

Harriet Beecher Stowe

Key Terms

- Northerners
- slavery
- South
- Underground Railroad
- sheltered

Making Connections

Harriet Beecher Stowe and Mark Twain, another famous author and abolitionist, were neighbors.



Harriet Beecher Stowe was born in Connecticut on June 14, 1811. She is most famous for her book against slavery, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Her home was part of the Underground Railroad and sheltered slaves on their way to freedom in Canada.



Beginning in 1851, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* printed in small parts every week in an anti-slavery newspaper. Then, it was made into a book and sold over 300,000 copies in just the first year! The book described the horrible mistreatment of slaves.

Uncle Tom's Cabin was written for two reasons. First, Harriet wanted to teach Northerners about slavery in the South. Second, she wanted the South to be more understanding of their slaves and treat them better.

Uncle Tom's Cabin spread all over the world and was even turned into plays. Within the first year of its release, hundreds of babies were named Eva after the main character of the book.

Harriet was invited to the White House to meet President Lincoln. At this meeting, Lincoln said the famous words, "So you are the little woman who wrote the book that started this great war."

Interesting Facts:

- Harriet's father and seven brothers were ministers.
- Harriet wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin* shortly after she visited a plantation to observe slavery.
- Harriet wrote more than thirty books, although, none as famous as "*Uncle Tom's Cabin*."