

Black Kinship Bonds in Montgomery County, MD

19th
century

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Teaching Hard History: Key Concept & Objective



Key Concept 5: Enslaved people resisted the efforts of their enslavers to reduce them to commodities in both revolutionary and everyday ways.

We will examine how enslaved & freed people maintained kinship bonds across time and space during the 19th century.

Kinship: social ties between people that results in supportive relationships

Engage

What stories or evidence are you aware of/do you teach that demonstrate the strength of Black kinship bonds and love despite the assault of slavery, white supremacy, & racial terror?

The Forced Migration of Enslaved People

850,000

Estimated number of enslaved people forcibly relocated between 1810-1860 as part of the domestic slave trade or second middle passage.

138,383

Estimated number of enslaved Marylanders sold out of the state.

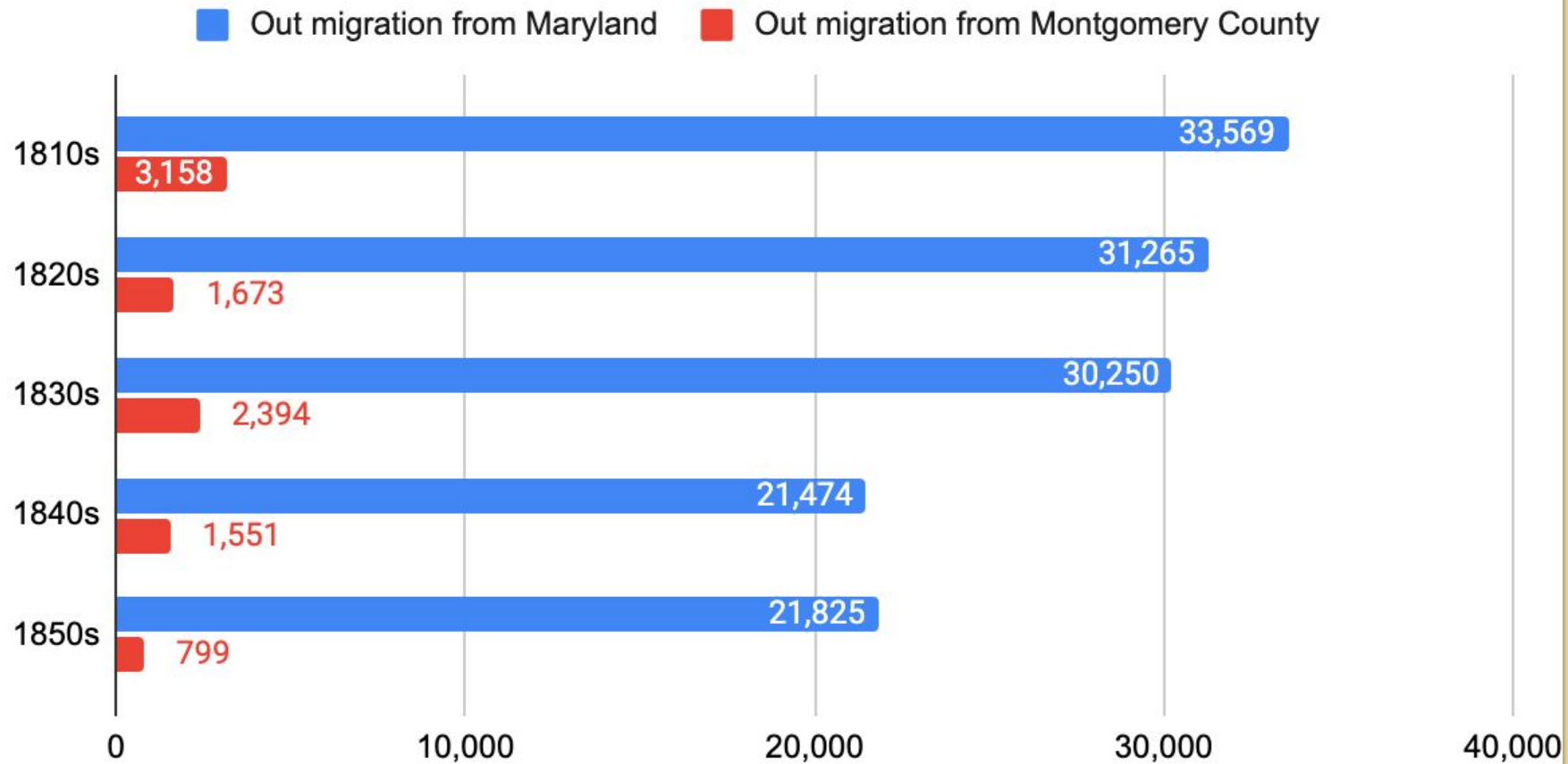
9,575

Estimated number of enslaved people sold from Montgomery County, MD.

CONTEXT



Forced Migration of Enslaved People from Maryland and Montgomery County, MD, 1810s-1850s



Freedom on the Move

"a database of fugitives from North American slavery, thousands of stories of resistance that have never been accessible in one place."



North Carolina Journal, Halifax, 7/9/1794

RAN-AWAY from the subscriber, the 30th of May last, in Moore county, about thirty miles above Fayetteville, a likely Negro Man, named BOB, about nineteen years old, five feet eight or nine inches high, dark complexion, thin visage, large thick lips and very smiling countenance : He lately came from Maryland, and I expect he will endeavour to get there again. He had on when he went away an oznabrigs shirt and striped country cloth overalls. There is a probability that he has by some means obtained a pass. Any person who will deliver him to me, in Rockingham county, on Haw River, or secure him in any gaol, so that I get him again, shall be handsomely rewarded.

JOHN COFFEE, July 1, 1794

GOOD BILLIARD TABLE.
Enquire of the Printer.

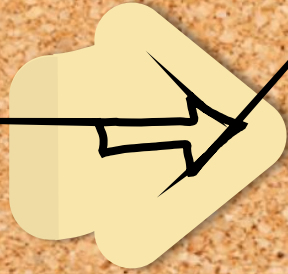
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JOHN COFFEE,

44

July 1, 1794.

BLANKS of all Kinds,



Self Liberation

Destination Inference

"He lately came from Maryland, and I expect he will endeavour to get there again."

Why does Coffee make this inference? If true, what can it tell us about Bob's goals?

Act of Resistance

Even though this act was created by an enslaver for the purpose of returning a fugitive to bondage, what does it reveal about Bob's humanity, agency, & resistance?

Examples of Black Love & Kinship

1838

Bill's self liberation to return home to kin.. [\(source\)](#)

1849

Josiah Henson describes how he was sold from his mother at the age of 6 in 1795 & reunited. [\(Source\)](#)

1864

Letter from Annie Davis to Lincoln, "It is my Desire to be free. to go to see my people on the eastern shore"

1876

Martinsburg: Freed people purchased land, built a school (1886), a church (1903), & a charity lodge hall (1914)

1882

Betsy Dod places as Ad, "Kind friends, do all you can to help me find my people." [\(Source\)](#)

Tags on Last Seen

LAST SEEN: Finding Family After Slavery

ads placed in newspapers by formerly enslaved people searching for family and loved ones after emancipation.

Tags allow you to discover ads that share common themes. Tags allow researchers to search for ads by means other than name, location, or keyword.

Which tags stand out to you?

African Methodist Episcopal Church Andersonville Prison antebellum ad Army Hospital army substitute attorney aunt(s) baptism captured
changed name child(ren) **Civil War** Civil War battle Confederate Congress Confederate Raids Confederate States Army contrabands convicted debt deceased desertion (Civil War) desertion (spousal) doctor (African American) dowry dying wish emancipation
emigration enslaver looking for former slave escaped escaped from jail estate estate division **family history** female enslaver
forced migration **former enslaver** found fraternal groups free people of color freed freedom suits
Freemasons grandparent(s) heir(s) hired out Indian Territory Indian Wars inheritance John Brown's Raid kidnapping Knights of Pythias left with
Union Army **letter to the editor** literacy lynching manumitted maritime work Masonic Lodge master died migration (north) migration (post-emancipation) migration (west) **minister** ministers please read **missing person(s)** missionary multiple ad mutual search Native
Americans newspaper reply northern slavery orphan/orphanage **parent(s)** passing pension (Civil War) person with a disability physical
description prisoner of war probate railroad railroad worker **Reconstruction** remarried resistance reunion reward Robert E.
Lee runaway sailor searching for former enslaver self-emancipation self-injury self-purchase Sherman's Army **sibling(s)**
simultaneous search skilled trade **slave trade** slave trader sold sold south soldier speculator spouse steamboat stolen suicide
U. S. Army U. S. Colored Cavalry U. S. Colored Infantry U. S. Colored Troops U. S. Navy U. S. Colored Infantry uncle(s) Underground Railroad
untranscribed veteran white father white newspaper widow

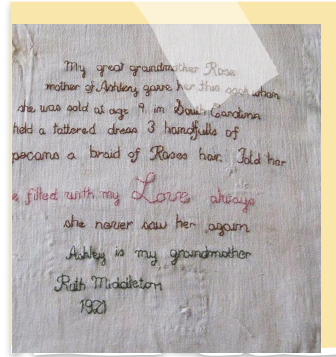
Examining Evidence Task

Choose 1 piece of evidence from each column to examine & analyze.



Josiah Henson

An excerpt from "The Life of Josiah Henson, Formerly a Slave, Now an Inhabitant of Canada, as Narrated by Himself" (1849)



Ashley's Sack

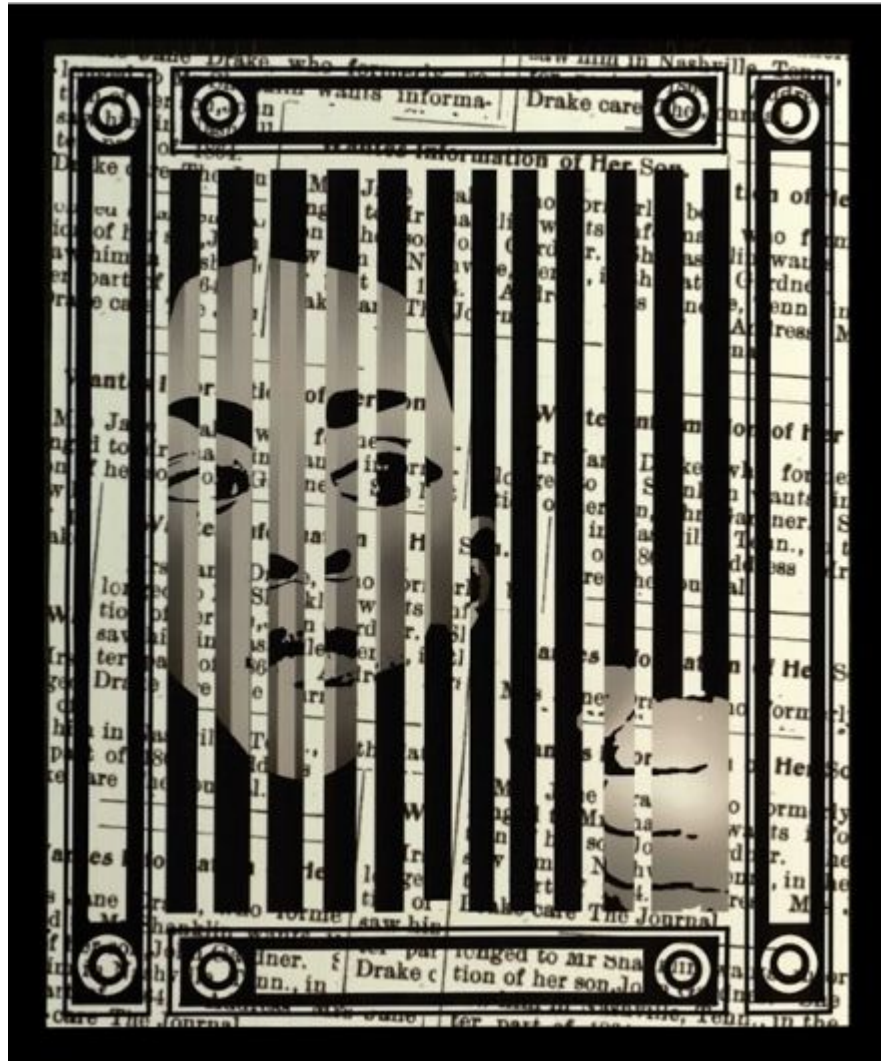
Family history embroidered on an heirloom and passed down. (1921)



Jesmyn Ward

Fiction describing the impact of the Act Prohibiting Importation of Slaves. (2019)

Narrative Options



Evaluate

What do the three sources you examined show about kinship bonds and family connections among enslaved people?

Access the full lesson plan [here](#).

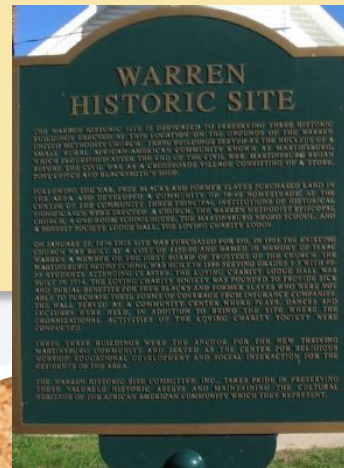
Making Local Reconstruction Visible





Investigate local sites connected to Reconstruction.



Use your research to write a historic marker describing the event, place, or person.



Use the online form to submit your research & marker text to ZEP to be included on "Make Reconstruction Visible Map."



How might you use these sources, activities,
& the theme of Black families with your
students?

Questions? Comments? Ideas?