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INTRODUCTION

A capture can be a triumph, an achievement, or a tragedy. It all depends on the reason for it. In this book, you will read about a runaway slave. He was recaptured just before the Civil War, and was returned to slavery. The debate over slavery tore our nation apart. It was an important time for our country.

Most people are captured because they have committed crimes. During World War II, the Nazis killed millions of people. After Germany lost the war, many Nazis went into hiding. However, their crimes could not be forgotten. People who lost family members wanted justice. Most of the surviving Nazis are now elderly, but they are still pursued—and captured.

Some criminals try to escape after they are captured. Most people thought Alcatraz prison escape-proof. Do you think anyone ever made it out? In Chapter 3, you will find out.

Do you remember the Washington, DC snipers? They killed 10 people and held millions hostage. You will read how the police, the FBI, and other groups captured these cold-blooded killers.

Many people thought Saddam Hussein would never be captured. They thought he was too powerful. Yet Saddam was captured without a shot being fired. You will learn how US troops finally found him.

In each chapter of this book, you will learn about an exciting and important capture!

CHAPTER 1

Fugitive Slave Recaptured!

DATAFILE

Timeline

1850

Compromise of 1850 sets up the Fugitive Slave Act. Citizens must capture runaway slaves.

1861

The Civil War begins.

1865

The Civil War ends. Abraham Lincoln is shot.
Slavery is abolished.

Where are Virginia and Boston?



Key Terms

free state—a state that outlawed slavery

fugitive—someone who is running away

master—in the old South, the boss of slaves

slave—a person made to work against his or her will; a person who is owned by another

slave state—a state that allowed slavery



Did You Know?

The Mason-Dixon Line was the boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania. It, along with the Ohio River, was thought of as the dividing line between the slave states south of it and the free states north of it. Washington, DC, was in the South. Until 1850, Washington, DC, allowed slavery.

CHAPTER 1

Fugitive Slave Recaptured!

The Runaway

Anthony Burns was born as a slave in 1834. However, he was allowed more freedom than most. For example, he could work for other people. He just had to pay his master part of what he earned. Still, Burns wanted to be truly free.

In 1854, Burns worked in Richmond, Virginia. He heard about freedom in the North, so he boarded a ship headed for Boston. He ran away from his master, Charles Suttle.

When Burns arrived in Boston, he sent a letter back to his brother, who was also Suttle's slave.

Suttle found and read the letter. Now he knew where Burns had gone. Suttle was determined to get him back.

Back then, Americans had strong—and different—feelings about slavery. Many in the South thought they had a right to own slaves. They needed slaves to work on their large farms. Many in the North believed that slavery was wrong. As more states joined the nation, Congress tried to keep an equal number of free and slave states.

In 1850, California wanted to join the nation. It chose to be a free state. To balance this, Congress compromised. It passed the Fugitive Slave Act. This act said that everyone had to help catch runaway slaves. That even included Northerners.

The Fugitive Slave Act helped Suttle. It required the people of Boston to help him catch Anthony Burns.

Captured!

Like Burns, many slaves fled to the North. Other African Americans living in the North had never been slaves. Yet they were all being hunted down and sent to the South. Many African Americans escaped to Canada. They were not safe anywhere in the United States.

Using the Fugitive Slave Act, Charles Suttle had Burns arrested. The date was May 24, 1854. The arrest shocked the people of Boston.

Burns was held in the federal courthouse. About 2,000 angry people gathered there. They wanted to free Burns. Some charged the heavily guarded building. A deputy was stabbed and died. Still, Burns was not freed. In fact, President Franklin Pierce sent Marines to make sure Burns did not get away.

CAUTION!!

COLORED PEOPLE

OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,

You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and advised, to avoid conversing with the

**Watchmen and Police Officers
of Boston,**

For since the recent ORDER OF THE MAYOR & ALDERMEN, they are empowered to act as

KIDNAPPERS

AND

Slave Catchers,

And they have already been actually employed in KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING SLAVES. Therefore, if you value your LIBERTY, and the *Welfare of the Fugitives* among you, *Shun* them in every possible manner, as so many *HOUNDS* on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.

**Keep a Sharp Look Out for
KIDNAPPERS, and have
TOP EYE open.**

APRIL 24, 1851.

This poster warns African Americans to avoid talking to watchmen and police officers in Boston. After Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act, African Americans could be seized and sent south into slavery without a fair trial.

Convicted!

On June 2, 1854, a court convicted Burns of being a fugitive slave. That day, he was bound with chains and forced to march from the courthouse to a ship that would take him back to Virginia. About 50,000 people lined the streets of Boston to watch Burns pass. Many yelled, “Shame! Shame!” at the 2,000 troops guarding Burns. The soldiers had orders to fire upon the crowd if anyone tried to free Burns. That day, he was shipped back to Charles Suttle.

It took an African American church a year to raise enough money to buy Burns’ freedom. The cost was \$1,300, which was a great deal of money then.

Within a year, Burns was back in Boston. Now he was truly free. He attended Oberlin College for