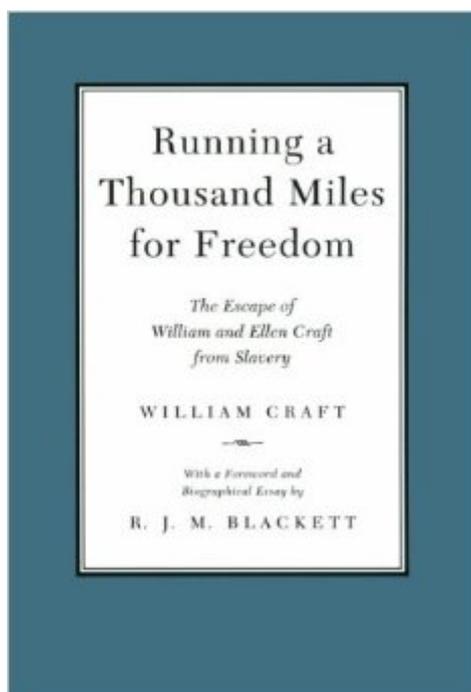


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# Running A Thousand Miles For Freedom: The Escape Of William And Ellen Craft From Slavery



## Synopsis

Husband and wife William and Ellen Craft's break from slavery in 1848 was perhaps the most extraordinary in American history. Numerous newspaper reports in the United States and abroad told of how the two -- fair-skinned Ellen disguised as a white slave master and William posing as her servant -- negotiated heart-pounding brushes with discovery while fleeing Macon, Georgia, for Philadelphia and eventually Boston. No account, though, conveyed the ingenuity, daring, good fortune, and love that characterized their flight for freedom better than the couple's own version, published in 1860, a remarkable authorial accomplishment only twelve years beyond illiteracy. Now their stirring first-person narrative and Richard Blackett's excellent interpretive pieces are brought together in one volume to tell the complete story of the Crafts.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom is a must read for all American history students and should be required reading at least at the high school level. This book gives the reader a first-person view of that "Peculiar Institution" known as slavery and to what lengths one will go to achieve personal freedom. This book will change your view of slavery forever.

I read this for a college history survey course before it was mistakenly announced that the book was out of print. The book was dropped from the syllabus, but I am glad I read it anyway. The first and shortest part of the book is William Craft's powerful account of how he and his wife Ellen executed a daring escape from servitude in Georgia. Their plan was remarkable in its ingenuity: The almost

white Ellen, outfitted with a master's clothes and a poultice on her face to prevent incriminating speech with strangers, and her husband William, disguised as a servant, escaped to freedom in the north. Travelling by rail, the pair exultantly crossed over into Canada and from thence headed for England. The second part of the book is a third person summary of the couple's travels after their ambitious escape. It follows them from Georgia through the slave and free states, in which they were well received and protected (especially in Boston), up to Halifax and across the water to England. I found the final two thirds of the book the most enjoyable, as it treated of foreign travel, in which I have a keen interest. Both portions of the book are beautifully written and often gripping. I hope a few of my classmates read this before that announcement. This book is both pleasurable to read and historically vital.

I could not stop reading this one, I had to know what would happen next. A must read for anyone interested in the struggles of this time period in history.

This book is a captivating account of the injustices of slavery and a amazing story of two fugitives running for there freedom. This book is a great story that should be taught in schools and should not be ignored in American History classes. It opened my mind to the horrors slavery actually caused. It represents a part of our history that should never be repeated. 5 plus stars.

WOW a must read for anyone that is interested in the lives of slave and free men and woman of color prior to the Civil War. Amazing recounts and original letters/writings of slaves prior to the civil war.

This true autobiographical account of slaves fleeing the South for sanctuary (which was denied them in the North) is unique. The wife passes for white but women were not allowed to travel with male slaves, so she had to disguise herself as a man and pretend to be her husband's master. However, both halves of the book in the Kindle version are reprinted twice, leading to reader confusion. It's a short account but needs no such padding.

This was a real page-turner from start to finish. It's a powerful reminder of how easily and thoroughly people can lose their humanity. Incredibly well-written and strong stuff without being graphic. I think this should be required reading for any American History class.

You should first read *Touched with Fire* by Christopher Datta. Datta's book deals with Ellen's story. This book deals more with William. Although Datta's book reads more like a novel, this book is more like a text book. Both books should be required reading for any American History student wanting to know more about slavery in the American south. Very eye opening.

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