

"Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death,"

Cleveland (OH) *Cleveland Herald*, January 29, 1856

<https://stampedes.dickinson.edu/document/cleveland-oh-cleveland-herald-give-me-liberty-or-give-me-death-january-29-1856>

Give me Liberty or Give me Death.

One of the most touching incidents connected with the accursed system of slavery is contained in the following dispatch :

CINCINNATI, Jan. 28.

A stampede of slaves took place last night from the border counties of Kentucky. The whereabouts of several having been discovered here, officers at noon to-day proceeded to make arrests. Upon approaching the house where the slaves were secreted, the latter fired, wounding two or three spectators, but not seriously. One slave woman, finding escape impossible, cut the throats of her children, killing one instantly and severely wounding two others. Six of the fugitives were apprehended, but eight are said to have escaped.

We envy not the official honor or emolument of men who accept the job of arresting a mother and sending her back to bondage, who will cut the throats of her children rather than see them taken back to slavery. The blood of such martyrs to freedom must mark the footsteps of these official slave drivers as long as they live.

Slave Stampedes on the Southern Borderlands

National Park Service Network to Freedom / House Divided Project at Dickinson College