

Trails & BYWAYS

NORTHUP TRAIL

The Northup Trail takes visitors along the path of Solomon Northup during his 12-year journey as a slave in Central Louisiana.

Originally from New York, Northup was kidnapped, sold as a slave in New Orleans, and arrived in Alexandria in 1841 until he legally regained his freedom at the Avoyelles Parish Courthouse in 1853. The trail follows his path through Rapides and Avoyelles Parishes and visits sites

such as the Red River Landing where

Northup disembarked the steamer Rodolf, the Epps House, the Bunkie Depot, and the Avoyelles Parish Courthouse.

The novel *Twelve Years a Slave*, the story of Solomon Northup was made into a movie that won 2013 Best Picture of the Year.



Northup Trail
Total Distance - 91 Miles

★ Visitor Information Center



**d) Historic Cheneyville
Trinity Episcopal Church**

Crossing the bridge over Bayou Boeuf in the older part of Cheneyville is the imposing Trinity Episcopal Church constructed in 1860. The gravesites of Mary McCoy, Ralph Smith and Sue Lyles Eakin are found here.

1077 Bayou Road, Cheneyville

e) Live Oak Plantation

The owner of Live Oak Plantation, c. 1850, was Mary McCoy, described by Northup as “the beauty and glory of Bayou Boeuf.” It was she who engaged Northup to entertain friends and slaves at another nearby property she owned called Normand Plantation.

11896 Hwy. 71 S., Bunkie

f) Bayou Boeuf

Bayou Boeuf, which connects Avoyelles and Rapides parishes, was named for the wild cattle that came to water at its bank. “Boeuf” means “beef” in French. The long chain of plantations along both sides of the bayou formed the community plantation culture.

2274 Hwy. 71, Bunkie

g) First Bowie Knife

In 1827, the first Bowie Knife was fabricated at the site, the former site of Rezin Bowie’s Plantation and familiar to Northup when he traveled.

801 Hwy. 1177, Bunkie

h) Sue Eakin/Bunkie Record

As a young girl, Sue Lyles Eakin discovered the Northup account in an old book at Oak Hall Plantation. Eakin later spent her adulthood owning and operating the Bunkie Record newspaper, devoting much of her life to researching the Northup story.

110 NW Hwy. 71, Bunkie

i) Holmesville

Holmesville was a bustling port in the time of Northup’s enslavement and was the last major port on Bayou Boeuf before it flowed into Courtableau Bayou.

276 Oil Field Road, Bunkie

j) Fogleman Cemetery

This is the cemetery where the Edwin Epps family is buried in unmarked graves.

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 30.91280, Longitude: -92.21940

k) Edwin Epps Plantation Site

The Epps Plantation site can be viewed from the bridge that crosses Bayou Boeuf. This is where Solomon Northup was enslaved from 1843 to 1853 with Edwin Epps as his master and where Northup befriended Sam Bass, who helped him on his path to freedom.

Carl Hunt Road off of Hwy. 1176, Bunkie

l) Hillcrest Plantation

Edwin Epps worked the property at one time here near present day Bunkie on Bayou Claire and often sent Solomon Northup to work here.

20336 J.B. Road, Bunkie

m) Lone Pine Plantation

Alanson Pearce owned this property in the Evergreen area. He brought Northup to St. Mary Parish to help harvest sugar, as there was little farm work in the Evergreen area due to caterpillars.

399 Hwy. 361, Evergreen

n) Dr. Jules C. DesFosse’ Home

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Dr. Jules Charles DesFosse’ Home dates to c. 1790. It is the oldest structure in Avoyelles and is still located on its original plot of land.

1805 L’Eglise St., Mansura

o) St. Paul Cemetery

Dating to 1796, St. Paul Cemetery is the oldest cemetery in Avoyelles. The original church site was in front of the cemetery in the area then known as Hydropolis.

197 Hwy. 107, Mansura

p) Edwards Plantation

The former site of the William Edwards Plantation in Marksville dates to 1836. Edwards had at least seven sons, all with patriotic names. Confederates killed William Edwards during the Civil War for being a Union sympathizer.

408 S. Main, Marksville

p) Hypolite Bordelon House

Listed on National Register of Historic Places, this circa 1820 Creole house is typical of the dwellings of early Avoyelles parish families. The Bordelon family built the house and was one of the parish’s pioneer families.

242 Tunica Dr W, Marksville

p) Waddill Law Office Site

The former site of John Waddill’s law office was located here. It was Waddill, Northup’s local attorney, who made the legal arrangements to free him with the help of Atty. Henry Northup of New York.

243 N. Main, Marksville

p) Marksville Post Office Site

In the fall of 1851, Northup managed to get a letter sent to New York officials advising them of his plight as a slave on Epps Plantation. Sam Bass, an itinerant carpenter who worked briefly at the Epps place, bravely mailed Northup’s letter at the then Marksville Post Office.

105 N. Main, Marksville

p) Avoyelles Parish Courthouse

The Avoyelles Courthouse that existed in 1853 was the site where Solomon Northup gained his freedom on January 4, 1853. The present courthouse is located on the same site.

312 N. Main, Marksville

p) Judge Cushman Office

It was Judge Ralph Cushman who presided over the proceedings to free Northup in the Avoyelles Courthouse. The Judge’s actions were praised in The New York Times.

109 E. Ogden, Marksville

q) Ludger Barbin Landing

The former site of Ludger Barbin Landing is where Northup and his attorney Henry Northup boarded a steamer heading to New Orleans in January 1853. Eventually they got back to New York where Solomon rejoined his family after 12 years and wrote an account of his experiences in Central Louisiana.

Fort DeRussy Road and Sugarpoint Road, Marksville

In addition to the following points of interest, visitors will also see historic sites, registered historic houses, Indian mounds, museums, churches and cemeteries, farms, shops, eateries and accommodations along the route.

THIS TRAIL REPRESENTS THE WORLD OF SOLOMON NORTHUP THEN AND NOW. THE SITES MARKED IN RED ARE PRIVATELY OWNED AND NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

a) Red River Landing

After being purchased at a New Orleans slave auction, Solomon Northup and three other slaves belonging to William Prince Ford of Rapides Parish arrived at the Red River Landing on the Steamer Rodolf in 1841.

101 Murray St., Alexandria

b) Restored Epps House

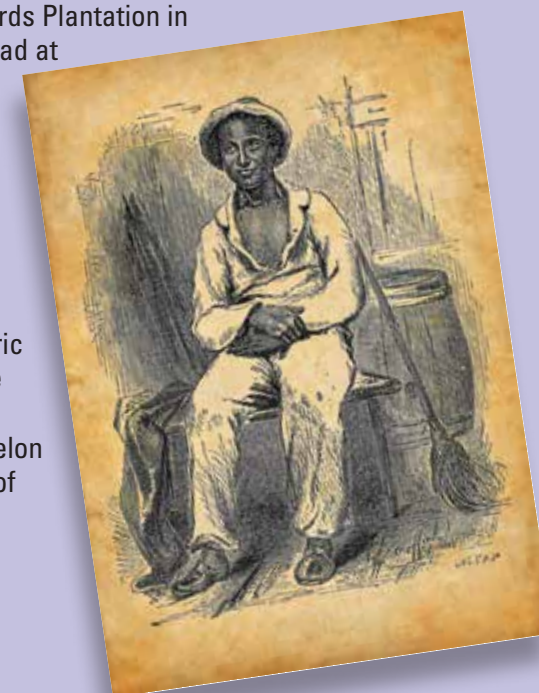
The original Edwin Epps home where Solomon was enslaved from 1843 to 1853 has been restored and relocated to the LSU Alexandria campus. The home was originally located on Bayou Bouef in Avoyelles parish.

8100 Hwy. 71 S., Alexandria

c) Lamourie Lane

Lamourie was a crossroads antebellum community with the terminal of the Red River Railroad. When William Prince Ford arrived here in 1841 by train with Solomon Northup, they descended here to walk across plantations by foot.

8832 Hwy. 71 S., Alexandria



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For more information about the Northup Trail, including additional stops along the trail route, please visit

travelavoyelles.com or alexandriapinevillela.com