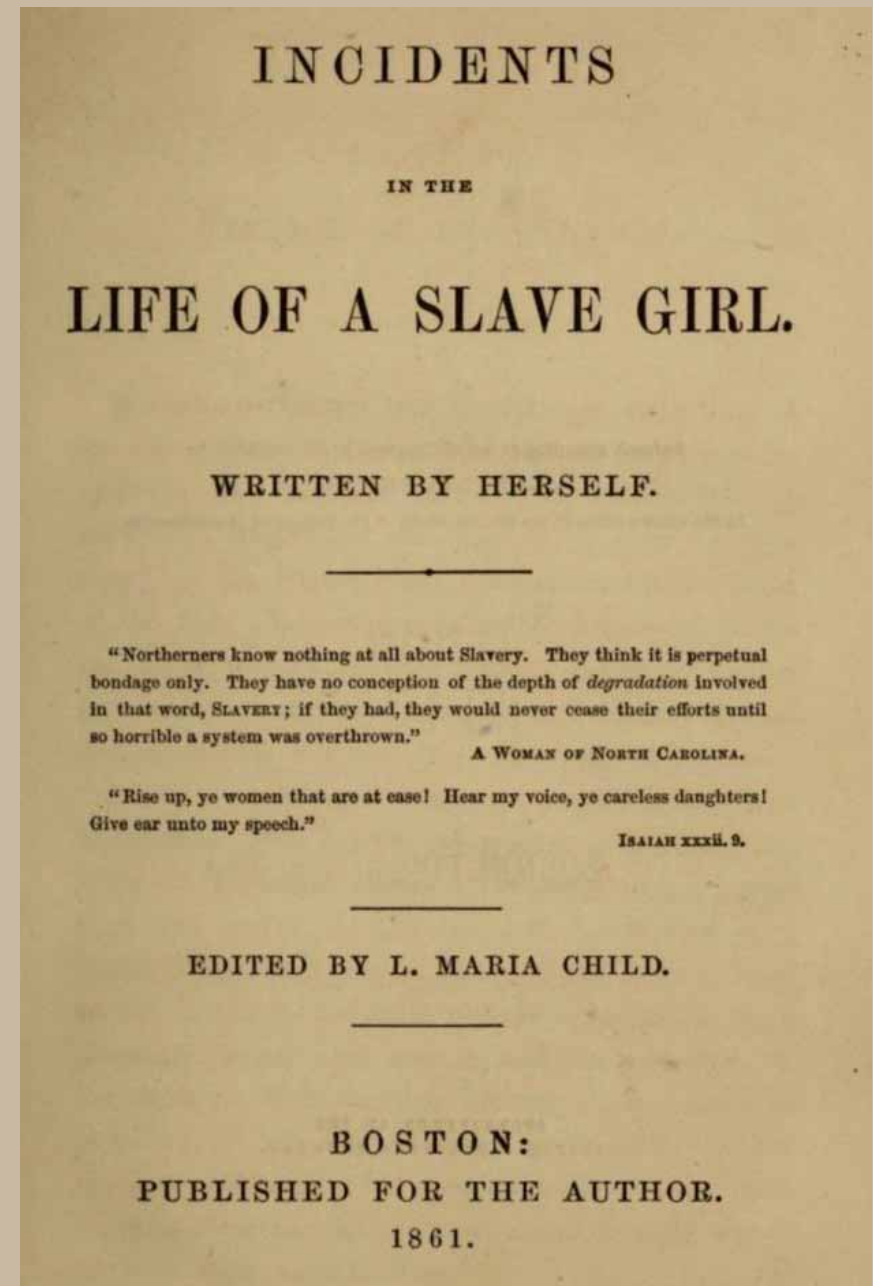
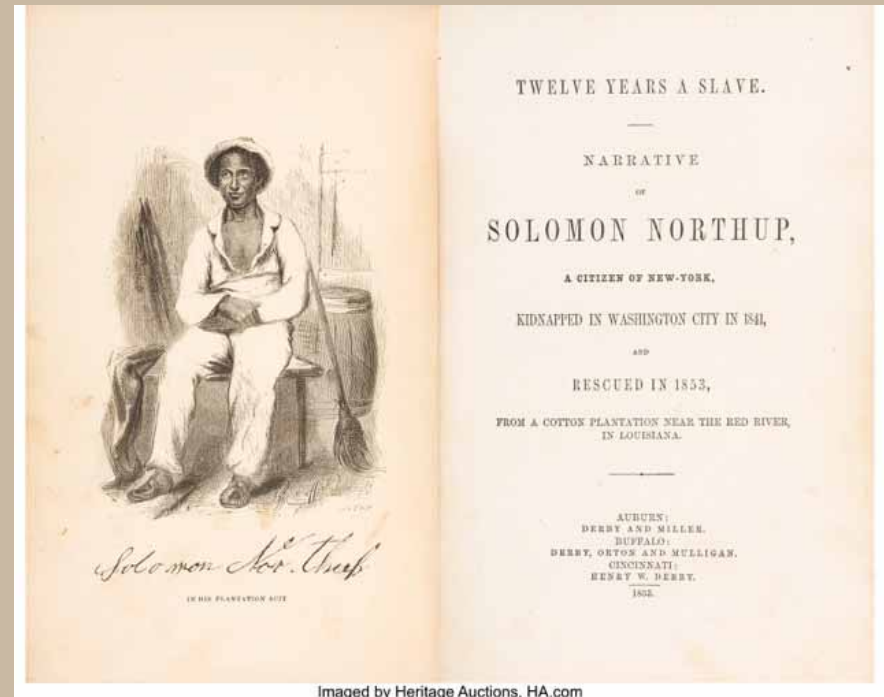
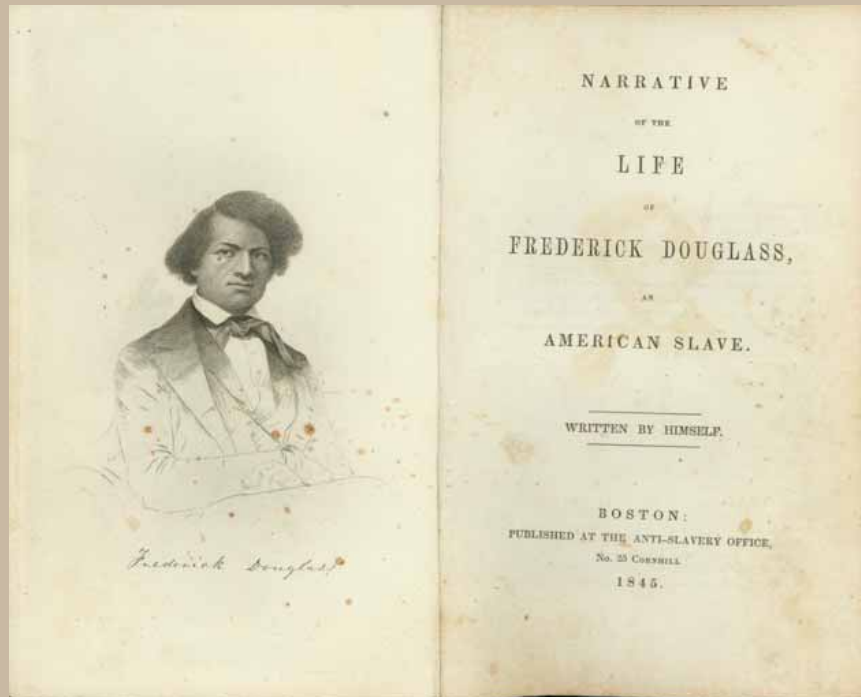


*The Black Atlantic*  
*AAAS 329*  
*ARTHIST 383*  
*ICS 226S-01*

Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the  
Life of a Slave Girl*

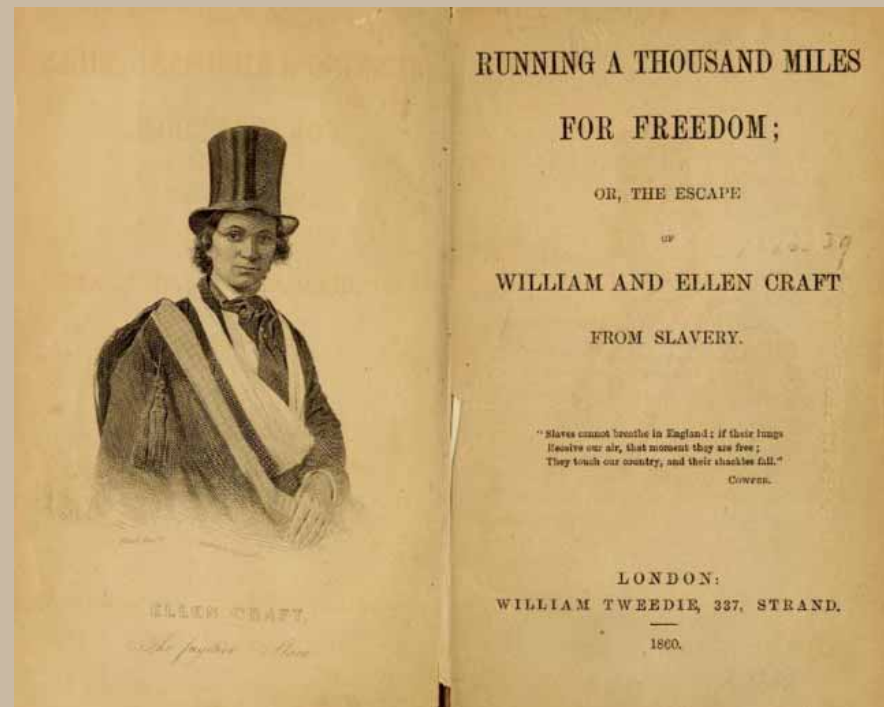
Monday, March 27, 2023





Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

Clockwise from upper left: Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself* (Boston, 1845); Solomon Northup, *Twelve Years a Slave. Narrative of Solomon Northup, A Citizen of New-York, Kidnapped in Washington City in 1841, and rescued in 1853, from a Cotton Plantation near the Red River, in Louisiana* (Auburn/Buffalo/Cincinnati, 1853); William and Ellen Craft, *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom; or, the Escape of William and Ellen Craft* (London, 1860).





Harriet Ann Jacobs (1813-1897), or "Linda Brent."



#### 1. Historic Edenton Visitor Center

Information, tours, audio-visual program, gift shop and various exhibits, including one on the life of Harriet Jacobs, are available here. A North Carolina Highway Historical Marker, dedicated May 15, 1998, commemorates Harriet Ann Jacobs, fugitive slave, writer and abolitionist.



Historic Edenton Visitor Center  
128 N. Broad Street

#### 2. Saint Paul's Episcopal Church & Churchyard

Harriet writes that her children were baptized at Saint Paul's Church where their great-grandmother, Molly Horniblow, was a member. In the churchyard, near the sidewalk along Church Street, is the grave of Dr. James Norcom.



Saint Paul's Episcopal Church  
West Church Street

#### 3. Former site of Martha Hoskins Rombough Blount's home

(A gas station now occupies this location) Mrs. Blount was a white friend of Harriet's grandmother, Molly Horniblow. The home was Harriet's second hiding place after her escape from Auburn plantation.

#### 4. Former site of Dr. Norcom's home

(Edenton Baptist Church parking lot) Harriet came to live here at about age twelve after her owner, Margaret Horniblow, willed her to Dr. Norcom's three-year-old daughter in 1825. Built in 1766, three rooms of the house are preserved today at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

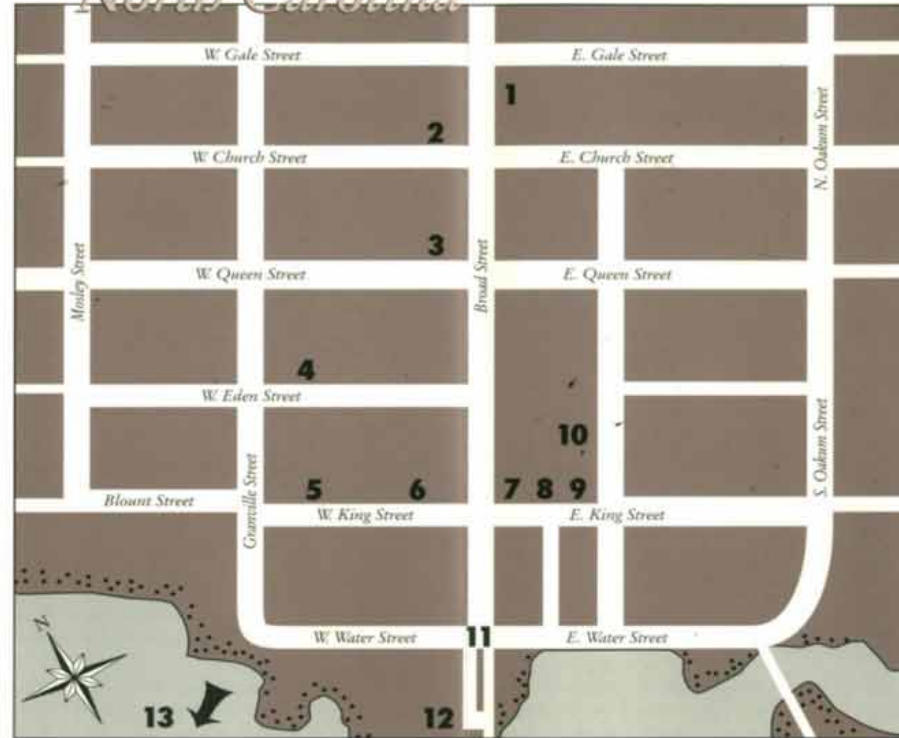
#### 5. Former site of Samuel Tredwell Sawyer's home

(Lower end of W. King Street) Harriet writes that Samuel Sawyer was the father of her children, Joseph, born in 1829 and Louisa Matilda, 1833. An Edenton lawyer, Sawyer was elected to the United States Congress in 1837.

#### 6. Former site of Molly Horniblow's home

(Upper end of W. King Street in the fenced parking lot area) Harriet writes that she hid in a small attic above a store-room in her grandmother's house for six years and eleven months until her escape to the North in 1842. Harriet sold the house in 1892.

## EDENTON North Carolina



#### 7. Former site of Dr. Norcom's medical office

(105 East King Street) The present building was built in 1882 as a law office.

#### 8. Former site of Horniblow's Tavern

(Chowan County Office Building now occupies this location) Harriet lived with her family until her mother's death in 1819. At that time Harriet was sent to live with Margaret Horniblow, who taught her to read, spell and sew.

#### 9. Chowan County Courthouse

In 1828, Hannah Pritchard purchased Molly Horniblow after her owner's death. Miss Pritchard petitioned the Chowan County court to emancipate Molly on April 28, 1828.



1767 Chowan County Courthouse  
East King Street

#### 10. Chowan County Jail

Harriet writes that after her escape from the plantation, Dr. Norcom jailed her young children and brother for two months and her aunt for one month, in an effort to force her out of hiding.



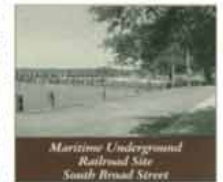
Chowan County Jail  
Circa, 1825

#### 11. Former site of the Market House

(Intersection of S. Broad and Water Streets) Goods of all kinds were sold here, including slaves. Here on January 1st, hiring day, slaves could be offered out for hire by their owners for the year.

#### 12. Edenton Bay Harbor/Maritime Underground Railroad site

Harriet writes that she escaped from Edenton in 1842 by way of the Edenton Bay. This means of escape by water became known as the Maritime Underground Railroad. Aided by sympathetic seamen, Harriet sailed north. Her goal was to reach New York and reunite with her daughter. Harriet remained a fugitive slave until her freedom was purchased in 1852.



Maritime Underground  
Railroad Site  
South Broad Street

#### 13. Snaky Swamp

(Wooded area west of Edenton Bay) Harriet writes that with the help of friends she was concealed in the swamp for two days while a hiding place was prepared at her grandmother's house. "As evening approached, the number of snakes increased so much that we were continually obliged to thrash them with sticks to keep them from crawling over us."

Street map of Edenton, North Carolina, identifying the historic sites pertaining to Harriet Jacobs' life in that city and her eventual escape.

Advertisement for the capture of Harriet Jacobs,  
*American Beacon* (daily), Norfolk, Virginia,  
July 4, 1835.

## **\$100 REWARD**

**W**ILL 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, tricked 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*

STASW



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."

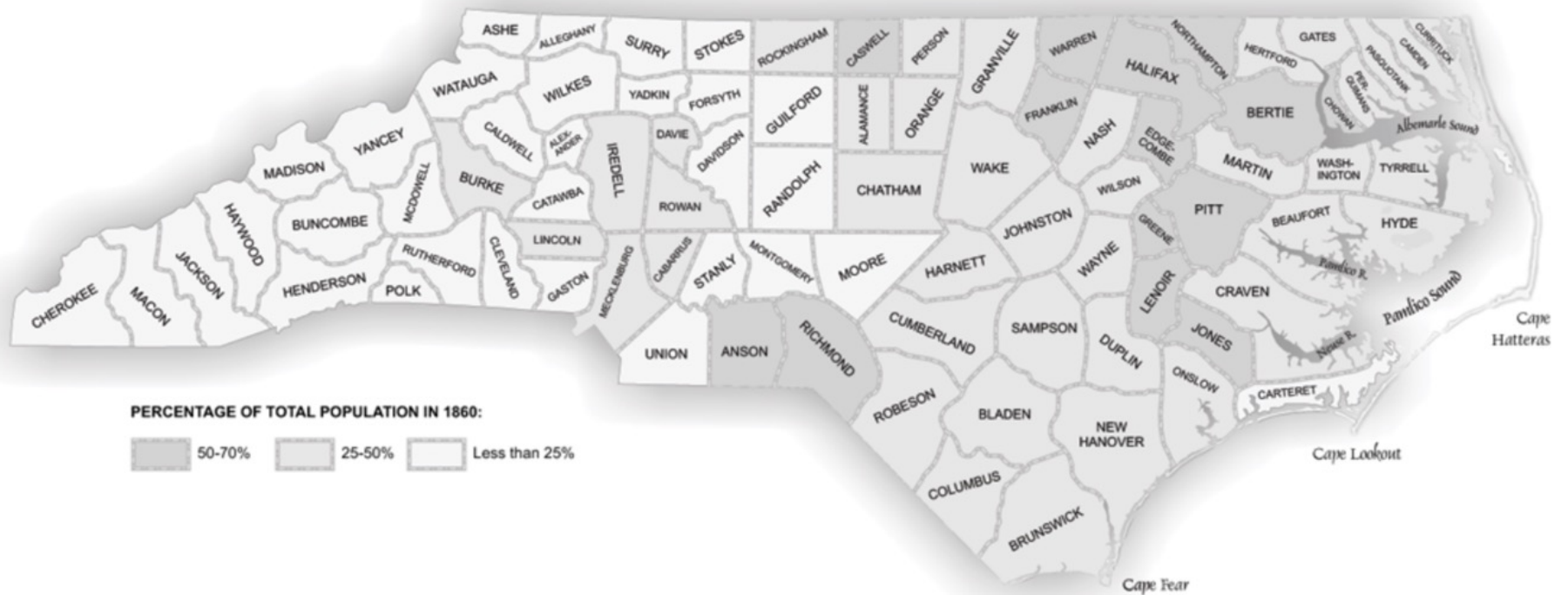
Nathaniel Parker Willis (1806-1867),  
or "Mr. Bruce."





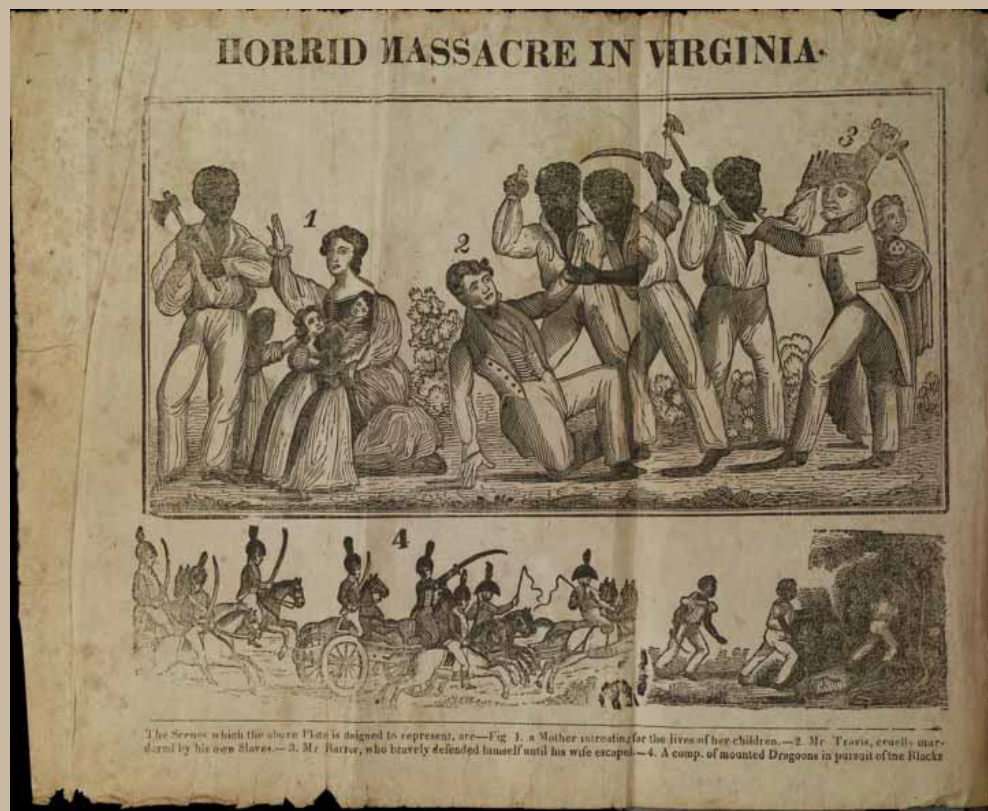


Map of Eastern North Carolina showing the watercourses, inlets, swamps, and land obstacles with which escaped slaves who were seeking freedom contended.



Percentage of enslaved peoples in North Carolina, 1860.





Left: Anonymous, *Horrid Massacre in Virginia*, 1831. Woodcut. Below: John Warner Barber, *Death of Captain Ferrer, the Captain of the Amistad*, July 1839, 1840. Wood engraving.

