Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/571009207/

Downloaded on Apr 2, 2026

EXODUS OF SLAVES.

Under this head, the DEMOCRAT has, every now and then, a paragraph noting the fact of the transfer of a few score of slaves from Missouri to the Southern States, where, in consequence of the prosperous condition of those States, there is great demand for them. The idea intended to be conveyed by these notices, is, that slavery is becoming unpopular in Missouri, and the number is rapidly decreasing. This might be true, if it were not notorious that the same traffic in slaves has been carried on for the last thirty years—every year presenting, from various causes, the fact of the transit of slaves from Missouri to the South; yet the number of slaves in Missouri has been increasing all the while.

* * * * * *

The late assessment in Randolph county shows an increase of fifty-three slaves over the number in that county in 1858, and this is true of many other counties.—*Republican of yesterday.*

The usual reckless misrepresentation of the *Republican* is very palpable in the above. Selling and shipping negroes from Missouri to the South has, truly enough, been carried on for the last thirty years, and yet there is not a steamboatman on the Levee, who is in the Southern trade, but will say that this traffic has more than doubled, yea, trebled, in the last two or three years. "A few score of slaves from Missouri to the South," says our neighbor. The shipments have amounted to hundreds per week for several months past. The negroes are not only moving to the South by way of St. Louis and the Mississippi river, but are carried off in large droves through Southwestern Missouri into Arkansas, many planters and drivers preferring this as the safest mode of transit. An instance came to our hearing the other day, where one of the wealthiest citizens of Platte county sent a drove of two hundred slaves down through Western Missouri into Arkansas. We have also the estimate of a negro trader of this city, made in the hearing of a friend about ten days since, in which it was carefully demonstrated that, if the slave exodus from Missouri continues at the present rate for the next fifteen years, there will not be left a thousand negroes in our borders.

The *Republican* cites a late assessment of Randolph county, showing an increase of fifty-three slaves over the number in that county in 1858.

Copyright © 2026 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.

Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/571009207/

Downloaded on Apr 2, 2026

groes in our borders.

The *Republican* cites a late assessment of Randolph county, showing an increase of fifty-three slaves over the number in that county in 1858.

We have not noticed any such assessment, but we have seen a late number of the Huntsville *Citizen*, the leading paper of Randolph county, in which it is stated that the slaves are rapidly disappearing from that county.

We have, besides, the following testimony of the rapid decimation of the slave population in Lafayette county, the largest, we believe, slave-holding district in the State. It is from the Lexington *Express* of recent date:

"The movement of the nigger is Southward. Every day this fact is the better proven. There is scarcely a county in this part of the State that has not its slave buyer: and what is more, they are purchasing quite largely for the Southern market. Just the other day, Mr. White, a trader, shipped no less than forty slaves, on the Asa Wilgus, and he did not, we understand, take with him all he had purchased in this market during the last few weeks. This it is that is yearly decreasing our adult slave population. On Tuesday last, Gen. Doriss, of Platte county, passed through this city bound Southward, with nearly one hundred slaves. We did not understand whether they were for sale below, or whether the General designed working them himself at the South. It is immaterial so long as the fact is that we lose the negroes."

We have from time to time noticed this heavy and increasing movement of the slaves away from Missouri, as one of the "signs of the times," and cannot understand why the *Republican* should endeavor to deny or pervert facts so patent to our citizens, unless it proceeds from its rash and reckless hostility against free white emigration, and the general welfare and advancement of the State.

Copyright © 2026 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.