

## A Slave State

By the middle of the nineteenth century, slavery was a foundation of North Carolina's economy and society. One-third of North Carolinians were enslaved — yet only a quarter of free families owned enslaved people. In this chapter, we'll explore those inequalities and what enslavers had to do to maintain them.

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## Section Contents

- Distribution of Land and Slaves
- Social Divisions in Antebellum North Carolina
- North Carolina v. Mann
- The Quakers and Anti-Slavery
- Levi Coffin and the Underground Railroad
- Negotiated Segregation in Salem
- Manumission
- A Petition to Free a White Slave
- Black Codes
- Advertising for Slaves
- Runaways and Slave Hunters in the Dismal Swamp
- Antislavery Feeling in the Mountains

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[1]

An illustration from the “narrative” of an enslaved man who escaped to the North shows enslaved people under their enslaver’s whip.

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