

# Sojourner Truth

- circa 1797: Isabella born into slavery in Ulster County, New York
- 1810: Bought for £ 70 (approximately \$175) by John Dumont, New Paltz, NY.
- She bore five children.
- Late 1826: Isabella escapes to freedom with infant daughter, Sophia.
- July 4, 1827: New York state emancipates slaves born after 1799.
- 1827-28: Employed by Isaac Van Wagener in Ulster County, NY. Wins landmark lawsuit to recover son Peter illegally sold into slavery in Alabama. Converts to Christianity.
- 1829: Moves to New York City with her son Peter.
- 1831: Works for Elijah Pierson, a Christian evangelist, as a domestic.
- 1832: Meets Robert Matthews, known as the Prophet Matthias, when he visits Pierson's home and starts housekeeping for him.
- 1833: Joins the Matthias Kingdom communal colony, established under the leadership of Prophet Matthias, in New York City.
- 1834-35: Kingdom dissolved after Prophet Matthias arrested.
- 1836-38: Isabella is back in New York City.
- 1843: At age 46, Isabella adopts the name Sojourner Truth, leaves New York and travels to Springfield, Mass.
- 1844-45: Joins the utopian Northampton Association in Northampton, Mass., where she meets the anti-slavery reformers Giles Stebbins, Wendell Phillips, William Lloyd Garrison, Parker Pillsbury, Frederick Douglass and the health reformer Sylvester Graham. Meets Olive Gilbert, an abolitionist-feminist who later wrote the *Narrative of Sojourner Truth*.
- 1846: Northampton Association disbanded.
- 1847: Works as housekeeper for George Benson, brother-in-law of William Lloyd Garrison.
- 1850: *Narrative* published by Olive Gilbert with preface by William Lloyd Garrison. Attends women's rights convention in Worcester, Mass.
- 1851: Leaves Northampton to join abolitionist George Thompson's speaker's bureau, traveling to Rochester, NY, where she stays with Underground Railroad leader, Amy Post. In May, attends women's rights convention in Akron, Ohio, where she delivers the famous "Ain't I a Woman" speech.
- 1851-53: In Salem, Ohio, works with *Anti-Slavery Bugle* editor Marius Robinson. Travels state as anti-slavery speaker.
- 1852: In August, attends abolitionist meeting in Salem, Ohio where she confronts Frederick Douglass, asking "Is God gone?"
- 1853: In October, speaks at suffragist "mob convention" at Broadway Tabernacle, New York City. Visits Harriet Beecher Stowe in Andover, Mass.



- 1856: Comes to Battle Creek, Michigan to address Friends of Human Progress convention, through efforts of Michigan Quaker, Henry Willis.
- 1857: Buys house and lot in Harmonia, six miles west of Battle Creek, Michigan.
- 1864: In October, visits President Abraham Lincoln at the White House. Employed by National Freedman's Relief Association.
- 1865: Assigned to work at Freedman's Hospital in Washington. Rides the Washington, D.C. streetcars to force their desegregation.
- 1867: Moves to Battle Creek. Travels to Rochester, New York and South to resettle freed men. Visits suffrage activist Elizabeth Cady Stanton.
- 1870: Travels to New Jersey, New York, New England, speaking against alcohol, tobacco and fashionable dress. Delivers her first lecture mentioning petition to give freedmen free land in the west. In Washington, D.C. meets President Grant in the White House. Appears in the U.S. Senate chamber, where Senators sign her *Book of Life*.
- 1871: Continues to travel around New England and New York. Frederick Douglass signs her *Book of Life*. In June, Nanette Gardner of Detroit records in the *Book of Life* that she was the first woman to vote in a Michigan state election.
- 1872: Travels around Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan. Attempts to vote for Grant, refused at the polling place in Battle Creek.
- 1878 - 79: Sojourner travels through New York and other eastern states for six months during the fall and winter. Visits Kansas and Wisconsin to campaign for free land for former slaves.
- 1880 - 82: Makes limited appearances around Michigan, speaking for temperance and against capital punishment.
- 1883: In July, ill with ulcers on her legs, treated by Dr. John Harvey Kellogg of the Battle Creek Sanitarium, who is said to have grafted some of his own skin onto Sojourner's leg.
- November 26, 1883: Sojourner Truth dies at her home in Battle Creek, Michigan.
- 1935: Memorial stone to Sojourner Truth is placed in the Stone History Tower in Monument Park, downtown Battle Creek.
- 1976: As part of the nation's bicentennial celebration, the Calhoun County portion of state highway M-66 is designated as the "Sojourner Truth Memorial Highway."
- 1981: Truth is inducted into the National Woman's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York.
- 1983: Truth is in the first group of women inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in Lansing.
- 1986: A commemorative postage stamp is issued in February.
- 1997: Sojourner Truth honored with a Mars probe of the same name.

<http://www.sojournertruth.org/History/Biography/SinceSojourner.htm>

