

The 7th Perjury

The Truth about Nat Turner's Trial

-- Sharon Ewell Foster

ECCSSA Conference 2013
Dulles, VA

The 7th Perjury—

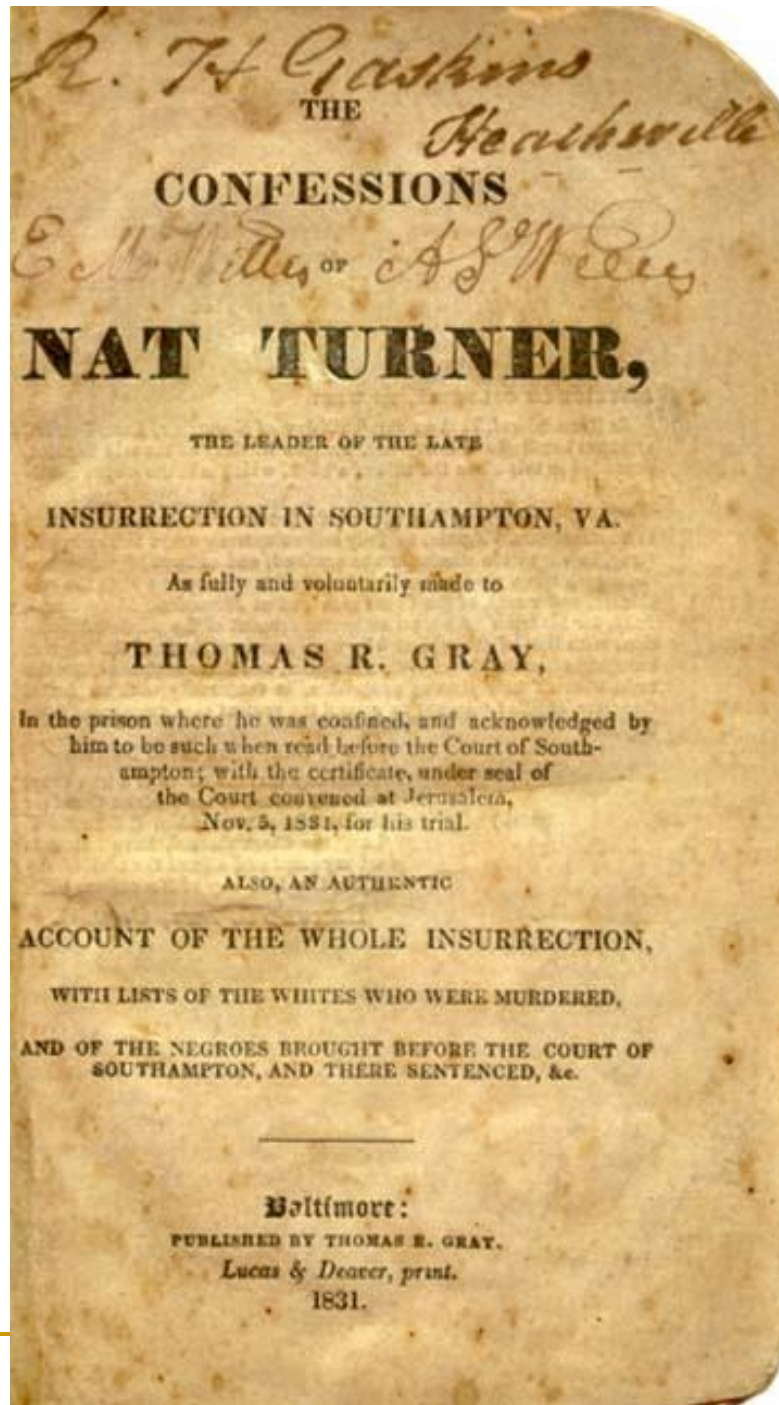


The truth about Nat Turner's Trial

- Nat Turner, Slave Rebel
 - Born 1800
 - Southampton County, Cross Keys, outside Jerusalem, Virginia
 - Led a slave revolt
 - Over 50 whites dead
 - Tried Nov 5, 1831, Jerusalem
 - The Confessions of Nat Turner by Thomas Gray, Nov 10, 1831
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THE CONFESSIONS OF NAT TURNER, THE LEADER OF THE LATE INSURRECTION IN SOUTHAMPTON, VA.

As fully and voluntarily made to
THOMAS R. GRAY,
In the prison where he was confined, and
acknowledged by
him to be such when read before the Court of
Southampton;
with the certificate, under seal of
the Court convened at Jerusalem,
Nov. 5, 1831, for his trial.

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The truth about Nat Turner's Trial

- **JEREMIAH COBB, [Seal.]**
THOMAS PRETLOW, [Seal.]
JAMES W. PARKER, [Seal.]
CARR BOWERS, [Seal.]
SAMUEL B. HINES, [Seal.]
ORRIS A. BROWNE, [Seal.]

State of Virginia, Southampton County, to wit:

I, James Rochelle, Clerk of the County Court of Southampton in the State of Virginia, do hereby certify, that Jeremiah Cobb, Thomas Pretlow, James W. Parker, Carr Bowers, Samuel B. Hines, and Orris A. Browne, esqr's are acting Justices of the Peace, in and for the County

- **Missing signatures:**
 - ❑ James Massenburg,
 - ❑ Robert Goodwin,
 - ❑ Richard Urquardt,
 - ❑ and **James Trezvant**

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The truth about Nat Turner's Trial

- **Levi Waller** deposed as follows: (*agreeably to Nat's own Confession.*)
- **Col. Trezvant**, narrated Nat's Confession to him, as follows: (*his Confession as given to Mr. Gray.*)
- Jeremiah Cobb, Esq. Chairman, pronounced the sentence of the court, in the following words: "Nat Turner! Stand up. Have you any thing to say why sentence of death should not be pronounced against you?"
- **Ans. I have not. I have made a full confession to Mr. Gray, and I have nothing more to say.**

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The truth about Nat Turner's Trial

- **Levi Waller – Trial # 1**
- Date: 31 August, 1831
- Defendants: Daniel, Jack, Moses, Tom, Jack, Davy, Andrew, Stephen, Curtis
- Judges: Jeremiah Cobb, James Massenburg, Meriwether Peete, James Trezvant, Orres Browne
- Defense Attorneys William Parker and James French
- Prosecution Witness: At home, surprised by slaves mounted on horseback, guns, swords, escaped, hiding, saw Sam, Daniel, Aaron go in & come out w necklace

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The truth about Nat Turner's Trial

- **Levi Waller – Trial # 2**
 - Date: 3 September, 1831
 - Defendants: Sam – owner N. Francis
 - Judges: James Trezvant, Orres Browne, C Bowers, W Goodwyn, R Goodwyn
 - Defense Atty: Thomas Gray
 - Prosecution Witness: Mentions Sam by name. Saw Sam go into house.
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The truth about Nat Turner's Trial

- **Levi Waller – Trial # 3**
 - Date: 3 September, 1831
 - Defendants: Hark – owner J. Travis (N. Francis)
 - Judges: James Trezvant, Orres Browne, C Bowers, W Goodwyn, R Goodwyn
 - William Parker
 - Prosecution Witness: Mentions Hark for first time. Saw him w gun in hand. “Captain Moore”. Still no mention of Nat Turner.
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The truth about Nat Turner's Trial

- **Levi Waller – Trial # 4**
- Date: 3 September, 1831
- Defendants: Davy – owner Levi Waller
- Judges: James Trezvant, Orres Browne, C Bowers, W Goodwyn, R Goodwyn
- William Parker
- Prosecution Witness: Davy came up while insurgents were there. Dressed himself clean. Insurgents drinking; Davy drank w them. Took Waller's horse. Road off w them in great glee.

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The truth about Nat Turner's Trial

- **Levi Waller – Trial # 5**
 - Date: 5 September, 1831
 - Defendants: Dred – owner N. Francis
 - Judges: James Trezvant, Orres Browne, C Bowers, S Massenburg, B Griffin, R Goodwyn
 - James French
 - Prosecution Witness: First mention of Dred on horseback, w gun or rifle, did not know which. Dred did not see Waller hidden near fence. Crept back near house, saw Dred drinking w others
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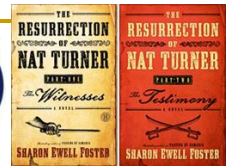
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- **Levi Waller – Trial # 6**
 - Date: 28 September, 1831
 - Defendants: Sam – owner Peter Edwards (Testified on Sam's behalf)
 - Judges: James Trezvant, Orres Browne, C Bowers, S Massenburg, B Griffin, R Goodwyn
 - James French
 - Prosecution Witness: Waller hid in bushes near the house, SAW two people kill his family, heard NAT tell prisoner get on his horse, reluctantly went w insurgents
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The truth about Nat Turner's Trial

- **Levi Waller – Trial # 7**
 - Date: 5 November, 1831
 - Defendants: **Nat Turner** – owner Putnam Moore (N Francis)
 - Judges: Jeremiah Cobb, Samuel Hines, James Massenburg, James Parker, Robert Goodwin, James Trezvant, Orres Browne, Carr Bowers, Thomas Pretlow, Richard Urquardt
 - **Defense Atty: William Parker**
 - Prosecution Witness: Waller heard, around 9 or 10 am, that the slaves had risen, were murdering whites, and were coming. Sent his son Thos to schoolhouse (1/4 mi from home) to alert schoolmaster, sent for children to come home. Schoolmaster came w children, Waller told them to go to Waller house and load guns.
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The truth about Nat Turner's Trial

- **Levi Waller – Trial # 7**
- **Date: 5 November, 1831**
- **Defendants: Nat Turner – owner Putnam Moore (N Francis)**
- **Judges: James Trezvant, Orres Browne, C Bowers, S Massenburg, B Griffin, R Goodwyn**
- **Defense Atty: William Parker**
- **Prosecution Witness: (continued)**
Before guns were loaded, schoolmaster came back and told him insurgents were on the way. Witness retreated and hid in weeds, near fence, behind garden. Insisted he SAW his family being murdered.

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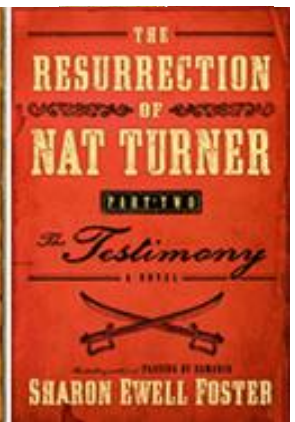
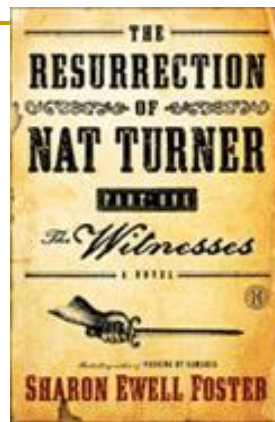
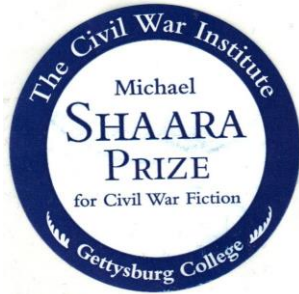
- **Levi Waller – Trial # 7**
 - Date: 5 November, 1831
 - Defendants: **Nat Turner** – owner Putnam Moore (N Francis)
 - Judges: James Trezvant, Orres Browne, C Bowers, S Massenburg, B Griffin, R Goodwyn
 - **Defense Atty: William Parker**
 - Prosecution Witness: (continued) Levi Waller confessed: **during the attack, Waller was at his STILL**
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The truth about Nat Turner's Trial

- **James Trezvant – Trial # 7**
 - Date: 5 November, 1831
 - Defendants: **Nat Turner** – owner Putnam Moore (N Francis)
 - Judges: James Trezvant, Orres Browne, C Bowers, S Massenburg, B Griffin, R Goodwyn
 - **Defense Atty: William Parker**
 - Following Waller's testimony, Trezvant gave Nat Turner's testimony. Nat Turner yelled in court that he had never done anything for money.
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"Every once in a while a book shakes the very foundation of what you believe, like Alex Haley's *Autobiography of Malcolm X*. *The Resurrection of Nat Turner* is in that category. This is a liberating book, both psychologically and historically."--**Dr. Ray Winbush**, professor, historian and consultant on the PBS film, *Nat Turner: A Troublesome Property*

"Foster uses her strong research skills . . . turning historical names into living, breathing humans..."--**Kirkus Review**

"fast-paced . . . riveting and expertly told by an inspired, practiced storyteller."--**Publishers Weekly**

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