***FLEE NORTH: A FORGOTTEN HERO IN SLAVERY’S BORDERLAND***

**By Scott Shane**

**Questions for Discussion**

1. What was the “domestic slave trade” and what legal, agricultural and socio-economic conditions led to and fostered it?
2. How did Thomas Smallwood and Charles Torrey theorize and defend their approach to abolition, and what was their argument with noted abolitionists such as William Lloyd Garrison and others who advocated a different approach to the abolition of slavery? What about “colonization?”
3. Discuss Hope Slatter’s approach to capitalism in Baltimore/Washington, as well as in Mobile. Why did he ultimately move to the deep South?
4. Why did “respectable” people, who were enslavers and fully understood Slatter’s business, not accept him within “polite society?”
5. What was the source of Thomas Smallwood’s pen name, Samuel Weller? How did he “torture” the slaveholders whose “property” had been spirited away?
6. What is the import of the title “Flee North;” why was it not sufficient to transport enslaved people to a free state such as Pennsylvania? How did

people in many walks of life profit from slavery in the “borderland?”

1. How did Smallwood view white people, including abolitionists? What were race relations in Canada like, and how did they differ (or not) from those in the US? How do you think Smallwood would view race relations in the US today?
2. Why did Torrey’s writings, among others, omit mention of Smallwood and his part in this story?