

Memories of Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman Live On In Rochester and Surrounding Region Rochester, a Popular Stop on the "Freedom Trail" Yesterday and Today



Rochester, N.Y. Frederick Douglass, a prominent abolitionist and historic resident of Rochester, once described the city as "a goodly city". Douglass and the famous women's rights advocate, Susan B. Anthony were instrumental to creating that image. Susan B. Anthony's legend helps define Rochester's cultural heritage, as her house is a National Historic Landmark on Rochester's very own Madison Street. Just an hour drive from Rochester in the town of Auburn lies Harriet Tubman's House, which was restored in the 1950s as a memorial to her life's work by the AME Zion Church. These attractions, along with an abundance of festivals, shops and restaurants combine to complete Rochester's rich history and long standing traditions.

The Greater Rochester Visitors Association assisted in the development of a brochure to depict

Rochester's African American Heritage. The guide shares an in-depth history of famous African Americans who lived and worked in Rochester along with destinations that help keep their memories alive. Also detailed are shopping and dining opportunities along with events and festivals such as the Rochester MusicFest, where African American Culture is celebrated.

The festival draws tens of thousands of people every year from New York State and beyond to experience legendary and contemporary rhythm and blues musicians.

For more information on the Rochester cultural heritage or to get a copy of the African American Heritage brochure please contact the Greater Rochester Visitors Association at 585-270-8300 or visit www.visitrochester.com.

The Pain of History by Charles Chatmon



There is a statement made by our 'modern' society that we should forget American slavery, that what ever happened in the past should remain there. It has no effect or impact on us today. If that is so, then my argument is why can't we learn from it, that 'particular institution' so that it may never emerge again in the form of a policy, a document or even a thought. I do not disagree in bringing up Dred Scott, Nat Turner, Fredrick Douglass,

Harriet Tubman, the slave trade, the Missouri Compromise and the Civil War. What the nay Sayers fail to comprehend is that slavery in America did indeed happen in the past, yet the past is a part of history. The popular saying that 'those who fail to learn from the past are doomed to repeat it' goes without question. Therefore, this subject deserves the right as any part of history, to be analyzed, criticized, and in the individual chooses to do so, internalize it for his or her benefit.

American slavery needs to be discussed with calm voices of reason, not with those of fear and rage. We must look at it in its proper context as an evil financial institution that violated both the laws of God and man. The Creator has given us the right to enjoy life more

abundantly whether we be bonded or free; it goes against our American creed of the pursuit of happiness and prosperity, the right to raise a good family. These are painful wrongdoings not bounded by law, for slavery allowed these moral laws to be violated. Yes, slavery was unpleasant, and most people rather not talk about it or defer the conversation to their own ancestral injustices (I.e., individuals of another ethic background not affected by slavery claim their ancestors suffered equal or worse treatment than the race of the slaves affected). African Americans are passionate because it is a topic that hits close to home, but those who seek answers and positive solutions will just be as passionate in a constructive manner.

If the truth be told, perhaps in discussing the suffering of one race, some good may come from our conversations. Only if we take that bold step of removing that cancer which has eaten at our core of consciousness for so long. If America is truly the land of the free and the home of the brave, then this part of history should never be avoided. It should be tackled head on by those individuals who really want to move on, not by those who sway the multitude into believing this part of history never occurred or was bad as it seems. Someday, America will find the answer and it will be convinced it is free of the pain of history.

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