

Many Rivers to Cross

Age of Slavery 1780-1860

Video Notes

- American Revolution was an inspiration to AA
- 700,000 slaves in America at the end of the Revolution
- Mum Bett- slave in Mass. that sued for her freedom on the grounds that slavery challenged the basic principles of the Revolution that all men are created equal
- Abolition spread through the north and became linked to religion. Evangelical Movement believed that all races equal in the eyes of God
- Richard Allen (4:07)
 - Allowed to buy his freedom
 - Became a preacher in Philadelphia (Philly center for abolitionists and free blacks)
 - It became clear freedom and equality were 2 different things
 - Many abolitionists were still racist
 - Segregation in church
 - Staged 1st sit-in and sat in white pew. Then all blacks marched out
 - Established his own black church. Proved Blacks could create and sustain their own institutions
- 1800 Gabriel Rebellion
- Cotton became King- Eli Whitney 1781 New Phase of American Slavery- desperate need for Black labor
- Land in south became extremely valuable for growing cotton which led to Indian Removal
- Second Middle Passage (16:54)- largest forced migration in US history of slaves from the upper South into the deep south to the demand for cotton labor
 - 1790-1860
 - Separation of families
 - Rape
 - Songs
- Brown Fellowship Society- free black craftsmen/tradesmen (19:58)
 - Some chose to buy slaves for themselves
 - Had to purchase their spouse but law forbid freeing them
- "Forks of the Road" 2nd largest slave market in US, from upper south to deep south
- Breeding more slaves (23:52)
 - Owners actively worked to reproduce the next generation of slaves through rape, forced pairings.
- Violence to keep slaves under control (24:52)
 - Fear, terror, shocking violence
 - Tools of torture made by slave blacksmiths
- 1831 Nat Turner Rebellion (26:44)
 - Bloodiest slave revolt in US history (60 whites killed)
- 3 things push the south into a pro-slavery propaganda craze
 - 1838 slavery ends in Britain
 - Nat Turner Revolt
 - Northern Abolition gaining strength/popularity
- Pro-Slavery Propaganda
 - Need to aggressively defend slavery to protect their way of life and profit
 - Ideological campaign and images of happy slaves
 - Slavery was natural, permanent, gift of Africans
 - Tried to prove with science different species suited for labor not intelligence
- Free blacks- racism and segregation in the North. Insecure, threatened. (32:35)
 - Refused to give up
 - Understood that as long as there was slavery no black person could truly be free
 - Started to agitate for abolition and aligned themselves with white abolitionists
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