

# LaGumbo

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## My Folks Don't Want Talking 'Bout Slavery

*Story is based on a 1930 interview with Sarah Debro, 90*

"Marse Cain was good to his niggers. He didn't whip them like some others did, but if they done mean, he sold them. They knew this so they minded him. One day Grandpappy sassed Miss Polly White, and she told him that if he didn't behave hisself that she would out him in her pocket."

What did Miss Polly mean by what she told Grandpappy? \_\_\_\_\_

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Stories are based on oral history interviews from the book titled: My Folks Don't Want Me to Talk 'Bout Slavery, Edited by Belinda Hurmence, 2002

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*From the Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*

"I was born in Maryland. I have no knowledge of my age. Most slaves know as little of their ages as horses know of theirs, and it is the wish of most masters to keep their slaves ignorant of their birthdays. I do not remember to have ever met a slave who could tell you when his birthday was. Not having this information concerning my birthday was a source of unhappiness to me during childhood."

Why did Douglass not know his birthday? \_\_\_\_\_

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*Story is based on a 1930 interview with Willis Cozart, 92*

"I's seed niggers beat till the blood run, and I's seed plenty more with big scars, from whippings, but they was plenty bad ones. You was whupped according to the deed you done in them days. A moderate whupping was thirty-nine or forty lashes, and a real whupping was a even hundred; most folks can't stand a real whupping."

Give me an idea of a 'bad whupping'. \_\_\_\_\_

What might be a mild whupping? \_\_\_\_\_

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