

THE GILDER LEHRMAN
INSTITUTE *of* AMERICAN HISTORY

*Inside the Vault:
Highlights from the Gilder Lehrman Collection*

January 21, 2021

The session will start shortly. Please note:

- Your video and audio will automatically turn off.
- You can participate through the Q&A function.
- If you have technical difficulties, please email: collectionprograms@gilderlehrman.org so we can assist you.

Our Team

- Sandy Trenholm - Collection Director
- Corey Winchester - 2020 Illinois History Teacher of the Year
- Antuan Raimone - Universal Swing, *Hamilton*
- Zoya Siddiqui - Curatorial Intern
- Allison Kraft - Assistant Curator



- If you would like to ask a question, you can **use the Q&A feature**, which is at the bottom of your screen.
- **Viewing in full screen** is recommended to see the presenters and the presentation at the same time.

For Security and Privacy

- Your microphone is automatically muted.
- Your camera is automatically turned off.

Using resources from the Gilder Lehrman Collection, we will

- Look critically at how slavery is portrayed in historical sources
- Recognize the biases in primary sources and how to interpret them
- Understand how to find value and insight in flawed sources

“Lives of the Enslaved” Self-Paced Course



Gilder Lehrman Collection

- Twelve sessions led by Professor Daina Ramey Berry
- Primary source readings that supplement Professor Berry's lectures
- A certificate of completion for 15 hours of professional development credit

Today's Resources

- Photographs & Engravings
- Documentation from the Waverly & Meredith plantations
- *Twelve Years a Slave*



S. J. May

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**SUGAR AND COTTON PLANTATION
SLAVES!**

IN THE SUCCESSION OF WM. M. LAMBETH, AND FOR A PARTITION.

By J. A. Beard & May---J. A. Beard, Auct.

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY,
13th and 14th MARCH, 1855,
AT TWELVE O'CLOCK, ON EACH DAY.

Will be sold at Auction, at BANKS ARCADE, MADISON STREET, in the city of New Orleans, by and in pursuance of an order of the Hon. J. N. Lee, Judge of the Second District Court of New Orleans, the Slaves comprising the groups of the WAVERLY and MEREDITH PLANTATIONS, belonging to the succession of William M. Lambeth, deceased.

TERMS.

Quotidies each, and the remainder by 12 weeks mostly, for approved city paper, bearing reader's list and no charge for postage, or 12 cents for 12 weeks, or 15 cents for 6 months, or 25 cents for a year, the same to be paid within ten days from publication, or the Slaves will be resold for account and risk of the former purchaser after ten days' advertisement in one city paper, and without further notice or other posting in default.

No slaves delivered until the terms of sale are complied with, but will be at the risk of the purchaser, free of obligation. The slaves will be sold singly, and when in families together. They can be seen three days previous to sale, on application to the office of the Auctioneer, No. 3 Bank's Arcade.

Acts of sale before T. O. Sick, Notary Public, in the presence of the plantation.

Printed at the BELLEFONTE JOB OFFICE, 17 Greater street.

TWELVE YEARS A SLAVE.

—
NARRATIVE
OF
SOLOMON NORTHUP,
A CITIZEN OF NEW-YORK,
KIDNAPPED IN WASHINGTON CITY IN 1841,
AND
RESCUED IN 1853,
FROM A COTTON PLANTATION NEAR THE RED RIVER,
IN LOUISIANA.

—
AUBURN:
DERBY AND MILLER.
BUFFALO:
DERBY, OSTON AND MULLIGAN.
CINCINNATI:
HENRY W. DEEBY.
—
1852.

Twelve Years a Slave

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When using a primary source, ask what message it is trying to convey.

- Who created it?
- Who is the audience?
- Why was it created?
- What is the symbolism and/or tone?
- When was it created?

Part of a series of photographs produced to raise money for the education of emancipated people.



Freed Children of New Orleans

“Isaac White is a black boy of eight years; but none the less intelligent than his whiter companions. He has been in school about seven months, and I venture to say that not one boy in fifty would have made as much improvement in that space of time.”

- *Harper's Weekly*,
January 30, 1864



“Rosina Downs is not quite seven years old. She is a fair child, with blonde complexion and silky hair. Her father is in the rebel army. She has one sister as white as herself, and three brothers who are darker. Her mother, a bright mulatto, lives in New Orleans in a poor hut, and has hard work to support her family.”

- *Harper's Weekly*,
January 30, 1864

The Sketchbooks of David M. Stauffer

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Waverly & Meredith Plantations, Louisiana

J. B. May

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SUGAR AND COTTON PLANTATION

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TERMS.

One-third cash, and the remainder at 12 months' credit, for approved city paper, bearing vendor's lien and mortgage on the Slaves, and eventual interest of 8 per cent. in case of non-payment at maturity. All sales to be completed within ten days from adjudication, or the Slaves will be re-sold for account and risk of the former purchaser after ten days' advertisement in one city paper, and without further notice or other putting in default.

No slave delivered until the terms of sale are complied with, but will be at the risk of the purchasers from adjudication. The slaves will be sold singly, and when in families, together. They can be seen three days previous to sale, on application at the office of the Auctioneers, No. 8 Banks' Arcade.

Acts of sale before T. O. Stark, Notary Public, at the expense of the purchasers.

Printed at the BULLETIN JOB OFFICE, 37 Gravier street.

- In 1853, a plantation owner named William Lambeth died.
- His property was being sold to settle the estate.
- The front page of this document provides the details a the sale.

Using documents

What can we learn from this resource?

- Names, ages, and familial relationships help us connect to people of the past and recognize them as individuals.
- Medical conditions give us insight into people's lives.

What are the challenges?

- Language of bias
- Objectification

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Gilder Lehrman Collection

Including the statement that the people should be sold in families.

Enslaved People from Waverly & Meredith

CATALOGUE.

SLAVES FROM THE WAVERLY PLANTATION, TO WIT :

ONE FAMILY.

1. Frank Bond, 45 years, good teamster and field hand.
2. Eliza, 35 years, choice field hand.
3. Sarah, Infant.
4. Louise, 4 years.
5. Harriet, 6 years.
6. Mary Jane, 8 years.
7. Washington, 11 years, likely boy.

8. Caroline, 14 years, likely intelligent girl.
9. Margaret, 16 years, choice field hand.

ONE FAMILY—(Useless, well disposed & conditioned in every respect.)

10. Adam, 40 years, No. 1 field hand, fine axeman, sawyer and [hewer].
11. Kitty Adam, 38 years, choice field hand.
12. Sophie, 2 years.
13. Westley, 4 years.
14. Sidney, 8 years.
15. Charlotte, 10 years, sprightly girl.
16. Jefferson, 12 years, smart boy.

17. Albert, 17 years, field hand and teamster.

ONE FAMILY—(Choice.)

18. Anthony Moore, about 30 years, fine engineer and field hand.
19. Sarah Moore, 22 years, good field hand; tensile occasionally [inflamed].
20. Infant, 2 months.
21. Anthony, 3 years.
22. Stephen, 5 years.
23. Sae, 7 years.
24. Sophy, 12 years, likely.

ONE FAMILY.

25. Paul Henry, about 30, splendid teamster and field hand, slightly affected with gleet.
26. Susan, 35 years, good field hand.
27. Infant, 3 months.
28. Bail, 2 years.
29. Rachel, about 5 years.
30. Spencer, 8 years.
31. Edy, 10 years, sprightly girl.

ONE FAMILY.

32. Joe Davis, about 40 years, first rate teamster, good field hand and sawyer—No. 1 man.
33. Cely, about 36 years, assistant plantation cook, (sickly.)
34. Winifred Scott, about 6 years.
35. Richard, about 9 years, smart boy.

36. Cornelius, 15 years, teamster, fine field hand.

ONE FAMILY.

37. Henry Casey, 32 years, good cooper, (subject to piles.)
38. Jane Casey, 32 years, feeble, (pregnant.)
39. Aetta, 2 years.
40. Adeline, 4 years, handsome child.

ONE FAMILY.

41. Solomon White, 30 years, a No. 1 field hand and fine filterer.
42. Chas, 42 yrs, good servant and nurse—manager of trunk gang.

43. Joe B., 24 yrs., fine field hand and axeman, slightly lame from [cut on instep].

ONE FAMILY.

44. Milly, 25 years, good field hand.
45. Peggy, Infant.
46. Esther, 3 years.
47. Winny, 8 years, nice girl.
48. Elizabeth, 10 years, remarkably spoglihtly girl.

ONE FAMILY.

49. Jim Haskins, 40 years, good field hand.
50. Jim, 10 years, likely, good boy.
51. Eaddy, 12 years, likely, good girl.

52. George, 16 years, field hand.

ONE FAMILY.

53. Jane Saunders, 37 years, fine field hand, (pregnant.)
54. Henry, 2 years.
55. Mary Ellen, 6 years.
56. Minia, 9 years.
57. Gabriel, 8 years.
58. Martha, 12 years.

ONE FAMILY.

59. Tom Coleman, 40, fine field hand, bone black burner. [womb]
60. Mary Coleman, 37, excellent field hand, (occasional flogging of)
61. Daniel, (Trucker), 12, sprightly boy, (nimble of foot in the dance.)

ONE FAMILY—(No better family.)

62. Wm. Morris, 29, fine teamster, field hand, faithful, good serv't
63. Cely, (Aly), 27 yrs, good field hand. [in every respect.]
64. Lucy, 1 year.
65. Harriette, 4 years.
66. Rose, 6 years.
67. Samuel, 10 years.

ONE FAMILY.

68. Jinks, 48 years, splendid plantation blacksmith, (sickly at times.)
69. Kitty, 45 years, (sickly.)
70. Humphrey, 6 years.
71. Edward, 10 years.
72. Mary Ann, 12 years, excellent girl, field hand.

73. Matilda, 18 years.
74. Townsend, 16 years, teamster, No. 1 boy, field hand.

ONE FAMILY.

75. Philip, 30 years, excellent teamster, sugar maker, good cooper, fine field hand, axeman and excellent servant.
76. Bell, 42 years, asthmatic.
77. Elly, 6 years.
78. Rosella, 12 years, fine girl.

79. Abner, 19 years, feeble mind.
80. John Henry, 23 years, good field hand and teamster.

ONE FAMILY.

81. Barbara Ann, 17 years, good field hand—crooked knee.
82. Virginia, Infant.

ONE FAMILY.

83. Mike, 40 years, field hand—well disposed.
84. Julia Ann, 17 years, stout field hand.
85. Samuel, Infant.

ONE FAMILY.

86. Evans, 40 years, teamster, axeman, oster, fine field hand and trusty, excellent house servant.
87. Millic, 54 years, good cook, (sickly.)

88. John, 40 years, excellent filterer, striker in blacksmith chop, (ruptured.)

ONE FAMILY.

89. Jacob, 50 years, good driver.
90. Elizabeth, 60 years, plantation seamstress, feeble.

91. Frey Ann, 14 years, very smart girl, field hand.
92. Modesty, 17 years, injured slightly in the head.
93. Isalah, 22 years, good field hand.

ONE FAMILY.

94. Morgana, 19 years, good field hand.
95. Infant Child.

ONE FAMILY.

96. Clalborne, 40 years, good field hand.
97. Mary Simons, 28 years, good field hand.
98. Sarah, 1 year.
99. John, 3 years.

CATALOGUE OF WAVERLY PLANTATION SLAVES CONTINUED.

ONE FAMILY.

100. John, 42 years, asthmatic.
101. Nat, 7 years.
102. Anton, 10 years.
103. John, 12 years, smart, likely boy.

104. Sandy, 14 years, field boy.
105. Jacob Turner, 34 years, sickly.
106. Bob, 20 years, good field hand.

ONE FAMILY.

107. Godfrey, 60 years, stock minder.
108. Dosey, 22 years, good boy.

109. Godfrey Jim, 16 years, good field hand and teamster.

ONE FAMILY.

110. Harry, 45 yrs., driver, (afflicted with palpitation of the heart.)
111. Edaline, 38 years, good cook, ironer and washer.

112. Jane Rebecca, Infant.
113. Susan, 2 years.
114. Jim, 4 years.
115. Henry, 12 years.

116. Theophilus, 15 years, field hand.
117. Cy, 22 years, field hand and teamster.

ONE FAMILY.

118. Bill Buck, 28 years, carriage driver, clarifier pan-man, good
119. Ann, 18 years, field hand. [handy servant.]
120. Charles, 1 year.

121. Joe Turner, 46 years, field hand.
122. Alect Brown, 22 years, field hand and clarifier.
123. Tom Butler, 25 years, field hand and teamster.
124. Readey, 30 years, good field hand and assistant engineer.
125. Ned Dosey, 35 years, fine field hand and axeman.
126. Polly, 70 years.
127. Ellen, 70 years.

SLAVES from the MEREDITH PLANTATION, to wit :

ONE FAMILY.

- 1 James Tosey 85, good field hand and sugar maker.
- 2 Anna 28.
- 3 Anthony 9.
- 4 Mary 7.
- 5 Noel 4.

ONE FAMILY.

- 6 Nancy 35, good seamstress, house servant, nurse and cook.
- 7 Catherine 10, back slightly injured.
- 8 Dosey 5.
- 9 Alice 8.
- 10 William Edward, Infant.

- 12 Hannah or Anna 18.
- 13 Kit 14, good field hand.
- 14 Emma 12, sprightly girl.

ONE FAMILY.

- 15 Isaac 58, Blacksmith.
- 16 Lucy 65.

- 17 Prince 19, good field hand and waggoner.
- 18 Patsy 14, " " "
- 19 Jesse 12, " " "

ONE FAMILY.

20. Caroline 38, first rate field hand and plantation cook.
- 21 Daniel 12.
- 22 Becky Jane 9.

ONE FAMILY.

- 22 Eschiel 50, field hand, rough carpenter, (slightly rheumatic.)
- 24 Dosey 48, plantation cook.

ONE FAMILY.

- 25 Lizzy 22, cook, (sickly.)
- 26 Willis 25, field hand, fine boy.

ONE FAMILY.

- 27 Henry 28, good field hand and waggoner.
- 28 Dimal 22, excellent field hand.

ONE FAMILY.

- 29 Big Cully, about 50, stock minder.
- 30 Phillis, about 10.

- 31 Little Cully, about 18, fine field hand and waggoner.
- 32 Lucy, about 16.
- 33 Letty, about 16.
- 34 Gracy, about 12.

- 35 Stephen 35, good field hand, teamster, basket and collar maker.
- 36 Dick 35, fine field hand and teamster.
- 37 Peter 30, good " "
- 38 Augustus 45, fine field hand and freeman.
- 39 Sam Forest 25, good field hand and driver.
- 40 Spencer 18.
- 41 Charles 30, good field hand.
- 42 Ephraim 40, excellent field hand and teamster.
- 43 Big Phillis 30, field hand.
- 44 Little Jim 30, field hand and engineer.
- 45 Elizabeth 34, good field hand.
- 46 Solomon 35, a No. 1 field hand.
- 47 Little Ben 18, good field hand and waggoner.
- 48 John Moore 50, ox driver, (back injured, sometimes affected)
- 49 Daphne 25, good field hand. [by 11]

ONE FAMILY.

- 50 Johnson 60, field hand.
- 51 Henry 10

Families at the Waverly Plantation

ONE FAMILY.

1. Frank Bond, 45 years, good teamster and field hand.
2. Eliza, 35 years, choice field hand.
3. Sarah, Infant.
4. Louisa, 4 years.
5. Harriet, 6 years.
6. Mary Jane, 9 years.
7. Washington, 11 years, likely boy.

8. Caroline, 14 years, likely intelligent girl.
9. Margaret, 16 years, choice field hand.

ONE FAMILY—(*Excellent, well disposed & conditioned in every respect.*)

10. Adam, 40 years, No. 1 field hand, fine axeman, sawyer and [hewer.
11. Kitty Adam, 34 years, choice field hand.
12. Sophia, 2 years.
13. Westley, 4 years.
14. Sidney, 8 years.
15. Charlotte, 10 years, sprightly girl.
16. Jefferson, 12 years, smart boy.

17. Albert, 17 years, field hand and teamster.

ONE FAMILY—(*Choice.*)

18. Anthony Moore, about 30 years, fine engineer and field hand.
19. Sarah Moore, 32 years, good field hand; tonsils occasionally [inflamed.
20. Infant, 2 months.
21. Anthony, 3 years.
22. Stephen, 5 years.
23. Nace, 9 years.
24. Sophy, 12 years, likely.

ONE FAMILY.

25. Jack Turner, about 40, splendid teamster and field hand, slight-ly affected with gleet.
26. Susan, 35 years, good field hand.
27. Infant, 3 months.
28. Bazil, 2 years.
29. Rachel, about 5 years.
30. Spencer, 8 years.
31. Edy, 10 years, sprightly girl.

ONE FAMILY.

53. Jane Saunders, 37 years, fine field hand, (pregnant.)
54. Henry, 2 years.
55. Mary Ellen, 6 years.
56. Minta, 9 years.
57. Gabriel, 8 years.
58. Martha, 12 years.

ONE FAMILY.

59. Tom Coleman, 40, fine field hand, bone black burner. [womb.
60. Mary Coleman, 37, excellent field hand, (occasional falling of
61. Daniel, (Tucker,) 12, sprightly boy, (nimble of foot in the dance.)

ONE FAMILY—(*No better family.*)

62. Wm. Morris, 29, fine teamster, field hand, faithful, good serv't
63. Cely, (Aley,) 27 yrs., good field hand. [in every respect.
64. Lucy, 1 year.
65. Henrietta, 4 years.
66. Rose, 6 years.
67. Samuel, 10 years.

ONE FAMILY.

68. Jinks, 48 years, splendid plantation blacksmith, (sickly at
69. Kitty, 45 years, (sickly.) [times.)
70. Humphrey, 6 years.
71. Edward, 10 years.
72. Mary Ann, 12 years, excellent girl, field hand.

73. Matilda, 13 years.
74. Townsley, 16 years, teamster, No. 1 boy, field hand.

ONE FAMILY.

75. Philips, 32 years, excellent vacuum-pan sugar maker, good cooper, fine field hand, axeman and excellent servant.
76. Doll, 42 years, asthmatic.
77. Elly, 6 years.
78. Roselia, 12 years, fine girl.

79. Abram, 19 years, feeble mind.
80. John Henry, 23 years, good field hand and teamster.

Solomon Northup, 1808 - ?

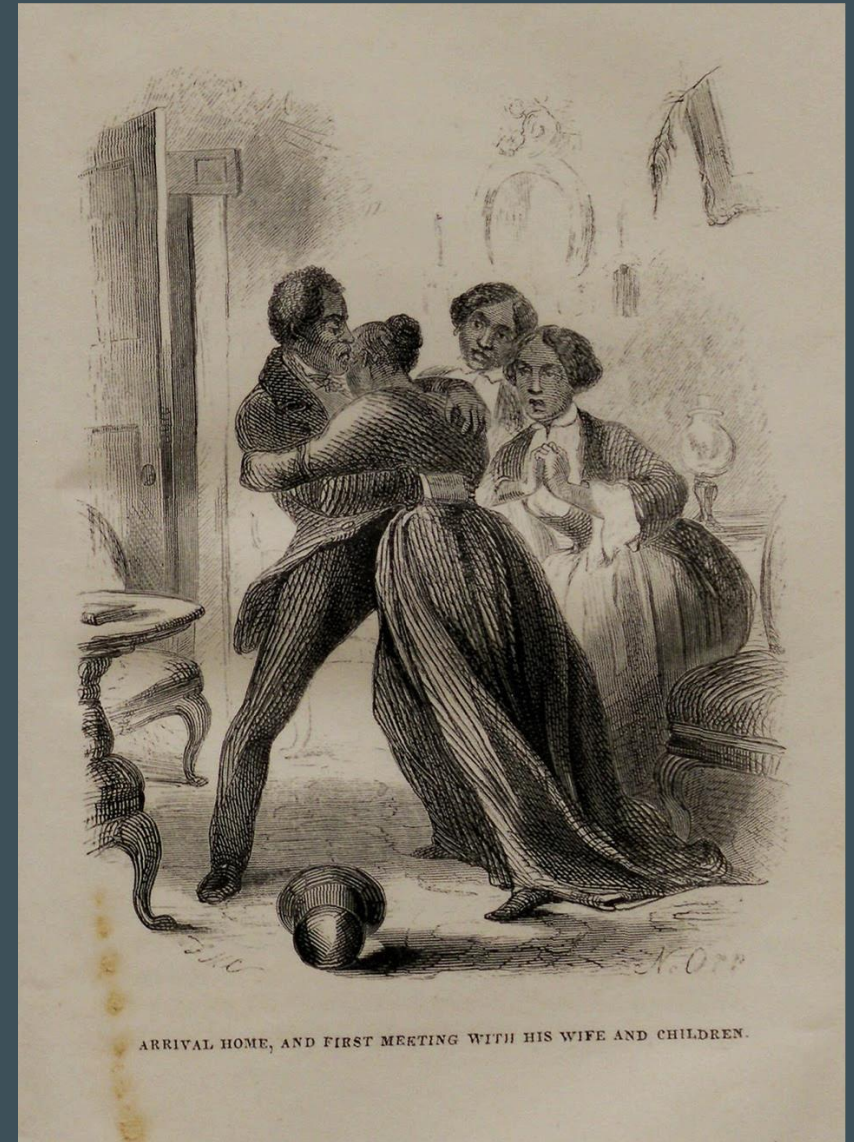
- Solomon Northup was born in upstate New York.
- He was a laborer and professional violinist.
- In 1841, he was offered a job in Washington, DC, where he was kidnapped and sold into slavery.
- He was enslaved in Louisiana for twelve years first by William Ford and later by Edwin Epps.
- Epps was notoriously cruel, which is shown in detail in Northup's memoir.



SCENE IN THE SLAVE PEN AT WASHINGTON.

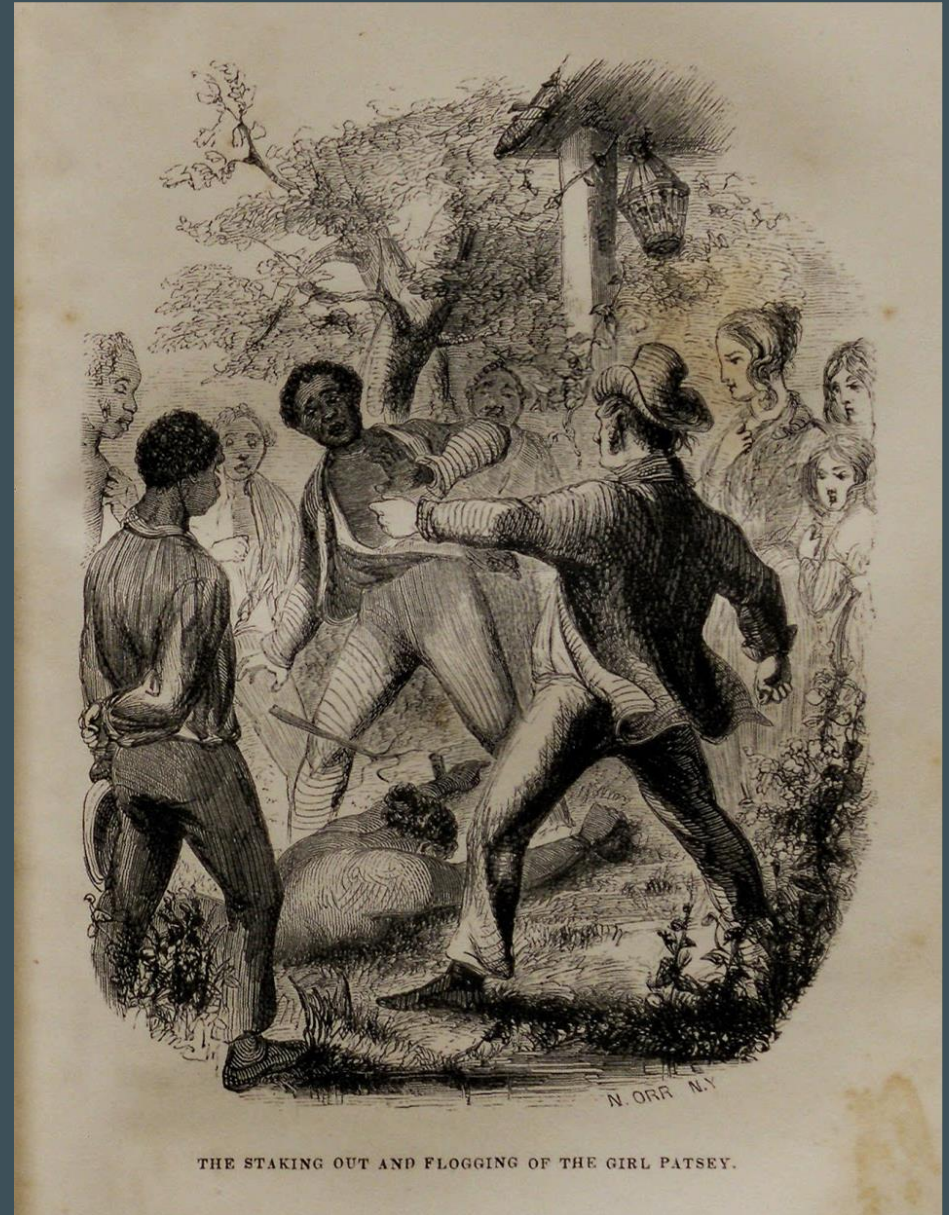
Twelve Years a Slave

- After more than 10 years, Northup met Samuel Bass, a white carpenter from Canada who promised to try to get word of Northup's enslavement back to his family.
- Bass was successful, and in 1853, Northup's friends and family were able to secure his freedom
- Northup's memoir, *Twelve Years a Slave*, was published in 1853.



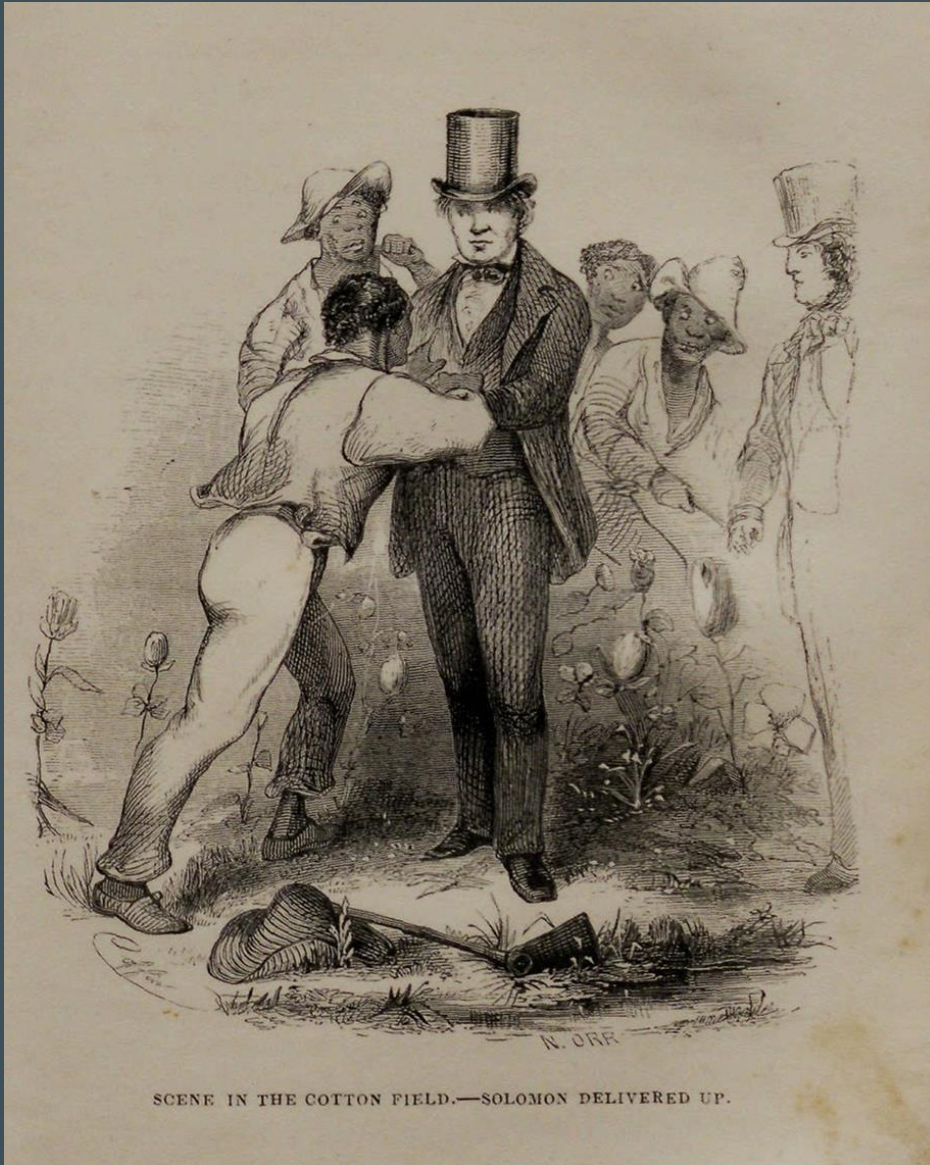
Twelve Years a Slave

“An hour before day light the horn is blown. Then the slaves arouse, prepare their breakfast, fill a gourd with water, in another deposit their dinner of cold bacon and corn cake, and hurry to the field again. It is an offense invariably followed by a flogging, to be found at the quarters after daybreak....” p. 171



THE STAKING OUT AND FLOGGING OF THE GIRL PATSEY.

Twelve Years a Slave

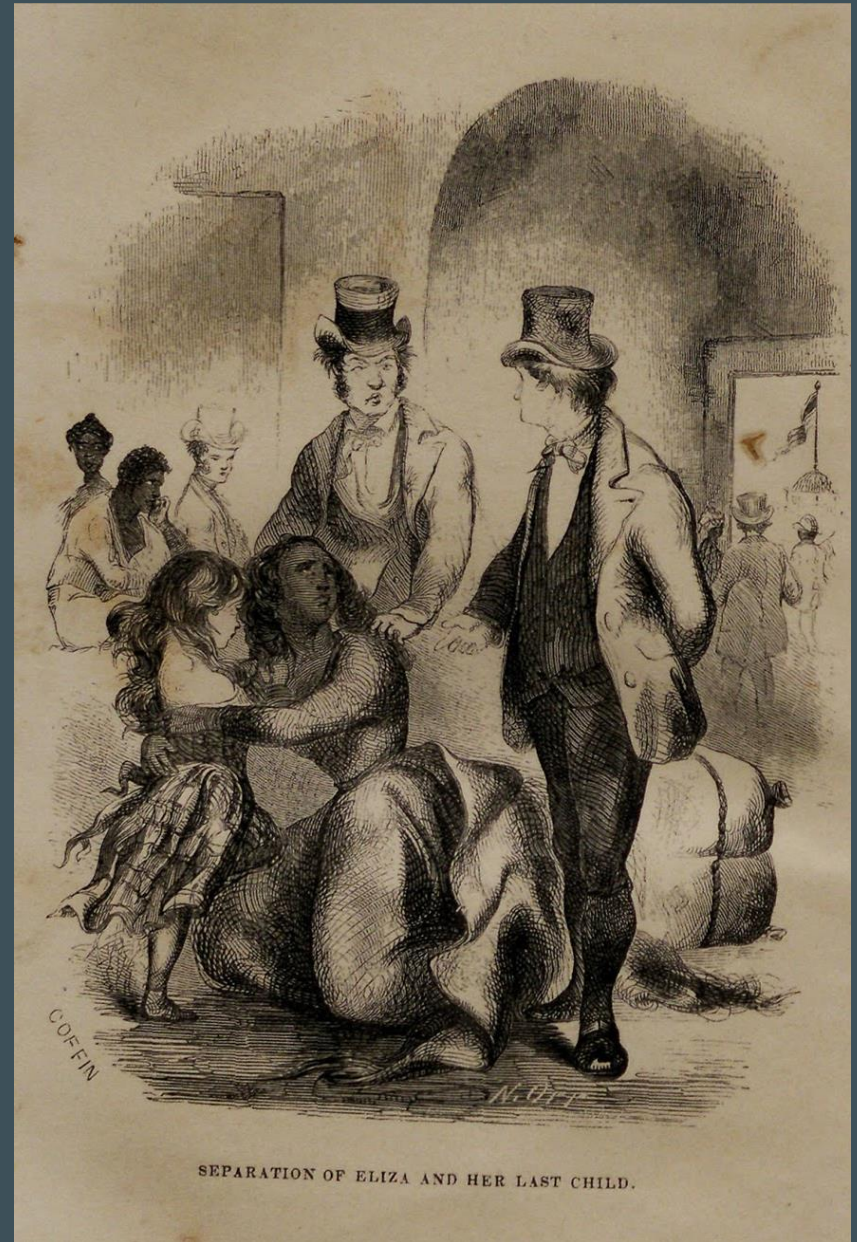


“The hands are required to be in the cotton field as soon as it is light in the morning, and, with the exception of ten or fifteen minutes, which is given them at noon to swallow their allowance of cold bacon, they are not permitted to be a moment idle until it is too dark to see, and when the moon is full, they often times labor till the middle of the night. They do not dare to stop even at dinner time, nor return to the quarters, however late it be, until the order to halt is given by the driver....”

p. 167

Twelve Years a Slave

“Finally, at a late hour, they reach the quarters, sleepy and overcome with the long day’s toil. All that is allowed them is corn and bacon, which is given out at the corn-crib and smoke-house every Sunday morning. Each one receives, as his weekly allowance, three and a half pounds of bacon, and corn enough to make a peck of meal. That is all.” p. 168



Q&A

Upcoming Programs

- Nominate a teacher for History Teacher of the Year!
 - K-12 teachers in each of the 50 states, District of Columbia, Department of Defense Schools, and US Territories are eligible. These winners are then entered into a pool for the National History Teacher of the Year award.
- *Inside the Vault*, Thursday, February 4 at 7 pm ET (4 pm PT)
 - We will be discussing primary sources by Phillis Wheatley and Elizabeth Keckley.
- *Book Breaks*, January 24 at 2 pm ET (11 am PT)
 - James Oakes discusses his book *The Crooked Path to Abolition: Abraham Lincoln and the Antislavery Constitution*.
- Visit gilderlehrman.org for free resources for students, teachers, families, and history enthusiasts of all ages.