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Elizabeth Freeman, formally referred to as Mum Bett, was an enslaved, African American woman at the Ashley House, here in Sheffield, Massachusetts. She was the first enslaved woman to fight for and gain her freedom. She filed a lawsuit for freedom after hearing of the Massachusetts State Constitution authorizing slavery as legal and defied this ruling by declaring, as a human being, her entitlement to independence.

Elizabeth Freeman was born into slavery in around 1744 in Claverack, New York on the plantation of Pieter Hogeboom. At the mere age of seven, she and her sister, Lizzie were sent to Colonel John Ashley's house in the small town of Sheffield, Massachusetts as a gift for the recently wed, Hogeboom daughter and John Ashley. When Mum Bett decided to file for her freedom, after hearing of the Massachusetts Constitution denying freedom to enslaved people, she went to Theodore Sedgwick, an attorney, to represent her. Mum Bett and another enslaved man known as Brom began the case, Bett and Brom v. Ashley, before the Court of Common Pleas. They the won the case, obtaining their freedom and 30 shillings which led to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to officially abolish slavery in the state. Mum Bett legally changed her name to Elizabeth Freeman and became a paid servant in the Sedgwick household. In 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation was issued, which freed enslaved people inhabited in states that weren't controlled by the union. Then in 1865, the 13th Amendment was ratified, forever outlawing slavery in all of the United States of America.

Elizabeth Freeman suing for freedom in 1781 was such a pivotal moment in history for us celebrate and memorialize because she set the stage for countless others enslavement freedoms which ultimately led to Massachusetts officially abolishing slavery. This act was so vital because then more states followed suit and eventually the 13th Amendment was passed, completely outlawing slavery. These moments paved the way for how the United States would run and without Elizabeth Freeman we may not have come this far today. Freeman stood up against all odds to demand her rightfully deserved liberty. In history, African American enslaved women are easily overlooked, which is why it is essential that we honor her and celebrate her courageous actions in declaring freedom, that permits basic rights in which every single person should be able to possess. Freeman's declaration for freedom marks a point in history of fighting back against inequality and demanding for justice. These moments influence and galvanize for reform and encourage others to speak out against inequity.

Remembering these moments in history allows us to shed light on the crucial journeys that enslaved people went through to gain independence as well as the brutalities they faced and not let their suffering be overlooked, denied, or down played, enabling us to be aware and learn which can lead to growth and progression. Especially Elizabeth Freeman, who despite every obstacle, stood up for herself and voiced for her freedom. Freeman inspired and enforced change to strive to create a united nation and world of complete equality for enslaved people denied of this right. While inspiring future generations to stand against oppression and fight for justice. Elizabeth Freeman's story will be honored and commemorated as an enslaved woman who stood up against injustice and fought for her freedom.