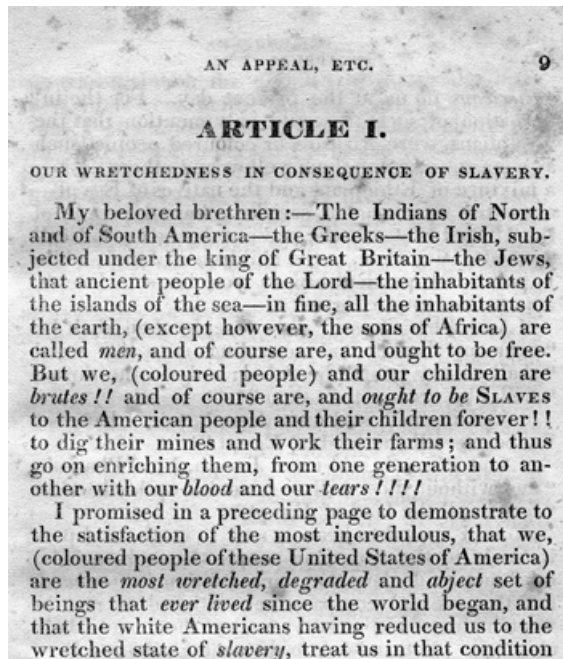


## Walker's Appeal <sup>[1]</sup>

### Walker's Appeal

by William S. Powell, 2006

See also: [David Walker's Appeal](#) <sup>[2]</sup>



The opening of Article I of David Walker's 1829 antislavery pamphlet. North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library. Walker's *Appeal*, actually titled *Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World* <sup>[3]</sup>, was an emotionally charged, powerful antislavery pamphlet published by black [Wilmington](#) <sup>[4]</sup> native [David Walker](#) <sup>[5]</sup> in September 1829 and widely distributed across the South. It appeared in three editions, probably printed in Boston. Although Walker himself was born free, taking the legal rank of his mother, he was deeply troubled by the slave status of his father, who died before Walker was born. After traveling widely, young Walker settled in Boston, where he dealt in second-hand clothing and was active in [antislavery](#) <sup>[6]</sup> causes.

No record has been found of Walker's education, but in his writing there is evidence of literary ability and historical knowledge. His *Appeal* advocates the overthrow of the slave system, through violence if necessary. Even such abolitionist leaders as William Lloyd Garrison objected to Walker's overly radical ideas and tone. Nevertheless, the *Appeal* was intended to strengthen blacks' resolve and give them hope of freedom. Reaction among slave owners in North Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia, where copies were smuggled in from Boston and New York, was, predictably, prompt and harsh.

#### References:

Clement Eaton, "A Dangerous Pamphlet in the Old South," *Journal of Southern History* 2 (August 1936).

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#### Additional Resources:

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Sistrom, Michael. "Summary of *Walker's Appeal*." Documenting the American South, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. <https://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/walker/summary.html> <sup>[7]</sup> (accessed August 29, 2012).

Hinks, Peter P. *To Awaken My Afflicted Brethren: David Walker and the Problem of Antebellum Slave Resistance* University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press. 1997.

Raper, Derris Lea. "The Effects of David Walker's *Appeal* and Nat Turner's Insurrection on North Carolina<sup>[8]</sup>." M.A. thesis.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1969.

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#### Image Credits:

The opening of Article I of David Walker's 1829 antislavery pamphlet. North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library.

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[Antebellum \(1820-1861\)](#) [10]

[Enslaved People and Slavery](#) [11]

[Literature](#) [12]

#### Authors:

[Powell, William S.](#) [13]

#### Origin - location:

[Wilmington](#) [14]

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1 January 2006 | Powell, William S.

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