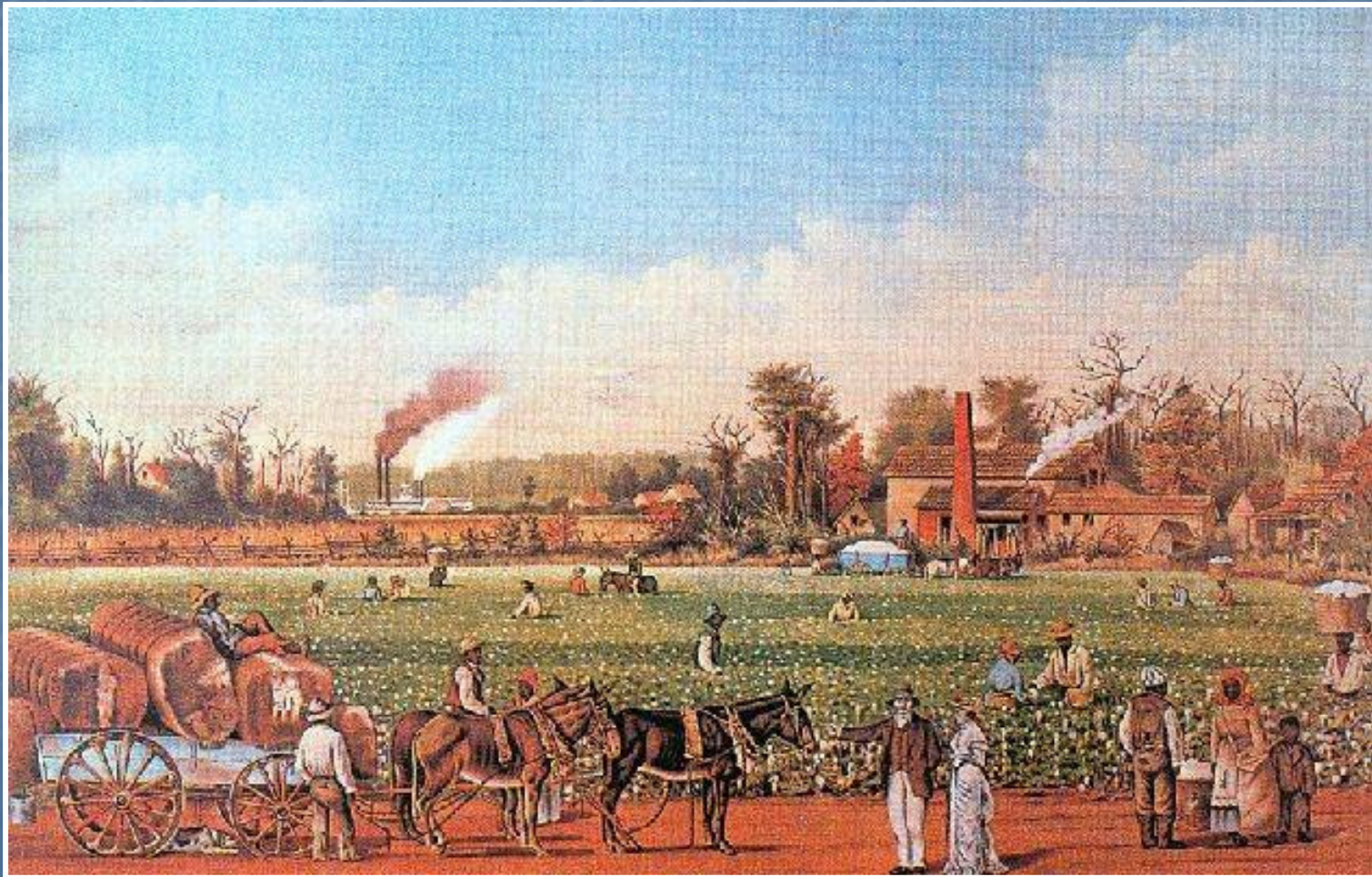


# Agriculture in the South



# Agriculture in the South

- The business of the south was always farming
- Before and during the American Revolution, major crops in the south included tobacco, rice, and indigo
  - Cotton was not widely grown
- In the 1790's, cotton boomed across the south
  - Rise of textile mills
    - US and Britain
  - Cotton Gin



# Cotton Gin

- In 1792, Yale graduate Eli Whitney took a job as a tutor on a Georgia Plantation
  - Noticed that the South was in desperate need of a more efficient way to clean cotton
  - Asked by owner to improve long-staple machine design
- Whitney perfected the Cotton Gin in 1793—short staple cotton
- Could clean 50x more cotton
- Applied for patent and set up shops across the south to clean farmers' cotton for them
  - Farmers began to copy Whitney's design and make their own
  - Whitney makes very little money from the Cotton Gin





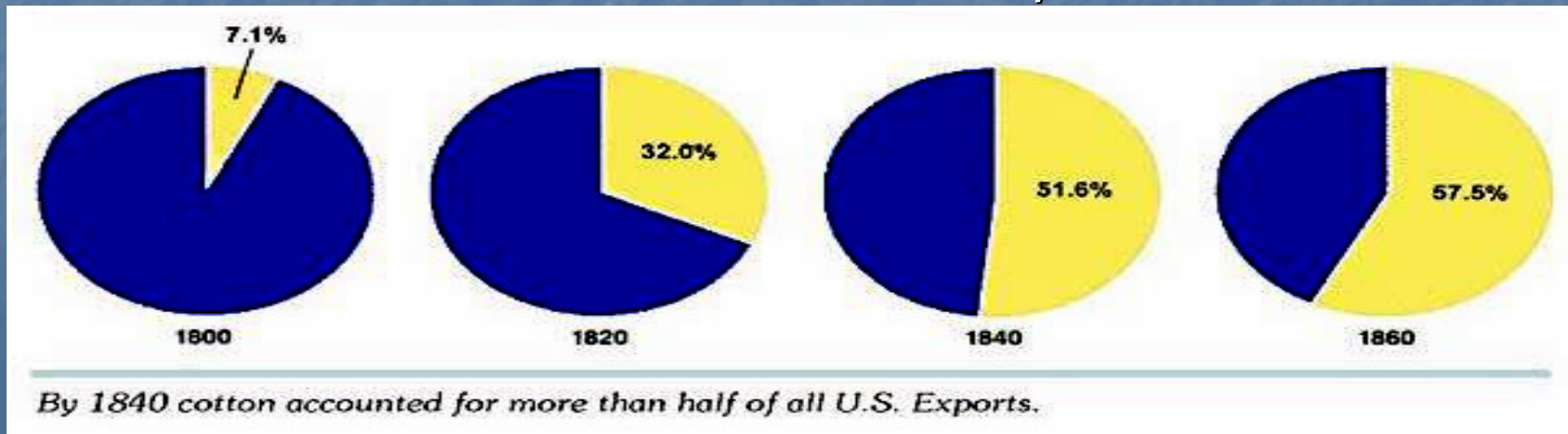
# The Cotton Boom

- Cotton Gin creates a Cotton Boom across the South
  - “The Cotton Belt” – South Carolina to Texas
- Cotton replaces other crops as the Southern cash crop
  - Easy to grow
  - Easy to Transport (light)
  - Could be stored for long periods



# The Cotton Trade

- Sold tons of cotton to Northern textile mills
- Britain became the South's most valued trading partner
- Port cities boomed
  - Charleston, Savannah, New Orleans
- Because roads, canals, and railroads were few and far between, rivers were the primary means of getting cotton to port
  - Flatboats, Steamboats
- Cotton was sold through "cotton brokers" - factors
  - Middleman between farmers and industry





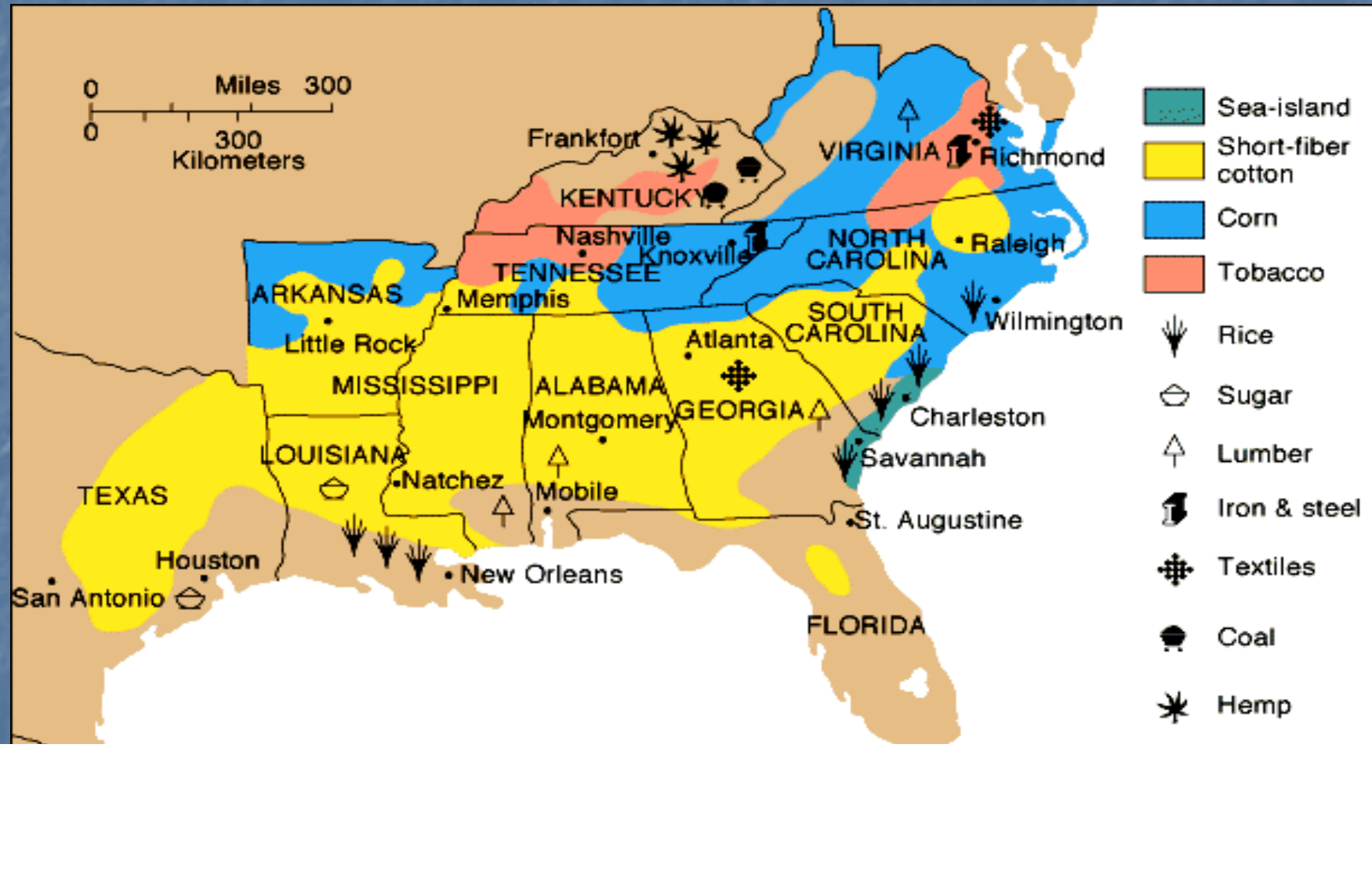
# Southern Industry



Graniteville Textile Co. - Founded in 1845, it was the South's first attempt at industrialization in Richmond, VA

- Southern Factories existed but were few and far between
  - Rope
  - Sugar Processing
  - Textile
- Southern industry accounted for approx. 14% of total US industry
- Richmond, Montgomery, Charleston, Savannah, New Orleans

# Crop Diversity



# Southern Society

- Fewer than 1/3 of all southern households owned slaves
- Most were Yeomen – owners of small farms
  - Few or no slaves
    - Usually worked side by side with slaves
  - Averaged 100 acres
- Around 1% were planters
  - Wealthy plantation owners
  - 50 or more slaves
  - Influential in society, politics



# Southern Society (1850)

100,000



**Planters**

5,000,000



**The "Plain Folk"**  
[white yeoman farmers]

**Black Freemen**



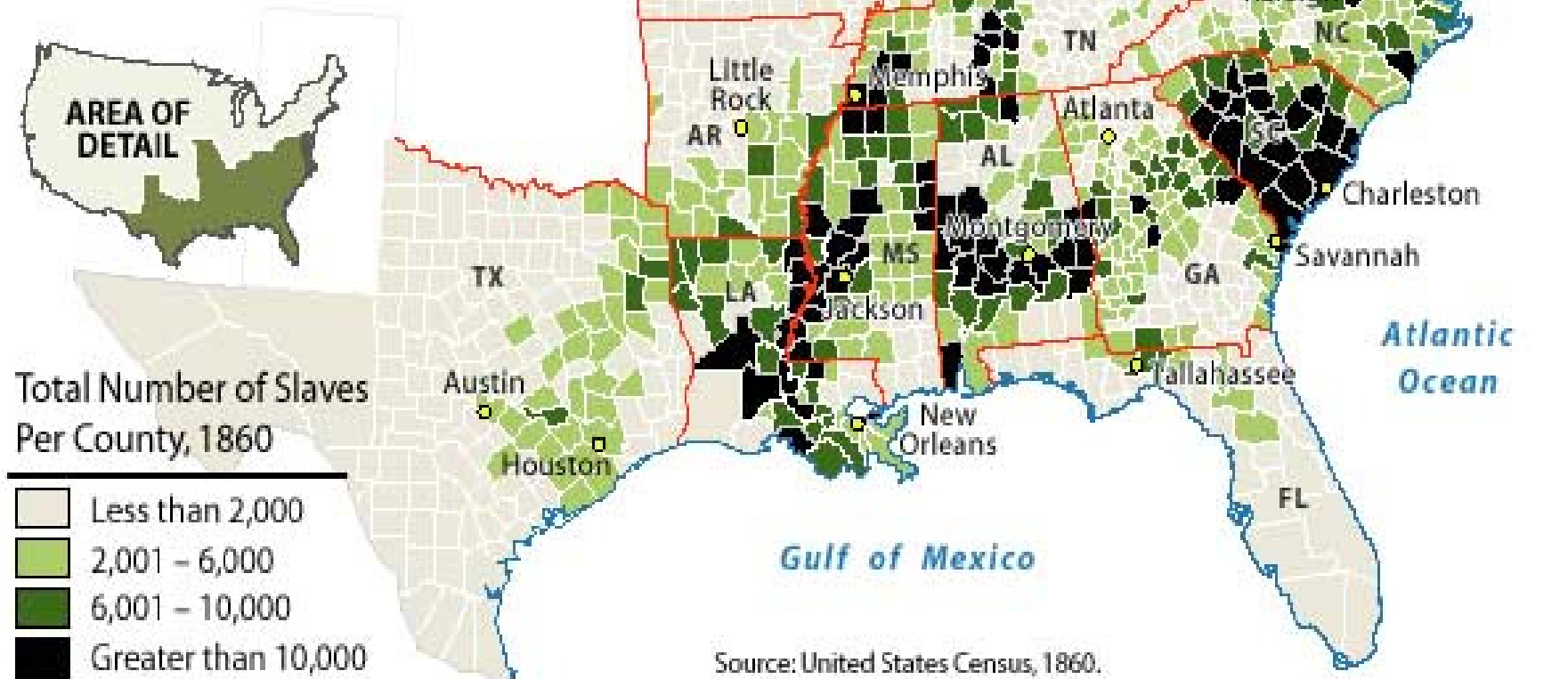
250,000

**Slaves**  
3,200,000

**Total US Population --> 23,000,000**  
**[9,250,000 in the South = 40%]**

# Slave Populations

## SLAVE POPULATIONS IN THE SOUTHERN STATES c.1860

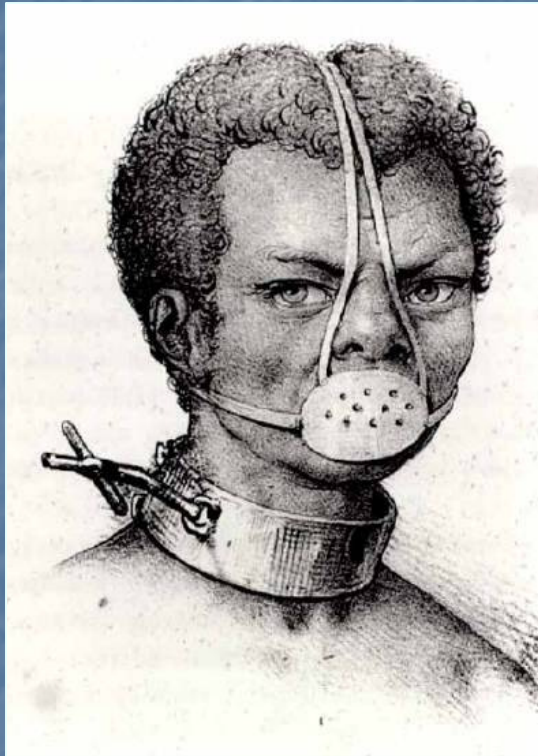




# Slavery

- Slaves viewed as property, not people
- Slaves served as field workers, butlers, cooks, etc.
- Drivers – foremen of the plantation
  - Sometimes slaves themselves
  - Gang labor system
- Separate slave quarters
- Often education and travel were prohibited

# Slave Accoutrements



Slave muzzle

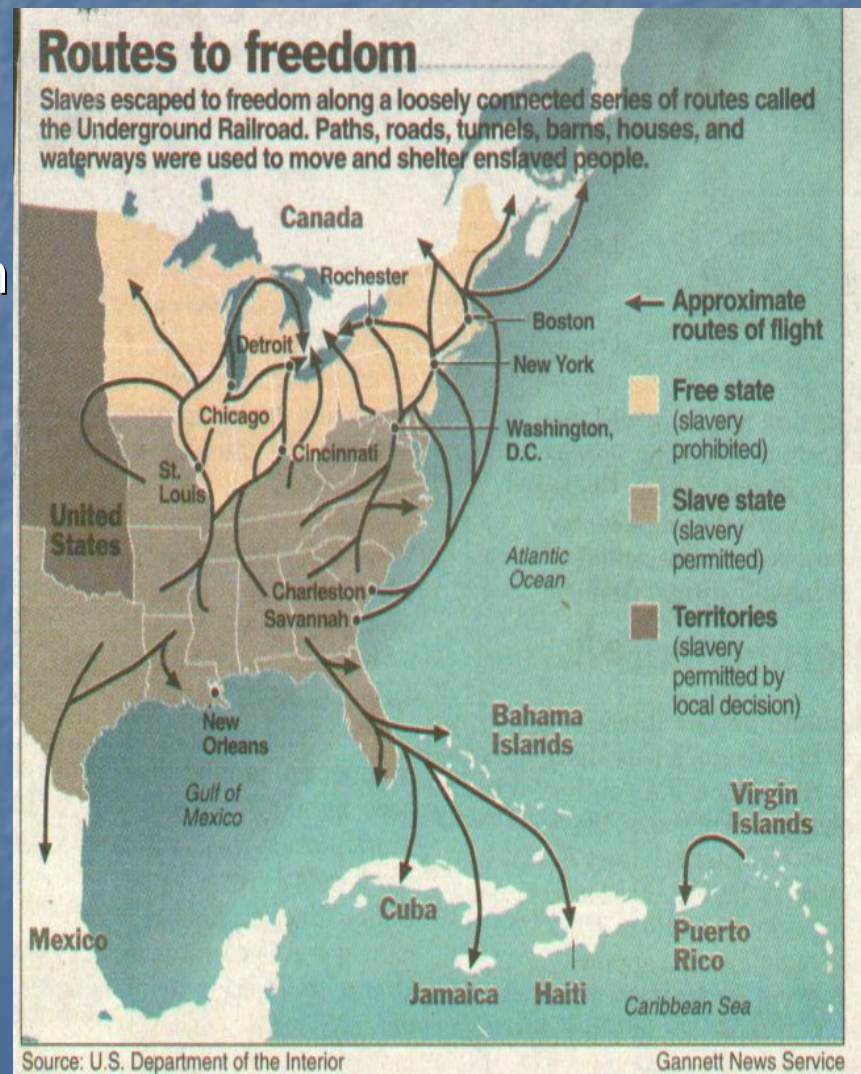
## Slave Master Brands





# Underground Railroad

- Loosely organized group of free blacks, abolitionists, former slaves that helped lead slaves to freedom
- Conductors – guides
- Indirect routes to avoid capture
- Traveled at night
- Used code, secret symbols
- Would stop at “stations” – safe houses along the way
- Estimated 40,000 slaves escaped using U.R. from 1810-1850



# Quilt Patterns as Secret Messages



The Monkey Wrench pattern, on the left, alerted escapees to gather up tools and prepare to flee; the Drunkard Path design, on the right, warned escapees not to follow a straight route.



# Harriet Tubman



- Most famous conductor on Underground Railroad
  - "Moses"
- Escaped from Maryland Plantation
- Returned 19 times to rescue other slaves
- Led over 300 slaves to freedom
- "Never lost a passenger"
  - Threatened quitters at gunpoint
- Reward for her capture reached \$40,000

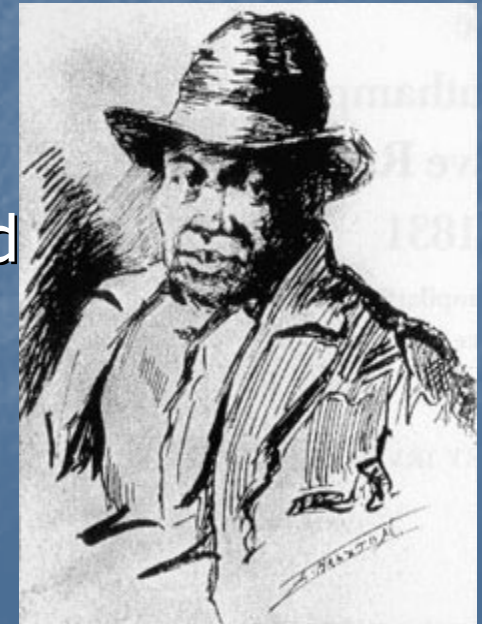
# Underground Railroad





# Nat Turner's Rebellion

- Nat Turner was an intelligent and deeply religious slave in Southampton County, Virginia
  - "The Prophet"
- Saw a solar eclipse and took it as a sign to end slavery
- Gathered a following of ultimately over 70
- Began rebellion on August 22, 1831
- Traveled house to house freeing slaves and killing all whites that they found
  - Knives, axes, etc. – no firearms
- Rebellion lasted for 2 days
- 57 white men, women, children were killed
- Militia defeated rebellion in 48 hours
  - Killed over 100 slaves in ending the rebellion
- Turner eluded capture for months before being found, tried, and hanged
- Resulted in stricter controls—slave codes



# Nat Turner's Rebellion

**HORRID MASSACRE IN VIRGINIA.**

