



CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

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At Large
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At Large
THOMAS E. BLAKE

PROCLAMATION #4-13/14

**BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY OF SOUTH
PORTLAND, MAINE, THAT:**

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman was born c. 1820-1822 in Dorchester County, Maryland and died on March 10, 1913, and;

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman served with valor and distinction in the Civil War and led a raid on the Combahee River, Port Royal, S.C. June 2, 1863 and aided in freeing an estimated 800 suffering families, and;

WHEREAS, after the war Harriet Tubman settled in Auburn, N.Y. and married Nelson Davis and established Harriet Tubman Home for aged and Indigent families.

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman supported the Women's suffrage movement associated with Susan B. Anthony, and;

WHEREAS, the United States Maritime Commission named a Liberty Ship in honor of Mrs. Harriet Tubman, and;

WHEREAS, the SS Harriet Tubman Liberty Ship was launched on June 3, 1944 in South Portland, Maine,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY PROCLAIMED, that the South Portland City Council does hereby proclaim June 3, 2014, as

SS Harriet Tubman Liberty Ship Day

Sealed with the Seal of the City of South Portland on this 7th day of April in the year Two Thousand Fourteen.

Dated: April 7, 2014

Harriet Tubman Historical Society

P.O. BOX 832127

Stone Mountain, GA 30083

The Honorable Maxine Beecher
1359 Highland Avenue
South Portland, Maine 04106

March 12, 2014

Dear Councilor Beecher:

Greetings from Harriet Tubman Historical Society; voice/advocate for the preservation of Harriet Tubman's legacy and the Underground Railroad. It is an honor to write and request your consideration for a resolution from the City of South Portland, Maine in recognition of the SS Harriet Tubman Liberty Ship named in Tubman's honor launched June 3, 1944 in South Portland, Maine.

Portland, Maine: June 3, 1944, SS Harriet Tubman liberty Ship was launched in South Portland, Maine, New England Ship Building Corporation. It was a glorious day of celebration with Harriet Tubman's family, Earl Conrad the principal speaker and biographer in attendance.

Sponsoring the ship at the launching ceremonies was Mrs. Carroll H. (Alida M.) Johnson of this city, a grand niece of Harriet Tubman. Mrs. Johnson was accompanied to South Portland by her daughter, Mrs. Henry Bryant of Skaneateles. The Citizen-Advertiser, Auburn, N.Y., Saturday, June 3, 1944

The principal speaker at the launching, Earl Cohen, is a former Auburn newspaperman, son of E. Cohen of 10 Lewis street. The author of "Harriet Tubman" A Biography, published by the Associated Publishers, Earl Conrad (Cohen) is a member of the city staff of P.M. New York Newspaper.

Announcement of the launching was made by the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. in a pamphlet. Earl Conrad. "He has lived in New York for a long time now—is partially responsible for the fact the ship will bear the name of this Negro woman, because he brought her to general public attention some months ago with a biography. Harriet Tubman was not widely known except to students of Negro history in America until Conrad's (Cohen's) book came out."

The first lady Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt sent greetings in a message. *Included is the following message from Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the president. I am happy to learn that the United States Maritime Commission has named a Liberty Ship in honor of Mrs. Harriet Tubman. This is a fitting honor to a distinguished woman. This Liberty Ship will carry war materials to our fighting men in all parts of the world, where they will be used in defense of those principals that Mrs. Tubman established and which America women now regardless of race, color, or creed are determined to see through to victory. I wish for the National Council of Negro Women and the members of Mrs. Tubman's family success in this important undertaking. Citizen-Advertiser, Saturday, June 3, 1944. The Citizen-Advertiser, Auburn, N. Y., Saturday, June 3, 1944.*

Background. Harriet Tubman was born c.1820-1822 in Dorchester County, Maryland and died March 10, 1913, Auburn, N.Y. June 12, 1914 a bronze memorial tablet was unveiled at a grand ceremony in Auburn's Auditorium theater. Mayor Charles Brister ordered flags to fly in the city and declared... *If the stars and stripes could float from every home in Auburn we believe that it would inspire patriotism and demonstrate that we are not forgetful of those who suffered so much for the cause of freedom and were willing to die that we might have one country and one flag.* Booker T. Washington was guest speaker.

Harriet Tubman Civic Holiday was celebrated and the memorial tablet remains today as a tribute to Harriet Tubman at Cayuga County Courthouse, 152 Genesee Street, Auburn, N.Y.

Harriet Tubman served with valor and distinction in the Civil War and led a raid on the Combahee River, Port Royal, S.C. June 2, 1863 and aided in freeing an estimated 800 suffering families. Civil War Heroine. <http://www.harriettubman.com>. After the war Harriet Tubman settled in Auburn, N.Y. and married Nelson Davis and established Harriet Tubman Home for aged and Indigent families. She supported Women's suffrage movement associated with Susan B. Anthony. March 10, 1913, Harriet Tubman Davis died at her home, Auburn, New York. She was buried in Fort Hill cemetery with full military rites, 19 Fort Street, Auburn.

Her story is one of extraordinary courage and effectiveness in the movement to abolish slavery and to advance the noble ideals enshrined in our Nation's Declaration of Independence. *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."* President George H.W. Bush.

Kindly consider this request in recognition of the SS Harriet Tubman Liberty Ship launched June 3, 1944, South Portland, Maine. All resolutions/proclamations received are listed in a publication titled *Tribute*. Thanking you in advance for your support. I look forward to hearing from you soon. For information contact: Vivian (770) 465-4906 or (302) 762-8010 vm.

Respectfully,

Vivian Abdur-Rahim
Sadie Young, Founders
Harriet Tubman Historical Society

Significant sites, places & people:

Charles L. Blockson, Chair
NPS UGRR Advisory Committee 1993-95
Pauline Copes Johnson, Auburn, N.Y.
Sid Taylor, Fort Mill, S.C. descendants
Harriet Tubman's Family
Willis Phelps, Patricia Phelps, Phyllis Davis
Heritage Production Company, DE
Beatrice Dixon, President,
Delaware UGRR Coalition 2000
Lucreatia Wilson, Star Hill Museum
Hon. James M. Baker
Charles E. Brittingham
Joann Smiley
Bob Seeley, Havertown, PA.
Thomas Garrett's Family
Syl Woolford, Newark, DE.
Descendant of Dover Eight

Kay Wood Bailey, Wyoming, DE
Darleen Amobi, Hockessin, DE
Wilmington Friends Meeting House
Thomas Garrett site, Wilmington
Peter Spencer Plaza, Wilmington
Market Street Bridge
Old Town Hall, Wilmington
The Rocks/Old Swedes
New Castle Courthouse
Restored Extant Slave Cabin
Harriet Tubman rescue of 'Tilly'
Seaford, DE, Jim Blackwell
Betts-Dodd House, Frederica
Woodburn, Governor's Mansion
Howard Parker, Dover, DE
Appoquinimink Meeting House
John Hunn Farm, Middletown, DE
Great Geneva, Dover DE
K.A. Pippin, Corbit's Clearfield Farm
Michael Richards, Camden Meeting
Longwood Farm, Willow Grove, Wildcat
Little Creek Cemetery
Kevin Brown, Freedom Lost Marker
Email: harriettubmanday@msn.com
<http://www.harriettubman.com>
<http://www.harriettubmanday.com>

*memorial

Graphic design, NPS UGRR Special Resource Study 1995

