Teaching Maine's Relationship to Global Slavery with Primary Sources

Kate McMahon, Ph.D.

Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African American History & Culture

Maine Department of Education and Maine State Museum

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A Globalizing Trade that Created Our World

	Spain / Uruguay			Netherlands	U.S.A.	France	Denmark / Baltic	Totals
1501-1525	6363						0	13363
1526-1550	25375	25387	0	0	0	0	0	_
1551-1575	28167	31089	1685	0	0	66	0	61007
1576-1600	60056	90715	237	1365	0	0	0	152373
1601-1625	83496	267519	0	1829	0	0	0	352844
1626-1650	44313	201609	33695	31729	824	. 1827	1053	315050
1651-1675	12601	244793	122367	100526	0	7125	653	488065
1676-1700	5860	297272	272200	85847	3327	29484	25685	719675
1701-1725	0	474447	410597	73816	3277	120939	5833	1088909
1726-1750	0	536696	554042	83095	34004	259095	4793	1471725
1751-1775	4239	528693	832047	132330	84580	325918	17508	1925315
1776-1800	6415	673167	748612	40773	67443	433061	39199	2008670
1801-1825	168087	1160601	283959	2669	109545	135815	16316	1876992
1826-1850	400728	1299969	0	357	1850	68074	. 0	1770978
1851-1875	215824	9309	0	0	476	0	0	225609
Totals	1061524	5848266	3259441	554336	305326	1381404	111040	12521337

[derived from slavevoyages.org

12,521,337 embarked from Africa, but 10,702,657 disembarked in New World. Difference of 1,818,680 = mortality rate avg. 14.5%



- Slavery touched nearly every continent on earth in some way
- Trade was driven by waterways: oceans, rivers were the transportation. Technology advancements accompanied advancements and increase in slave trade
- Immense human toll. Average mortality rate was around 15%; yet at times, the mortality rate was over 30%. This is especially true for the illegal slave trade
- Demographic changes in Africa, destabilization long term

Slavery in Massachusetts and the District of Maine

Advertisemente.

An-away from his Master Willam Pepperil Esqr. at Kittery, in the Province of Maine, a Negro Man-Slave named Peter, aged about 20, speaks good English, of a pretty brown Complexion, middle Stature, has on a mixt gray home-spun Coat, white home spun Jacket and Breeches, French fall Shoes, tad coloured Stockings, of a mixt worsted pair, and a black Hat. Whosoever shall take up said Negro, and bring or convey him safe to his said Master, or secure him and send notice of him either to his Master, or to Andrew Belcher Esqr. at Boston, shall be well rewarded for his pains, and all reasonable charges paid besides.

Ately Deferred Her Majesties Service in the Province of Main, an Indian Man (under the Command of Cap. Joseph Brown) named Isac Pummatick, was seen at Newbury, in Company with the above Runaway Negro; he is a short Fellow not very thick, speaks very good Euglish, he lived formerly with Mr. Samuel Thack-see of Hingham; he has on English Cleaths, a sad coloured old cost, or else a new light coloured drugget Cost, with buttons, holes and lining of black, black breeches, gray yarn Stockings, a black hat almost new. Wheseever shall apprehend said Indian, & him convey to his said Captain, or to Andrew Belcher Esqr. at Boston, shall have a sufficient reward besides his Charges.

Sir:—I received yours by Captain Morris, with bills of lading for five negroes, and one hogshead of rum. One negro woman, marked Y on the left breast, died in about three weeks after her arrival, in spite of medical aid which I procured. All the rest died at sea. I am sorry for your loss. It may have resulted in deficient clothing so early in the spring. Benj. Bullard to Sir William Pepperell, June 25, 1719.

oto James Janes -March 31 to Canh part Blak Georg -1.8.0 V July 24 No back paid James Grefon. 2 12.0 V (High & ilo back paid delemon Varrelle. 0-6-0V they go Je founding & makenines hade 20.2.8v Det 31 To pair womans Bus for Black Michael D. 5.4 v Jump Jo Menden poller for black Kichard .. 0. 2.00 July 1 205 Levelles of Jamacon Ashail fished 2. 13.4. Hover Nove 15 Jofour & head laying pairs hor for ky 0, 2.8 5 . 3. 10 Bata man a Cathan far and .

Racism and the Legal System: Anti-Miscegenation and Fugitivity Laws in Maine

420

REGULATION OF MARRIAGE.

Wife's Son's Daughter, Сн. 70. Wife's Daughter's Daughter, ~~ Sister. Brother. Brother's Daughter, Brother's Son, Sister's Daughter, Sister's Son.

> And* if any man or woman shall intermarry within the degrees aforesaid, every such marriage shall be deemed, taken and adjudged incestuous, and shall be null and void.

SECT. 2. Be it further enacted, That all marriages, marriages to be where either of the parties shall have a former wife (a) or husband living at the time of such marriage, and all marriages between any white person and any Negro, Indian or Mulatto (b) shall be absolutely void.

SECT. 3. Be it further enacted, That every Justice of Persons au. thorized to solthe Peace, and also every ordained Minister of the Gospel, emnize marwho shall be duly appointed and commissioned for that purpose by the Governor, with the advice of Council, be, and

they respectively are authorized and empowered to solemnize (c), marriages within the county, where they reside, be-

(a) After a divorce from the bands of matrimony in this State, for adaltery, a marriage contracted here by the guilty party, living the innocent party, is unlawful and void. West Cambridge vs. Lexington, 1 Pick, 507. Putnam vs. Putnam & al. 8 Pick. 433. But if such party, being a resident in this State, for the sake of evading the law, goes into another State where such a marriage is valid, and is there married and immediately returns and continues to reside here, the marriage is valid here. Ib.

- (b) 1. A mulatto is a person begotten between a white and a black. Medway vs. Natick, 7 Mass. 88.
 - 2. The issue of such a person and a white is not a mulatto. Ib.
- 3. A marriage between a white person and a mulatto, or negro, which has taken place in another State, where the laws allow it, is not void or unlawful if the parties remove into this State. Medway vs. Needham, 16 Mass. 159.

From the Portland Pleasure Boat.

LETTER FROM A. T. WOOD.

Three or four weeks since, I published a letter from a mulatto, who is imprisoned at Machias, for marrying a white girl, in the Province of New Brunswick. I wrote to the prisoner, inquiring into the particulars of the case, and the following is his

MACHIAS JAIL, June 4, 1849.

DEAR FRIEND HACKER:

I am happy to say I received yours of the 30th May, which gave me great comfort in my present sit-

You say that there are those who doubt the facts of the case, as stated in my letter. In order to substantiate the same, I am happy to announce to you. that I have a certificate of my marriage, now in my possession. I was married by the Rev. Skiffintin Thomson, LL. D., Rector of St. Stephen's Parish. New Brunswick, on the 2d day of May, 1849, in presence of Wm. Brown and Miss Abigail Bonney, of Princeton, Washington Co., Maine; these, with Mrs. Ann Thomson, (the Rector's lady,) are the witnesses who signed the certificate of marriage.

You may please write to any of the above named persons, if necessary, for any information required. As regards the place, I was married in the Rev. Dr. Thomson's own house, in St. Stephens, New Bruns-

In regard to my being taken on the English side. the constable himself, who took me, has told the faior here, that it was all of nine miles from the State ine where they took mc.

My best respects to Gen. Fessenden. I pray his attention to my case. The Court sits here at West Machias Court House, on the third Tuesday of Sep-

Tell all the friends they may place implicit confidence in my statements—they can all be proved. Yours, affectionately, A. T. WOOD.

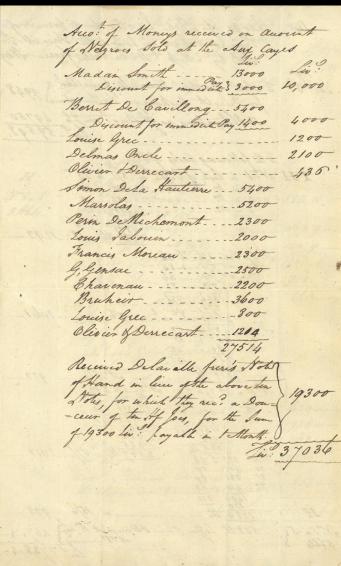
State of Mane In the year of our Lord , one thousand Eight hundred + Forty four. An act more fully to protect the colona citizens of maine. Where as, by the constitution of the United States no stato has the right in any manner to intenfere in the the system of Slavery as it excels in many of the States in this Union; and whereas the constitution of this State recognizes the peat principle that are men are born hee and equal, and are endowed by their oreator with certain malienable right, among which are life liberty, and the pursuit of happines; and whereas it is most descrable to carry out in practice, there fundamental principles, on which the people have based the government

Husband's Son's Son, Husband's Danghter's Son,

Father's Sister, Father's Brother, Mother's Brother, Mother's Sister.

4. Com. vs. Spooner, 1 Pick. 235.

Maine and the Legal(ish) Slave Trade



Cargo of the Ship *Eagle*, April 3, 1791. Maine Historical Society. Coll. 5 Box 7/11

Problems with Assessing Maine's Role in the Slave Trade

- 1. Lack of research Few scholarly works have undertaken looking at the big picture of New England's role in the slave trade, let alone Maine's. New work is happening to change that.
- 2. Misunderstanding of slave trade Slave trading vessels were MERCHANT ships first... Merchant ships also routinely acted as slave traders. This paradigm is shifting in broader scholarship of slave trade. Collaborative projects like Slave Wrecks Project and SlaveVoyages.org helping to show the truly global affects of slave trade
- 3. Because of above, records for slave trading journeys are likely hidden across the archives of New England in merchant journeys. Will need a large assessment and re-reading of these materials to get the full picture of the involvement.
- 4. Lack of support for this scholarship in New England institutions Elimination of graduate programs like ANES limits the possibilities of advanced scholarly research in this field. Money needs to be devoted to a large-scale archiving project like this, ex. SlaveVoyages.org

The Illegal (Post-1808) Foreign Slave Trade

- ➤ The legal participation of American merchants and ships in the transoceanic slave trade was abolished by the British in 1807 and the Americans in 1808
- Some ships sailed to the American mainland illegally. Most entered ports in the Gulf and SE coasts. There were few, however, in comparison to the illegal slave trading by Americans that occurred in Cuba and Brazil. There are a few reasons why:
 - 1. American ports were largely trafficked and patrolled by naval forces.
 - 2. Enslaved people at auction would have been suspect if they did not speak English or they had an accent, as by the 1830s and 1840s nearly all slaves in the United States were born here.
 - 3. American ships entering ports had to pay taxes and tariffs. Illegal slavers would have been found out.
- ➤ Act of 1820: participation in the African slave trade was to be considered the most heinous crime on the high seas piracy to be punished by death.



Brig Kentucky, artist unknown. 1952.31.1. Courtesy Penobscot Marine Museum.

Written on back: "Built for Captain Benjamin Carver, 1833, sailed by him for 10 to 12 years, then went into slave business from Africa to Rio de Janeiro."

The Rufus Soule, Maine, and the Illegal Slave Trade to Cuba

shipping and discharging seamen or reporting deserters.

I have the honor to report, further, that I have no doubt the brig "Rufus Soulé" was scretly sold at Matanzas to a slave dealer, not Señor Loriente, there being no such person at Matanzas, but to Cristobal Valdes, for about \$5,000, as I found Captain Davis had purchased a draft from Messrs. J. M. Morales & Co., merchants, for \$4,292, drawn on Havana, and that the subject was much more canvassed after than before the sailing of the vessel. I also learned that the British vice-consul informed the American consul verbally, a few hours previous to the sailing of the brig, that she was intended for the slave trade, which information the American consul no doubt communicated to the commander of the American man-of-war, then in the port of Matanzas, but this happening just at the moment when our merchant vessels were being so rudely overhauled, boarded and searched by British cruisers, the American commander was evidently acting under special instructions, and therefore could not follow the "Rufus Soulé."

It may be proper to remark that Dr. Martin, our present intelligent and efficient consul at Matanzas, did not take charge of the consulate until after the "Rufus Soule" sailed from that port; that Mr. Garesché was then the consul; and that most of the entries concerning that vessel are in his own handwriting.



SLAVE VESSELS.—Three of the slave vessels recently captured and taken into Havana, are said to have been built with Beston and Portland capital, and when captured Eastern people were on board as officers and part of the crews. Another of the vessels had been owned by parties in Massachusetts, Maine and New York, and was sold with the knowledge that she was intended for the slave trade. One had 460 Africans on board, and another 116. Let not the slave oligarchy despair; so long as Northern men can be found to carry on the African slave trade, there will be no difficulty in keeping up a pro-slavery political party at the North under the stimutus of the spoils of office.—Portland Adviticar.

"Slave Vessels," New York Herald, November 29, 1857

Maine (and more broadly, New England) vessels are consigned to Brazil in the 1840s, Cuba in the 1850s, traveling to Africa on behalf of slave traders

Maritime trades are deeply important to Maine. Maine had the 2nd highest percentage of registered seamen in the US in 1843

Maine pop. 1840: 501,793 sailors: 855.0017 Mass. pop. 1840: 737,699 sailors: 3,208.0043 NY pop. 1840: 2,428,921 sailors: 1,130.0004 PA pop. 1840: 1,724,033 sailors: 404.0002

Туре	Vessel	Tonnage	Master	Owner	Registry	Date	Voyage Began	Place of Captive	Disembarked	Vessel Construction	No. of Captives	No. of Captives	Source	SV Vessel ID
Brig	Bonito / Bonita	276	Raymond		New York		St. Thomas	Purchase	Cuba	Location	rmnarken	Landed	List of Slavers Under the American Flag	
Herm. Brig	Broome	213							Havana	Robbinston			List of Slavers Under	
Herm. Brig	Brownsville	147	Marsh		New Orleans	8/1/1859	Congo River	Canasi	Cuba	Bath	965	800	the American Flag List of Slavers Under the American Flag	4314
Bark	Corinthian	253			Portland				Cardenas	Harpswell			List of Slavers Under the American Flag 1860	
Herm. Brig	Cosmopolite	143			40				Cardenas	Portland			List of Slavers Under	
Brig	Crimea	308				1857		Snake's Head	Cuba	Bath	700	700	SV.org	
Brig	Crimea	308		Labandeira, Francisco		1858	Boston	Congo River	Guanimar (Cuba)	Bath	621	514	SV.org	4276
Herm. Brig	Cygnet	199	Cottell		Philadelphia		Canary Islands			Calais			List of Slavers Under the American Flag	
Herm. Brig	Cygnet	199				11/18/1859	Cuba, port unspecified	Keta, Ghana	Sagua, Cuba	Calais	600	600	SV.org	4332
Bark	E. A. Kinsman	269	Downs	Samuel Trask, Henry Thurston	New York		Havana			Portland			List of Slavers Under the American Flag	
Schooner	Enterprise	98	Morantes				Carthagena			Bowdoinham			List of Slavers Under the American Flag	
Ship	Erie	458	Gordon			4/1/1860		Congo River	Havana	Eliot	897	867	List of Slavers Under the American Flag	4653
Brig	Grey Eagle	185	Darnaud	Aguirre, Juan	Passamaquaddy	3/1/1854	New York		Bahia Honda	Robbinston	600	584	SV.org	4190
Brig	Horatio	150	Martin			4/1/1855		Africa	Cabanas	Robbinston / Cherryfield	561	465	SV.org	4970
Bark	Hungarian	318	Dickie		New York					Portland			List of Slavers Under the American Flag	
Brig	J. Harris	249					New York		Freetown	Prospect / Stockton Springs		464	Sv.org	4841
Brig	J. Harris	249	Steele		New York					Prospect / Stockton Springs	800	550	List of Slavers Under the American Flag	
Bark	J. J. Cobb	308	Mora, Jose A		4	5/29/1859	Havana	Loango	Havana	Robbinston	944	762	Sv.org	4304
Bark	J. J. Cobb	308								Robbinston	550	550	List of Slavers Under the American Flag	
Bark	J. J. Cobb	308								Robbinston			List of Slavers Under the American Flag	
Schooner	Juana	131		H. J. Libby et al	Portland				St. Jago (Cuba)	Portland			List of Slavers Under the American Flag	
Schooner	Lewis McLane	170	Hinckley, W H			5/1/1857	New Orleans	Sierra Leone		Rockland			SV.org	4260
Ship	Nightingale	1066	Bowen			11/2/1860	New York			Eliot			List of Slavers Under the American Flag	
Ship	Nightingale	1066				4/21/1861	New York	Cabinda	Liberia	Eliot	961	801	SV.org	4955
Bark	Orion	449	Ybañez		New York				Cardenas	Sheepscutt River	560	560	List of Slavers Under the American Flag	4349
Bark	Orion	449	Morgan		New York		New York		St. Helena	Sheepscutt River	800	800	List of Slavers Under the American Flag	4907
Bark	Orion	449			2		New York		St. Helena	Sheepscutt River	728	728	SV.org	4807
Schooner	Petrel	129		N C A Jenks &			Cuba, port unspecified	Landano (Angola on Congo R)	Cuba, port unspecified	Prospect	537	537	SV.org	4239
Ship	Rebecca	534	William Carter	Joseph Badger	New Orleans			Soligo III	dispectived	Brunswick			List of Slavers Under the American Flag	
Brig	Rufus Soule	179	Valdes, Cristobal Toriento			7/10/1858	Matanzas	St. Helena		Freeport			SV.org	4796
Bark	Star of the East	316	Hinckley		New York								List of Slavers Under the American Flag	
Brig	Toccoa / Cocoa	227				9/14/1861	Havana	Congo River	Cuba, port	Camden	757	627	SV.org	4399
Herm. Brig	Triton / Tyrant	211	Buisson		New Orleans		V-00-04-04-04-04-04-04-04-04-04-04-04-04-		anspecined	Rockland		35 7415	List of Slavers Under the American Flag	
Herm. Brig	Tyrant / Triton	211	Lind		New York	5/20/1861				Rockland			List of Slavers Under the American Flag	4957
Herm. Brig	Tyrant / Triton	211	Esterez			2/21/1859	New York	Whydah	Cuba, west coast	Rockland	543	450	SV.org	4297
Bark	Vesta	259				10/5/1857	New Orleans	Keta, Ghana	Cuba, port	Richmond (ME)	221	169	SV.org	4241
Schooner Yacht	Wanderer	250	Farnham		Savannah				unspecified		1,448000		List of Slavers Under	
Bark	William G Lewis	264	Fredell, John			11/6/1857	New York			Prospect			the American Flag SV.org	4920
Brig	Benguela	212			Stockton	Feb/March				Stockton Springs				
	2.00 m par = 11 m par = 1					1861								

Maine Slave Ships in Cuba, 1854-1865

Approximately 12,345 captive Africans embarked in Africa Approximately 11,528 captive Africans landed in Cuba

Mortality rate at least 7%

Note: I only have data for about half of the known voyages

Avg. no. of captives per ship: 685
Avg. sale price of captives in Cuba ca.
1855: \$400/\$12,000/person
Average net of sale per journey:
\$274,000/\$8.3 million
Cost of outfit (per NYT, 1857) avg.:
\$174,000/\$5.3 million
Net profits for owners: \$100,000/\$3.1
million per journey
Estimated value of New England
slave fleet by NYT: \$11 million/\$332
million, though likely this figure is far too small!

^{*}Equivalent in 2020 dollars

The Rebecca

News from Africa.

AFFAIRS IN LIBERIA—CURIOUS PHASES OF THE SLAVE TRADE—A CHARTERED VESSEL OF THE COLINIZATION SOCIETY BOUND HERE WITH A FULL CARGO OF NEGROES—SMALLPOX RAVAGES—LOOKING OUT FOR A NEW COLORED HOME ON THE NICER—INDEPENDENCE DAY—PRESIDENT BENSON ABOUT TO MAKE WAR ON THE NATIVES AT PORIVER—LECTURES AND LECTURERS, ETC.

We have received files of the Liberia Star and Herald, published at Monrovia, Africa, to the end of September.

Later advices had been telegraphed from Boston, but the papers contain some reports of interest.

The following summary is from the Star, which says:-

The ship Rebecca, a new fast sailing Baltimore clipper, of 500 tons, commanded by Capt. Carter, chartered by the American Colinization Society, from New Orleans, arrived at Monrovia on the 2d of July, with forty-two immigrants, from the estate of the late McDonough. The suspicions of our citizens were somewhat aroused from several circumstances which took place while the ship was in port in reference to the character of the vessel and her ultimate destination—the report that the ship had on board all necessary fixtures to accommodate a full cargo of slaves, &c.—so we are not much surprised to learn today, from good authority, that the Rebecca sailed from the southwest coast for the United States, a few weeks ago, with a full cargo of slaves.

Left: New York Herald, December 21, 1859

> Right: "Emigration of Forty-One Emigrants to Liberia from New Orleans," *The African Repository*, June 1859.

EMIGRATION OF FORTY-ONE EMIGRANTS TO LIBERIA FROM NEW ORLEANS.

THE Agents of the cities of Baltimore and New Orleans for the estate of the late John McDonogh, of the latter city, have engaged a passage tor, fitted out and sent, in the ship Rebecca, Capt. Carter, to Liberia, forty-one of the slaves emancipated by the will of Mr. McDonogh for colonization in that Republic. The ship sailed from New Orleans the 27th of April.

One young man, (liberated by E. C. Hyde, Esq., and for whose welfare he has made ample provision,) also embarked in this ship.

List of Colored People belonging to the McDonogh Estate, sent by the Ship Rebecca, Capt. Carter, to Monrovia, Liberia,—which ship sailed on the 27th April, 1859, consigned to Mr. H. W. Dennis, by the Agents of Baltimore and New Orleans for the estate of John McDonogh:

the estate of John Juchonog	74.
1Narcissaage 2Little George, son of S	ophie17
3William	48
4. Burrell	50
5 Betsey, wife of Burrell	$\dots 32$
6Lewis	
7Young Burrell	8
8Ann	30
9 Keziah)	12
9Keziah 10Jamoch Ann's 11Martha children. 12Baby 13Tite	4
11Martha (children.)	2
12Baby	5 months
13 Tite	$\dots 22$
14Victor children of 15Anna Tite.	§ 6
15Anna \ Tite.	1
16Peter	30
NT - (Db. 41 b. 4b	hi- Datasa

17Gabriel32 yrs
18Flem50
19Jerry41
20Alexander30
21Dempsey
22Sam31
23Frank35
24Henry35
25Kelize37
26Big John55
27Victor44
28Sarah
29. Little John
20. Caroline, wife of little John 33
31 Harrietta.) (12
32. Jerome children of8
33. Elizabeth little John 1 6
34. Baby 2 mos.
35. Dick
31. Harrietta. 32. Jerome
37Adele)
38. Pauline Children of
37Adele children of7 38Pauline Dick. 9 months.
10Sophia
Hannah60

42.. Thomas Hyde, liberated by E. C. Hyde, M. D., of New Orleans—aged 19 years.

DEPARTURE OF THE MCDONOGH NEGROES.

The New Orleans Picayune of the 29th ult. says:

"The ship Rebecca, Captain William Carter, left Government wharf yesterday, direct for Liberia, cleared by Messrs. Prats, Pujol & Co., and having on board forty-two negroes belonging to the McDonogh estate. They go provided with money, clothes, household implements and agricultural instruments of every description. A physician on board will look to their health during the voyage, and when they land the Liberia Emigration Society will take charge of them during six months, and help them to establish themselves."

Note.—The 41 by the ship Rebecca, (McDonogh's people,) and 1, Thomas Hyde, liberated by Dr. Hyde, sent out in the same vessel from New Orleans, and 99 in the Mary Caroline Stevens, in all 141, added to 10,033 previously sent to Liberia, by the American Colonization Society and its Auxiliaries, make a total of 10,174.

Group of vessels in the harbor

Entered according to Act of Congr

56. Bark OTTAWA, 277 tons, Gordon. Cleared from Mobile for St. Thomas and a market. Owned in Havana by

"List of Slavers Under the American Flag, from February 1859 to July 16, 1860," The African Repository, December 1860. ESTRUCTED. ANTHONY, in the Clerks' office of the District Court of the United States for

Background: Barnard, George N, photographer. Instantaneous view. Group of vessels in the harbor of Havana. Cuba Havana, 1860. [New York, N.Y.: E. Anthony, ?] Photograph. https://www.loc.gov/item/2017650350/.

Spaniards. Landed a cargo and vessel

Resources

- AtlanticBlackBox.com Researching New England's role in the slave trade (community-driven history project). Bibliography, blog, etc.
- SlaveVoyages.org Overall history of slave trade; lesson plans, 3D video, raw database. Good for qualitative/quantitative analysis.
- MaineStateMuseum.org Lesson plans, teaching materials
- Maine State Archives/ https://digitalmaine.com/aa_history_me/: African American History Collections
- NMAAHC.si.edu Talking About Race portal
- Historic Hudson Valley/https://peoplenotproperty.hudsonvalley.org: Online exhibition "People Not Property: Stories of Slavery in the Colonial North"
- Enslaved.org Brand new global database on the history of slavery and the enslaved