



DATE: Sunday, June 2, 2013
TIME: 2pm / 5pm
PLACE: (5pm) Tabernacle Baptist,
 Graven St.
 Beaufort, South Carolina.
 (2pm) Harriet Tubman Bridge
 State Rep. Kenneth F. Hodges-525-9006

Swing Low, Sweet Harriet **Sesquicentennial Commemoration of Harriet Tubman's**

Abolitionist Raid On The Combahee River June 2, 1863



"The difference between us is very marked. Most that I have done and suffered in the service of our cause has been in public, and I have received much encouragement at every step of the way. You, on the other hand, have labored in a private way. I have wrought in the day - you in the night. I have had the applause of the crowd and the satisfaction that comes of being approved by the multitude, while the most that you have done has been witnessed by a few trembling, scarred, and foot-sore bondmen and women, whom you have led out of the house of bondage, and whose heartfelt 'God bless you' has been your only reward. The midnight sky and the silent stars have been the witness of your devotion to freedom "

Letter from Frederick Douglass, to Harriet Tubman Rochester, New York August 28, 1868



On June 2nd 1863, "General" Harriet "Moses" Tubman in answer to the Gullah spiritual "*Swing Low, Sweet Harriet*" swung low and led the 2nd South Carolina Volunteers of African Descent under the command of Col. James Montgomery on an Abolitionist raid on the Combahee river. The celebrated military action liberated over 700 Gullahs from slavery and many would go on to join the Union army.

After the raid, Colonel Montgomery wrote to General Gillmore: "*I wish to commend to your attention Mrs. Harriet Tubman, a most remarkable woman, and invaluable scout.*"

Reporting on the raid to Secretary of War Stanton, Brigadier General Rufus Saxton said, "*This is the only military command in American history wherein a woman, black or white, led the raid, and under whose inspiration, it was originated and conducted.*"

Tubman's outstanding contribution to the war was as a Union spy and scout. General Hunter, the commander at Fort Royal, recognized her expertise, tempered by her years in the Underground Railroad; under him Tubman organized a scouting service of black scouts and river pilots who surveyed and patrolled the Combahee River area in South Carolina.

Harriet Tubman's Combahee Raid Documents on Display May 31-June 2, 2013
 LY Bensons Gallery & Studio, 211 Charles St.