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This is the case of Celia, an enslaved woman in 1850s America, and based on the work of historian Melton McLaurin in *Celia, A Slave*. Category People & Blogs

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State of Missouri v. Celia, a Slave was an 1855 murder trial

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held in the Circuit Court of Callaway County, Missouri, in which an enslaved woman named Celia was tried for the first-degree murder of her owner, Robert Newsom. Celia was convicted by a jury of twelve white men and sentenced to death.

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In the book *Celia A Slave* Melton McLaurin describes in great detail the true story of a female slave who murdered her master and then disposed of him by burning his body on June 23, 1855. This shocking event took place in Calloway County, Missouri during a tumultuous period in antebellum America in which the neighboring territory of Kansas

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