Emancipation during and after the Civil War: Teaching with Primary Sources

A presentation of Teaching with Primary Sources Across Tennessee

TEACHER WORKSHOP:
Journey from Slavery to Freedom:
Emancipation during and after the Civil War

Emancipation: historical background

$200 Reward.

BOUNTY OFFERED for the arrest and delivery to W. M. Russell, of the
FIVE NEGRO SLAVES,
now residing in the vicinity of the Town of New Market, Highland County, Va.

No person claiming reward shall be allowed for any field which may have been
harvested, or for any cows, horses, or cattle, which may have been sold or
given away after the 1st of December, 1831. Any person who, through ignorance,
shall pay out any money for the purpose of purchasing and delivering to W. M.
Russell, these negroes, shall be amply rewarded.

W. M. RUSSELL.

APRIL 1, 1832.
I used to have to pick cotton and sometimes I pick 300 pound and tote it a mile to the cotton house. Some pick 300 to 800 pound cotton and have to tote the bag the whole mile to the gin. If they didn't do they work they get whip till they have blister on them. Then if they didn't do it, the man on a horse goes down the rows and whip with a paddle made with holes in it and bust the blisters. I never get whip, because I always get my 300 pound. Us have to go early to do that, when the horn goes early, before daylight. Us have to take the victuals in the bucket to the field.

Us never got enough to eat, so we keeps stealing stuff. Us has to. They give us the pack of meal to last the week and two, three pound back on in chunk. Us never have flour or sugar, just cornmeal and the meat and potatoes. The [slaves] have the big box under the fireplace, where they keep all the pick and chicken what they steal, down in salt.

Sarah Ashley, 93
slave narrative

Henry “Box” Brown
Emancipation: content resource

- “Emancipation During and After the Civil War”

Emancipation: primary source set

- “The Underground Railroad”

Emancipation: lesson plans

- “Views on the Emancipation Proclamation”
- “The Emancipation Proclamation and Its Connections to the Thirteenth Amendment”
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