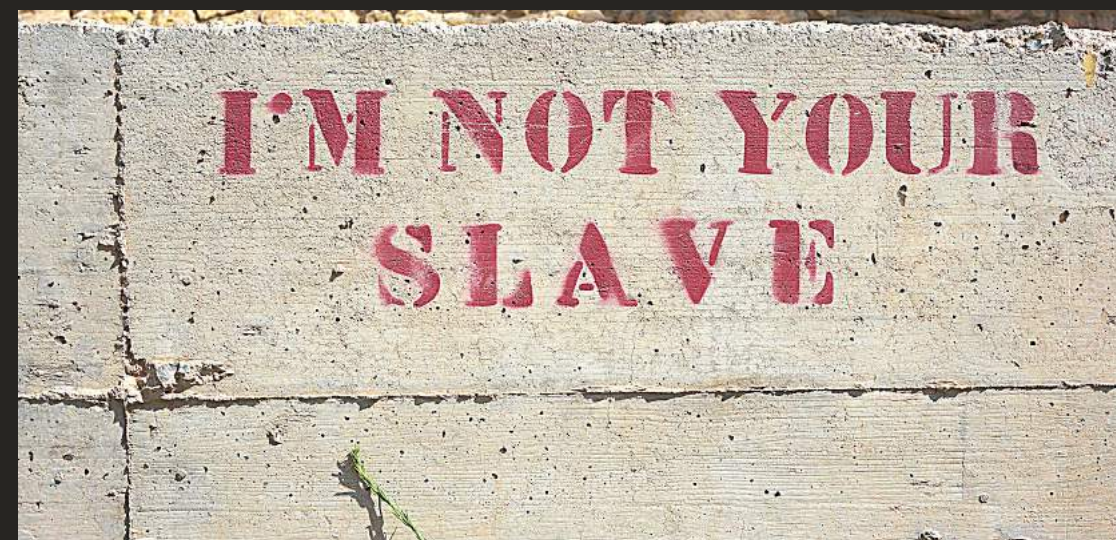


# Facts on Freedom Seekers in North Carolina

MOST RUNAWAYS MADE THE JOURNEY TO FREEDOM OR SEEKING FAMILY BETWEEN THE AGES 18-35

25

MEDIAN AGE OF A FREEDOM SEEKER



The average reward for a captured runaway slave was \$60. Today, that money will amount to 1,271.69.

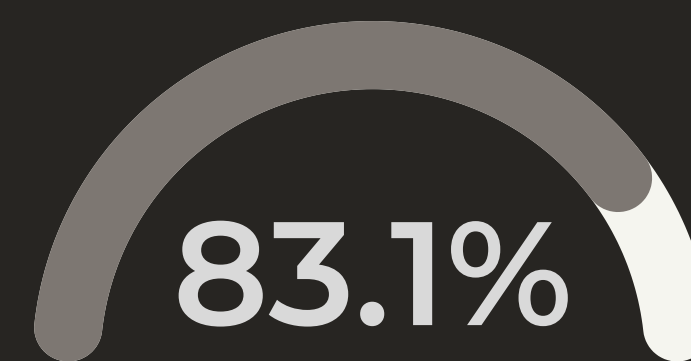


Placing a slave ad was highly expensive for the slaveholder. Thus, a slave ad was not placed for every slave that ran away. Most slaves were found or assumed to be lurking near their plantation or their family member's plantation.

The average reward for a female runaway slave was \$55. Today, that money will amount to \$1,165.71.

The average reward for a male runaway slave was \$59. Today, that money will amount to \$1,250.49

The average reward for a mixed group of runaways was \$132. Today, that money will amount to \$2,797.71



MEN

83.1% of men and young boys ran away individually seeking freedom or reuniting with their wives in another part of the state



WOMEN

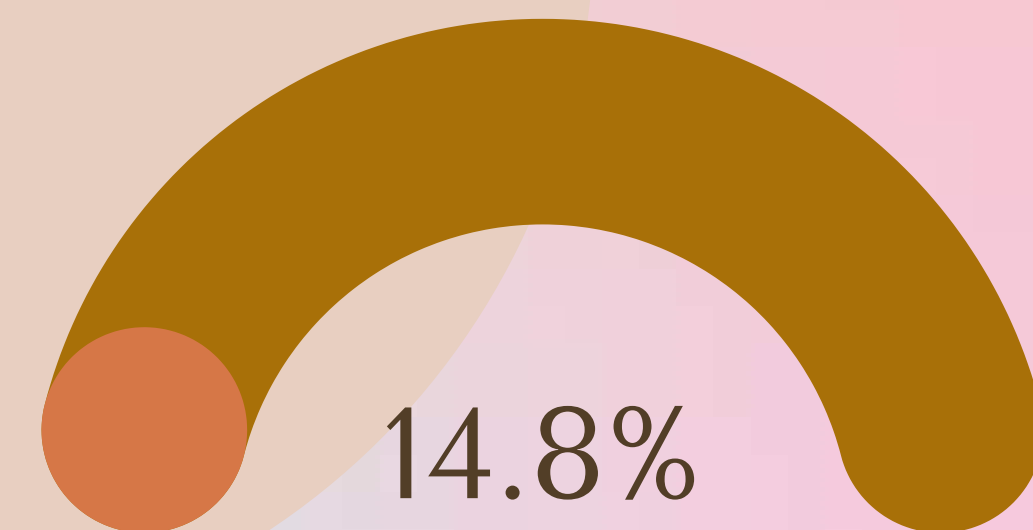
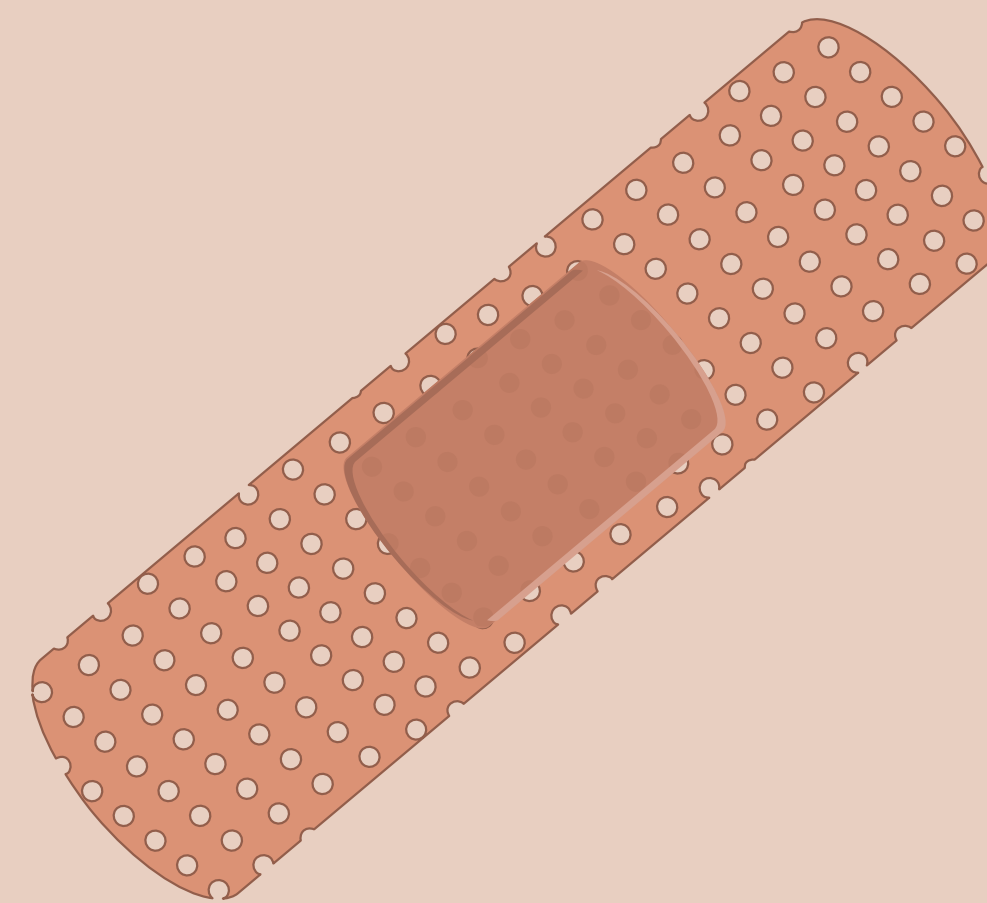
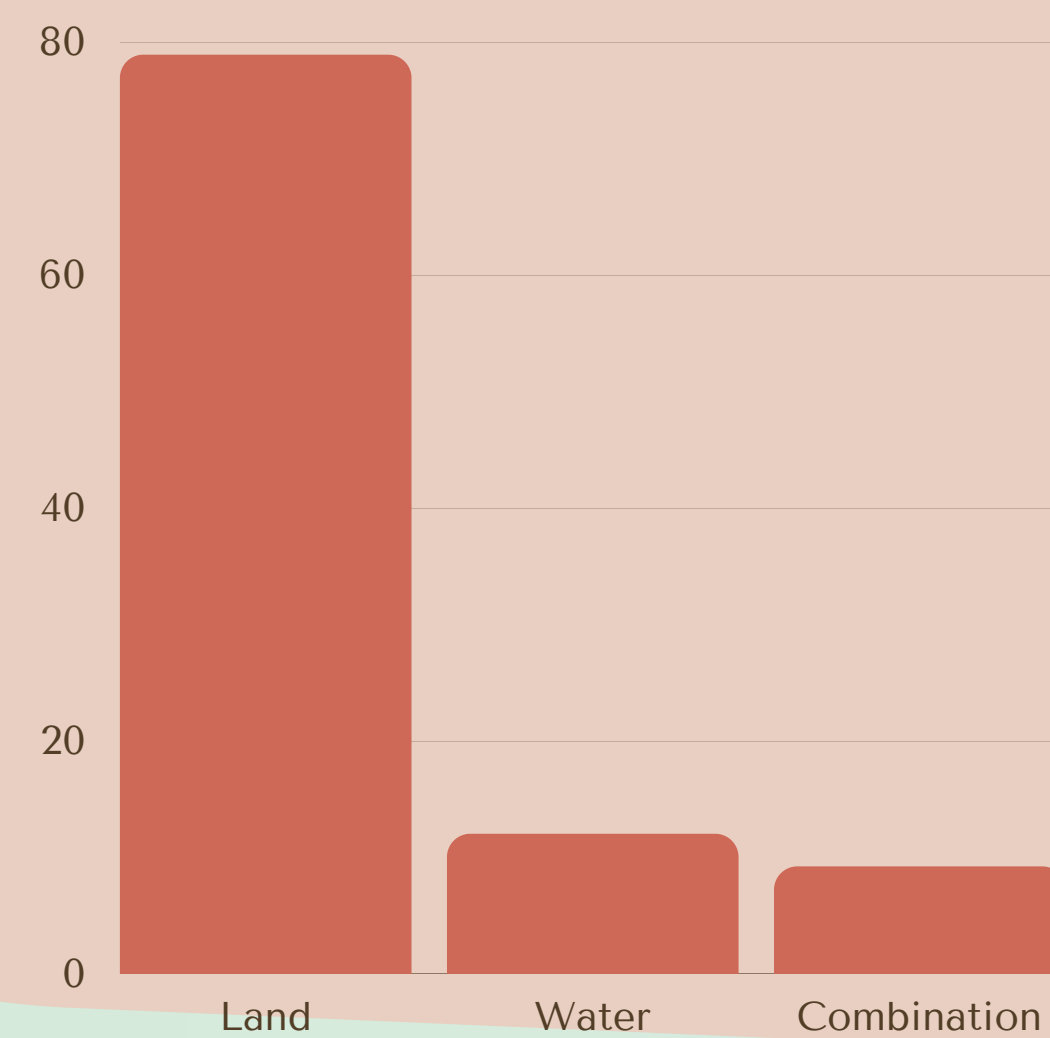
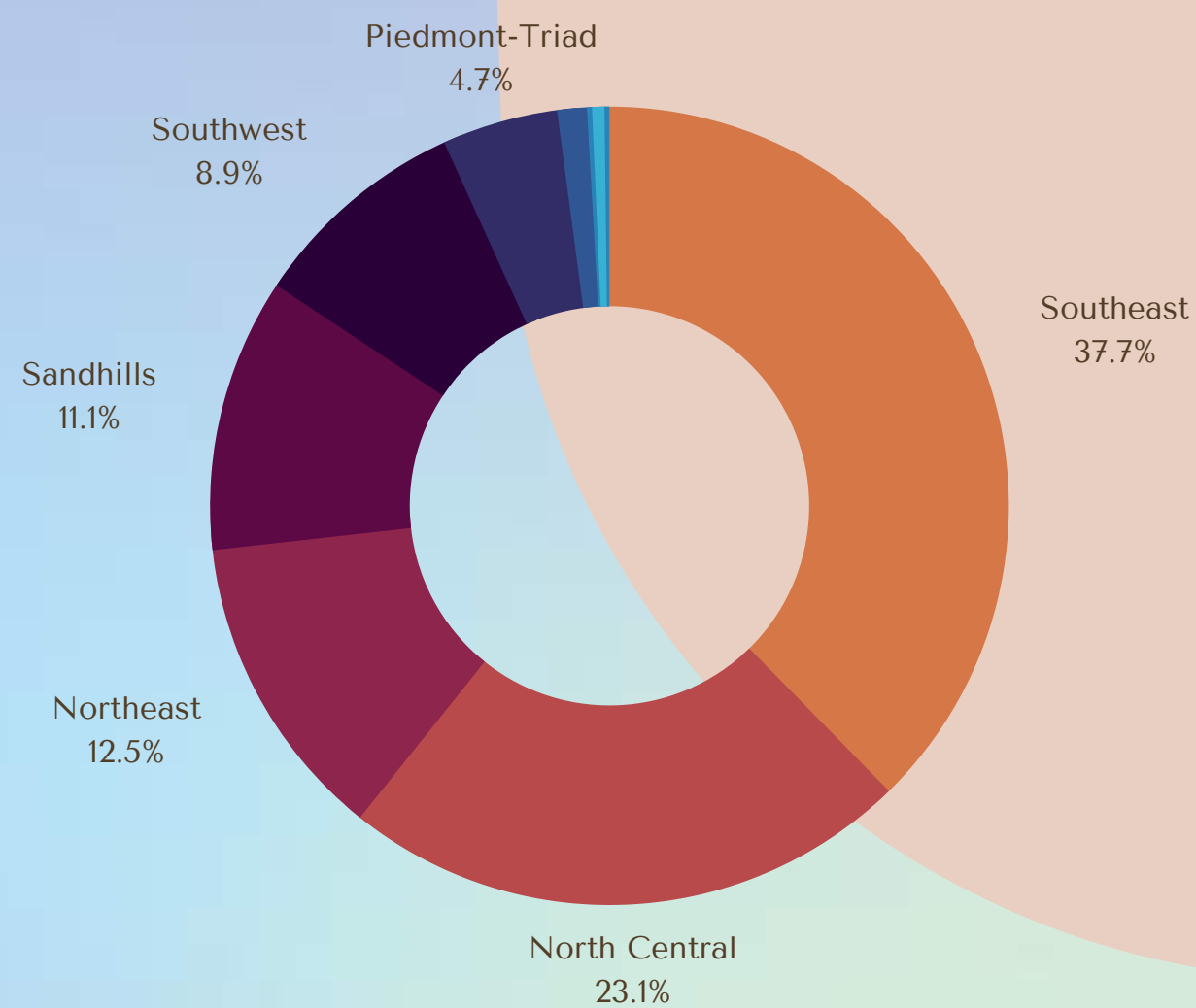
Women, teens, and young girls ran away mostly in groups to seek freedom. Mothers often ran away with their children seek family or relief from the harshness of slavery



MIXED

When men and women ran away together it was to keep the family and friends together

# QUICK FACTS ON WOMEN FREEDOM SEEKERS



## Runaway NC Regions

Most women fled the Southeast and North Central part of North Carolina. The mobility of the slaves was higher in those regions due to the higher slave population. Which made it easier to run hide and blend in with free Blacks.

## TYPE OF TRAVEL ASSUMED

Women ran away less frequently. Running away came with a great deal of danger, uncertainty, and the prospect of long journeys. If women fled, they ran with their children by land.

## INJURIES

Most female freedom seekers were not listed with any injuries in a runaway ad. If they did have injuries, it was most likely to be a general scars or missing teeth

## MARRIAGE

Since few women fled, being married was only listed if the slaveholder believed they were running to reunite with their husband or family.



# The Average Make up of a Female Freedom Seeker

## Height

The average female freedom seeker's height range from 5ft to 5'6. However, some women were taller.

## Weight

The average female freedom seeker weighed 139lbs. They were generally stoutly built. Yet some were much smaller weighing 120lbs and slender built.

## Skills

Most women had domestic duties such as servants, seamstresses, and weavers. Few were listed as knowing how to read and write.

# MORE RANDOM FACTS



## January

Most freedom seekers fled in the month of January during the slaveholder's holiday season. As well as the first of the year being the beginning of hiring out and selling season. Other months of high freedom seeking activity: March, July, September, and June.

Some freedom seekers were so well known that little information was given in their runaway ad. Since they were well known in the area the slaveholder had a lot of confidence they would be found. Most well-known freedom seekers came from the southeast, northeast, and north-central regions of North Carolina due to the higher enslaved population in those regions.

## Well Known

## Indentured Servitude

8.9% of runaway ads were indentured servants or apprentices. While they were not slaves, they were escaping some form of captivity.

# ADS OF FREEDOM SEEKING WOMEN

## FIVE CENTS REWARD

RAN away from the subscriber in June last, a bound Girl, black, about sixteen years of age. Her right arm, having been injured by machinery, has been amputated. All persons are forbid harboring or employing her, under the penalty of the law. N. C. CATES.  
September 14, 1863

## WALKED AWAY, TOO LAZY TO RUN

MY servant girl CELIA left my premises about three weeks ago. She is of medium size, has a pleasant countenance, a very thin head of hair, is about twenty-three years of age. She had on when she left a light calico dress, with purple floors on it. She was sent out for the purpose of picking strawberries, taking a large new tin, bucket, and has not been heard of since. The above reward will be given to any person delivering her to me, or lodging her in any jail in the State so that I can get her. June 23 H. M. PHELPS.

## \$10 REWARD

A REWARD of ten dollars will be paid for the apprehension and delivery to me of MARY, a negro girl about 14 years of age, of spare figure, rather sharp features, and stutters badly in talking when suddenly surprised, or much agitated, she can scarcely speak at all. She had on when she left, a blue striped dress, and no shawl. Any person convicted of harboring or aiding said negro, shall receive the severest penalties which the law inflicts on such crime. D. CASHWELL. April 9th, 1861

# ADS OF FREEDOM SEEKING WOMEN

## **RUNAWAY From Mrs. Lydia H. Bryant, a few days ago**

A negro woman named CATHARINE. Said negro is 26 years old, copper-colored, about 5 feet 4 or 5 inches high, and will weigh about 140 lbs; she has a scar I think on the left side of her head; she is very quick spoken and impudent, and may be known by her profane and vulgar language. A reward of \$5 will be paid for her delivery to me in Fayetteville or confinement in any jail so that I can get her again.

SAML. [Samuel] MIMS, Trustee for Mrs. L H Bryant  
(late Baldwin) Nov. 13, 1847

## **30 Dollar Reward**

My servant girl BETSEY, who eloped from my former residence in Windsor on or about the 10th December last. She is a very likely mulatto girl, about 16 or 17 years old, genteel in her dress and appearance, remarkably fond of gay company, possesses a happy talent for inventing falsehood, and great firmness in adhering to it. She has been in the neighborhood of Edenton for a considerable time, passing under the name of Mary James or Mary Jones, and has often been seen in town in company with the Negroes of Josiah Collins, Esq.[Esquire] by whom it is expected she is now harbored. If the above Negro should be delivered to me at my residence within two miles of Williamsboro', N.C. all reasonable expenses will be paid in addition to the reward. Joseph H. Bryan. February 6, 1819



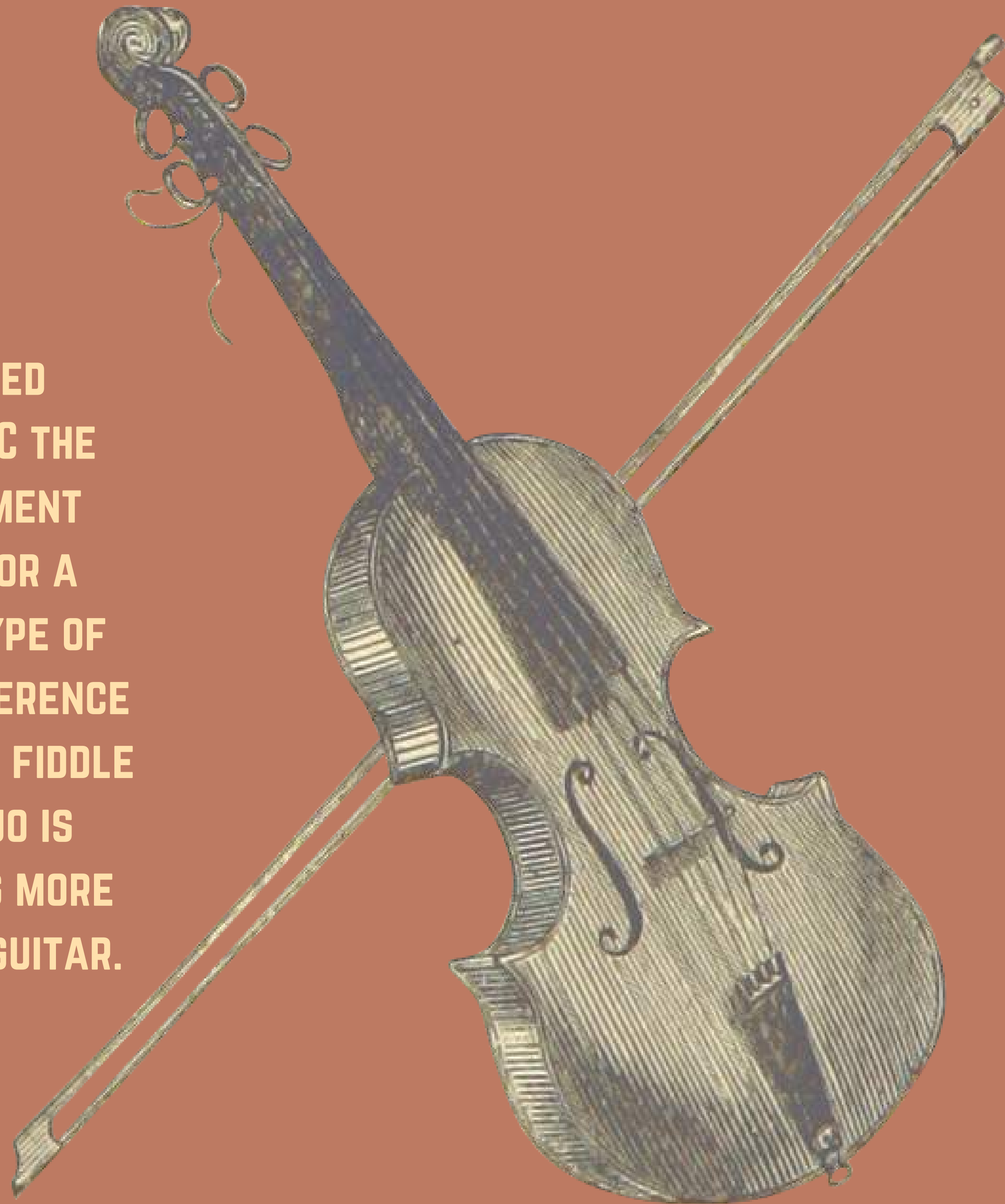
# ADS OF FREEDOM SEEKING WOMEN

## \$100 REWARD!

RUNAWAY FROM THE SUBSCRIBER ON THE 14TH OF JUNE, A VERY BRIGHT MULATTO WOMAN, ABOUT 23 OR 24 YEARS OF AGE, LIKELY AND WELL DRESSED, ABOUT 5 FEET 3 OR 4 INCHES HIGH. HER FRONT TEETH ARE LARGE AND SEPARATED, HAIR LONG, STRAIGHT, AND BLACK, HAD A PORTMANTEAU OR TRAVELLING BAG. HER MISTRESS THINKS SHE USUALLY WORE A GENTLEMAN'S GOLD SHIRT BUTTON IN HER BOSOM, HAS A NUMBER OF WARTS ON HER HANDS, IS A FIRST-RATE SEMPSTRESS AND LAUNDRESS, AND IS WELL SKILLED IN EVERY DEPARTMENT OF HOUSEHOLD BUSINESS. HER OBJECT, I PRESUME, IS TO GO NORTH. ON THE 16TH JUNE, SHE WAS SEEN TO TAKE THE CARS AT BELFIELD, AND WENT TO WELDON, WHERE SHE REMAINED UNTIL THE 18TH; WHILST THERE, SHE RECOMMENDED HERSELF AS A SEMPSTRESS. I HAVE NO DOUBT HER OBJECT IS TO GET TO A FREE STATE, AS I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY GOOD CAUSE FOR HER LEAVING SAVE THE LOVE OF LIBERTY. THERE ARE NO MARKS REMEMBERED, AS SHE HAS NEVER BEEN WHIPPED IN HER LIFE THAT I KNOW OF. AT BELFIELD AND WELDON, SHE CALLED HERSELF MARTHA PAYN, AND SAID SHE WAS FREE HER PROPER NAME IS ELIZABETH, AND SOMETIMES CALLS HERSELF ELIZABETH SCOTT. SOME OF HER CLOTHES ARE PROBABLY MARKED WITH THE LETTERS E. S. SHE CAN READ PRINT, AND MAY ATTEMPT TO DISGUISE HERSELF. SOME WORTHLESS WHITE MAN, IT IS THOUGHT, HAS GIVEN HER A PASS SINCE SHE LEFT BELFIELD, AND MAY OTHERWISE ASSIST HER TO ESCAPE. I WILL PAY ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS TO ANY PERSON WHO WILL CONFINE HER IN JAIL SO THAT I GET HER AGAIN. T. J. PRETLOW, SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VA.

# Fiddle

WHILE THE BANJO IS THE MOST RECOGNIZED INSTRUMENT OF AN ENSLAVED PERSON, IN NC THE FIDDLE WAS THE MOST PROMINENT INSTRUMENT USED. THE FIDDLE IS AN INFORMAL NAME FOR A VIOLIN. IT IS CALLED A FIDDLE DUE TO THE TYPE OF MUSIC PLAYED ON THE INSTRUMENT. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE BANJO AND FIDDLE IS THAT THE FIDDLE IS PLAYED USING A FIDDLESTICK. THE BANJO IS PLAYED USING A PICK OR FINGER. A FIDDLE IS MORE LIKE A VIOLIN AND A BANJO IS SIMILAR TO A GUITAR.





# Fiddlers

## \$25 REWARD!

Ran away from the subscriber on the 10th January, Negro Man BRYANT, aged about 36 years, five feet nine or ten inches high, and large in proportion to height, of a dark complexion, speaks quickly when spoken to, and very polite in his manners. He is a good fiddler, and very fond of his fiddle. His range is very large, but I think he is in Bertie county, lurking about Col. [Colonel] Outlaw's quarters, where he has a wife though he may be in the neighborhood of this county. The last I heard of him he was moving towards Martin county. I will pay the above reward for his apprehension and delivery to me, or his confinement in any jail so that I get him again. GEORGE H. MITCHELL.  
Herord Co., N. C., Jan.31, 1853.

## \$10 REWARD

RAN AWAY from my service, in February 1851, a colored man named Edward Winslow, low, thick-set, part Indian, and a first-rate fiddler. Said Winslow was sold out of Guilford jail, at February court, 1851, for his prison charges, for the term of five years. It is supposed that he is at work on the Railroad, somewhere in Davidson county. The above reward will be paid for his apprehension and confinement in the jail of Guilford or any adjoining counties so that I get him, or for his delivery to me in the southeast corner of Guilford. My post office is Long's Mills, Randolph, N. C. P.C. SMITH.  
October 27, 1852

## \$100 REWARD

RAN AWAY from the subscriber a year past, negro man HARRY. He is a bright black, about five feet 16 inches high, thirty years old; wears whiskers, has and[an] impediment in his speech, and a down look when spoken to. He is by profession a fiddler; a ditcher and sawyer. I purchased him in Halifax, at sheriff's sale, several years past, sold as the property of Wilson Carter. he has lately been seen in Bertie county, employed both as a ditcher and sawyer. He there passed as a freeman. I will give the above reward of one hundred dollars to any person who will deliver him to the jailor in Halifax, by the 15th October or fifty dollars, if delivered to him any time thereafter.  
B.C. EATON. Sept. 1, 1829.

# SECOND GREAT AWAKENING

*WHILE CHRISTIANITY WAS SPREADING ACROSS AMERICA, IT REACHED PLANTATIONS AS WELL*

## TWENTY DOLLARS REWARD

RAN AWAY from the Subscriber living 6 miles East of Hillsborough, a likely young negro man Slave by the name of WILLIS about 5 feet 6 inches high, about 22 years of age, slender made, walks nimbly and has a small scar on his right jaw. He took away with him a suit of light coloured mixed purple Clothes; he is a tolerable Shoemaker and can read tolerably. It is likely he will attempt to preach or Extort among Negroes, as he carried away a bible with him, & has been in that habit for some time past. I will give the above reward and pay all reasonable Expenses to any person that will deliver him to me if taken out of the limits of Orange County, or for Securing him in Jail as aforesaid, or Ten Dollars if taken in the County of Orange or secured in Hillsborough Jail. Hillsborough, 20th March 1811. JOHN DOUGLAS

## \$20 OR \$30 DOLLARS REWARD. STOP THE RUNAWAY!

My Negro man MOSES escaped from me on my way to Alabama, on the 26th instant at Pittsborough, Chatham county, N. C. I purchased him in Suffolk, Va. some two years ago, and he has been runaway ever since until recently when he was taken up near Suffolk, and I have no doubt he will endeavor to make his way to Virginia through the Eastern or Western part of North Carolina. He may attempt to get a passage on some of the Rail Roads; so I hope the Captains and officers of the trains will keep a good lookout for him. MOSES is a preacher by profession, and pretends to be somewhat gifted in prophecy, and is no doubt as sincere in his professions as his late neighbor Nat Turner. He is about 35 years old, rather sunk-eyed, and very humble when spoken to. He is stout and chunky built, and when he left had large whiskers. He wore broad checked or striped pants, rather light color a cloth cap much worn, trimmed with fur and I believe, a satinet roundabout. I will give a reward of \$20 for his apprehension and confinement in any Jail in this State, and \$30 if taken in any other State in the United States, and confined so that I get him. James T. Marriott, at Raleigh, N. C. is authorized to take charge of said Negro, and will pay all charges. He can be addressed at any time at Raleigh, N. C. JOHN R. CARPENTER. Wake Co. March 28, 1846

## NOTICE

On the 3d day of March last, ran away from the subscriber, one negro man named JOHN, sometimes called Jack, about 6 feet high, a little lame in one of his ankles if closely noticed, about 22 years old; and took with him a bundle of clothes, and a black bombazette frock coat; among them some books, one Testament, one Scott's lesson, one hymn book, one printed notebook, and Spelling book. Said negro came from Norfolk, Va. and it is expected that he will try to go there again. If any person will take him up and bring him to me, or confine him in any jail so that I can get him, will receive the sum of ten dollars. DAVID BRUTON. North Carolina, Montgomery county. N. B. Direct your letter to James M. Butler's post office.

# Enslaved Preachers

*THE GREAT AWAKENING  
INTERACTED WITH THE  
RELIGION OF FREEDOM  
SEEKERS. IT ALLOWED THEM  
TO BE ABLE TO EXPRESS  
THEMSELVES MORE FREELY.*

Six Negro Fellows, who escaped from us yesterday morning, on the road from Fayetteville to Cheraw, S.C., viz. LOVELACE, A stout fellow, rather light complexion, with thick lips, about 30 years of age. As he was purchased from Mr. B.A. Barham, of Raleigh, it is very presumable he will return to that place, having a wife there, and a general acquaintance among the blacks. He is a rascal who pretends to great sanctity, as all his theme is religion. He is well known as a Presbyterian preacher. We will give the above reward for the apprehension of the said Negroes, if lodged in any jail in the State, so that we get them, or \$20 for each, so taken and secured. N.B. POWELL, JOHN D. WALKER. Fayetteville, October 23, 1828

---

RANAWAY from the subscriber, on Friday, 11th April, Three Negro Men, viz. Tom, Dave, and Jesse. DAVE, or DAVID, is 25 years of age, 6 feet 2 inches high, slim, black complexion; and, in order to cloak his villainy, pretends to be religious; is fond of singing psalms, and, being the greatest rogue, will no doubt take the lead in all conversation. Tom and Dave are brothers, came from Craven County, North Carolina, and it is probable they will attempt to return there; and that Jesse will accompany them. The above reward and all reasonable expenses will be paid for apprehending the above-mentioned slaves and securing them in any Jail, so that I can get them. I will pay in proportion for either of them.



# Captured and Breaking out of Jail

About 10% of runaway ads were of freedom seekers that were captured and jailed.

Some who were captured claimed to be free. Yet, they were still jailed and labeled as a runaway.

MOST FREEDOM  
SEEKERS WERE  
CAPTURED IN THE  
SOUTHEAST,  
SANDHILLS, AND  
NORTH CENTRAL  
REGIONS OF NORTH  
CAROLINA

---

Sometimes freedom seekers who were jailed, broke out to continue on their journey to freedom or reuniting with their families

# Captured and Breaking out of Jail ADS

LEFT my home on Broad River Rutherford county, near Jamestown, a Negro Man named RALPH. Said Negro left in May last, and was apprehended and put in Asheville Jail in a few weeks he broke Jail and was retaken and returned to the same Jail, from whence I took him July, on my return home. He left me again and has not been heard from since. Ralph is about twenty-seven or eight years old, a bright mulatto, and quite intelligent. He is I supposed, about 5 feet

---

Jailbreaking was not a rare feat in the antebellum period. Numerous accounts of enslaved people, free people of color, and whites broke in jail in the late 18th and 19th centuries. However, the structure and conditions of jails vary from place to place, and many were not fortified and quite flimsy.

The Negro slave BEN, alias AMZI, aged 30 or 35 years, 5 feet 10 in. high, quite dark; has two scars on his face one just above the right eye, running back into the hair, the other on his cheekbone, running towards the mouth; also, scars on the knees and the left arm, caused by burns. He was purchased from Theo. [Theodore] N. Gadden, of Charleston, S. C., in August 1850, by the subscriber's father. It is known that he has false free papers, and he will probably represent himself as a free man. The above reward will be paid to any person who will detect the said slave, and lodge him in jail so that he can be obtained. THOS. [Thomas] P. Frith, Holmesville. Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana

# Freedom Seekers Joining the Army

SOME FREEDOM SEEKERS FLED TO JOIN THE UNION ARMY AS A SOURCE OF THEIR SALVATION

## \$500 REWARD

RUNAWAY FROM THE SUBSCRIBER, ON THE night of the 1st instant, TWO NEGRO BOYS, the eldest, JIM, is 23 years of age, five feet eight or ten inches high, of a copper color, a bold, impudent, swaggering air; had on when he left a black wool hat, dark copperas colored cotton pants, old dark plaid cassimere coat, new shirt and a pair of boots. TOM, sixteen years of age, light copper color, five feet five or six inches high, sharp-featured, quite intelligent and have been with the army, has something of a military air in his address; had on when he left, a black slouch hat, gray roundabout, white woolen pants well worn, new shirt and was either barefooted or had on a very interior pair of shoes. These negroes were purchased a few weeks since in Augusta, Ga. Jim and Tom having been connected with the army, are evidently endeavoring to either make their way to the army of Virginia or to get within the Yankee lines. Five hundred dollars reward will be given for their delivery in Shelby, Cleveland County, N. C., or one hundred dollars a head for their capture and confinement in any jail where I may get them. C. P. CULVER. Shelby, N. C., June 3, 1864

## \$400 REWARD!

CHARLES, or CHARLEY, absconded from this city about the last of July or first of August last. He is about 18 or 19 years old, dark ginger cake complexion, with large front teeth, the upper ones quite black about the gums, about 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high. He is supposed to have left here in company with a man (not a soldier) going to the army of Northern Virginia, said to be from about Mobile, Ala. He stopped in Petersburg, Va., two or three days after leaving here, and said he was going to Richmond. He is supposed to be about Gen. Lee's army, or the man who took him has carried him out south. P. J. STERNE, Raleigh, N. C. Oct. 3, 1863

## \$15 REWARD

RAN AWAY from my farm, last Tuesday, AARON, fourteen years old, five feet one inch high, stutters, and has a cicatrice of scald on his thigh. He frequented Capt. Branch's Artillery Camp, at Mitchell's Sound, a quarter of a mile from my gate, and disappeared at the time the Company broke Camp, and he is probably now near their Camp at Mr. Sidbury's, on the Newbern road. Capt. Branch will oblige me by having him arrested and sent to me if he is at the Camp. WM. A. BERRY. March 14



# Freedom Seekers Owned by Companies

NOT ALL FREEDOM SEEKERS FLED FROM INDIVIDUAL SLAVEHOLDERS OR FAMILIES. SOME FLED COMPANIES.

## \$200 REWARD

RAN AWAY from the W. & M. R. R. Co., about 20th Jan. 1864, my negro man, Caleb. Said negro is about 35 years old, very black, about 5 ft. 11 inches high, and weighs about 175 lbs. His head is large and his cheekbones very prominent. He speaks very quickly and instantly takes hold of his hat when spoken to.

His bearing is awkward, and he smiles with great facility. His wife is owned by A. D. Waddell, Esq., and he is probably lurking in the vicinity of his plantation. I will give the above reward for his delivery to me, or confinement in any jail. DuBRUTZ CUTLAR. Feb. 29th, 1864.

## \$100 REWARD

AMOS BROCK, PRIVATE IN Company A, 40TH Regiment N. C. Troops, deserted from the Hospital at Fort Fisher on the 5th instant. Said Brock was enlisted in Jones county, within 5 miles of Kinston, on the 28th of February, 1863, is 6 feet high, has black hair, black eyes, and dark complexion. His family lives four miles from Kinston but formerly lived in Onslow county. To any except commissioned officers, I am authorized by the members of my company to offer a reward of one hundred dollars for his apprehension and delivery to me within two months time from this date. A. W. EZZELL, Capt. Comd'g Co., Fort Fisher, N. C. June 12

## TWENTY DOLLAR REWARD

RAN off from the University, on the night of the 20th instant, a negro man by the name of JAMES, who has for the last four years attended at Chapel Hill in the capacity of a college servant. He is of dark complexion, in stature five feet six or eight inches high, and compactly constructed; speaks quick and with ease, and is in the habit of shaking his head while in conversation. He is doubtless well dressed and has a considerable quantity of clothing. It is presumed that he will make for Norfolk or Richmond with the view either of taking passage for some of the free states, or of going on and associating himself with the Colonization Society. It is supposed that he has with him a horse of the following description: a sorrel roan, four feet six or seven inches high, hind feet white, with a very long tail, which where it joins the body is white or flax colour.



# Family Matters

**Freedom Seekers often left in search of their family members**

## **TWENTY DOLLAR REWARD**

**A NEGRO man named AARON ran away from the subscriber about the first of last month,**

- 1. With the notorious Jonathan Rector, who has been lurking in the woods for a year past in different parts of Iredell county, generally having runaway negroes with him, and who was caught lately, it is reported, near Center Church, and had Lynch's law inflicted upon him;**
- 2. In this neighborhood of Sherril's Ford, in Lincoln County, where he formerly had a wife and other connexions;**
- 3. About a plantation of the late Archibald Henderson, Esq.[Esquire] on the Yadkin River, in the neighborhood of Salisbury, where he is said to have a brother; Or he may be in the neighborhood of Mr. Alexander Gillespie, in Mecklenburg county, as he has a brother and other relations in that part of the country.**

**As Rector has received a hint (the third one, it is said of Lynch's sort) to leave our county, it is probable he may travel off with his dark skin companions, and make the sale of them at a distance. Aaron is about forty years of age, but would pass for much younger, were it not that his head is a little grey. He is about five feet and from eight to ten inches high, well made, very black and smooth-skinned, pleasant countenance plays the fiddle, and is a plausible, likely fellow. His clothing is not known, but he is supposed to have a good supply. The above reward will be paid to any person who delivers Aaron to me at my house, free of charges; or ten dollars to anyone who apprehends him, and secures him in some goal so that I get him. JOHN. F. BREVARD. Iredell county, near Beatty's Ford, May 24, 1826**

# A New Life for PIETY

## Slave notice part. I

\$100 REWARD. RUNAWAY, OR WAS STOLEN FROM THE SUBSCRIBER ON THE NIGHT OF THE EIGHTH INSTANT A BRIGHT MULATTO WOMAN (SLAVE) AND HER CHILD, A GIRL OF ABOUT FOUR YEARS OLD. THIS WOMAN RAN AWAY FROM THE SUBSCRIBER, EXECUTOR OF JOHN HUNT, DEC'D[DECEASED], IN THE SUMMER OF 1808, AND PASSED AS A FREE WOMAN BY THE NAME OF PATSY YOUNG, UNTIL ABOUT THE FIRST OF JUNE LAST, WHEN SHE WAS APPREHENDED AS A RUNAWAY. ON THE 6TH OF THE SAME MONTH I OBTAINED POSSESSION OF HER IN THE TOWN OF HALIFAX; SINCE WHICH TIME, BY AN ORDER OF FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT, SHE AND HER CHILD ELIZA HAVE BEEN SOLD, WHEN THE SUBSCRIBER BECAME THE PURCHASER.

SHE SPENT THE GREATER PART OF THE TIME SHE WAS RUN AWAY (SAY ABOUT SIXTEEN YEARS,) IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF AND IN THE TOWN OF HALIFAX; ONE OR TWO SUMMERS AT ROCK LANDING, WHERE I AM INFORMED SHE COOKED FOR THE HANDS EMPLOYED ON THE CANAL. SHE HAS ALSO SPENT SOME OF HER TIME IN PLYMOUTH, HER OCCUPATION WHILE IT IS NOT KNOWN. AT THE ABOVE PLACES, SHE HAS MANY ACQUAINTANCES. SHE IS A TALL SPARE WOMAN WITH, THIN FACE AND LIPS, A LONG SHARP NOSE, AND FORE TEETH SOMEWHAT DECAYED. SHE IS AN EXCELLENT SEAMSTRESS, CAN MAKE LADIES AND GENTLEMEN'S DRESSES, IS A GOOD COOK AND WEAVER, AND I AM INFORMED IS A GOOD CAKE BAKER AND BEER BREWER, &C. BY WHICH OCCUPATIONS SHE PRINCIPALLY GAINED HER LIVING.



# A New Life for PIETY

## slave notice part. II

SOMETIME DURING LAST SUMMER SHE MARRIED A FREE MAN OF COLOUR NAMED CHRAEL JOHNSON, WHO HAD BEEN LIVING IN AND ABOUT PLYMOUTH, AND FOLLOWED BOATING ON THE ROANOKE. SINCE HIS MARRIAGE, HE LEASED A FARM OF MR. JAMES COTTON OF SCOTLAND NECK, HALIFAX COUNTY, WHERE HE WAS LIVING TOGETHER WITH THIS WOMAN, AT THE TIME SHE WAS TAKEN UP AS A RUNAWAY SLAVE IN JUNE LAST. I HAVE BUT LITTLE DOUBT, THAT JOHNSON HAS CONTRIVED TO SEDUCE OR STEAL HER AND CHILD OUT OF MY POSSESSION, AND WILL ATTEMPT TO GET THEM OUT OF THE STATE AND PASS AS FREE PERSONS. SHOULD THIS BE THE CASE, I WILL GIVE SIXTY-FIVE DOLLARS FOR HIS DETECTION AND CONVICTION BEFORE THE PROPER TRIBUNAL, IN ANY PART OF THIS STATE.

I WILL GIVE FOR THE APPREHENSION OF THE WOMAN AND CHILD, ON THEIR DELIVERY TO ME, OR SO SECURED IN JAIL OR OTHERWISE THAT I GET THEM, THIRTY-FIVE DOLLARS; OR, I WILL GIVE TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS FOR THE WOMAN ALONE, AND TEN DOLLARS FOR THE CHILD ALONE. THE PROPER NAME OF THE WOMAN IS PIETY, BUT SHE WILL NO DOUBT CHANGE IT AS SHE DID BEFORE. I FORWARN ALL OWNERS OF BOATS, CAPTAINS, AND OWNERS OF VESSELS FROM TAKING ON BOARD THEIR VESSELS, OR CARRYING AWAY THIS WOMAN AND HER CHILD ELIZA, UNDER THE PENALTY OF THE LAW. NAT. [NATHANIEL] HUNT. AUGUST 16



# Family Matters

**Freedom Seekers often left in search of their family members**

## **FIFTY DOLLARS REWARD**

RANAWAY from Timothy G. Taylor on White Oak, Carteret county, negro man EDMUND, belonging to the heirs of Rigdon Hewitt. Said negro is about 38 years of age, 5 feet eight inches high, walks very erect and quick, and talks quick. **He has a wife belonging to the heirs of James Roberts, formerly of Jones county, who is on her way in company with Roberts negroes, to Mississippi, and Edmund has been seen by said negroes following them.** The above reward will be given, if secured in any jail in the State, so that I get him. CALEB S. HEWITT, Guardian to the Heirs of Rigdon Hewitt April 2, 1844. {ran away in transit}

## **50 DOLLAR REWARD!**

LOOK OUT FOR THE RASCAL! THE subscriber will pay the above reward for the apprehension and delivery to him, or for the confinement in the Raleigh jail, of a negro boy named HENRY BAILEY. Said boy was once free, but was sold for jail fees, in January 1860, having been convicted of housebreaking, and was bought by the undersigned. **He ran away in May last and is supposed to be lurking about Charlotte, N. C., where his mother and sisters reside.** He is about five feet nine or ten inches high, is sparely built, of light complexion and pox marked in the face He has free papers, is a great liar, and is no doubt trying to pass for a free negro. M. C. T. LEE Conwayboro', S. C., Jan 5, 1861. 12. Charlotte Democrate copy until forbid, and forward account to the above address



# Stolen Women?

## 50 Dollars Reward

RANAWAY or stolen from the house of the subscriber on Saturday night the 10th inst. a Negro Woman named HASTY, about 30 years of age, and her little girl Ellen, about 4 years old, both of a yellowish complexion, formerly the property of Capt. Thomas Britt, of Plymouth. Hasty is far advanced in pregnancy; and owing to her situation, it is presumed she must have been conveyed away by some person, as she could not undergo the fatigue of travelling. If stolen and offered for sale by a white person, 100 Dollars Reward will be given for apprehending and giving information so that I may recover them. All persons are hereby forewarned harboring them under the penalty of the law. Thomas Palmer. Martin County, near Mamilton, July 12, 1819. N.B. The above property was sold at public auction, on the 15th of May last, to satisfy an execution, when I became the purchaser. T.P.

## Kidnapping

ON Thursday night last, about half an hour after dark, some person forcibly abducted from my yard, a small black girl named LOUISA, about eleven years old, dressed in a worsted frock with checked green and striped and a green sack or back waist and a red handkerchief (striped) on her head. Said negro girl has had the white swelling in her left knee or leg, and walks slowly and a little lame, I will give a hundred dollars for her and the kidnapper, or fifty dollars for her alone, and a hundred dollars for the kidnapper and proof of his guilt. A suspicious character, about 6 feet high and 23 years old, with brown jeans homespun dress on, and light hair and eyebrows and blue eyes, has been about this place 3 or 4 days, and it may be he is the kidnapper. Any information thankfully received. A. LITTLE. Wednesday, April 4, 1856.

## RUNAWAY from the subscriber, between the 27th and 28th of August last

A likely NEGRO WENCH, by the name of RUTH; 25 years of age, of a middling stature, upon the yellow order, and has a tolerable bold countenance, supposed to be pregnant. She can speak Dutch or English. She can weave or do any sort of farmer's work: she carried away, a cotton habit, and two petticoats grounded with black and white, also a black cambric bonnet. It is quite likely that she was taken off and sold clandestinely: if this is the cause those that are supposedly guilty of the crime are of the following description. One of a middling stature, sandy complexion, and tolerable handsome; the other a tall, spare made with tender eyes, and homely. If any person or persons have secured said negro, so that I get her again, shall be entitled to a reasonable reward by me. DAVID FOX, sen. Living near Carter's mill on Rocky River, Chatham County, N.C. Nov. 10, 1814

# USUALLY WORN CLOTHING, FABRICS, AND COLORS

## Negro Cloth

- A woven material made of cotton or blended coarse threads also homespun. They were cheap and lower grades of cloth. Yet they were of a strong coarse of cloth. This material was used for most freedom seeker's clothing.
- Examples: duffelds, course kiersies, osnaburg, blue linen, checked linen, calicoes and checked cotton.

### MAIN COLORS

Blue

Purple

White

Red

Green or Pea

Brown

Drab or dull colors- It originated from fabrics of the same color made of undyed, homespun wool (light brown, olive, gray, etc.)

## COMMON MATERIALS

Wool

Cotton

Mixed material

Negro cloth

## COMMON PATTERNS

Homespun

Checked

Flannel

Striped

Calico

Spotted

## EXTRAVAGANT MATERIALS AND COLOR

Silk

Cassimere

Satin

Orange



# Freedom Seeker's Fashion Over Time

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1700s</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jackets</li> <li>• Blankets</li> <li>• Osnaburg shirt</li> <li>• Trowsers</li> <li>• Breeches</li> <li>• Homespun Fabrics</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1800-1815</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overalls</li> <li>• Petti or waistcoats (blue or purple)</li> <li>• Homespun shirt</li> <li>• Fabrics (stripped, calico, flannel, linen)</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1815-1830</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trowsers</li> <li>• Pantaloons</li> <li>• Stockings (blue, purple, red, white)</li> <li>• Fur hat</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Women Wear</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dresses</li> <li>• Frock</li> <li>• Bonnets</li> <li>• Their clothing stayed the same throughout decades</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Men Wear</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breeches</li> <li>• Trowsers</li> <li>• Overalls</li> <li>• Pantaloons</li> <li>• Pants</li> <li>• Jeans</li> <li>• Styles changed throughout the time</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1830-1850</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double woven cloth</li> <li>• Fabrics: linsey, copperas, checked</li> <li>• Cotton shirt</li> <li>• Pants</li> <li>• Leather hat</li> </ul>
		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1850-1860</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeans</li> <li>• Coat</li> <li>• Hats</li> <li>• Fabric (checked)</li> </ul>



# SWAMPS

Some freedom seekers would flee to swamps and set up refuge there. Some would hollow out trees and live in them as a means to conceal themselves

Big Swamp:  
Robeson  
County



River swamps in  
Brunswick County



Dismal  
Swamp:



Middle Sound:



Nahunta  
Swamp:  
Greene  
County



Wheat Swamp:  
Lenoir County





# IN THE SWAMPS

## 50 DOLLAR REWARD

Runaway from the Subscriber sometime in July 1806, a negro man by the name of STEPHEN. He is a slim spare made fellow, thick bushy head of hair, remarkable small legs, rather of a yellowish complexion, and about 4 feet 9 or 10 inches high, the forefinger of his left hand is entirely stiff, occasioned by a bite in the joint when fighting. He is remarkably fond of fiddling and commonly has a fiddle hung to his back. He has a mother living in the County of Pasquotank by the name of Franky, commonly called Old Frank, belonging to Joseph Banks. I have lately been informed that a fellow of that name and description has been seen working in the Shingle Swamp, and flatting shingles down in the Canal. I will give the above reward to any person who will deliver him to me in Her ord, or Twenty Five Dollars, to secure him in any jail in this State so that: I get him again. JOHN WOOD. Her ord, Perquimans County. Jan. 28, 1811.

## 25 DOLLAR REWARD

RAN AWAY From the Subscriber two months since, a Negro man named JOHN: he is about 27 years of age, 5 feet 5 or 6 inches high, of a dark complexion, has a lean face, round body, and is well made speaks plain, can read tolerably well, and has a scar on one of his heels. He has been lurking about Vine Swamp, in this county, and about my own neighborhood and has frequently been seen with a gun, and other weapons for defence. It is thought that he will endeavor to get to Portsmouth, in Virginia, where he was sold by Mr. H. Harboard, to Mr. Andrew Hurst of Duplin County N. Carolina. The above reward will be given to any person who will apprehend said negro & secure him in any Jail so that I get him. Should any person be disposed to purchase him, as he runs, I will take six hundred dollars, and give a good title. He is an excellent ditcher, can hew, farm, or turn his hand to almost any thing. All masters of vessels, and others are forwarned from harbouring, employing, or carrying him away, under the penalty of the law. FRANCIS GOODING. Lenoir County, 25th April 1818

# Race & Slavery Petitions

RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE INSTITUTION OF SLAVERY WERE OFTEN MORE COMPLEX. THE RELATED PETITIONS DEMONSTRATE HOW SOME RELATIONSHIPS CONTRADICTED THE INSTITUTION OF SLAVERY.

RARE, BUT SOME SLAVEHOLDERS, UPON THEIR DEATH, WILLED PROPERTY TO SLAVES AND OTHERS WANTED THE SLAVES TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SELECT THEIR OWN MASTERS.

## Guildford County

**In 1858, slave trader Isaac Weatherly died, bequeathing in a codicil to a will a tract of land and money to his "yellow girl, Margaret," along with her freedom.**

**The late Weatherly's daughters now sue their brother, who is the executor of their father's will, arguing that such the bequest of freedom and of property to Margaret is unlawful because emancipated slaves are supposed to be sent out of the state and slaves cannot own property. They ask that the slave and the land "fall into the residuum" of the estate.**

## Lenoir County

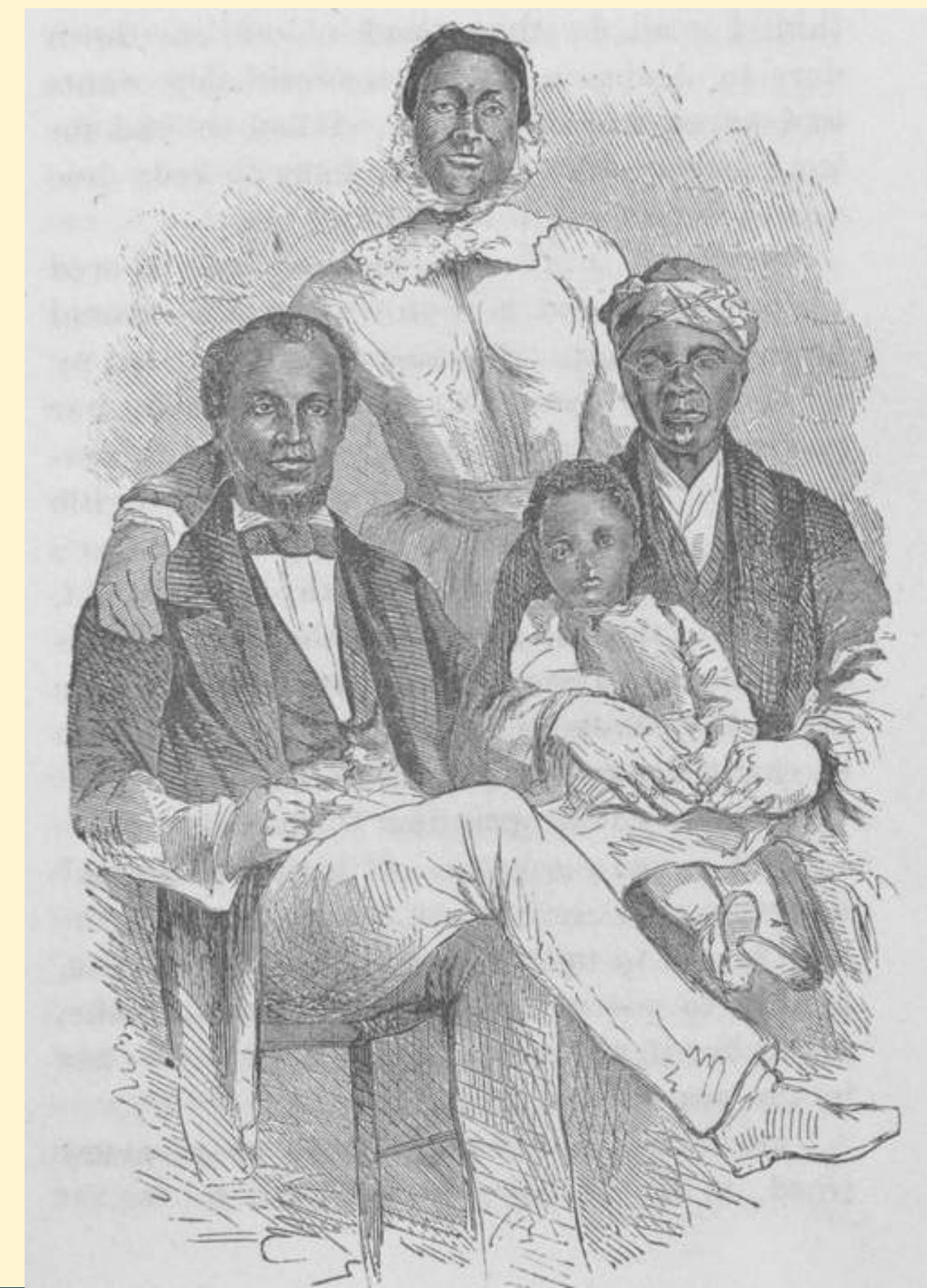
**In 1849 Nathan G. Blount published his will, stipulating that his slaves, Allen and Samuel, should work for three years after his death and pay the estate \$750 each. They should then be permitted to select their masters and be sold at a nominal price, or opt for freedom if this could be accomplished under the laws of North Carolina.**

**Blount also stipulated that his slave Harriet and her child Sophy should be sold in the neighborhood of the town of Washington. **She should be permitted to choose her own master, "or she may remain with her mistress eight or ten years, if she wishes."** In 1852, the executor of Blount's estate, John Washington, seeks guidance from the court in interpreting and implementing the will. He also asks the court to exempt him from the clause which appointed him trustee.**



# VIRTUAL FREEDOM

IN RARE CASES, SOME ENSLAVED PERSONS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE VIRTUAL FREEDOM. THIS MEANT, ALTHOUGH STILL A SLAVE BY LAW, THEIR SLAVEHOLDER ALLOWED THEM TO LIVE AS FREE BLACKS. THIS ALLOWED ENSLAVED PERSON THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH FAMILY, WORK THEIR OWN LAND, AND EARN THEIR OWN MONEY- WHICH, IF THEY COULD SAVE ENOUGH, THEY WOULD USE TO BUY THEIR FREEDOM.



## ORANGE COUNTY

THE RELATIVES OF SARAH FREEMAN, WHO DIED IN 1839, ARGUE THAT HER BEQUEST OF "A NUMBER OF NEGRO SLAVES, THIRTY FIVE OR FORTY OR SOME OTHER SUCH LARGE NUMBER" AND OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY TO JOHN NEWLIN, A QUAKER, WAS INVALID **BECAUSE NEWLIN TOOK THE SLAVES NOT "AS PROPERTY FOR HIS OWN BENEFIT BUT FOR THE BENEFIT & ADVANCEMENT OF THE SLAVES THEMSELVES."**

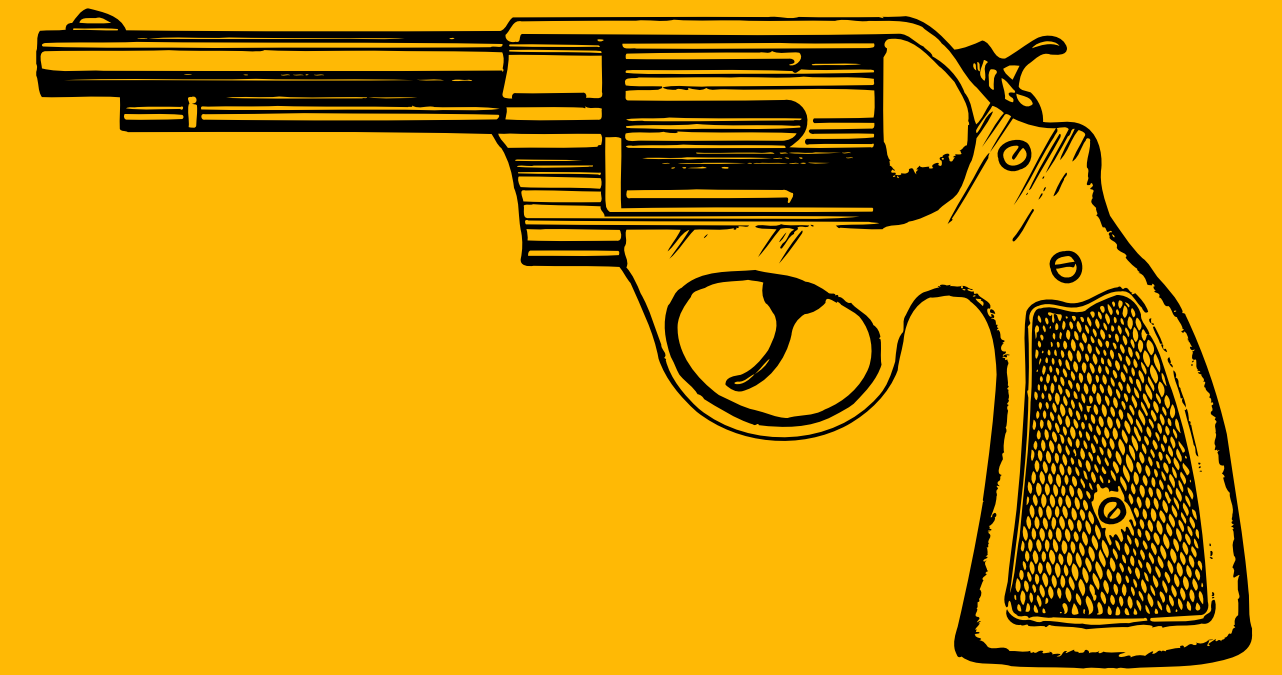
NEWLIN WAS "TAKING CONVEYANCES APPARENTLY ABSOLUTE OF SLAVES & **THEN ALLOWING THEM THE ADVANTAGES & PRIVILEGES OF FREEMEN ENJOYING THE FRUITS OF THEIR OWN LABOR.**" THEY CLAIM THAT THIS IS CONTRARY TO LAW. THE PETITIONERS, AS NEXT OF KIN, BELIEVE THE SLAVES BELONG TO THEM, AND ASK THE COURT TO ORDER NEWLIN "TO DELIVER UP SAID SLAVES" AND MAKE AN ACCOUNT OF THE MONEY, BONDS, AND HIRES OF THE SLAVES.

## NEW HANOVER COUNTY

IN 1861, SLAVE OWNER FREDERICK HILL DIED, INSTRUCTING A GROUP OF FRIENDS TO **PURCHASE ONE HUNDRED ACRES FOR HIS "FAITHFUL AND TRUSTY SERVANT, CHARLES, AND HIS WIFE, LOUISA, AND HIS SON, JIM."** HE SET ASIDE FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS TO BE "LAID OUT" IN STOCKING THE FARM, ALLOWING THE SLAVE FAMILY TO "FARM AND CULTIVATE IT." HIS OTHER SLAVES WERE LEFT TO HIS WIFE. LOUISA DIED A SHORT TIME LATER. NOW THE HEIRS SUE FOR POSSESSION OF CHARLES AND JIM, **ARGUING THAT THE CLAUSE IN HILL'S WILL ILLEGALLY PERMITS THE SLAVES A STATUS OF VIRTUAL FREEDOM.**



# ARMED FREEDOM SEEKERS



FIFTY DOLLARS REWARD WILL be given for the apprehension of negro WESTON. He has been runaway nearly twelve months; has been repeatedly seen in the neighborhood of Raleigh, and is a dark mulatto, about 24 or 25 years of age, 5 feet 4 or 5 inches high, stout and well made. **He goes constantly armed with a gun.** The above reward will be given on his being delivered to me, or being lodged in the Gaol in Raleigh. GEO.[GEORGE] W. MORDECAI. April 18th, 1827.

---

\$25 Reward. RANAWAY from the subscriber, on or about the 23 of May, a negro man, PEYTON, aged twenty two years. Said boy is a bright mulatto, about six feet one or two inches high, and weighs from one hundred and eighty to ninety pounds ; he has fine white teeth, a little swollen beneath the eyes from physical cause, and has a large sore on one of his wrists. When he left home **he carried off one of Allen's revolving Pistols.** The last time heard from, he was making his way towards the Raleigh and Wilmington Rail Road. He has also been seen about Poplar Spring meeting house, and Thos. [Thomas] Alston's plantation, near the Raleigh and Gaston Road The above reward will be given for his apprehension and delivery to me, or confinement in any jail within the State. WILLIAM JEFFREYS, Sr. [Senior] Rockrest, Franklin, July 3d, 1851.



# ARMED FREEDOM SEEKERS



RUN away from the subscriber, in the month of September, two negro men, LENO AND WILL, LENO is a stout made negro, of a yellow complexion, with a large scar on one of his cheeks. WILL, is a tall stout made negro, and very black, the small of one of his legs is larger than the other, **they are both armed**, and by the best information I can gather, are gone to Newbern, or Clubfoot's creek but a few days past. Any person that will apprehend and secure said negroes, so that I get them, shall be entitled to, and receive a reward of ten pounds, or five pounds for either of them, and all reasonable expences paid. JOSIAH HOWARD. New River, Onslow county, October 4.

---

TWENTY DOLLARS REWARD. RAN AWAY from the subscriber, living near Charlotte, N.C. on the night of the 7th inst. FOUR likely NEGROES, viz. TOM & THREE OF HIS CHILDREN. Tom is about 47 years of age, dark complexed stout made, grey headed, has a remarkable white spot on the side of his neck, and scars of white across his breast. Stephen is about 20 years of age, stout made, has a scar in his under lip cut with a penknife . Puggy is about 14 years of age. Ellick is about 12 years of age, some of his jaw teeth are rotten. They are all middling well clothed, and took with them a number of good clothing. **They also took a shot Gun and two Pistols.** I purchased the above Negroes some years ago of the estate of Wallis Alexander, Esq.[Esquire], deceased, of Lincoln county, N.C. I will give the above reward and pay all reasonable [e]xpences to any person who will apprehend said Negroes, and deliver them to me in Charlotte, or secure them in any Jail, so that I get them. ZENAS ALEXANDER. April 11, 1816.

# SKILLED FREEDOM SEEKERS

\$10 REWARD WILL BE PAID FOR THE APPREHENSION AND SECURING IN JAIL, SO THAT I CAN GET HER, MY NEGRO WOMAN, MALINDAY, WHO RAN AWAY FROM MY PLANTATION IN WAKE COUNTY, ABOUT THE 11TH OF JANUARY. MALINDAY IS A TALL WOMAN, YELLOW COMPLEXTION, SHE IS BETWEEN FIFTY AND SIXTY YEARS OLD, SHE HAS LARGE FEET, WITH A GREAT MANY BROKEN VEINS IN HER LEGS, HAS VERY FULL EYE BROWS, **AND IS SAID TO BE A VERY GOOD MIDWIFE.** SHE FORMERLY BELONGED TO THOMAS FARISH. I SUPPOSE SHE IS LURKING SOMEWHERE ALONG ON DEEP RIVER IN CHATHAM COUNTY, OR SHE MAY BE IN ALAMANCE, AS SHE HAS SOME CHILDREN UP THERE AT OR ABOUT HOLT'S STORE. MALINDAY MAY BE TRYING TO PASS FOR A FREE WOMAN, AS SHE IS A GOOD MIDWIFE. ADDRESS ME AT GREEN LEVEL, N. C. PETERSON IVEY. JULY 19TH, 1852.

20 DOLLARS REWARD. RAN AWAY FROM THE SUBSCRIBER ON THE 26TH OF MARCH LAST, A NEGRO MAN NAMED JIM, ABOUT FORTY YEARS OF AGE, NEAR SIX FEET HIGH, LIGHT COMPLEXION, BOW LEGED [LEGGED], AND VERY LIKELY, HAD SOMEWHAT OF AN IMPEDIMENT IN HIS SPEECH, **AND IS A VERY GOOD SHOEMAKER.** JIM HAD NO CAUSE FOR GOING OFF EXCEPT FOR STRIKING HIS OVERSEER, FOR WHICH HE EXPECTED CORRECTION. THE ABOVE WILL BE GIVEN BY ME FOR THE DELIVERY OF SAID JIM, IF CAUGHT IN ORANGE COUNTY, OR FORTY IF TAKEN WITHOUT THE COUNTY AND DELIVERED TO ME. WM.[WILLIAM] CAIN, SEN. HILLSBOROUGH,  
MAY 16, 1820



# Civil War Escapes

\$25 REWARD. RUNAWAY from the subscriber on Sunday 26th January last, my negro boy ANTHONY. He is of a whitish yellow color; 5 feet six or seven inches high; 18 or 20 years old, and supposed to weigh about 140 or 150 lbs. He has a heavy head of hair, and talks short when questioned. No doubt he is trying to pass for a free boy. I will give the above reward for him delivered to me at Prospect Hill, Caswell County, or confined in jail so I get him. F. L. WARREN. Feb. 4th, 1862.

\$25 REWARD. RUNAWAY from the subscriber, on the 26th December, 1861, a negro boy by the name of HENRY SAMPSON. He formerly belonged to the Estate of James Sampson, deceased. He is light complected; has lost a portion of one of his forefingers about half of the first joint; and a portion of one toe, from frostbite. He is well known about town. I will give the above reward of twenty five dollars for his confinement in jail so that I can get him; or the same for his delivery to me. T. E. LAWRENCE.

Jan. 20, 1862. 114



# Civil War Escape

\$25 REWARD. RANAWAY, on the 29th inst., my negro woman, named MARY ANN, with a small child. Said woman was in the employ of Dr. M. Holden, of Brunswick County. I will give the above reward for the delivery of said woman and child to me, or for their confinement in jail, so I can get her. She has a husband on Mr. Jas. T. Petteway's plantation, about four miles from town, and may be lurking in that neighborhood, or about town where she has relations. July 31st, 1861 R. BEASLEY.

\$50 REWARD. Ranaway from the subscriber on the 4th of July, 1853, a NEGRO GIRL named JANE, aged about twenty two years. She is heavy set, of ordinary height, stoops forward a little when walking fast, and is free spoken. She was formerly owned by Mr. James Johnston, of Alamance county, and her mother is now owned by Mr. John Trelinge, of Alamance county. She is probably lurking about in said county. The above award will be given for her apprehension and delivery to me near Leasburg, Caswell county, N. C. , or for her confinement in any jail so that I can get her. MRS. S. B. REID