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THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SOLOMON NORTHUP

**TWELVE YEARS  
A SLAVE**

ALSO READ THE DEFINITIVE E-BOOK BASED ON A LIFETIME PROJECT BY  
**DR. SUE EAKIN**



## CUSTOM MAP FOR PURCHASERS OF AUDIOBOOK

See our custom map of Bayou Boeuf plantation country in this PDF file, showing places described by Solomon Northup, including all of the plantation tracts owned by slave masters mentioned in the narrative.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CHARACTERS, PLACES AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Now order the definitive e-book edition by Dr. Sue Eakin, which includes the original narrative plus materials from Dr. Eakin's lifetime of research on Northup's story. In this enhanced edition, you'll find over 100 additional pages of background information, photographs and maps related to the people and places described in the narrative.

In this PDF, you'll find the 1853 reviews of Northup's autobiography from newspapers and famous people, which help demonstrate the historical significance of the narrative in relation to its impact on the national debate over slavery leading up to the Civil War.

To view extra material, such as images of 1840's slave pens next to the Capitol in Washington, D.C., objects of punishment used by slave masters, a picture of Solomon's descendants, a profile of Louis Gossett, Jr., and foundations supported by this project that fight contemporary slavery, go to:

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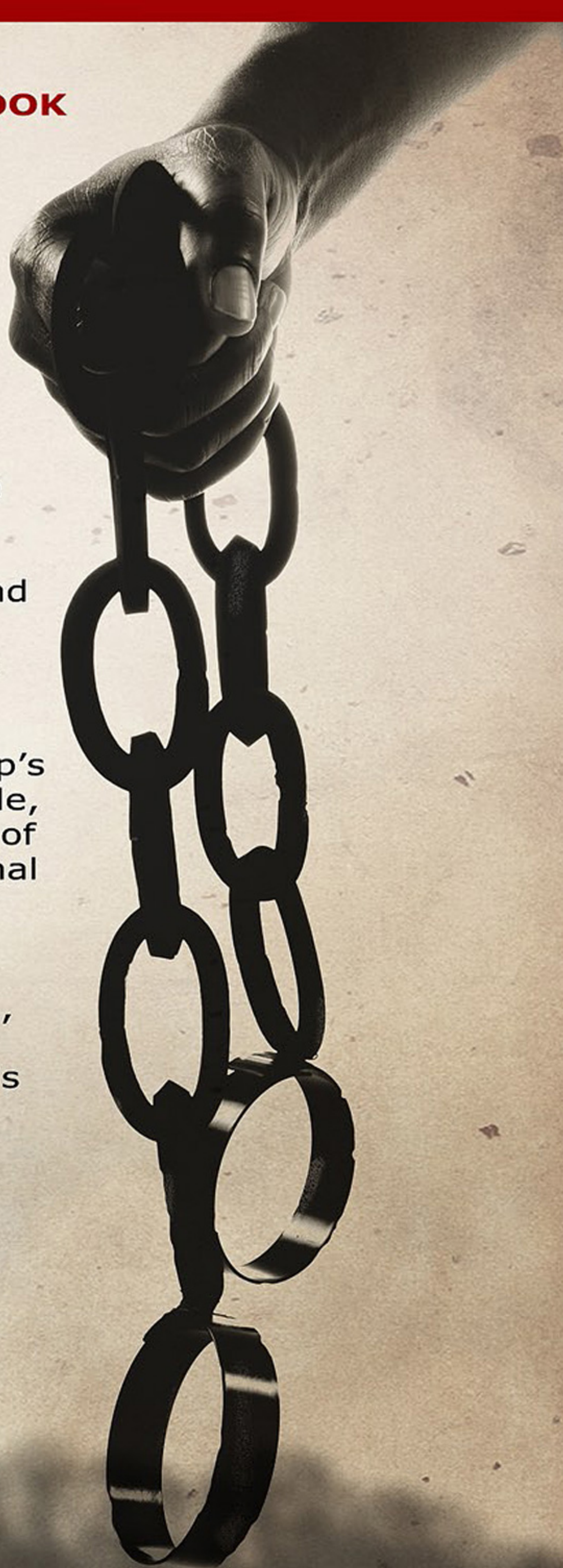
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# THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SOLOMON NORTHUP TWELVE YEARS A SLAVE

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# THE LIBERATOR.

Our Country is the World, our Countrymen are all Mankind.

BOSTON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1853.

## TWELVE YEARS A SLAVE – ORIGINAL REVIEWS

When originally published, Solomon Northup's autobiography validated the portrayal of slavery depicted in the fictional *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and produced a bombshell in the national political debate over slavery. Here are reviews that appeared in William Lloyd Garrison's famous abolitionist newspaper, *The Liberator*, when the book was released in 1853:

"Next to *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, the extraordinary narrative of Solomon Northup is the most remarkable book that was ever issued from the American press."

### Detroit Tribune

"It is one of the most exciting narratives, full of thrilling incidents... with all the marks of truth. Such a tale is more powerful than any fiction which can be conceived and elaborated."

### Cincinnati Journal

"We hope it will be universally read. If we do not sadly err, it will prove of vast service in the great cause of freedom. If there are those who can peruse it unmoved, we pity them."

### Buffalo Express

"It is a strange history; its truth is far greater than fiction. Think of it. For thirty years a man, with all a man's hopes, fears and aspirations—with a wife and children who call him by the endearing names of husband and father—with a home, humble it may be, but still a home, beneath the shelter of whose roof none had a right to molest or make him afraid. Then for twelve years a thing, a chattel personal, classed with mules and horses, and treated with less consideration than they, torn from his home and family, and the free labor by which he earned their bread, and driven into unremitting, unrequited toil in a cotton field, under a burning Southern sun, by the lash of an inhuman master. It is horrible. It chills the blood to think that such are."

### Frederick Douglass, writer, orator, former slave and abolitionist

"It will be read extensively, both at the North and South. No one can contemplate the scenes which are here so naturally set forth, without a new conviction of the hideousness of the institution from which the subject of the narrative has happily escaped."

### New York Tribune (influential newspaper published by Horace Greeley)

"The narrative will be read with interest by everyone who can sympathize with the human being struggling for freedom."

### Buffalo Courier

"What a tale it tells; what inexpressible reproofs against slavery; what occasion for shame and tears on the part of all! We think the story is affecting as any tale of sorrow could be. We believe its perusal will not only excite an absorbing interest, but minister powerfully to the sound, intelligent anti-slavery sentiment of the country."

### New York Evangelist

## HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

"It is a singular coincidence, that Solomon Northup was carried to a plantation in the Red River country—that same region where the scene of Uncle Tom's captivity was laid—and his account of this plantation, and the mode of life there, and some incidents which he describes, form a striking parallel to that history."

### Harriett Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (published in 1852)

Stowe's highly influential work of fiction changed the way many Americans viewed the life of a slave and became the best-selling book of all time in the U.S. (after the Bible). Northup's narrative, published in 1853, closely paralleled aspects of Stowe's novel. It is said that when President Abraham Lincoln first met Mrs. Stowe, he shook her hand, smiled, and said, "Is this the little woman who made the great war?"



# THE BAYOU BOEUF COUNTRY

PREPARED IN CONNECTION WITH

## TWELVE YEARS A SLAVE

BY DR. SUE EAKIN  
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Rufus M. Smith

CARTOGRAPHER

SCALE

1 inch = .986 mile

1 1/2 0 1 2 3 4 MILES

