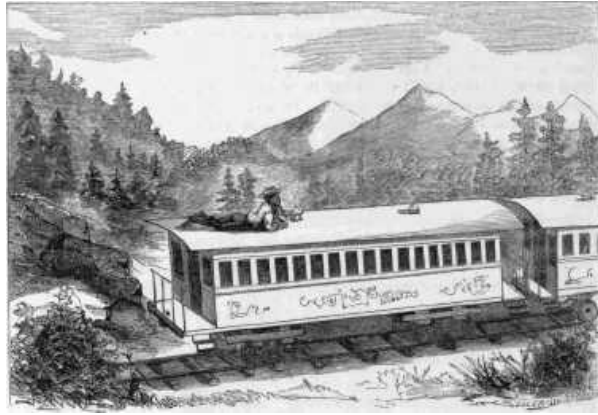




0. TRICKS AND DETERMINATION - Story Preface

1. SLAVES IN THE NEW WORLD

2. KIDNAPPED AFRICANS

3. PASSAGE TO THE NEW WORLD

4. FREEDOM - BUT NOT FOR SLAVES

5. POWERS OF THE MIND

6. REBELLION

7. ESCAPE

8. TRIPS ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

9. TRICKS AND DETERMINATION

10. FUGITIVE SLAVE LAWS

11. PUNISHMENT for HELPING RUNAWAYS

12. FORMER SLAVES BECOME ABOLITIONISTS

13. BUYING AND SELLING PEOPLE

14. A TERRIBLE TIME

15. PLANTATION LIFE

16. SPLIT-UP FAMILIES

17. LAST FREE LABOR

18. WHAT WAS IT LIKE?

19. HUMAN SPIRIT PREVAILS

William Still tells the stories of many slaves who successfully (and unsuccessfully) tried to escape slave status in his book, *The Underground Railroad*. This image depicts a slave escaping from Alabama on top of a railcar. [Image online](#), via Project Gutenberg.

With bloodhounds and patrollers on their trail, runaway slaves had to use their imagination to elude capture. Years after he was emancipated, [Walter Rimm](#) still [remembered](#) the [tricks](#) some used:

My pappy wasn't 'fraid of nothin'. He am light cullud from de white blood, and he runs away sev'ral times. Dere am big woods all round and we sees lots of run-awayes.

One old fellow name John been a run-awayer for four years and de patterrollers tries all dey tricks, but dey can't cotch him. Dey wants him bad, 'cause it 'spire other slaves to run away if he stays a-loose. Dey sots de trap for him. Dey knows he like good eats, so dey 'ranges for a quiltin' and gives chitlin's and lye hominey.

John comes and am inside when de patterrollers rides up to de door. Everybody gits quiet and John stands near de door, and when dey starts to come in he grabs de shovel full of hot ashes and throws dem into de patterrollers faces. He gits through and runs off, hollerin', "Bird in de air!"

One woman name Rhodie runs off for long spell. De hounds won't hunt her. She steals hot light bread when dey puts it in de window to cool, and lives on dat. She told my mammy how to keep de hounds from followin' you is to take black pepper and put it in you socks and run without you shoes. It make de hounds sneeze.

In short ... fugitives would do what was necessary to avoid being recaptured and forced back into slavery.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/TRICKS-AND-DETERMINATION-Slave-Voices>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

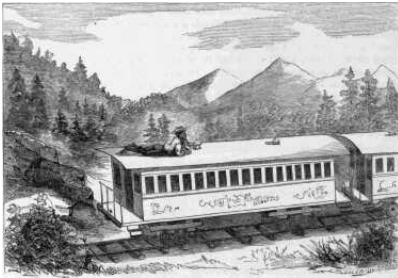
Media Stream



Walter Rimm

Image online, courtesy U.S. Library of Congress.

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TRICKS AND DETERMINATION

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