

Women of Influence —

We Celebrate Women Who Have Shaped our Story of Service

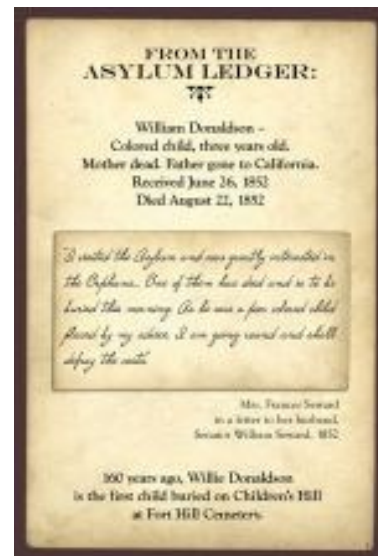
It's always fascinating to read an account of orphans placed at what began as the Cayuga Asylum for Destitute Children in Auburn, NY. But imagine our astonishment and delight when we discovered a **Harriet Tubman** connection with a child at our agency!

[CNYCentral NBC3](#) shared a story about our discovery.

[Read the rest of the story.](#)

NAME.	HISTORY.
<p>Harriet D 4 years old March, 29th 1852 eye sight almost gone;</p>	<p>Committed by the Overseer of the Poor of the town of Venice, Cay Co N.Y. Apr. 3rd, 1854. Taken on trial by Mrs George B. Francis of Port Byron, Mich 6th 1855 and returned on March 16th 1855. Dec 12th 1855 was sent to the Institution for the Blind at Batavia, returned to us, for the vacation, June 17th 1856. Returned to the Institution on Sept 14th 1856. Returned for vacation Jan 17th 1857. Returned to the Ins. at Batavia Sept 14th 1857. Returned to the Asylum June 19th 1859. Taken by Harriet-Tubman, July 28, 91. Died there of consumption, Sept 3, 1891.</p>

Mrs. Frances Seward, wife of William H Seward, took a particular interest in the orphans cared for by what was then the Cayuga Asylum for Destitute Children. A member of the Board of Managers, she encouraged others in the community to provide a proper burial for a child who died in the first year of the institution's operation.



Lisa Chase, Artistic Director of the Merry-Go-Round Youth Theatre, portrayed **Jane Rogers** during our 160th anniversary in 2012. Rogers, a much beloved Superintendent of the Cayuga Asylum for Destitute Children from 1860 until her death in 1892, is memorialized in Auburn NY's Fort Hill Cemetery where 59 orphans are buried.

Words Mrs. Rogers may have spoken: "As we come together to remember these young ones, we must take time to thank the wonderful women of Auburn who, in 1852, had the vision to organize an asylum for children. We remain committed to offering children such opportunities that would most certainly be beyond their reach. And we recognize how blessed we are by the ongoing gifts from this community. Yes, we are blessed."