

Article 24. That hereafter, in this State, there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except

Toward Freedom

in punishment of crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted: and all persons held to service or labor as slaves are hereby declared free.

All slaves in Maryland were freed by the state's Constitution of 1864, and a new chapter was opened in the lives of African Americans. The fate of many fugitives and former slaves is unknown. Some fugitives settled in the North, and others returned to Maryland to live near family members or find work. A few, like Harriet Tubman and Emily and Mary Edmonson, remain well-known today. The stories of fugitive slaves were featured in works such as *The Refugee: or Narratives of Fugitive Slaves in Canada* by Benjamin Drew and *The Underground Railroad* by William Still. These books give personal accounts of the experience of flight, and when combined with original records, reveal the very human stories that are the key to understanding the Underground Railroad.

A FEMALE CONDUCTOR OF THE UNDER-GROUND RAILROAD—At the late Woman's Rights Convention, at Melodeon Hall, Boston, the most interesting incident was the appearance on the platform of the colored woman, Mrs. Harriet Tubman, who has been eight times South, and brought into freedom no less than forty persons, including her aged father and mother, over seventy years old. She had a prolonged and enthusiastic reception.

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Harriet Tubman escaped from Dorchester County in 1849, and returned many times to lead others to freedom. She later became an advocate for abolition and women's rights.



Mary and Emily
Edmonson, c. 1850s
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