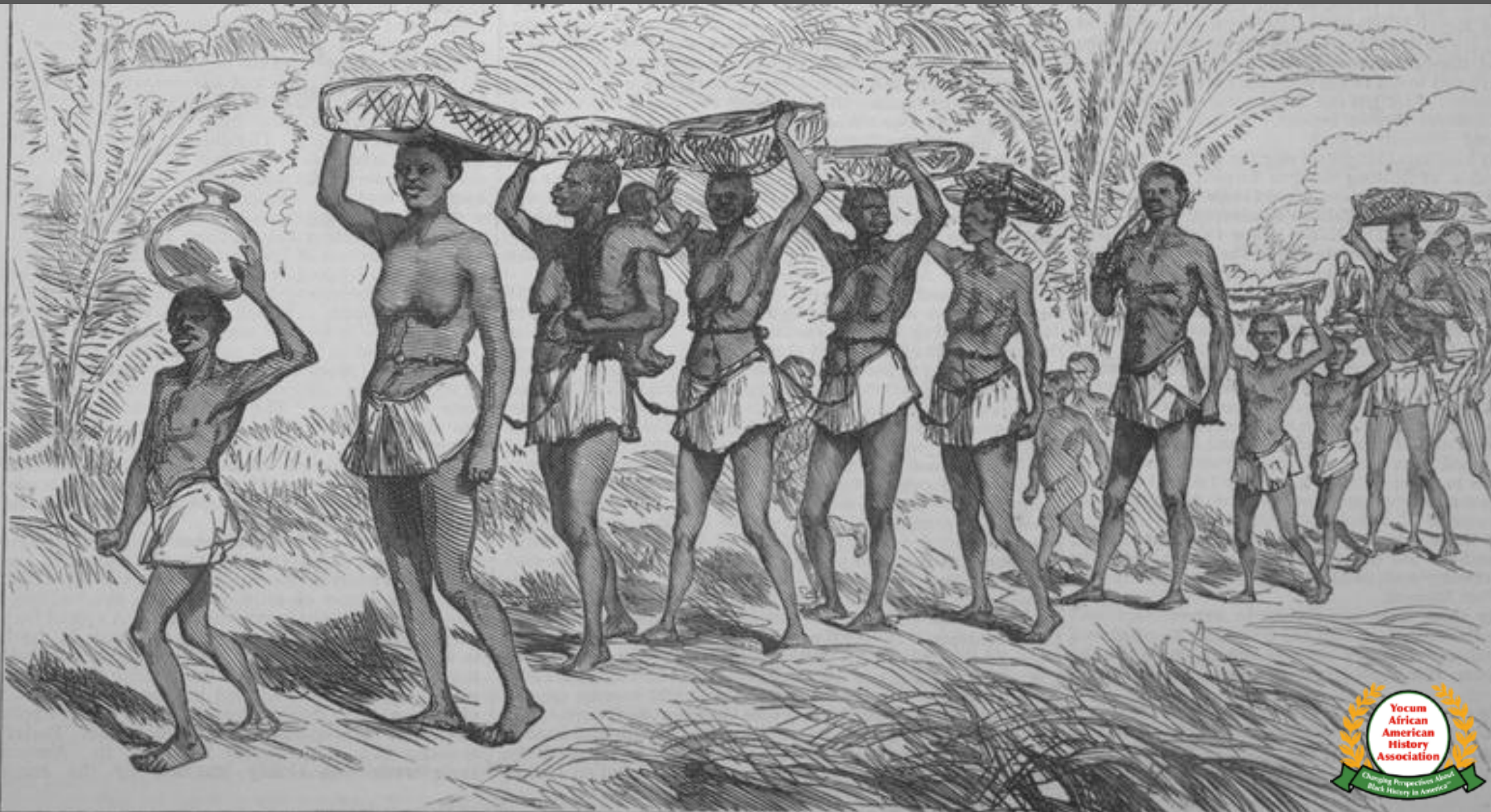


REVOLTS AND RUNAWAYS

RESISTANCE ON SHIPS AND ON SHORE





FREEDOM MOTIVATED CAPTURED AFRICANS TO RESIST THE INSTITUTION OF SLAVERY

- Africans immediately resisted their captors
- Africans tried to escape throughout the entire Atlantic Slave Trade
- Rebellions and insurrections were fought on land and on sea
- Once on shore, slaves tried to escape
- Slaves disrupted their work and conducted slave rebellions



SLAVES THROWN OVERBOARD

- ▶ Africans thrown overboard from a slave ship, ca. 1830s
- ▶ Some Africans jumped overboard on their own accord
- ▶ The Africans were subjected to extreme punishments that kept other survivors in check
- ▶ More than one million slaves were lost aboard ships in the Transatlantic Slave Trade





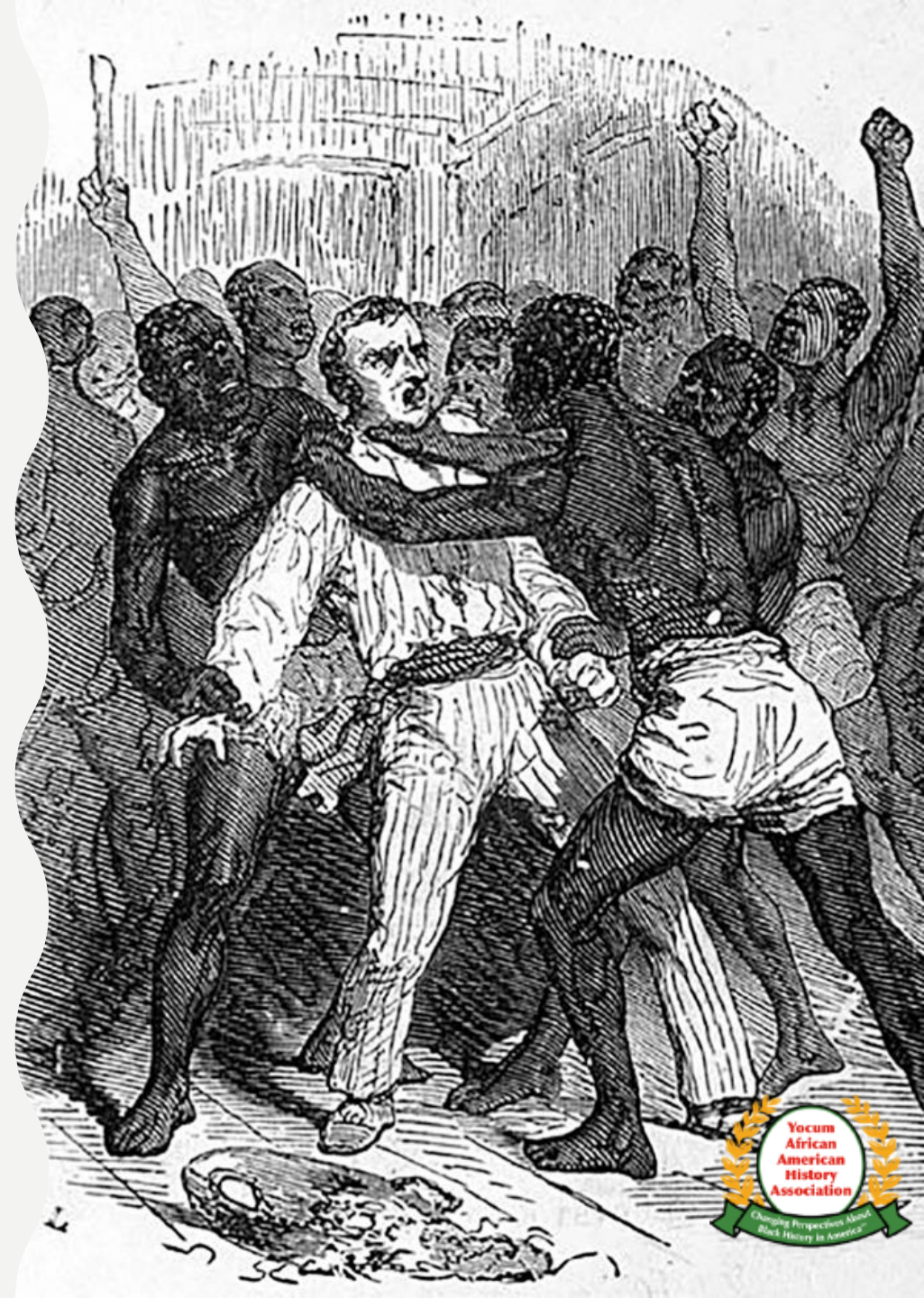
RESISTANCE AND INSURRECTION, FOR A CHANCE OF FREEDOM

- The ship crews had superior fire power & equipment to repress resistance
- Despite chains and shackles, Africans found ways of resisting
- The slaves had only their strength in numbers to overwhelm the crew
- Approximately one slave ship in ten experienced some resistance
- Other forms of resistance; sabotage, poor work effort, crimes like arson,



SLAVE REBELLIONS

- ▶ Some of the most severe slave rebellions before the Civil War:
- ▶ 1712 New York City Slave Rebellion
- ▶ 1739 Stono Rebellion
- ▶ 1741 New York Conspiracy
- ▶ 1800 Gabriel's Conspiracy
- ▶ 1811 German Coast Uprising
- ▶ 1822 Denmark Vasey Conspiracy
- ▶ 1831 Nat Turner Rebellion



NEW YORK CITY SLAVE REBELLION, 1712

- ▶ Many black slaves lived in Manhattan due to years of trade with the West Indies
- ▶ The slaves worked with free men; far different from the southern plantations
- ▶ The slaves were in frequent contact with each other
- ▶ African-born slaves encouraged other slaves to rise up and revolt
- ▶ On April 6, twenty-five armed slaves set fire to a building; the fire spread quickly
- ▶ Whites came out of their homes, the slaves fired into the crowd
- ▶ Slaves killed 9 colonists and soldiers from a nearby fort killed 18 slaves
- ▶ The rebellion resulted in harsher slave codes



STONO REBELLION OR CATO'S CONSPIRACY, 1739

- ▶ A significant slave uprising in the British Colonies, September 9, 1739
- ▶ Originated in Stono, S.C.; led by literate slave Jemmy, also known as Cato
- ▶ The rebels raided an ammunition store and stole firearms
- ▶ Cato led 80 armed slaves to march to Spanish-ruled Florida in hopes of freedom
- ▶ The group set fire to plantations and killed 20-25 whites along the way
- ▶ The militia caught the rebels and executed 44 of them
- ▶ The Negro Act 1740, passed by the British restricted slave assembly, education and movement





NEW YORK CONSPIRACY, 1741

NYC was in an economic decline in 1741

A series of fires caused fears of a slave uprising for New Yorkers

Sixteen-year-old Irish indentured servant claimed she had knowledge

The indentured servant, Mary Burton, was promised a reward for her testimony

Those she named implicated others to avoid execution

Judge Daniel Horsmanden, an ambitious British expatriate, was a dubious judge

There were serious doubts about the convictions and indictments

30 to 40 slaves were either burned at the stake or hanged; 4 whites were hanged

Unfounded accusations, coerced confessions resulted in the deaths of innocent men and women

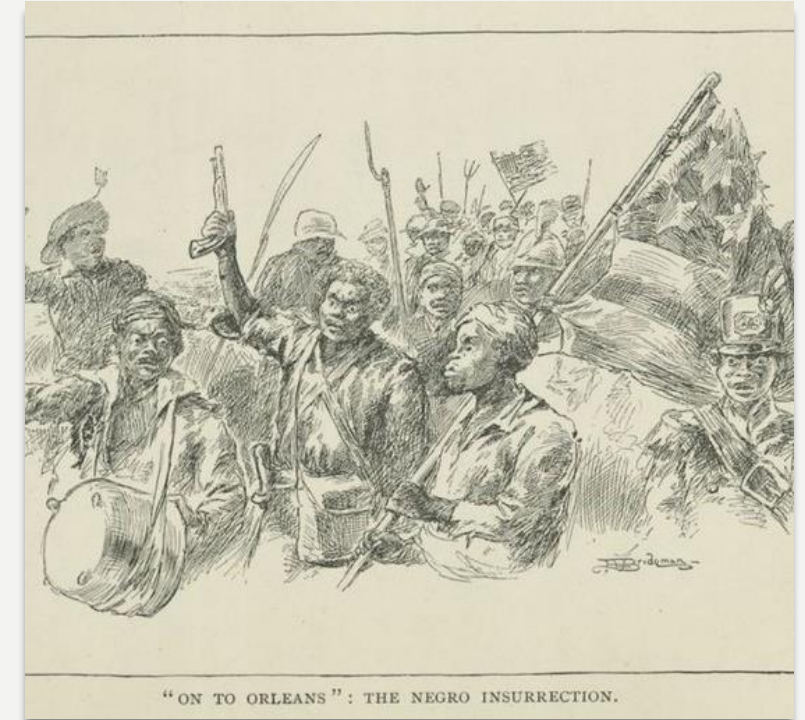
GABRIEL'S REBELLION, AUGUST 30, 1800

- ▶ Gabriel Prosser was a literate Virginia blacksmith slave who opposed slavery
- ▶ As a blacksmith he had more autonomy than other plantation slaves
- ▶ Gabriel and his brother, Martin, a slave preacher, organized other slaves
- ▶ They planned an attack on Richmond to destroy slavery in Virginia
- ▶ They wanted to kill all white residents except Quakers & Methodists
- ▶ A storm washed out the roads to Richmond and delayed the uprising
- ▶ Two slaves alerted authorities earlier in the day, the plot was thwarted
- ▶ The treatment of slaves became worse after the end of Gabriel's Rebellion



GERMAN COAST UPRISING, JANUARY 8-10, 1811

- ▶ German settlement in the Territory of Orleans called “The German Coast”
- ▶ Charles Deslondes, a free Haitian, was one of the leaders of the uprising
- ▶ Sugar plantations on the German Coast provided brutal life-shortening work
- ▶ Uprising started during sugar cane harvest when slaves had more free time
- ▶ Slaves spread the word about the planned uprising up & down the coast
- ▶ Small groups of slaves joined the uprising as they passed each plantation
- ▶ The slaves numbered more than 200, militia killed 95 slaves and mutilated their bodies as a warning to other slaves





DENMARK VASEY CONSPIRACY

- * Denmark Vasey was a slave carpenter in Charleston, S.C., who bought his freedom in 1800
- * Vasey was a leader in the black church
- * He recruited more than 1,000 free and enslaved blacks to attack the city of Charleston, S.C.
- * Vasey and his group were caught; Vasey and 36 others were hanged
- * The conspiracy helped politicized the slavery issue
- * A memorial was erected in Hampton Park, in Charleston, S.C. in honor of his efforts to overturn slavery



NAT TURNER REBELLION, AUGUST 21, 1831

- ▶ Turner was allowed to be instructed in reading and writing and became a preacher
- ▶ He felt that God chose him to be the Moses of his people to liberate them
- ▶ In 1831, Turner launched his disorganized rebellion with eighty slaves
- ▶ One of the largest slave rebellions in American history started on small farms
- ▶ Turner & others killed the Travis family, stole guns & moved on to other farms
- ▶ He killed women & children in his path
- ▶ By the time the militia curbed the rebellion, approximately sixty whites lay dead
- ▶ Turner escaped and was finally captured and executed

SLAVES RESISTED BY RUNNING AWAY

Fisher, by Trade a Book-Binder, between 25 and 26 Years of Age, about 5 Feet 5 Inches high, very thick, stoops much, and has a down Look; he is a little Pock-pitted, has a Scar on one of his Temples, is much addicted to Liquor, very talkative when drunk, and remarkably stupid. He had on, and carried away with him, several good white Linen Shirts, a Snuff colour'd Cloth Coat, and a Suit of Light colour'd Sagathy, other good Wearing Apparel, a new Half-cut black Bob Wig, and a Set of Silver Buckles.

Whoever apprehends the said Servant, and con-

February 17, 1737.
*R*AN away from the Subscriber, living in Stafford County, the 1st of this Instant, a Mullatto Man, named Robert Fanwick, about 22 or 23 Years of Age; he is an able Fellow, a Sawyer by Trade, and can do Clapboard Work: He commonly wears a Fear-nothing Jacket, and under it a white Kersey one, and has a red one; he has a Felt Hat, 2 or 3 Oznabrigs Shirts, and One strip'd Cotton one; I believe he has several other Body Cloaths, a Pair of mixt Tarn Stockings, a Pair of Country knitt Cotton Ditto, and a new and old Pair of Country made Shoes. Whoever takes up the said Runaway, so that I may have him again, shall have a Pistole Reward, besides what the Law allows, paid

He is supposed to be 25 years of age, is about 6 feet high, not very black, has a scar on his forehead, and a blemish on the sight of his left eye. ---Says he belongs to Charles Dickinson, of Louisa county, Va. and has been hired to William Boxler, on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

The owner of said negro is requested to come forward, prove property.

Reward for Return

George Fisher, Runaway Slave

Williamsburg, April 23, 1765

Return of Property

Robert Fanwick, Runaway Slave

February 17, 1737

Runaway Ad

Elias Dowling, Runaway Slave

June 5, 1830



SUMMARY

- Africans were not docile or content with their capture
- The desire for freedom motivated slaves to resist their captors
- More than a million slaves were lost aboard ships during the slave trade
- One slave ship in ten experienced some resistance
- During the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, there were 250 slave uprisings

