

# Henry Watson

Born 1813 - Narrative captured in 1848 age ~35

All quotations are Henry's and attention is paid in spelling and punctuation to convey his speech pattern and tonal inflections from the recording.

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"I will attempt to give as an accurate account of the language and ceremony of a slave auction as I possibly can:

'Gentleman here is a Likely boy!

how much?

He's sold for no fault, the owner wants money

His age is 40

200 is all that im offering for him. (roughly \$6400 today)

Pllease to examine he's warranted sound,

"Boy, pull up your shirt!

Roll up your pants!

We want to see if you've been whipped."

If they discover any scars they will not buy,

Saying that the nigger is a bad one.

The autioner seeing this cries

"300 dollars! (roughly \$9600 today)

300 dollars!

Shall I sell him for 300?

i've just been informed by his master

that he's an honest boy

and hey!

belonged to the same church that he does!”

This turns the tides frequently

and the bids go out fast

And hes knocked down for a good sum

After the men and women are sold the children are put up on the stand

I was the first put up

On my parents several voices cry

“How old is that lil nigger?” on hearing this expression I once again burst into tears and wept

so I have no distinct recollection of his answer

I was at length knicked down to a man named Denton, a slave trader then purchasing slaves for the southern market.

He first name I forgot.