

Harriet Jacobs & Julia Wilbur:
Fighting for Freedpeople in Civil War Alexandria

Bull Run Civil War Roundtable





INCIDENTS
IN THE
LIFE OF A SLAVE GIRL.

WRITTEN BY HERSELF.

"Northerners know nothing at all about Slavery. They think it is perpetual bondage only. They have no conception of the depth of degradation involved in that word, SLAVERY; if they had, they would never cease their efforts until so horrible a system was overthrown."

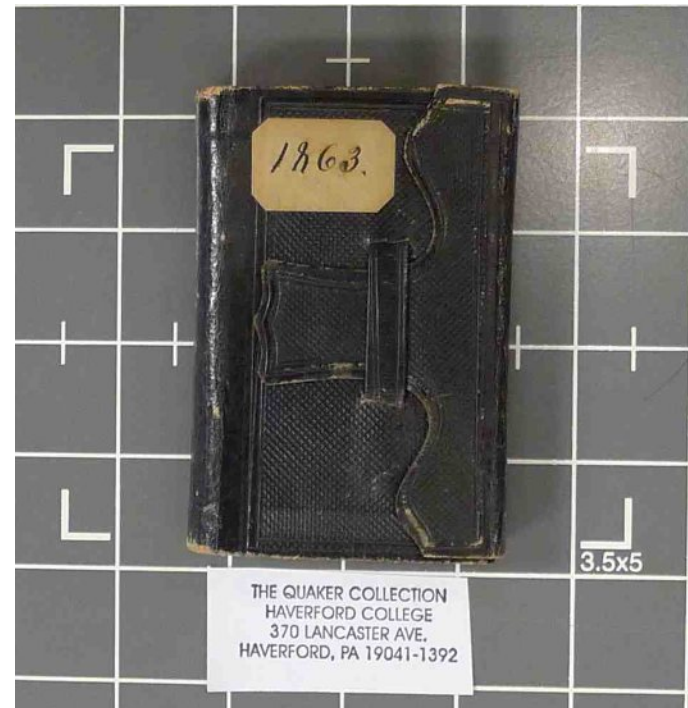
A WOMAN OF NORTH CAROLINA.

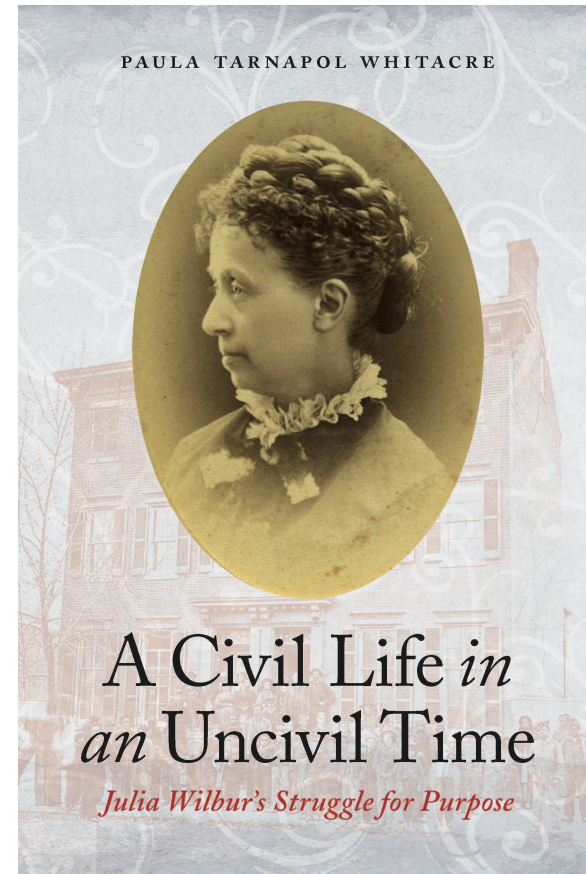
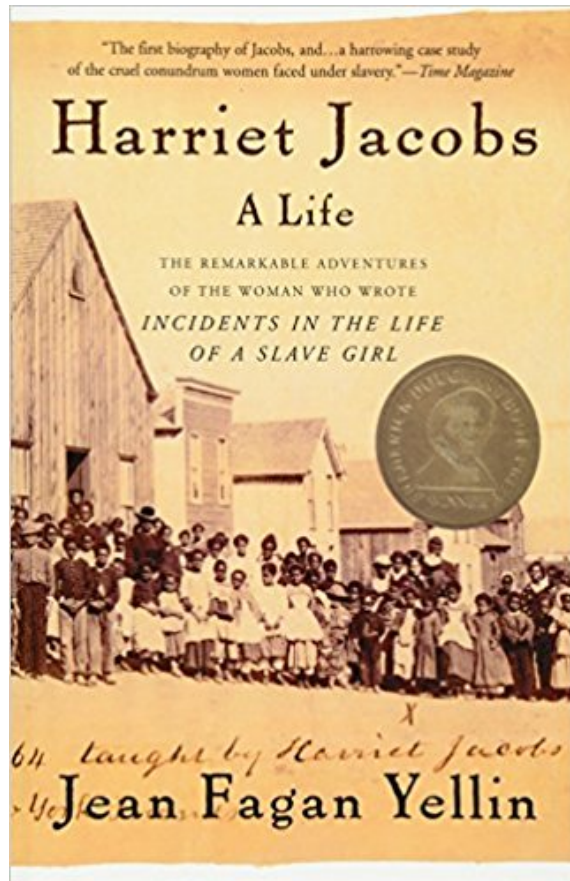
"Rise up, ye women that are at ease! Hear my voice, ye careless daughters! Give ear unto my speech."

ISAIAH XXXII. 9.

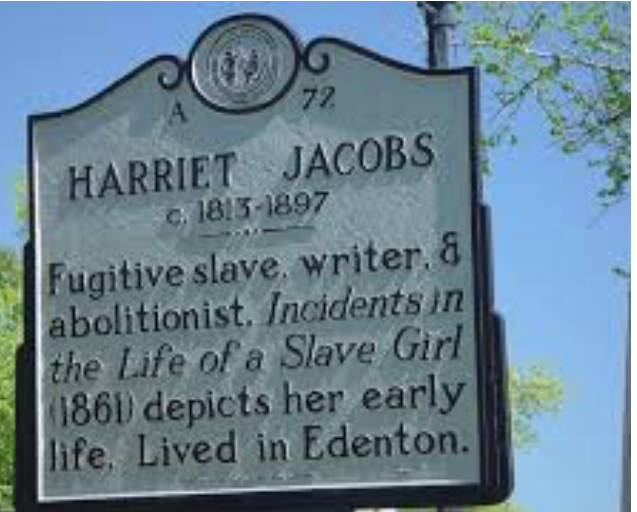
EDITED BY L. MARIA CHILD.

BOSTON:
PUBLISHED FOR THE AUTHOR.
1861.





Harriet Jacobs (1813-1897)



Escape from Slavery

\$100 REWARD

WILL be given for the apprehension and delivery of my Servant Girl **HARRIET**. She is a light mulatto, 21 years of age, about 5 feet 4 inches high, of a thick and corpulent habit, having on her head a thick covering of black hair that curls naturally, but which can be easily combed straight. She speaks easily and fluently, and has an agreeable carriage and address. Being a good seamstress, she has been accustomed to dress well, has a variety of very fine clothes, made in the prevailing fashion, and will probably appear, if abroad, tricked out in gay and fashionable finery. As this girl absconded from the plantation of my son without any known cause or provocation, it is probable she designs to transport herself to the North.

The above reward, with all reasonable charges, will be given for apprehending her, or securing her in any prison or jail within the U. States.

All persons are hereby forewarned against harboring or entertaining her, or being in any way instrumental in her escape, under the most rigorous penalties of the law.

JAMES NORCOM.

Edenton, N. C. June 30

sta2w

Creating a Life in Freedom

Employment



Nathaniel Parker Willis

Reunion



Joseph & Louisa Jacobs

aka Linda Brent



William Nell



Lydia Maria Child

Julia Wilbur (1815-1895)



Dutiful Daughter



Teacher in a Boom Town

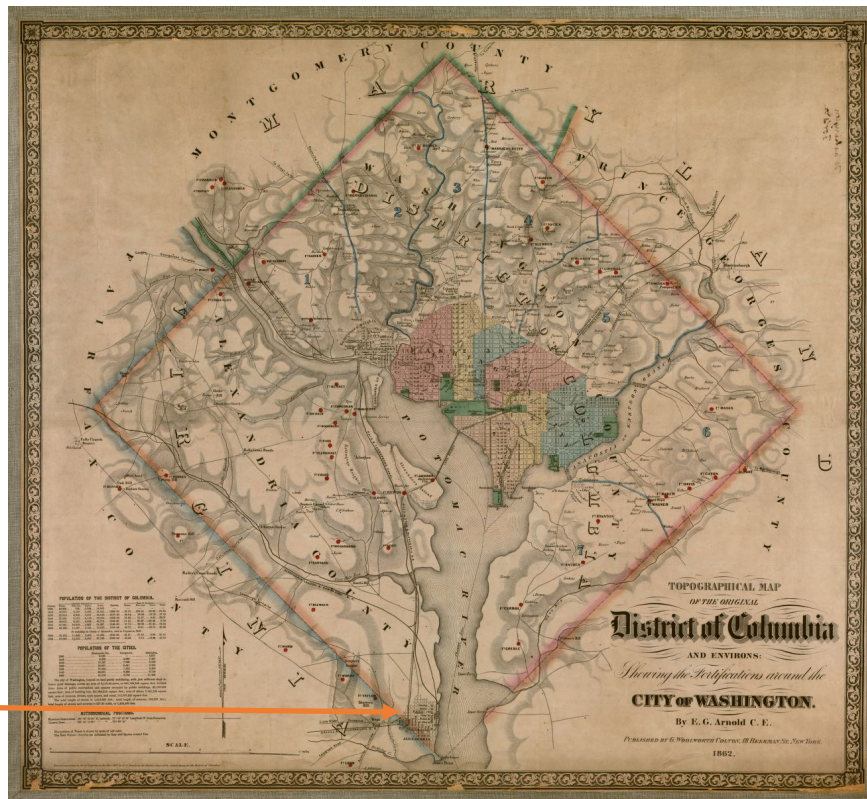


rpf00005.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Reform in the Air



Alexandria: Union Occupied



African Americans Seek Freedom

Harriet Jacobs

September 5, 1862, The Liberator
...Trust them, make them free...

Julia Wilbur

November 6, 1862

***One woman said she did not wait for a bonnet
or anything; she brought away 6 children, 3 of
her own & 3 of her sisters who was dead.***



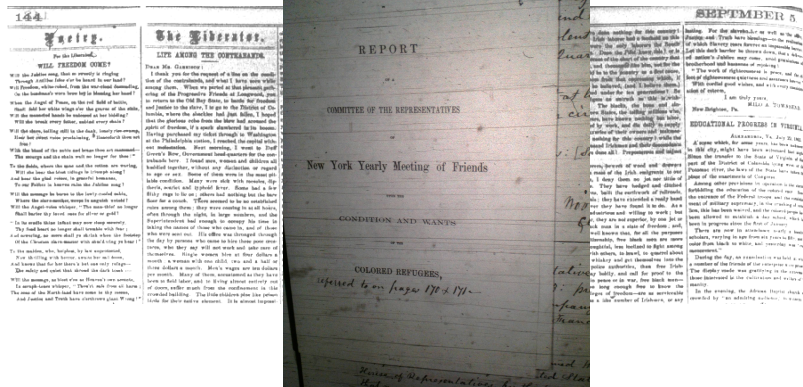
How did Julia end up as a relief worker?

August 16, 1862

*....Anti Slavery folks in
Rochester want a teacher to go
South & are inquiring for me.*



How did Harriet end up as a relief worker?



December 24, 1862

“The Committee concluded to accept the services of Harriet Jacobs—herself formerly a slave—to act as their agent in Alexandria”

“Missionary at large, woman of all work”

- Basic Needs
- Education
- Dignity and Respect



Housing



Clothing & Health Care

“corner, Washington and Wolfe Streets”
(321-323 South Washington)



Education



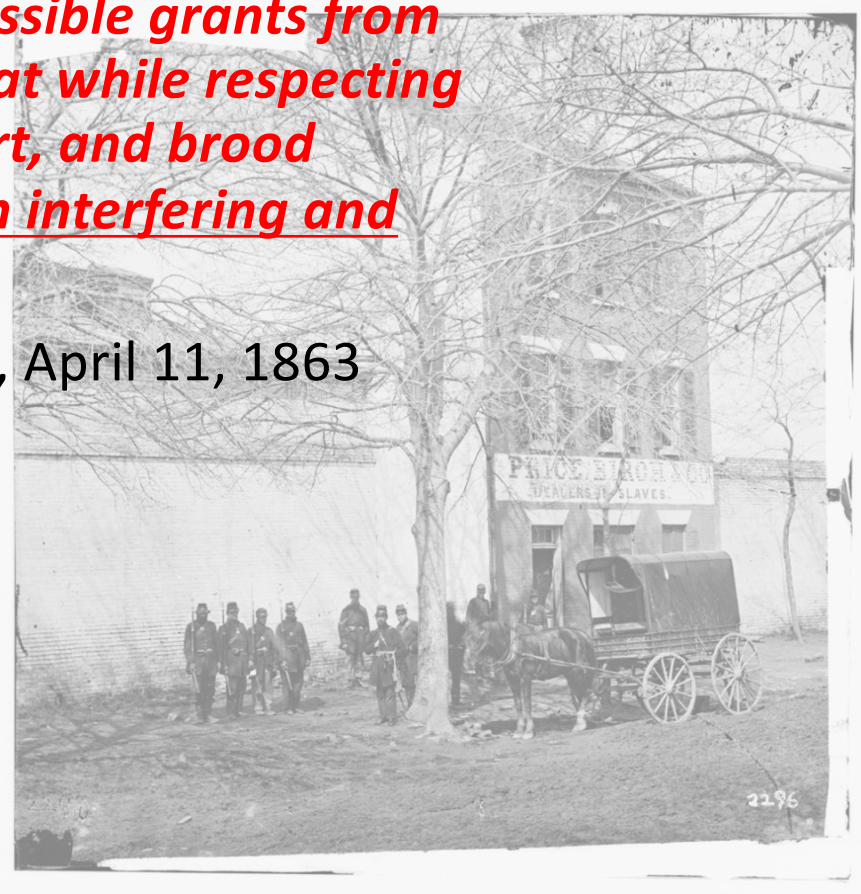
Rights & Dignity



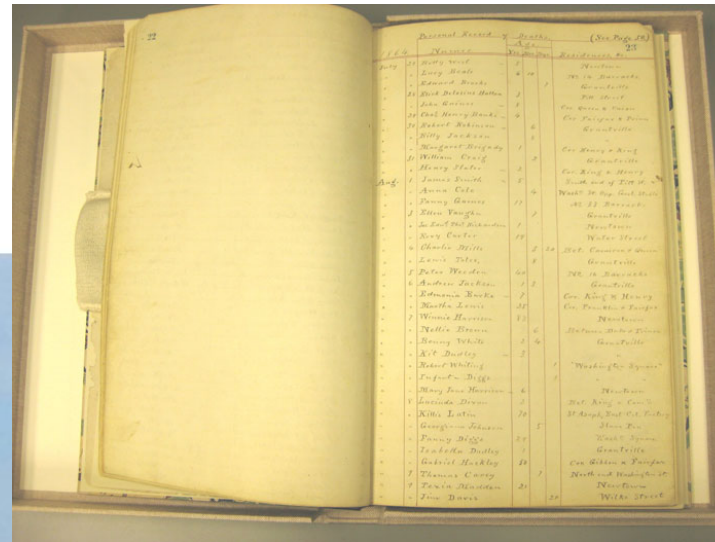
Battling Official-dom

“Miss Wilbur seems to labor under the belief that the chief object is to make life easy and obtain for them [freedmen] with the largest possible grants from Govt. I am compelled to say that while respecting Miss Wilbur’s goodness of heart, and brood benevolence, I regard her as an interfering and troublesome person.”

Lt. Col. H.H. Wells to Gen. Slough, April 11, 1863



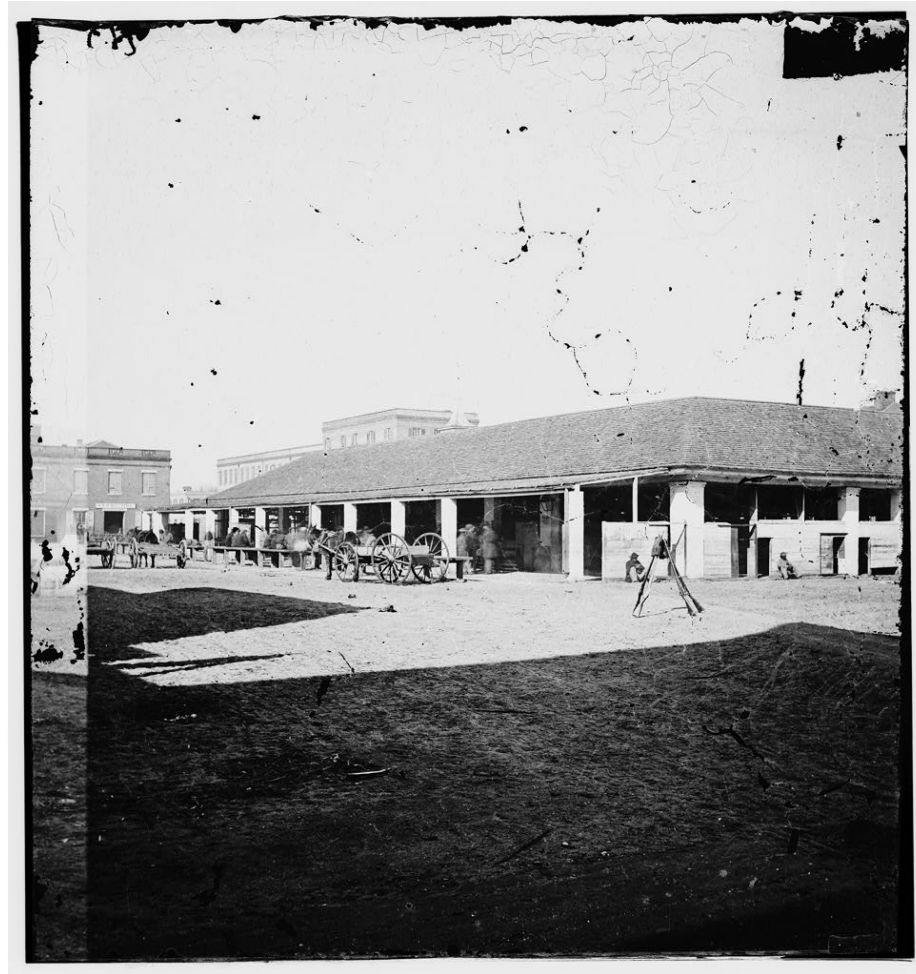
Death



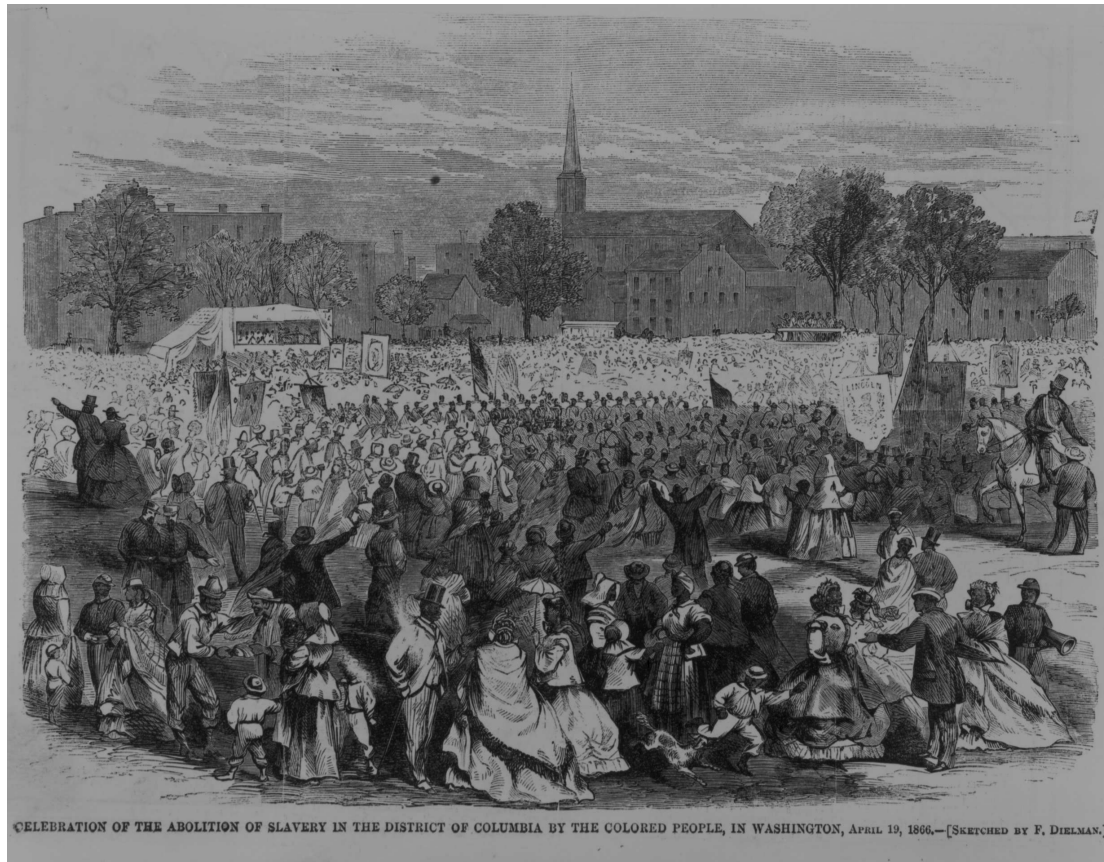
The War Ends



Reconstruction: Harriet Jacobs



Reconstruction: Julia Wilbur



Re-Connections



Harriet's Last Years



Julia's Last Years





Ulysses Ward, *New York Evening Post*, May 2, 1863

“These two ladies have been energetically occupied in this self-sacrificing work....”

Carol Faulkner, *Women’s Radical Reconstruction*

“These white & black women created a national women’s political structure that challenged the male political structure...”

For more information:

- **My website:** <http://www.paulawhitacre.com>
- **Alexandria during the Civil War:**
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/CivilWar>
 - Julia Wilbur Diary Transcripts
- **Harriet Jacobs:**
<https://docsouth.unc.edu/fpn/jacobs/bio.html>