coming; at the end of the year 1837 I spoke to Mr. J., he told me he had been in Louisiana, it was a very fine country, but sickly; I told him I believed I would come over here and look at it any how; he asked me when I was coming; I told him some time after christmas I would start.

In the month of January, 1838, there came two men to Mr. J.'s; they were travelling, and said they were from North Carolina, Orange county; I knew nothing of them. Mr. J. was some acquainted with them; he made me acquainted with them, and called their names; they staid there some four or five days; the weather was very cold; they told me they were coming to the State of Louisiana; I then told them I would come with them, if they would wait until I got ready to come; they said they would wait for me; I commenced getting ready to start with the man; they were coming here to follow overseering; the day came for us to start. About the 22d of January, we left Madison county, Mississippi, for the State of Louisiana; went on to Natchez, on the Mississippi river; there we thought we would put our horses on board of a steamboat and come to Alexandria, on Red River; my horse was very unruly; he did not like the steamboat; I had to sell him; I thought I could buy another after I got to Alexandria; the other men put their horses on board; I did not like to travel on the steamboat, for I had heard so much of their blowing up, I was completely frightened all the time, and very uneasy; it was the first time I had ever travelled on one, and I thought it would be the last, if I got to my journey's end; we came on the Davy Crockett, she ran from Natchez to Alexandria; we got on very well until about 12 o'clock in the night, when near the mouth of Red river, she caught fire; alarm was given; I ran in to the lady's cabin, and commenced hollooing fire as loud as I could, to wake them up; I had not gone to bed that night for I felt so uneasy I could not sleep; the fire was soon put out; we then entered Red river; we went 50 or 60 miles up the river, and the main shaft of the engine broke; we drifted until we struck the bank and made fast to a tree. That night there came a boat down the river; we rang our bell; she went on by us, and would not come to our assistance; the next morning another boat came down and stopped to assist us, she carried our boat back to the mouth, where we had to stay until there came a boat going up Red river. The next morning about sun rise there came a boat by; we got on her and were ready to start about ten in the morning; the two men that were with me thought they would take it by land, as long as they had their horses; I had sold mine in Natchez; they left me and said they would go on by the way of Bayou DeGlaise, go up Bayou Boeuf, and meet me in Alexandria; the boat left, we went on very well, for that was a very fine boat; we arrived next morning at Alexandria, I left the boat, and went to Mr. R. G. L's. tavern, and put up with him: this was my first arrival in Louisiana, Rapides Parish, in Alexandria; this was in 1838, in February. I was a complete stranger there. About 17 or 18 miles from Alexandria, on Bayou Bœuf, there was a man by the name of Mr. J. B. who had been but a few months in the state. Mr. B. came from the same neighborhood I was from, I knew him well, and he knew me from my cradle; there was another man by the name of Mr. R. C., he was formerly from North Carolina, I did not know him, but I had heard him spoken of before I left N. C. Mr. R. C. had sent his son Wm. C. on to North Carolina to receive his education, I became well acquainted with Wm. C. in N. C. before I left, for we had spent a good many days together when I was a boy; I had often heard Mr. W. C. speak of his father in Louisiana. I set out to go and see my friend Mr. J. B. on Bayou Bœuf; I hired a horse in Alexandria, it was a very cold day; I arrived at my friends, Mr. J. 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