

Sojourner Truth (1797 - 1883)

Born Isabella Baumfree, she was a slave in the state of New York until she was freed by the New York State Emancipation Act on July 4, 1827.

After receiving her freedom, Isabella had a life-changing religious experience and became a devout Christian. On June 1, 1843, Isabella changed her name to Sojourner Truth. She became a Methodist, traveled and preached about abolition, women's rights and Jesus!

In 1850, her dictated memoirs were published under the title, "The Narrative of Sojourner Truth: A Northern Slave."

In May of 1851, she delivered her famous extemporaneous speech, later known as, "Ain't I a Woman?" Over the next ten years, she spoke before dozens, perhaps hundreds, of audiences.

During the Civil War, she helped recruit black troops for the Union Army and worked diligently to improve conditions for African-Americans. Although she was sympathetic and supportive of the [Underground Railroad](#), she was not an active participant. In October, 1864, Sojourner Truth met President Abraham Lincoln. In 1865, she rode in the streetcars to help force their desegregation.

In 1870, she tried to secure land grants from the federal government for former slaves, a project she pursued for seven years without success. While in Washington, D.C., she met with President Ulysses S. Grant in the White House. In 1872, at about 75 years of age, she returned to her home in Battle Creek, Michigan, and tried to vote in the presidential election, but was turned away at the polling place.

Not everyone welcomed her preaching and lectures, but she had many friends and staunch supporters among many influential people at the time. Sojourner Truth died on November 26, 1883, at her home in Battle Creek, Michigan, and was buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in Battle Creek.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sojourner_Truth

Artwork: <http://abcreativeworks.com/>

University of Pennsylvania's, Online Version of Sojourner Truth's Book:

<http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/truth/1850/1850.html#27>

Sojourner Truth Memorial Statue Project in Florence Massachusetts:

<http://www.sojournertruthmemorial.org/>

Sojourner Truth Institute of Battle Creek: <http://www.sojournertruth.org/>



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