lectures to boys he used them for illustrations, and denied purchasing or using the contents of the bottle, Bloom of Life, alleged to have been used by the defendant.  
Q. Youngster Badly Burned.  
Stanley Wiltzek, five years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Wiltzek of No. 10 Pulister Street, was severely burned yesterday afternoon when in the absence of the mother, who left him to go to a bakery, the youngster played with the kitchen fire and ignited his clothing. Neighbors heard screams and extinguished the fire, and the boy was taken to the City Hospital. Today it was said there that he would recover but that his injuries are very painful and severe.

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