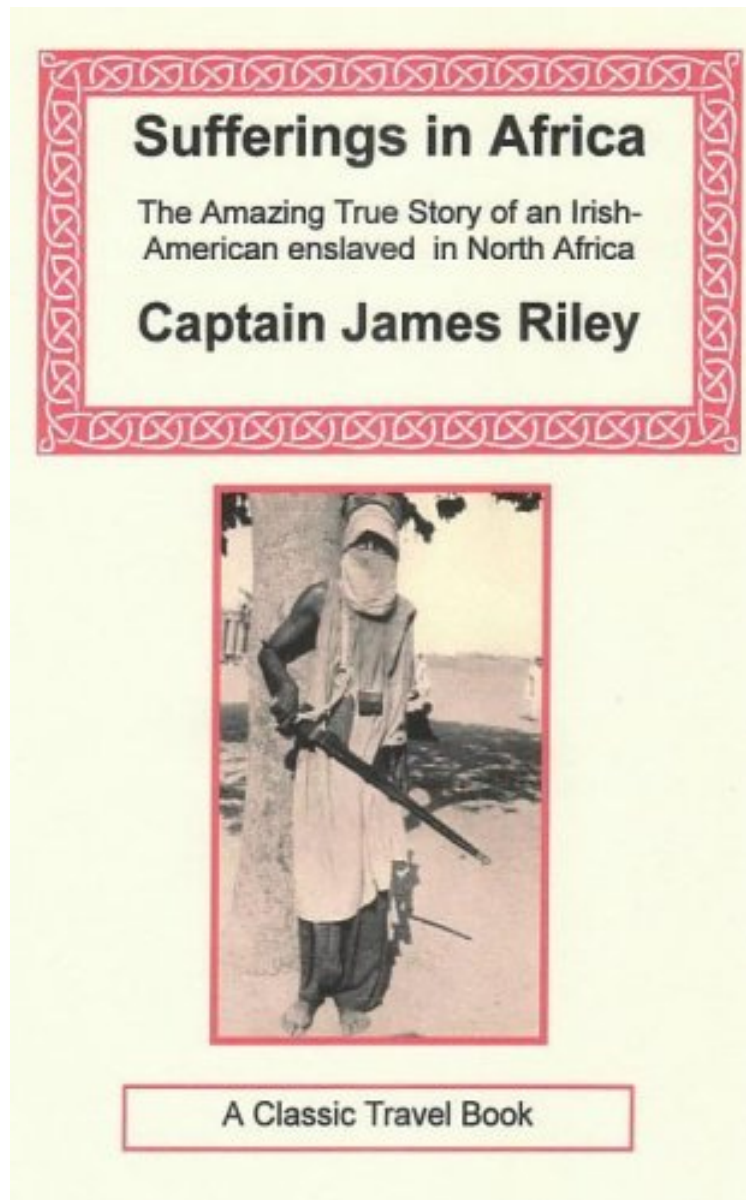


[Mobile book] Sufferings in Africa (Irish History Classics)

## Sufferings in Africa (Irish History Classics)

*James Riley*

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**James Riley : Sufferings in Africa (Irish History Classics)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sufferings in Africa (Irish History Classics):

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.  
A tale of extraordinary courage and resilience  
By A reader  
From the moment I started reading the book to the point where I finished reading , I just could not control my emotions. This book is absolutely captivating and a telling tale of the repugnant system of slavery. Slavery in any form or practised by anyone, may it be by the whites on the blacks or vice versa, is equally repulsive and cruel. In my opinion, slavery is the worst crime and cruelty that man can inflict upon his fellow beings, even worse than murder. The narrative abilities of Capt. Riley are quite extraordinary. This is the most moving tale of suffering and redemption I have ever read. When I first read the Dean King's version of this same story , I felt that was a master piece and certainly the original version with its archaic English may not be readable. Boy was I wrong !  
This book is a compulsive page turner and the emotions it evokes in its readers minds cannot be simulated, as this is a first hand account and that too of a sufferer. Riley has put his heart into his writings and that cannot be reproduced in any copy. A BIG THANKS TO THE LONG RIDERS' GUILD PRESS as because of them we are able to read this classic. It appears Abe Lincoln was so impressed by this book that he decided to abolish slavery. Thus this book was instrumental in bringing about one of the the biggest social changes in US history with far reaching effects.

He was used to adventure. He was used to the high seas. He was Captain James Riley, American seaman and independent businessman bound for Europe in 1815. He never made it! Instead the young sea captain and his crew were shipwrecked off the coast of Muslim-controlled Morocco. The sea salt was still wet in their hair when the battered survivors were pounced upon by local natives, ensnared, enchained, and marched off into the horrors of African slavery. Rileys narrative reads like fiction but is based on solid fact. Most of his men died. A few were separated and sold into the interior of the continent, never to be seen again. He was the first American to venture near the legendary Timbuctoo. Yet the conditions were so barbaric, the food so scanty, and the beatings so regular that Riley dropped from 240 down to 90 pounds! After many desperate ordeals, the American sailor and a handful of his men were ransomed by a sympathetic English merchant who had learned of their plight. Upon his return to the United States, Riley penned *Sufferings in Africa*, which went on to become Americas first best-seller, reportedly selling more than a million copies through various editions. Yet *Sufferings in Africa* is much more than just an adventure travel classic. In a time when the United States was grappling with the thorny issue of slavery within her own borders, Rileys startling book told a tale of Uncle Toms Cabin in reverse. Here was a story of Caucasian Americans under the whip and in the chains that held millions of Black Americans at the same time. Scholars are currently researching clues that this deservedly famous book was read by a young Abraham Lincoln, and thus helped seal his own heart against slavery. A classic story of endurance and bravery then, this important American book remains as fresh today as the day it was first released.

From the Back Cover  
In this classic tale of adventure, a young American sea captain named James Riley, shipwrecked off the western coast of North Africa in 1815, was captured by a band of nomadic Arabs, and sold into slavery. Thus begins an epic adventure of survival and a quest for freedom that takes him across the Sahara desert. This dramatic account of Captain Riley's trials and sufferings sold more than 1,000,000 copies in his day, and was even read by a young and impressionable Abraham Lincoln. The degradations of a slave existence and the courage to survive under the most harrowing conditions have rarely been recorded with such painful honesty. *Sufferings in Africa* is a classic travel-adventure narrative, and a fascinating testament of white Americans enslaved abroad - during a time when slavery flourished through the United States. (5 1/2 X 8 1/4, 336 pages)