

Notes: The Slave Narratives Movie

NAME	STATE	STORY
James Green	Texas	James was sold from his mother as a boy. He called it his "unlucky star day." His master had him walk down the street with him while his mother was being sent away. He never saw her again.
Charley Williams	Oklahoma	Charley explains how a ram horn sounded to signal the time to work in the field. His life was ruled by, "bells and horns."
Martin Jackson	Texas	Martin explains that his master was only 2 years old. He was his property. He never learned how to read and write.
Jennie Proctor	Texas	Jenny had to tend to her master's children and clean the house. One day she found a biscuit and ate it because she was so hungry. Her mistress beat her with a broom. When Jennie fought back, she was whipped with a Cat-O-Nine Tails. Later, salt was rubbed into her wounds. Jenny wanted to learn to read. She studied an old speller with a pine torch at night and taught herself how to read and write.
Cato Carter	Texas	Cato was a house slave with nice clothes. One day, a slave was pulling at a mule and needed to be punished. Cato's master gave him a gun and ordered him to kill the slave. Cato begged his master not to make him kill him. He couldn't commit murder, so he and the slave ran away.
Sarah Ashley	Texas	Sarah had to pick 300 pounds of cotton a day and carry the cotton to the gin. If slaves did not get 300 pounds they were whipped. She always got 300 pounds,
William Colbert	Alabama	William witnessed his brother, January, whipped. January never said a word while he was being whipped. Eventually, blood flowed down his chest and he asked for mercy. Sometimes whipped slaves had salt and red pepper rubbed into their wounds.
Octavia George	Oklahoma	Octavia explains how the children were fed on her plantation. They were fed from boxes and troughs just like pigs or cattle. They were fed cornmeal mush and beans.
Louisa Adams	North Carolina	Louisa explains that slaves had 1 pair of shoes a year. If the shoes wore out, then they went barefoot. Her brother's shoes wore out and he had to go barefoot for the winter. His feet cracked open and he left blood stains in the snow when he walked.

Sarah Ashley	Texas	Sarah explains that she and her fellow slaves had to steal food because they did not get enough food to eat.
Rose Williams	Texas	Rose was forced to marry a slave named Rufus at the age of 16. She did not want to live with Rufus, but the master wanted her to so they would have strong children. He threatened to whip her at the stake if she refused. She yielded to her master's demand.
Laura Clark	Alabama	When Laura was 6 or 7 years old, a man bought 10 children. He did not buy the mothers. They gave the kids candy to distract them. Laura's mother told the caretaker to watch her and raise her for God. She never saw her mother again. Her mother's name was Rose Powell.
Robert Falls	Tennessee	Robert said if he had to live his life over again, he would rather die than be a slave. He talked about his father. His father was a fighter who ran away 4 times. After freedom, many slaves just wandered the roads with nowhere to go and nothing to do. Happy to never have to be slave again.
Arnold Gragston	Florida	Arnold became involved in the Underground Railroad. One night he met a pretty girl who asked him to take her to the free state of Ohio. He was scared, but rowed her across the river to the "freedom staircase" anyway. Eventually, he helped many slaves run away until he finally escaped into Ohio with his wife.
Temple Herndon Durham	North Carolina	Temple tells the story of her wedding day. She married Exter Durham on the front porch of the big house. She wore a white dress made out of window curtains. Her husband lived on another plantation and could only visit her on Saturdays. Together, they had 11 children.
Katie Rowe	Oklahoma	Katie explains how she learned she was free. It was the 4 th day of June, 1865 when the horn sounded to stop work and come to the house at the wrong time. All of the slaves went to the porch and a man in a black hat told them they did not have to be slaves anymore. On that day, her life began.