

Voices from American Slavery

These are the voices of survivors of slavery in the southern states of America. They were interviewed between 1932 and 1975.

The interviewees are: Fountain Hughes, Charlie Smith, George Johnson, Harriet Smith, Isom Mosley, Laura Smalley and Jo McDonald. In the selected extracts they speak of slavery, families and freedom. The age of the recordings means that the sound quality is poor, please refer to the transcript available to aid understanding.

The complete interviews can be heard on the American Library of Congress website <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

Songs from American abolition

In the United States there was a campaign for the abolition of slavery similar to the British campaign. Eloquent African-American speakers such as Frederick Douglas and Sojourner Truth were at the forefront of the campaign.

Abolitionist songs were a popular way of expressing the anti-slavery message. Sometimes new words were set to familiar tunes so they would be easy to learn.

Track 1

The Song of the Abolitionist written in 1841 by William Lloyd Garrison, set to the tune of Auld Lang Syne by Robbie Burns.

Track 2

Song called Am I not a man and a brother, published in The Anti-Slavery Harp in 1848. The Anti-Slavery Harp was a collection of poems and songs published by William W Brown, who had been enslaved in Kentucky.

Songs performed by members of the Bristol Bach Choir.

Sung by members of The Bristol Bach Choir. Recorded and produced by N Ng. beneaththebed 2007.