



## Uncle Tom's Cabin

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

### Introduction

In June 1851, the first installment of Harriet Beecher Stowe's influential *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was published in the *National Era*, a weekly anti-slavery newspaper printed in Washington, D.C. Providing a picture of the African-American experience under slavery, the work quickly gained popularity. It also contributed to increased tensions between the North and the South prior to the outbreak of the Civil War by fueling abolitionist sentiments and angering slavery supporters. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was partially inspired by Stowe's time spent living in Cincinnati, Ohio, during the 1830s and 1840s. While there, she witnessed firsthand the horrors of slavery that existed across the Ohio River in Kentucky and helped slaves to freedom through her participation in the Underground Railroad.

### Important Dates

- 1832-1850: Harriet Beecher Stowe lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 1851-1852: *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is published in the *National Era* in 40 weekly installments.
- 1852: *Uncle Tom's Cabin* published as a novel. Though popular in the Northern free states and in Europe, Southern states criticize the work and suppress its distribution.
- 1853: Stowe writes *A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin* to defend her novel from Southern attacks claiming that the picture of slavery depicted is completely false.

### Suggested Search Strategies

- Search the following terms in proximity, as phrases or in combination as an "all" word search: Uncle Tom's Cabin, Uncle Tom, Little Eva, escape, slavery, slave, Tom Show, play, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Mrs Stowe, Harriet Stowe.
- View results from Northern and Southern papers for varying viewpoints on Stowe and her novel.
- *Uncle Tom's Cabin* had an impact on culture long after its initial publication. Search the entire span of newspapers for related comic strips, information on theatrical adaptations and more.

### Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- "[New Publications...](#)" *New York Daily Tribune* (New York, NY), April 9, 1852, Image 6, col. 3.
- "[Uncle Tom's Cabin, or Life Among the Lowly.](#)" *Anti-Slavery Bugle* (New-Lisbon, OH), May 15, 1852, Image 2, col. 3.
- "[A New Way to Preserve the Union](#)" *Lewisburg Chronicle* (Lewisburg, PA), May 28, 1852, Image 1, col. 7.
- "[Spirit of the Press](#)" *Nashville Union* (Nashville, TN), January 18, 1853, Image 2, col. 6.
- "[Knocking, Ever Knocking](#)" *Tiffin Tribune* (Tiffin, OH), January 21, 1869, Image 1, col. 2.
- "[Uncle Tom: A Chat with the Hero...](#)" *Tiffin Tribune* (Tiffin, OH), July 25, 1878, Image 4, col. 1.
- "[Uncle Tom's Cabin](#)" *Watchman and Southron* (Sumter, SC), January 23, 1895, Image 4, col. 2.
- "[Done Gone Up to de Angels](#)" *Herald* (Los Angeles, CA), July 2, 1896, Image 1, col. 4.
- "[Motion Pictures of 'Uncle Tom's Cabin'](#)" *Bourbon News* (Paris, KY), September 22, 1911, Image 1, col. 2.