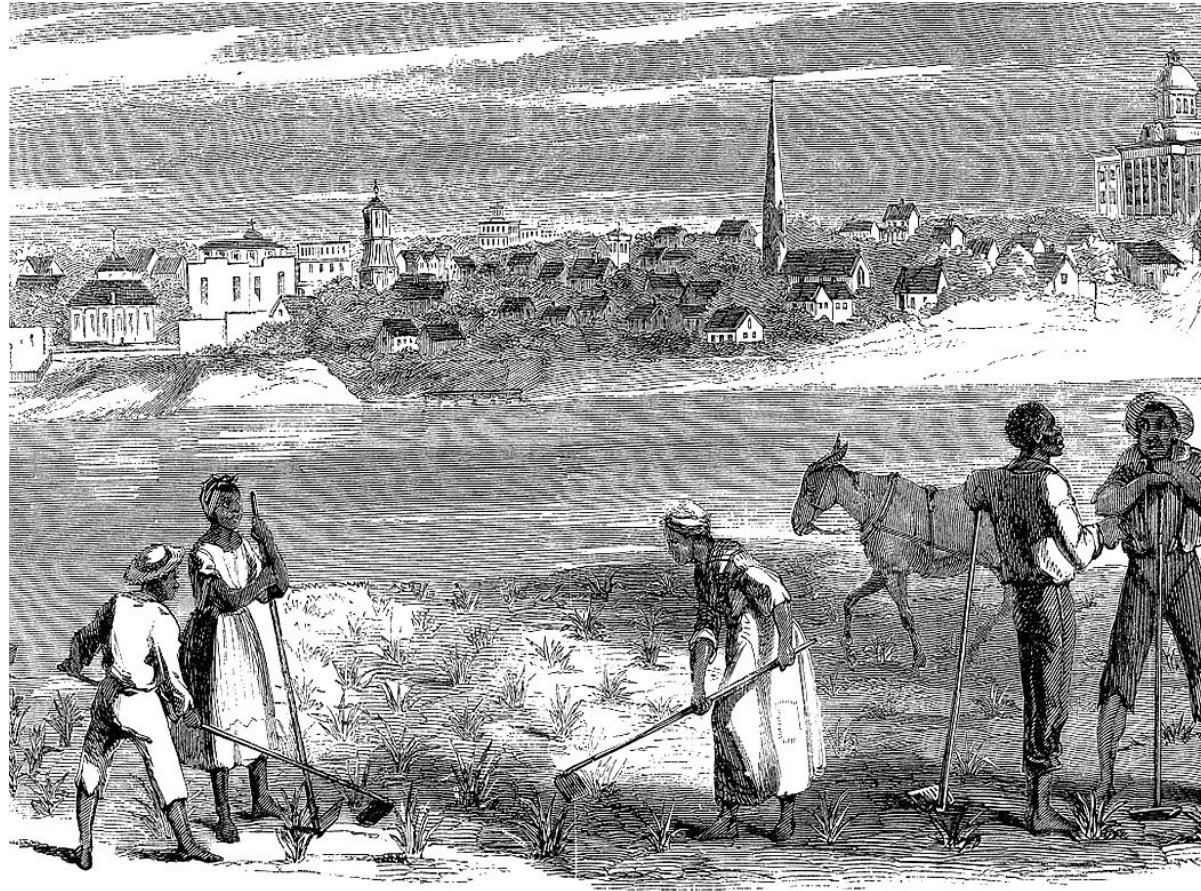
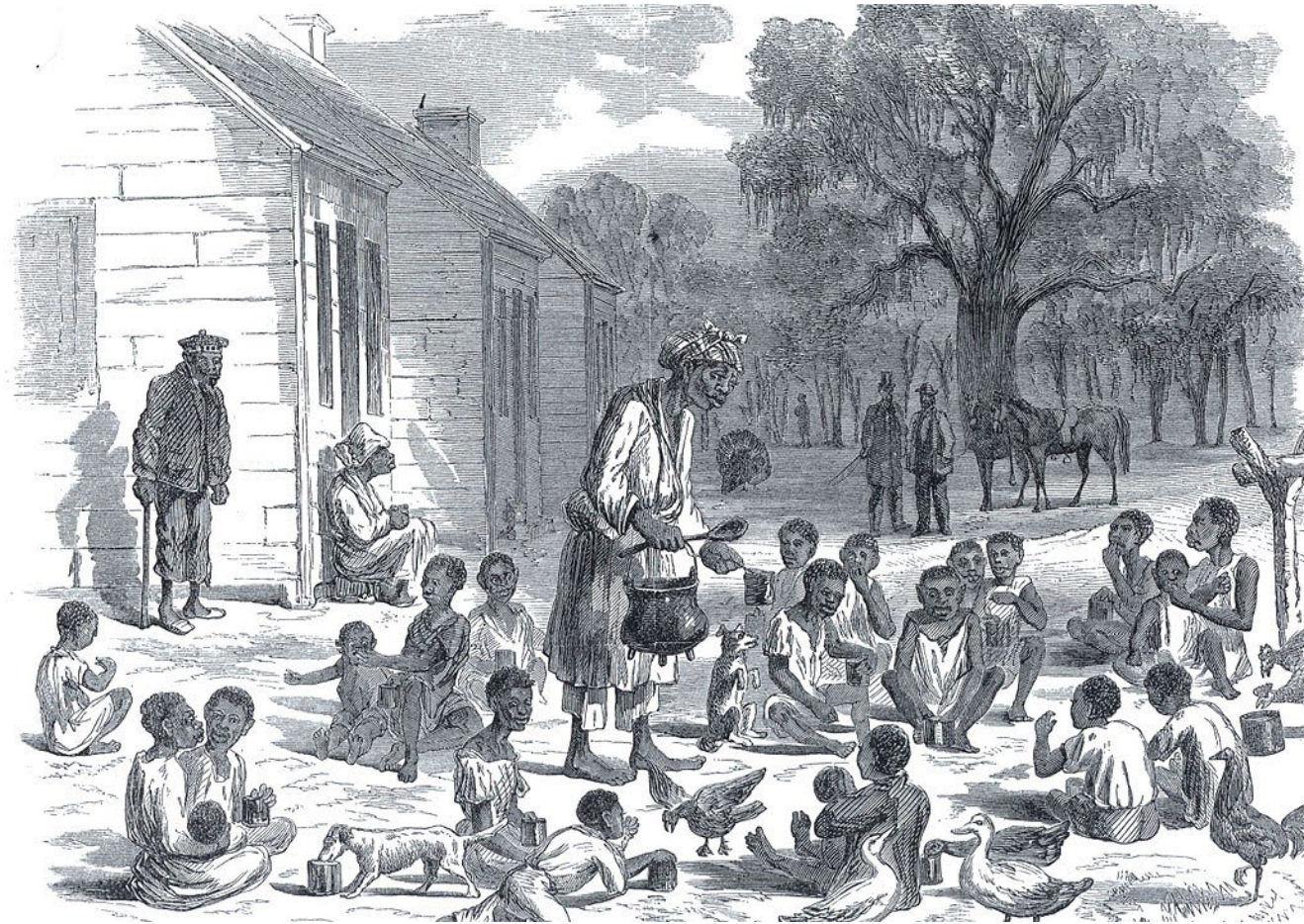


...a friend with friends



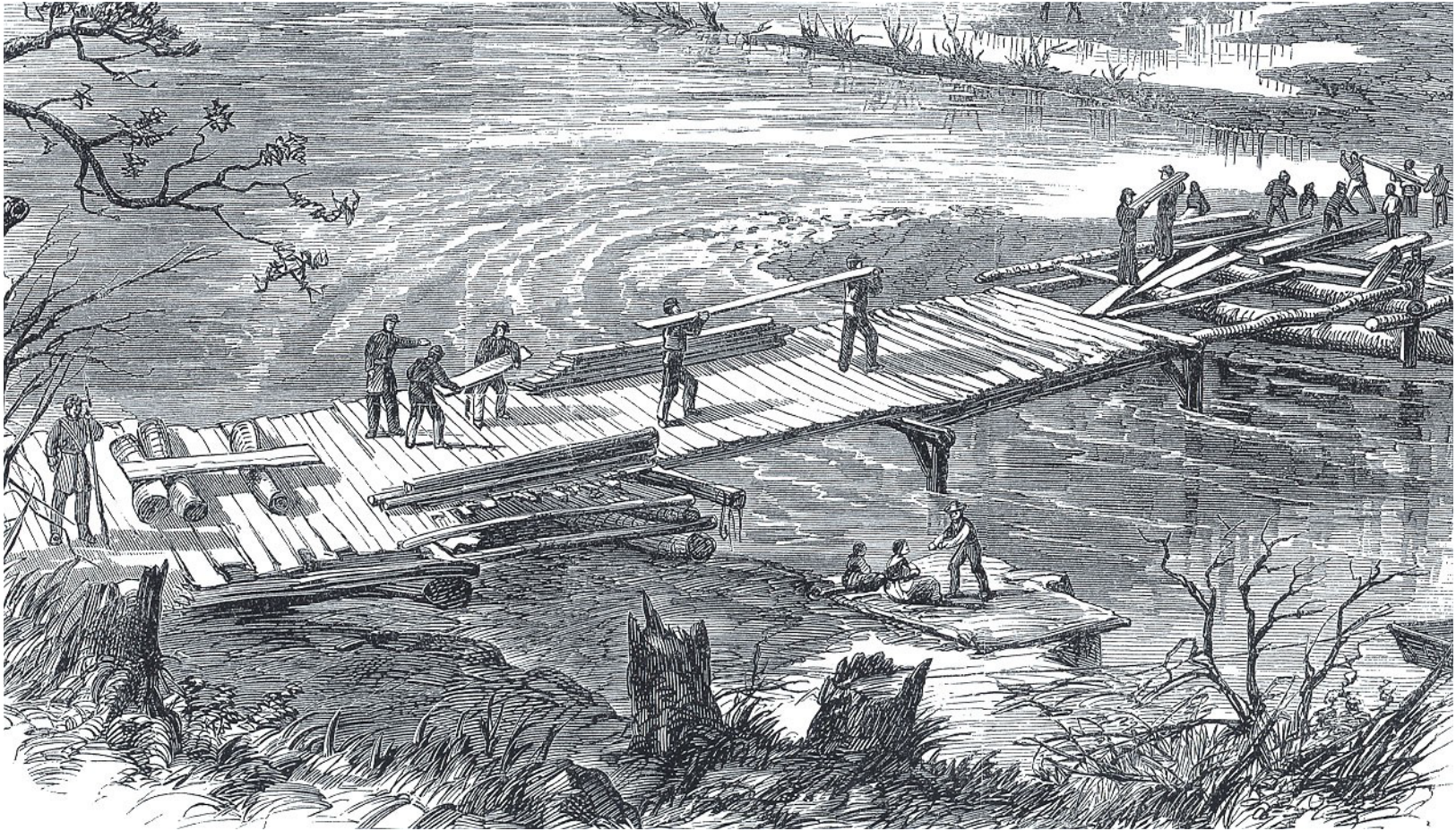
Stories of the Underground Railroad



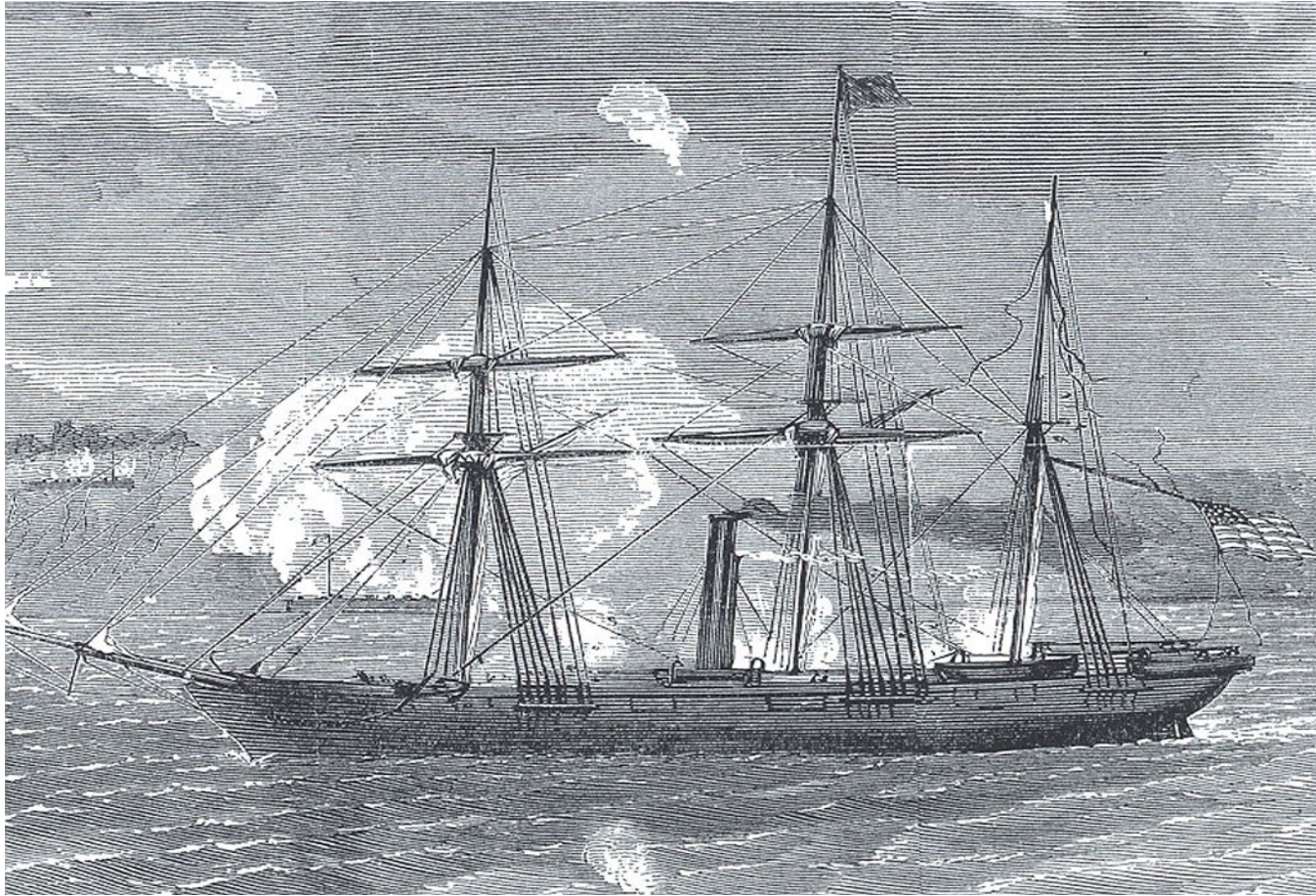
In 1860, there were four million slaves in the southern United States.



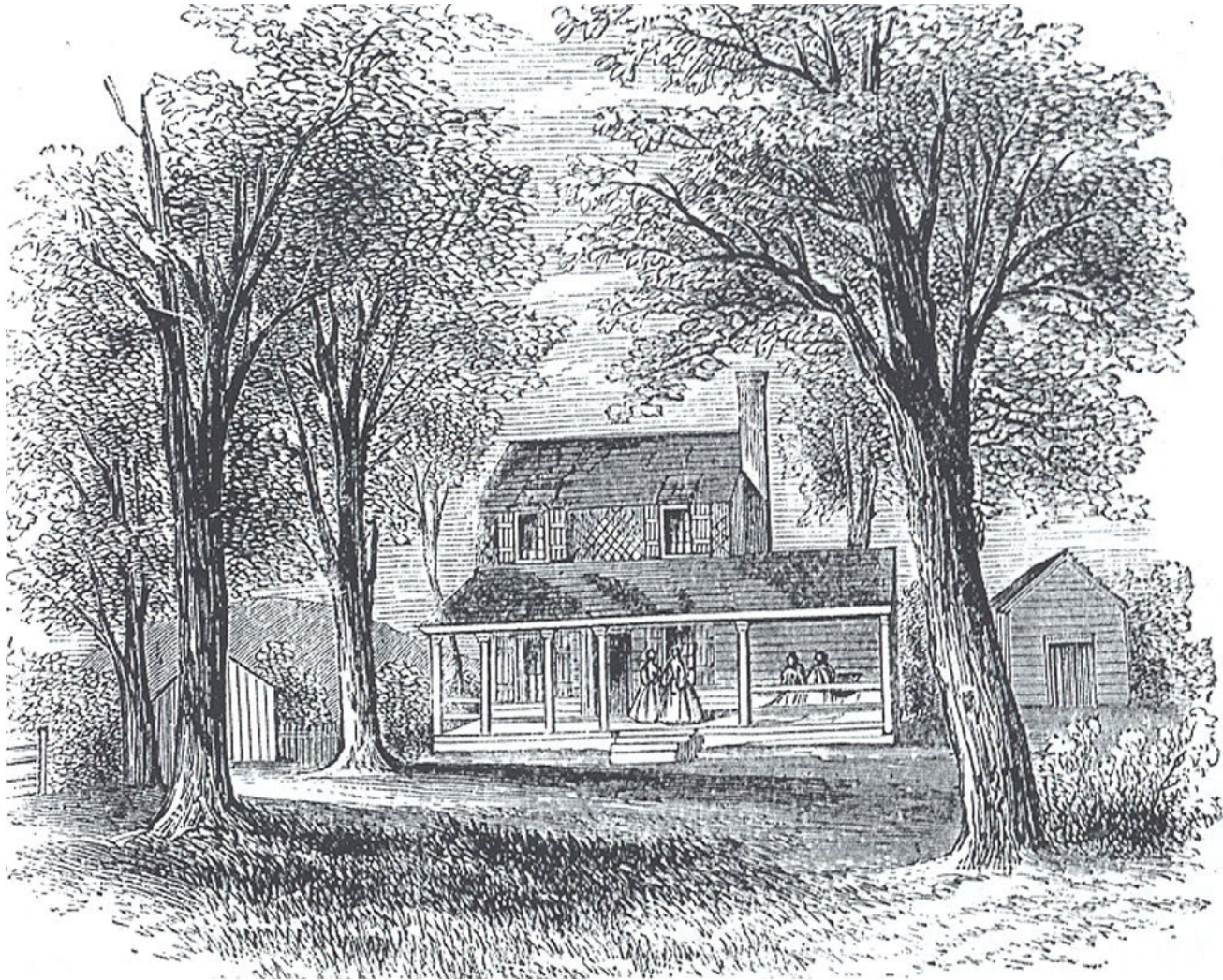
Most of them worked on large plantations, like this one.



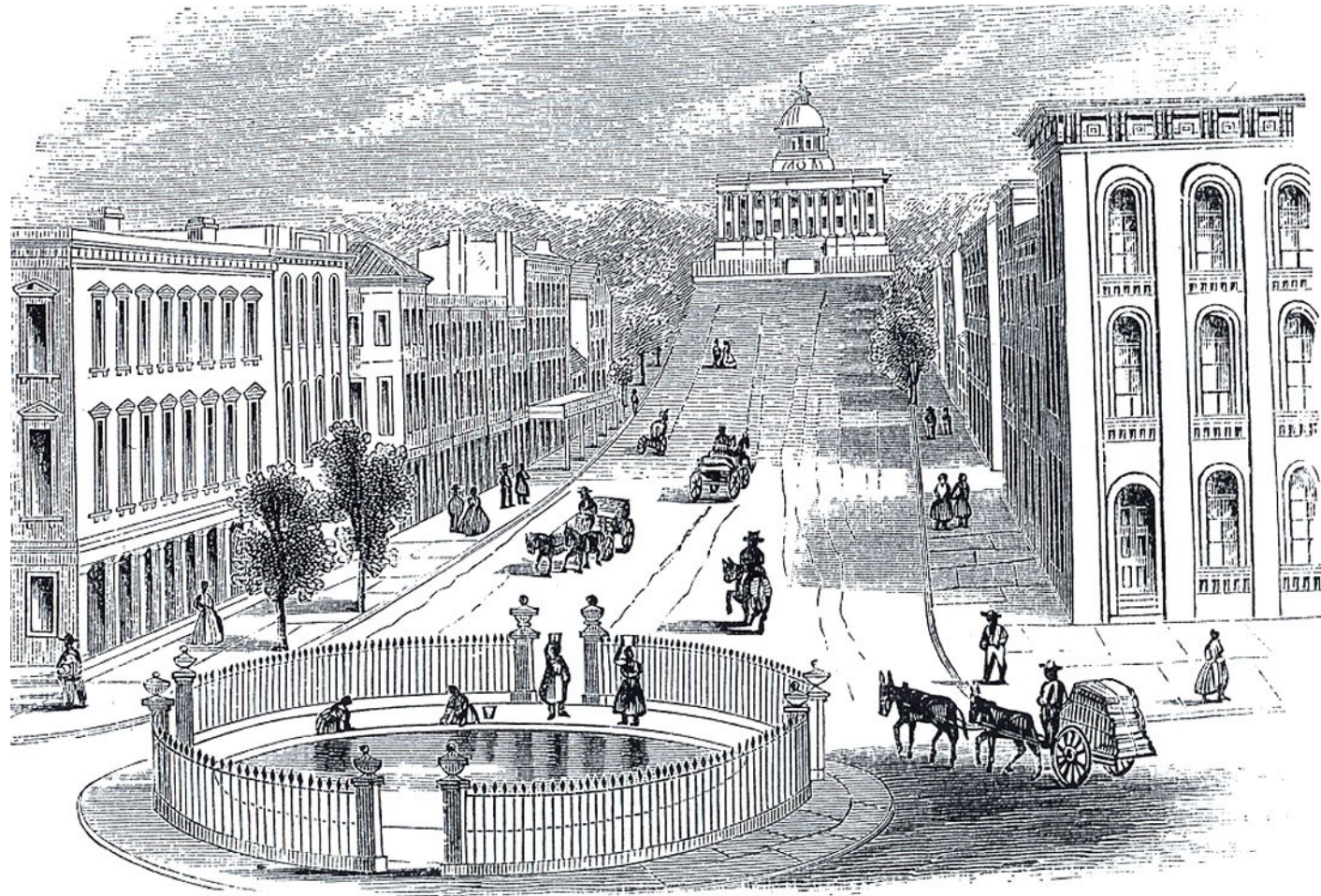
Not all of them worked on plantations. Some of them worked building roads.



Some worked on ships and riverboats.



Some worked on small farms.



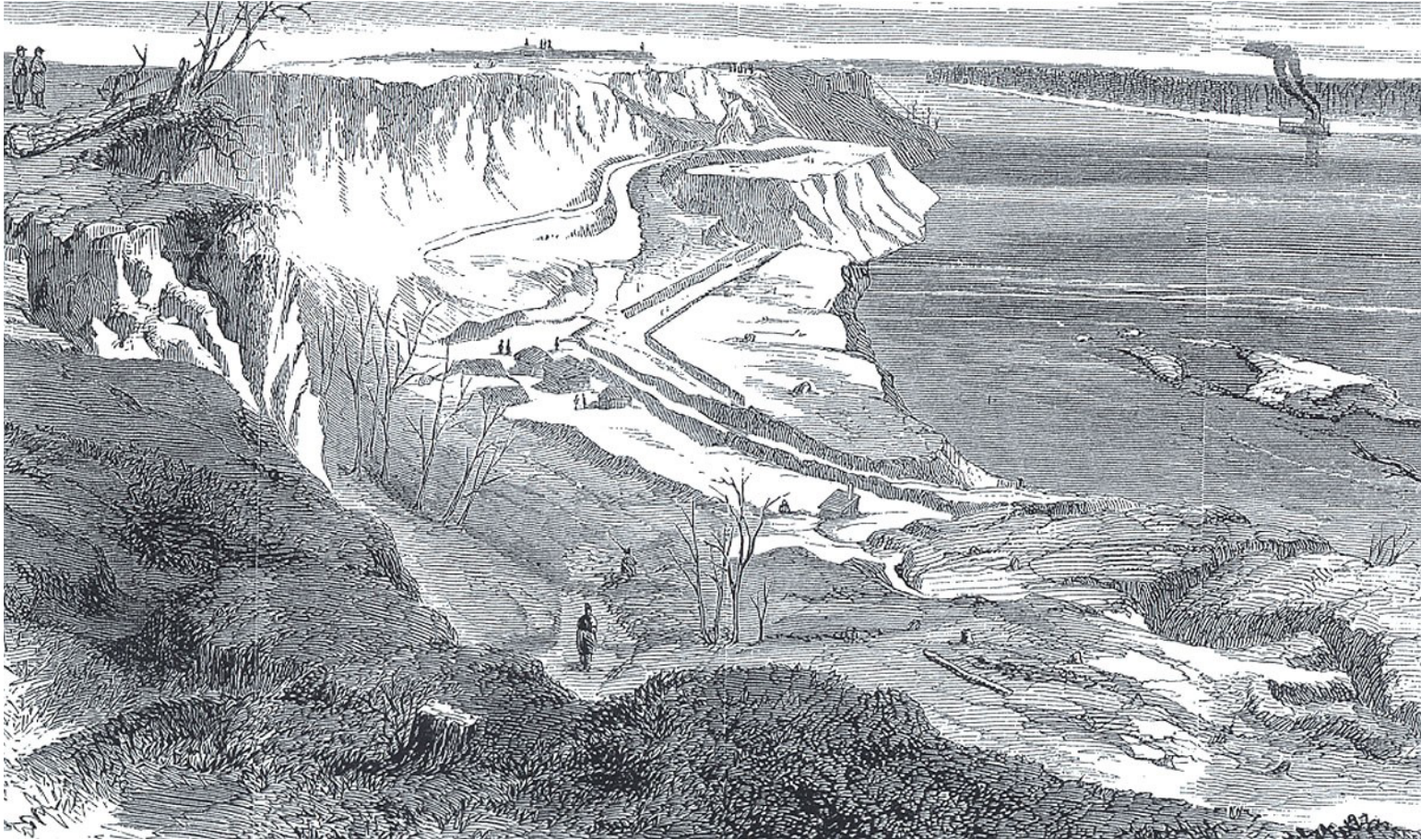
Some worked in towns.



Some worked in large cities.

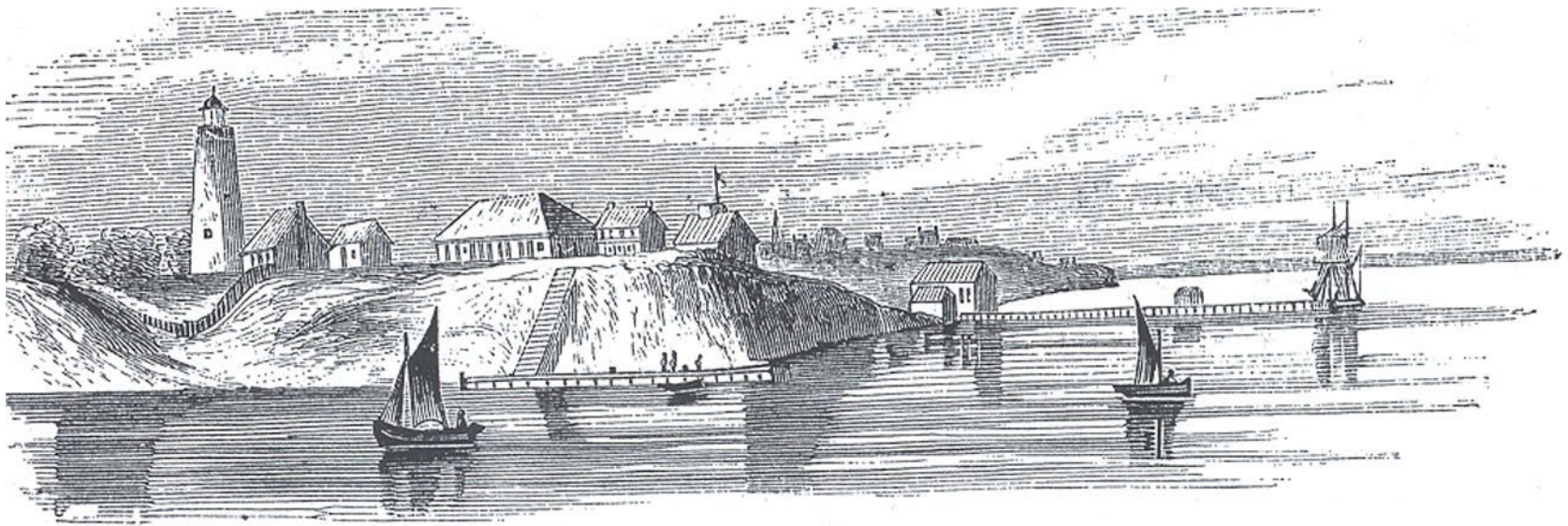


Many slaves wanted to be free. They knew that to do this they would have to leave their homes and families and travel a long dangerous route to the North, or to Canada, or to Mexico. There were different ways of doing this.



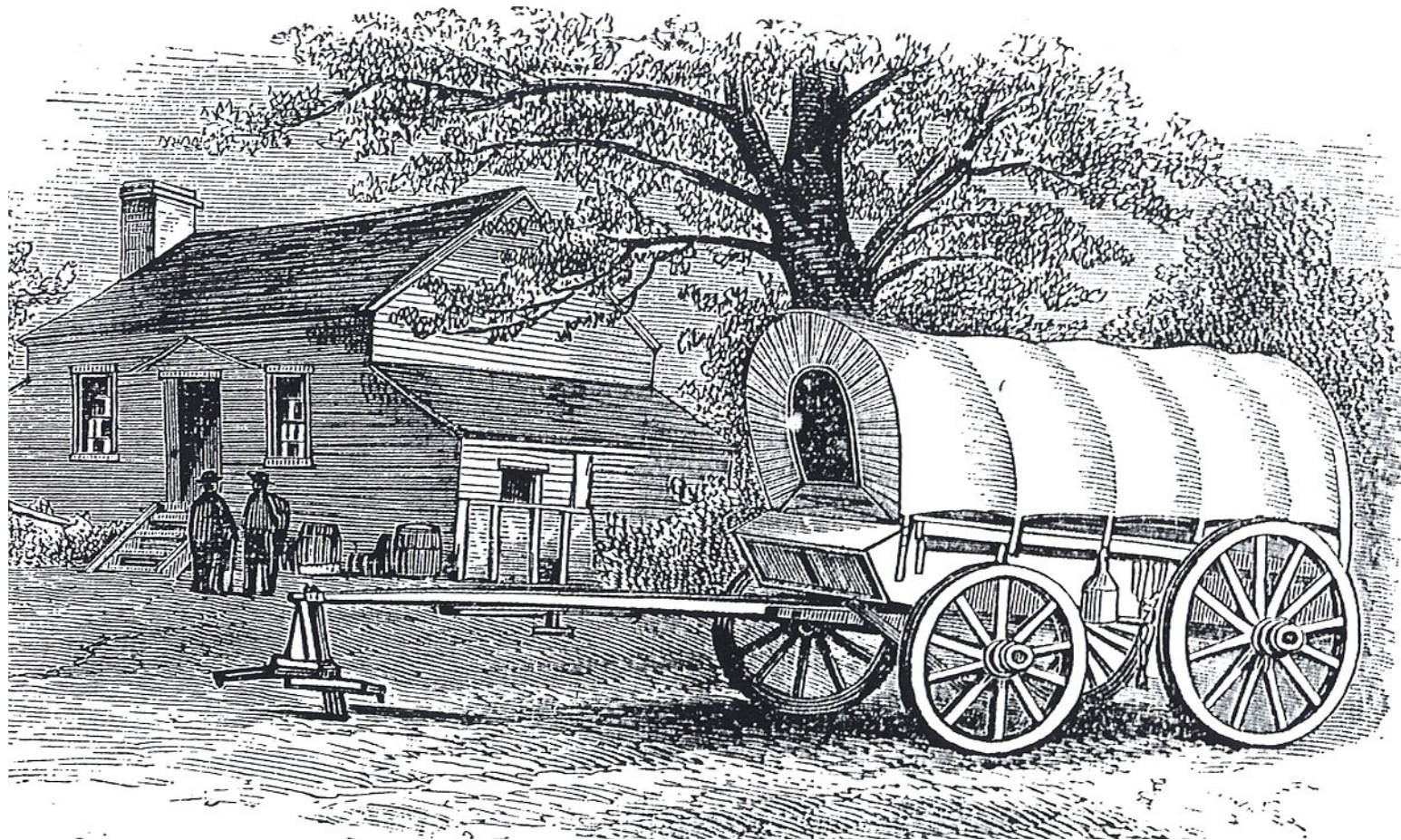
The road to freedom was always long and dangerous.

Sometimes a runaway would follow the bank of a river that they knew led to a free state. Some followed the Mississippi River up to Illinois.



1001

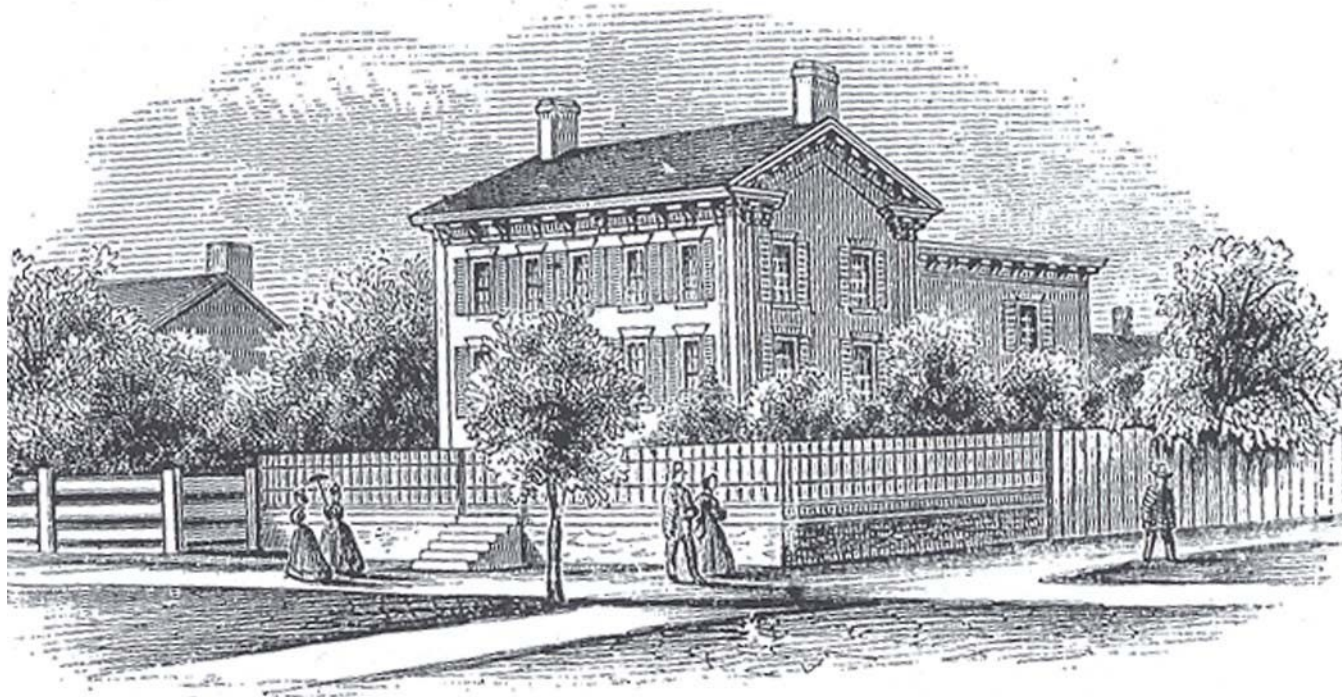
Some escaped on fishing boats that sailed to Boston, or Nantucket or Montreal.



Sometimes they were hidden in covered wagons that were headed west, beyond the borders of the United States.



Some traveled along the frontier where there were not many people to bother them. They hid in the barns of log cabins, like this one.



Sometimes they were hidden in the cellars and attics of houses in the cities until they could safely move on to the next place of refuge.

In the years before the Civil War a group of brave men and women organized to help runaway slaves escape to freedom. At first the group they founded didn't have a name.

About that time, a planter from Tennessee traveled to Kentucky to hunt for a man who had escaped from slavery by crossing the Ohio River from Kentucky to Cincinnati, Ohio. Ohio was a free state. He asked a ferryboat captain to carry him across the Ohio River. The captain told him that it would be a waste of time. He said that once a runaway slave escaped to a free state they just disappeared. He said that it was like they had "gone underground." So the group began to be called the Underground Railroad.

This is the first book in what I hope will be a series of books about the Underground Railroad. Each one will be on a website I'll be setting up soon. They are designed to be downloaded and printed on laser printers at very low cost.

Each book will be based on an actual account of an escape from slavery and the illustrations will come from works published before the Civil War.

These books are NOT copyrighted. They can be freely printed and used by anybody.

I hope you like them. If you have any questions or comments on them please e-mail me.
Happy reading.

Paul O'Donaghue
Bennington, VT