



### Jennet Rowland Johnson

Jennet Rowland Johnson was born in 1784 in the state of Delaware. She was the daughter of a Quaker (John Rowland) who had owned enslaved Africans but freed them through a process known as manumission in 1778-79 just before Jennet's birth. This change no doubt had a profound impact on the young Ms. Rowland's outlook and lifetime commitment to becoming an agent of emancipation. Petite figured Jennet married Samuel Johnson in 1805 and their marriage produced 12 children. She helped run the family farm and tannery businesses. Jennet and her husband Samuel were both Quakers who were against slavery. Her family's beliefs were so intense that she involved her children in anti-slavery activities early in childhood and they persisted by working in the anti-slavery movement until they were 2 years old. The Johnsons supported many anti-slavery efforts in secret because it was against the law to help enslaved Africans seeking their freedom due to the Fugitive Slave Act. The Fugitive Slave Act threatened imprisonment and fines to those who would help enslaved Africans. It was by her efforts and the

efforts of her children that the idea of anti-slavery had a strong impact on the Germantown community and its anti-slavery activities. She opened her home to anti-slavery and abolitionist activists, helped hide enslaved Africans seeking their freedom, gave money to schools to educate African Americans, and boycotted goods produced by slave labor. The family supported not only anti-slavery/human rights movements but also racial equality. Mrs. Johnson was a plain and simple woman who believed that she must not only follow man's law but God's Law. Jennet outlived her husband Samuel by 30 years. The photo of Mrs. Johnson greets visitors as they enter the Johnson House historic Site today.



### Lucretia Coffin Mott

Born in 1793, Lucretia Coffin, at the age of thirteen, was sent to the Nine Partners Quaker Boarding School, which was run by the Society of Friends. She became a teacher after graduation. Her interest in women's rights began when she discovered that male teachers at the school were paid three times as much as the female staff. After her family moved to Philadelphia, Lucretia Coffin married James Mott and had six children with him. Like many other Quakers, The Motts considered slavery an evil that should be opposed. Inspired by minister Elias Hicks, she and other Quakers boycotted cotton cloth, cane sugar, and other slavery-produced goods. In 1821, Mott became a Quaker minister. Mott and other white and black women founded the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society. The society was integrated. The organization opposed both slavery and racism, and developed close ties to Philadelphia's Black community. She even dared to challenge the social customs of the day and sat next to African Americans in Quaker meetings much like one of Jennet Johnson's sons had in fact done, banning him from the Quaker Meeting. Mott and other female abolitionists also

organized fairs to raise awareness and revenue, for the Anti-slavery society. Ms. Mott was one of the first white women to accept an invitation in 1848 from Frederick Douglass to join the Convention of Black Abolitionists meeting in Philadelphia. She and several other Hicksite Quakers incorporated Swarthmore College, a premier liberal art college still in existence today. She died of pneumonia in November 1880.



### **Harriet Tubman**

Harriet was born into slavery in about 1820, the daughter of Benjamin and Harriet Green. At first called Araminta, she was later called Harriet. When she was about 12 years of age, she was struck on the head by a metal weight thrown by an angry overseer. The blow resulted in a fracture of Harriet's skull and caused her to be subject to periodic fits of insensibility during her life.

In the 1840's she married John Tubman, but was later separated at the death of her slaveowner and was sold. It was then that she became even more determined to have power over her own destiny, and in 1849, she followed the North Star to Philadelphia where she established contacts with free Blacks and Quakers.

Soon, however, she was on the move again and journey followed journey to the South. Harriet's efforts became so successful that the Legislature of Maryland placed a reward of \$12,000 on her head while slave owners privately banded together and put up \$40,000 for her capture. By 1857, Harriet made one of her most important trips South and brought freedom her mother and father. They were conducted by the Underground Railroad to Auburn, New York where she would make her permanent home. March 10, 1913 Harriet Tubman died despite her unselfish service to others, including her service to the U.S. Army during the Civil War. Harriet was not granted a service person's pension until after her death, nearly one-hundred years later. It was not until the 21<sup>st</sup> century that her success and value as a working woman, former enslaved woman, Conductor of the Underground Railroad and U.S. army scout and nurse was truly recognized. In May of 2002, Senator Hilary Clinton introduced a resolution to the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, Resolution 111 granting Harriet Tubman recognition for her bravery and her long awaited pension of \$25 dollars a month.



Charlotte Forten Grimke

Charlotte Forten Grimke was born a free Black in 1837, in Philadelphia, into the Forten- Purvis family. Her mother and father were anti-slavery activists. Her mother worked in the Philadelphia

Female Anti-Slavery society and her father and brother-in-law were members of the Philadelphia Vigilant Committee and Anti-slavery group and Assistance Network. Charlotte became an activist too and a leader of civil rights. Charlotte's father sent her to Salem, Massachusetts to attend the Higginson Grammar School; in 1854 she was the only non-white student out of 200. Charlotte loved to read; she also studied history, geography, drawing and cartography. After her schooling in 1856, she became a teacher and a member of the Salem, Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. She taught school, but after two years of being ill with tuberculosis she was forced to return to Philadelphia. While in Salem, her poetry works were published in various anti-slavery publications such as the *Liberator* and *Anglo African* magazine. She also traveled to and taught in South Carolina where she became the first Black teacher involved in the Civil War's Sea Islands mission. She chronicled this time in her essays, "Life on the Sea Islands" which were published in the *Atlantic Monthly* in the May and June issues of 1864. She held national influence recruiting teachers in the late 1860's, and on July 3, 1873 she became a clerk at the U.S. Treasury. On December 19, 1878, Charlotte married Francis J. Grimke when she was 41. Their marriage produced one child, who unfortunately died as an infant. She died in 1914. She believed Black people could achieve great things under extraordinary circumstances and just wanted fair and equal treatment for Blacks.