

Liberal historians carefully hide the fact from the general public, but the reality is that there were tens of thousands of black slave owners in early America, most who were not counted in the U. S. Census (Census takers were prone to vastly underreporting blacks, free and enslaved). Additionally, some black slaveholders abused and whipped their African servants, another fact that you will seldom find in pro-North, anti-South history books.

In 1830 some 3,700 free Southern blacks owned nearly 12,000 black slaves, an average of almost 4 slaves apiece. That same year in the Deep South alone nearly 8,000 slaves were owned by some 1,500 black slave owners (about five slaves apiece). In Charleston, South Carolina, as another example, between the years 1820 and 1840, 7 percent of the city's free blacks owned slaves. Furthermore, 25 percent of all free American blacks owned slaves, South and North.

It is important to remember that in 1861 the South's 300,000 white slave owners made up only 1 percent of the total U.S. white population of 30 million people. Thus, while only one Southern white out of every 300,000 owned slaves (1 percent), one Southern black out of every four owned slaves (25 percent). In other words, far more Southern blacks owned black (and sometimes white) slaves than Southern whites did: 25 percent compared to 1 percent.

Most Southern black slave owners were not only proslavery, they pro-South, supporting the Confederate Cause during Lincoln's War as fervently as any white Southerner did. At church each Sunday, thousands of blacks would pray for those blacks, both their own slaves and their free friends, who wore the Rebel uniform. Their supplications were simple: they asked God to help all African-American Confederates kill as many Yankees as possible, then return home safely.

Wealthy blacks bought, sold, and exploited black slaves for profit, just as white slave owners did. The well-known Anna Kingsley, who began life—as was nearly always the case—as a slave in her native Africa, ended up in what is now Jacksonville, Florida, where she became one of early America's many black plantation owners and slaveholders.

Some, like the African-American Metoyers, an anti-abolition family from Louisiana, owned huge numbers of black slaves; in their case, at least 400. At about \$1,500 apiece, their servants were worth a total of \$600,000, or \$20 million in today's currency. This made the Metoyers among the wealthiest people in the U. S., black or white, then or now. Louisiana's all-black Confederate army unit, the Augustin Guards, was named after the family patriarch, Augustin Metoyer.

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Black slavery was not just common among blacks. It was also found among America's 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Indians, who bought and sold African chattel right alongside black and white slave owners. In fact, one of the many reasons so many Native-Americans sided with the Southern Confederacy was that she promised to enforce the constitutional fugitive slave law in Indian Territory, making it a legal requirement to return runaway slaves to their original Indian owners.

While the average white slave owner owned five or less slaves (often only one or two), the average red slaveholder owned six. One Choctaw slaver owned 227. Again, it was non-white slave owners who individually owned the most slaves, not whites.

Slavery was practiced right up until the 1950s by some Native-American tribes, principally the Haida and the Tlingit peoples of the Pacific Northwest. Among the Haida, slaves performed all of the menial labor, ate only food scraps, were refused health care, and could not own property. And since there were no laws of protection, Haida slaves could be purchased, sold, beaten, molested, and even murdered at the whim of their owners. This is true slavery, the exact opposite of the much milder servitude experienced by Africans in the Old American South.