

SOLOMON NORTHRUP

1808 - 1863

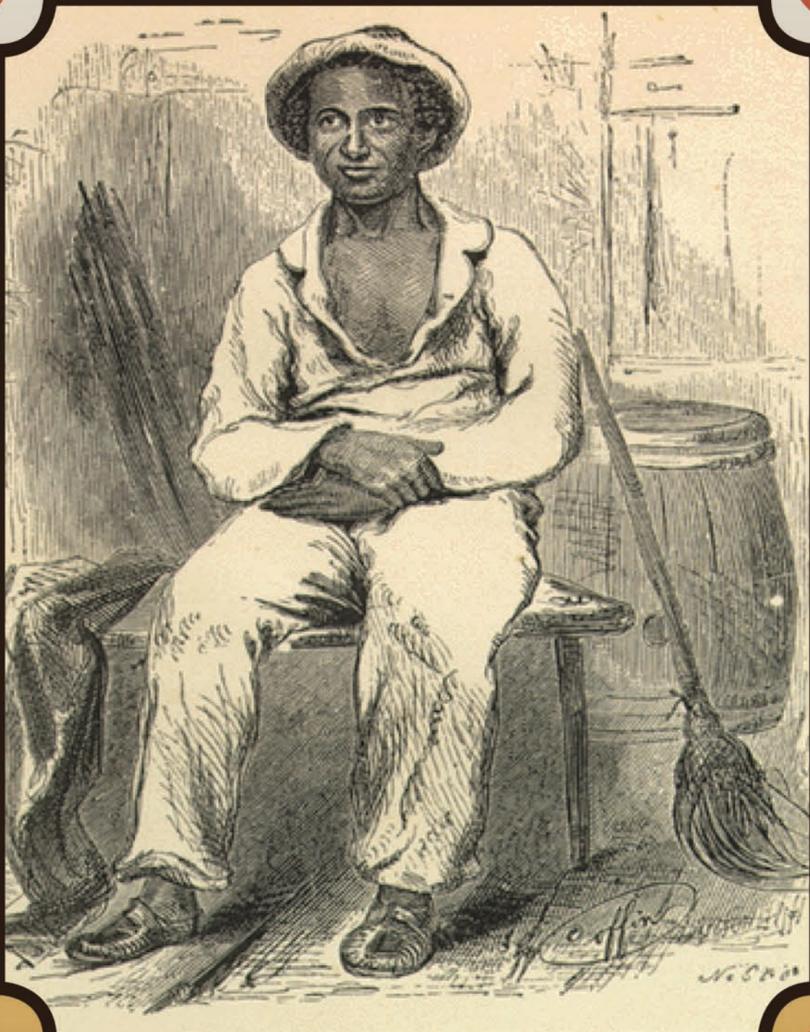


Photo courtesy of New York State Library

Solomon Northrup was born in Minerva, New York. At an early age, he demonstrated a love for music and learned to play the violin. In 1829, he married Anne Hampton and took up farming.

In 1834, Northrup sold his farm and moved to Saratoga Springs to work as a musician in the area's fashionable

hotels. In 1841, Northrup and several other musicians traveled to Washington, D.C. as part of a traveling circus. While there, he was kidnapped and sold into slavery.

Northrup was unable to contact his family until 1852, when he convinced a Canadian he befriended to send a letter home. After learning of his fate, his wife Anne and an attorney, Henry Northrup, worked to secure his freedom.

In 1853, Solomon Northrup was freed. After returning home, he became an abolitionist and wrote the book *"Twelve Years a Slave,"* which sold 30,000 copies in three years.