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## William Webb



William Webb was a fervent abolitionist. He escaped slavery by leaving the vicinity of

his owner while they were both traveling and then posing among prisoners. Webb was a very personable man and his easy manner with others made his escape and subsequent life possible.

Webb worked to establish a line of communication between Mississippi and the north. Through this communication network, he was able to transmit news to

slaves throughout the South.

Webb held a variety of jobs in different Midwestern cities, ultimately settling in Detroit.

Webb served as an officer of the National Emigration Conference where members passed a resolution pertaining to equal rights and a denial of enslavement. He also served as an officer of the Refugee Home Society, a network of the Underground Railroad that was bringing fugitive freedom seekers north.

He hosted a meeting on March 12, 1859 with two of the nation's most important abolitionists Frederick Douglas – abolitionist leader orator, writer, activist – and John Brown – white abolitionist minister and revolutionary. The intent of the meeting was to discuss ways to bring an end to slavery with like-minded men in Detroit. A Michigan Historical Marker marks the spot of the home at Congress and St. Antoine in Detroit. Webb's home served as a regular location for political meetings and as a station on the Underground Railroad.

Webb died in 1868 and is buried in Section P, Lot 25.

[Webb is listed in Elmwood's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Self-Guided Tour Map.](#)



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