Harriet Jacobs, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl
Harriet Ann Jacobs (1813-1897), or “Linda Brent.”
Street map of Edenton, North Carolina, identifying the historic sites pertaining to Harriet Jacobs' life in that city and her eventual escape.
$100 REWARD

WILL be given for the apprehension and delivery of my Servant Girl HARRIET. She is a light mulatto, 21 years of age, about 5 feet 4 inches high, of a thick and corpulent habit, having on her head a thick covering of black hair that curls naturally, but which can be easily combed straight. She speaks easily and fluently, and has an agreeable carriage and address. Being a good seamstress, she has been accustomed to dress well, has a variety of very fine clothes, made in the prevailing fashion, and will probably appear, if abroad, dressed out in gay and fashionable finery. As this girl absconded from the plantation of my son without any known cause or provocation, it is probable she designs to transport herself to the North.

The above reward, with all reasonable charges, will be given for apprehending her, or securing her in any prison or jail within the U. States.

All persons are hereby forewarned against harboring or entertaining her, or being in any way instrumental in her escape, under the most rigorous penalties of the law.

JAMES NORCOM.

Edenton, N. C. June 30

Advertisement for the capture of Harriet Jacobs, American Beacon (daily), Norfolk, Virginia, July 4, 1835.
Left: Dr. James Norcom (1778-1850), or “Mr. Flint.” Right: Mrs. James Norcom (Mary Matilda Horniblow, 1794-1868), or “Mrs. Flint.”
Left: Joseph Jacobs (1830-????), or “Benny.” Right: Louisa Matilda Jacobs (1833-1917), or “Ellen.”
Nathaniel Parker Willis (1806-1867),
or “Mr. Bruce.”
Map of Eastern North Carolina showing the watercourses, inlets, swamps, and land obstacles with which escaped slaves who were seeking freedom contended.
Percentage of enslaved peoples in North Carolina, 1860.