Examining American Slave Narratives

Additional Resources

Narratives featured in the presentation


Other narratives

The slave narratives listed below can be found in the Dr. Helen E. Nash Collection of African-Americana and Africana at the St. Louis Mercantile Library. Clicking each link will take you to an online copy of the narrative, thanks to Google Books and UNC’s Documenting the American South initiative.


- Steward, Austin, 1794-1860. *Twenty-Two Years a Slave, and Forty Years a Freeman: Embracing a Correspondence of Several Years, While President of Wilberforce Colony, London, Canada West*. W. Alling, 1857.


- Keckley, Elizabeth, approximately 1818-1907. *Behind the Scenes, or, Thirty Years a Slave and Four Years in the White House*. G.W. Carleton & Co, 1868.

**Federal Writers' Project**

- *Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936 to 1938* contains more than 2,300 first-person accounts of slavery and 500 black-and-white photographs of former slaves. These narratives were collected in the 1930s as part of the Federal Writers’ Project (FWP) of the Works Progress Administration, later renamed Work Projects Administration (WPA). The narratives are arranged alphabetically by the state in which the interviews took place and thereafter by the surname of the narrator.