

Further Reading: Narratives of Those Enslaved

The Federal Writers Project Slave Narratives

Collected in the 1930s by the Federal Writers Project under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration, this collection contains thousands of stories from those born under slavery, as well as photographs, letters and other archival objects.

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/slave-narratives-from-the-federal-writers-project-1936-to-1938/about-this-collection/>

Barracoon: The Story of the Last Black Cargo, by Zora Neale Hurston

Written in the 1930s as part of the Federal Writers Project above by the acclaimed historian, Barracoon tells the story of Cudjo Lewis, then 86 years old and believed to be the last survivor of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, in his own words through extensive interviews. Kept with her papers after her death, the narrative was published for the first time in 2018.

Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Written by Herself, by Harriet Jacobs

Originally written under the pseudonym Linda Brent, Jacobs' book addresses Northern white women sympathetic to slaveowners and in denial of the horrors of slavery. She describes her abuse at the hands of the man who claimed to own her, as well as her escape and education.

<https://docsouth.unc.edu/fpn/jacobs/jacobs.html>

Twelve Years a Slave, by Solomon Northrup

Told to and edited by David Wilson, this book describes the experiences of a free black man kidnapped and sold in bondage in Louisiana, where he and other black men and women were cruelly treated until his relatives in New York could secure his release. A bestseller in its time, the book was published in 1853 and sold 30,000 copies.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/45631>