

Timeline of Antebellum Slavery

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Pre-Colonial Times

Slaves are brought over from Africa. Many of them died on the ride over, we all know this, conditions were disgusting, and Africans were treated as an inferior race.

1600s -slaves are only slaves until they serve their term, and then they are free.

1640s – In Virginia it becomes illegal for a black person, free/slave to own a firearm

1650 – approx 50 000 slaves are imported

1660s – Marriages between white women and black servants is banned

1676 – New Englanders import slaves from Madagascar for work in the cities as domestic servants and artisans. Also for the distilling of rum --- pg 94

1650s -1700s

- Slave trade grows exponentially. Slavery used to be just the lowest level on a social caste, but it becomes reserved solely with people with black skin. “Step-by-step, white society turned the black servant from a low-status human being into a chattel, or commodity.”
- Slavery becomes self-perpetuating, ending only in death, and continuing to offspring.
- Slaves could not testify in court, engage in commercial activity, own property, vote or do anything political, gather in public, travel without special permission, legally marry/reproduce.
- White Americans dehumanized African slaves

---Excerpted from pg 83

1750 – about 500 000 slaves have been imported. 15% mortality rate on the ride over.

1680s – Virginia and Maryland tobacco increases to 25 million pounds annually.

1700s - Unfree Labor – pg 116

- Indentured servants made up a big part of the labor force. Native Americans as well as Africans were indentured servants. Because in the north slaves generally worked alone

or with a couple others in the master's house, they adjusted to American life more than those living in the South

1710 – pg 121 – 1.5 million pounds of rice annually, (80M by the Revolution)

1730s – Shift in crops so that it was more diverse: grain, hemp, flax, cattle and swine.

1740s – Indigo crop becomes profitable – Eliza Lucas Pinckney

1760 - The Plantation South – pg 120

- Virginia had a huge population because of all the slaves that were there.

1775 – Lord Dunmore's Proclamation urges the slaves of rebels (Patriots) to join the British, and after the war they will be granted their freedom.

"And I do hereby further declare all indented Servants, Negroes, or others, (appertaining to Rebels,) free that are able and willing to bear Arms, they joining His MAJESTY'S Troops as soon as may be, for the more speedily reducing this Colony to a proper Sense of their Duty, to His MAJESTY'S Crown and Dignity"

--Excerpted from Lord Dunmore's Proclamation

Despite the fact that the Black Loyalists contributed a great deal to the British force, the British had the former-slaves go to Nova Scotia when they were losing the war. However they were only greeted with colder weather and prejudice so many of them left for Sierra Leone in Africa. (1783)

1776 – James Lafayette works as a spy with the French against the British. Virginia General Assembly granted him his freedom, in 1786.

- 400 000 slaves in the south were a resource in the Rev.
- Many slaves sought the war as an opportunity to runaway to the north, seek haven with the British, this is the BIGGEST SLAVE REBELLION BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR.... I think that it worth noting, or highlighting or something special...
- All the talk from their master's about "Liberty, Liberty!" probably made them think "What the heck!! They do not understand what it means to be slave!" Anyways, it caused them to desire their own freedom like never before. The number of runaways escalated during the Revolution time period --- pg 208
- 20% of slaves seek freedom by fighting WITH the British, ex. Thomas Peters who lived in the house of William Campbell, (he had to listen to the American talk about inalienable rights and freedom and decided to go for his own) he later helped develop the colony of Sierra Leone, Freetown. Freed slaves left Nova Scotia for Great Britain or Africa. Some went to the West Indies.
- The revolution puts a significant halt on the slave trade

- Revolutionary ideals conflicted with slavery, and so it declined a bit, and people started to think thoughts like, "Us Americans are quite the hypocritical lot eh?" (Uhhmm.... Something like that...)

1780 – Pennsylvania makes a law that all blacks will be granted freedom at age 21, and several states follow a practice of graduated emancipation.

1790 – all states but South Carolina have outlawed slave importations. So now most of the slaves are American born, thus they switch from African to African American, and this affects their culture.

- 1793 - School teacher, Eli Whitney, invented a crude form of what he called a "cotton gin" With this mechanism; laborer was able to clean-up 50 pounds of short-staple cotton a day. Prior to the invention, laborer could get no more than one pound a day. Because of the cotton gin, cotton production soared. In 1790, Southern output was only 3,135 bales a year. By 1820, it raised to about 334,378 bales.

Summer of 1800

- Just outside of Richmond, Virginia, 24 year old slave Gabriel Prosser devised a plan to arm 1,000 slaves for an assault on the city. Prosser and his accomplices were native born African-Americans who spoke English and worked at high-skill oriented jobs, which meant that they got a bit more free time than most slaves. This allowed for them to lay their plans. But because of heavy rainfall, they delayed the assault. Several black housewives that were already granted freedom alarmed others of the plan. No whites were harmed, 25 black suspects including Gabriel were hanged.

1800 - 10% of all blacks are free

1808 – International slave trade is terminated. This means that domestic slave trade escalates. The slave trade continues from Virginia and Maryland south west to Mississippi and Alabama. Many in the south were trying to become rich off the slave trade as is evident in this letter Henry A. Tayloe to "Dear Brother" (B.O. Tayloe), January 5, 1835

"Visit me early this spring to make some arrangements about your Negroes. If they continue high I would advise you to sell them in this country on one and two years credit bearing 8 per ct interest. The present high price of Negroes cannot continue long and if you will make me a partner in the sale on reasonable terms I will bring them out this fall from VA and sell them for you and release you from all troubles. On a credit your negroes would bring here about \$120 to \$130, 000 bearing 8 per ct interest."

- From Walnut Grove (Marengo County, AL) to Washington City
- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4h3138t.html>

1811 – Elizabeth Freeman challenges the courts saying that "inherent liberty" said by revolutionary leaders applied to ALL people, including black slaves. She was granted freedom, and took on the surname "Freeman"

1816 - The American Colonization Society

- -founded in the north
- -followers did not think slavery was just, but they also did not think the two races could coexist
- -they wanted to send freed blacks to Africa (never happened)
- This society shows the attitude of many people who lived in the north. Southerners did not consider slavery a crime, and this attitude was carried all the way to the Civil War

1829 – Abolitionist free black man David Walker published a pamphlet called, “David Walker’s Appeal.” It was a pamphlet urging slave rebellion. “Now I ask you, had you not rather be killed than to be a slave to a tyrant who takes the life of your mother, wife, and dear little children?” He also argued that the whites had no rights to use the Bible as a source of justification for slavery. “Have not the Americans the Bible in their hands? Do they believe it? Surely they do not. See how they treat us in open violation of the Bible!!” Walker’s pamphlet was censored and it became illegal to distribute or possess it in several southern states. But it was quite popular nonetheless.

--excerpted from page 411

1831 – Nat Turner’s Revolt - Nat Turn was a skilled, unmarried, religious slave. He and his followers led an insurrection against their masters. 55 whites were killed, 110 blacks were killed. The result of this was that the slave owners in the south are suspicious that even trusted slaves

1850 – Fugitive Slave Act

This Act ordered the return of runaway slaves regardless of whether the slave was found in a free or slave state.

“And be it further enacted, That when a person held to service or labor in any State or Territory of the United States, has heretofore or shall hereafter escape into another State or Territory of the United States,may pursue and reclaim such fugitive person....”

“And be it further enacted, That any person who shall knowingly and willingly obstruct, hinder, or prevent such claimant... or shall harbor or conceal such fugitive, so as to prevent the discovery and arrest of such person, after notice or knowledge of the fact that such person was a fugitive from service or labor as aforesaid, shall, for either of said offences, be subject to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, and imprisonment not exceeding six months...”

- *Excerpted from The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850*

1850 - 75% of slaves work in agriculture

1854 – Black Christianity. There were churches for slaves and free blacks. They sat on the opposite side of the whites. It was a form of social control. They had them memorize catechisms like,

*“Who keeps snakes and all bad things from hurting you —God does.
Who gave you a master and a mistress? - God gave them to me.*

Who says that you must obey them? - God says that I must.
What book tells you these things? - The Bible.
How does God do all His work? - He always does it right.
Does God love to work? - Yes, God is always at work.
What does God say about your work? - He that will not work shall not eat.
What makes the crops so hard to grow now? - Sin makes it.
What makes you lazy? - My own wicked heart.
What teaches you so many wicked things? - The Devil [does.]”

The Liberator Files,

Boston-based Abolitionist newspaper, published by William Lloyd Garrison, 1831-1865

<http://www.theliberatorfiles.com/a-catechism-for-slaves/>

1847 ---- FREDERICK DOUGLAS – page 356-57

- He was a slave owned by the Auld family. His mistress taught him how to read and write until her husband stopped her as it was against Maryland law to teach slaves. It was believed that by teaching slaves how to read and write they would become unmanageable and “utter unfit”
- He taught himself how to read and write and later in life he won a fight against his slavebreaker on a ‘hot August day”
- This was a personal victory for him and gave him hope.
- He later ran away.
- He joined the American Anti-Slavery Society and was asked to do a series of lectures on slavery.
- He was a great public speaker.
- 1845 His autobiography was published
- 1847 He starts a abolitionist newspaper called *North Star*
- During the war he was an adviser to Abraham Lincoln
- fought for the voting rights for blacks and other civil liberties.

- <http://www.history.rochester.edu/class/douglass/home.html>

1857 - The pro-slavery movement progresses from, “hey man, I know slavery is bad, but we need it” (an necessary evil) to a mentality of, “Blacks are inferior beings. They would never assimilate into our society, so slavery is the best thing for them.”

“In the last place, the negro race is inferior to the white race, and living in their midst, they would be far outstripped or outwitted in the chaos of free competition. Gradual but certain extermination would be their fate. We presume the maddest abolitionist does not think the negro’s providence of habits and money-making capacity at all to compare to those of the whites. This defect of character would alone justify enslaving him, if he is to remain here. In Africa or the West Indies, he would become idolatrous, savage and cannibal, or be devoured by savages and cannibals. At the North he would freeze or starve.”

- *The Universal Law of Slavery*, by George Fitzhugh
- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4h3141t.html>

1857 still – Dred Scott Case (Scott v Emerson, Scott for Sandford)

- Results: All people from Africa (and their descendants) regardless of whether or not they are free/slave are NOT protected by the US Constitution. They can never be citizens of the US, they cannot sue in court.
- The US Congress had no authority to prohibit slavery in the federal territories
- Slaves are chattel. They are private property and therefore cannot be just taken away from owners without proper procedure.

Steam Engine Timeline

Mia Wilson, Sara Treumann, David Liggera

Early First Century- Heron of Alexandria was an early mathematician who described the first recorded use of steam power.

July 2, 1698-Savery patented an early steam engine

1705 - Newcomen associated with another English inventor, John Calley, and succeeded in the creation of an engine. He and his assistant experimented for about ten years with a steam pump.

1769- The very first self-propelled road vehicle was a military tractor invented by French engineer and mechanic, Nicolas Joseph Cugnot (1725 - 1804). Cugnot used a steam engine to power his vehicle.

1769 and 1784- James Watt made improvements to the steam engine and converted this machine of limited use, to one of efficiency and many applications. It was the foremost energy source in the emerging Industrial Revolution, and greatly multiplied its productive capacity. In 1769, he covered this device and other improvements on Newcomen's engine, such as steam-jacketing, oil lubrication, and insulation of the cylinder in order to maintain the high temperatures necessary for maximum efficiency.

1763: Watt repaired a Newcomen steam engine, started him thinking about ways to improve the engine.

1767: Watt invented an attachment that adapted telescopes for use in measurement of distances

1769: Watt patented separate condensing chamber for steam engine.

1774: Watt started a business with Matthew Boulton to manufacture his improved Watt steam engine.

1781: Watt converted reciprocal engine motion to rotary motion.

1782: Watt invented double-acting engine.

1784: Watt patented a steam locomotive.

1785- Bramah patented the hydraulic press, which was an important workshop machine that made it possible to magnify pressure smoothly and steadily from comparatively slight impulses.

1788: Watt adapted centrifugal governor for use on the steam engine.

1788 - Patrick Miller and William Symington built a steamboat which was stimulated by two cylinders.

9 May 1795- Joseph Bramah, of Piccadilly patented the application of a paddlewheel [a short, flat-bladed oar] to the stem of a vessel, driven by a steam engine.

1796- Richard Trevithick produced a steam locomotive.

1797 – Bramah's pump [by which beer or other liquors can be raised from casks in a cellar to the counter to where it was served] was patented. His rotary motion pump was adapted for use in fire engines.

1801- A boat was built to Symington's design and was named the *Charlotte Dundas*.

1803- With the financial assistance of Chancellor Livingston, Fulton was able to launch a steamboat on the Seine, but it immediately sank. Another boat was built later on, but did not reach any great speed.

August 11, 1807 - 1807, Robert Fulton introduced the first steamship to provide regular passenger service to the people of America. He named it the *Clermont*. The *Clermont* made a 150 mile trip from New York City to Albany in 32 hours at an average speed of 5 miles per hour. (Used the engine built by Watt and Boulton).

1825- Steam locomotives were no longer used just for moving goods.

18 June 1831- The *Best Friend* of Charleston [steam-powered railroad locomotive] exploded.