



Harriet Jacobs – a writer, abolitionist and reformer, is the only African-American woman known to have left documentation of her enslavement. After escaping to New York City from North Carolina in 1842, she became active in a group of anti-slavery feminists. They encouraged her to write *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861) which helped build Northern sentiment for emancipation during the Civil War and was probably the only slave narrative to deal with sexual oppression. Through the war years, Harriet lived in Washington, D.C., assisting contrabands, nursing Black troops and teaching.