

Before They Were Famous

Harriet Tubman



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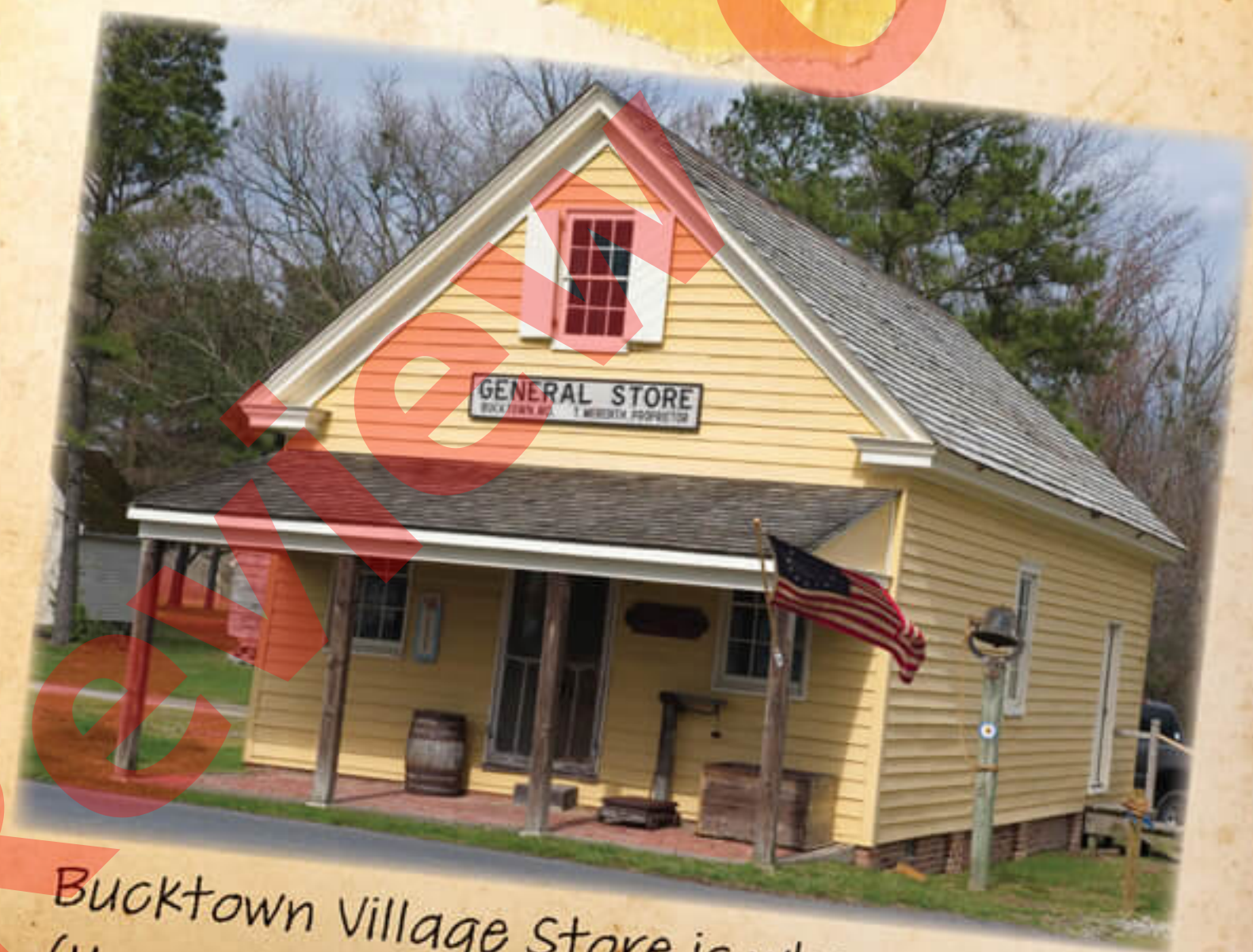
A Sudden Blow

The 12-year-old girl in the village store was minding her own business. But nearby, a Black boy was arguing with his white **overseer**. He was never supposed to do that.

Suddenly, the boy bolted for the door.



In the next moment, the overseer picked up a lead weight from the store counter. He threw it at the fleeing boy — but missed and hit the young Black girl, called Minty, in the head.



Bucktown Village Store is where Minty (Harriet) received a blow to her head.



Early Facts

Minty had gone to the store with her master's cook to help her buy supplies.

Minty was badly hurt.

“The weight broke my skull,” she recalled later. “They carried me to the house all bleeding and fainting.”



Early Facts

The lead weight that hit Minty's head was normally used to help measure things on a scale.





It took months for her to recover. But even when she was better, she suffered headaches and sudden **seizures** the rest of her life.

Growing Up

Minty lived on a plantation in Maryland. Her name at birth was Araminta Ross, but her mother called her Minty.



Early Facts

Minty had eight brothers and sisters. But even when they were little, they were too busy with chores to enjoy time together as a family.

She and all the Black people Minty knew were **enslaved**. At that time, capturing and selling Black people was a legal business in America. They were considered the property of the white people who bought them. They had no more rights than a chair or a frying pan.

