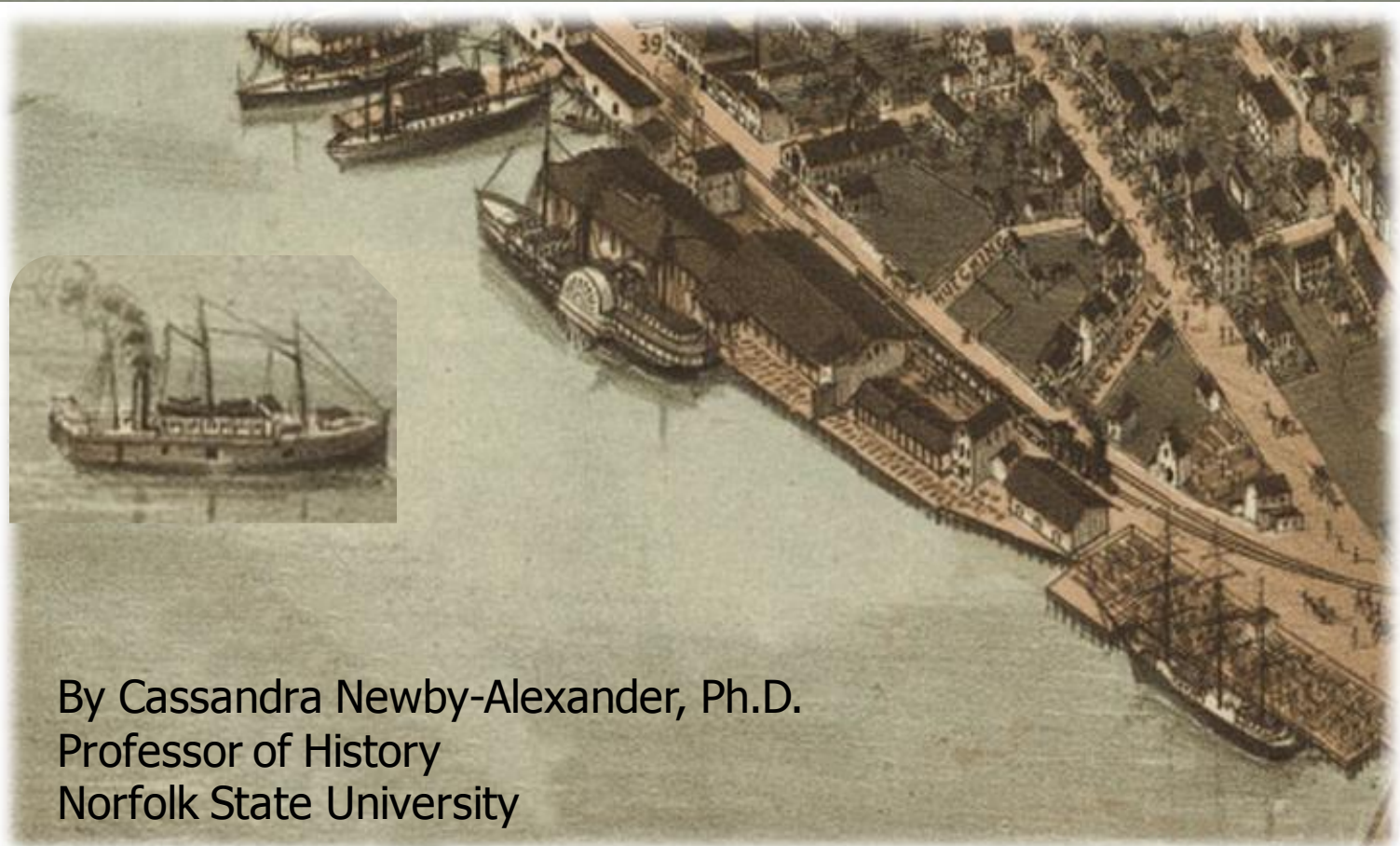


# Waterways to Freedom: The Underground Railroad in Hampton Roads



By Cassandra Newby-Alexander, Ph.D.  
Professor of History  
Norfolk State University

# \$50 Reward.



My Negro Man MOSES, left my employ about the 12th inst. He is about 20 years old, dark complexion, stout made, high cheek bones and very white teeth. He was dressed in blue

cassinet jacket and trousers. I will give the above reward for his apprehension and securing him in Jail, if taken in the state, so that I get him again; or one hundred dollars if taken out of the state.

JNO. G. HATTON.

Portsmouth, March 28

13

*American Beacon*  
April 24, 1834

## Twenty Five Dollars Reward.



HAGAR, a Negro Woman, about 30 years of age, rather a dark copper coloured Negro, slim and tall, say above the middle height, her head inclines forward from her shoulders more than customary, narrow visage, her mouth projects, nose pointed neither flat nor prominent, was sold about 3 years ago by Sam'l Hosier, (living near Nath'l P. Tatem's) to Andrew How, in Norfolk, and ran away in June last; Hagar has a daughter living with Wm. Jones, about 4 miles from Norfolk, off the road leading to Great Bridge, has been seen about N. P. Tatem's place, at Ferry Point and in Portsmouth—her mother-in-law's name is Prudence, living in Commerce Street. All persons are warned against harbouring her, and any person who will give information, or who will lodge her in jail, so that the subscriber can get her, shall receive the above reward.

J. B. MASSIEU,  
near the Court House, Mainstreet, Norfolk.

thts

*American Beacon*  
April 26, 1834

**J J MOORE, Auc<sup>r</sup>**

**AUCTION SALE OF NEGROES  
WILL BE SOLD**

At Public Auction, on the 17th day of the present month, at the auction house of J James Moore & Co, commencing at 11 o'clock, Several Slaves of different ages and both sexes. Terms of sale cash. By order of the Trustee.

**J J MOORE & CO,  
Auct<sup>rs</sup>.**

Ja 6

**35 or 40  
NEGROES  
FOR SALE**

**AT  
Public Auction.**

**WILL BE SOLD,**

At Public Auction, at Garysburg, in the county of Northampton, N.C. on Wednesday, the 2d day of February, '89.

**35 OR 40 NEGROES,  
CONSISTING OF MEN, WOMEN BOYS AND  
GIRLS**

Most of them are Farm Hands, and are familiar with the cultivation of Cotton. Such a lot of Negroes is rarely offered at public sale and the terms will be accommodating.

The place of sale is immediately at the junction of the Petersburg and Weldon and Seaboard and Roanoke Railroad, within two miles of Weldon, and accessible by railroad from all parts of the country.

**DAVID A BARNES,  
Agent and Auctioneer.**

Ja 6—td

*Southern Argus  
January 10, 1859*

## Auction Sales—This Day.

### Sergeant's Sale of Negro.

BY VIRTUE of an execution in my hands, I shall, THIS MORNING, at 11 o'clock, at the foot of the Market, sell a very valuable Negro Woman. Terms cash.

Jan 24

W T HENDREN, Sergeant

*Southern Argus,  
January 24, 1855*

*Southern Argus,  
January 15, 1859*

SALE OF NEGROES.—Messrs. J. J. Moore & Co. will sell to-day, at 11 o'clock, at their rooms on Main street, a valuable young negro man, negro woman and girl—all of good character. The woman is a first rate cook, washer and ironer. See advertisement.

---

**SALE OF NEGROES—By J. J. Moore & Co. on  
Saturday :**

Woman 82 yrs, and child 10 months,	\$850
Young Negro Man,	\$1,190
Girl 13 years old,	\$980

---

**SALE OF NEGROES—On Saturday, by Fergu-  
son & Belote, auctioneers:**

Mary Eliza, age 18,	825
Fanny, " 18,	1150
George, " 20,	1190
James, " 55,	300
Ann, aged 40 and child 6 months,	600
Tom, " 14,	870
Sheppard, " 12,	675
Armstead, " 9,	561
Mary, " 6,	310

---

*Southern Argus*  
January 17, 1859

## NOTICE.

**P**URSUANT to a Deed of Trust executed to me by John Lynch as Trustee in favor of C W Wickings, the 18th day of November 1857, I shall offer for sale at the Court House door in Portsmouth, Va. on Tuesday the 18th day of January, 1859, the following property to the highest bidder for cash (viz) Negro man Joe, Negro man Lewis, one Mare and Colt, one Mule, one yoke of Oxen, one Carrylog and Chain and one undivided interest in land hired from his father, Stephen Lynch by deed, to satisfy said Deed of Trust and expenses of the same, this the 6th day of January, 1859.

JOHN JAMES,  
Trustee.

ja 7—td

Herald and Transcript copy.

---

**BY S O MERWIN & CO,**

**TRUSTEE'S SALE OF NEGROES.**

**B**y virtue of a deed of trust from Isaac Land to me, dated 12th day of May, 1858, and recorded in the Clerk's office of the Court of the Corporation of the city of Norfolk, I shall on

**THURSDAY, 13th day of January 1859.**

Sell at public auction, at the Auction House of S O Merwin & Co, on Wide Water street, in this city, Negro Woman Fanny and her two Children Mary and James, in the said deed named.

Sale at 12 o'clock, M. Terms Cash,

**SIMON S STUBBS**

Trustee.

**S O MERWIN & CO,**

Auct'rs.

ja 5

*Southern Argus*  
January 10, 1859

---

**SALE OF NEGROES**—Three negroes were sold at auction Tuesday, by J. J. Moore, Auctioneer, at very high prices. A negro man 23 years old \$1540, another 30 years old \$1200. They were sold for bad conduct; and the older of the two was badly disfigured by scars, burns, &c.

A girl 13 years old was sold at \$1040.

---

*Southern Argus* September 15, 1859



---

**E**XCELLENT WOMEN SERVANTS FOR  
sale and hire.—1 Negro Woman, aged 23  
years, with 2 children, a first rate seamstress,  
and accustomed to housework; also one wo-  
man aged about 21 years, an excellent servant  
and a fair cook, washer, and ironer—neither  
sold for any fault.

And for hire for the balance of the year, a  
young woman, a good cook, washer and ironer,  
and is represented to be a superior nurse.—  
Said woman has but one child. For terms,  
&c., apply to

ja 17

W. B. SOREY, Auct'r.

---

*Southern Argus, January 17, 1855*

## Auction Sales—This Day.

### Negro Woman at Auction. WILL BE SOLD,

At Public Auction, without reserve, **THIS DAY**, at 12 o'clock, for cash, at the private jail of Mr. Wm. W. Hall, on Union street,

1 likely Negro Woman, 48 years of age a good cook or child's nurse, sews plain sewing well.

**FERGUSON & WILKINSON,**

mh 7

Auctioneers

### Negroes for Sale. WILL BE SOLD.

AT Public Auction, on **WEDNESDAY**, the 7th inst. at 12 o'clock, M., for cash, at the private jail of Mr. W. W. Hall, in the city of Norfolk, on Union street, two valuable young Negro Men, belonging to the estate of John H. Nash, deceased, caulkers by trade, having been workmen in an extensive ship yard in the city of Norfolk for the last five years.

mh 6

**W W LAMB, Administrator.**

*Southern Argus*  
March 7, 1855

## Wants.

**TWO SERVANTS WANTED.**—Wanted for the present year a woman to cook, wash and iron for a small family, and one for a house servant and nurse. Apply to  
ja 5 T. F. OWENS, 1 Market square.

**CLERK WANTED.**—One who understands the dry goods business. Apply at this office.  
ja 3

**WANTED TO HIRE**—A middle aged colored man to attend to office and warehouse. He must be active and of good character.  
ja 3 FERGUSON & MILHADO.

**WANTED**—For the balance of this year a stout able bodied boy, or man to drive a cart, or to do willingly any other work required. Apply to  
de 28 ZANTZINGER & NANCE.

**NEGRO BOYS WANTED.**—3 Negro Boys for the ensuing year, from 14 to 18 years of age, at the Depot Roanoke square. de 25

**WANTED** to hire for the next year a good Cook, Washer and Ironer. Apply at 13 Campbell's wharf. no 2

**WANTED TO HIRE.**—A boy from 14 to 16 years of age. Apply at this office. oc 21.

*Southern Argus*  
January 13, 1855

- Slavery was prosperous and economically important to the U.S., especially after the invention of the cotton gin
  - In 1860 the South produced 7/8ths of the world's cotton.
  - Cotton represented 57.5% of the value of all U.S. exports.
  - 55% of enslaved people in the United States were employed in cotton production.

**TABLE 6-1** U.S. SLAVE POPULATION, 1820 AND 1860

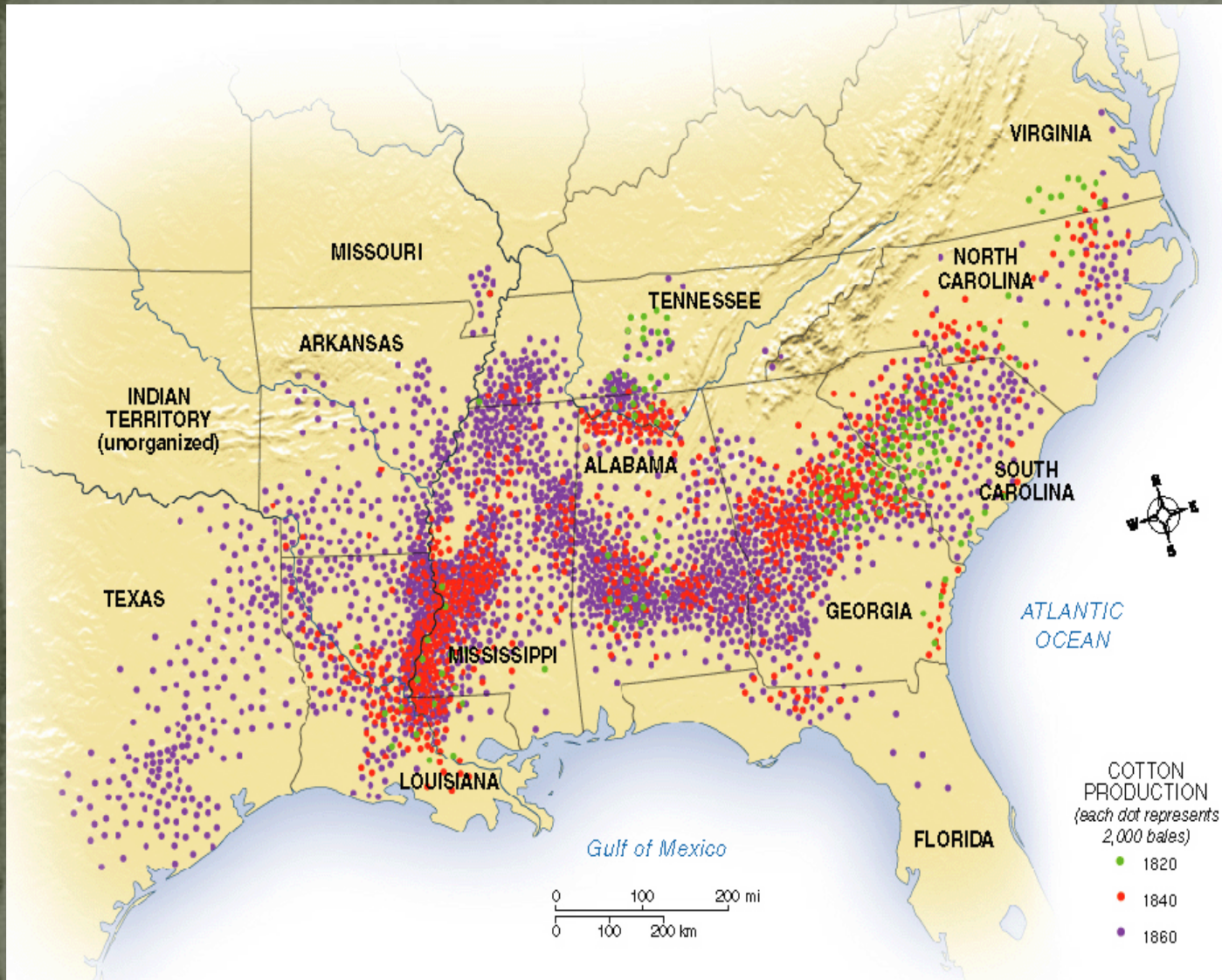
	<b>1820</b>	<b>1860</b>
<i>United States</i>	1,538,125	3,953,760
<i>North</i>	19,108	64
<i>South</i>	1,519,017	3,953,696
<i>Upper South</i>	965,514	1,530,229
<i>Delaware</i>	4,509	1,798
<i>Kentucky</i>	127,732	225,483
<i>Maryland</i>	107,397	87,189
<i>Missouri</i>	10,222	114,931
<i>North Carolina</i>	205,017	331,059
<i>Tennessee</i>	80,107	275,719
<i>Virginia</i>	425,153	490,865
<i>Washington, D.C.</i>	6,377	3,185
<i>Lower South</i>	553,503	2,423,467
<i>Alabama</i>	41,879	435,080
<i>Arkansas</i>	1,617	111,115
<i>Florida</i>	*	61,745
<i>Georgia</i>	149,654	462,198
<i>Louisiana</i>	69,064	331,726
<i>Mississippi</i>	32,814	436,631
<i>South Carolina</i>	258,475	402,406
<i>Texas</i>	*	182,566

\*Florida and Texas were not states in 1820.

Source: Ira Berlin, *Slaves without Masters: The Free Negro in the Antebellum South* (New York: New Press, 1974), 396-97.

## Cotton Production in the South, 1820–1860

Cotton production expanded westward between 1820 and 1860 into Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, and western Tennessee.



- Ownership of Enslaved people in the South was unevenly distributed
  - 25% of white families owned slaves in 1860
    - Fell from 36% in 1830
  - Nearly half of slaveholders owned fewer than five
  - 12% owned more than twenty slaves
  - 1% owned more than fifty slaves
  - Typical slave lived on a sizeable plantation

- As Pro-Slavery supporters continued to use the law to protect their “property,” Abolitionists employed all manner of strategies to persuade the American public and its leadership to end slavery.
  - One of their first strategies was to unite groups of like-minded individuals to fight as a body.
  - Groups like the early Abolitionists and later the American Anti-Slavery Society used lecturing and moral persuasion to attempt to change the hearts and minds of individuals.
  - Other activists found moral persuasion tactics insufficient and instead focused on political lobbying, fomenting insurrections, and assisting fugitives to find freedom.



# Abolitionist Publications

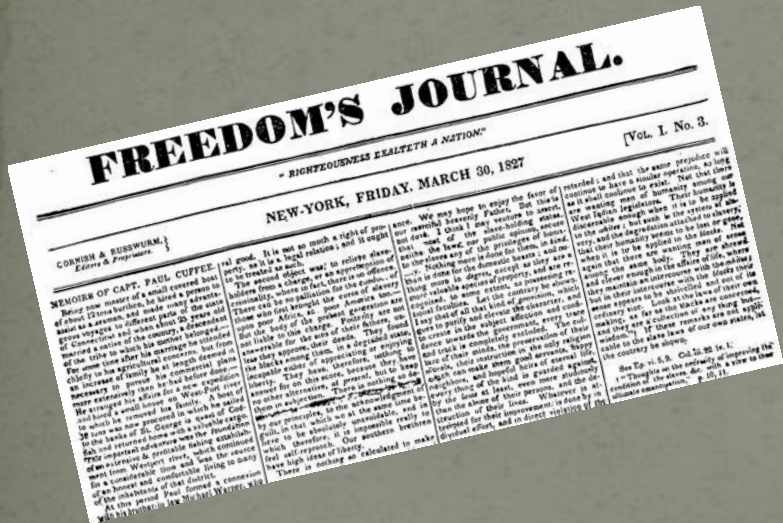
- A host of publications assisted the abolitionist cause including
  - Newspapers (*The Liberator*, *The North Star*, *The Provincial Freeman*)
  - First-Hand Accounts (written by or former fugitive or formerly enslaved people to dramatize horrors of slavery)
  - Broadsides (one-paged illustrations, i.e., Henry “Box” Brown, Anthony Burns)
  - Books (fiction and non-fiction, i.e., *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, *Clotel*)

# Newspapers

Abolitionists used the press to spread the abolitionist message.

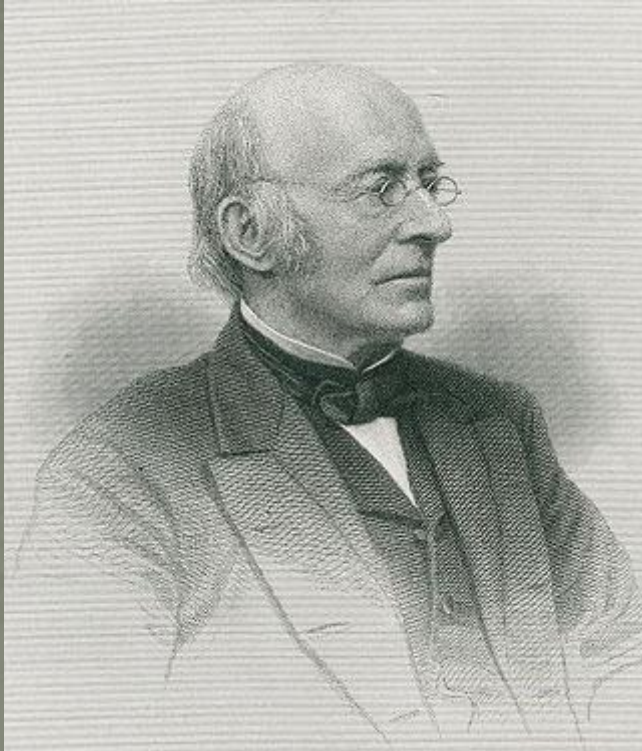
Some of the earliest newspapers advocating an end to slavery were published by African Americans.

*The Rights of All* (1829 - 1830) was a short-lived American abolitionist newspaper founded by Samuel Cornish. The newspaper replaced *Freedom's Journal* and carried a series of important articles known as *Walker's Appeal* championing slave rebellion





- *The Liberator*, published by William Lloyd Garrison, was one of the earliest and single most important abolitionist publication. Began in 1831.
- Promoted “moral suasion,” or nonviolent and non-political resistance, to achieve emancipation.
- Initially supported colonization but later, Garrison gave his support to programs that focused on immediate emancipation



William Lloyd Garrison  
1805-1879

- Vociferous language outraged anti-abolitionist Northerners who attacked Garrison and the newspaper
- Supported woman's right to participate in abolitionism
- Attacked the American Constitution as a pro-slavery document created irretrievable divisions in the abolitionist movement



- From 1847 to 1863, escaped slave and abolitionist Frederick Douglass published the *North Star* with the aid of money and a press provided by British philanthropists.
- The paper was published in Rochester, New York.



Frederick Douglass  
1817-1895

- Douglass's goals were to
  - abolish slavery in all its forms and aspects
  - advocate universal emancipation
  - exalt the standard of public morality,
  - promote the moral and intellectual improvement of the African Americans, and
  - hasten the end of slavery in America
- The paper also advanced women's rights
- Douglass also published another abolitionist paper, the *Frederick Douglass Paper*



**Mary Ann Shadd  
Cary  
1823-1893**

- **Mary Ann Shadd Cary** overcame hostility to become the first black female newspaper publisher in the world.
  - Born to free blacks in Philadelphia in 1823 and educated in Quaker schools and taught until age 27.
  - After Congress passed the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law that endangered all African-Americans, she and her family fled to Canada.
  - She taught in Toronto until 1853, when she established the *Provincial Freeman*, a weekly publication aimed at other blacks living in Canada's provinces.



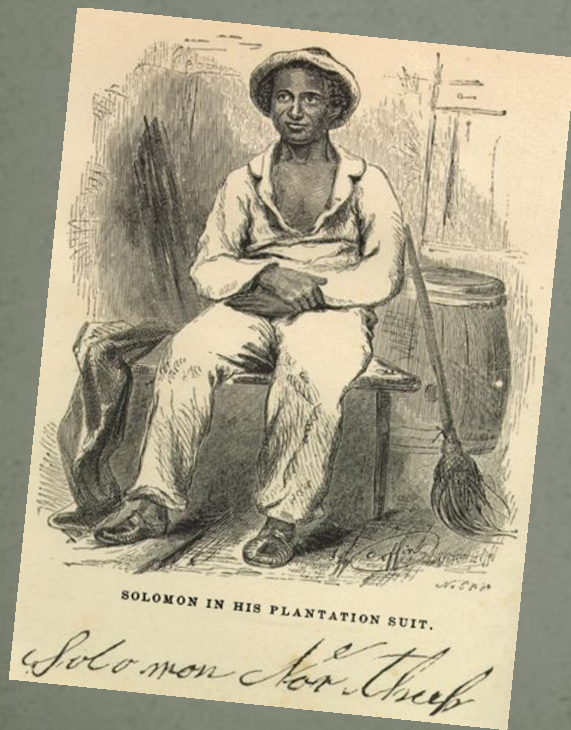
Published between  
March 1853 and  
September 1857

- It was a struggle to maintain the press, especially in the face of criticism from black men, but Frederick Douglass rallied to her support in 1856: “This lady, with very limited assistance from others, has sustained the *Provincial Freeman* for more than two years.
- She has had to contend with false friends, open enemies, ignorance and small pecuniary means. “We do not know her equal among the colored ladies of the United States .”
- When the Civil War began, Cary risked her freedom to return to the United States and recruit black soldiers. Although she never published another newspaper, she was active in the cause of women's rights until her 1893 death.



# First-Hand Accounts

- Separation (published letters highlighting the pains of separation)
- Slave Narratives (6,000 slave narratives were published in 250 years; 12% were written by women)
- Life of Job (18<sup>th</sup> century account written by Thomas Bluett at the request of Job; one of the first slave narratives published; focuses on proving humanity of Africans)
- A Narrative of Thomas Smallwood (Smallwood describes the treachery he encountered from supposed friends and foes as an agent in the anti-slavery movement and why he moved to Canada; published 1851)

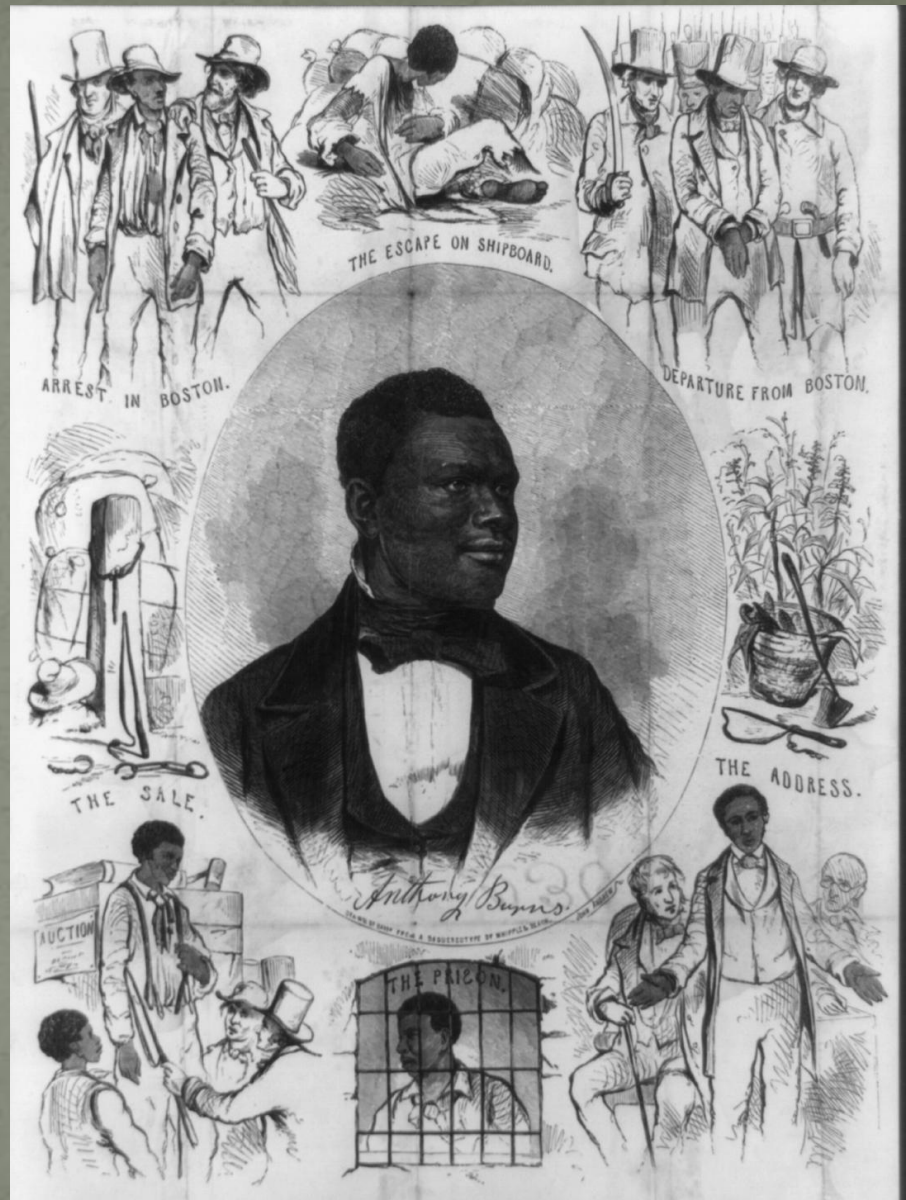


- *The Kidnapped and the Ransomed. Being the Personal Recollections of Peter Still and his Wife "Vina," after Forty Years of Slavery* (Published in 1856, Kate Pickard wrote Peter Still's harrowing tale about his eventual success in buying freedom for his wife and children)
- *Twelve Years a Slave: Narrative of Solomon Northup* (Published in 1853, Northup provides an accurate and detailed account of his journey into and out of slavery)
- *Louisa Picquet, the Octoroon* (published in 1861 and written by H. Mattison, this is the story reveals the complexities of miscegenation and the constant threat of rape for enslaved women)



The capture of Richmond, VA fugitive slave Anthony Burns in Boston in May 1854 under the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act, marked a turning point for abolitionists. This Burns episode caused an increased radicalism among abolitionists and a resulting fear by proslavery supporters who believed their efforts were part of a national conspiracy to undermine slavery.

*Courtesy Library of Congress*



*Illustrations of the American Anti-Slavery Almanac for 1840.*



"The Peculiar Injustice."



*Barren Hospitality—New-England sends her [The State] away with the Slave Trade, and let them all. A Free Press, will neither cheer, make ready to receive her.]*



*Flogging of Michael at St. Louis, in April, 1836.*



*Showing the slavery system the condition of its friends.*



*The Justice Dept. in "Ohio" [The State] away with the Slave Trade, and let them all. A Free Press, will neither cheer, make ready to receive her.]*

*Showing the Justice Dept. in "Ohio" [The State] away with the Slave Trade, and let them all. A Free Press, will neither cheer, make ready to receive her.]*



*Flogging of the Northern States in arresting and receiving fugitive Slaves.*



*Selling a Slave from the Deck.*



*Diving Slaves with dogs and guns. A Slave rescued by the dogs.*



*"Poor dogs," they can't take care of themselves.*



*Slaves with young children in need of the jail.*



*A Woman chained to a God, and a Slave in view of work at the jail.*



*Diving Slaves.*



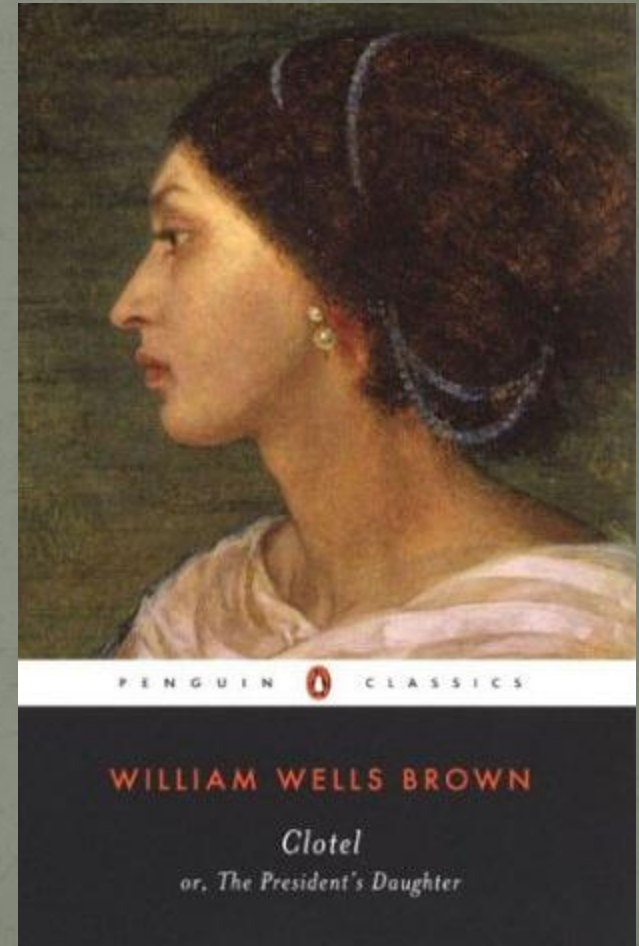
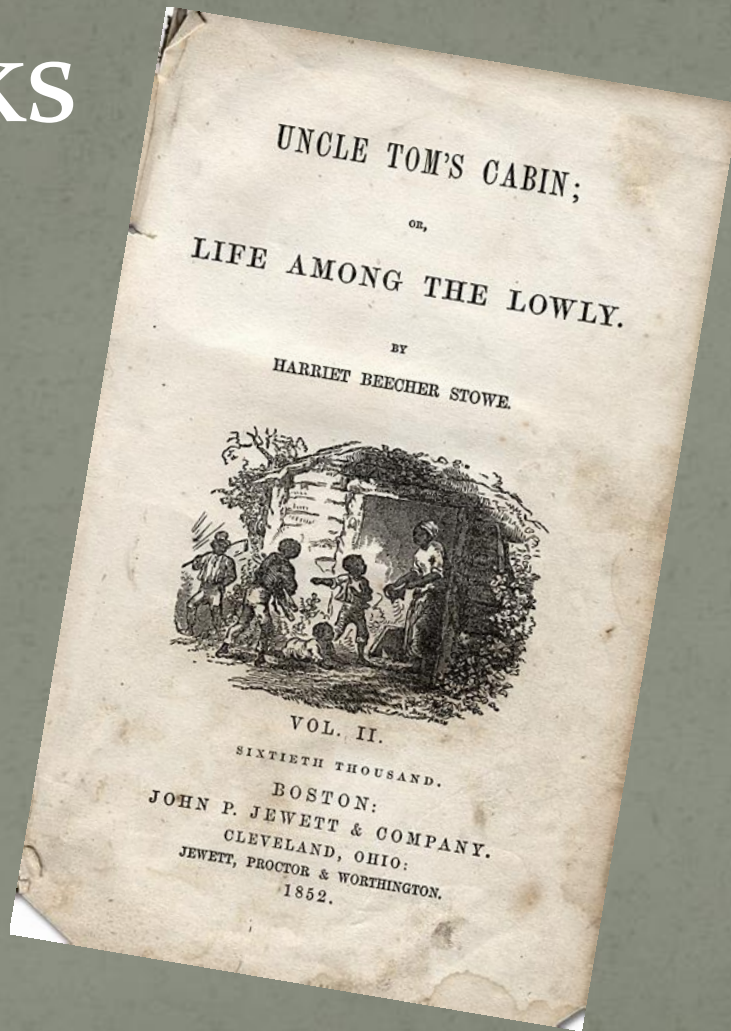
*Lying up a Slave in Kentucky.*



*Paul. Cupid.*

Each year the American Anti-Slavery Society distributed an almanac containing poems, drawings, essays, and other abolitionist material. This broadside groups together illustrations of the horrors of slavery that were used in the 1840 edition.

# Books



- *Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin (1852)*
  - One of the most contested novels of its time
  - Initially was criticized by whites who thought Stowe's portrayal of black characters was too positive
  - Later criticized by black critics who believed these same characters were oversimplified and stereotypical
- Harriet A. Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl. Written by Herself (1861)*
  - Was one of the first open discussions about the sexual harassment and abuse endured by slave women -- a topic that even made many abolitionists uncomfortable.
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's *Poems on Slavery (1842)*
  - Stirring poems inspired by Charles Dickens were written and reprinted by the New England Anti-Slavery Tract Society

- Frederick Douglass, *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1842) and *My Bondage and My Freedom* (1857)
  - A memoir and treatise on abolition written by famous orator and ex-slave
  - Generally held to be the most famous of a number of narratives written by former slaves
  - Considered to be one of the most influential pieces of literature to fuel the abolitionist movement of the early 19th century in the United States
- William Wells Brown's *Clotel; or, The President's Daughter: A Narrative of Slave Life in the United States* (1853)
  - highlights the horrifying injustices rendered, particularly upon mixed-race individuals, under slavery



- Shifts in abolitionist sentiment and the economic importance of slavery prompted diverse reactions among African Americans, especially those who were enslaved.
- One of the choices that created the perception among supporters of slavery that a national conspiracy existed was

## **THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD**

### \$50 Reward.

**R**ANAWAY from the subscriber last evening, negro Woman **REBECCA** in company (as is supposed) with her husband, George Latimer, belonging to Mr James B Gray, of this place. She is about 20 years of age, dark mulatto or copper colored, good countenance, bland voice and self-possessed and easy in her manners when addressed.— She was married in Peorday last and at this time obviously *enclente*. She will in all probability endeavor to reach some one of the free States

All persons are hereby cautioned against harboring said slave, and masters of vessels from carrying her from this port. The above reward will be paid upon delivery to

**MARY D SAYER,**  
Granby street.

oc 5 18

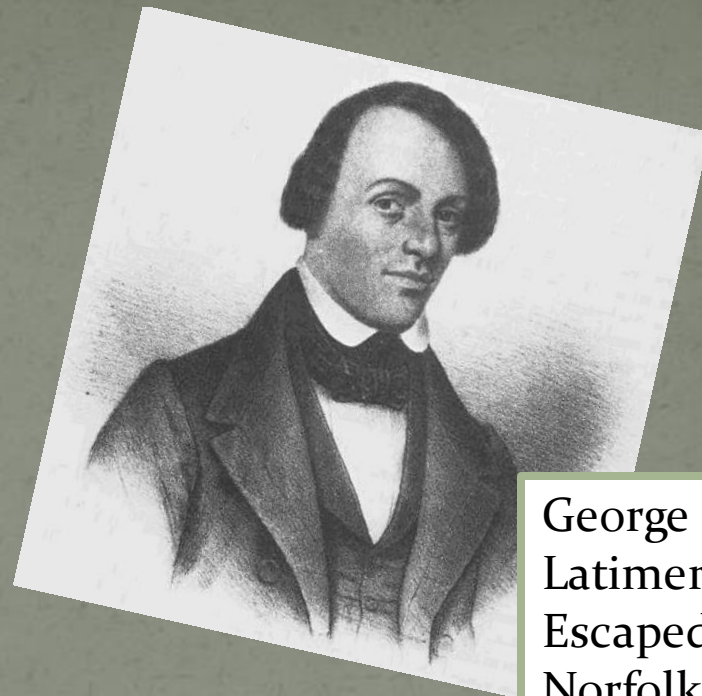
### \$50 Dollars Reward.

**R**ANAWAY on Monday night last my Negro Man George, commonly called **George Latimer**. He is about 5 feet 3 or 4 inches high, about 23 years of age, his complexion a bright yellow, is of a compact well made frame, and is rather silent and slow spoken — I suspect that he went North Tuesday, and will give Fifty Dollars reward and pay all necessary expenses, if taken out of the State. Twenty Five Dollars reward will be given for his apprehension within the State.

His wife is also missing and I suspect that they went off together

oc 5 18

**JAMES B GRAY**



George Latimer. Escaped from Norfolk with his wife Rebecca in 1842. George and Rebecca are the parents of Lewis Latimer, the draftsman and inventor.

## SALES THIS DAY.

**P**URSUANT to an advertisement affixed  
to the door of the Court House of the city of Nor-  
folk,

**WILL BE SOLD,**

At Public Auction, before the Court House, at 12 o'-'  
clock, on **MONDAY**, the 23d inst.,

**Negro Man Shadrach and Negro Wo-**  
man Hester and her children Jim and Imogene, by vir-  
tue of a writ of fieri facias against the goods and chattels  
of Martha Hutchings and Edward DeCormis, at suit of  
Joseph Cowperthwaite, assignee of the President, Di-  
rectors & Co. of the Bank of the United States.

18—tds

**WM. B. LAMB, Serg't.**

(Beacon copy.)

**1849**

Shadrach Minkins' 1849 runaway slave advertisement, *Southern Argus* (Norfolk)



**THE STEAMER AUGUSTA**  
having undergone thorough re-  
pairs, will leave Wright's wharf, Norfolk, regu-  
larly every **TUESDAY, THURSDAY** and **SA-  
TURDAY MORNING**, at 6½ o'clock.

ja 18                      **WM. C. SMITH, Captain.**

**FOR PHILADELPHIA.**—Union Steamship  
Co.'s steamers

**PENNSYLVANIA** Capt. Baymore,

**CITY OF RICHMOND**, Capt. Mitchell.

**VIRGINIA**,                      Capt. Teal,

One of the above steamships will  
leave Higgins' wharf, Norfolk, for the  
above port every **THURSDAY** at 12 M., and  
Philadelphia every Wednesday, until further  
notice.



Passage in first cabin, (meals included,)	\$5,00
do do second do (meals extra,)	3,00
do to New York, (meals included,)	7,00

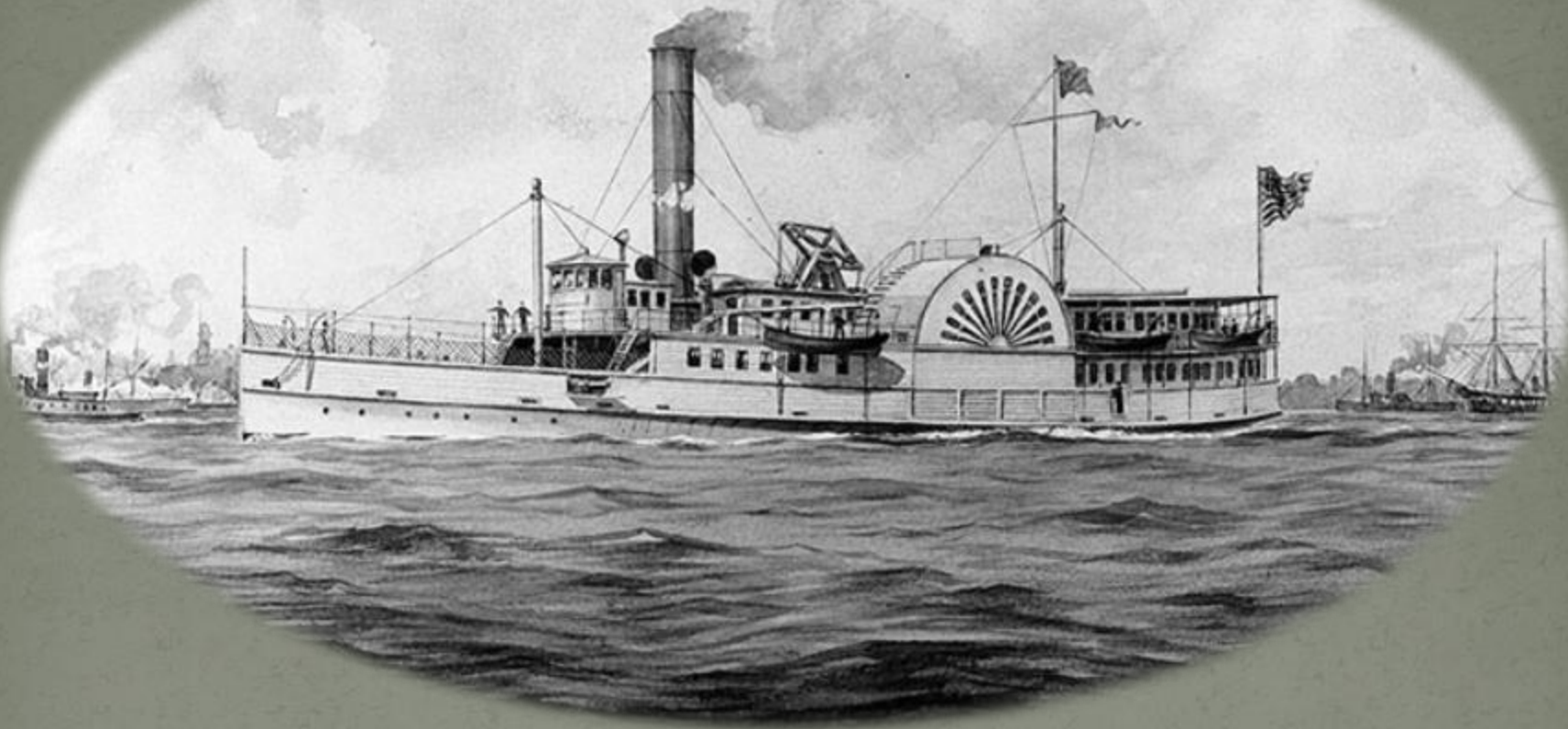
For freight or passage, apply to

**THOS. P. CROWELL, Agent,**

no 15

Higgins' wharf.

*Southern Argus*  
February 7, 1855



Steamship *Philadelphia*, one of many ships that were used by abolitionists for fugitives escaping from Hampton Roads.

# Travellers' Directory.

---

## Winter Arrangement. STEAMSHIP LINE OF PACKETS, FOR PHILADELPHIA.

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT TWELVE O'CLOCK, M.



The Union Steamship Co.'s steamers  
CITY OF RICHMOND, Capt. MITCHELL.  
PENNSYLVANIA, Capt. TEAL,  
VIRGINIA, Capt. ROOMS.

One of these steamships will leave Higgins' Wharf, Norfolk, for Philadelphia, every WEDNESDAY at 12 o'clock M. until further notice.

Passage \$6, berths and meals included.

For freight or passage apply to

THOS P. CROWELL Agent,  
Higgins' Wharf, Norfolk

no 6

*Southern Argus, January 15, 1959*



Higgins Wharf is visible in this 1855 photograph of India Wharf. Located west of India Wharf along Norfolk's waterfront, Higgins Wharf was the passenger steamship depot.

*Courtesy Sargeant Collection,  
Norfolk Public Library*



**1857 depiction of  
the escape by  
Portsmouth natives  
from Norfolk**  
John Stinger, Robert  
Emerson (brother of  
Jeffrey Wilson),  
Anthony and  
Isabella Pugh, and  
Stebney Swan  
aboard Captain  
Edward Lee's skiff.

*Courtesy The Underground Railroad  
by William Still*



---

**SENT UP.**—Capt. Thomas Loveland and crew of the Francis French, went up to Smithfield yesterday, where they are to undergo trial for attempting to kidnap a negro.

---

*Southern Argus*  
July 7, 1858

---

**CAPT. LOVELAND AND CREW OF THE FRANCIS FRENCH.**—The examination of the kidnapping case, recently reported, commenced on Tuesday in the Hustings Court of Isle of Wight.—The Steward, a colored man, has confessed that he secreted the negro and he declares that the Captain and crew did not know the negro was on board, when found.

---

*Southern Argus*  
July 9, 1858

---

**THE KIDNAPPING CASE.**—The trial in Smithfield, of Capt. Loveland and crew of the Francis French, on a charge of kidnapping a negro closed on Thursday night. They were held to bail for trial at the Fall term of the Circuit Court—two of the five justices being in favor of discharging the prisoners.

The general impression is that they will be fully acquitted.

The colored steward, Wm. H. Thompson, who confessed his guilt, was sentenced to the penitentiary for ten years.

---

# Captain Alfred Fountain

Was a daring Underground Railroad conductor who transported escaped slaves to the North aboard his schooner.

This 1855 scene dramatizes an incident when his ship was boarded by Norfolk's leaders looking for escaped slaves. Twenty-one were hidden in a secret compartment.

*Courtesy The Underground Railroad  
by William Still*



---

**CAGED—CHARGE OF ENTICING SLAVES.**—On Friday a man named Cummings was arrested and taken before Charles H. Sheild, Esq., J. P., charged with being concerned in the escape of negroes, and also with selling books, &c., without a license. He was fined and imprisoned, and will have another hearing before the City Court at its next session.

---

*Southern Argus, June 18, 1855*

---

**FUGITIVE ARRESTED.**—We learn that on Sunday, Captain Southgate observed a likely negro girl on board his steamer, the Sea Bird, on the trip down from Hampton, and found on inquiry, that she had left Hampton, (where she is owned) in charge of a negro slave residing in Norfolk, and as the affair was not satisfactory to Capt. S., he placed them in charge of the proper officer, who took them to jail.

---

*Southern Argus* September 17, 1859

---

**THE INSPECTION LAW.**—Mr. Inspector Parker is a vigilant officer; and the violators of law are beginning to find out to their cost that a reckoning must come soon or late.

The schr. E. H. Adams of Providence has been arrested and has paid the fine and costs, of violating the inspection law, amounting to \$599.04.

The schooner Minstrel, for a like violation as long as April 1857, was arrested on the 10th instant, and has also "forked over" the fine and costs, amounting to \$606.

---

*Southern Argus* October 25, 1859



William Hall's Slave Jail, site of where fugitive slaves and those awaiting sale were imprisoned. The Jail was located across the street from the National Hotel.

Ferry Dock where escaped slaves from Portsmouth would enter Norfolk

Higgin's Wharf, site where fugitives escaping aboard passenger steamships departed

*Courtesy Library of Congress*

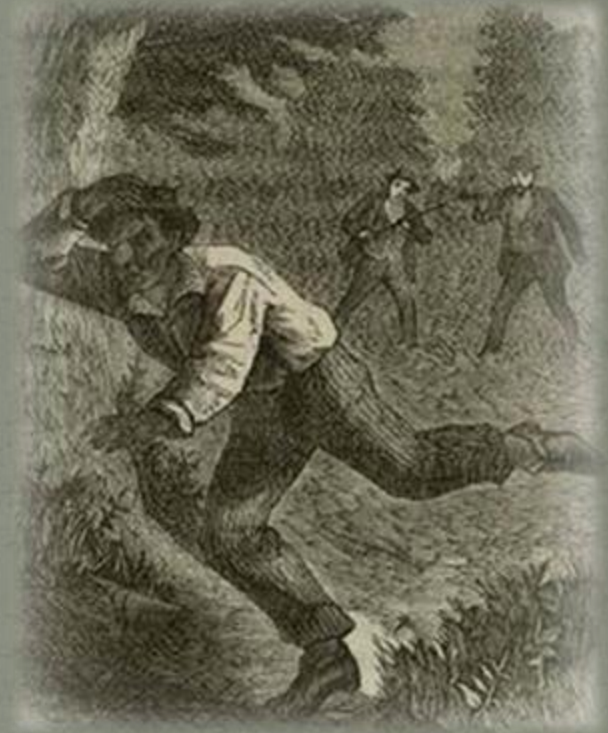
# A few Norfolk fugitives who were met by Philadelphia Station Master and Vigilance Committee Secretary, William Still

- Jones Anderson (1856)
- Anthony Atkinson (1855)
- Archer Barlow (1853)
- Harrison Bell (1854)
- Harriet Ann Bell (1854)
- Louisa Bell (1855)
- Susan Bell (1855)
- Henry Bohm (1855)
- Susan Brooks (1854)
- Anthony Brown (1856)
- Albert Brown (1856)
- John Brown (1855)
- Solomon Brown (1851)
- Samuel Bush (1853)
- Daniel Carr (1855)
- Isaac Foreman (1853)
- James Foreman (1855)
- James Foster (1855)
- Elizabeth Frances (1854)
- Thomas Freeman (1855)
- Nathaniel Gardener (1855)
- Phillis Gault (1855)
- Francis Haines (1855)
- Joseph Hall, Jr. (1856)
- Isaiah (1856)
- Elias Jasper (1855)



## Norfolk fugitives who arrived in Philadelphia (continued)

- Caroline Taylor and 2 children (1856)
- Alan Tatum (1855)
- William Thomas (1855)
- Michael Vaughn (1855)
- Emanuel White (1857)
- Ned Wilson (1855)
- Sarah Wilson (1855)
- Willis Wilson (1855)
- Henry Washington (1855)
- Ralph Whiting (1855)
- Daniel Wiggins (1854)



## Norfolk fugitives who arrived in Philadelphia (continued)

- Maria Joiner (1855)
- David Johnson (1855)
- Alice Jones (1855)
- Arthur Jones (1855)
- Rebecca Jones and 3 children (1856)
- Eliza McCoy (1854)
- Robert McCoy (1854)
- Mary Milburn (1858)
- Susan Nelson (1855)
- William Nelson (1855)
- Isaiah Nixon (1855)
- **Sam Nixon (1855)**
- Winnie Patty (1855)
- Nancy Little (1855)
- Frederick Nixon (1855)
- Thomas Nixon (1855)
- Elizabeth Patty (1855)
- Celia Peaden (1854)
- Edward Peaden (1854)
- Harriet Peaden (1854)
- Peter Petty (1855)
- Godfrey Scott (1855)
- John Smith (1855)
- Washington Somlor (1855)
- Henry Stewart (1855)

# Waterways to Freedom

Numerous States that seceded explained their rationale for leaving the Union, asserting their Constitutional rights as slave holders. Some examples included:



- South Carolina
  - Georgia
  - Mississippi
  - Texas

*I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so.*

Abraham Lincoln, March 1861

# Major--General Benjamin F. Butler

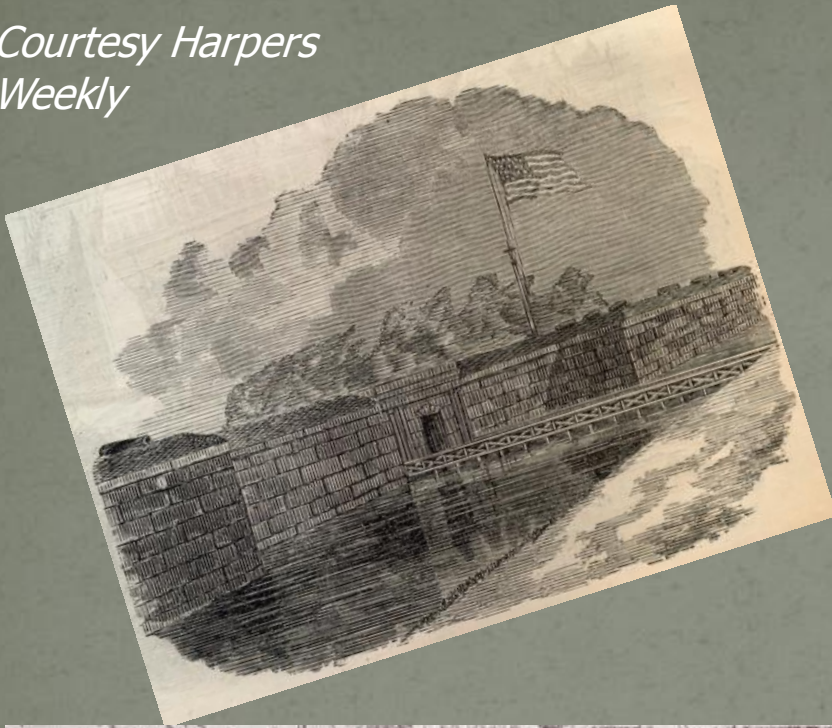
Commander of Fort Monroe at the outbreak of the Civil War, June 1, 1861



Butler was sent by President Lincoln to Fort Monroe in May 1861. Upon his arrival, Butler determined that he needed to capture Hampton village. The whites chose to burn the village rather than see it occupied.

*Courtesy Harpers Weekly*

*Courtesy Harpers  
Weekly*



On the night of May 23, 1861, 3 enslaved men—Shepard Mallory, Frank Baker, and James Townsend—slipped into a skiff and rowed across the water from Sewell's Point to Old Point Comfort. The night Hampton Village burned, they made their way to the Union reconnaissance expedition. The next day they were brought before General Butler for interrogation.



*Courtesy Hampton Public Library*



News of Butler's actions spread quickly. Hampton was abandoned, leaving many blacks hiding in nearby woods and fields. On May 5, 1861, 8 slaves fled to the Fort. Shortly thereafter, hundreds began pouring in.

*Courtesy Harpers Weekly*