

# What does independence look like?

## The Robbins House – Concord's African American History

This c. 1823 farmhouse was home to the first free generation of the Robbins family and their relatives who farmed, worked, went to school, supported antislavery efforts and followed their own paths to independence. Here's how those paths are connected to **LOCAL**, **STATE** and **NATIONAL** milestones in American history.



CONCORD & THE ROBBINS HOUSE  
MASSACHUSETTS  
THE NATION

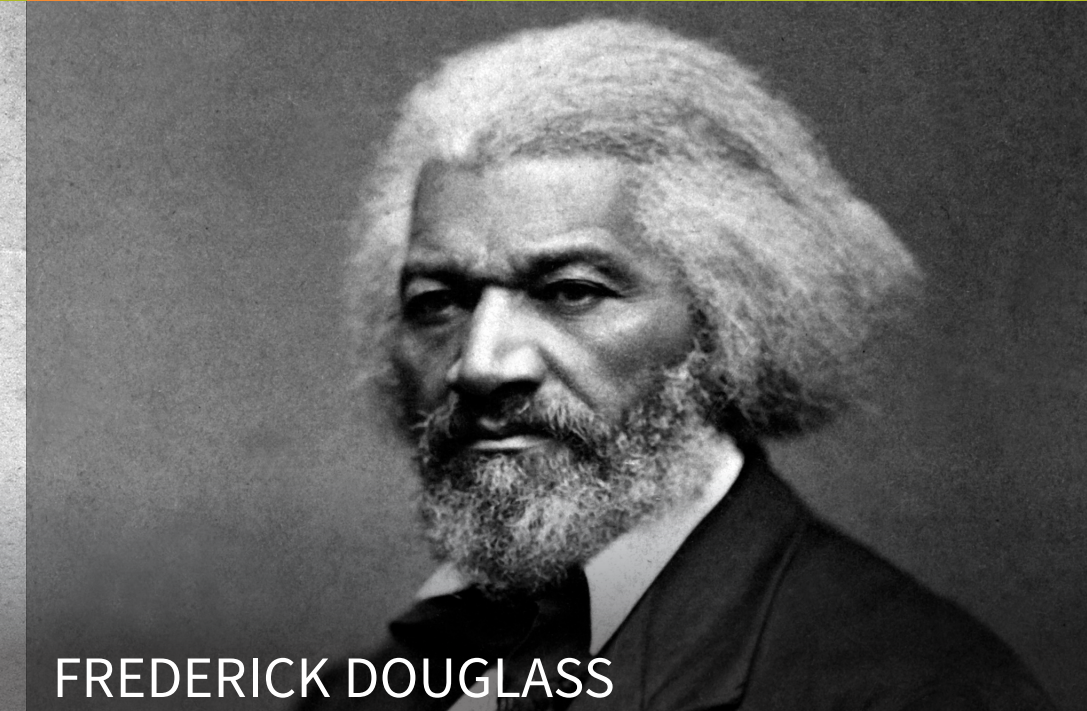
1641	1725	1740-1769	1773	1776	1783	1810-1812	1823	1831	1837	1838-1861	1841	1841	1849	1852	1859	1866	1868	1965	2011
Massachusetts is the first American colony to legalize slavery.	A Concord tax roll lists "six slaves," the earliest record of slavery in Concord.	Peak period of New England slavery: Most slaving voyages originate in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.	John Jack's epitaph is written by a British loyalist noting the hypocrisy of those who clamor for freedom from England, but deny it to others.	Caesar Robbins, enslaved from birth in nearby Chelmsford, serves in the American Revolution.	"All men are born free and equal." Massachusetts courts adopt a new state constitution. Without laws to enforce this, slavery persists through the end of the century.	Jack Garrison, after fleeing slavery in New Jersey, moves to Concord as a free man and marries Susan Robbins, Caesar's daughter. They later live in the Robbins House.	Peter Robbins, Caesar's son, buys this house and 13 acres for \$260. Peter and his wife live in the west side; his sister and her family live in the east. Ellen Garrison is born here.	William Lloyd Garrison launches the abolitionist newspaper, <i>The Liberator</i> , in Boston.	Susan Robbins Garrison, Caesar's daughter, is a charter member of the Concord Female Antislavery Society.	Robbins house residents sign petitions supporting antislavery efforts, desegregation and Cherokee land rights.	John Garrison, Susan and Jack's son, is listed as an eligible voter.	Frederick Douglass speaks at the Middlesex County Anti-slavery Society meeting and next in 1844 for the Concord Female Anti-slavery Society.	Henry David Thoreau writes <i>Civil Disobedience</i> as an act of protest against slavery after spending a night in the Concord jail.	Peter Hutchinson, a relative, purchases the Robbins House and lives there with his extended family.	Harriet Tubman speaks in Boston and Concord several times, raising money for the Underground Railroad.	Ellen Garrison, Susan and Jack's daughter, attempts to enforce the first Civil Rights Act in court after a railroad agent forcibly ejects her from a Baltimore train station.	Peter Hutchinson leaves the Robbins House; a wealthy landowner moves it to Bedford Street and sells it to Irish immigrants.	Massachusetts passes the Racial Imbalance Act, ordering school districts to desegregate or risk losing state educational funding.	The Robbins House is restored and relocated to this site.



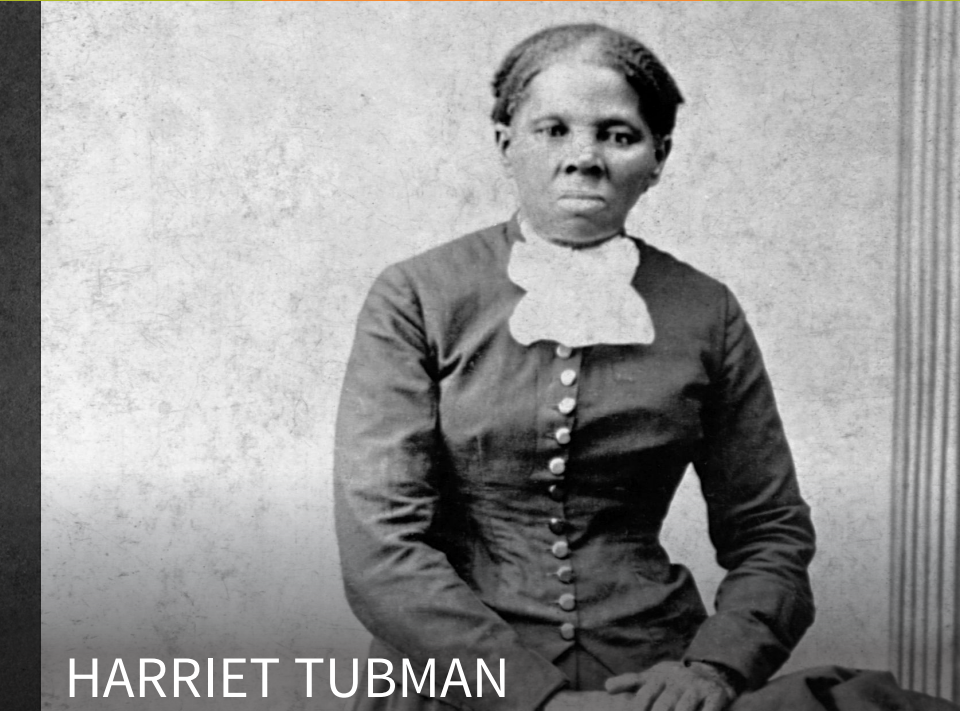
LANDSCAPE SIMILAR TO ROBBINS FARM  
Courtesy Concord Free Public Library



JACK GARRISON Courtesy Concord Museum



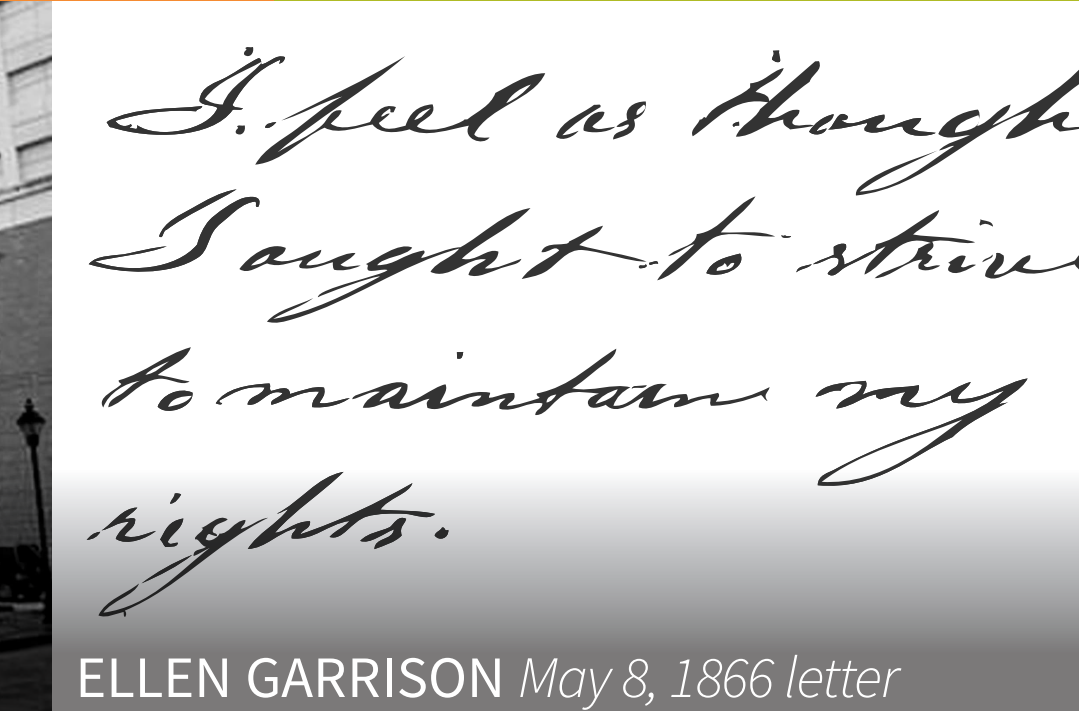
FREDERICK DOUGLASS



HARRIET TUBMAN



BALTIMORE TRAIN STATION



ELLEN GARRISON May 8, 1866 letter



ROSA PARKS



BARACK OBAMA

1400s-1800s	1775-1783	1776	1831-1861	1850	1861-1865	1863	1865	1865-1877	1954	1955	1964	1965	2008	2012	2017+
<b>Atlantic Slave Trade:</b> 12 million Africans enslaved; 2 million more die in transport. Slave resistance coincides with slavery.	<b>American Revolution:</b> Many African men seek freedom by fighting with either British or American armies.	<b>The Declaration of Independence:</b> "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal..."	<b>Underground Railroad:</b> Concord families, including the Thoreaus and the Alcotts, harbor refugees.	<b>The Third Fugitive Slave Act</b> legalizes capture and return of self-emancipated people to their enslavers.	<b>The American Civil War</b> is fought over slavery and its expansion.	<b>The Emancipation Proclamation</b> declares an end to slavery in rebelling areas of the South.	<b>The Thirteenth Amendment</b> to the Constitution abolishes slavery in the United States.	<b>Reconstruction Era:</b> The Freedmen's Bureau protects the rights of newly freed people. Jim Crow laws then restrict these rights again.	<b>Brown v. Board of Education:</b> The US Supreme Court rules that segregation is unconstitutional.	<b>Rosa Parks,</b> Secretary of the NAACP, is arrested for refusing to give up her seat at the front of a public bus.	<b>The 1964 Civil Rights Act</b> outlaws discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.	<b>The Voting Rights Act of 1965</b> passes, prohibiting racial discrimination in voting.	<b>Barack Obama</b> is elected for the first of two terms as the first black US president.	<b>The Black Lives Matter</b> movement begins after the killing of Trayvon Martin.	<i>What events and/or people would you add?</i> Leave a note here or online at <a href="http://robbinshouse.org">robbinshouse.org</a>