Map of the Life of Sojourner Truth: A Northern Slave

FREE LECTURE! SOJOURNER TRUTH

Seventeen years a slave in the State of New York, and when
free, a preacher for the free colored community, when only nineteen years old, she
spoke in the Senate of the State of New York. Since then she
has been a leader of the women's suffrage movement, and
has been a friend and interpreter of Frederick Douglass.

Sojourner Truth was born Isabella Baumfree around 1797 in SWATERTHILL, Ulster
County, New York. She was born into slavery and sold three times. In spite of the
New York State Emancipation Act of 1827, she escaped from slavery and later
successfully sued her owner to return her son from slavery in the south—a rare victory
in U.S. court for a Black woman. On June 14, 1843, Isabella Baumfree changed her
name to Sojourner Truth and devoted her life to the abolition of slavery and women's
equality. Truth attempted to vote before women were granted the right, rode
streetscars in Washington, D.C., to promote desegregation, recruited soldiers for the
Union during the Civil War, fought to acquire land grants for former slaves, and met
President Lincoln and Grant. Truth toured the country as a popular speaker. She is
listed in Smithsonian magazine as one of the top 100 influential people in American
history and was the first Black woman honored on a U.S. postage stamp.

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