

Subseries VIII: American Slavery, 1805

Subseries VIII: American Slavery, 1805, is arranged in alphabetical order by item title and contains two separate items concerning slavery in the early nineteenth century. These items reveal the transactional nature of slavery in the United States through an appraisal list and correspondence concerning transport of enslaved persons.

Processed by Garrett Berlin, Fall 2023 to Spring 2024, and Kaelin Hughes, Archives work-study, Spring 2024, with transcription and processing assistance from Jessica Van Orden, Archives Assistant, edited and supervised by Suzanna Caley, Archivist.

12.39. Item 39: Land, Building and Slave Appraisal, [no year] September (Removed to Black Box #1)

Type of Material: Appraisal/Financial Ledger,

Title: N/A

Description: The following document that appears to be a page removed from a ledger that would have included more information on enslaved persons. This single page document [not dated] is a list of male and female Creole children and their supposed worth. This is not an uncommon document from this period, as later in the nineteenth century, enslavers kept books of all expenses and valuations of their enslaved persons. (e.g., William James Smith's [ledger](#) dated 1844-1854). There is a note on the back discussing the valuation of all the enslaved children, amounting to \$773,428 in [Guilders](#).

Dates: September [no year]

Creator: John Douglas [pos. [Douglas, John](#), 1740- about 1805]

Subjects: Slaves, Appraisal, Ledger, Accounting, Land

Locations: Washington Estate

People: John Douglas [pot. [Douglas, John](#), 1740- about 1805]

General Condition: Good: Slight discoloration of document from over time (specifically darker along where folded); wear along all edges, with slight tearing along these edges as well, most notable in bottom right quadrant; little smudging of ink on both the top and bottom of the front of the page.

Measurements: 9 1/16 in. x 14 9/16 in.

Transcript Attempt:

Front Page:

Amount of Land Buildings + Brought Forward 477,688

Boys		Creoles vir.		Girls
Amot of Negroes [brought forward] \$280,040		Amot of Negroes [brought forward] \$286,690		
1. Billy	600	1. Betty		1000
2. William		700	2. Lucie	
	800			
3. Scipio	600	3. Kitty		700
4. Toby	600	4. Judy		600

5. Christmas	500	5. Queen	yours	500
6. Sam	450	6. Margaret		500
7. Simon	400	7. Fanny		450
8. Hmas, Morn	400	8. Pemba		350
9. Sancho	300	9. Jinny		350
10. Prince	300	10. Princess		350
11. Ben. wade	250	11. Betsy		250
12. George	250	12. Nancy		250
13. Lewis	250	13. Mary		250
14. Manuel	250	14. Cordelia		250
15. Tommy	200	15. Sylvia		250
16. Dublin	150	16. Present		250
17. Pompey	150	17. Juliet		250
18. Washington	150	18. Susan	yours	250
19. Mercury	50	19. Sally	lame	200
20. Ocean	50	20. Venus	yours	200
21. Hamlet	50	21. Kitty	little	200
		22. Mary Ann		200
		23. Phobe[Phoebe]		150
		24. Cleopatra		150
		25. Susannah		150
		26. Amelia		100
		27. Ann		100
				\$295,740

carried forward \$286690

Recapitulation		
Amount of Land Buildings Stock as.....		\$477,688
Negroe Men 136		
do. Boys 10		
do. women 88		
Creole children 48		

Total number 282 of Negroes valued at.....		\$295,740

		\$773,428

Back Page:

Berbice September

We the underwritten, at the request of John Douglas Esq. have valued and appraised the land, buildings, Negroes and Stock on Washington Estate, in the Colony aforesaid, and have set opposite to each article what we think it's just and true value, according to the best of our skill and Judgement, finding the whole (errors of Calculation and addition excepted) to amount to the sum of Seven hundred and seventy three thousand four hundred & twenty eight Guilders Holland's Currency.

12.40. Item 40: Letter from unknown to Majors Gibson and Broadfoot, merchants in slave trade; 1805 August 7 (removed to Legal Box #1)

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: The following document is a letter, dated August 7, 1805, addressed to Majors William Gibson, a slave-ship [captain](#) and merchant, and William Broadfoot, another captain within the slave trade from Scotland and [based in](#) Charleston, South Carolina. The letter is stated to be delivered by Captain John Mitchell from the [Mars](#) ship involved in the trade. Additionally, the author refers to Mr. John Parker from the [Angola](#) ship, a slave trade ship that made multiple voyages transporting enslaved persons from West Africa to the West Indies. In general, [Liverpool](#) was a major port for transporting enslaved persons across the Atlantic. The letter discusses transporting enslaved persons to Charleston from these ports, specifically highlighting Gambia, West Africa. The author also lists pricing and payments associated with the transaction.

Dates: 08/07/1805

Creator: N/A

Subjects: North Carolina (State).; Liverpool (England); Letters; Trans-Atlantic slave trade

Locations: Liverpool; Charleston

People: [Gibson, William](#); [Broadfoot, William](#), 1778-1828; Mitchell, John; Parker, John

General Condition: Okay; general discoloration of document from over time; wear and tear along all edges, but nothing severely obstructing text.

Measurements: 12 ¾ in. x 8 in. (closed); 16 in. x 12 ¾ in.

Transcript Attempt:

FRONT, PAGE 1:

Liverpool 7 Aug. 1805

Majors Gibson & Broadfoot
Charleston

Gentlemen

This will be delivered to you by Capt. John Mitchell of our Brig the *Mars*, who is instructed to offer you the sale of his Cargo, provided our Friend Mr. John Parker should not find it convenient to take the charge of it.

This preference we feel we owe to Mr. Parker from his disappointment in the non-arrival of our ship the *Angola*, otherwise from our desire to forward the views and interests of our esteemed Friend Gibson, the Brig would have been dispatched to your immediate address.

The Terms Capt. Mitchell is ordered to stipulate for, are as follows.

1st. That you engage to sell that whole of the cargo for immediate payment, either in specie-Produce at

the Current Market Price-or good Bills on this Country not exceeding 6 or 9 Months right, all or either of them.

2nd. _____ ” _____ to endorse and guarantee the payment of such Bills, and

3rd. _____ ” _____ to remit the amount sales of the whole Cargo by the return of the Bring, so that the transaction may be definitively closed.

For which service we agree to allow you a Commission of 5p cent on the gross amount of the Sales, and 2 ½ p Cent

on the Nett amount of your remittance which we are informed is the established Commission on Cargoes Sold for immediate payment; but we are also informed, that it has sometimes been found difficult to sell an entire Cargo for Prompt Payment, and that the factor has been obliged to give a few Months Credit with a small

INSIDE, LEFT SIDE, PAGE 2:

proportion of it; in which case he draws Bills upon his correspondents in this Country for such amount, at a date that may secure him from advance, charging them thereupon 5 p cent in place of 2 1/2, as a compensation for the extended Risk — which we also agree to allow you, should the same occasion occur; but we are very sanguine in the hope, that a Prime Cargo of Gambia Negroes, will command liberal prices, and the most favoured[sic, favored] payments.

Should the Produce you may receive in payment exceed the following Prices, we request you will sell it for unexceptionable Bills, provided you can dispose of it at the price you received it.

Sea Island Cotton

Stained about 6. To 12^s according to quality

Midling _____ 12^s 16^s

Best _____ 18^s 20^s

Upland about 18 cents

Price we should not like to meddle with

If the Consignment is acceptable to you upon these terms, it will give us much pleasure, as the assurances of many of your friends here have taught us to expect from you the most honorable and Merchant-like conduct. IN this event our mutual Friend, Mein advises your corresponding with Mr. Gibbons of Savannah, that gentleman having made him an offer of £80 Sterling a head for 100 Gambia Negroes, which it was Mr. Meins intention to have supplied him with, could he have sent the *Montezuma* to Gambia in the place of Angola.

You will find that y[ou]r Negroes are furnished with Cloathing[sic, clothing] to guard them against the effect of the cold weather, the cost of it is £150 which you will of course charge to the Purchasers. Of the Bills, you will please to

RIGHT SIDE, PAGE 3

take three sets, delivering one sett[sic] to Capt Mitchell, and sending the other two by the first opportunities, and in regard to Freight, we would not wish you to detain the *Mars* beyond ten days after your own shipment is compleated[sic, completed].

We request you will keep up advised by every opportunity of the state of your Market, as well for Produce as for Negroes, it being our intention to follow the

Adventure up, provided that you can encourage us to do so.

Should Capt. Mitchell apply to you for the payment of his Commissions, you will please to settle with him out of the Bills you may receive in payment of the Negroes, on the following terms, viz.

£4 in the £104 on the gross sales of the Cargo, and
2 in the 102 on the Nett Proceeds.

We are with respect

Sirs

Your ob. T. [your obedient servant]-

BACK:

Majors. Gibson & Broadfoot
Merchants

Charleston

Favor of
Capt. Mitchell