

# Running To Freedom

## On The Underground Railroad

The North Star, the Old Drinkin' Gourd. Nowhere did it shine brighter than in the city declared by **Frederick Douglass** to be where "I shall always feel more at home than anywhere else in the country." Rochester beckoned to other freedom seekers; they came walking, riding, running, and praying, following "a woman called Moses," **Harriet Tubman**, who had a lifetime lease on the drinkin' gourd.

Moses and Douglass were giants in that drama, but the Underground Railroad cast was star-studded. It was many individuals, linked by the principle that freedom is a human right. It was more than people running North; more than barns, cellars, and attic crawl spaces. It was every child emerging from the womb with freedom in mind.

**Akwaba** presents stories that bring historical personalities, events, and sites to life. You can expect your senses to be challenged by our tours and onsite presentations, which vary from hours to days. Akwaba customizes its tours to meet the needs of scholars and students, visitors, tourists, residents, senior citizens, cultural institutions, and other groups.

## TOUR INFORMATION

**Riverwalk:** Some of the Underground Railroad ran along Main Street; sometimes it was the Genesee River. Douglass and other agents knew the street and the river route. You will learn them, too.

**Riverstroll:** Expands upon Riverwalk, and through vivid reenactments, highlights the lives of master agent and orator, Frederick Douglass; intrepid forerunner, Austin Steward; and courageous Harriet A. Jacobs.

**Freedom Trail, West:** "The last 100 miles under the Drinkin' Gourd," was often undertaken at midnight. Your day-long, daytime run will mark stations encountered en route to the "Canadian Land," Canada. Add an additional day for a visit to the Elgin Settlement; and "Uncle Tom's Cabin" in Western Ontario, Canada.

**Freedom Trail, East:** Stories abound along the Underground Railroad that wound through the Finger Lakes region of New York. This day-long tour leads to the



Home, and the home of President Lincoln's Secretary of State, William Seward, and beyond.

Let reenactors introduce you to **Austin Steward** who was "twenty-two years a slave and more than forty a freeman." See the Austin Steward Memorial at the commercial site where Steward started a successful grocery business in 1818.

We will evoke the connection between Douglass and **William Parker**, hero of the "Christiana Rebellion," and between Douglass and the fiery **John Brown**. Come meet **Harriet A. Jacobs**, whose "Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl" is, in its own way, as powerful as Douglass's autobiography. The

narrowing details of the seven years she spent in an attic crawl space eluding her lecherous owner will grip your heart and soul.

You'll meet **Reverend Thomas James**, who fled to freedom along the Erie Canal pathway; urged Douglass to make Rochester the birthplace of his *North Star* newspaper; and who was the chief founder of Rochester's Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. The church conducted a Sabbath School to teach reading to the newly-freed; rested Moses and her passengers on their dash to Canada; and sheltered **Susan B. Anthony** so she could have her say about rights for women as well as freedom for fugitives!

## COMPATRIOTS ALL

## ROCHESTER'S CONDUCTORS

### Frederick Douglass

An Akwaaba tour will introduce you to Douglass, man of courage, intelligence and determination. Come meet Anna



Murray Douglass who risked her own liberty to enable the runaway, then Frederick Bailey, to emerge as the high-stepping Frederick Douglass.

### Harriet Tubman

Hear the one called Moses thank Frederick and Anna Douglass for shelter given the fugitives she smuggled into their home. Learn



of Tubman's relationship with abolitionists like John Brown; Shields Green, the unlettered but liberty loving patriot who went down with 'ol Brown; and determined feminist Susan B. Anthony. Tour the Anthony Home, a safe haven where Moses was sometimes 'put up;'

*akwaaba/WELCOME!*  
A member of the Greater Rochester Visitors Association and partner to the Rochester/Monroe County Freedom Trail Commission

## *akwaaba*: The Heritage Associates

We are Rochester residents researching, teaching, preaching, trying to live the heritage bequeathed us by our 19th century forebears and their allies. From two hours to three days, *akwaaba* tours and onsite presentations are tailored to meet your needs.

Walking, riding, sitting, seeking, or wondering: whatever way you choose to come, you will be enlightened by the courage, ingenuity,

eloquence, and determination embodied in the stories of those who traveled on and operated the Underground Railroad.

For reservations and more good news, visit our website, [www.akwaabators.org](http://www.akwaabators.org), or please contact us:



The Heritage Associates

181 Royleston Road | Rochester NY 14609  
Tel: 585.482.5192 | Fax: 585.288.3681  
E-mail: [mail@akwaabators.org](mailto:mail@akwaabators.org)

Editorial assistance and brochure design provided by: [www.wordsandmore.com](http://www.wordsandmore.com)



# THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

TOURS BY

*akwaaba*  
THE HERITAGE ASSOCIATES



Our ancestors traveled the Underground Railroad to freedom and lived free and productive lives.

ROCHESTER, NY

585.482.5192