

## Transcript

### Miriam Monroe, Harrison and Waterford, shares memories of her Grandfather, the Abolitionist.

My Grandfather Whitney was an Abolitionist. Every Sunday he would come back to the old farm where he lived. He was— For his day, he was a scientific farmer. He tried all kinds of things and he was known throughout the state for his apple orchards and his— He had the first Jersey cows in the state, tried peaches. I guess he wasn't a very good financial planner, so he had trouble at the end of his life and had to sell his farm. But he was quite a well known farmer in the vicinity and he would go to church and come back to the farm and take a little book of abolitionist songs and Grandpa, after dinner, would go out in the summer kitchen and sing those songs from the little book and mother said she could remember him walking round and round getting excited and disturbed about the plight of the slaves.

Songs that belonged to my Grandfather Edward K. Whitney who was an abolitionist and Sundays he would take the little book and go into the summer kitchen and read and improvise tunes to set the poems to music. I-I chose one to uh- use in this biography of my uh- grandfather and it isn't typical, exactly. It's the song of the coffle gang and a coffle gang was a chained uh- group of prisoners who worked on the roads and they sang their Negro songs. I chose this because it did give a little more history and wasn't all— well, it's all emotion.

Children taken from parents, husbands from wives and brothers from sisters.  
See these poor souls from Africa transported to America.  
We're stolen and sold to Georgia. Will you go along with me?  
We're stolen and sold to Georgia. Go sound the jubilee.  
See wives and husbands sold apart. The children's screams, it breaks my heart.  
There's a better day a comin'. Will you go along with me?  
There's a better day a comin'. Go sound the jubilee.  
Oh gracious Lord when shall it be that we poor souls shall all be free?  
Lord, break them slavery powers. Will you go along with me?  
Lord, break them slavery powers. Go sound the jubilee.  
Dear Lord, dear Lord, when will slavery, -slavery cease?  
When we poor souls can have our peace.  
There's a better day a comin'. Will you go along with me?  
There's a better day a comin'. Go sound the jubilee.