



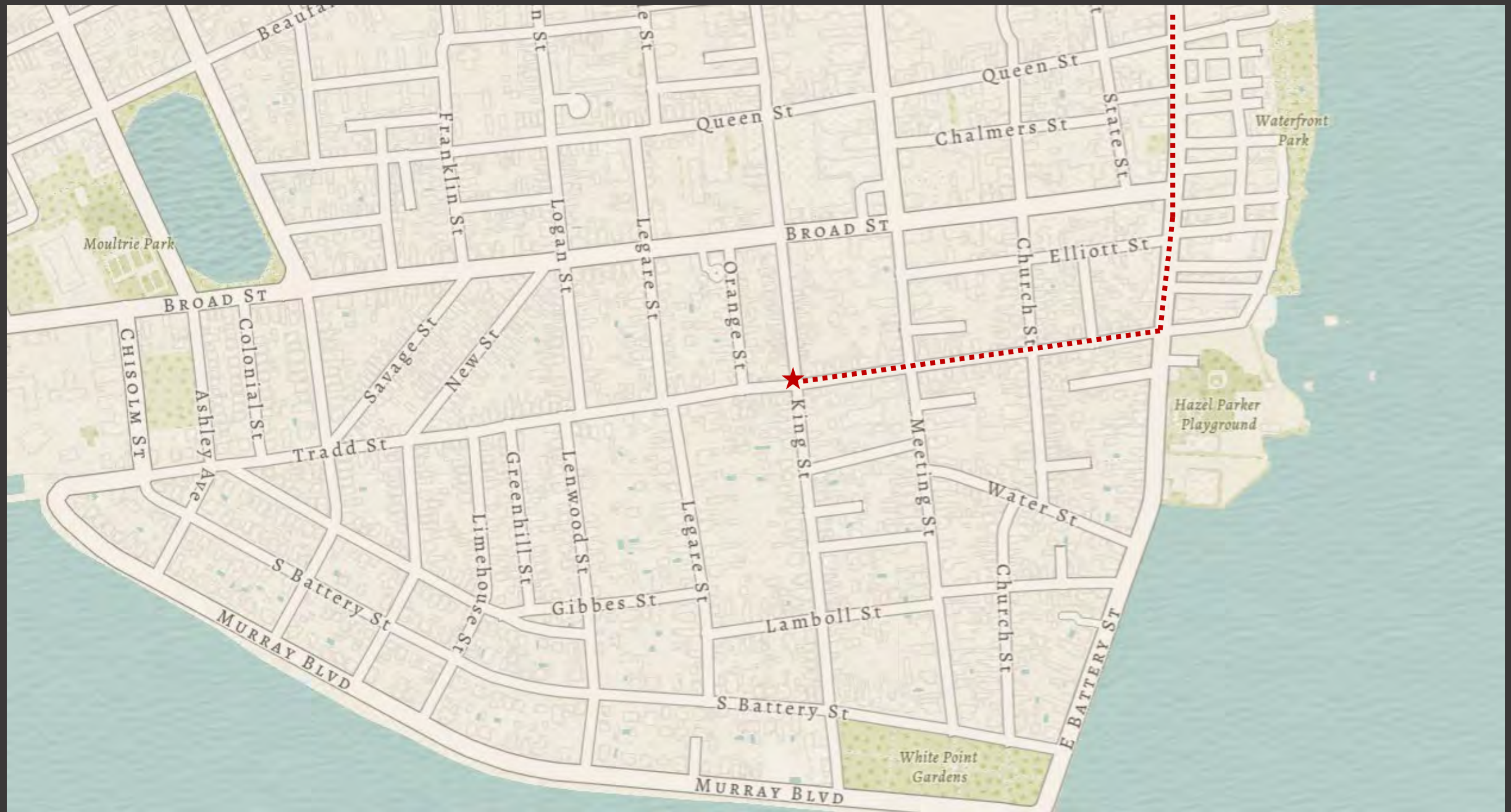
IN THE MAKING:

The Black
Craftspeople
Digital Archive









JOHN WILLIAMS, Carpenter and Joyner,
living near the naval office in *Charles-Town*, gives notice, that he
is ready and willing to undertake all manner of carpenter's or joy-
ner's work, or any buildings that shall be thought proper to be of-
fered to him; and, as he is a free man, he promises, that whoe-
ver shall please to employ him, shall find not only their work well
done and handiomey finish'd, but with great fidelity, justice and
dispatch: All persons favours, in employing him, will with the
greatest gratitude be acknowledged by
Their most humble Servant, **JOHN WILLIAMS.**

Carpenter and Joyner

**ready and willing to undertake all
manner of carpenter's or joyner's
work**

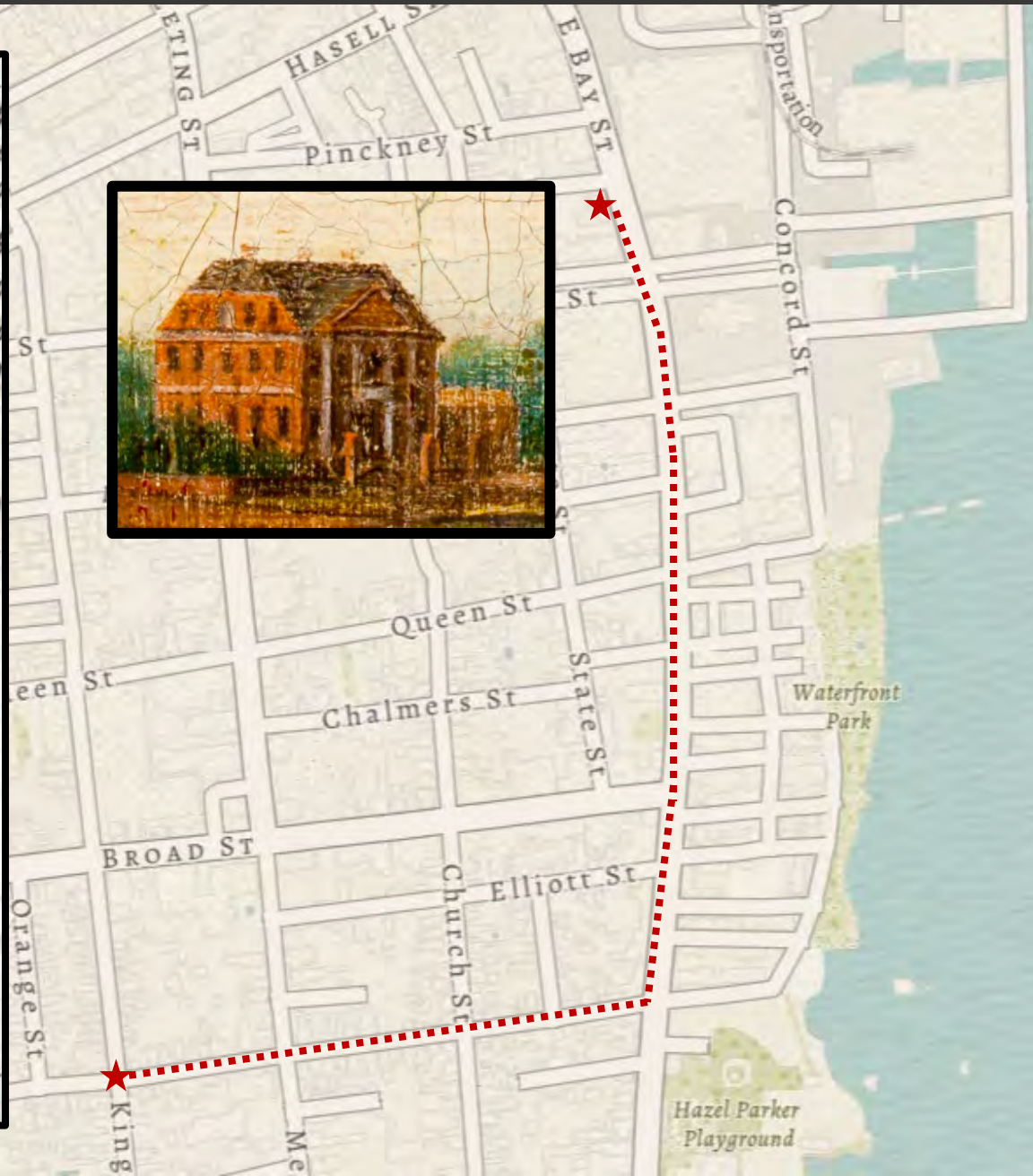
as he is a free man

**he promises that whoever shall please to
employ him, shall find not only their work
well done and handsomely finish'd, but
with great fidelity, justice, and dispatch**

Their most humble Servant,

John Williams.

Octob. 2 To 1/4 Day Self Archer and Patriek }
 at Cap. Shubrick } 0.15.0
 3 To 1 Day Self Archer and Patriek } 3.0.0
 Leaser Charles Pompey and Peter } 2.12.0
 4 To Self Charles Leaser Pompey and Peter } 5.0.0
 5 To Charles } 1/2 D. 0.10.0
 To Mend a Box for Pages } 1.0.0
 1752
 June 28 To 3/4 Day Prince and Patriek }
 altering y. Dorman window } 1.6.3
 29 To Prince and Peter } 0.18.9
 Feb. 3 To putting on 2 Latches & Lock } 0.10.0
 6 To 1/4 Day Self & Archer } 0.12.6
 8 To 1 Day Leaser } 1.0.0
 10 To 1/2 Day Leaser } 1.15.0
 11 To 1 Day Leaser } 1.0.0
 12 To 1/2 Day Leaser } 0.10.0
 18 To 1 Day Prince } 1.0.0
 19 To 1 Day Ditto & Leaser } 2.0.0
 20 To 1 D. Ditto } 1.0.0
 21 To 1 Ditto Ditto & Leaser } 2.0.0
 24 To Taking Down & Glazes & mend. a Table } 0.15.0
 To 1/2 Day Leaser putting up y. Bedstead } 0.10.0
 March 10 To putting on a Lock } 0.10.0
 Apr. 26 To putting up y. Gutter } 3.0.0
 £44.18.0



Brought forward

1. Sonney, a Negroeman Bricklayer at \$4 Ann
 2. Charles, a Negroeman Carpenter at
 3. Cesar, a Negroeman Carpenter at
 4. Souprey a Negroeman Carpenter at
 5. Nelly a Sempstress & 2 Children Abram 7-9
 6. and Mary 1 Year old &
 7.

8. Abba a washer woman & her 4 Children
 9. Vigil Peggy. 9 Years old, Andrew 7. Samson
 10.
 11. Natty 2. at
 12.
 13. Prince 8. Beck 5. Mary Ann 5
 14.
 15. Carlos 7 Bettema's.
 16. Mary Ann
 17. Bettema -





A Likely Negro Fellow to be Sold, that has had the small-pox, a Ship Carpenter and Wheelwright by Trade. Enquire of *Anne Lorey*.

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JOHN PAUL GRIMKE.



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November 5, 1770. WILLIAM JOHNSON.

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CHARLES-TOWN, JULY 27, 1772.



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Ponpon, May 5, 1767. WILLIAM COACHMAN.

Black Craftspeople Digital Archive

[Home](#) [About](#) [News](#) [Archive](#) [Exhibits](#) [Maps](#) [Contact](#)



Discovering • Interpreting • Digitizing

From 1619 to beyond, black craftspeople, both free and enslaved, worked to produce the valued architecture, handcrafts, and decorative arts of the American South. The Black Craftspeople Digital Archive seeks to enhance what we know about black craftspeople by telling both a spatial story and a

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The first phase of this project focuses on black craftspeople living and laboring in the eighteenth-century South Carolina Lowcountry.



Archive

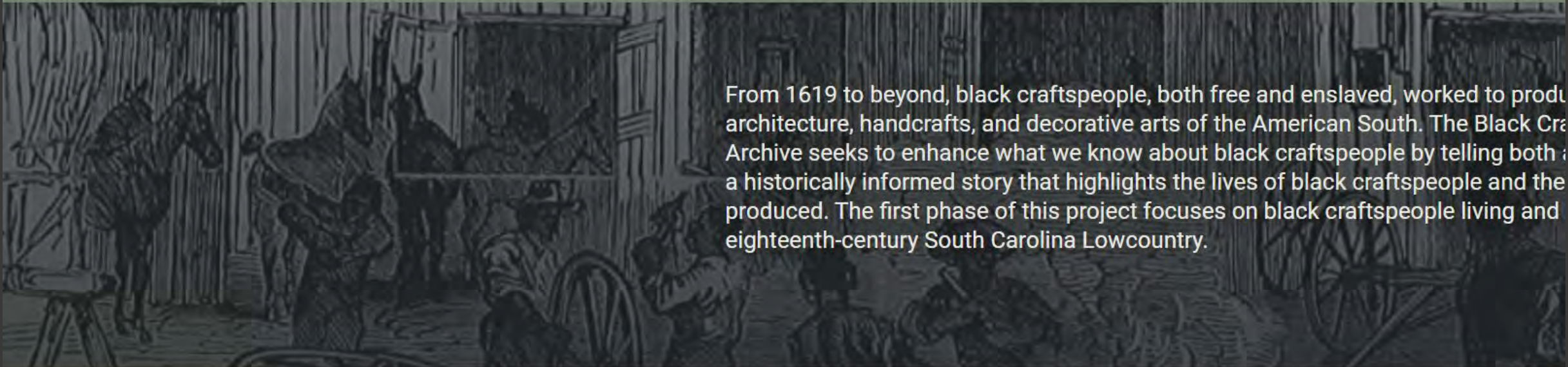


Exhibits



Maps

Black Craftspeople Digital Archive

[Home](#)[About the Collection](#)[Browse Collections](#)[Find Black Craftspeople](#)[Contribute](#)

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Building the Archive

Soon you will be able to explore the hundreds of collected records documenting the lives and experiences of black craftspeople involved in over 250 trades.

Contribute your Research

We are interested in your personal digital submissions (including images, stories, audio, or video) that document the lives and legacies of Black craftspeople.

Sort by: Title - Date Added

[illegible]

RAN away the 1st of March last, and is supposed to be imprisoned in or about New Town, where he is very well known as a small lim'd Angola negro, about 40 years old, five feet high, and formerly belonged to Mr. TUNNY, and formerly belonged to Mr. TUNNY, a greengrocer, fisherman and butcher, who delivered him to me on self. I took him at Storo, or later the work in New Town, shall have ten pounds reward on his charges, JEREMIAH COLE.

from the subscriber sometimes
and JOSEPH, or JOHN, a shoemaker
to the affairs of James Stewart,
years of age, has been working
on-
"on-
at Mr. H. p. n. s. t. a. n. y. a. r. d. in An
the W. k. n. o. n. s. e. shall receive f
table expenses. And any Person
by a white man shall receive a
f by a negro of Ten Pounds.
1776. EDMOND F.

-CAROLINA.
D R H I N D f
general, but in particular
, and Joiners, not to emp
ledge, and Consent first
named YORK: Otherw
prosecuted as far as Law a
CHARLES-TOWN,

on Tuesday the 30th Day of
the Estate of Mrs. Sarah Allen
are Country born; among
one Fellow who is a good
ne likely young Boys and Girls.
r. The Conditions are, Credit
\$8, paying Interest from the 1st
nd Security, the Property na
itions are complied with.
JOHN CROSKEYS, A

HUNDRED POUNDS REWARD
about 1 year ago, a very fine
JOE, then about 34 years old, had
black hair; he was short and
all over, but no very visible marks
broad forehead, the white of his
eyes, very sensitive and painful, and
of a tree island; he has no picture
can be remembered, except on
shoulder, where he was marked
reward of Two Hundred Pounds. So
be paid on delivery of him to
JACO

View the items in Goldsmiths

Judy - SPIN1

Title

Judy - SPIN1

Identifier

SPIN1

Subject

African Americans--History, African Americans--History--To 1863, African American women--History, Women artisans

Source

Gazette of the State of South Carolina

Date

August 25, 1779

Trade

Spinner

Gender

Female

Enslaver

George Muckinfoos

Home Location

South Carolina

Events

1. Self-emancipated from George Muckinfoos

Item Type

Advertisement

Item Type

Advertisement

Transcription

RUN away from the subscriber, on the 7th of August inst. a negro wench named Judy, about 18 years of age; She had on when she went away an Osnabrugs coat and wrapper; she is of the Guiney country and has her marks on her face, she is of a yellow complexion, well set, of middling nature, has been used to the house and spinning , and speaks tolerably plain; she is supposed to have been carried off by a negro man who calls himself Andrew and says he is free. He is of a black complexion, speaks good English, is very ragged in his dress, nor is it known where he came from or where he is gone. A reward of 70 dollars will be given for the fellow and wench; and whoever will bring or cause to be brought to the subscriber, the wench alone, shall have a reward of 30 Dollars.
GEORGE MUCKINFOOS.

Files

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Collection

[Spinners](#)

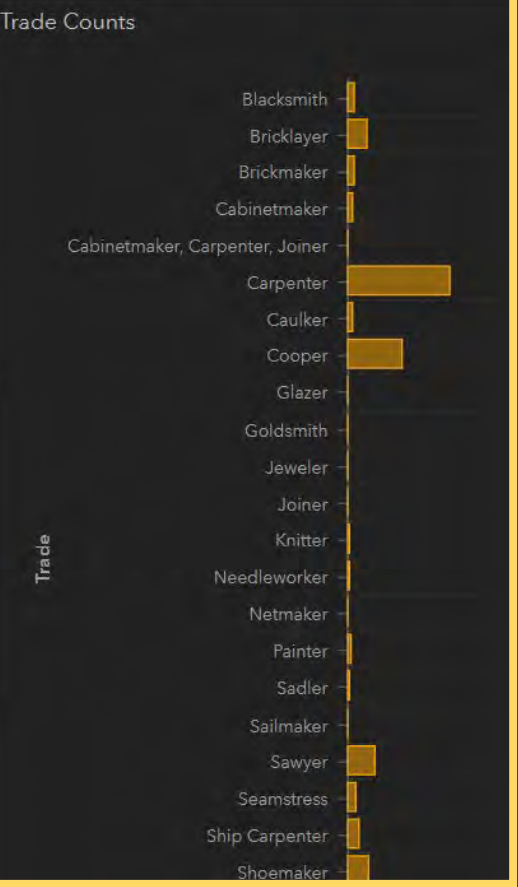
Citation

, "Judy - SPIN1," accessed October 15, 2020, <http://archive.blackcraftspeople.org/items/show/293>.

[← Previous Item](#)

[Next Item →](#)

Black Craftspeople Dashboard



Craftsperson Name

None

Identifier

None

Status

None

Location

None

Trade

None

Enslaver

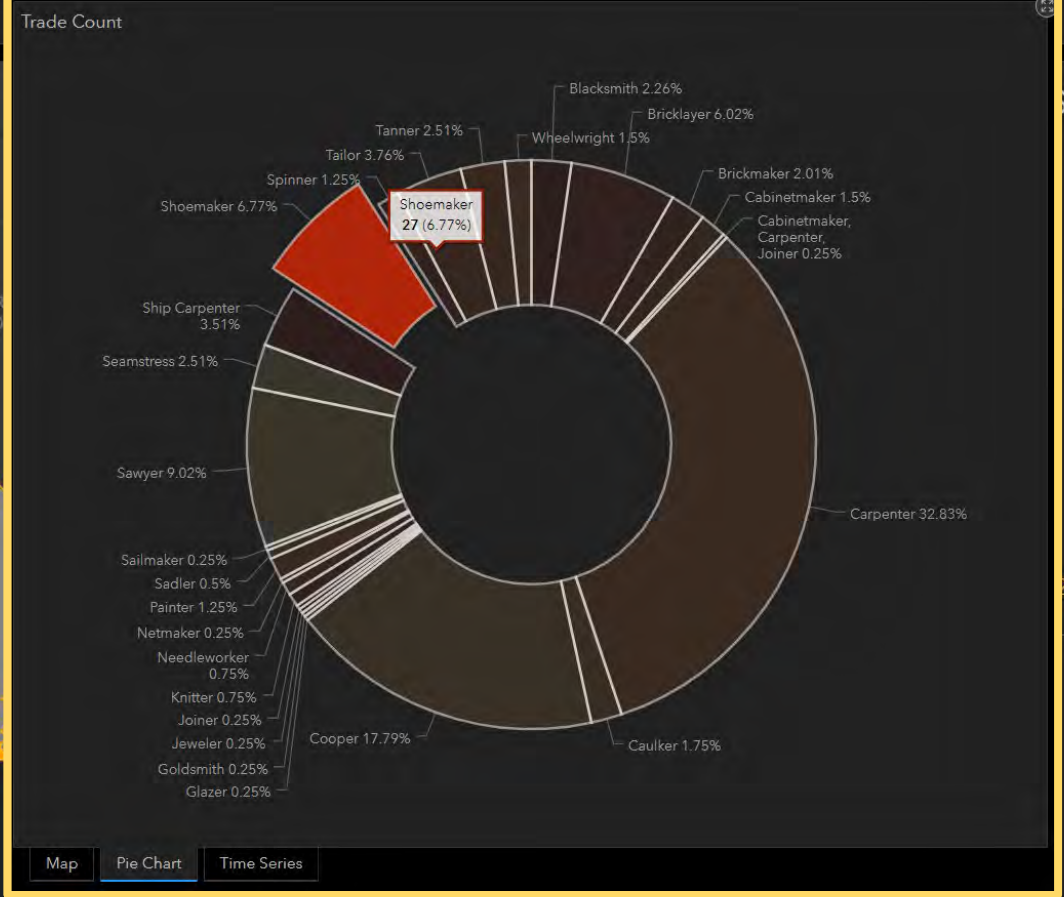
None

Years Active

Map

Pie Chart

Time Series



Recorded Events.

1. Self-emancipated from John Mitchell

Craftsperson Name: Decias (WHEW6)

Status: Enslaved

Enslaver: Rawlins Lowndes

Other Trades:

Activity Start Date: 10/15/1779

Activity End Date: 10/15/1779

Archive

Black Craftspeople Dashboard

Craftsperson Name

None

Identifier

None

Status

None

Location

None

Trade

None

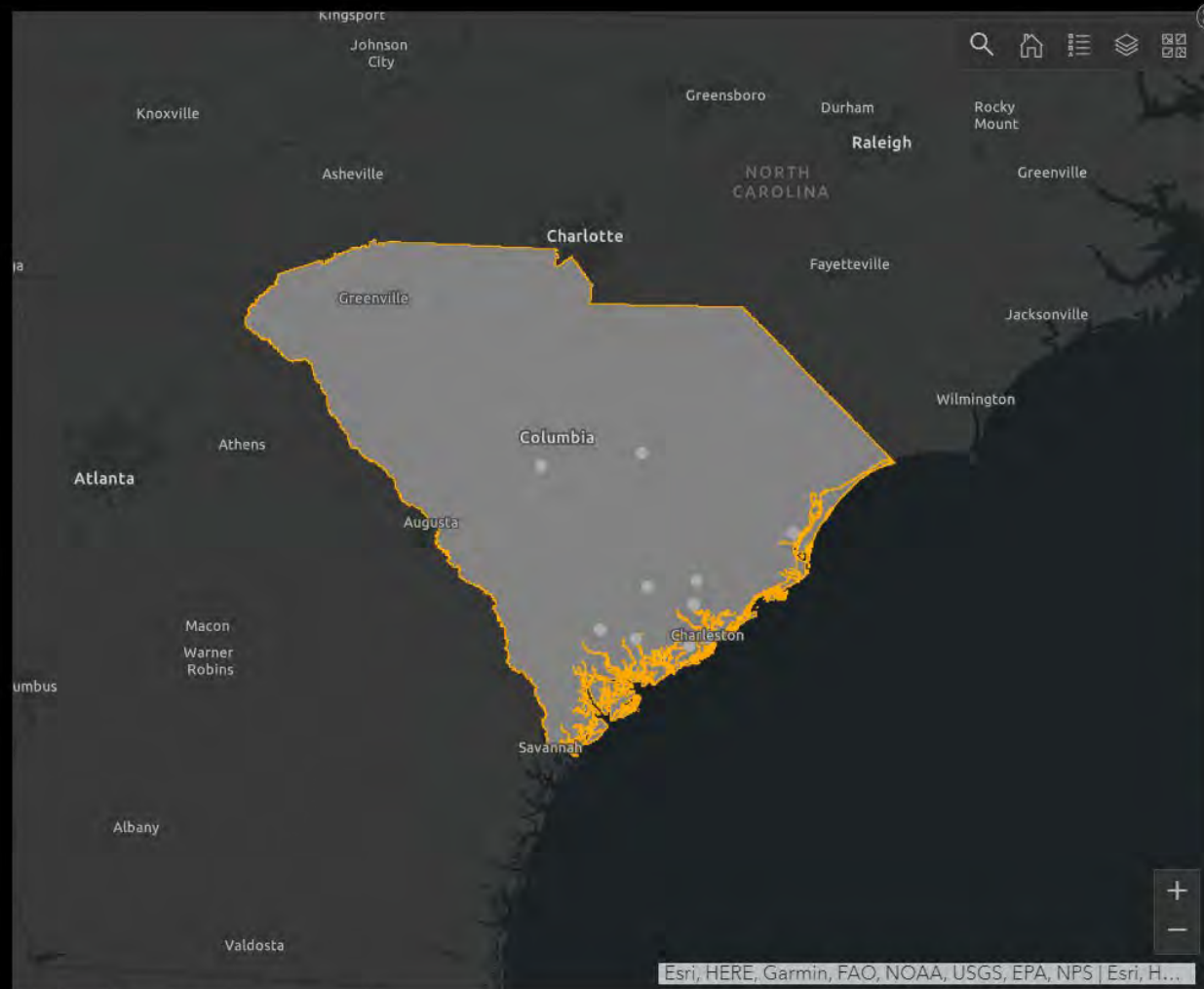
Enslaver

None

Years Active



25



Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS | Esri, H...

Map

Pie Chart

Time Series

Craftspeople Entries

24

Craftsperson Name: Jack (BRIL22)

Status: Enslaved

Enslaver: Joseph Ferbian

Other Trades:

Activity Start Date: 7/3/1770

Activity End Date: 7/3/1770

[Archive](#)

Recorded Events:

1. Formerly enslaved by Thomas Gordon 2. Formerly enslaved by Bernard Elliott 3. Self-emancipated from Joseph Ferbian

Craftsperson Name: Prosper (BRIL21)

Status: Enslaved

Enslaver: Benjamin Trapier

Other Trades:

Activity Start Date: 7/4/1769

Activity End Date: 7/4/1769

[Archive](#)

Recorded Events:

1. Self-emancipated from Benjamin Trapier

Craftsperson Name: Toney (BRIL20)

Status: Enslaved

Enslaver: William Coachman

Other Trades:

Activity Start Date: 5/12/1767

Activity End Date: 5/12/1767

[Archive](#)

Craftsperson Name

None

Identifier

None

Status

None

Location

None

Trade

None

Enslaver

None

Years Active

Craftsppl

Craftspers London

IDENTIFIER BRIL14

TRADE Bricklayer

AltTrade

GENDER Male

ActiveStar October 21, 1777

Active_End October 21, 1777

YEAR_ACTIV October 21, 1777

ENSLAVER Thomas Farr

STATUS Enslaved

HOME Thomas Farr's Plantation in St. I

TS 1. Formerly enslaved by Mr. Thomas 2. Hirec
Mr. Horbeck in Charles Town 3. Self-emancip
from Thomas Farr

ES The Gazette of the State of South Carolina

ES

ag <https://archive.blackcraftspeople.org/items/>

X -80.4104

Y 33.9123

Da 10/21/1777

London - BRIL14

Title

London - BRIL14

Identifier

BRIL14

Subject

African Americans--History, African Americans--History--To 1863, Artisans, Bricklayers

Source

The Gazette of the State of South Carolina

Date

October 21, 1777

Trade

Bricklayer

Gender

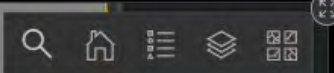
Male

Enslaver

Thomas Farr

Home

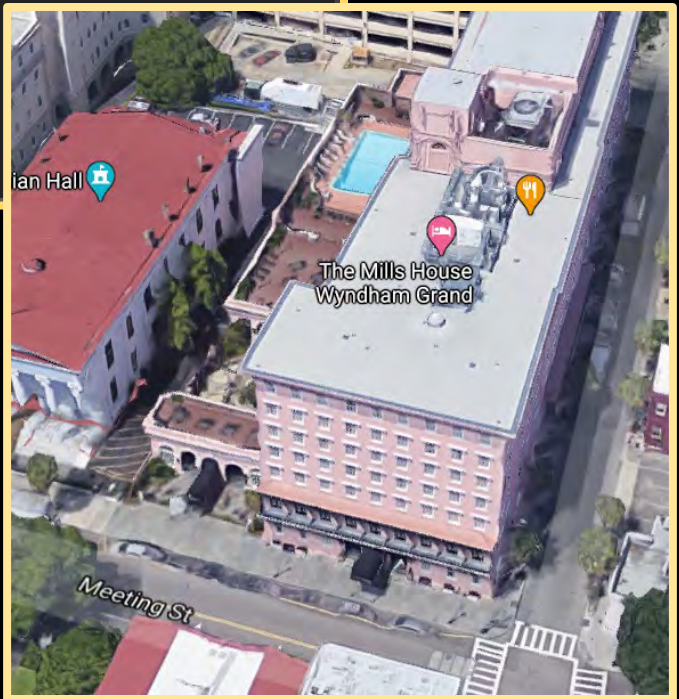
Thomas Farr's Plantation in St. Mark's Parish



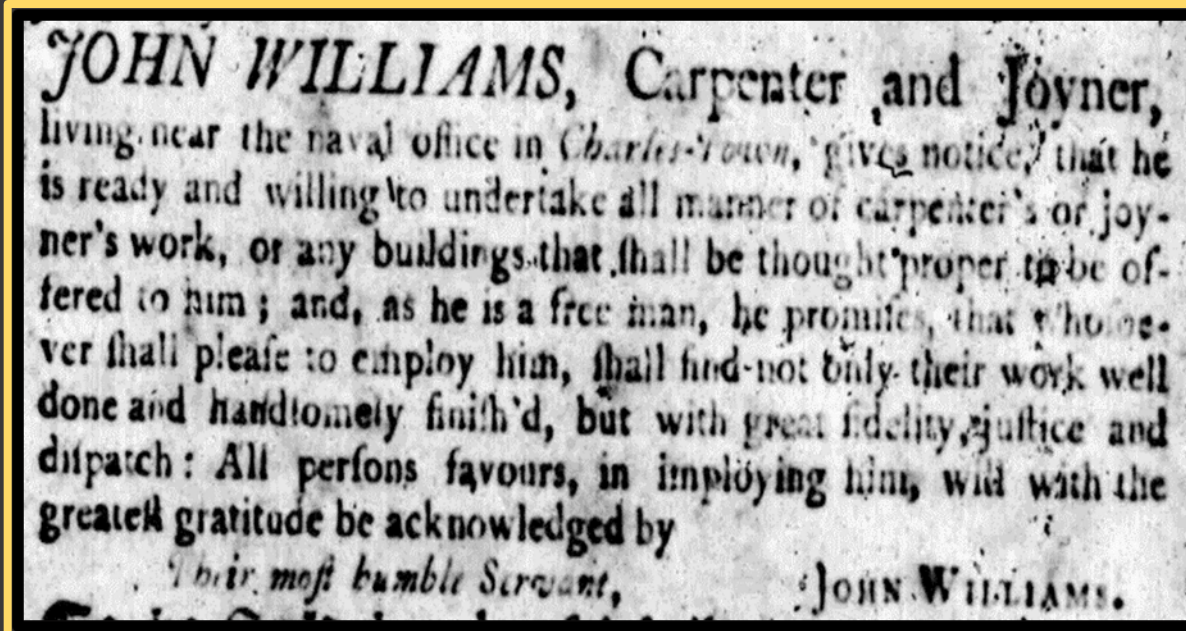
Craftspers	Joe
IDENTIFIER	JEW11
TRADE	Jeweler
AltTrade	
GENDER	Male
ActiveStar	August 27, 1771
Active_End	August 27, 1771
YEAR_ACTIV	August 27, 1771
ENSLAVER	John Paul Grimke
STATUS	Enslaved
HOME	
HOME_LOCAT	Charleston, South Carolina
STATE	South Carolina
ASSOCIATED	
EVENTS	
SOURCES	
NOTES	

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JOHN PAUL GRIMKE.



Why the BCDA?



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If not us, then who?
If not now, then when?

John Lewis



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Ponpon, May 5, 1767. WILLIAM COACHMAN.

Liberatory Archive – *“our work as community-based archivists does not end with the limits of our collection policies, but rather, it is an ongoing process of conceptualizing what we want the future to look like.”*

- Michelle Caswell

1. To recognize and celebrate the contributions of black craftspeople to the diaspora
2. To educate the public and facilitate conversations on the lives and experiences of black craftspeople
3. To connect black craftspeople to place and the power of place
4. To build community with the public and with contemporary black craftspeople
5. To actively believe in our work and its ability to impact the future

BCDA

Primary and Secondary Sources

- Layer the sources
- Pay attention to VOICE

Objects

- Look beyond the beauty and traditional object study methods
- Inclusive Interpretation

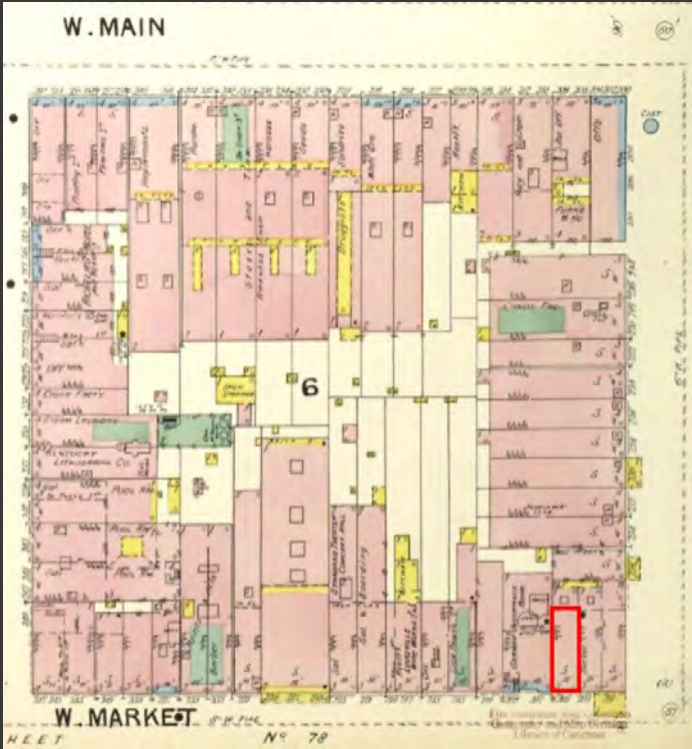
Place

- Go
- Spatially center the presence and experiences of craftspeople

The Context of Black Life

Dudley C. Jones

Sanborn Map,
Louisville, Kentucky



AN ARREST.—Yesterday D. C. Jones, a free negro, and cabinet maker by trade, was arrested, and will undergo an examination on the charge of aiding the slave woman of J. G. Mathers to run away. It will be recollected that the woman was missing for some time, having been secreted by another free negro, but did not succeed in getting out of the city. She says that this man incited her to run away.

Louisville Daily Courier, December 17, 1853

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in 2^d District City of Louisville in the County of Jefferson of Kentucky enumerated by me, on the 1st day of August 1850. Wm. Hunter

Dwelling-houses numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	PLACE OF BIRTH. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.
			Age.	Sex.	Color, White, Black, or mulatto.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	36	621	Dudley C. Jones	W		Cabinet-maker		Sl

1850 US Census Record, Louisville, KY, 2nd District

Cabinet Makers.
See also Furniture Dealers.

Bax Dominic, 644 E. Walnut.
Bittner Augustus, 304 Lafayette.
Brandt A., 220 Second.
Coldewey Anthony F., 226 Third.
Dodge William C., 307 Fourth.
Frick P. William, 1003 W. Market.
GREVE, BUHRLAGE & CO., 714 and 716 E. Green.
Haarman Joseph, 509 E. Green.
Jones Dudley C., f m c, 205 W. Market.
Metzger & Co., 826 E Jefferson.
Meves Frederick, 1216 W. Grayson.
Middendorf & Brinkman, 1101 W. Market.

Louisville, Kentucky
City Directory

3. 270.



Liguanea, 16th June, 1779.
RUN AWAY,
A NEGRO MAN, named
APOLLO,
A Carpenter by Trade.

He is round-shouldered, about five feet two inches high, and is marked WH or SH on his Shoulders.—

Was formerly the property of Mrs. Wife of Kingston. He is also a good Fisherman, a which business it is supposed he employs himself, as he has been lately seen at the east end of Kingston with fish.

Also,—**PRISCILLA**, a Market-Woman, well known in Kingston; is elderly, and has absconded with money that she has received for provisions, &c. she has sold.

Also,—**CHLOE**, and **SYLVIA** or **BOB**, both Washer-Women and House Negroes, who were hired out in Kingston by the month, and have made off with several months wages. They are both very able women, and were formerly belonging to Mrs. Martha Ewers, deceased.—**CHLOE** has her mother with her, named Clarinda, a tall thin woman, rather elderly.

Whoever will secure any of the above Negroes, and send them to the Subscriber's Pen in Liguanea, shall have a Pistole Reward.—If harboured or concealed, the informer, on conviction of the offender, shall be paid Twenty Pounds, if by a White Person; and if by a Negro or Mulatto, Five Pounds.

WILLIAM HARRIS.

HOGSHEAD STAVES, of this Country Wood, properly manufactured.—Any person wanting from 10,000 to 50,000, and also Heading, may be furnished by the Subscriber, who will contract to lay them near to Tunbridge-estate in Liguanea, or Hunts Bay.

WILLIAM HARRIS.

106—

Kingston, April 28, 1781.

RUN AWAY from the **SURPRIZE** LETTER OF MARQUEE, last Saturday, a Mulatto Man, named **JAMES CREAN**, born in **VIRGINIA**, is bred a Tanner, about 25 years of age, five feet, five inches high, had on when he went away, a sky blue coat, over a new sailor's frock, with a pair of Trowsers.

Also, Run away from said ship some weeks ago, a black Virginia Slave, named **LEVEN MORRIS**, lately advertised in the News-papers, they both speak good English. Whoever brings back either of these fellows, or gives information where they may be found, or discovers the Camp that may have shipped them off, or the captain who received them, shall have a reward of **TWO GUINEAS**, by applying at the Office-House, to

GIDEON DUNCAN.

6. 270.

St. Ann's, June 3, 1779.

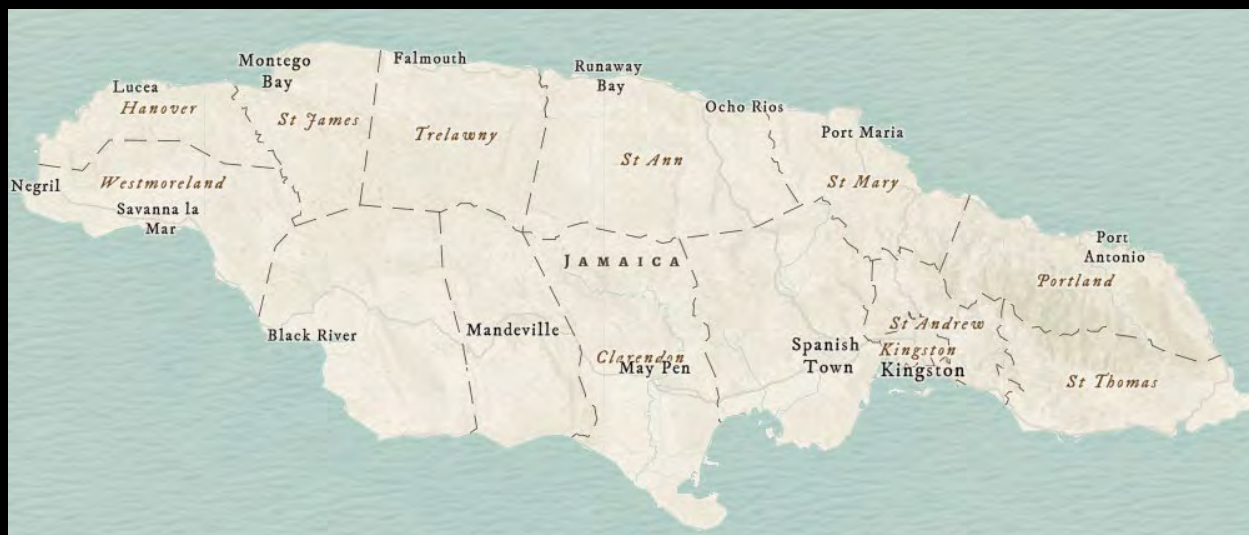


RUN AWAY the 1st of March last, a NEGRO MAN, Named,
BILLY,
Of the Carriacou County,
A Mason by Trade.

He is a well made fellow, about five Feet two or three Inches high.—Has a large bushy head and beard, (the latter he keeps close shaved), and a large mouth.—He is marked on both shoulders, H M C, was seen lately in St. George's, with two masons trowsers.—He is well acquainted in St. George's and Portland, having formerly worked with Mr. Lawrence Robertson in both parishes;—is well acquainted all down North Side, having waited on the Subscriber a number of years.

Whoever will secure and lodge him in any of the gaols of this island, giving information, shall be entitled to **FORTY SHILLINGS**; if brought to the Subscriber's Pen, with the Moleague, **FIFTY-FIVE SHILLINGS**;—If harboured or concealed, the informer, on conviction of the offender, shall have **TWENTY PISTOLES**. If a White Person; any other colour, (if Free), **TEN PISTOLES**; a Slave, **FIVE PISTOLES**.

HUGH M'CORMICK.



William Howard

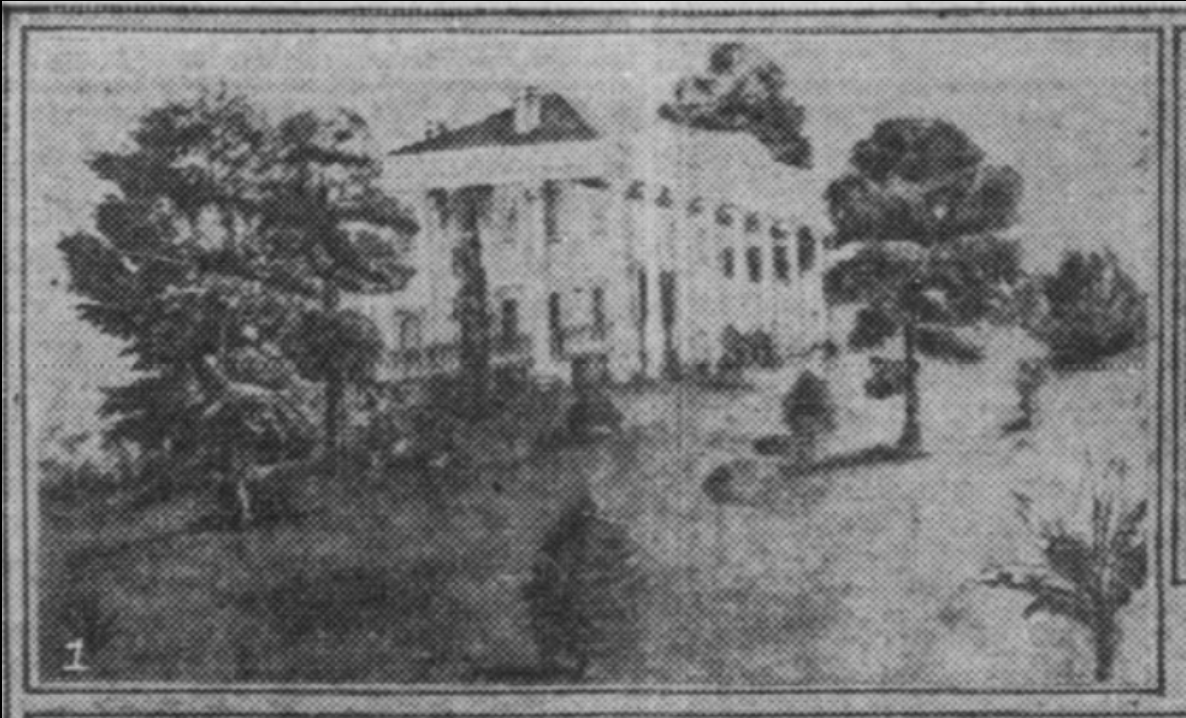


Writing Desk c.1870, William Howard, Minneapolis Institute of Art, 2012.11

William Howard



Fall Front Desk, c. 1870, William Howard,
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, 2012.2.1



Kirkwood Plantation “Scenes of Note in and Around Canton,” *Clarion Ledger*,
March 25, 1934

1	2	3	DESCRIPTION.			7	VALUE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED.		10
			Age at last birthday. If under 1 year, give months in fractions, thus, 1 yr.	Sex.—Males (M.), Females (F.)	Color.—White (W.), Black (B.), Mulatto (M.), Unknown (U.), Indian (I).		Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
135	135	Howard William	15	M	B	Farm Laborer			Africa
		Sally	60	F	B	Keeping House			South Carolina
		Monty	16	M	B	Farm Laborer			Mississippi

1870 United States Census, Camden, Madison County, Mississippi

John Henry Carothers



Promise Land, Dickson County, Tennessee



Promise Land School



Name	Age	Job Title
Abe Vanleer	30	Teamster
Charley Redden	58	Fireman
Richard Harris	49	Teamster
Richard Bowen	28	Teamster
Alfred Johnson	17	Furnace Worker

George Clemmons	47	Ore bank worker	William Moon	28	Ore digger
Ellis Napier	22	Ore bank worker	Kinch Brown	37	Wood settler
Monroe Thompson	45	Filler in furnace	Thomas Johnson	57	Blacksmith
Benjamin Bell	28	Keeper in furnace	Jessie Thompson	34	Filler of furnace
Ransom Vanleer	43	Keeper in furnace	Randle Woodard	24	Teamster
Charley Vanleer	75	Forgeman	Dillard Bowen	25	Teamster
George Harris	46	Blacksmith	Jacob White	39	Filler of furnace

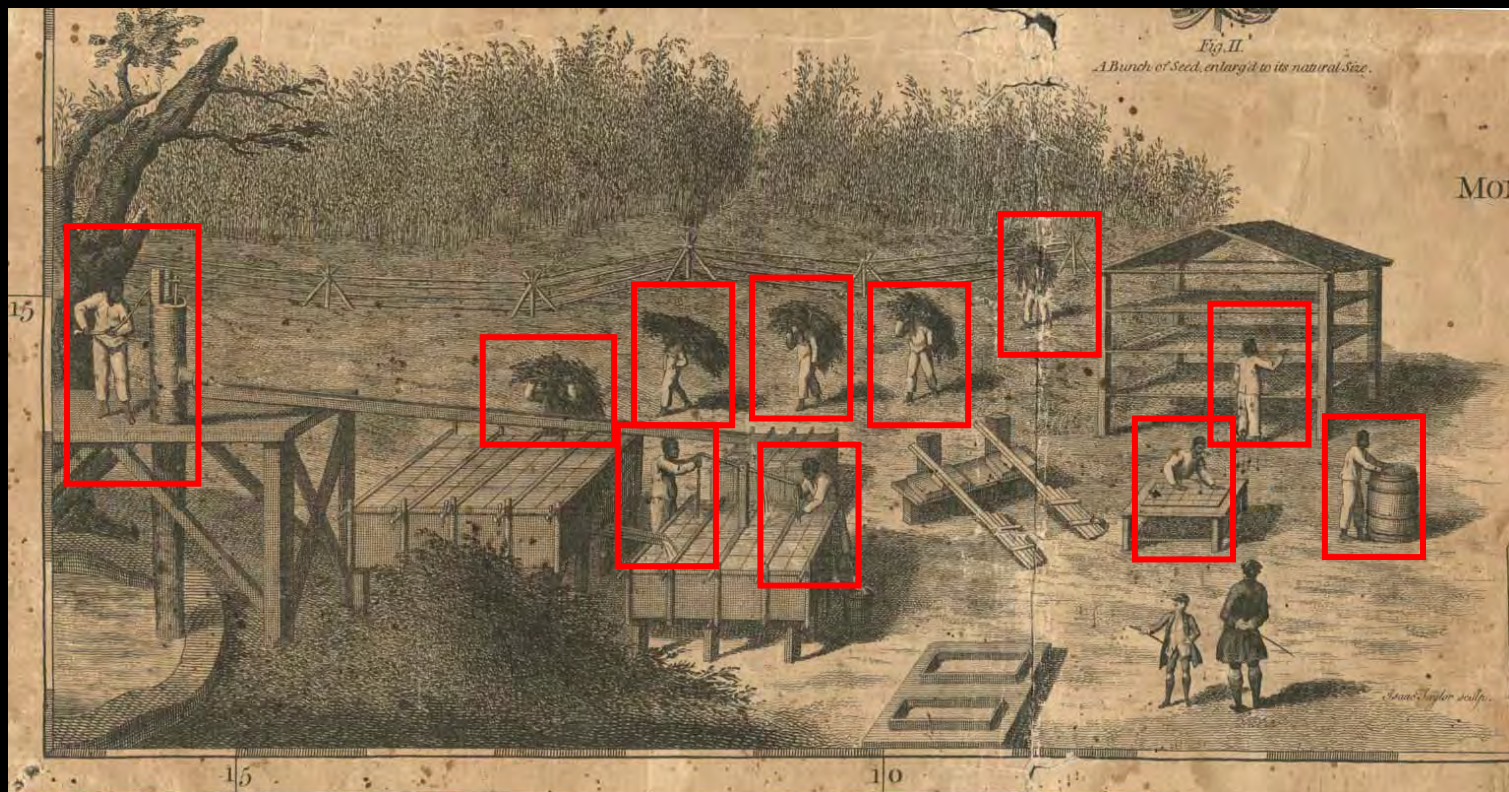
Larkin Williams	38	Teamster
Arch Nesbitt	40	Wood settler
Prince Kirkman	50	Collier
Arpe Thompson	50	Wood settler
John Mills	40	Wood settler



St. John Methodist Church

Frierson Chapel, Cooperstown, Tennessee





When was the object made?

Where was the object made?

What is the object made of?

Who made the object?

How does the object currently speak to the craftsperson's continuing presence?

What can we learn from the object?

For whom was the object made?

Where did the craftsperson live?

How did this object impact the craftspeople's reality?

What were the craftspeople's experiences? Who were the craftspeople's relatives?

Why was the object made? Who/what was the craftsperson's community?

What relationship did the craftsperson have with other craftspeople? How is craft knowledge produced by black life? What skill/knowledge did the creation of this object require?

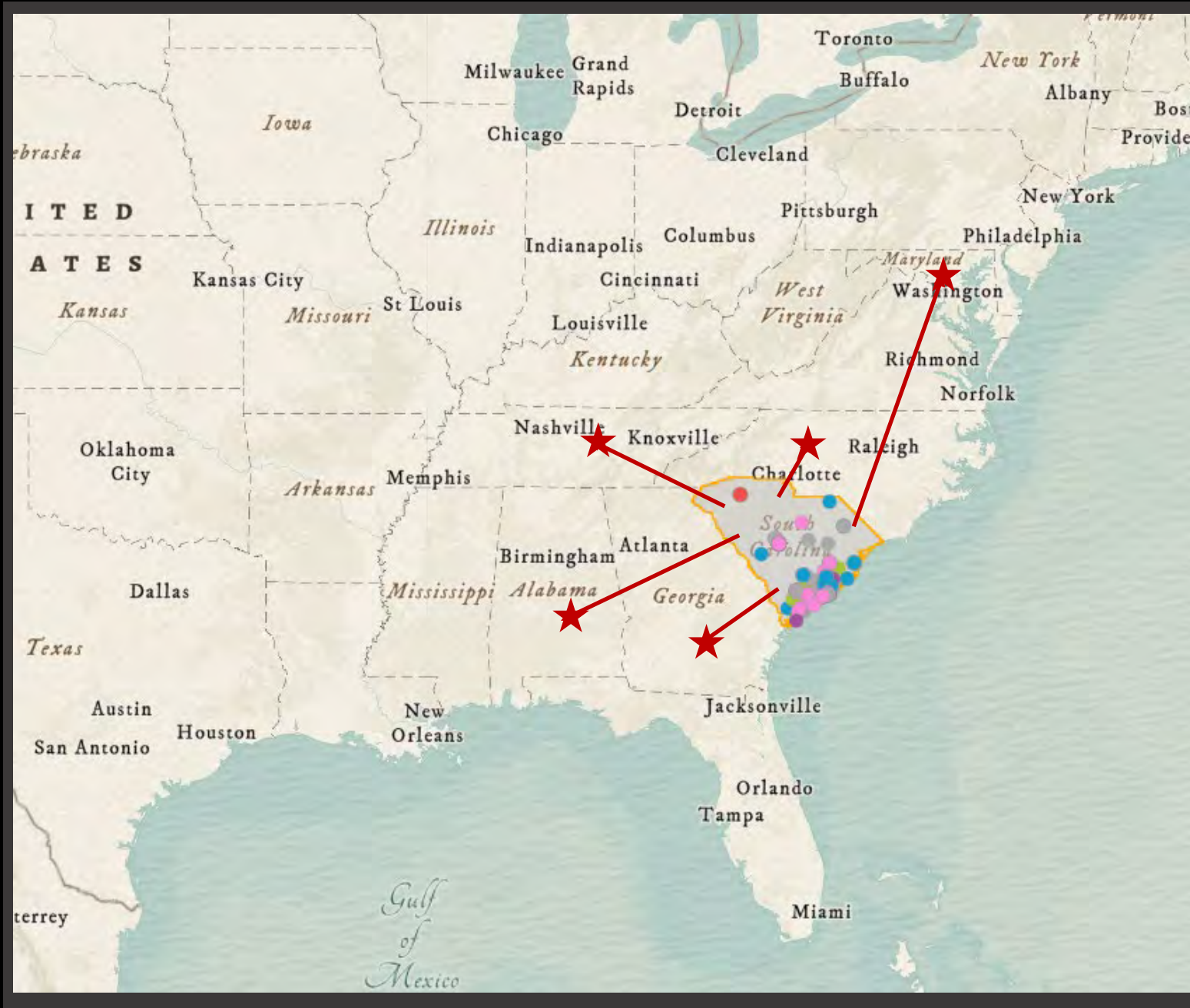
What skill/knowledge did the creation of this object require?

What meaning does the object have in the past/present? Who cleaned/cared for the object?

South
Carolina

Tennessee

Maryland



North
Carolina

Georgia

Alabama

Encourage archives, museums, and historic sites
to ask new questions

Octob. 2	To 1/4 Day Self Archer and Intricks	0.15.0
3	To 1 Day Self Archer and Intricks	3.0.0
	Leaser Charles for paper & paper 1/4 Day 2.12.0	
4	To Self Charles Basel for paper & paper 1/4 Day 2.5.0	0.0.0
5	To Charles	1.0.0
	To 1/4 Day for paper	1.0.0
Nov. 28	To 3/4 Day Prince & Intricks	1.6.0
	altering y. Dorman window	
29	To Prince & paper	0.18.0
Feb. 5	To putting on 2 Latches & Lock	0.10.0
6	To 1/4 Day Self Archer	0.12.0
8	To 1 Day Leaser	1.0.0
10	To 1/4 Day Leaser	1.10.0
11	To 1 Day Basel	1.0.0
12	To 1/4 Day Leaser	0.10.0
14	To 1 Day Prince	1.0.0
19	To 1 Day Ditto & Leaser	2.0.0
20	To 1 Day Ditto	1.0.0
21	To 1 Day Ditto & Leaser	2.0.0
24	To Taking Down & Glazing & mending Table	0.10.0
	To 1/4 Day Leaser putting up y. Bedstead	1.10.0
March 10	To putting on a Lock	0.10.0
April 26.3	To putting up y. Gutter	3.0.0
		44.18.0



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What type of item do you want to contribute?

Select Below



Community Engagement





Dr. Torren Gatson
BCDA Co-Director

Gatson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. He is a trained public historian and scholar of US and Southern History with an emphasis in nineteenth and twentieth-century African American built environments



Victoria Hensley
Research Associate

Hensley is a PhD student in Middle Tennessee State University's Public History Program. She also serves as a graduate research assistant for the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, working on various urban-based projects across Tennessee, North Carolina, and Alabama. Her research analyzes the relationship between housing discrimination and gentrification in Nashville and the New South.



Sarah Calise
Project Archivist

Calise is the Political and Regional Collections Archivist at the Albert Gore Research Center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. She holds an M.A. in Public History and is currently pursuing an M.S. in Information Science. Her research interests focus on social movements and student activism in the United States, and the issues of access and ethics in digital archiving.



Maya Brooks
Web Designer

Brooks is a digital humanities contractor and Mellon Foundation Assistant Curator at the North Carolina Museum of Art. She is a trained digital scholar, with an emphasis on disseminating African American cultural heritage using multi-modal technologies. Her work centers on creating public products that reflect African American influence and innovation.



Sarah Grahl
Research Associate

Grahl is a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina Greensboro. She earned her Master of Arts Degree in History and Museum Studies. Grahl's capstone project focused on researching the lives of enslaved people who labored for the Fries family in Salem, North Carolina during the early to mid-nineteenth century.

