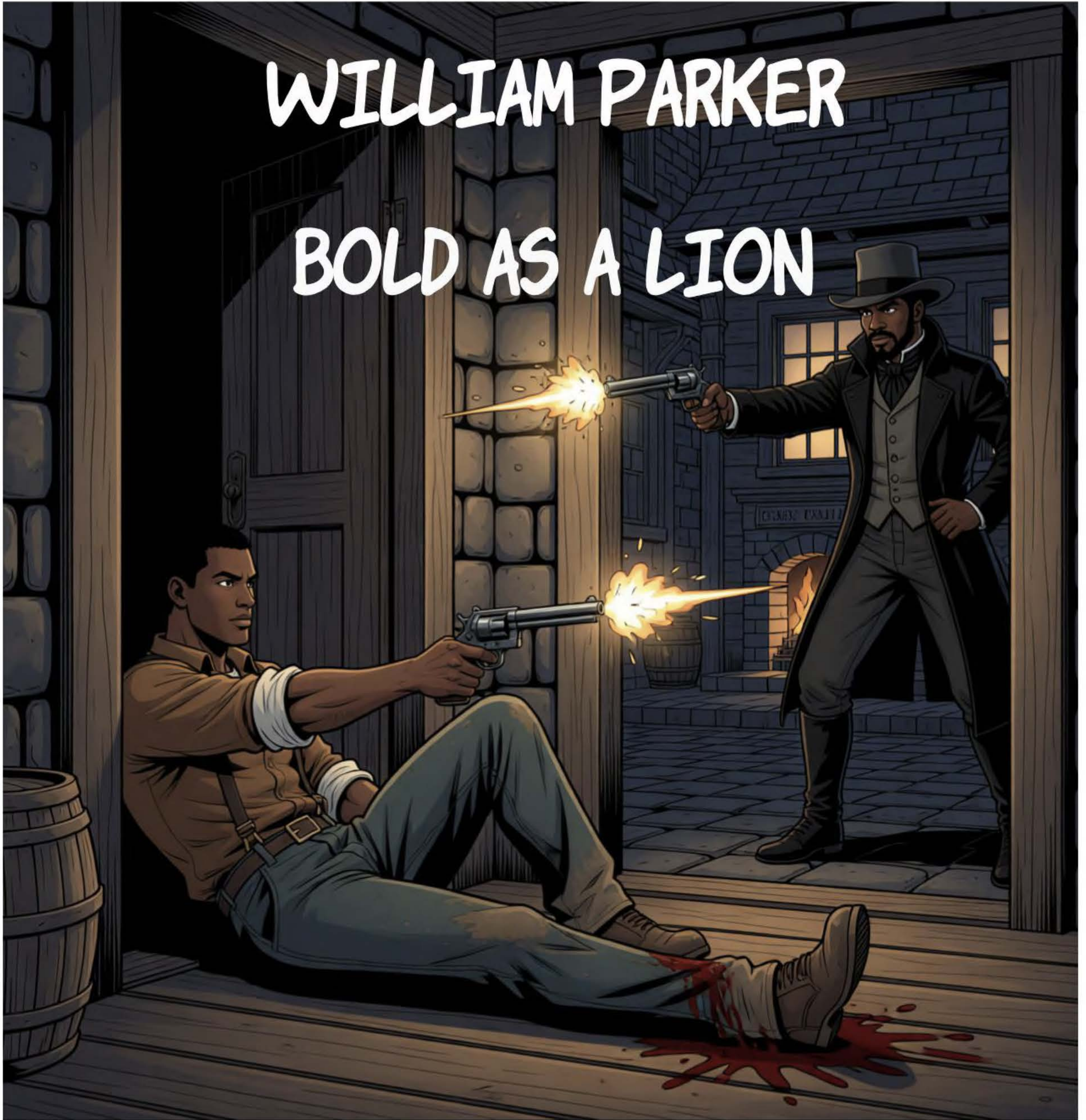
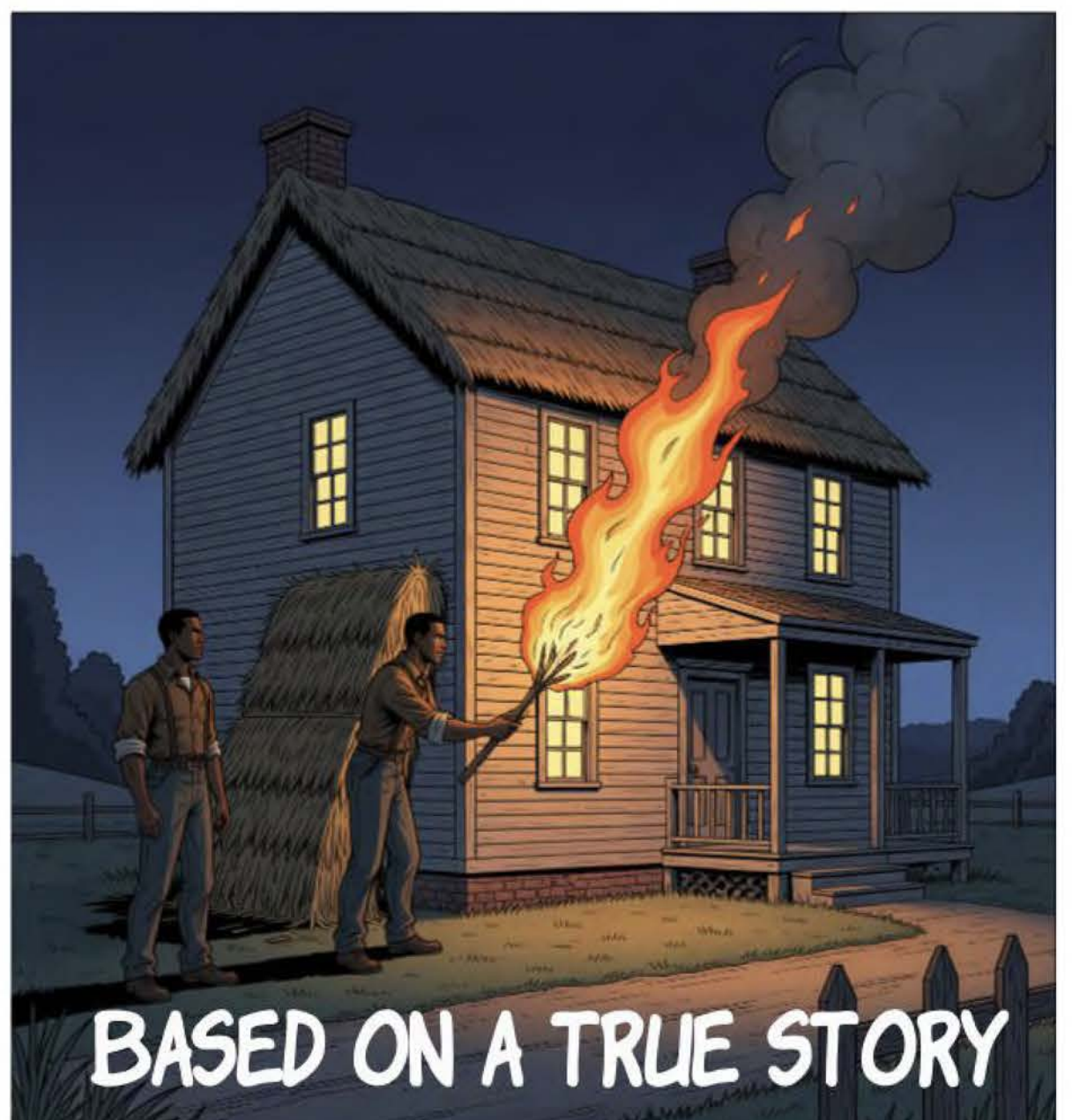


WILLIAM PARKER

BOLD AS A LION



BY CRAIG G. SIMPSON



BASED ON A TRUE STORY

WILLIAM PARKER

BOLD AS A LION

THIS BOOK IS BASED ON THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM PARKER
ENTITLED "THE FREEDMAN'S STORY"
PUBLISHED BY ATLANTIC MAGAZINE IN 1866.
QUOTATIONS IN THIS BOOK ARE TAKEN FROM "THE FREEDMAN'S STORY".

PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS

(1) WILLIAM & ELIZA PARKER HOUSE: CIRCA 1890 COURTESY OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

(2) SAMUEL HOPKINS & PETER WOODS, 1896, HELD BY THE MOORES LIBRARY.

(3) CASTNER HANWAY, ELIJAH LEWIS & JOSEPH SCARLET, UNDATED, THE CHRISTIANA RIOT AND THE TREASON TRIALS OF 1851, AN HISTORICAL SKETCH BY W. LI HENSEL, 1911.

(4) DICKINSON GORSUCH, UNDATED, THE CHRISTIANA RIOT AND THE TREASON TRIALS OF 1851, AN HISTORICAL SKETCH BY W. LI HENSEL, 1911.

(5) GORSUCH RETREAT FARM, UNDATED, HELD BY THE CHRISTIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

CRAIG SIMPSON WORKED AS A BUS OPERATOR FOR THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY AND BECAME INVOLVED WITH THE UNION. HE SERVED 18 YEARS ON THE ATLI LOCAL 689 EXECUTIVE BOARD, THE LAST 7 1/2 YEARS AS SECRETARY-TREASURER. HE ALSO WORKED FOR THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL AFL-CIO, PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND, AND SERVED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LIFCW LOCAL 400. HE HAS A DEGREE IN LABOR STUDIES FROM THE NATIONAL LABOR COLLEGE AND IS CURRENTLY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WASHINGTON AREA SPARK WEBSITE.

BY CRAIG SIMPSON

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SLAVERY STARTED IN VIRGINIA IN 1619 AND QUICKLY SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THE COLONIES. VERMONT, THEN AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY, FIRST OUTLAWED IT IN 1777. PENNSYLVANIA BECAME THE FIRST STATE TO GRADUALLY END SLAVERY IN 1780.



PENNSYLVANIA PASSED A LAW IN 1825 THAT LARGELY STOPPED STATE OFFICIALS FROM ASSISTING IN THE RECAPTURE OF THOSE WHO ESCAPED SLAVERY. WITH PENNSYLVANIA THE STATE CLOSEST TO THE MAIN SLAVE STATES, MANY OF THOSE ESCAPING SLAVERY SETTLED THERE. BUT IN 1842 THE U.S. SUPREME COURT RULED THAT PENNSYLVANIA LAW ILLEGAL.



THE 1840'S BECAME LIKE THE WILD WEST WITH KIDNAPPING OF BLACK PEOPLE: THOSE WHO ESCAPED SLAVERY AND FREE BLACK PEOPLE. NON-VIOLENT AND VIOLENT RESISTANCE TO THE KIDNAPPERS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE DECADE.

WILLIAM PARKER WAS BORN IN 1822 ON THE ROWDOWN PLANTATION NEAR DAVIDSONVILLE, MD IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY. HE DIDN'T REMEMBER HIS FATHER AND HIS MOTHER DIED WHILE HE WAS YOUNG.



HE LIVED IN A SMALL ROOM IN A LONG SHED-LIKE BUILDING THAT HAD A FIREPLACE ON EITHER END. THIS MEANT THE ROOMS IN THE MIDDLE WERE COLD, AND BECAUSE HE WAS SMALL THAT'S WHERE HE WAS FORCED BY THE OLDER BOYS TO STAY.



"OUR TURN WILL COME NEXT. LET'S RUN AWAY."



PARKER SAID HE WASN'T PARTICULARLY MISTREATED, BUT HE FEARED THE DAYS WHEN SLAVES WOULD BE SOLD OFF AND FAMILIES BROKEN UP. HIS GRANDMOTHER WORKED IN THE "BIG HOUSE", AND HE WAS VERY CLOSE TO HIS BROTHER CHARLES. EVEN THOUGH HE WAS ONLY ABOUT 12 YEARS OLD, PARKER BEGAN TO THINK OF ESCAPE.



YOU'LL NEVER LAY YOUR HANDS ON ME AGAIN!

AT AGE 17 ON A RAINY DAY, PARKER REFUSED TO WORK. THE PLANTATION OWNER, "MASTER MACK", PICKED UP A STICK USED FOR A CATTLE PROD AND SWUNG IT AT HIM. PARKER TOOK THE STICK AWAY AND THRASHED HIM WITH IT.



C'MON, CHARLES. LET'S GO!

PARKER CALLED TO HIS BROTHER AND THE TWO FLED THE PLANTATION.

THE PAIR WARILY MADE THEIR WAY TO BALTIMORE WHERE THEY CHANCED UPON A BRICKYARD. THEY COVERED THEMSELVES WITH BRICK DUST SO THEY COULD PRETEND TO BE LABORERS AS THEY MADE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE CITY STREETS.



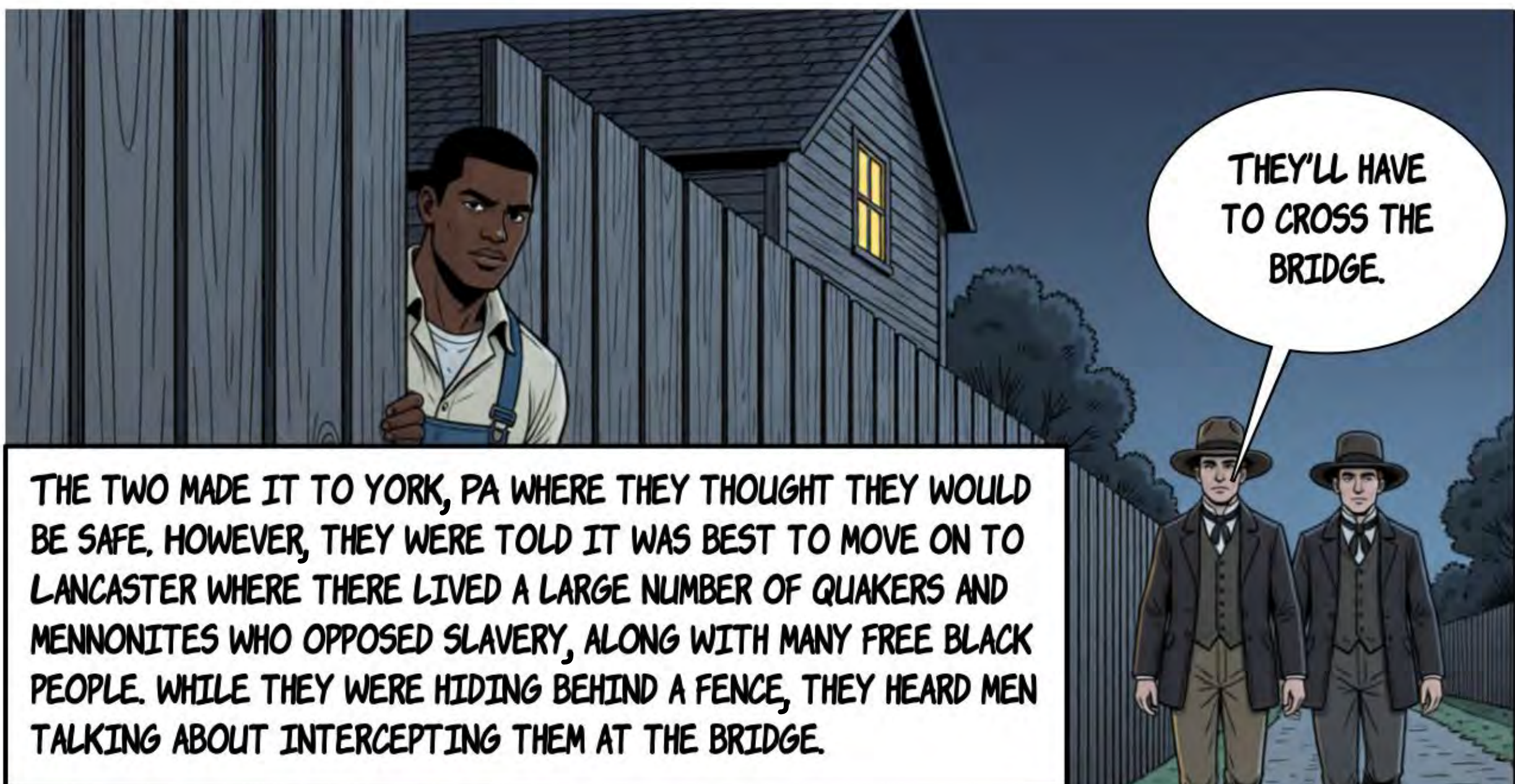
NO ONE WILL QUESTION US NOW!



AFTER STAYING IN BALTIMORE A WEEK, THE TWO MADE THEIR WAY NORTH, BUT WERE STOPPED BY 3 MEN WHO WANTED TO GRAB THEM AS RUNAWAYS NEAR THE SMALL TOWN OF LOGANVILLE, MD.



PARKER TOOK A THICK STICK HE HAD BEEN CARRYING AND SWUNG IT, BREAKING ONE MAN'S ARM. THE 3 SLAVE-CATCHERS THEN RAN AWAY.



THE TWO MADE IT TO YORK, PA WHERE THEY THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE SAFE. HOWEVER, THEY WERE TOLD IT WAS BEST TO MOVE ON TO LANCASTER WHERE THERE LIVED A LARGE NUMBER OF QUAKERS AND MENNONITES WHO OPPOSED SLAVERY, ALONG WITH MANY FREE BLACK PEOPLE. WHILE THEY WERE HIDING BEHIND A FENCE, THEY HEARD MEN TALKING ABOUT INTERCEPTING THEM AT THE BRIDGE.

THEY'LL HAVE TO CROSS THE BRIDGE.



SO THE NEXT MORNING THEY FOUND A PERSON WITH A BOAT TO TAKE THEM ACROSS THE RIVER.

THE TWO MADE IT TO LANCASTER WITHOUT INCIDENT. THE PARKER BROTHERS WOULD SPEND THE NEXT 12 YEARS OF THEIR LIVES IN THE COUNTY OR NEARBY.

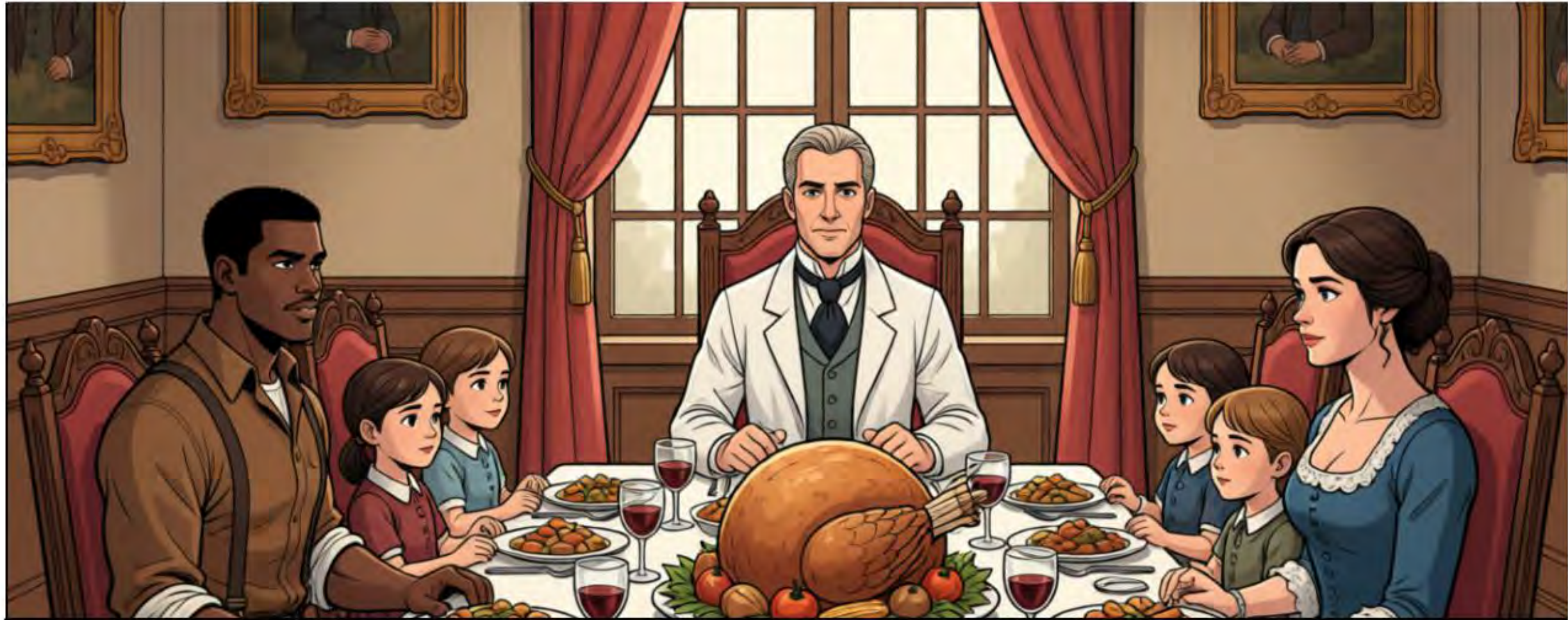


WILLIAM FOUND WORK AND FOR THE FIRST TIME HE WAS PAID FOR HIS LABOR.

"I CAN GO OUT SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS... WITHOUT BEING WHIPPED."

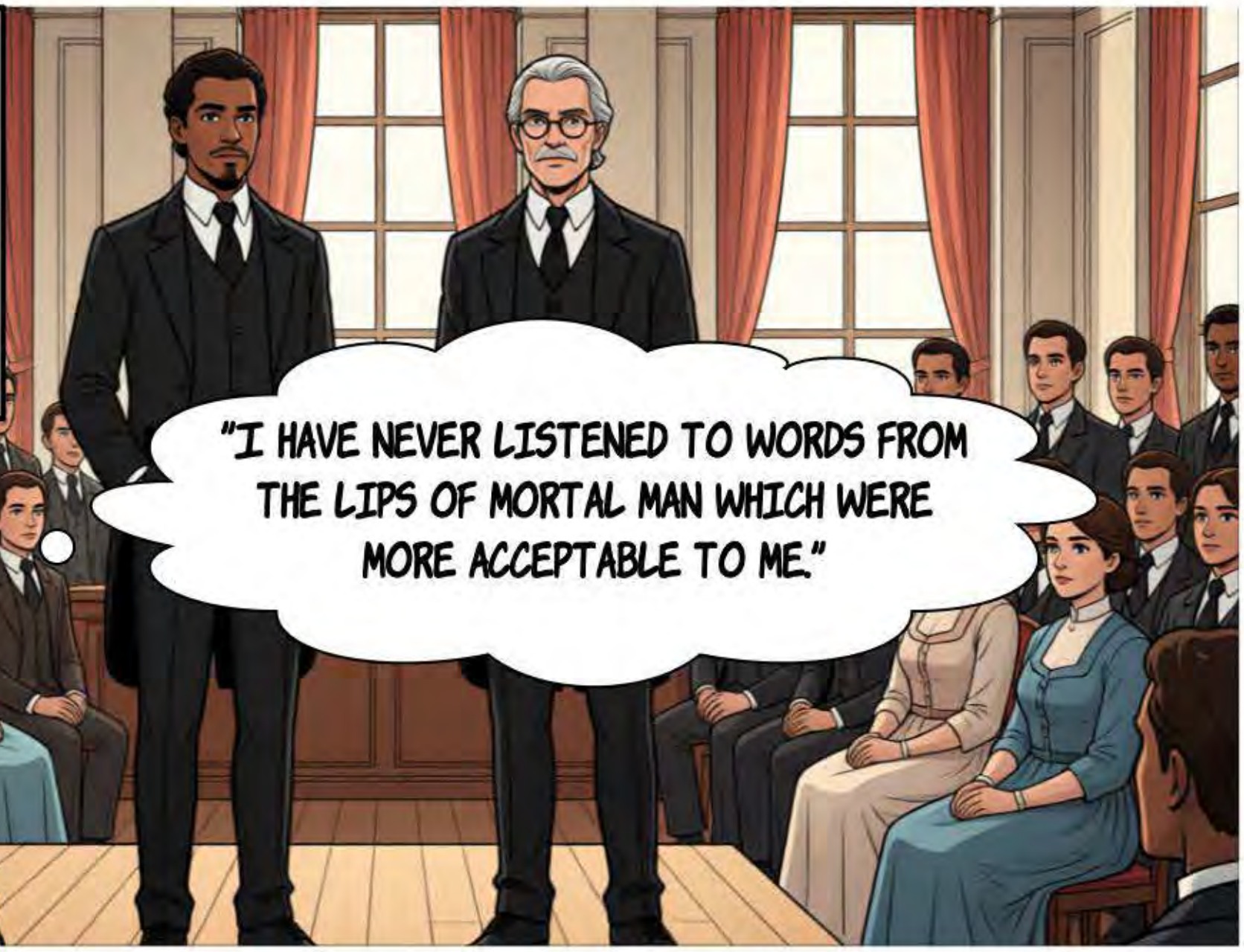


IT WAS THEN THAT PARKER DECIDED TO "ASSIST IN LIBERATING EVERYONE WITHIN MY REACH AT THE RISK OF MY LIFE."



PARKER SOON FOUND STEADY WORK AND A PLACE TO LIVE WITH A DR DENGY AND HIS FAMILY. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE COULD ENJOY WHAT WAS THEN CALLED "SOCIAL EQUALITY".

WHILE AT DENGY'S, PARKER ATTENDED AN ANTI-SLAVERY MEETING FEATURING THE FAMOUS ABOLITIONISTS FREDERICK DOUGLASS AND WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON.



PARKER HAD KNOWN DOUGLASS AS A SLAVE IN MARYLAND AND WAS IMPRESSED BY HIS COMMAND OF LANGUAGE. HE DECIDED TO ACT AFTER HEARING THE TWO MEN SPEAK.



PARKER LATER WROTE, "KIDNAPPINGS WERE SO COMMON WHILE I LIVED WITH THE DOCTOR, THAT WE WERE KEPT IN CONSTANT FEAR."

PARKER FORMED A GROUP THAT BECAME KNOWN LATER AS THE "LANCASTER BLACK SELF-PROTECTION SOCIETY". THEIR FIRST ACTION CAME WHEN A MAN NAMED WILLIAM DORSEY WAS TAKEN AND PUT IN THE LANCASTER JAIL.



PARKER AND HIS GROUP KEPT TABS ON THE TRIAL AND WHEN DORSEY WAS HANDED OVER TO THE SLAVERS, THEY MADE THEIR MOVE.



THEY ATTACKED THE SLAVERS IN A FURY TO FREE DORSEY, BUT THE SLAVERS WERE TOO MANY.



PARKER AND HIS GROUP WERE FORCED TO RUN AWAY. ONE OF THEM WAS ARRESTED, BUT WAS LATER CLEARED.

"THEY GOT ME FAST SEVERAL TIMES, BUT I SUCCEEDED IN GETTING AWAY."



HOWEVER, BEFORE DORSEY WAS RETURNED TO SLAVERY, FRIENDS RAISED ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY HIS FREEDOM.



WHILE PARKER WAS TALKING WITH FRIENDS ABOUT THE KIDNAPPINGS, THREE WHITE MEN BURST IN THE DOOR.



DO YOU HAVE ANY ESCAPED SLAVES HERE?

HERE'S YOUR ANSWER!



"I SEIZED A PAIR OF HEAVY TONGS AND STRUCK HIM A VIOLENT BLOW ACROSS THE FACE AND NECK, WHICH KNOCKED HIM DOWN."



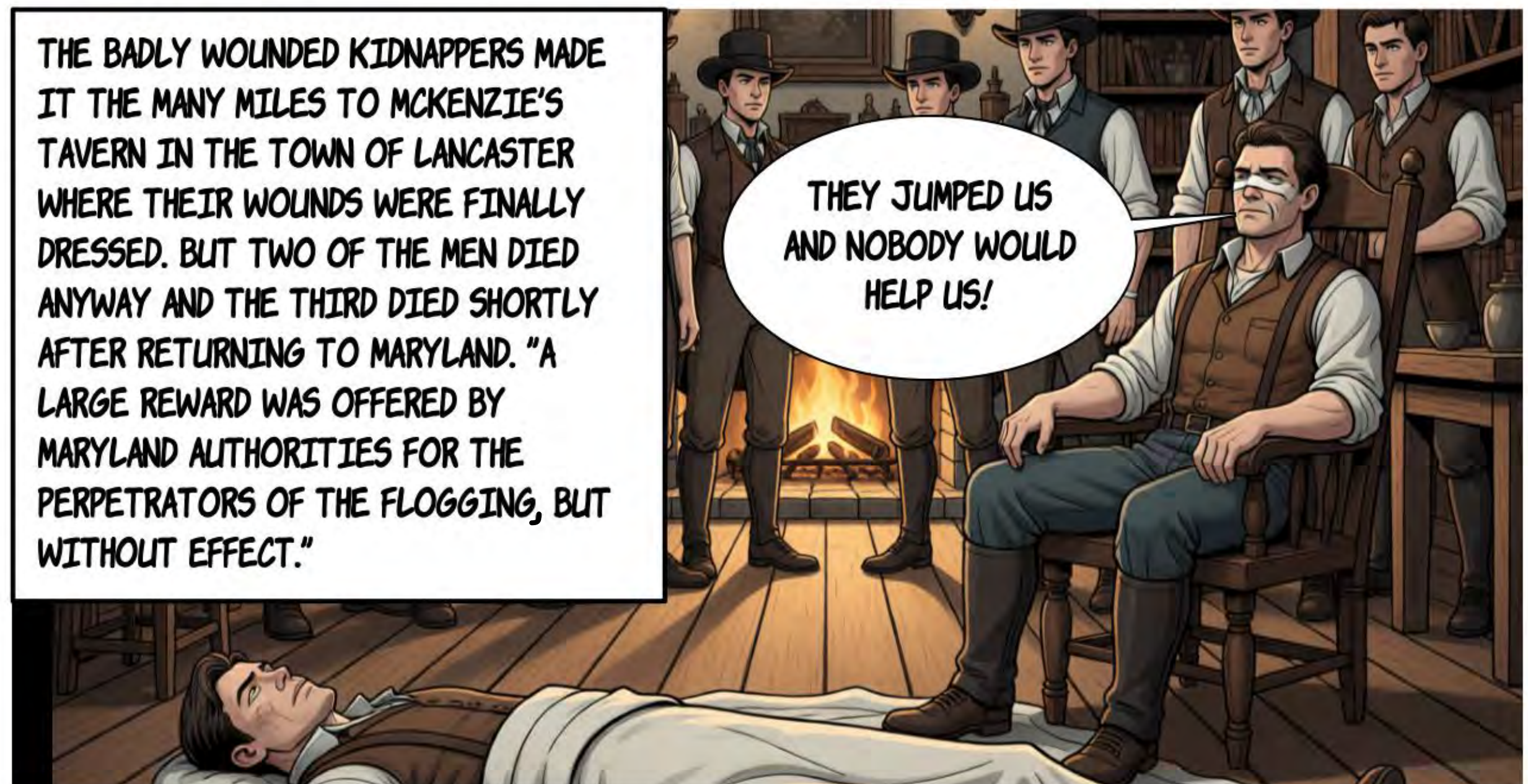
THE MEN SAID NOTHING AND RAN AWAY.



THE NEXT TIME THE SELF-PROTECTION SOCIETY WENT INTO ACTION WAS AFTER 3 MEN SHOWED UP AT THE ABOLITIONIST MOSES WHITSON'S DOOR.



WHILE WHITSON PROTESTED, THE MEN GRABBED THE YOUNG WOMAN AND FORCED HER INTO THE BACK OF A CARRIAGE.

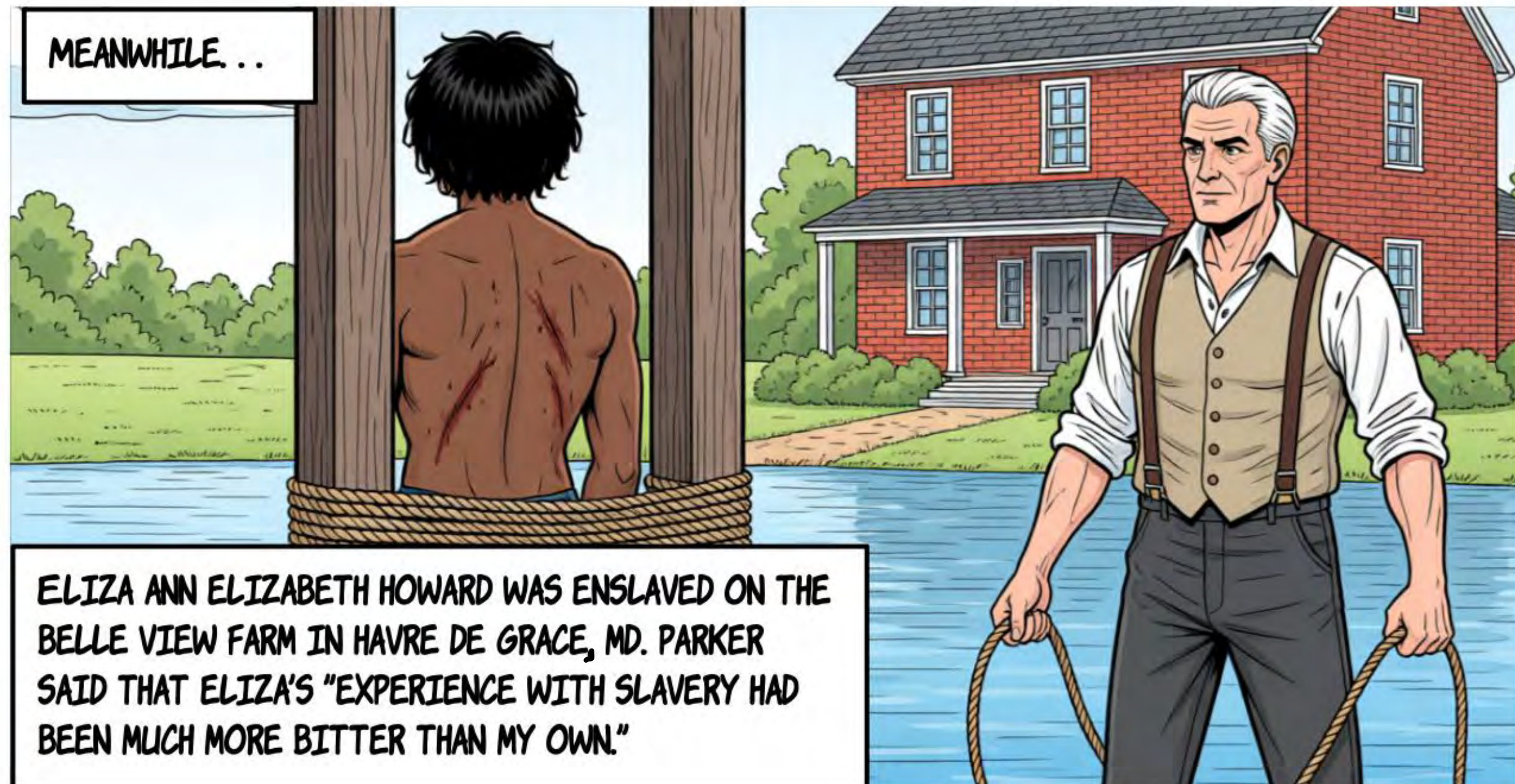




MCKENZIE WAS SO OUTRAGED THAT HE IMMEDIATELY FIRED A BLACK WOMAN WHO WORKED FOR HIM AND HE VOWED TO HOST ANY SLAVERS AND WOULD HELP THEM RECAPTURE THOSE WHO HAD ESCAPED.

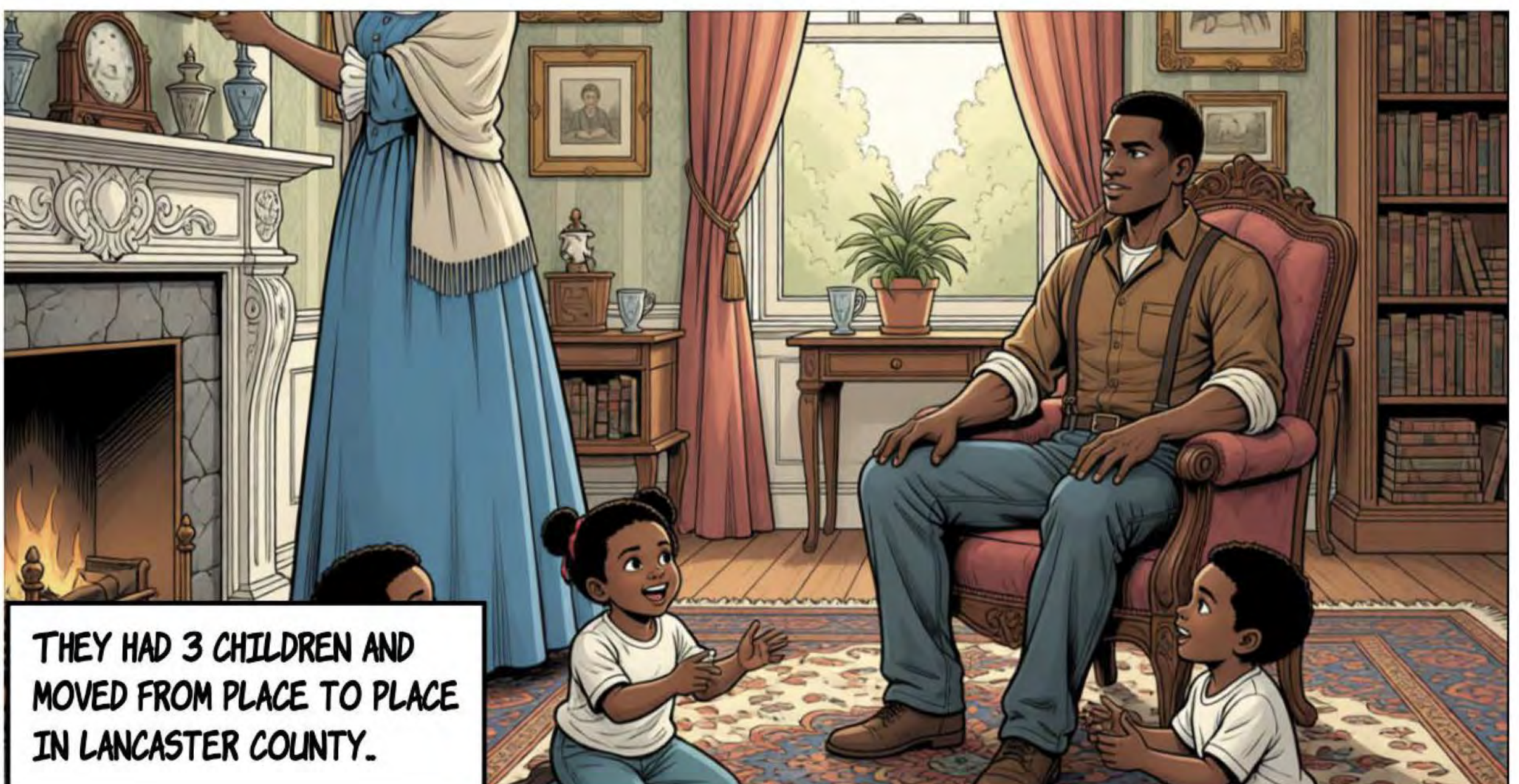


IN RESPONSE, THE SELF-PROTECTION SOCIETY SET FIRE TO MCKENZIE'S BARN. AFTER THAT, "THE POOR FUGITIVE HAD NO BETTER FRIEND THAN ... MCKENZIE."



MEANWHILE ...

ELIZA ANN ELIZABETH HOWARD WAS ENSLAVED ON THE BELLE VIEW FARM IN HAVRE DE GRACE, MD. PARKER SAID THAT ELIZA'S "EXPERIENCE WITH SLAVERY HAD BEEN MUCH MORE BITTER THAN MY OWN."



DURING THIS TIME PARKER WORKED THRESHING GRAIN, AMONG OTHER JOBS.



PARKER SAID LATER, "FAST WORK WAS NO TROUBLE FOR ME: FOR WHEN THE WORK WAS DONE, THE MONEY WAS MINE."



IT WASN'T POSSIBLE TO LEAD A COMPLETELY PEACEFUL LIFE AND SO UPON LEARNING OF A KIDNAPPING, PARKER'S GROUP STARTED OUT IN PURSUIT AND FOUND WHERE THE KIDNAPPERS WERE STAYING THE NIGHT.



"I TOLD THE LANDLORD THAT WE WANTED TO COME IN AND INTENDED TO COME IN. THEN I WENT TO THE YARD, GOT A PIECE OF SCANTLING (LUMBER), TOOK IT TO THE DOOR, AND BY BATTERING WITH IT A SHORT TIME, OPENED IT."



"AS SOON AS THE DOOR FLEW OPEN, A KIDNAPPER SHOT AT US, AND THE BALL LODGED IN MY ANKLE, BRINGING ME TO THE GROUND. BUT I SOON ROSE AND MY COMRADE, THEN FIRING ON THEM, THEY TOOK TO THEIR HEELS." PARKER AND HIS COMPANION THEN FREED THE KIDNAPPED MAN.



WE "HAD HARDLY CROSSED THE DOOR SILL BEFORE PEOPLE FROM THE NEIGHBORING HOUSES BEGAN TO FIRE ON US. AT THIS JUNCTURE, OUR OTHER FIVE CAME UP, AND WE ALL RETURNED THE COMPLIMENT."



"FIRING ON BOTH SIDES WAS KEPT UP FOR TEN OR FIFTEEN MINUTES, WHEN THE WHITES CALLED FOR QUARTER, AND OFFERED TO WITHDRAW, IF WE WOULD STOP FIRING," PARKER AND HIS GROUP AGREED AND THEY WERE OFF WITH THEIR LIBERATED MAN.



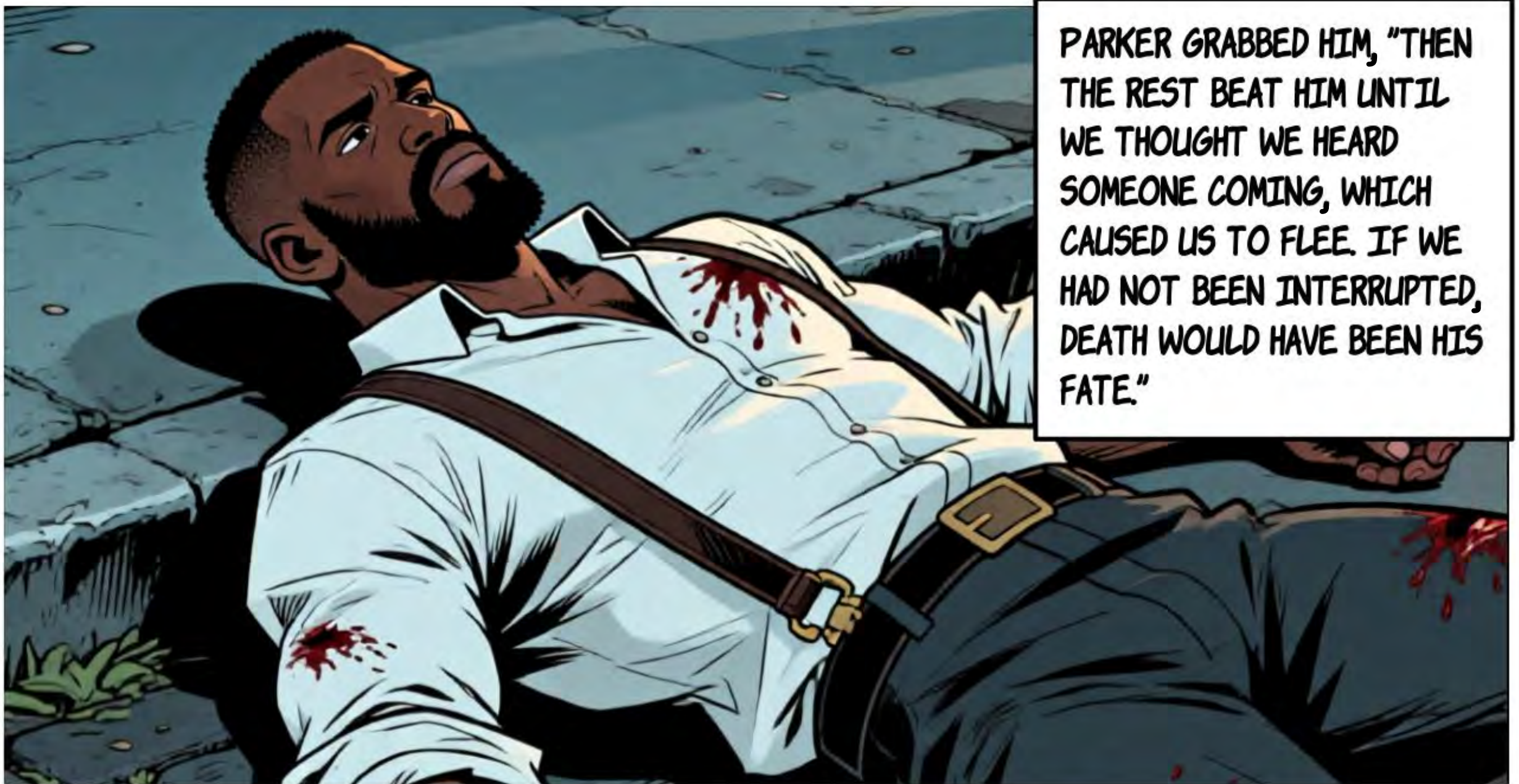
"WITH A KNIFE I EXTRACTED THE BALL, BUT KEPT THE WOUND SECRET, AS LONG BEFORE WE HAD LEARNED THAT FOR OUR OWN SECURITY IT WAS BEST NOT TO LET SUCH THINGS BE GENERALLY KNOWN."



A MAN NAMED HENRY WILLIAMS WAS GRABBED BY SLAVE CATCHERS AND THE SELF-PROTECTION SOCIETY WAS TOO LATE TO SAVE HIM. THEY WERE DETERMINED TO FIND OUT WHO WAS GIVING INFORMATION TO THE SLAVE CATCHERS AND AFTER TALKING IT OVER, THEY CONCLUDED IT WAS A MAN NAMED ALLEN WILLIAMS AND THAT HE HAD TO DIE FOR HIS CRIMES.



THEY WENT TO WILLIAMS' HOUSE AT NIGHT AND LURED HIM OUT.



PARKER GRABBED HIM, "THEN THE REST BEAT HIM UNTIL WE THOUGHT WE HEARD SOMEONE COMING, WHICH CAUSED US TO FLEE. IF WE HAD NOT BEEN INTERRUPTED, DEATH WOULD HAVE BEEN HIS FATE."

THERE CAME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SELF-PROTECTION SOCIETY ANOTHER MAN WHO BEFRIENDED RECENT ESCAPEES FROM SLAVERY AND FOUND OUT THEIR FORMER OWNERS' NAMES, THEN PROVIDED THE ESCAPEES' WHEREABOUTS TO THE FORMER OWNERS IN EXCHANGE FOR MONEY.



"WE RESOLVED HE SHOULD DIE, AND WE SET ABOUT EXECUTING OUR PURPOSE THAT EVENING."

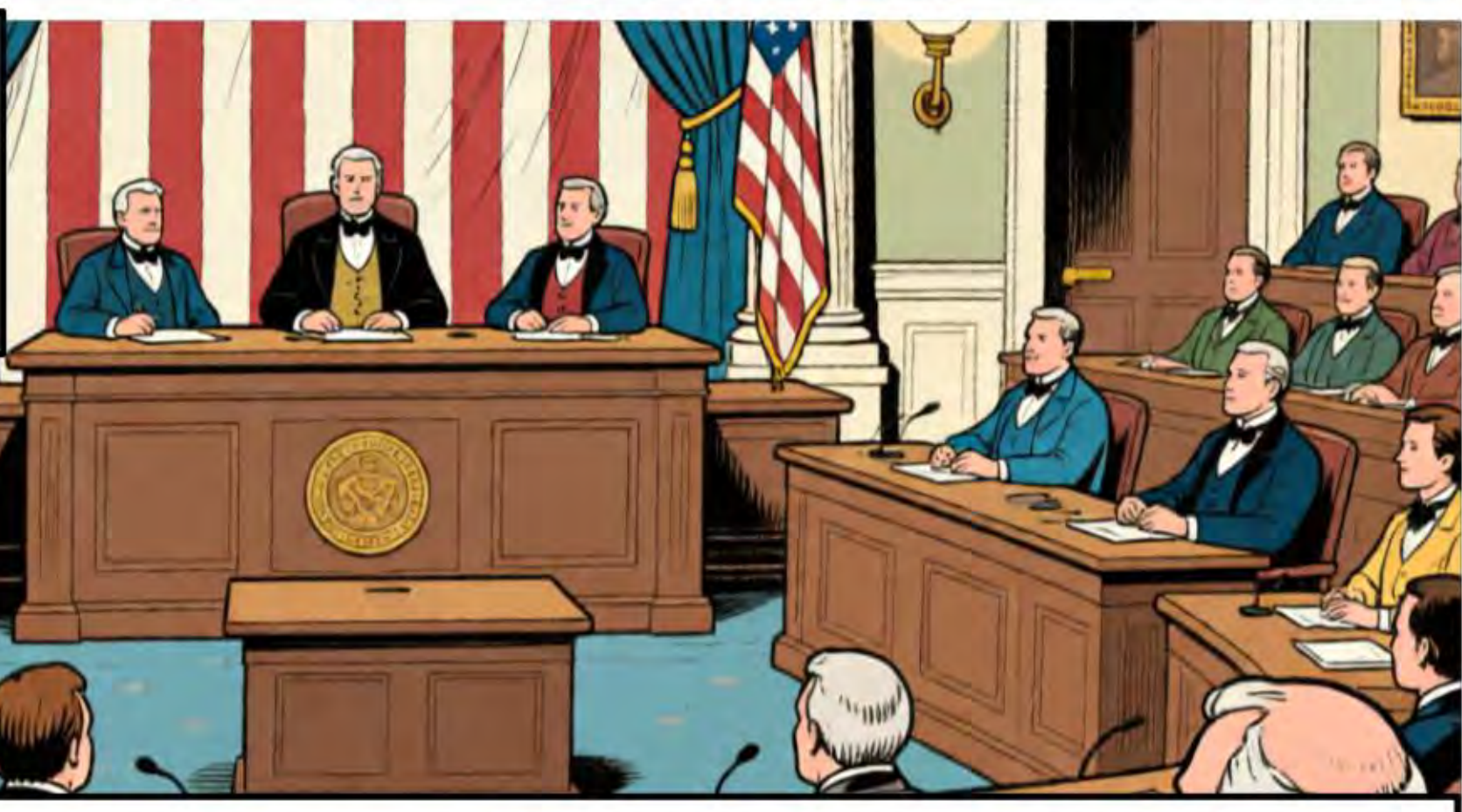
THE PLAN WAS TO LIGHT HIS HOUSE AFIRE AND WAIT FOR HIM TO COME RUNNING OUT THE BACK DOOR, THEN THEY WOULD SHOOT HIM.



BUT THE MAN RAN OUT THE FRONT DOOR, "NOT ONLY AS IF HIS LIFE WAS IN DANGER, BUT AS IF THE SPIRIT OF HIS EVIL DEEDS WAS AFTER HIM."



WHILE WAR BETWEEN SLAVE CATCHERS AND THE SELF-PROTECTION SOCIETY RAGED...



...CONGRESS DEBATED SLAVERY AND CAME UP WITH A COMPROMISE IN 1850. CALIFORNIA WAS TO BE ADMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES AS A FREE STATE, REFERENDUMS IN UTAH AND NEW MEXICO TERRITORIES WOULD DETERMINE WHETHER THEY WOULD BE FREE OR SLAVE. THERE WERE A FEW OTHER MINOR PROVISIONS AND ONE MAJOR ONE...

...THE FUGITIVE SLAVE ACT REQUIRED FEDERAL OFFICIALS TO ASSIST IN CAPTURING THOSE ESCAPING SLAVERY, PROVIDED FEDERAL PAYMENT TO PRIVATE SLAVE CATCHERS, CRIMINALIZED AID TO THOSE ESCAPING SLAVERY...



Fugitive Slave Act!

...PROHIBITED COURT TESTIMONY BY THOSE ACCUSED OF BEING ESCAPED SLAVES AND REQUIRED ANY CITIZEN TO ASSIST IN CAPTURING THOSE WHO ESCAPED SLAVERY. THIS MEANT NO BLACK PERSON WAS SAFE, WHETHER FREE OR ESCAPED.

IN THE FALL OF 1849, MARYLAND SLAVE OWNER EDWARD GORSUCH ACCUSED FOUR MEN ENSLAVED BY HIM OF STEALING WHEAT.

THESE ARE THE FOUR THAT STOLE FROM ME.



THE FOUR MADE OFF DURING THE NIGHT AND MADE THEIR WAY TO LANCASTER COUNTY, PA.

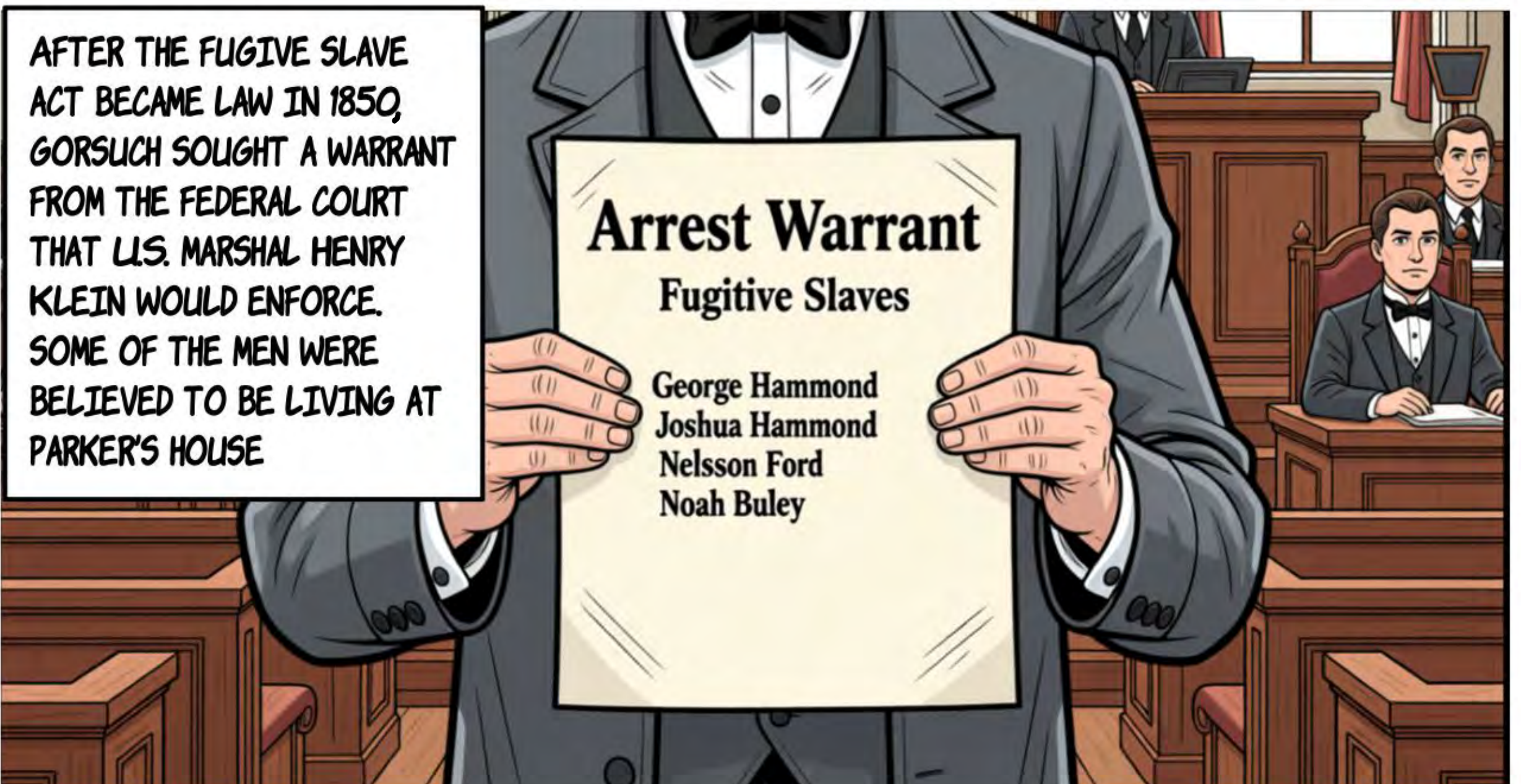


AFTER THE FUGITIVE SLAVE ACT BECAME LAW IN 1850, GORSUCH SOUGHT A WARRANT FROM THE FEDERAL COURT THAT U.S. MARSHAL HENRY KLEIN WOULD ENFORCE. SOME OF THE MEN WERE BELIEVED TO BE LIVING AT PARKER'S HOUSE

Arrest Warrant

Fugitive Slaves

George Hammond
Joshua Hammond
Nelsson Ford
Noah Buley



A TOTAL OF 7 MEN HEADED FOR CHRISTIANA, INCLUDING GORSUCH'S SON AND NEPHEW, TO CAPTURE THE 4 WHO ESCAPED SLAVERY.



WE'LL GO TO PARKER'S HOUSE FIRST.

LINKNOWN TO GORSUCH, SAMUEL WILLIAMS OF THE SPECIAL SECRET COMMITTEE—A GROUP THAT MONITORED SLAVE CATCHERS AND ALERTED COMMUNITIES—HAD FOLLOWED THEM ONTO THE TRAIN AND SEATED HIMSELF NEAR ENOUGH TO HEAR THEIR CONVERSATION.

PARKER WAS WARNED BY WILLIAMS. SO THAT NIGHT AT LEAST FIVE MEN, INCLUDING TWO WANTED BY GORSUCH, WERE STAYING UPSTAIRS IN ADDITION TO PARKER.



"LET'S GO UP THE STAIRS AND TAKE THEM!"

"SEE HERE OLD MAN, YOU CAN COME UP, BUT YOU CAN'T GO DOWN AGAIN!"

THE CONFRONTATION BEGAN BEFORE DAWN AND CONTINUED FOR OVER AN HOUR WITH GORSUCH DEMANDING HIS "PROPERTY" AND PARKER REFUSING TO COOPERATE.

AT ONE POINT KLEIN AND GORSUCH ENTERED THE HOME AND ATTEMPTED TO GO UPSTAIRS, BUT WERE BLOCKED BY SOMEONE WITH A PITCHFORK. KLEIN RETREATED AND FIRED A SHOT, BUT HIT NO ONE.



SURRENDER NOW BEFORE YOU GET HURT!

WHEN THE SLAVERS HADN'T LEFT AFTER MORE THAN AN HOUR OF SHOUTING, ELIZA BEGAN BLOWING A HORN TO SIGNAL THEIR NEIGHBORS THAT HELP WAS NEEDED.



KLEIN BEGAN SHOOTING AT HER, BUT MISSED. SHE DUCKED DOWN WHERE THE STONE WALLS PROTECTED HER AND CONTINUED TO BLOW THE HORN.



LET'S AVOID BLOODSHED HERE.

CASTNER HANWAY, A LOCAL QUAKER MILLER OF GRAIN, ARRIVED AND URGED KLEIN AND GORSUCH TO WITHDRAW TO AVOID VIOLENCE AND ASKED PARKER NOT TO OPEN FIRE.

PARKER WRITES THAT THOSE INSIDE THE HOUSE BEGAN SINGING A HYMN, "LEADER, WHAT DO YOU SAY, ABOUT THE JUDGMENT DAY? I WILL DIE ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE, DIE ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE, WITH GLORY IN MY SOUL."



IN RESPONSE TO ELIZA'S HORN BLOWING, TWO DOZEN ARMED BLACK PEOPLE AND A FEW WHITE PEOPLE ARRIVED TO REINFORCE PARKER'S GROUP WHILE SOME WHITE PEOPLE CAME TO STAND WITH GORSUCH.

KLEIN BEGAN TO WITHDRAW, BUT SOMEONE OPENED FIRE. MOST OF THE WHITE MEN RAN AWAY AFTER FIRING ONCE. EDWARD GORSUCH WAS BADLY WOUNDED, BUT KEPT RELOADING AND FIRING.



THE ELDER GORSUCH WAS OVERWHELMED BY THE MEN WHO FIRST BEAT HIM AND THEN HIS LIFE WAS ENDED BY THE WOMEN.

YOU ARE GETTING WHAT YOU DESERVE, YOU WICKED SLAVER!



AT THE END OF THE BATTLE, THE ELDER GORSUCH LAY DEAD, HIS SON AND NEPHEW BADLY WOUNDED. TWO OR THREE OF THE BLACK MEN WERE SLIGHTLY WOUNDED.



THE BATTLE WAS NATIONWIDE NEWS AND PRESIDENT MILLARD FILLMORE DISPATCHED THE MARINES TO MAKE ARRESTS OF THOSE ON PARKER'S SIDE.



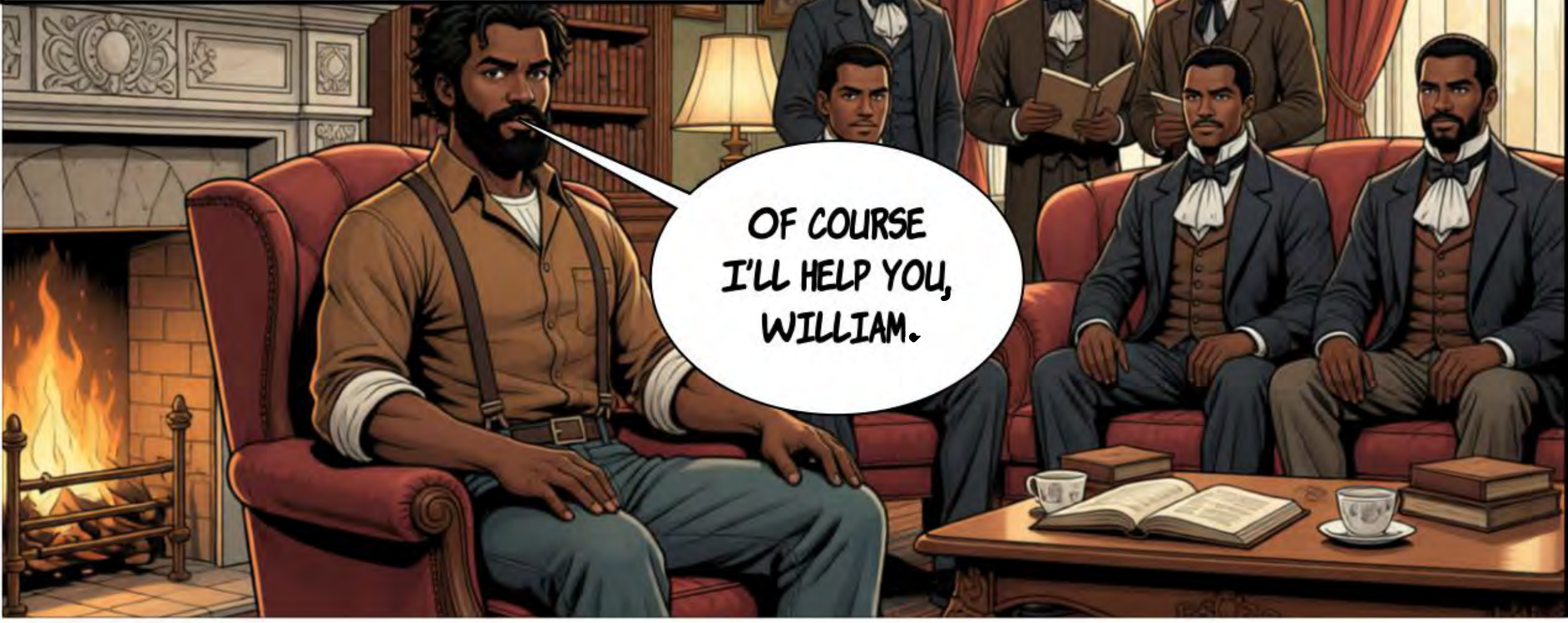
THE FOUR MEN GORSUCH SOUGHT IMMEDIATELY HEADED FOR CANADA AND ARRIVED THERE SAFELY.



PARKER ALSO DEPARTED CHRISTIANA AND HEADED FOR CANADA.



PARKER AND A FEW OTHERS MADE IT TO THE HOME OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS IN ROCHESTER, NY.



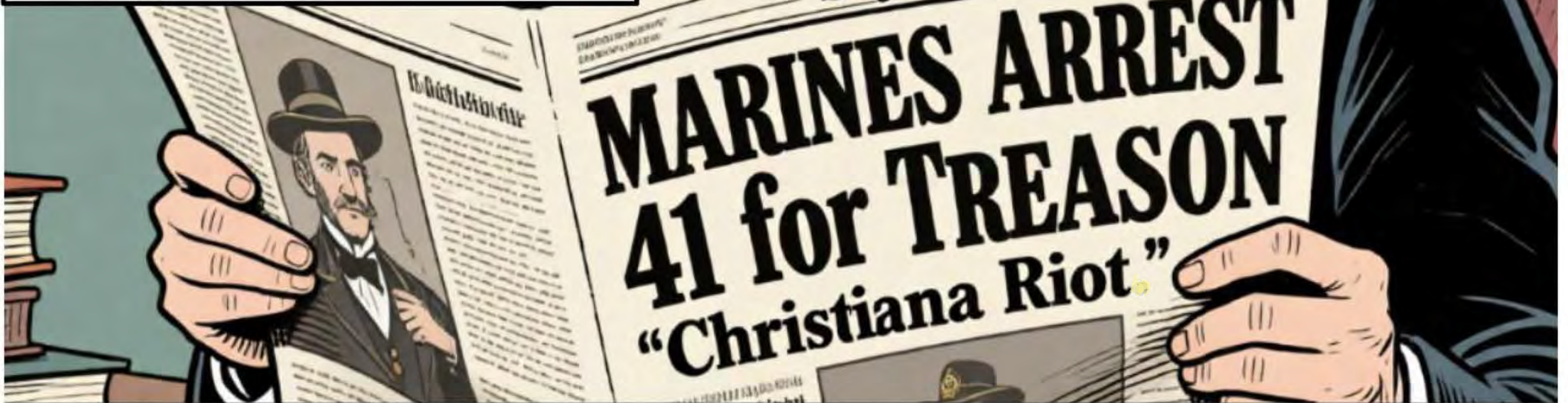
OF COURSE I'LL HELP YOU, WILLIAM.

DOUGLASS ARRANGED PASSAGE ON A FERRY TO TAKE PARKER AND HIS COMPANIONS INTO CANADA.



ELIZA WAS DETAINED BUT RELEASED TWICE BEFORE SHE TOO FLED, HAVING TO LEAVE HER CHILDREN IN THE CARE OF HER MOTHER. SHE ESCAPED, PERHAPS IN DISGUISE, AND MADE IT TO CANADA 2 MONTHS AFTER WILLIAM HAD ARRIVED. SHE WAS LATER INDICTED AS A CONSPIRATOR.

41 PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED, INCLUDING 5 WHITE MEN ALLEGED TO HAVE HELPED PARKER. HANWAY AND WILLIAMS WERE AMONG THOSE ARRESTED. ALL WERE KEPT IN JAIL AWAITING TRIAL. THEY WERE CHARGED WITH TREASON.



HANWAY WAS THE FIRST TO BE TRIED IN NOVEMBER 1851. THE GOVERNMENT ALLEGED HE WAS THE RINGLEADER SINCE THEY COULD NOT BELIEVE A BLACK PERSON COULD HAVE ORGANIZED AN ARMED DEFENSE AGAINST THE SLAVERS.

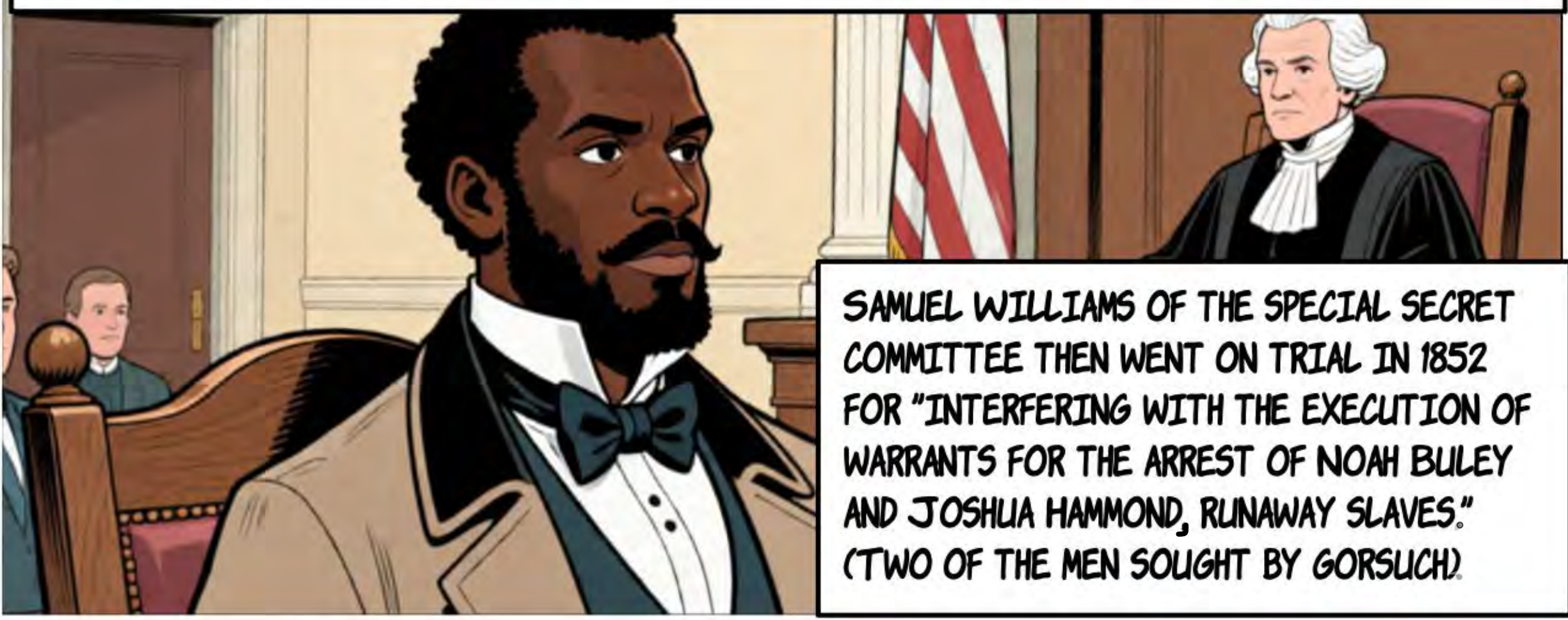


THOUGH HANWAY HAD TRIED TO MAKE PEACE, HE WAS SPECIFICALLY CHARGED WITH TREASON FOR "WICKEDLY AND TRAITOROUSLY" INTENDING "TO LEVY WAR" AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.

THE TRIAL LASTED 17 DAYS. THE JURY TOOK 15 MINUTES TO ACQUIT HIM.

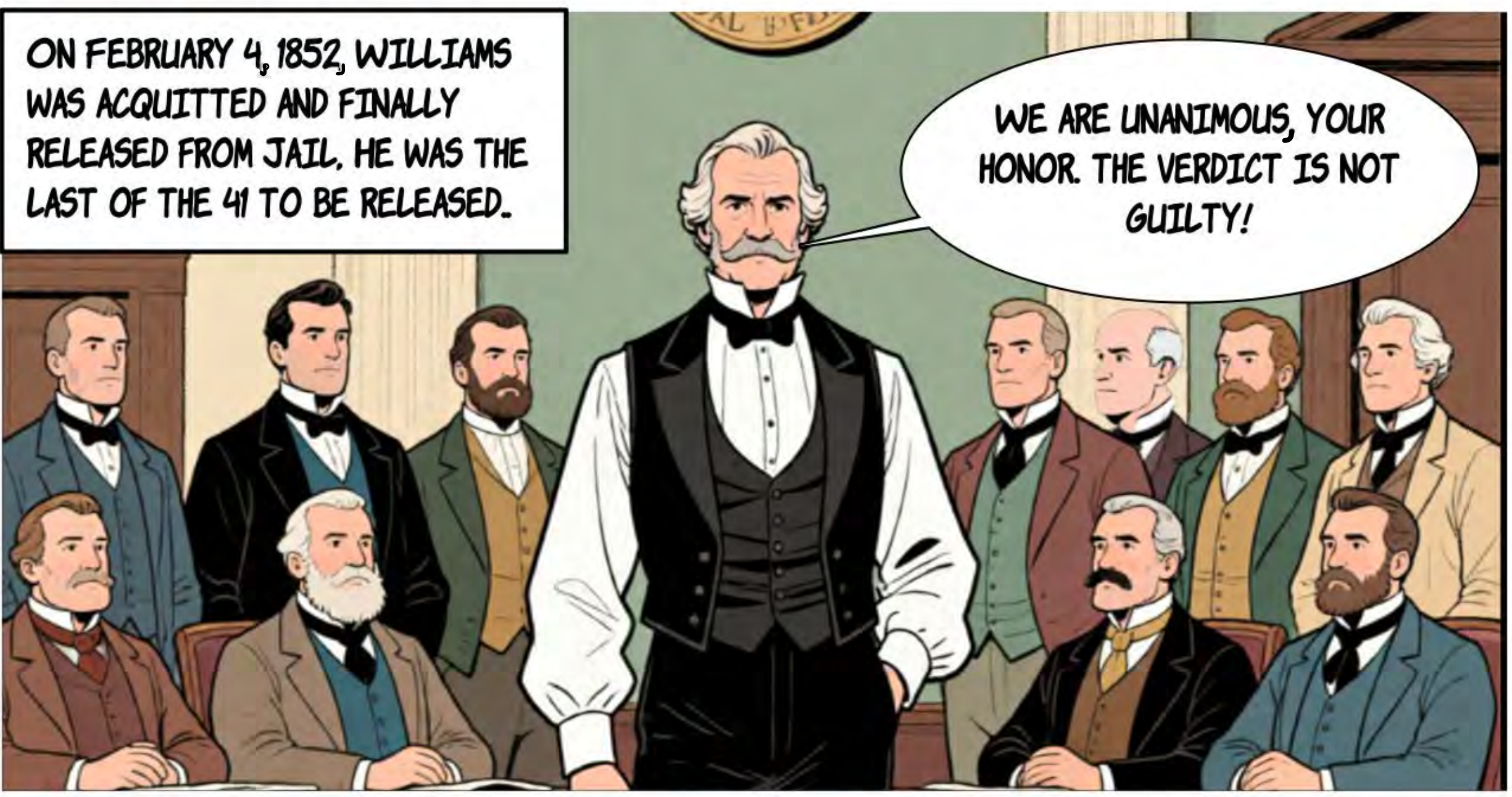


REALIZING THEY COULDN'T PROVE A "TREASON" CHARGE, THE GOVERNMENT DROPPED THE CHARGES AGAINST ALL THE REMAINING DEFENDANTS EXCEPT ONE. BUT THE MEN WEREN'T FREE—THEY WERE HELD ON STATE CHARGES OF MURDER UNTIL THOSE WERE DROPPED ON JANUARY 23, 1852.



SAMUEL WILLIAMS OF THE SPECIAL SECRET COMMITTEE THEN WENT ON TRIAL IN 1852 FOR "INTERFERING WITH THE EXECUTION OF WARRANTS FOR THE ARREST OF NOAH BULEY AND JOSHUA HAMMOND, RUNAWAY SLAVES." (TWO OF THE MEN SOUGHT BY GORSUCH)

ON FEBRUARY 4, 1852, WILLIAMS WAS ACQUITTED AND FINALLY RELEASED FROM JAIL. HE WAS THE LAST OF THE 41 TO BE RELEASED.



WE ARE UNANIMOUS, YOUR HONOR. THE VERDICT IS NOT GUILTY!



THERE'S NO FREEDOM TO OWN PROPERTY ANYMORE. WE'LL HAVE TO SECEDE!

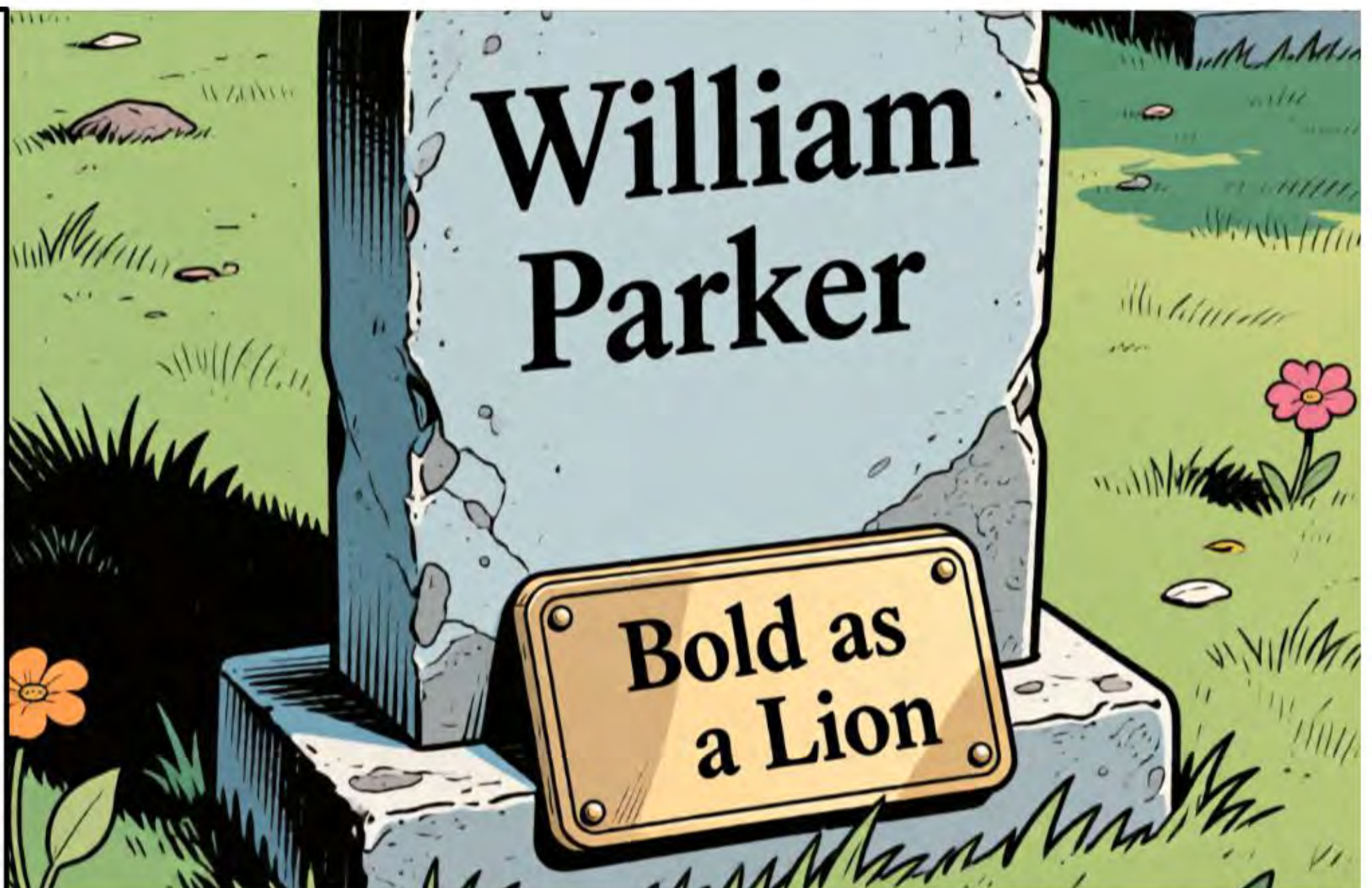
THERE'S NO JUSTICE FOR WHITE MEN!

THE REACTION OF MOST WHITE SOUTHERNERS TO THE ACQUITTALS AND DISMISSAL OF ALL CHARGES IN THE CHRISTIANA CASE WAS ONE OF THE MAJOR EVENTS THAT PROPELLED THE NATION TO CIVIL WAR, ALONG WITH "BLOODY KANSAS" AND JOHN BROWN'S RAID.

THE PARKERS WERE REUNITED WITH THEIR 3 CHILDREN AND HAD 7 MORE AFTER SETTLING IN BUXTON, CANADA. WILLIAM BECAME A CORRESPONDENT FOR FREDERICK DOUGLASS'S NORTH STAR NEWSPAPER AND SERVED AS AN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE IN BUXTON.



WILLIAM PARKER RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES AROUND 1872 AND DIED IN 1891. HE IS BURIED IN KENTON, OHIO. HIS GRAVESTONE HAS BEEN REFURBISHED RECENTLY WITH A PLAQUE THAT READS "BOLD AS A LION".



ELIZA PARKER DIED IN 1899 AND IS BURIED IN NORTH BUXTON CEMETERY IN ONTARIO. A HISTORICAL MARKER HAS BEEN ADDED TO HER GRAVESITE RECENTLY. MANY OF THE PARKERS' DESCENDANTS STILL LIVE IN BUXTON.



HISTORICAL PHOTOS & DOCUMENTS

(1) WILLIAM AND ELIZA PARKER'S HOUSE CIRCA 1890. THE PARKERS WERE DEFENDING TWO MEN WHO ESCAPED SLAVERY. A BRIEF BATTLE TOOK PLACE HERE BETWEEN THE LANCASTER BLACK SELF PROTECTION SOCIETY AND SLAVERS LED BY EDWARD GORSUCH AND HENRY KLINE.



(2) SAMUEL HOPKINS (LEFT) AND PETER WOODS REPRISE THEIR ROLES IN FRONT OF THE PARKER HOUSE IN 1896. THE TWO WERE IN THE BATTLE AND WERE LATER INDICTED FOR TREASON. EDWARD GORSUCH WAS KILLED, HIS SON, DICKENSON GORSUCH WAS BADLY WOUNDED AND A NEPHEW, DR. THOMAS PIERCE, WAS ALSO WOUNDED. TWO OR THREE OF THE LANCASTER BLACK SELF PROTECTION SOCIETY HAD MINOR INJURIES.

(3) LEFT TO RIGHT: CASTNER HANWAY, ELIJAH LEWIS AND JOSEPH SCARLETT, THREE WHITE MEN CHARGED WITH TREASON IN THE CHRISTIANA BATTLE, POSE IN AN UNDATED IMAGE. HANWAY WAS THE FIRST TO BE TRIED. THE TRIAL LASTED 17 DAYS AND THE JURY TOOK 15 MINUTES TO ACQUIT HIM. THE PROSECUTOR DROPPED CHARGES AGAINST THE OTHER 41 MEN, BUT THE STATE HELD THEM IN JAIL ON MURDER CHARGES UNTIL THOSE TOO WERE DROPPED IN JANUARY 1852. SAMUEL WILLIAMS WAS TRIED IN JANUARY 1852 FOR AIDING AND ABETTING ESCAPED SLAVES, BUT HE TOO WAS FOUND NOT GUILTY.



(4) DICKINSON GORSUCH (SHOWN HERE) WAS BADLY WOUNDED, EDWARD GORSUCH, HIS FATHER, WAS KILLED AND THOMAS PEARCE, HIS COUSIN, WAS ALSO WOUNDED IN THE BATTLE AT PARKER'S HOUSE. TWO OR THREE OF PARKER'S LANCASTER BLACK SELF-PROTECTION SOCIETY SUFFERED MINOR WOUNDS. THE CONFRONTATION LASTED FOR SEVERAL HOURS, STARTING BEFORE DAWN. SEVERAL SHOTS WERE FIRED OVER THE COURSE OF THE MORNING, BUT NO ONE WAS HIT UNTIL BOTH SIDES OPENED FIRE. THOSE WITH GORSUCH FLED AFTER THE FIRST VOLLEY, BUT THE ELDER GORSUCH KEPT RE-LOADING AND FIRING. HE WAS EVENTUALLY OVERWELMED AND BEATEN BY SOME OF THE MEN AND FINALLY PUT TO DEATH BY THE WOMEN OF PARKER'S GROUP.



The Fugitive Slave Riot.
BALTIMORE, Sept. 13.—A few days ago Edward Gorsuch and son, of Baltimore county, Md., went to Lancaster county, Pa., in pursuit of a fugitive slave. They discovered the slave at a place named Christiana, near Lancaster. The negro was secreted in a house, into which Gorsuch and party entered, when the negro cleared up stairs and armed with a musket prevented the party from ascending them. He blew a horn and was immediately reinforced by about two hundred negroes and whites, who surrounded the house. The marshal called upon the whites to assist him in enforcing the law, but they refused. The negroes fired upon their pursuers. Gorsuch and son were instantly, and it is supposed, mortally wounded. Three negroes were also wounded, but the negroes and their associates remained uncaptured. Gorsuch and his son were most respectable citizens. Great excitement prevails. It is supposed that the Government must interfere.
PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 12.—Gorsuch and his son, who were attacked by armed negroes in Lancaster county, Pa., were both killed. Two officers were seriously wounded. The murderers have escaped.

THE NEW ORLEANS TIMES-PICAYUNE PUBLISHES AN INFLAMMATORY EARLY ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1851. THE HEADLINE READS "FUGITIVE SLAVE RIOT" AND REPORTS GORSUCH AND HIS SON BOTH KILLED. IT ALSO SAYS PARKER WAS REINFORCED BY 200 BLACK AND WHITE NEIGHBORS WHO ARRIVED AFTER ELIZA BLEW HER HORN. IT SAYS GORSUCH AND HIS SON WERE "MOST RESPECTABLE CITIZENS," AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST INTERVENE. IT REPORTS THAT THE "MURDERERS" HAVE ESCAPED.

THE GOLDSBORO, NC REPUBLICAN AND PATRIOT OF DECEMBER 18, 1851 REPORTS ON THE ACQUITTAL OF CASTNER HANWAY ON TREASON CHARGES. IT REASONS THAT THE CHARGE OF TREASON WAS OVERREACH AND SAYS THAT "SO FAR THE PERPETRATORS OF THE HORRIBLE OUTRAGE AT CHRISTIANA HAVE ESCAPED PUNISHMENT." IT CONCLUDES THAT "IT IS DUE TO THE COUNTRY THAT THE PERPETRATORS AND INSTIGATORS OF THIS OUTRAGE SHOULD RECEIVE AMPLE PUNISHMENT. IF FANATICAL MEN CAN RESIST A LAW OF THE UNITED STATES AND ESCAPE ALL PUNISHMENT FOR THE OFFENSE, THE UNION IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING DISSOLUTION. A FEW YEARS WILL WITNESS ITS RESOLUTION INTO THE ELEMENTS OF WHICH IT WAS ORIGINALLY COMPOSED."

The Treason Trial.
The trial of Castner Hanway for treason in connection with the rescue of a fugitive at Christiana and the murder of a citizen of Maryland, has closed, and resulted in the acquittal of the prisoner. We have looked over the evidence, and are compelled to agree with Judge Grier in his charge to the jury, that the case was not fully made out. No overt act of resistance to the law was proved on Hanway, nor was it proved what words, if any, he used to encourage the blacks in their resistance. He was therefore acquitted of the charge, and the United States Attorney immediately abandoned the prosecution for treason in the other cases. Most of the prisoners will be detained for trial for misdemeanor, and a portion of them sent to Lancaster to stand trial for the murder of Mr. Gorsuch.
The case of treason is at all times one difficult to prove, particularly in a free country like this. We are constrained to say that the zeal of the jury presenting the indictment, to sustain the law of the United States, outran its judgment. We could hardly expect a conviction for treason in a case like this, even when the party was clearly guilty; where any doubt exists, of course a conviction in a free state is impossible. So far the perpetrators of the horrible outrage at Christiana have escaped punishment. Whether they can be convicted of a less crime than treason remains to be seen. It is due to the Country that the perpetrators and instigators of this outrage should receive ample punishment. If fanatical men can resist a law of the United States and escape all punishment for the offense, the Union is rapidly approaching its dissolution. A few years will witness its resolution into the elements of which it was originally composed.

THE BALTIMORE SUN OF JANUARY 29, 1851 REPORTS ON A PRAYER OFFERED BY ONE OF THE BLACK DEFENDANTS FOR GOD TO PUNISH THE FEDERAL MARSHAL KLEIN, "HOLD HIM OVER THE GULF OF HELL, BUT DON'T DROP HIM IN. SHAKE HIM, O LORD, SHAKE HIM WELL."

—PRAYER OF ONE OF THE COLORED "TRAITORS."
—A correspondent of the Boston Liberator says that Castner Hanway's wife used to visit the Christiana prisoners at Moyamensing every day. On one occasion, she told us, as she was passing along the passage, she overheard one of the colored prisoners engaged in prayer. He supposed himself alone, save the presence of the Infinite One. He prayed for Castner, for his wife, and for all the suffering prisoners by name, then, pausing, he burst forth as follows: "O, Lord God Almighty! I pray thee to take Kline, and shake him! Hold him over the gulf of hell, but don't drop him in! Shake him, O Lord, shake him well!"

Discharge of the Christiana Prisoners.

LANCASTER, Jan. 23.

The bills preferred against the Christiana prisoners for murder and riot were returned this morning by the Grand Jury, "no bills," and all the prisoners were discharged by John L. Thompson, Esq., District Attorney.

So ends the last act in this farce of *legal justice*.

THE WILMINGTON, NC DAILY JOURNAL OF JANUARY 27, 1852 REPORTS ON THE DISMISSAL OF THE REMAINING CHARGES AGAINST THE CHRISTIANA DEFENDANTS AND CALLS IT A "FARCE OF LEGAL JUSTICE."

(5) AN UNDATED PHOTO OF THE GORSUCH "RETREAT FARM," WHERE 4 ENSLAVED MEN WERE ACCUSED OF STEALING GRAIN THAT LED TO A BATTLE THAT HELPED BRING ON THE CIVIL WAR.





WILLIAM PARKER

