### **Teacher Resources**

Slaves in Kentucky-Background knowledge for teacher:

4th Grade Slavery Inquiry: How did Slavery Shape my State?

<http://www.c3teachers.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/ElemIDM_Slavery.pdf>

African American Jockeys section, within this article:

Riess, Steven A. “The American Jockey, 1865-1910”, *Transatlantica*, 2011. <http://journals.openedition.org/transatlantica/5480>

### **Background Information for Teachers**

In 1875, thirteen of the fifteen horses of the first Kentucky Derby were ridden by African American men. Fifteen of the first 28 Kentucky Derby Winners were African American men who impacted their Kentucky communities. Then the presence of African American jockeys has disappeared. No African American jockey has won the Kentucky Derby since 1902. What effect did they have on their Kentucky communities? Why have African American jockeys disappeared?

Source: KentuckyDerby.com. “Kentucky Derby’s African American Legacy.” Accessed June 4, 2020.<https://www.kentuckyderby.com/history/african-americans-in-the-derby>.

### **Abe Hawkins**

**The following is a copy of Abe Hawkins profile on the Chronicle of African Americans in the Horse Industry. Check the website to view it online and to check for any updates to the profile.**

**https://africanamericanhorsestories.org/research/people/abe-hawkins**

**Childhood**

Abe Hawkins may have been born in Mississippi. Adam Bingaman, based in Natchez, Mississippi, might have enslaved Hawkins.[[1]](http://www.hemingwayapp.com/#_ftn1)

Hawkins was also known as:

* Old Abe
* Uncle Abe Hawkins
* The Black Prince
* The Dark Sage of Louisiana
* The Slayer of Lexington

Researchers are seeking more information about Hawkins’ early life.

**Career Beginnings**

In 1851, Hawkins raced at the Metairie Course near New Orleans, Louisiana. Hawkins was already a well-known jockey by 1854. Duncan Farrar Kenner, owner of the Ashland Plantation in Southern Louisiana, purchased Hawkins due to his expertise and reputation. It was during Hawkins’ time at Ashland that he rose to national prominence.[[2]](http://www.hemingwayapp.com/#_ftn2)

**Hawkins and the Lecomte - Lexington Rivalry**

Hawkins’ fame began with the April 1, 1854 Great Post Stakes in New Orleans.[[3]](http://www.hemingwayapp.com/#_ftn3)

Two well-known, undefeated horses -- Lecomte and Lexington -- faced each other in the first race, which Lexington won by four lengths. Hawkins had ridden the horse Arrow in this first race and suffered a dramatic defeat. Hawkins and Arrow finished so far behind Lexington and Lecomte that Arrow was officially disqualified.[[4]](http://www.hemingwayapp.com/#_ftn4)

Yet, this loss did not hurt Hawkins’ reputation. Lecomte’s owner requested that Hawkins ride him in the rematch against Lexington. Hawkins, aboard Lecomte, won the rematch. He also set the world record for the four mile time at seven minutes and twenty six seconds.[[5]](http://www.hemingwayapp.com/#_ftn5)

**Career Highs**

Hawkins had many more impressive wins.

● He won the Jersey Derby twice, at its first location at an unnamed track in Paterson, New Jersey.[[6]](http://www.hemingwayapp.com/#_ftn6)

● In 1866, Hawkins won the inaugural Jerome Stakes in Queens, New York.[[7]](http://www.hemingwayapp.com/#_ftn7)

● Hawkins claimed another win in 1866 at the Travers Stakes at Saratoga. He rode Woodburn’s Merrill, trained by Ansel Williamson.[[8]](http://www.hemingwayapp.com/#_ftn8)

During this part of his career, Hawkins’ competition with the Irish jockey Gilbert Watson Patrick (“Gilpatrick”) made national news. Theirs was the first, notorious, long-running rivalry in modern American sports.[[9]](http://www.hemingwayapp.com/#_ftn9)

**The Legacy of “Old Abe”**

The May 4, 1867 issue of *Turf, Field and Farm* falsely reported that Hawkins died of consumption. Days later, he read of his own demise in the *St. Louis Republican*.

After a brief recuperation, he felt well enough to travel to Cincinnati to ride in the Buckeye Jockey Club’s spring meet. Unfortunately, here the consumption returned. Hawkins died on May 27, 1867. His body was shipped back to Ashland. Hawkins’ former owner, Duncan Kenner, buried him in a site overlooking Ashland’s training track.[[10]](http://www.hemingwayapp.com/#_ftn10)

[[1]](http://www.hemingwayapp.com/#_ftnref1) Johnson, “A Legacy of Triumph.”

[[2]](http://www.hemingwayapp.com/#_ftnref2) Johnson, “A Legacy of Triumph.”

[[3]](http://www.hemingwayapp.com/#_ftnref3) Hotaling, *The Great Black Jockeys*, 143.

[[4]](http://www.hemingwayapp.com/#_ftnref4) Hotaling, 150.

[[5]](http://www.hemingwayapp.com/#_ftnref5) Hotaling, 148.

[[6]](http://www.hemingwayapp.com/#_ftnref6) Shifman, “The Jersey Derby: Now and Then.”

[[7]](http://www.hemingwayapp.com/#_ftnref7) Hotaling, 205.

[[8]](http://www.hemingwayapp.com/#_ftnref8) Mooney, *Race Horse Men*.

[[9]](http://www.hemingwayapp.com/#_ftnref9) Hotaling, *The Great Black Jockeys*, 188.

[[10]](http://www.hemingwayapp.com/#_ftnref10) Mooney, *Race Horse Men*.

**Sources:**

*Evening Star*. 1905, August 6, 1905. Historic American Newspapers. Chronicling America.

Hotaling, Edward. 1999. *The Great Black Jockeys: The Lives and Times of the Men Who Dominated America’s First National Sport*. Rocklin, Calif.: Forum.

Johnson, Annie. 2014. “A Legacy of Triumph: The Red Fox of the South & Old Abe of Ashland Plantation.” *Deep South Magazine* (blog). March 3, 2014.<https://deepsouthmag.com/2014/03/03/a-legacy-of-triumph-the-red-fox-of-the-south-old-abe-of-ashland-plantation/>.

Lind, Angus. 1997. “Local Jockey Made Racing History.” *The Times-Picayune*, February 23, 1997. [https://web.archive.org/web/20150702003412/http://ashlandbelle.com/famousjockey.html](https://web.archive.org/web/20150702003412/http:/ashlandbelle.com/famousjockey.html).

Moïse, Theodore Sydney. 1867. *Life on the Metairie*. Oil painting.

Mooney, Katherine. 2014. *Race Horse Men: How Slavery and Freedom Were Made at the Racetrack*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

Perreault, Matthew. 2016. “Jockeying for Position: Horse Racing in New Orleans, 1865-1920.” Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Louisiana State University.<https://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/gradschool_theses/3455>.

Shifman, Matt. n.d. “The Jersey Derby: Now and Then.” Horse Racing Nation. Accessed November 25, 2019. [https://www.horseracingnation.com/blogs/Monmouth/The\_Jersey\_Derby\_Now\_and\_Then\_123#](https://www.horseracingnation.com/blogs/Monmouth/The_Jersey_Derby_Now_and_Then_123)

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### **Oliver Lewis**

Black jockeys first earned considerable prominence at southern tracks. At the inaugural Kentucky Derby in 1875, won by Oliver Lewis on Aristides. Black riders won 15 of the first 28 Derbies. Blacks rode regularly in New Orleans at Metairie and the Fair Grounds without any apparent incidents. (Hotaling, 1999, 230-31; Somers, 112-13).

Source:

Steven A. Riess, “The American Jockey, 1865-1910”, *Transatlantica* [Online], 2 | 2011, Online since 16 June 2012, connection on 04 June 2020. http://journals.openedition.org/transatlantica/5480

**See also: Oliver Lewis person profile on Chronicle website**

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### **Issac Murphy**

The preeminent African American jockey in the 1880s, if not the best jockey in the United States was Isaac Burns Murphy. According to L.P. Tarelton, the former owner of the Fleetwood Stables, “I have seen all the great jockeys of England and this country for years back, but all in all Isaac Murphy is the greatest of them all.” (136). Son of a bricklayer who fought with the union army, Murphy started racing at 12 under his given name of Isaac Burns. He soon became known as the “colored Archer,” after the great British rider Fred Archer. By 1882 he was earning $20,000 a year, including a $10,000 retainer from horseman Lucky Baldwin, retainer fees from other leading horsemen like Ed Corrigan and James Ben Ali Haggin, plus $25 for winning any race and $15 for losing. In 1884, Murphy won the first American Derby in Chicago and captured three more American Derbies in the next four years. Murphy won his first Kentucky Derby in 1884, and was the first to win two straight Kentucky Derbies in 1891 and 1892 (Wiggins 21-33; Trenton Daily True American, 4 June 1890; Hotaling, 1999, 239-75).

Murphy claimed to have won 44 percent of his races (628 out of 1,412), although a recent review puts the record at 34 percent (530 out of 1,538), still an outstanding achievement. Murphy earned $250,000 over his career, leaving at least $30,000 when he died of pneumonia in 1896 at the age of thirty-five. Murphy’s early demise was possibly a product of his constant efforts to keep off weight through crash dieting, sweat baths, and intense exercising (Hotaling, 1999, 272). When Murphy, West or Tony Hamilton was substituted for some other jockey, the betting odds tumbled.

Source: Steven A. Riess, “The American Jockey, 1865-1910”, *Transatlantica* [Online], 2 | 2011, Online since 16 June 2012, connection on 04 June 2020. http://journals.openedition.org/transatlantica/5480

**See also: Isaac Murphy person profile on Chronicle website**

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### **Dudley Allen**

The following is an excerpt from the story, *Notable Partnerships* on the Chronicle of African Americans in the Horse Industry. Check the website for any updates to the story and to view it online: **https://africanamericanhorsestories.org/explore/stories/notable-partnerships**

. . . Dudley Allen, partnered with Kinzea Stone to form Jacobin Stable.

## **Jacobin Stable**

Jacobin is a possible nod to the Haitian revolutionary leader, Black Jacobin Toussaint L’Ouverture.[[2]](https://live-imh-ci.pantheonsite.io/explore/stories/notable-partnerships#_ftn2) L’Ouverture, who fought for the independence of Haiti from France, could have been a symbol of pride and possibility for a former American slave. Under the repurposed Jacobin name, Allen employed a number of notable African American jockeys to ride in his colors, wine, yellow and blue, including:

* Isaac Murphy
* Oliver Lewis
* Joseph Johnson

However, the stable name also hid the fact that an African American owner was a man with power. Descendants of Allen’s business partner Kinzea Stone noted that “the Jacobin Stable alias was used to conceal the names of the partners, because Allen was a Negro and such business arrangements were frowned on.”[[3]](https://live-imh-ci.pantheonsite.io/explore/stories/notable-partnerships#_ftn3) Jacobin Stable would be both a statement of racial pride and celebration of freedom while also a camouflage to protect them.

**See also: Dudley Allen person profile on Chronicle website**

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### **African American Women in the Horse Industry**

The following is an excerpt from the story “Holding the Purse Strings” on the Chronicle of African Americans in the Horse Industry. **https://africanamericanhorsestories.org/explore/stories/holding-purse-strings**

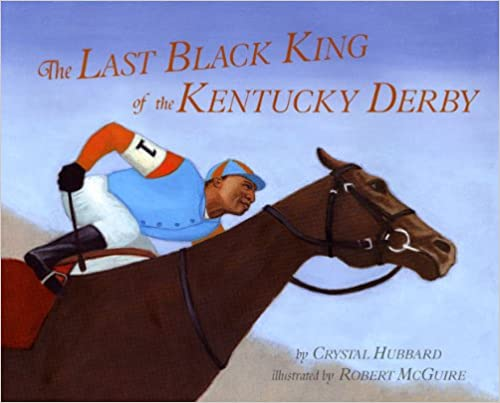
Between the 1860 and 1870 censuses, Lexington’s African American population increased by 133 percent in Kentucky. African American women whose husbands were in the horse industry became landowners from their husband’s earnings. During this time, women ran the house financially due to their husband’s busy schedule. Though it was illegal, these women opened bank accounts and purchased land for their families.

**See also: all stories in the theme Woman Up**

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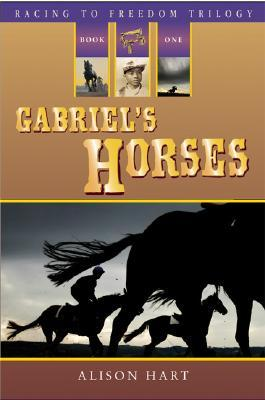
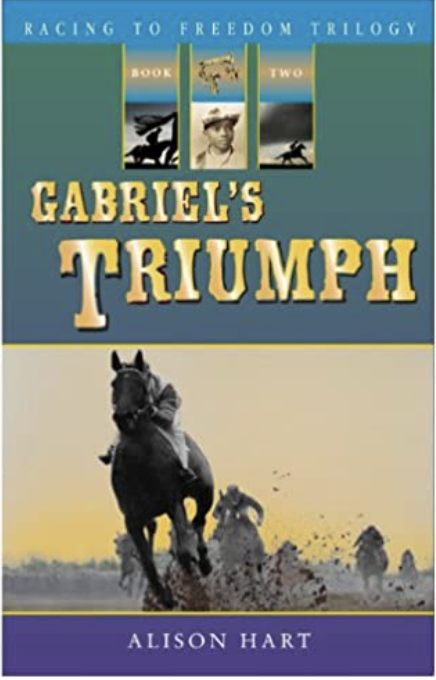
### **Background Information for Students**

**Books to use on Day 3 of module or throughout the lessons**

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Hubbard, Crystal. *The Last Black King of the Kentucky Derby: The Story of Jimmy Winkfield*. 2008.

**Books for older students**

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Hart, Alison. *Gabriel’s Horses: Book One*. Atlanta: Peachtree, 2007.

Hart, Alison. *Gabriel’s Triumph: Book Two*. Atlanta: Peachtree, 2007.

Hart, Alison. *Gabriel’s Journey: Book Three*. Atlanta: Peachtree, 2007.