

TEACHER'S GUIDE
Primary Source Document Collection
MISSION 2: "Flight to Freedom"

"Great Sale of Slaves" Auction Poster (1855)

The twenty-three people to be sold belonged to a Kentucky planter named John Carter. He decided to "liquidate his assets" before moving to the free state of Indiana. Cheapside, the area of Lexington mentioned in the auction notice, was the largest slave trading district in the state. Slave traders established offices, residences, and slave pens in cities throughout the South in order to be located near transportation and business hubs. It was not uncommon to see slave auctions take place in public markets and squares.

GREAT SALE
of
SLAVES
JANUARY 10, 1855

HERE Will Be Offered For Sale at Public Auction at the SLAVE MARKET, CHEAPSIDE, LEXINGTON, All The SLAVES of JOHN CARTER, Esquire, of LEWIS COUNTY, KY. On Account of His Removal to Indiana, a Free State. The Slaves Listed Below Were All Raised on the CARTER PLANTATION at QUICK'S RUN, Lewis County, Kentucky.

3 Bucks Aged from 20 to 26, Strong, Ablebodied
1 Wench, Sallie, Aged 42, Excellent Cook
1 Wench, Lize, Aged 23 with 6 mo. old Picinny
One Buck Aged 52, good Kennel Man
17 Bucks Aged from twelve to twenty, Excellent

TERMS: Strictly CASH at Sale, as owner must realize cash, owing to his removal to West. Offers for the entire lot will be entertained previous to sale by addressing the undersigned.

JOHN CARTER, Esq.
Po. Clarksburg Lewis County, Kentucky

Source: John Winston Coleman, *Slavery Times in Kentucky*, 1940.
