

Delve Deeper into "Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North"

A film by Katrina Browne

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Susan Conlon and Martha Perry of the Princeton Public Library provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North" that premieres on June 24th, 2008 at 10 PM (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

First-time filmmaker Katrina Browne makes a troubling discovery — her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. She and nine fellow descendants set off to retrace the Triangle Trade: from their old hometown in Rhode Island to slave forts in Ghana to sugar plantation ruins in Cuba. Step by step, they uncover the vast extent of Northern complicity in slavery while also stumbling through the minefield of contemporary race relations. In this bicentennial year of the U.S. abolition of the slave trade, "Traces of the Trade" offers powerful new perspectives on the black/white divide.

ADULT NONFICTION

Bailey, Anne C. *African Voices of the Atlantic Slave Trade: Beyond the Silence and the Shame*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2005. Bailey provides a previously unheard perspective on the slave trade by focusing on the few stories that have been remembered in the Anlo Ewe community, residents of an area in southeastern Ghana once famously called the old Slave Coast.

Ball, Edward. *Slaves in the Family*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998. The moving, critically acclaimed story of one man's journey to find the descendants of the slaves who lived on his own family's plantation.

Brophy, Alfred L. *Reparations: Pro & Con*. Oxford [England]; New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. Examines the ongoing debate of reparations along with the historical injustices from both sides of the table.

DeWolf, Thomas Norman. *Inheriting the Trade: A Northern Family Confronts Its Legacy as the Largest Slave-Trading Dynasty in U.S. History*. Boston:

Beacon Press, 2008. One of the ten DeWolf descendants featured in the documentary film *Traces of the Trade*, Thomas DeWolf offers his own account of his experiences in making the film and dealing with his family's dark legacy in the slave trade.
www.inheritingthetrade.com

Farrow, Anne, Joel Lang, and Jenifer Frank of The Hartford Courant. *Complicit: How the North Promoted, Prolonged, and Profited from Slavery in America*. New York: Ballantine Books, 2005. Three veteran New England journalists demythologize the region of America known for tolerance and liberation, revealing a place where thousands of people were held in bondage and how slavery was both an economically lucrative and necessary way of life.

Harms, Robert. *The Diligent: A Voyage through the Worlds of the Slave Trade*. New York: Basic Books, 2002. Yale historian Harms explores the global scope of an odious industry by tracking the slave ship "Diligent," which sailed from Vannes, France, in 1731. Using First Lt. Robert Durand's journal, Harms fleshes out the multinational web of trade relationships and transactions, both legal and illegal.

Henry, Charles P. *Long Overdue: The Politics of Racial Reparations*. New York: New York University Press, 2007. Ever since the unfulfilled promise of "Forty Acres and a mule," America has consistently failed to confront the issue of racial injustice. Exploring why America has failed to compensate black Americans for the wrongs of slavery, Henry provides a history of the racial reparations movement and shows why it is an idea whose time has come.

Henry, Neil. *Pearl's Secret: A Black Man's Search for His White Family*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001. A black professor of journalism and award-winning correspondent takes an investigative look into his family's past in this autobiography, as he pieces together the murky details of his family's past in search of the white branch of his family tree.

Martin, Michael T. and Marilyn Yaquinto. *Redress for Historical Injustices in the United State: On Reparations for Slavery, Jim Crow, and Their Legacies*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2007. This comprehensive reader brings together primary and secondary documents related to efforts to redress historical wrongs against African Americans.

Melish, Joanne Pope. *Disowning Slavery: Gradual Emancipation and "Race" in New England, 1780-1860*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998 Following the abolition of slavery in New England, white citizens seemed to forget that it had ever existed there. Drawing on a wide array of primary sources--from slaveowners' diaries to children's daybooks to racist broadsides--Joanne Pope Melish reveals not only how northern society changed but how its perceptions changed as well.

Ogletree, Jr., Charles. *All Deliberate Speed: Reflections on the First Half Century of Brown v. Board of Education*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2004. While the Supreme Court's *Brown* ruling historically signified the official end of racial segregation in the United States, a critical flaw was contained in the decision by the calculated instruction that desegregation should proceed with "all deliberate speed," argues Ogletree (Harvard Law School). Ogletree combines discussion of the legal battles leading up to and following *Brown*.

Phillips, Caryl. *The Atlantic Sound*. New York: Alfred Knopf, 2000. In this fascinating inquiry into the African Diaspora, Caryl Phillips embarks on a soul-wrenching journey to the three major ports of the transatlantic slave trade. Juxtaposing stories of the past with his own present-day experiences, Phillips combines his remarkable skills as a travel essayist with an astute understanding of history.



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Rappleye, Charles. *Sons of Providence: The Brown Brothers, the Slave Trade, and the American Revolution.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 2006. Set against a colonial backdrop teeming with radicals and reactionaries, visionaries, spies, and salty sea captains, this is the biography of John and Moses Brown, two classic American archetypes bound by blood yet divided by the specter of more than half a million Africans enslaved throughout the colonies.

Rediker, Marcus. *The Slave Ship: A Human History.* New York: Viking, 2007. In this intimate human history of an inhuman institution, Rediker shines a light into the darkest corners of the British and American slave ships of the eighteenth century.

St Clair, William. *The Door of No Return: The History of Cape Coast Castle and the Atlantic Slave Trade.* New York: BlueBridge, 2007. By telling the grim story of the castle and of some of the people who lived, worked, or were imprisoned within its walls, St Clair illuminates a vast panorama of modern history.

Thomas, Hugh. *The Slave Trade: The Story of the Atlantic Slave Trade, 1440-1870.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997. Thomas gives the reader the facts about the slave trade – by showing readers how whole towns, like Bristol and Liverpool in England, Nantes in France, or Newport in Rhode Island, grew and prospered on slavery; how each new discovery and colonization spurred the demand for slave labor.

Wiencek, Henry. *An Imperfect God: George Washington, His Slaves, and the Creation of America.* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003. Wiencek explores George Washington's engagement with slavery at every stage of his life -- as Virginia planter, soldier, politician, president, and statesman.

Wiencek, Henry. *The Hairstons: An American Family in Black and White.* New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999. Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award, this is the extraordinary story of the

largest family in America, the Hairston clan. With several thousand black and white members, the Hairstons share a complex and compelling history: divided in the time of slavery, they have come to embrace their past as one family.

Winbush, Raymond A. *Should America Pay?: Slavery and the Raging Debate on Reparations.* New York: Amistad, 2003. This comprehensive collection gathers together the seminal essays and key participants in the debate over reparations for African Americans.

ADULT FICTION

Johnson, Charles. *Middle Passage.* New York: Atheneum, 1990. In this savage parable of the African American experience, Rutherford Calhoun, a newly freed slave eking out a living in New Orleans in 1830, hops aboard a square rigger to evade the prim Boston schoolteacher who wants to marry him. Winner of the 1990 Nation Book Award for Fiction.

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved.* New York: Knopf: Distributed by Random House, 1987. Proud and beautiful, Sethe escaped from slavery but is haunted by its heritage--from the fires of the flesh to the heartbreaking challenges to the spirit. Set in rural Ohio several years after the Civil War, this profoundly affecting chronicle of slavery and its aftermath is considered one of Morrison's greatest works.

Unsworth, Barry. *Sacred Hunger.* New York: Doubleday, 1992. William Kemp wants to recoup economic losses from cotton by entering the slave trade, while his nephew serves as a doctor on a slave ship before leading a revolt against the crew. Joint winner of the 1992 Booker Prize.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Grant, R.G. *The African-American Slave Trade.* Hauppauge, NY: Barron's Educational Series, 2002. Grades 6 and up. The history of slavery in America, from its origins in the 1500s to its abolition in 1860s, is

detailed in the book, including the conditions slaves endured when transported from Africa, their role in the Southern economy, the restrictions imposed on their lives, the political struggle, the slave rebellions and the end of American slavery with the American Civil War.

Lester, Julius; Paintings by Tom Feelings. *To Be a Slave.* New York: Dial Books, 1968. Grades 3-6. The words of former slaves are accompanied by Lester's historical commentary and the powerful, muted paintings by Feelings. This Newbery Honor Book has been a touchstone in children's literature for over 30 years.

McNeese, Tim. *The Rise and Fall of American Slavery: Freedom Denied, Freedom Gained.* Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishers, 2004. Grades 6 and up. Slavery destroyed lives and fostered strong racism, which still haunts American history. Only through the efforts of the antislavery advocates, slave resisters, and runaways did Americans finally end the practice in the United States.

Thomas, Velma Maia. *Lest We Forget: The Passage from Africa to Slavery and Emancipation.* New York: Crown Trade Paperbacks, 1997. Grades 6 and up. Richly designed, this historical document is an ingenious, interactive, three-dimensional experience that dramatically addresses the painful history of America and the slave trade. This is the first title of a trilogy that also includes *Freedom's Children* and *We Shall Not Be Moved*.

Worth, Richard; Foreword by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. *The Slave Trade in America: Cruel Commerce.* Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishers, 2004. Grades 6 and up. For hundreds of years, Africans were kidnapped and forced to endure horrific sea voyages to the Americas. In this notable book, Richard Worth explores the trade that led to the enslavement of generations of Africans and African-Americans.



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FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Hansen, Joyce. *The Captive*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1994. Grades 4-8. When Kofi's father, an Ashanti chief, is killed, Kofi is sold as a slave and ends up in Massachusetts, where his fate is in the hands of Paul Cuffe, an African American shipbuilder who works to return slaves to their homeland in Africa.

Lester, Julius. *Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2005. Grades 6 and up. Emma has taken care of the Butler children since Sarah and Frances's mother, Fanny, left. Now a rift over slavery has ripped the Butler household apart and to pay off debts, Pierce Butler wants to cash in his slave "assets", possibly including Emma.

Moses, Shelia P. *The Baptism*. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2007. Grades 5 and up. In twentieth-century Occoneechee Neck, North Carolina--an area still affected by its history of slavery--twelve-year-old Leon Curry reflects about whether he wants to give up sinning to be baptized alongside his twin brother.

Polacco, Patricia. *Pink and Say*. New York: Philomel Books, 1994. Grades 3-6. Say Curtis describes his meeting with Pinkus Aylee, a black soldier, during the Civil War, and their capture by Southern troops.

Taylor, Mildred D. *The Land*. New York: Phyllis Fogelman Books, 2001. Grades 6 and up. After the Civil War Paul, the son of a white father and a black mother, finds himself caught between two worlds as he pursues his dream of owning land of his own.

Wesley, Valerie; illustrated by Sharon Wilson. *Freedom's Gifts: A Juneteenth Story*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1997. Grades 2-6. When a girl from New York visits her cousin in Texas, she learns the origin of Juneteenth, a holiday marking the day Texan slaves realized they were free.

FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

"Amazing Grace." A film by Michael Apted. Bristol Bay Productions in association with Ingenious Film Partners, 2007. (118 min.) Based on the life of William Wilberforce, the film chronicles his passion and perseverance to pass a law ending the slave trade.

"Amistad." A film by Steven Spielberg. DreamWorks, 1999. (155 min.) Portrays the 1839 revolt on board the slave ship Amistad bound for America. Much of the story involves the court-room drama about the slave who led the revolt.

"First Person Singular: John Hope Franklin." A film by Dick Young. PBS Home Video, 1997. (60 Min.) The career of celebrated black historian and educator, John Hope Franklin, whose major work, *From Slavery to Freedom*, forever changed historians' perceptions of the African-American role in building America.

