

Donna Wyant Howell

The Breeding of Slaves

SARAH FORD: She [my mother] say de white folks don't let de slaves what works in de field marry none. Dey jus' puts a man and breedin' woman together like mules. Iffen the woman don't like the man, it don't make no diff'rence. She better go or dey gives her a hidin'.

FANNIE NORMAN: 'Twas de rule on many plantations in slave times, dat de women can't have any regular husband. Dey am fo'ced to live wid de one de Marster tells dem to. M'ybe dey live first wid one an' den a tudder man. Ise bo'n six months after Marster Jackson buys mammy, so youse see how 'twas wid my family.

ELIGE DAVISON: Massa, he bring some more women to see me. He wouldn't let me have jus' one woman. I have 'bout fifteen and I don't know how many chillen. Some over a hunerd, I's sho'.

KATIE DARLING: Massa pick out a po'tly man and a po'tly gal and jist put 'em together. What he want am the stock.

JULIA MALONE: I's ask her 'bout my father. She says dat my father am on de place, but he dies befo' I's bo'n. He was used fo' de father to sev'ral womens on de place. He was a big man. My mammy was a big women. Look at me. I's am not de runt, am I's? I's six foot fouah [four].

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I WAS A SLAVE™

True Life Stories told by former American Slaves in the 1930's

Chapter 4:
THE BREEDING OF SLAVES



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