

The Half Has Never Been Told:

Chapter 4: 'Left Hand'

- The body parts naming each chapter is important, and usually has more than one meaning.
- 'Left Hand' at the start of this one refers to 'left as the opposite of the usual dominant 'Right Hand', suggesting a create of a degree of slave resistance
- But by the end, it comes to mean something quite different, where both hands are ambidextrous in picking cotton, and submission is total.



What is going on here? Top: All ages worked the fields. Center: Weighing in at day's end. Bottom: Whipped according to pounds, or simply to work faster

Two Systems: 'Tasking' vs 'Pushing'

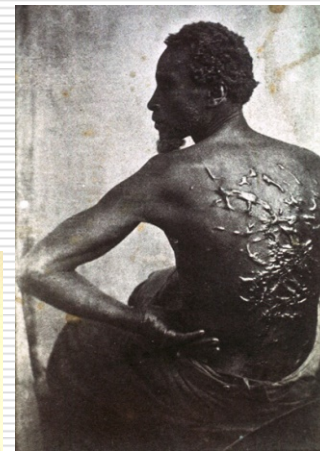
- In the 'breeder' states like Virginia or the Carolinas, slaves were given 'tasks' per day, and sometimes could get free time for their families.



Above: Living quarters in 'task' rice camps. 'Cat o' 9' used for whipping. Below: Daily whipping in cotton camps, with harsher 'bull' whip



- In the new 'cotton' states—Mississippi, Louisiana—the 'push' system prevailed, where productivity was driven by torture and the lash.



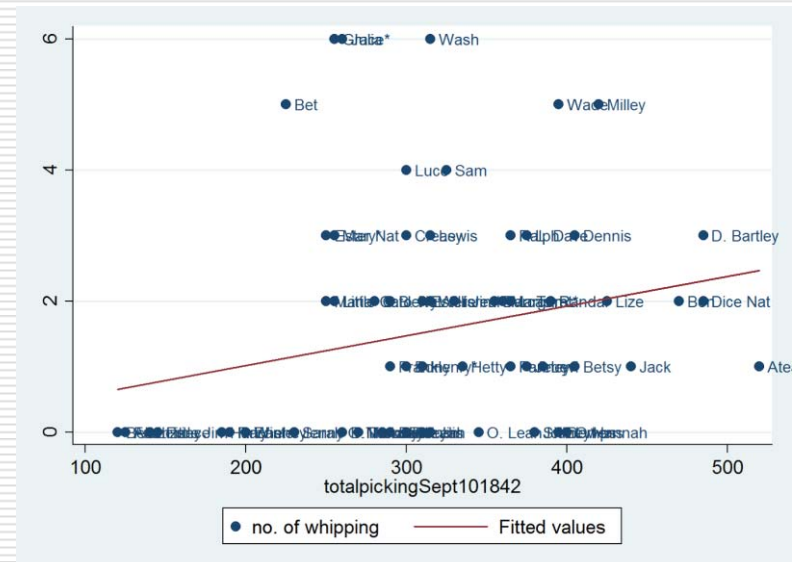
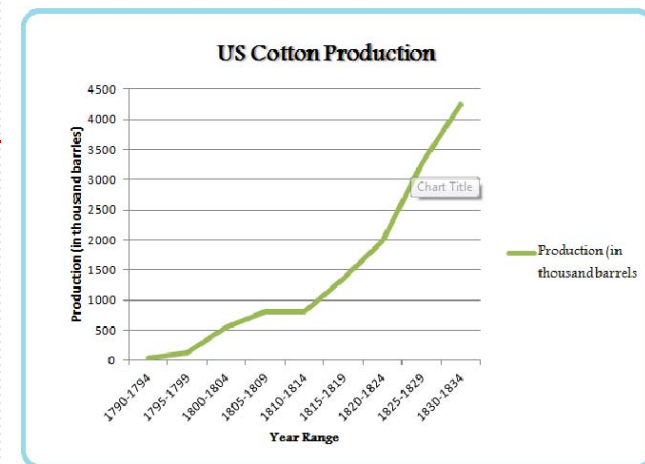
A whip 'crack' is produced when a section of the whip moves faster than the speed of sound, thus creating a sonic boom. Metal tips tore flesh. Origin of the term 'cracker'

The 'Push' or Torture System Got Results

- Two charts tell the story
- Top: The increase in cotton production made the Southern slaveowners the world's wealthiest men
- Bottom: Record kept by one enslaver tracking the whippings of each slave and their corresponding output by pound of cotton



Bennett Barrow, a face for the numbers. Owner of a Louisiana plantation, or concentration camp based on torture. He kept a diary and manual of strict rules, whippings and output, which survived as a historical record.



Overthrowing Dogma: 'Unproductive' Slavery

- Until now, most accounts of US slavery claim it was 'unproductive' and could be replaced by paying workers a wage. The few experiments proved the opposite.
- The argument was also used to claim there was no need to abolish it, since it would soon wither away of its own accord. In fact, it demanded constant expansion, even to include 'white' labor in the North.
- In fact, the case is made for a 'perfect market' of expanding demand and expanding production by new means of violence, even 'working to death.'



Above : Using both right and left hands for picking



Above: Blurred hands.
Below: Whipping machine that made them possible



Chapter Five: Tongues

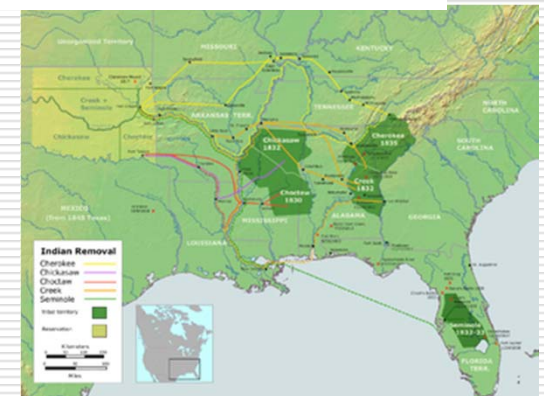
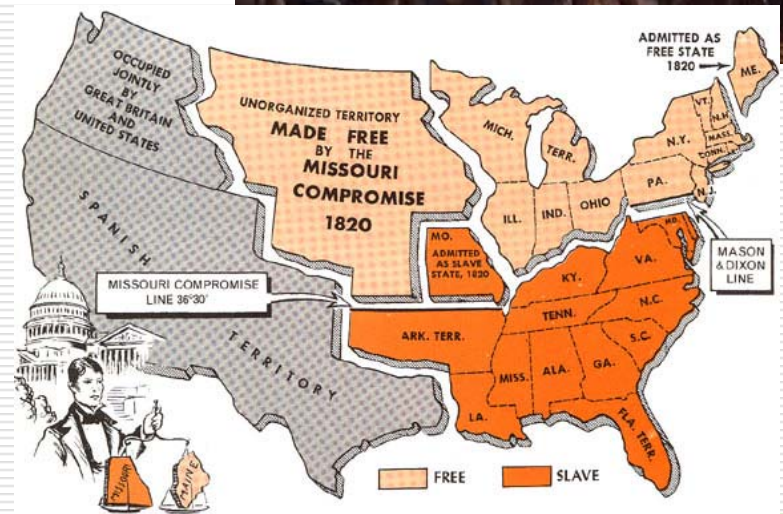
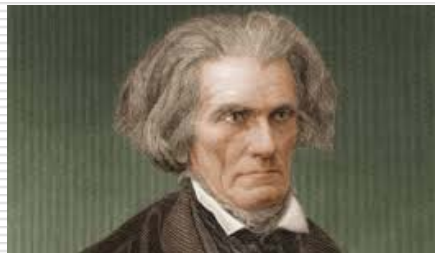
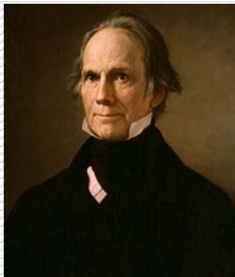
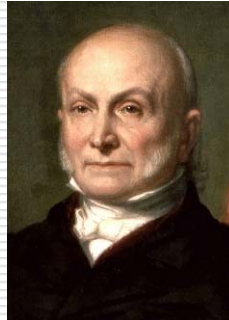
- Again here we will see several meanings of the title word.
- At first, 'tongues means the diverse languages spoken by the enslaved, and how they had to give birth to a new common 'tongue'
- The 'common tongue' began with 'creoles' of English, French, Spanish and African words and usages.
- The new tongue grew out of work, play and resistance



Left: work songs eased the pain.
Above: Husking circles had two groups sing back and forth.
Below: Dance circle and improvisation.

Debate at the Top between Enslavers and Their Rivals

- ❑ The volume of debate in Congress over slavery's expansion is another meaning of 'tongues'
- ❑ The 'Missouri Compromise' was a milemarker in that struggle in the 1820s, as Sectional differences sharpened. Adams was the anti-slavery 'left', Clay was the pro-slavery the 'center' and Calhoun the 'right'
- ❑ Slavery expanded into the Southern portion of the Louisiana Purchase, plus Florida, ceded from Spain in the Adams-Orris Treaty of 1821.
- ❑ Taking Florida also required Andy Jackson's War with the Seminoles and the Indian Removal Act of 1830.
- ❑ 'Reform' at this time also included giving the vote to the white poor while taking it away from free Blacks of property.



Left from top: John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay and John Calhoun

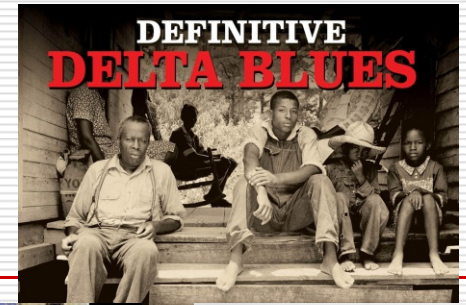
Along with a New Language for a New People, a New Culture Is Born

- ❑ 'Congo Square' in New Orleans was a center of the new culture
- ❑ The banjo was made by slaves, stretching animal skin over gourds, as in Africa
- ❑ It was borrowed by whites and used in other genres
- ❑ 'Minstrel Shows' swept the country, with whites performing caricatures of Black music and dance in 'Black Face'
- ❑ 'Jazz Bands' started in New Orleans funeral march processions
- ❑ Scott Joplin invents 'Ragtime', pushing genuine Black music to national fame



African American Culture as a Transformative Force

- ❑ Borrowed from African work songs, Black music invents and makes wide use of 'the blue note'. The Delta Blues and Gospel as the source
- ❑ Jimmy Rogers deeply influenced by Delta Blues use it to transform mountain 'church music.'
- ❑ Hank Williams take Roger to a new level in Country & Western
- ❑ Delta Blues and Gospel also give rise to many Rhythm & Blues 'Race Music' Bands.
- ❑ Sun Records merges R&B with C&W creating 'Rockabilly,' and the birth of Rock n' Roll



At Sun Records:
Still little known
Jerry Lee Lewis,
Carl Perkins, Elvis
Presley and
Johnny Cash

Chapter Six: 'Breath'

- ❑ The word 'stole' appears in African American discourse and music, referring to themselves as 'stolen', to the sold off family members as 'stole away' and to escape as 'stealing away', as in the hymn, 'Steal Away to Jesus.'
- ❑ WEB DuBois called these 'sorrow songs,' and 'Steal Away' has been attributed to Nat Turner, leader of a major slave revolt. Others were attributed to Denmark Vesey
- ❑ 'Stole' is the core meaning of enslaved labor, and 'stolen' an attribute of everything flowing from it

We are free, but the white people here won't let us be so; and the only way is to raise up and fight the whites.

Denmark Vesey

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Vesey planned a mass escape to Haiti, but was caught and hanged with 35 others. Turner killed his owner and family, then gathers up dozens of other slaves, who went on to kill 50 more whites. He was caught in a few weeks, and hanged with 50 others. His body was skinned



Statue of Vesey in Charleston, SC; Nat Turner, below, as portrayed in 'Birth of a Nation'

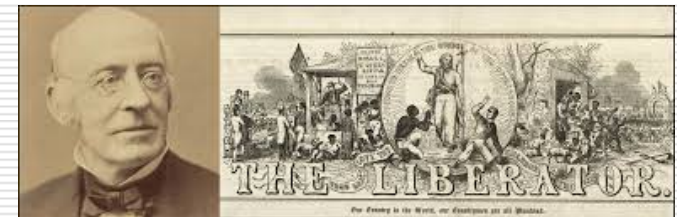


'Breath' as Spirit: Growth of the Spirit of Resistance

- ❑ 'We have been stolen,' spoken in whispers around a thousand campfires, was the start of a radical critique of slavery and revolt.
- ❑ 'Breath' acquired a voice, and one that could travel via the written word, the newspaper
- ❑ The first anti-slavery paper appeared in Tennessee, written and published by a Quaker.
- ❑ Publishers of abolitionist books, newspapers and such did so and the risk of their lives.



Elihu Embree, a Quaker from Jonesborough TN, established the country's first anti-slavery newspaper in 1819, calling it the Manumission Intelligencer. He later changed the name. Charles Osbourne (left) took it over, and hired Benjamin Lundy (lower) to work on it. Lundy in turn took it to the Ohio Valley, near Wheeling WVA, and hired another young helper, William Lloyd Garrison, below.



Black Newspapers: African Americans Speak for Themselves in the Printed Word

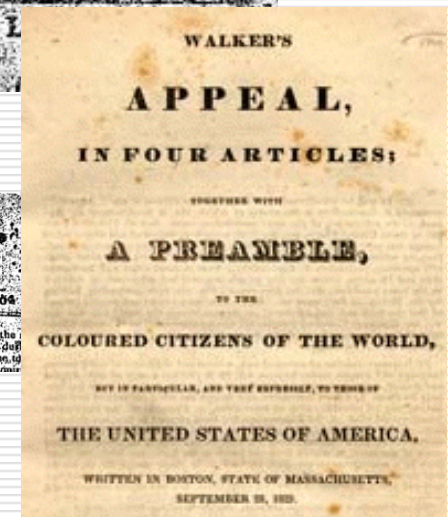
- ❑ Garrison moves his paper to Boston, and connects to David Walker
- ❑ Walker operates a used clothing store for Blacks, and has Black seaman as his customers
- ❑ Walker not only writes down all their stories, he hides copies of his paper, and eventually his 'Appeal' in their clothing, so it will reach wherever they go.
- ❑ The 'Appeal' is a powerful manifesto of Black nationhood, abolition and self-determination



No. W. P. J. returns his sincere thanks to his friends and the public for the very liberal patronage that he has previously received.

CLOTHING.
Kept constantly on hand, for sale by DAVID WALKER, No. 42 Brattle-street, Boston, a great variety of New and Second handed Clothing. He also cleans all kinds of Woolen Clothing in the neatest manner and on the most reasonable terms.
Oct. 30, 1828.

TO L
Cornelius Henry



'Freedom is your natural right' was one of Walker's mottoes. He died young, in 1830, at the age of 34, of tuberculosis