

Harriet Beecher Stowe  
Author and Abolitionist

Harriet Beecher Stowe was one of the most influential women in America during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. She was born to Lyman and Roxana Beecher in Litchfield, Connecticut. At an early age Harriet started to enjoy reading and writing books. She studied at Miss Sara Pierce's school, a very prestigious school in the city.

After her father accepted a position in Cincinnati, Ohio, Harriet, along with the rest of her family, moved there with him. There, Harriet continued to study and met and married Calvin Stowe, a preacher.

During times of financial struggle for her family, Harriet began to write articles for many magazines. In 1843, she published her first book, *The Mayflower: Sketches of Scenes and Characters among the Descendants of the Pilgrims*.



However, it was a short time later that she published her most famous work, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. It was through this book that slavery was brought out into the open. It made people think. It caused an outcry in the North and provoked hatred and anger in the South. Some even felt that the book caused the outbreak of the Civil War.

*Uncle Tom's Cabin* was written after several of Harriet's experiences moved her to step up and speak out. She became a great role-model for women and blacks, showing that even when the rest of the world tells you that you can't, you need to stand up for what you believe in and say that you can.