The Classic Slave Narratives | 265b396e0bbcf9f54b5dcfc70ebb17b8

Voices from Slavery

Conjectures and Refutations


Voices from Slavery

Based on 27 interviews with former slaves by the Federal Writers' Project, 18 of which came from Oklahomans.

Conjectures and Refutations

The African American slave narrative is popularly viewed as the story of a lone male's flight from slavery to freedom, best exemplified by the Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave (1845). But in stressing Douglass's narrative as a model for the genre, scholars have ignored the formal and thematic importance of marriage and family in the slave narrative. This book examines the central role of marriage in The Life and Adventures of Henry Bibb, an American Slave (1849) and Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom; or the Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery (1860). In doing so, the volume points to the influence of those narratives on the later fiction of Douglass, William Wells Brown, and Martin Delany, and invites a reexamination of current assumptions about slave
narratives.

The history of Mary Prince, a West Indian slave

Neo-slave Narratives

Masterful Genius Work 2 Books in One! From James Morris Webb, A.M. - "I have many objects in presenting this book to the public. First: I love my race regardless of the prejudice against her, the unenviable position she holds, and the things she is falsely said to be guilty of. I demonstrate my love for her by launching this book before the public as somewhat of a defense against the prejudice of ancient, as well as modern historical writers and lecturers, who have misrepresented her, and took from her the good deeds and honors that are justly due her." From Rev. J.J. Jackson, D.D. - "It is very essential that every race should possess a correct knowledge of its own past history. The masses of the American negro have been deprived of the opportunity of obtaining an adequate knowledge of the past history of the black man. The average historian has not considered the ancient history of the black man of sufficient importance to claim his attention. Even Mr. Myers would have the students of his general history believe that the black man has always been a hewer of wood and a drawer of water. A large majority of the men of letters of our own people who are very proficient in ancient, medieval, modern history of Greece and Rome, and even China, Japan and other European and Asiatic countries, know very little of the history of their own people." The Black Man: The Father of Civilization was written by James Morris Webb, A.M. and Published in 1919. History of the Black Man was written by Rev. J.J. Jackson, D.D. and Published in 1921. Buy Your Copy Today!

Kindred

DIV More than 2,000 former slaves provide first-person accounts in blunt, simple language about their lives in bondage. Illuminating, often startling information about southern life before, during, and after the Civil War. /div

Rethinking the Slave Narrative

Presents four narratives in which former slaves describe their experiences in captivity and portray the harsh conditions they faced in everyday life.

Black Indian Slave Narratives
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave & Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl

"A Best Book of the Year" — Library Journal and Booklist Using excerpts from the thousands of interviews conducted with ex-slaves in the 1930s by researchers working with the Federal Writer's Project, this astonishing collection makes available in print the only known recordings of people who actually experienced slavery—recordings that had gathered dust in the Library of Congress until they were rendered audible for the first time specifically for this collection. Heralded as "a minor miracle" (Ted Koppel, Nightline), "powerful and intense" (Atlanta Journal Constitution), and "invaluable" (Chicago Tribune), Remembering Slavery is sure to enrich readers for years to come. "Gripping and poignant moving recollections fill a void in the slavery literature." — The Washington Post Book World "Chilling [and] riveting This project will enrich every American home and classroom." — Publisher's Weekly "Quite literally, history comes alive in this unparalleled work." — Library Journal "Ira Berlin's fifty-page introduction is as good a synthesis of current scholarship as one will find, filled with fresh insights for any reader." — The San Diego Union Tribune

Six Women's Slave Narratives

Authentic recollections of hardship, frustration, and hope — from Mary Prince's groundbreaking account of a lone woman's tribulations and courage, to Annie Burton's eulogy of black motherhood.

The Cambridge Companion to the African American Slave Narrative

Firsthand accounts of escapes from slavery in the American South include narratives by Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman as well as lesser-known travelers of the Underground Railroad.

Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Henry Bibb, an American Slave

John Washington's Civil War

The visionary author's masterpiece pulls us—along with her Black female hero—through time to face the horrors of slavery and explore the impacts of racism, sexism, and white supremacy then and now. Dana, a modern black woman, is celebrating her twenty-sixth birthday with her new husband when
she is snatched abruptly from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South. Rufus, the white son of a plantation owner, is drowning, and Dana has been summoned to save him. Dana is drawn back repeatedly through time to the slave quarters, and each time the stay grows longer, more arduous, and more dangerous until it is uncertain whether or not Dana's life will end, long before it has a chance to begin.

Witnessing Slavery

Narrative of the author's experiences as a slave in St. Louis and elsewhere.

Women's Slave Narratives

The slave narrative has become a crucial genre within African American literary studies and an invaluable record of the experience and history of slavery in the United States. This Companion examines the slave narrative's relation to British and American abolitionism, Anglo-American literary traditions such as autobiography and sentimental literature, and the larger African American literary tradition. Special attention is paid to leading exponents of the genre such as Olaudah Equiano, Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs, as well as many other, less well known examples. Further essays explore the rediscovery of the slave narrative and its subsequent critical reception, as well as the uses to which the genre is put by modern authors such as Toni Morrison. With its chronology and guide to further reading, the Companion provides both an easy entry point for students new to the subject and comprehensive coverage and original insights for scholars in the field.

The Classic Slave Narratives

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave

Before the end of the civil war, over one hundred former slaves had written moving stories of their captivity and by 1944, when George Washington Carver published his autobiography, over six thousand ex-slaves had written what are called slave narratives. No group of slaves anywhere, in any other era, has left such prolific testimony to the horror of bondage and servitude.

Narrative of William W. Brown, an American Slave

**** New edition of the Greenwood Press original of 1979 (which is cited in BCL3), with a new introduction, chapter, and a supplementary bibliography.
The Classic Slave Narratives

One of the foremost experts in African-American studies presents four slave narratives in which former slaves describe their experiences in captivity and portray the harsh conditions faced by the slaves in everyday life. Reissue.

Slave Narratives of the Underground Railroad

Gathers twenty of the most significant slave narratives published since the Civil War.

The African-American Century

Vivid descriptions of the horrors of slave auctions, and many other unforgettable and sometimes unrepeatable details of slave life. Accompanied by 32 starkly compelling photographs.

Classic Slave Narratives - Biblical History of Blacks

Tells the story behind the narratives formerly enslaved people wrote about their lives in captivity. Each spread provides information about the context, wording, and lasting effects of the documents paired with interesting sidebars, questions to consider, and historical images.

Maroon Land

Possibly the first novel written by a black woman slave, this work is both a historically important literary event and a gripping autobiographical story in its own right.

Poems from Greek Antiquity

Introduction by Kwame Anthony Appiah Commentary by Jean Fagan Yellin and Margaret Fuller This Modern Library edition combines two of the most important African-American slave narratives—crucial works that each illuminate and inform the other. Frederick Douglass’s Narrative, first published in 1845, is an enlightening and incendiary text. Born into slavery, Douglass became the preeminent spokesman for his people during his life; his narrative is an unparalleled account of the dehumanizing effects of slavery and Douglass’s own triumph over it. Like Douglass, Harriet Jacobs was born into slavery, and in 1861 she published Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, now recognized as the most comprehensive antebellum slave
narrative written by a woman. Jacobs’s account broke the silence on the exploitation of African American female slaves, and it remains essential reading. Includes a Modern Library Reading Group Guide

I was Born a Slave

Slave Narratives (LOA #114)

Their Eyes Were Watching God is a 1937 novel by African-American writer Zora Neale Hurston. It is considered a classic of the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s, and it is likely Hurston's best known work.

The Jew a Negro

A beautiful Pocket Poet selection of short poems, odes, and epigrams from ancient Greece, translated into English by a wide array of distinguished translators and poets. Poems from Greek Antiquity presents a gloriously compact treasury of the enduring and influential poems of the ancient Greeks. Greek literature abounds in masterpieces, the most famous of which are lengthy epics, but it is also rich in poems of much smaller compass than The Iliad or The Odyssey. The short poems, odes, and epigrams included in this volume span a vast period of more than a thousand years. Included here are selections from the early lyric and elegiac poets, the Alexandrian poets, Alcaeus, Sappho, Pindar, and many more. Here, too, are poems drawn from the celebrated Greek Anthology, and from the Anacreontea, the collection of odes on the pleasures of drink, love, and beauty that have been popular for centuries both in the original Greek and in English. Excerpts from somewhat longer poems include Percy Bysshe Shelley's "Hymn to Mercury" and the hugely entertaining Homeric pastiche "The Battle of the Frogs and Mice." The English translations in this volume are works of art in their own right and come from a wide range of remarkable poets and translators, ranging from George Chapman in the seventeenth century to Robert Fagles in the twentieth.

12 Questions about Slave Narratives

Maroon Land is a novel based on the Maroons of the 1800's. Maroons are descendants of Africans in the Americas who formed settlements away from slavery. Some had escaped from slavery on plantations to form independent communities, but others had always been free, including those born in such settlements.

Fifty Years in Chains
"Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl" was one of the first books to address the struggle for freedom by female slaves; explore their struggles with sexual harassment and abuse; and their effort to protect their roles as women and mothers. After being overshadowed by the Civil War, the novel was rediscovered in the late 20th century and since then hasn't been out of print ever. It is one of the seminal books written on the theme of slavery from a woman's point of view and appreciated worldwide academically as well. Excerpt: "Reader be assured this narrative is no fiction. I am aware that some of my adventures may seem incredible; but they are, nevertheless, strictly true. I have not exaggerated the wrongs inflicted by Slavery; on the contrary, my descriptions fall far short of the facts. I have concealed the names of places, and given persons fictitious names. I had no motive for secrecy on my own account, but I deemed it kind and considerate towards others to pursue this course." Harriet Jacobs (1813–1897) was an African-American writer who was formerly a fugitive slave. To save her family and her own identity from being found out, she used the pseudonym of Linda Brent and wrote secretly during the night.

Before the War and After the Union

The ten works collected in this volume demonstrate how a diverse group of writers challenged the conscience of a nation and laid the foundations of the African American literary tradition by expressing their in anger, pain, sorrow, and courage. Included in the volume: Narrative of the Most Remarkable Particulars in the Life of James Albert Ukawsaw Gronniosaw; Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano; The Confessions of Nat Turner; Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass; Narrative of William W. Brown; Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Henry Bibb; Narrative of Sojourner Truth; Ellen and William Craft's Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom; Harriet Jacobs' Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl and Narrative of the Life of J. D.Green.

INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF A SLAVE GIRL

Through this text Aleckson attempts to suggest that African Americans are neither objects of pity for the north, nor tools to be used in labor by southern slaveholders, but something more. He places the black community in a hopeful and triumphant light, informing the reader that "you may disfranchise the Negro, you may oppress him, you may deport him, but unless you destroy the disposition to laugh in his nature you can do him no permanent injury. All unconscious to himself, perhaps. It is not solely the meaningless expression of 'vacant mind,' nor is it simply a ray-It is the beaming light of hope-of faith. God has blessed him thus. He sees light where others see only the blackness of night" (p. 51). African Americans,
Aleckson suggests, have been uniquely blessed by God to be able to persevere and overcome in the face of trials and adversity that implicitly would have destroyed others. Aleckson demonstrates in his narrative the spirit he points to. While undoubtedly exposed to great evil as a young slave and in his military service during the Civil War, Aleckson overcomes and perseveres, finding love and happiness in life despite his participation in a trying time in American history. The conclusion of the narrative reflects this optimistic spirit. Aleckson closes with a passionate post-racial appeal for all people to move past slavery and for both whites and African Americans to reconcile their differences and unite as a single people. His only fears, he explains, "are for the American nation, for, I feel as an American, and cannot feel otherwise" (p. 171). Hyrum Palmer

The Bondwoman's Narrative

The Oxford Handbook of the African American Slave Narrative approaches the history of slave testimony in three ways: by prioritizing the broad tradition over individual authors; by representing interdisciplinary approaches to slave narratives; and by highlighting emerging scholarship on slave narratives, concerning both established debates over concerns of authorship and agency, for example, and developing concerns like ecocritical readings of slave narratives. Ultimately, the aim of the Handbook is not to highlight the singularity of any particular account, nor to comfortably locate slave narratives in traditional literary or cultural history, but rather to faithfully represent a body of writing and testimony that was designed to speak for the many, to represent the unspeakable, and to account for the experience of enslaved and nominally free communities.

The Civitas Anthology Of African American Slave Narratives

In 1872, just seven years after his emancipation, a thirty-four-year-old former slave named John Washington penned the story of his life, calling it "Memories of the Past." One hundred and twenty years later, in the early 1990s, historian Crandall Shifflett stumbled upon Washington's forgotten manuscript at the Library of Congress while researching Civil War Fredericksburg. Over the ensuing decade, Shifflett sought to learn more about this Virginia slave and the people and events he so vividly portrays. John Washington's Civil War presents this remarkable slave narrative in its entirety, together with Shifflett's detailed annotations on the life-changing events Washington records. While joining the canon of better-known slave narratives by Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs, and Solomon Northup, Washington's account illuminates a far different world. The son of a slave woman and an unknown white man, Washington never lived outside the seventy-five-mile radius that included Richmond and Fredericksburg, until
his emancipation. His narrative spans his experiences as a household slave, a laborer in the Fredericksburg tobacco factory, and a hotel servant on the eve of the Civil War. He also tells of his bold venture across Union lines and his experiences as a slave under Union officers. Washington's recollections allow for a singular look at the more personal aspects of slave life. Forced attendance at the slaveowner's church, much-anticipated gatherings of neighboring slaves at harvesttime, even a brief episode of courtship among slaves are among the events described in this remarkable narrative. On a broader scale, Washington was a witness to key moments of the Civil War, and his chronicle includes his thoughts about the wider political turmoil surrounding him, including his dramatic account of watching the Union Army mass around Fredericksburg as it prepared to invade the town. An excellent introduction and expert annotations by Shifflett reconstruct Washington's life through his death in 1918 and provide informative historical background and context to Washington's recollections. An unprecedented window into the life of a Virginia bondsman, John Washington's Civil War communicates with real urgency what it meant to be a slave during a period of extreme crisis that sounded the notes of freedom for some and the end of a way of life for others.

Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl

NeoSlave Narratives is a study in the political, social, and cultural content of a given literary form—the novel of slavery cast as a first-person slave narrative. After discerning the social and historical factors surrounding the first appearance of that literary form in the 1960s, NeoSlave Narratives explores the complex relationship between nostalgia and critique, while asking how African American intellectuals at different points between 1976 and 1990 remember and use the site of slavery to represent the crucial cultural debates that arose during the sixties.

The Classic Slave Narratives

Remembering Slavery

The History and Adventures of the Renowned Don Quixote,3

"Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl" is an autobiography by a young mother and fugitive slave Harriet Ann Jacobs. Jacobs contributed to the genre of slave narrative by using the techniques of sentimental novels “to address race and gender issues.” She explores the struggles and sexual abuse that female slaves faced on plantations as well as their efforts to practice
motherhood and protect their children when their children might be sold away. Harriet Ann Jacobs (1813 - 1897) was an African-American writer who escaped from slavery and was later freed. She became an abolitionist speaker and reformer.

The Classic Slave Narratives

Includes the personal narratives of Mary Prince, "Old Elizabeth," Mattie J. Jackson, Lucy A. Delaney, Kate Drumgoold, and Annie L. Burton

The Oxford Handbook of the African American Slave Narrative

Profiles one hundred influential African Americans who helped shape the history of the twentieth century, including revered figures in the fields of music, literature, sports, science, politics, and the civil rights movement.

Their Eyes Were Watching God

Gathers writings by Mary Prince, Nat Turner, Frederick Douglass, William Wells Brown, Henry Bibb, William and Ellen Craft, and Harriet A. Jacobs

When I Was a Slave

This collection of four first-hand accounts of slavery were chosen from the experiences of more than 6,000 ex-slaves, who by 1944 had written moving stories of their captivity. This volume includes portraits of the lives of Olaudah Equiano, Frederick Douglass, Mary Prince, and Harriet Jacobs.

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