



## STORY OF A SURVIVOR

Nathaniel used to be a slave. He escaped a plantation of the South of the country, and he agreed to answer our questions.

First, let us tell his story:

He was born a slave on a southern plantation. He grew up without being allowed to learn how to read nor write.

At the age of 12, he began to work on a sugar plantation. He tells us that he was often beaten because he did not work fast enough.

At the age of 16, he tried to flee humiliation but he was found by his overseers. The punishment was so terrible that no word can describe such monstrosity.

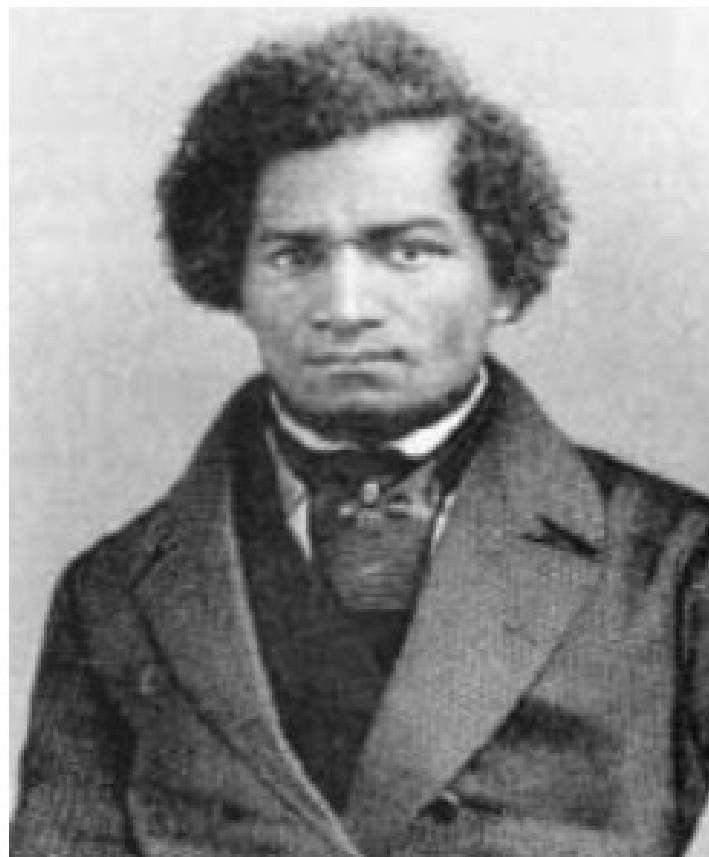
Later, he was sold to a man on a sugar plantation and he had to work from sunup to sundown, with overseers behaving like tyrants.

He ran away from the plantation with 2 other slaves. They walked during the night and hid during the day. To reach the North, they followed the river and the North star.

Nathaniel, how is your life now?

"You know, here, people are distant, violent towards former slaves. Discriminations still exist. the society seems to reject us. I have no job, but I keep faith because here, I am a free man".

D.A (3D).





## MICHAEL ROBERTS, A FORMER SLAVE, TOLD US HIS STORY.

### Beginning of a long nightmare

Many years ago, he was living a peaceful life... when white men found him and kidnapped him to be sold into slavery, leaving his family.

"The auction was very long!" says Michael Roberts.

### Unbearable conditions



He arrived on a huge tobacco and cotton plantation in South America. He describes his days as "very hard"; "tiring"; ect... "we woke up before dawn by the cracking of the Commander's whip to go to work, at noon we had barely an hour to prepare our meal and eat and then the work went on until night." he adds.

He slept in a small hut with another slave. These huts were heavily guarded, and if they dared to run away, they were beaten to blood. He even tells us that "nothing but an unwanted look or movement was punished! "

### THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

One day, when he worked on the tobacco plantations, he had the great desire to run away. This was very complicated. But hereafter is how he did it: "At one point, my master was busy punishing another slave, so I took the opportunity to hide behind a tree and then run away as far away as possible from this awful plantation. ". He went to join his family..

He ends with this sentence: "Today this is past history. I finally found my little family, I am now looking for a good job to earn money and buy a new house for my wife and children. "

G.E (3C)



## DAVID, EXPERIENCED HELL

A former slave tells us about the life on a plantation...

When he was 10 years old he experienced hell, David is one of the slaves who have worked on the plantations of the South. Being born from parents already slaves, young David therefore had no choice but to be a slave too.



"The working conditions were very hard: we worked from sunrise to sunset, we had only a short break during the day to eat. Our living conditions were just as hard: we slept very little, we had a minimum hygiene and we always had to work, even when we were ill", he confides to us.

To escape, he waited for the outbreak of a revolt, then ran to hide in an attic. From there, he waited a month and a half hidden in this attic. One evening, when no one was around this attic, he took his courage in both hands and ran quickly, very quickly without stopping for several hours.

Once in the North, he started his life over, benefiting from the help of members of the Underground Railroad

Today David works in a small grocery store, he is married and father of 2 children.

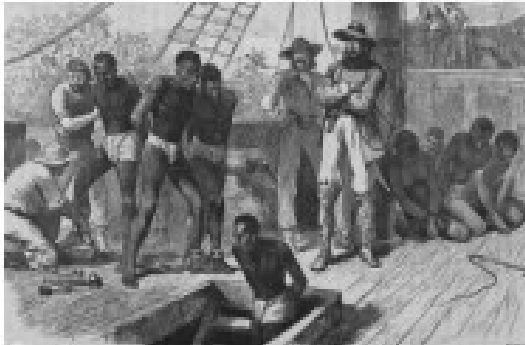
M.M (38)



# The Northern Star

## FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM

Forced into slavery like an object



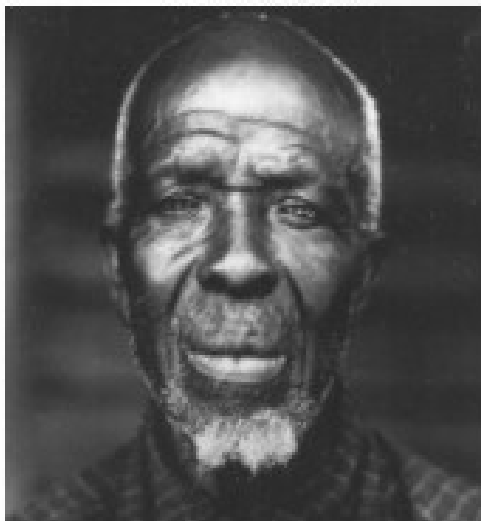
At the age of 16 years old, Moussa Awagay was kidnapped by three men to be sold as a slave while he was with his family in Africa.

He was brought to South America by boat. The trip lasted one month

"the trip was very difficult : it was overcrowded, we had little to eat and many persons died".

When he arrived in South America, Moussa Awagay was bought by an owner, a white man, and taken to this plantation. Moussa Awagay cultivated the cotton. It was the beginning of slavery for him.

### THE SAME PATTERN KEPT GOING ON...



4 years later, his owner decided to sell him with several other slaves. Then the same pattern happened again and he worked on a sugar cane plantation.

His job was to cut the sugar canes. Moussa Awagay slept in a hut small with other slaves and he ate little.

"our owners regarded us as objects, they called by numbers, I was the number 251".

### HE COULD NO LONGER TAKE IT

For Moussa Awagay, the most difficult thing was to be separated from his family.

He could no longer stand the mistreatment and the malnutrition.

That's the reason why he decided to run away....

Moussa Awagay escaped with his friend (another slave) in the middle of the night when everybody was sleeping.

They crept to the exit of the plantation. Then they ran as fast as they could. "I was very scared, I heard the dogs trying to find us".

Later on, they passed by the Underground railroad.

He is now free and is looking for a job to earn enough money to get food and a house for his family.

M.N (SB)

# The Northern Star

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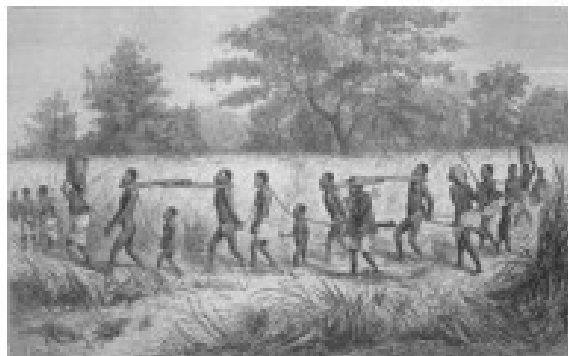
## A NEW TESTIMONY FROM A SLAVE WHO SUCCEEDED TO ESCAPE FROM HIS MASTERS

HE IS "FREED FROM  
CHAINS". AFTER MORE THAN A WEEK OF WALK AND  
PILLAGE... WHERE FREEDOM IS FOR ALL

Koffi was found unconscious near a farm in the Northern United States yesterday afternoon. When he woke up he told the farmers who found him in that he had escaped from the property of his ex masters, near New York.

Koffi was renamed as soon as he arrived on the plantation of his former masters. Indeed, the man's name was Koffi but as the master's wife found this name "false" she changed it for "Jason". We interviewed "Jason", whom we will now and legitimately call Koffi, and he tells us about his former life.

### THE BEGINNING OF HIS TORTURE



He is from an African country but does not know which one since he was abducted at eight years old.

His parents died shortly afterwards due to diseases caught on the ship. So he was sold alone to evil and intolerant people.

When Koffi came to the plantation 10 years ago, he immediately started working.

Koffi woke up at dawn every day to carry out the various tasks given by his masters. He had to feed the cattle and then bring water from the well before his masters woke up. He spent most of his day working in the sugar cane fields.

During his working day, Koffi had only one break that lasted very short time. He had only two meals a day: either the rest of the food of the masters' children or bread and vegetables of the season. He rarely ate meat. Koffi stopped working in the fields at sunset but had to watch the other slaves for two hours a night.

# The Northern Star

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## An unbearable treatment

In the plantation where Koffi was, there were about forty slaves. More than half of them were men.

Koffi says he has already witnessed the rape of slaves by the sons of his former masters.

Koffi didn't talk much to the others because the masters feared a rebellion. Once, two men were executed because they were suspected of stealing bread.

When there wasn't enough crop, slaves had to take turns whipping each other. Their masters judged that it was because of them and that they brought bad luck to the earth.



## Reaching freedom

After 10 years of slavery, Koffi managed to escape one stormy day. The dogs had returned and the masters were busy bringing their children home. Koffi took advantage of this moment of chaos to jump over the fence and run as fast as he could. Three other men followed him

Yet, after crossing a river they split up. Koffi spent his days hiding in the bushes and in the evening he stole fruits and vegetables from the fields and forests.

Koffi now works on the farm where he was kindly welcomed and is paid

D-M.W(3C)