

IT'S NOT ABOUT SLAVERY IT'S ABOUT PLAGIARISM

Sixty-six academics have examined passages, such as those below, and have concluded that **Douglas Wilson and Steve Wilkins would fail** if they were their students. Please judge for yourselves.

Southern Slavery, As It Was
Douglas Wilson & Steve Wilkins
(Moscow, Idaho: Canon Press, 1996)

Time on the Cross
R.W. Fogel & S.L. Engerman
(New York: Little & Brown, 1974)

Southern Slavery, As It Was

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cluded a count of slave houses. These data show that on average there were 5.2 slaves per house on large plantations. The number of persons per free household was 5.3. The single-family household was the rule.³⁷

The quality of housing varied. Comments of observers suggest that the most typical slave houses of the late *ante bellum* period were cabins about eighteen by twenty feet. They usually had one or two rooms. Lofts, where the children slept, were also quite common. Windows were not glazed, but closed by wooden shutters. Chimneys were of brick or stone. Building material was either logs or wood. Floors were usually planked and raised off the ground.

Such housing may sound mean by modern standards but actually compared well with the homes of free workers in the *ante bellum* era. The typical slave cabin probably contained more sleeping space per person than was available to most of New York City's working-class in 1900.³⁸

The medical care was good. Generally, the slaves received the same medical care the family received. The doctor attending to the slaves was usually the same doctor who ministered to the planter's family. Good medical care is reflected in the statistics for life expectancy. U.S. slaves had much longer life expectations than free urban industrial workers in *both* the United States and Europe.

The Problems of Slavery

Slavery *was* attended with evils. As it existed in the South, it was not in any way perfect or utopian. But too often the *real* problems with slavery were not the problems we have been told about. However, as discussed earlier, Christians should be quick to notice the discrepancies between biblical slavery and that practiced in the South. These differ-

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without windows. Chimneys were constructed of twigs and clay; floors were either earthen or made of planks resting directly on the earth.

Comments of observers suggest that the most typical slave houses of the late antebellum period were cabins about eighteen by twenty feet. They usually had one or two rooms. Lofts, on which the children slept, were also quite common. Windows were not glazed, but closed by wooden shutters. Some houses also had rear doors. Chimneys were usually constructed of brick or stone. The building material was usually logs or wood. Seams in the log cabins were sealed by wooden splints and mud. Floors were usually planked and raised off the ground.

While such housing is quite mean by modern standards, the houses of slaves compared well with the housing of free workers in the antebellum era. It must be remembered that much of rural America still lived in log cabins in the 1850s. And urban workers lived in crowded, filthy tenements. One should not be misled by the relatively spacious accommodations in which U.S. working-class families live today. That is an achievement of very recent times. As late as 1893, a survey of the housing of workers in New York City revealed that the median number of square feet of sleeping space per person was just thirty-five. In other words, the "typical" slave cabin of the late antebellum era probably contained more sleeping space per person than was available to most of New York City's workers half a century later.

The best information on clothing comes from the records of large plantations. These indicate that a fairly standard annual issue for adult males was four shirts (of cotton), four pairs of pants (two of cotton and two of wool), and one or two pairs of shoes. Adult women were issued four dresses per year, or the material needed to make four dresses. Hats were also typically issued annually (women received headkerchiefs). Blankets were issued once every two or three years. There seems to have been much more variability in

We have found at least twenty-one other examples, and you can view them at the website below. Wilson has pulled the booklet from local shelves, but it is still being sold on the neo-Confederate League of the South website, where Wilkins is listed as senior adviser to the Board of Directors.

www.tomandrodna.com/notonthepalouse/Plagiarism.htm

Concerned Academics of the Palouse