

# PROFILES IN LEADERSHIP

ACTIVISTS FROM THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY



# INTRODUCTION TO PROFILES IN LEADERSHIP

## ACTIVISTS IN THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

Black history is American history and should represent blacks' contributions in every American history milestone.

In 1978, the Postal Service initiated the Black Heritage stamp series, to recognize the achievements of individual African Americans. More than 140 blacks have been honored in this stamp series.

YAAHA used these stamps and other illustrations for the Profiles in Leadership series to honor African Americans' contributions to American history.



# SOJOURNER TRUTH

## 1797-1883

Born Isabella Baumfree; changed her name in 1843 to Sojourner Truth.

She was an abolitionist, women's rights advocate and preacher.

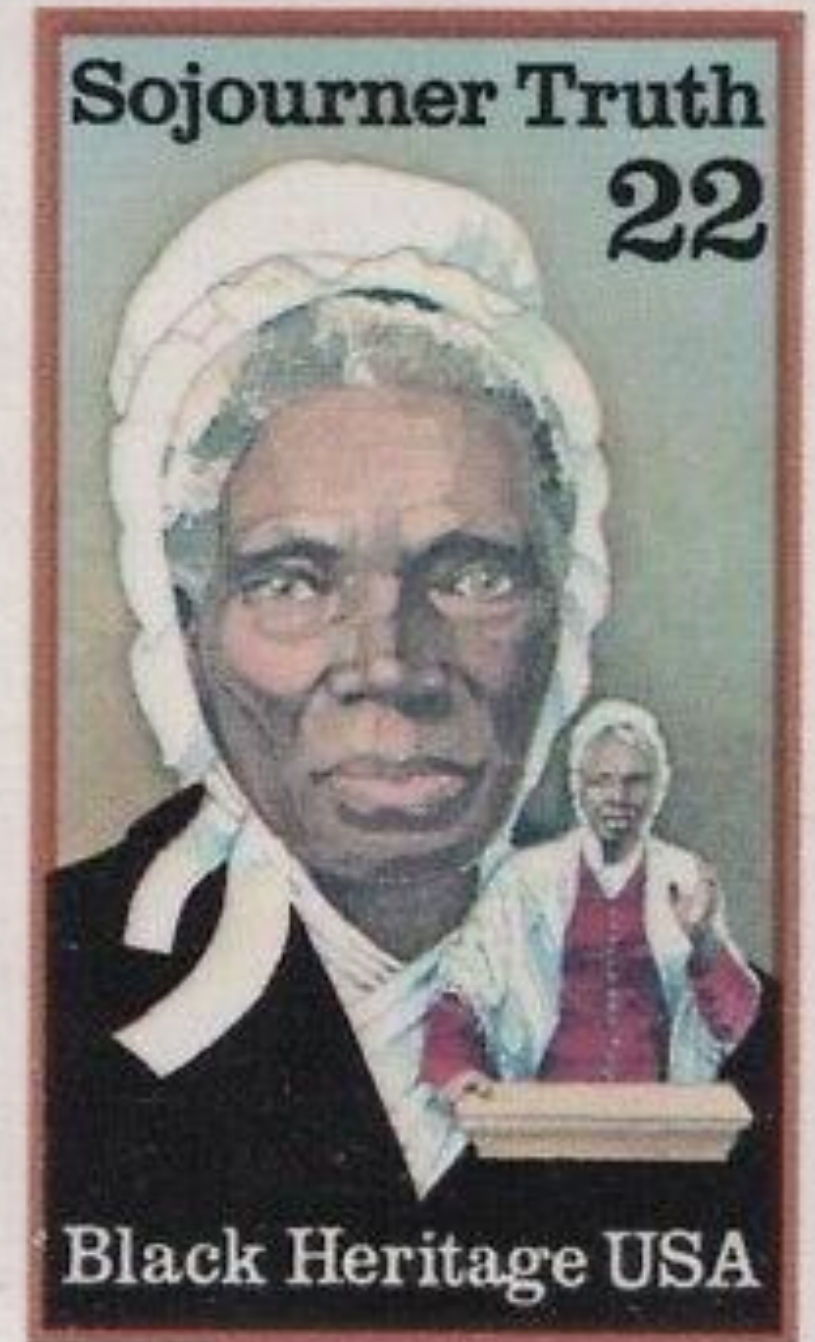
Sojourner became part of Northampton Association of Education and Industry founded by abolitionists in 1844.

She was associated with Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison and David Ruggles.

Garrison helped her write *The Narrative of Sojourner Truth*.

In 1849, she began making speeches about women's suffrage.

She delivered, extemporaneously, a speech on suffrage at 1851 Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio; *Ain't I A Woman*.





# NAT TURNER

1800-1831

Nat Turner Rebellion was one of the largest slave rebellions in American history.

It took place in Southampton County, Virginia, in an area with small farms rather than large plantations.

Nat's Rebellion played an important role in the changes that occurred in the antebellum slave society which resulted in more repressive policies against blacks.





# MARY ELLEN PLEASANT

## 1814 - 1904

Mary Ellen was born a slave, and passed for white later in life.

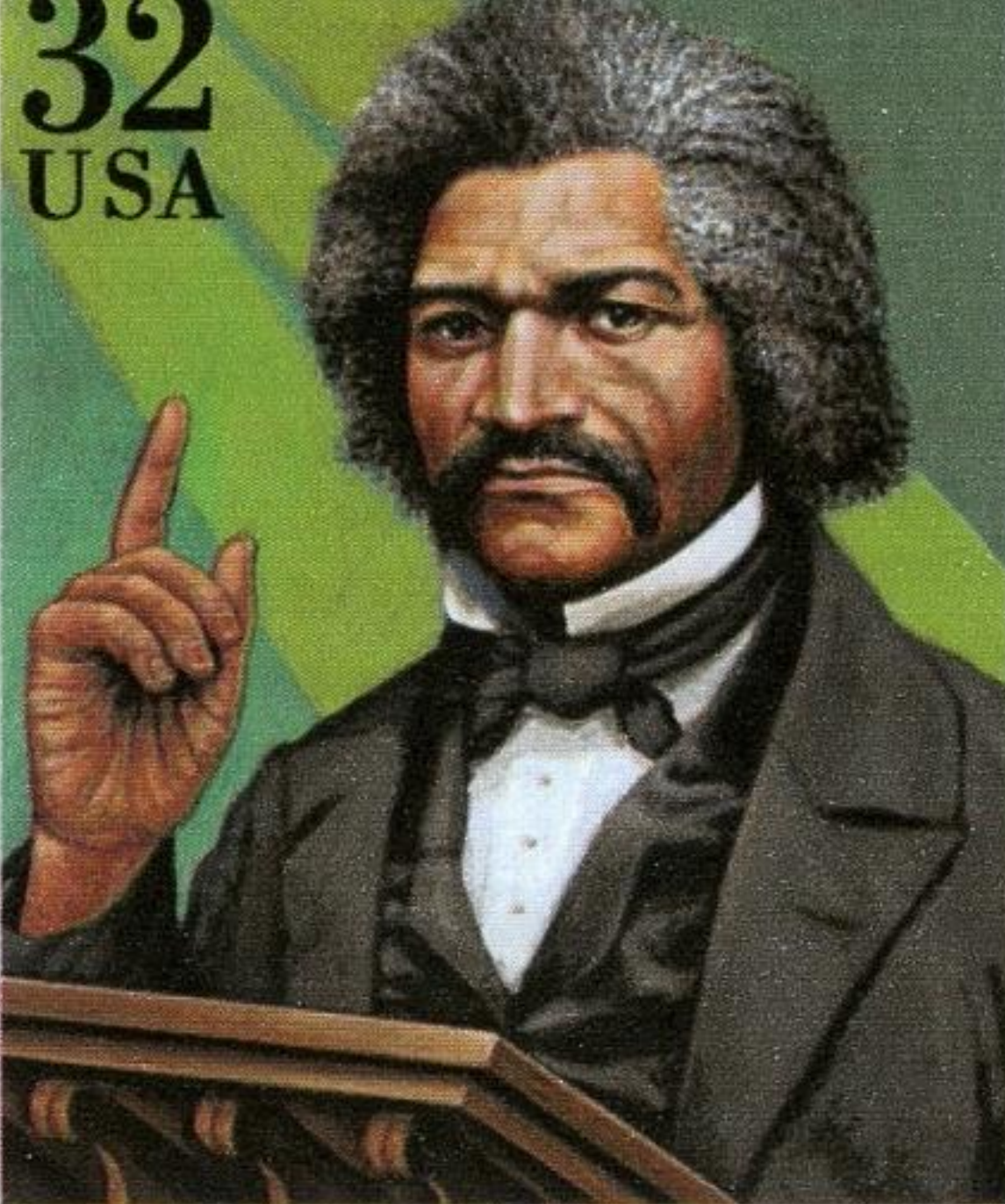
She was a 19<sup>th</sup> Century entrepreneur, real estate magnate and abolitionist.

Pleasant was a friend and financial supporter of John Brown.

She worked on the Underground Railroad and brought it to California.

She was known as the “Harriet Tubman” of California.





Frederick Douglass

## FREDERICK DOUGLASS 1818 - 1895

He was born into slavery.

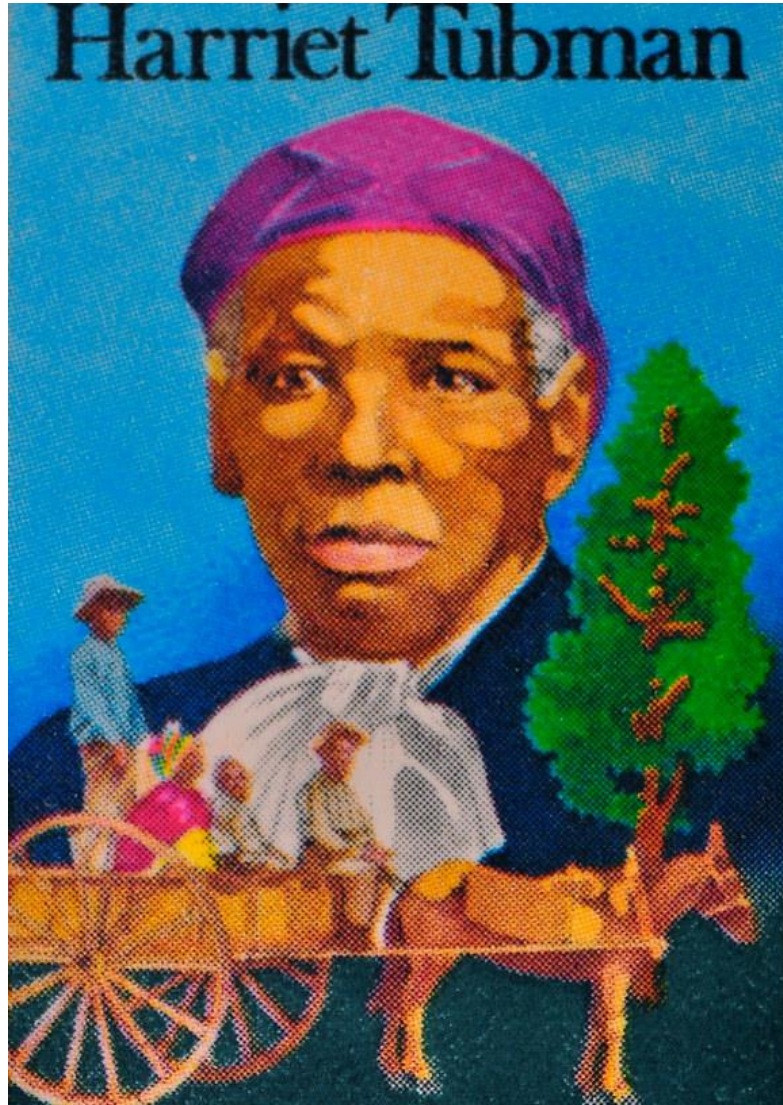
Douglass was one of the greatest orators of his time, and an early champion of women's rights, author, and abolitionist.

He established several newspapers: *The North Star*, *Frederick Douglass Weekly*, *Frederick Douglass Paper*, *Douglass Monthly*, and the *New Nation Era*.

He is author of *Narrative in the Life of Frederick Douglass*.







## HARRIET TUBMAN

1822 - 1913

Harriet was born a slave in Maryland and became an abolitionist.

She worked with the Union government as a spy and scout.

She returned nineteen times to the South to lead her family and others to freedom by using the Underground Railroad.

Because of her heroic actions as a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad, she became known as the "Black Moses."

She helped more than 300 escape and never lost a fugitive, nor was she caught by bounty hunters.

The reward for her capture was forty thousand dollars, which would be equal to more than \$1,315,682 in today's dollars.





AMANDA SMITH

## AMANDA SMITH

1837 - 1915

Amanda was born into slavery.

She became a minister and preached in England, India, and West Africa.

She was a popular speaker for churches and was honored by blacks and whites alike.

Her work helped expand women's roles in the AME and Methodist churches.

She founded the Amanda Smith Orphanage and Industrial Home for Abandoned and Destitute Colored Children in Harvey, Illinois in 1899.

Amanda is also connected to the founding of the NAACP.





# ROSETTA DOUGLASS SPRAGUE

1839 - 1906

Rosetta was the daughter of Frederick Douglass and worked with her father on his newspapers.

She became a teacher and activist and wrote two papers, *My Mother as I Recall Her*, and *What Role is the Educated Negro Woman to Play in the Uplifting of Her Race*.

She was the founding member of the National Association for Colored Women.





## IDA B. WELLS

1862 - 1931

Ida B. Wells was born into slavery and decreed free, thanks to the Emancipation Proclamation.

Her activism began when she was forcibly removed from a ladies' car and moved to a car for blacks only. She sued the railroad and won.

Ida was one of the most vocal anti-lynching advocates in the United States.

She brought her anti-lynching campaign to the White House, asking President McKinley to make reforms.

Ida's courageous actions resulted in anti-lynching becoming a significant commitment for the NAACP, black women's clubs, and other civil rights organizations.





# SUMMARY

- The abolitionist movement wanted immediate emancipation for black slaves. By the 1830s, it coalesced into a militate crusade. The abolitionists thought it was a moral imperative to end this sinful practice.
- These activists created a pattern of resistance to racial subordination exceedingly early in life. They used rebellions, the Underground Railroad, pens as swords, and violence if needed for freedom.
- These leaders chose dangerous paths to change American history through their bravery and fortitude. We are indebted to these early civil rights pioneers.

