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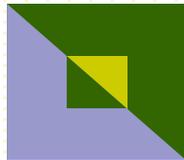
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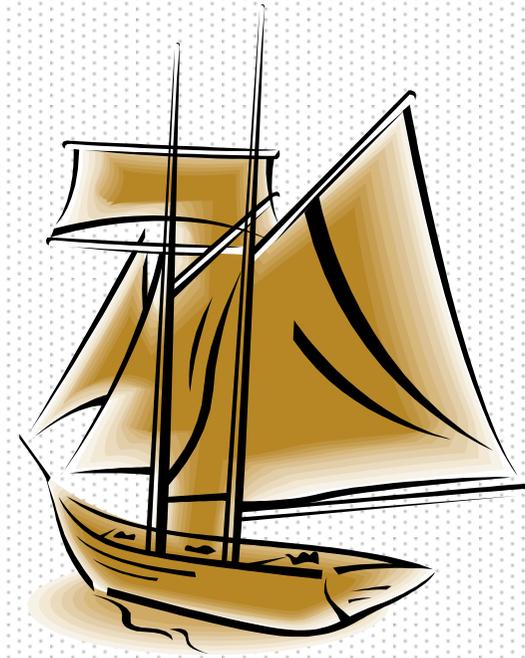
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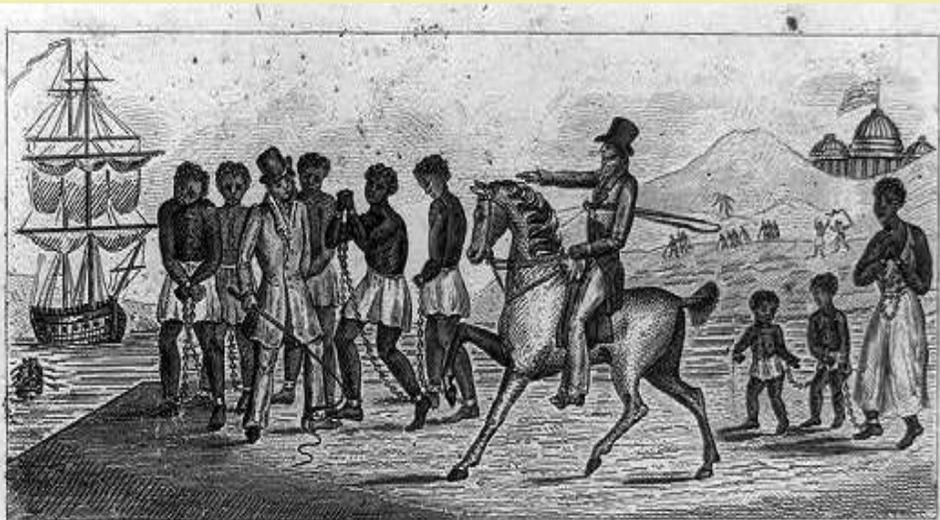
From Africa to America

The Forced Immigration



By: Heather Korrell

Immigration is moving from one country to another. Most of the time, people are excited about moving and all the new experiences that they will encounter. However, during the slavery movement, many immigrants from Africa did not have a positive outlook on their new lives. They were not excited about the new experiences, the new homes or the new opportunities. These Africans were not true immigrants; they were forced immigrants. Many of these people were stolen from their homes, stripped of their freedoms and rights, forced onto a boat and shipped to America where their new lives were less than happy. Their opportunities were non-existent and they became owned by plantation owners.



UNITED STATES SLAVE TRADE.
— 1850.

These forced immigrants did all that they could to make it to freedom. As more of them attained their deserved freedom and began to be true immigrants to America, they began to demand for the freedom of all slaves. The colonists in the north agreed that the treatment of the slaves in the south was immoral. The fight began with President Lincoln abolishing slavery, but that was just the beginning of the long journey. It all led to the Civil War in America. The north and south fighting each other. The north fighting for the freedom of the slaves, and the south fighting for the right to continue ownership. In the end, the Civil War was won by the north and the slaves were freed.

The forced immigrants were finally able to try to live a life of freedom and opportunity; a life that they truly always deserved.

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- Water Supply Train / Covered Wagons / Cannons
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Freedom

With the slaves living conditions continuing to decline and with no opportunities to improve things for themselves, many slaves began to try to escape from plantations in the middle of the night, in search of freedom. The slaves risked their lives in hopes of crossing state borders into

\$150 REWARD



RANAWAY from the subscriber, on the night of the 2d instant, a negro man, who calls himself *Henry May*, about 22 years old, 5 feet 6 or 8 inches high, ordinary color, rather chunky built, bushy head, and has it divided mostly on one side, and keeps it very nicely combed; has been raised in the house, and is a first rate dining-room servant, and was in a tavern in Louisville for 18 months. I expect he is now in Louisville trying to make his escape to a free state, (in all probability to Cincinnati, Ohio.) Perhaps he may try to get employment on a steamboat. He is a good cook, and is handy in any capacity as a house servant. Had on when he left, a dark cassinet coatce, and dark striped cassinet pantaloons, new—he had other clothing. I will give \$50 reward if taken in Louisville; 100 dollars if taken one hundred miles from Louisville in this State, and 150 dollars if taken out of this State, and delivered to me, or secured in any jail so that I can get him again.

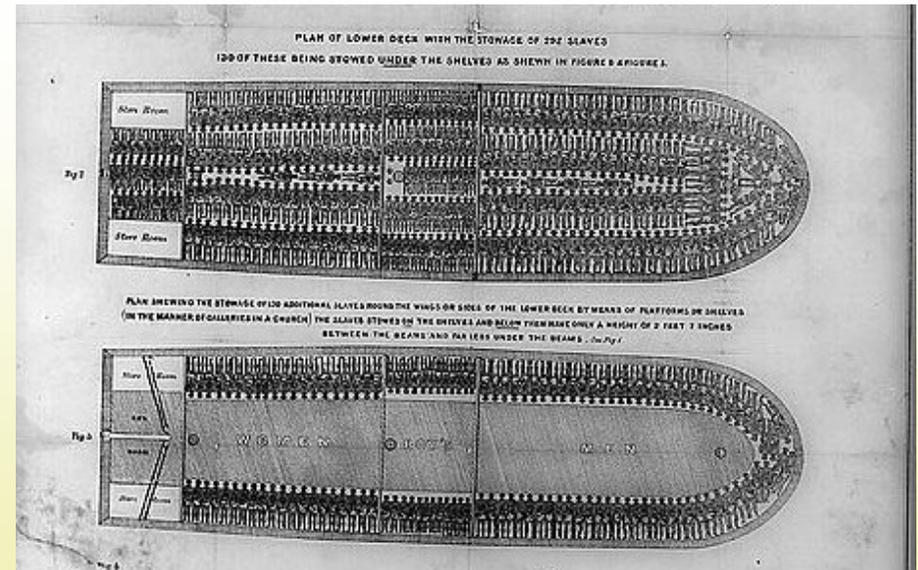
WILLIAM BURKE.
Bardstowen, Ky., September 3d, 1838.

free states. They were often tracked by their owners, by dogs, and even police. The increased number of slaves wanting to run for their freedom led to the Underground Railroad. This was a network

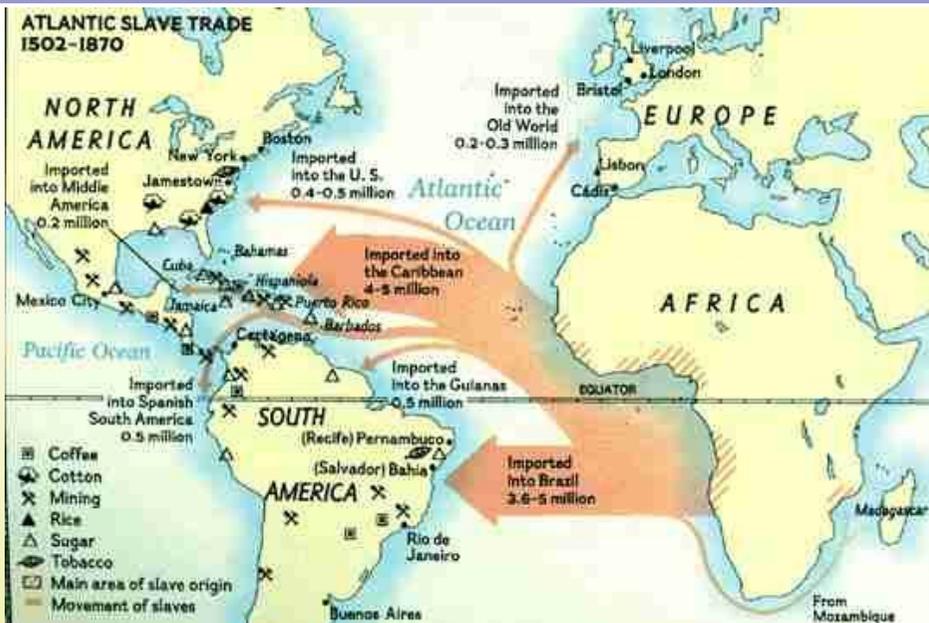


of passages, safe houses, and people that wanted to help slaves find their freedom. These new immigrants had no one to turn to, no one to help them; they simply hoped and relied on the Americans in the free states to help them find their way. Men

such as John Rankin helped the slaves find safety and his house became a popular stop on the Underground Railroad.

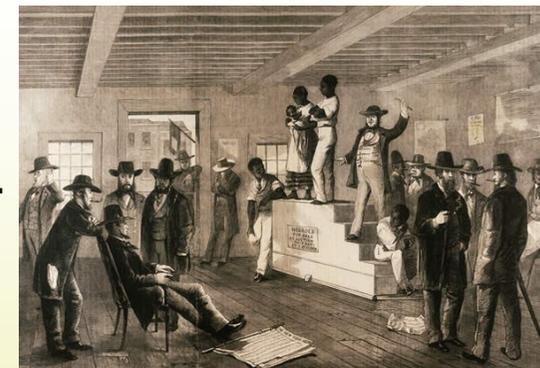


. These soon to be slaves were not just men, but women, and even children were subjected to unethical conditions. They were not allowed to bring anything with them, and had no choice in the matter. If they did not comply with those who were in charge, they would surely die. Many of them chose not to fight in hopes of at least making it to the United States alive. Travel to the United States was less than enjoyable for these Africans. The people were laid in the bottom of ships, tightly next to each other. They were forced to lay for the entirety of the trip. They were given little food or water, and they were deprived completely of exercise. Unfortunately, due to the harsh conditions, many of these slaves died on the journey.



The travel was long and could often take several months. The slaves were shipped from Africa, across the Atlantic ocean, and to many different ports and places in the western world. Many slaves to south and central America. The slaves went to work on sugar plantations, where they would produce sugar that would be exported to the American colonies and England. The slaves that were sent to the southern American colonies were mostly working on cotton plantations. If the travel wasn't harsh enough, the slaves were faced with a degrading auction, where they were sold to awaiting plantation owners. The most difficult part of this for the Africans was that many of the families were forced apart and sent to separate plantations.

The slaves were sold to the highest bidder, but the outlook for their new home continued to decline. On plantations, owners often left slaves with very little. Their housing was mere one room cabins with little insulation, furniture, or fixings.



This was definitely not the ideal immigrant situation. The slaves did not have their own rights. They were owned by the slave owners. The law did not protect the slaves; the owners could do whatever they liked. Slaves

endured long hour work days, very few days off, and extremely little reward for their hard labor. The conditions were unimaginable. Many of the slaves were bonded for life, meaning there was not hope of ever getting out of the terrible conditions. The life in America was not being the land of opportunity for the slaves.