

Understanding Slavery

Suggested Resources



The **Connecticut Freedom Trail** documents and designates sites that embody the struggle toward freedom and human dignity, celebrate the accomplishments of the state's African American community and promote heritage tourism.

<http://www.ctfreedomtrail.org/>



Welcome to ConnecticutHistory.org, a project of Connecticut Humanities and your home for stories about the people, traditions, innovations, and events that make up the rich history of the Nutmeg State.

Slavery and Abolition

<http://connecticuthistory.org/topics-page/slavery-and-abolition/>

Nancy Toney's lifetime of Slavery

Nancy Toney of Windsor may have the distinction of being Connecticut's last enslaved person. Nancy's mother, Nanny, belonged to Reverend Andrew Eliot, minister of the First Congregational Church in Fairfield (then called Christ's Church). Her father, Toney, belonged to Jeremiah Sherwood in nearby Green Farms.

<http://connecticuthistory.org/nancy-toneys-lifetime-in-slavery/>

Life of James Mars, A Slave Born and Sold in Connecticut. Written by Himself. Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Company, 1864.

<https://connecticuthistory.org/james-mars-words-illuminate-the-cruelty-of-slavery-in-new-england/>

<http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/mars64/summary.html>

The logo for 'The American Slavery Project' is set against a dark red background. The words 'American Slavery' are in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below them, 'THE Project' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, with 'THE' in all caps and 'Project' in title case. To the right of 'Project', the phrase 'A Theatrical Response...' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

American Slavery THE Project A Theatrical Response...

The American Slavery Project commissioned 17 African American writers to examine the 419 graves of the anonymous men, women and children who lived in colonial New York and are buried at the African Burial Ground. The writers imagined their lives. These are their voices.

Yale MACMILLAN CENTER

Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition

Teacher Resources: <https://glc.yale.edu/outreach/teacher-programs/citizens-all-african-americans-connecticut-1700-1850/connecticut-stories-3>

Podcast: Slavery and its Legacies: <https://slaveryanditslegacies.yale.edu/>

Complicity: How Connecticut Chained Itself To Slavery (Hartford Courant) The State That Slavery Built: An Introduction Connecticut has a history to confront just as much as any Southern state: <https://www.courant.com/courant-250/moments-in-history/hc-250-complicity-story-gallery-20140603-storygallery.html>

Fortune's Story

In the early 20th century, the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury, Connecticut was given the skeleton of an African American man named Fortune, who had been enslaved in Waterbury during the 18th century.

<http://www.fortunestory.org>

Venture Smith

Born free in Africa but captured and enslaved at the age of eight, Venture Smith became a figure of mythical proportions in New England, where he was known for his great size and strength. Near the end of the 18th century, former enslaved man Venture Smith related his life story to Elisha Niles, a schoolteacher and veteran of the Revolutionary War. In 1798, it was published.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part2/2h5.html>

William Webb, An African American Civil War Soldier from Connecticut

Kevin Johnson of the Connecticut State Library portrays William Webb. Kevin Johnson's portrayal of Webb is told from an emotional and exciting first-person perspective that vividly illustrates the struggle of the African-Americans in the Colored Infantry during the Civil War. He tells of his early life in Hartford, his recruitment and training, and the traumatic final battles of the Civil War. The presentation

is based on extensive research in the collections of the Connecticut State Library and the Museum of Connecticut History. <https://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/WilliamWebb>

Harriet Beecher Stowe Center's Educator and Student Resources

<https://www.harrietbeecherstowecenter.org/programs-learning/activity-center/>

Slavery in the United States

Primary Sources and the Historical Record This lesson introduces students to primary sources, learning techniques for analyzing primary sources and applying these techniques to analyze documents about slavery in the United States.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/lessons/slavery/>

The New York Times: DISUNION A Map of American Slavery

<https://static01.nyt.com/packages/pdf/opinion/FULLFRAMEmap.pdf>

PBS: Africans in America For and Against Freedom: Teacher Guide & Lesson Focus

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/tguide/4tgfocus.html>