

# The Fugitive Slave Law, 1850

The Fugitive Slave Act was passed as part of the Compromise of 1850. To please the South, the compromise promised a law to help slave owners capture runaway slaves.



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**\$100 REWARD!**  
**RUNAWAY**

From the undersigned, living on Current River, about twelve miles above Doniphan, in Ripley County, Mo., on 2nd of March, 1860, **A. N. GROMAN**, about 30 years old, weighs about 160 pounds; high forehead, with a scar on it; had on brown pants and coat very much worn, and an old black wool hat; shoes size No. 11.

The above reward will be given to any person who may apprehend this said negro, at the State and City Jail, or elsewhere in the State of Missouri, or 25¢ if taken in other county.

**APOS TUCKER.**

## The law...

- Fugitives could be held without an arrest warrant.
- Fugitives had no right to a jury trial.
- A federal official received \$5 for releasing the defendant, \$10 for turning him over to a slave owner.
- Required Northerners to help capture slaves.

**CAUTION!!**  
**COLORED PEOPLE**  
**OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,**  
You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and advised, to avoid conversing with the **Watchmen and Police Officers of Boston,**  
For since the recent **ORDER OF THE MAYOR & ALDERMEN,** they are empowered to act as **KIDNAPPERS**  
**AND**  
**Slave Catchers,**  
And they have already been actually employed in **KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING SLAVES.** Therefore, if you value your **LIBERTY**

The Fugitive Slave Law brought the reality of slavery home to people in the North. The presence of slave catchers throughout the North helped to inflame anti-slavery feelings. A number of Northerners helped fugitive slaves to keep them from being caught and returned to the South.

Placard #6