

# The Bonds of American Slavery: Restraint, Resistance & Rebellion



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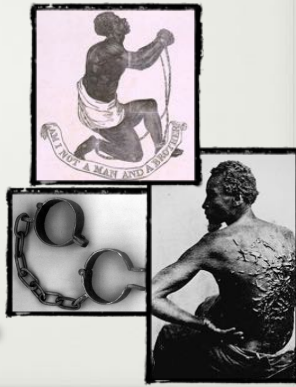
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## Abolitionist Movement

- Early Abolition Movements:
  - (18th C)
  - Missouri Debates (1820-21)
  - Free blacks in the North
    - — send them back to Africa
  - *The Liberator* — abolitionist message = “radical white abolitionism”
- Abolition + Women’s Movement
- Seneca Falls Convention, 1848



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## Abolitionist Movement

Humanity, covered with gore, cries with a voice that pierces the heavens. “His will be done!” Justice, discredited by the hand of violence, exclaims in tones of deep solemnity, “HIS WILL BE DONE!” Liberty, burdened with chains, and driven into exile, in thunder-tones responds, “HIS WILL BE DONE!”

Tyrants! know that the rights of man are inherent and unalienable, and therefore, not to be forfeited by the failure of any form of government, however democratic...

Tyrants! confident of its overthrow, proclaim not to your vassals that the AMERICAN UNION is an experiment of Freedom... Know that its subversion is essential to the triumph of justice, the deliverance of the oppressed, the vindication of the BROTHERHOOD OF RACE. It was conceived in sin, and brought forth in iniquity; and its career has been marked by unparalleled hypocrisy, by high-handed tyranny, by a bold defiance of the omniscience and omnipotence of God...

Accursed be the AMERICAN UNION, as a stupendous republican imposture!

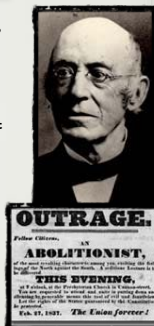
Accursed be it, as the most frightful despotism, with regard to three millions of the people, ever exercised over any portion of the human family!

Accursed be it, as the most subtle and atrocious compromise ever made to gratify power and selfishness!

Accursed be it, for its hypocrisy, its falsehood, its impudence, its lust, its cruelty, its oppression!

Accursed be it, as a mighty obstacle in the way of universal freedom and equality!

Henceforth, the watchword of every uncompromising abolitionist, of every friend of God and liberty, must be, both in a religious and political sense — “NO UNION WITH SLAVEHOLDERS!”



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# Underground Railroad

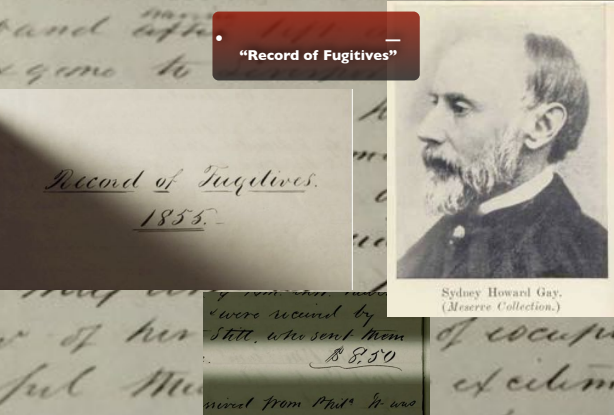


New York Vigilance Committee

## Why was it so dangerous to help slaves?

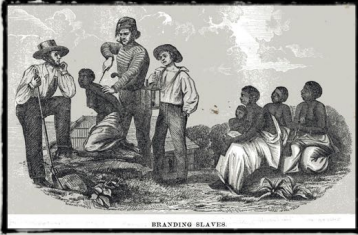


## Why was it so dangerous to help slaves?



## Questions to Consider

- ☑ What kinds of choices did slaves have in their relationships with whites?
- ☑ What was the role of violence on the plantation?
- ☑ What were the ways in which slaves could resist?
- ☑ Consider both the individual slave and their community: What were the consequences/results of their decisions?



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## The Social Relationship



- A “negotiated” but uneven relationship in which slaves are brought to consent to their own domination without overt violent force by their masters
- Slave owners found ways to coerce/force slaves to submit
- S. Whites extremely fearful of uprisings
- Slaves also found ways to resist...



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## Slave Resistance: The Nat Turner Rebellion

- — literate slave and preacher on large plantation in Southampton, Virginia (1831)
- — Believed that he was an agent of black liberation sent by God
- Used violence to resist...
- Results:
  - Whites even more afraid
    - Strict laws passed
    - of Abolitionist writings
    - Militant defense of slavery
  - Abolitionists cry even louder for IMMEDIATE emancipation



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## Slave Resistance: The Amistad Rebellion

- — Spanish slave ship en route to Puerto Principe (1839)
- leads rebellion
- 2 months of zig-zags, caught by US Navy
- United States v. Amistad (1840)
- Former Pres. defends African slaves
- SC — the Africans were “unlawfully kidnapped and forcibly and wrongfully carried on board”



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