



**Created by:** Mary Jane Markley, Graham Elementary School

**Grade level:** 5

**Primary Source Citation:** *Julia Ann James Ex-slave Narrative*, Works Progress Administration (WPA) Ex-Slave Narratives. Ohio Historical Center Archives Library, GR7999. From *The African American Experience in Ohio: 1850-1920*. <http://dbs.ohiohistory.org/africanam/html/page5745.html?ID=13921>.

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the narrative located on the following pages or at the above link while answering the questions below in order. The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

### **Level I: Description**

1. How old was Julia Ann James when interviewed?
2. In what state was Julia Ann James enslaved?
3. What were some of the jobs on the plantation that the workers and her mother performed?
4. What jobs or work did Julia Ann do?

### **Level II: Interpretation**

1. Describe how she learned to read and write.
2. According to Julia how many slaves were left on the plantation at the end of the war and what were they given as freed slaves?

### **Level III: Analysis**

1. Explain how life was different for Julia Ann as an adult, and what things did she bring with her out of slavery?
2. Explain why you think this is a primary source.

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- lave, age years.

"I cum fum ickin'ham County, Nawth Cah'lina. 'Course I wuz'nt very big when de war broke out, but I can member lots o'things."

"Mother wuz named Cah'lina, en father wuz Cain mith. Dey both belong ter de same fam'ly but dey live en diffu'nt places. i us chillun en mother stayed with ole Marse Drewry mith. He had sech er big fam'ly dat dey done live en all diffu'nt parts en tended things fer him on his other plantations. mith owned mos' all o' tokes, curry, Forsyth, en ockin'ham Counties, en he had er thousand slaves. He had 0 chillun- 'leven by his first wife en nine by de second wife.

"Marse Drewry had his own tan yard, right dere on de place, en five stillhouses. Dey wuz shoemakers, harness makers, en weavers what wuk all de time. He done hire sev'ral poor white 'omans what done weavin' fer twenty five cents er day. hree cooks wuk in de kitchen all de time. ome de 'omens dey kep' busy makin' shirts, en dresses fer de girls.

"De mith boys en girls had plenty o' dey own pusnal slaves. Dey wuz er gang of em, en eight o'de boys wuz en de ebel armies at one time."

"Mother wuked en de field. I done lots o' knittin'- stockin's en sech like. Many de time I used broom straws fer knitten needles. Us dyed our own cloth fum walnut hulls en wood, brush blossoms, en sometimes copper te help mek er diffu'ny colorin'. Course de color wuz'nt jes'. as pretty as dey mek now, but dat dye it wash good en diden mek de goods fall ter pieces, like some de stuff dey use now.

"I cud weave bed spreads en table cloths, too. I wuz too short ter reach up en wuk de loom right, but dey made a thing fer me ter stand on, en manys de day I stood up ter de loom all day long."

"Marse Drewry wuz'nt hard on us, en ge gives us passes to go fum place ter place. But some er de slaves knowed how ter read en write, kaze de chillun dey ud teach em- course de chillun wuz'nt 'lowed ter do it- en den dem slaves what knowed how ter write ud mek out passes fer eny o' de others, en not ask Marse Drewery."

"When de Yankees come t'rough dey knowed how rich Marse Drewery wuz, en dey done heerd he buried er big trunk o'gold en money. Dey tried ter git him ter tell where it wuz buried. But he tuk de awfulest beatin', en aint nebber tole em. Den de Yankees tuk one o'de boys what dey t'ought knowed, en punished em till dey tole. When dey found dat trunk d ey trowed pennies en small coins ter all de slaves, en tuk all de silver en gold dey want-tuk it all, I guess, cept what dey t'rowed ter us. Way atter de war, dey say folks found pennies roun' dere en de groun'.

"I member when de first cullud boys left fun Nawth Cah'lina fer fe war. Father wuz with de Nawth Cah'lina sojers. Us cud see de flash fum

firin' en de smoke, en it wuz nothin' fer us ter hear de raor[editorial mark] of de f[g]uns  
day en night."

"When freedom come dey wuz 500 slaves still on Marse Drewery's plan-  
tations. Frelin Hodge, one er de men had ter go roun' en tell slaves dey  
wuz free, he come roun' ter our place en made er speech ter all o' us,  
en says us wuz free."

"Marse Drewery give all his folks er little start; one cow each, some  
hogs, en a little patch er groun', en let em build er cabin. Dat first year  
sho' wuz hard, fer us diden git nothin' fer the cattle en stock ter feed on."

"In I came up ter allipolis, hio. I marred dat year ter  
thomas ames, fum irginia. Us moved here in , en went out on oe  
Foster's farm. Den finelly us moved en ter tow."

"My husband en nine of my chillun are daid. Dey's three boys en  
one girl left."

"Hen us wuz en Nawth Cahilina, us allus went ter Marse Drewery's  
church. He wuz Baptist. But atter freedom us went to our own church, en  
it wuz er Methodist church. Dey sung lots o' ole fashion songs. ometimes  
I can think o' more'n enough of em, but right now I cant think of nothin'  
but "I Want er o er Heaven When I Die", "Want er Cross ordan",  
Doan you rieve atter Me", wing ow weet Chariot."

Interviewed at her esidence, Bu ton ve.

ditors note

ulia nn ames is years old. Her color is light brown.  
he is short and heavy set. wing to rheumatism and other infirmities of  
old age she is not able to do any active work.