



PastPorts

FEBRUARY 2021

FOR THE RECORDS

Researching the records of slave-owning families

The *White Lion*, an English warship, brought the first African people to the territory that would become the United States in 1619. That ship, along with its sister ship, *Treasurer*, were operating under letters of marque issued by the Dutch Prince Maurice. These letters allowed the warship to act as a privateer (essentially legal pirates) and raid Spanish and Portuguese ships. They attacked one such ship, the Portuguese vessel San Juan Bautista, and captured approximately 20 Africans who were bound for bondage in Mexico.

At that time, there was no provision in Virginia law for slavery. What did exist was indentured servitude. People who wanted to settle in Virginia but who could not afford their own passage would agree with the ship owner that he could sell their labor for a period of years (typically seven) upon arrival in the new world to pay for their passage. After their period of indenture, they would receive clothing, tools, and be set free to settle on their own land. The Africans arriving on the *White Lion*, and subsequent Africans who were brought to the colony, found themselves indentured after their arrival, to pay for a passage they did not want to make. At the end of the indenture, they were set free. These became the ancestors of much of the population of free blacks in the antebellum south.*

*For information on tracing free African American Ancestors, see "Researching free antebellum African American ancestors" in the February 2016 issue of *PastPorts*.¹

In 1662, changes in Virginia Law brought about slavery for life. This law created the institution of African American slavery in the United States. Slavery would not end until the ratification of the 13th Amendment on 6 December 1865, more than 200 years later.

Connecting an ancestor to the last slave owner

During those 200 plus years, enslaved people could not create records on their own. Enslaved people could not legally marry, own property, or create wills. The law prevented their learning to read and write, so they could not produce journals

Their obscured existence in public records led to **the myth of the anonymous slave**. They seemed to be part of an unknown and unknowable mass of people, just out of our reach. That is not true. **They were not anonymous.**

and diaries. They did not pay taxes and did not typically appear in census records under their own name. Essentially, they were invisible in the public records.

Their obscured existence in public records led to the myth of the anonymous slave. They seemed to be part of an unknown and unknowable mass of people, just out of our reach. That is not true. They were not anonymous. They all had names. They were someone's bouncing baby boy or darling daughter. They may have been a beloved spouse or an aged grandpar-

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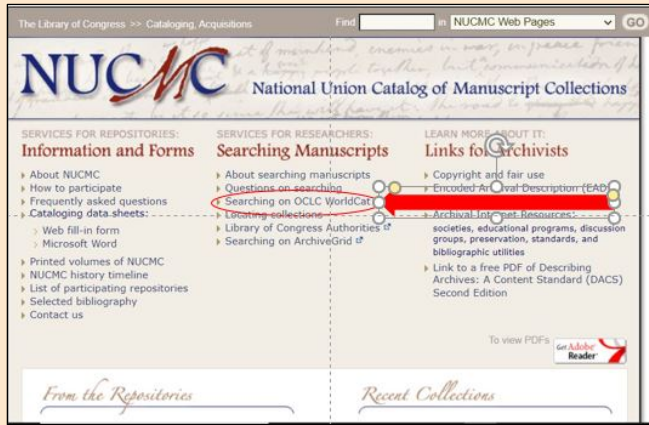


Figure 1

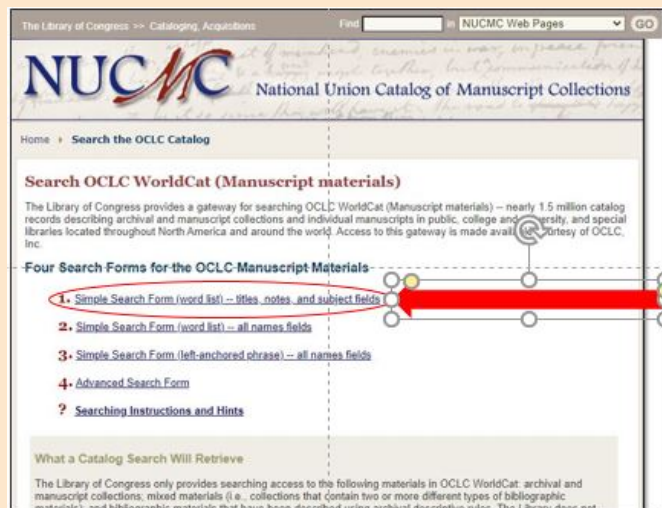


Figure 2

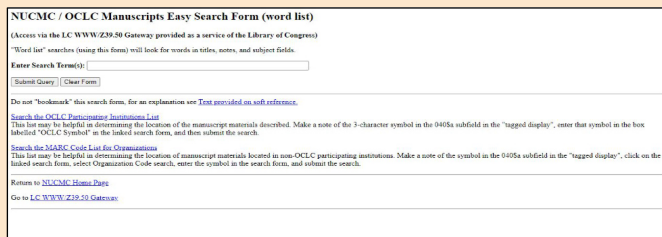


Figure 3

ent. They died and were buried. They knew joy, and they knew sorrow. They were human beings, just like us. Their absence from the public record does not take any of that away from them. It also does not mean we can never learn about them. But how do we do that?

The absence of public records does not mean no records exist. Plantations were large commercial enterprises. As distasteful as it is to say, enslaved men and women were valuable property. The slave owners needed to keep detailed records so they could keep track of what was going on. These records might be in the form of ledgers, journals, diaries, letters, and even family Bibles. Additionally, they typically saved copies of public records, including lawsuits, wills and probate records, inventories, deeds, and records of purchases and sales of enslaved people. They can be a treasure trove of information about enslaved ancestors.

In order to access these records, the first step is to identify the last slave owner. This can be a difficult process. Typically, families do not pass down the name of the last slave owner—why would they? But extremely difficult does not mean impossible. Many books on African American genealogy discuss the topic² as does “Finding the Last Owner of an Enslaved Ancestor” in the February 2020 issue of *PastPorts*³

Researching the slave-owning family

The next step will be to research the slave owner’s family, who probably left at least some public records. You should research and develop at least a basic genealogy of that family. To find your family, you have to know who is who in the slave owner’s family.

In addition to names and dates for slave-owning family members, consider the following:

- **What was the position of the last slave owner in the community?** Were they among the very wealthy of the planter class or did they operate a smaller farm with just a few enslaved people? It is more likely that large operations left family papers, but smaller ones may have also left records.
- **Where did the slave owner live?** Your ancestors’ life experiences will be very different if they were enslaved

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Query Results	
Records 1 through 20 of 144 returned.	
Title:	Minor family papers, 1763-1900, Adams County, Mississippi : also Louisiana.
Published:	Bethesda, MD : University Publications of America, ©1991.
More on this record	
Author:	Minor, William J.
Title:	Family papers, 1778-1898.
Published:	Westport, Conn., Greenwood Pub. Co.,
More on this record	
Author:	Innerarity family.
Title:	Papers, 1794-1904.
More on this record	
Title:	Additional material regarding the Tucker, Harrison, Smith and the related Stevens, Lewis, and Carter families 1790-1925.
More on this record	
Author:	Evans, Christina G. 1848-
Title:	Christina G. Evans family papers, 1853-1977.
Access:	Location: http://nada-@u.wvu.edu/documents/retrieve.asp?docname=0104332.xml
More on this record	
Title:	Brown Family receipt books, 1806-1835.
More on this record	
Author:	Gooch family.
Title:	Gooch family papers, 1794-1947.
More on this record	
Title:	Papers of the Kean family, 1859-1951.
Access:	Location: http://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vuead/published/vuacsr/vuacsr_017files/vu0077.xml
More on this record	

Figure 4

Title:	Minor family papers, 1763-1900, Adams County, Mississippi : also Louisiana.
Published:	Bethesda, MD : University Publications of America, ©1991.
Description:	2 microfilm reels ; 35 mm.
Series:	Records of ante-bellum southern plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War. Series J, Selections from the Southern Historical Collection, Manuscript Department, Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Part 6, Mississippi and Arkansas ; reels 1-2
LC Call No.:	F213.R529 1993, Series J, pt.6 reels 1-2
Notes:	Title from reel guide. The collection consists chiefly of business correspondence and other papers of three generations of the Minor family. A large portion of the correspondence is between Stephen and John Minor and cotton factors in Liverpool and New Orleans. It documents the cotton market in England between 1812 and 1831. Many of the other papers relate to the estates of William Lintot, Bernard Lintot, and Stephen Minor. Also included are deeds written in Spanish for purchases of land in the vicinity of Natchez in the 18th century, miscellaneous accounts, lists of slaves, and general business correspondence. There are also some letters to Katharine Lintot Minor and Rebecca Gustine Minor from their children and friends. Minor family members included Stephen Minor (fl. 1786-1816), cotton planter near Natchez, Miss.; his wife, Katharine Lintot Minor (fl. 1815-1843); their son, William J. Minor (fl. 1815-1868), sugar planter at Waterloo Plantation, possibly in Iberville Parish, La.; and Stephen's brother, John Minor (fl. 1812-1831), also a cotton planter near Natchez. Accompanied by a printed reel guide.
Subjects:	Minor family -- Archives.

Figure 5

on a Virginia tobacco plantation as opposed to an Alabama cotton plantation, a South Carolina rice plantation, or a Louisiana sugar plantation.

- **Where was the last slave owner born?** If the family lived in Mississippi but originated in North Carolina, for example, they might have brought enslaved people with them when they established their new place.
- **Who were the slave owner’s parents?** Did they inherit any enslaved African Americans from them? Did they leave wills or other papers?
- **When and to whom was the slave owner married?** In many cases, the enslaved African Americans may have come from the wife’s family either by will or by gift. If so, that will be another family to research.
- **When and where did the slave owner die?** If it was before 1865, there might be a will listing the names of your ancestors.

Finding records of slave owners in manuscript collections

Finding records left by slave owning families presents its own challenges, because records could be located anywhere. They might be in possession of a family member who moved far away from their ancestor’s home. The family might have donated the papers to a county, state, or university archive (they might not be in the ancestral state or county). Successive generations or different branches of the family may have donated different parts of the documents to disparate archives for reasons entirely their own. Some records may have been lost due to fire, flood, or other natural catastrophe.

If the records are at one or more archives, there is a strong possibility of finding them using The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC). NUCMC is a free cooperative cataloging service, maintained by the Library of Congress, which creates online searchable records in OCLC WorldCat on behalf of U.S. repositories. These records describe the holdings of the repository and make their existence known to researchers around the world. Most major U.S. archives participate in NUCMC, but smaller ones, such as a county historical society’s archives might not.

To search NUCMC, navigate to its [website](http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/) <loc.gov/coll/nucmc/>4 and select “Searching on OCLC WorldCat” from

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Portions of Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations Included in *History Vault: Southern Life, Slavery, and the Civil War 1 & 2*.

Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War
 Series A – Selections from the South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina
 Series D – Selections from the Maryland Historical Society
 Series E – Selections from the University of Virginia Library, University of Virginia
 Series F – Selections from Duke University Library
 Series H – Selections from the Howard-Tilton Library, Tulane University and the Louisiana State Archives
 Series I – Selections from Louisiana State University
 Series M – Selections from The Virginia Historical Society of

Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Civil War through the Great Migration
 Series A – Selections from the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University
 Series B – Selections from the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
 Series C – Selections from the South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina

Figure 6

Author: Minor, William J.
 Title: William J. Minor papers, 1845-1862.
 Description: 18 items.
 Notes: 2 printed volumes.
 This manuscript group includes materials originally accessioned as Ms. 859. William J. Minor, son of Stephen Minor of Natchez, Mississippi, was a sugar planter of Southdown and Hollywood plantations in Terrebonne Parish and Waterloo Plantation in Assumption Parish, Louisiana. He was married to Rebecca A. Gustine and had eight children. William Minor was influential in the development of horse racing and thoroughbred breeding in Louisiana. The Minor family was related by marriage to the Kenner family of Louisiana. Fifteen letters written by William J. Minor from Natchez, Mississippi, were addressed to General T.J. Wells of Alexandria, Rapides Parish, Louisiana. The letters chiefly concern racing, management and breeding of thoroughbred horses, and the horses Lexington, Lecomte, and Pryor. Letters mention Duncan F. Kenner, Colonel Adam L. Bingham, and others, referring to their horses, betting, racing news, and items in the sporting journal SPIRIT OF THE TIMES. Also mentioned in the letters are yellow fever and cholera outbreaks and national and local politics. Printed items include newspaper clippings (1860) listing Metairie Jockey Club races and names of horses owned by Minor. Printed pamphlets are entitled CONSTITUTION OF THE ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI JOCKEY CLUB ADOPTED JULY 1845, and SHORT RULES FOR TRAINING TWO YEAR OLDS (1854). Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators of these materials in accordance with U.S. copyright law. Finding aid is available in the library.
 William J. Minor Papers, Ms. 859, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
 Subjects: Metairie Jockey Club.
 Adams County, Mississippi, Jockey Club.
 Kenner, Duncan Farrar, 1813-1887.
 Bingham, Adam L.
 Minor, William J.
 Kenner, Duncan Farrar, 1813-1887. East (OCoLC)fst00286664
 Minor, William J. East (OCoLC)fst00098685
 Horse racing -- Louisiana.
 Horse racing -- Mississippi.
 Lexington (Race horse)
 Lecomte (Race horse)
 Pryor (Race horse)
 Horse racing. East (OCoLC)fst00950488
 Louisiana. East (OCoLC)fst01207035
 Mississippi. East (OCoLC)fst01207034
 Constitutions. east
 Pamphlets. east
 Plantation owners -- Louisiana. Icmh
 Horse breeders -- Louisiana. Icmh
 Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-2300
 Control No.: ocn122519487

Figure 7

the list (Fig. 1). On that page, select “Simple Search Form (word list)—titles notes and subject fields.” (Fig. 2). This will take you to the search form (Fig. 3). Search for the slave owning family using the search form. Using the Minor family as an example, we will search for “Minor Family Papers.”

The search results will look similar to Fig. 4. We must evaluate each of these results, beginning with the first one. Clicking “More on this record” opens a page with information on that particular entry (Fig. 5).

This entry includes “Minor family papers 1763–1900, Adams County, Mississippi, and Louisiana.” We can also see that the documents are on two rolls of microfilm, part of the series “Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War, Series J, Part 6, Rolls 1-2.5” In this case, the records are from the Southern Historical Collection, Manuscript Department, at the Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The notes section provides information about the contents of the collection. Including names of family members, in this case, Stephen Minor, John Minor, William Lintot, Bernard Lintot, Katherine Lintot Minor, Rebecca Gustine Minor, and William J. Minor. It also mentions that the family had cotton plantations in Adams County, Mississippi and sugar plantations in Iberville Parish, Louisiana. If you have been diligent in your research of the slave owning family, this information by itself should be sufficient to determine if you want to investigate further into this record set.

The challenge will be finding the records. Obviously, they are available at the University of North Carolina, but are they anywhere else? One clue is that they are part of the series, “Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War.” The digital collection, *History Vault: Southern Life, Slavery, and the Civil War 1 & 2* <<https://bit.ly/2OqfcJL>> includes some of this set, but not all (Fig. 6).

Although FamilySearch microfilmed the entire set, they have not digitized it as of this writing. Other libraries may have all or part of the set, but because libraries often do not catalog microfilm, check individual repositories to see if they have it. If not, inquire at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill or the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

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1	Solomon Williams	55	10	4	
2	Charlotte	45	7	4	dead
3	James	16	7	4	
4	Patterson	13	6	4	
5	William	14	8	4	
6	Jacob	8		4	
7	Julien	7			
8	Charlotte			3	
9	Shepherd	18			

Figure 8

1835	15th	Boyer	son	Ben F. O. G. Brown
4 Jan	20th	Richard	do	Stephen Charlotte Brown
5 Feb	10th	Johnson	do	Isaac Anoly Bartlett
6 March	7th	Patterson	do	Solomon & Charlotte Williams
7 June	11th	Charlotte Ann	do	Felix Brown
8 Sept	8th	Charlotte Ann	do	Alb + Namit Johnson
9 Oct				
1836				

Figure 9

1837	4	Deaths	at	Waterloo	con ten used
1838	1	John	age	Robertson	Phycian
1839	24	Anna Riley	53	Richard	Bungay
1840	28	Elizabeth Ann	9	Wilson	"
1841	30	Robertson	75	Cholera	"
1842	"	Harriet	55	"	"
1843	"	Mary	10	"	"
1844	1	John	4	"	"
1845	3	John Thomas	34	"	"
1846	4	Ann Johnson	44	"	"
1847	"	John	16	"	"
1848	5	Robert Johnson	54	"	"
1849	6	Abner Johnson	24	"	"
1850	10	Annus Bando	14	"	"
1851	"	William Brown	50	"	"
1852	4	William Bando	3	"	"
1853	11	Judy Lamb	9	"	"
1854	12	John Johnson	55	"	"
1855	12	Charlotte Bando	50	"	"
1856	15	John Johnson	4	"	"
1857	17	John B. Allen	2	"	"
1858	4	John B. Allen	53	"	"
1859	18	Judy Brown	45	"	"

Figure 10

Consider the next item on the list, “Minor, William J. Family Papers” (Fig. 7). The notes section mentions that William J. Minor was the son of Stephen Minor, and owned Southdown and Hollywood plantations in Terrebonne Parish and Waterloo sugar plantation in Ascension Parish, Louisiana—all sugar plantations. The location section tells us the records are part of the “Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collection,” Louisiana State University Libraries, in Baton Rouge. This collection is included in “Records of Ante-bellum Southern Plantations from the Civil war through the Great Migration,” and is available in History & Genealogy’s database, *History Vault: Southern Life, Slavery, and the Civil War 1 & 2*.

The database can be searched by the name of the plantation or the slave owner. For an example, we will search for the name of one of William Minor’s plantations, Southdown.

One of the items in the search list looks particularly interesting: “List of Slaves at Waterloo and Southdown Plantation and Slave Births and Deaths.”⁶ According to the entry, the document covers the years 1848-1852.

The first part of the document consists of a list of all of the enslaved people on the plantation in 1848 organized into family groups with surnames. It includes their ages, shoes, rations, and notes. The notes field sometimes states “dead.” It would appear these were added after the creation of the list. If we look at the family headed by Solomon Williams, age 55, we can see it consisted of his wife Charlotte, age 45 and children James, 16; Patterson, 13; William, 14; Jacob, 8; Julien, 7; Charlotte, 3; and Shepherd, 18 (Fig. 8).

In the same document, we find a “List of Negroes Born at Waterloo,” 1834 – 1858. Based on the ages of the children in 1848, we should be able to find birth records for Patterson, Jacob, Julian, and Charlotte. William, James and Shepherd’s births would have been before 1834. Indeed, in the births recorded for 1835 we find a record for Patterson, son of Solomon and Charlotte Williams born on 7 June. (Fig. 9). This record is 79 years before Louisiana began statewide registration of births in 1914. Similar records exist for Jacob (born 2 January 1840). Julian (29 August 1841), and Charlotte (27 April 1845).

A “List of Negroes Who Have Died at Waterloo” completes

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Barron, Robert R., III H/38
 Barrow, Robert, III G/30
 Barrow, Robert B., IV A/1
 Barrow, Robert R., IV A/35
 Barrow, Robert Ruffin, IV
 A/14, 35, VI C/1838

Figure 11

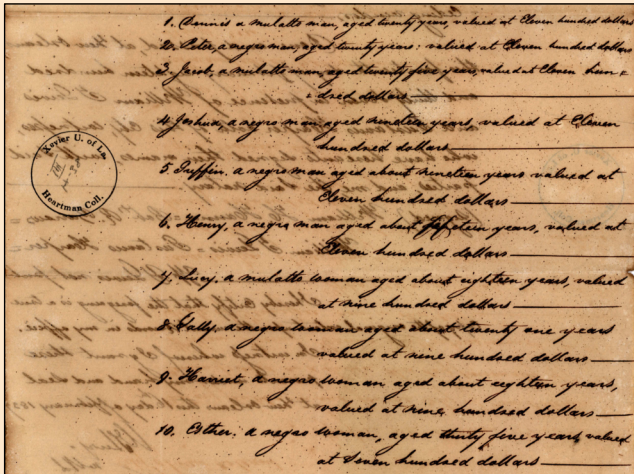


Figure 12

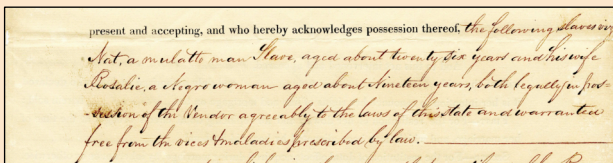


Figure 13

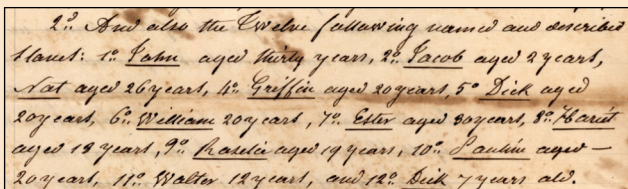


Figure 14

the document. It includes the death of Charlotte Williams. Line 69 indicates she died on 12 May 1851 of cholera (**Fig. 10**). This record dates from 63 years before Louisiana began issuing death certificates.

All of this comes from one record from one search. What else is out there awaiting discovery?

The Heartman Manuscript Collection

The Heartman Manuscript Collection may offer another avenue for finding documents from slave-owning families especially if they were from Mississippi and Louisiana.

Charles F. Heartman, a Mississippi book dealer, began collecting documents relating to African American slavery in 1920 and continued collecting them for more than twenty years. He sold his collection in two parts in 1945. Xavier University in New Orleans purchased about 4000 documents⁷ and Texas Southern University purchased the rest. Researchers can access the portion at Texas Southern University at the Robert J. Terry Library, but from catalog descriptions, it appears to contain mostly documents of Heartman’s life and business.

Xavier University microfilmed its portion of the manuscripts and developed a finding aid.⁸ History and Genealogy at St. Louis County Library has a copy of both the finding aid and the microfilm. Xavier also digitized the collection and made it available online at no charge.⁹ NUCMC shows the existence of the collection, but provides no details. To learn what items are available, a researcher must examine the finding aid. We will consider the example of slave owner Robert Ruffin Barrow.

The finding aid has four entries for Barrow plus one for a Robert R. Barron, which could easily be a transcription problem (**Fig. 11**). Looking at them as a group, an interesting story emerges.

The first document, indexed under “Robert R. Barron,” documents the sale of 10 enslaved people from William Henry Hanna of Murfreesboro, Tennessee to Barrow on 14 February 1836.¹⁰ The enslaved people named in the document are Dennis, a mulatto man, aged 20; Peter, a negro man, 20; Jacob, a

mulatto man, 20; Joshua a negro man, 19; Griffin a negro man, 19; Henry a negro man, about 15; Lucy a mulatto woman, about 18; Sally, a negro woman, about 21; Harriet, a negro woman, about 18, and Esther a negro woman, 35 (**Fig. 12**). The second document on the list also records a sale. In this case, William Barkley of New Orleans sells two enslaved

people to Barrow on 8 October 1836¹¹: Nat, a mulatto man, age about 26, and his wife, Rosalie, about 19 (**Fig. 13**).

In the fourth document on the list, dated 6 June 1838, Ruffin takes out a mortgage on his plantation and some of his enslaved people to purchase 105 shares in the Citizens Bank of New Orleans.¹² The document names the enslaved people: John, age 30; Jacob, 29; Nat, 26; Griffin, 20; Dick, 20; William, 20; Esther, 30; Harriet, 19; Pauline, 20; Roselia, 19; Walter, 12; and Dick, 7 (**Fig. 14**).

Finding & searching manuscripts
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Purchased from William Henry Hannah	Purchased from William Barkley	Named in Mortgage Document
14 February 1836	8 October 1836	6 June 1838
Dennis aged 20		
Peter aged 20		
Jacob aged 20		Jacob aged 29
Joshua aged 19		
Griffin aged 20		Griffin aged 20
Henry aged 15		
Lucy aged 18		
Sally aged 21		
Harriet aged 18		Harriet aged 19
Esther aged 35		Esther aged 30
	Nat aged 26	Nat aged 26
	Rosalie aged 19	Rosalia aged 19
		John aged 30
		Dick aged 20
		William aged 20
		Pauline aged 20
		Walter aged 12
		Dick aged 7

Figure 15

The table in **Fig. 15** provides an analysis of the three documents together. We can see half of the twelve people named in the mortgage also appear in one of the two sale documents.

This does not mean we have exhausted the search. Barrow was a wealthy slave owner, possessing several plantations and enslaving hundreds of people. Just because there are only five records in the Heartman Manuscripts, does not mean others do not exist. It is time to go back to NUCMC to see if other archives or collections contain any Barrow manuscripts. **Fig. 16** shows a portion of the search results. Clearly, there is a lot more research to do.

Query Results

Records 1 through 8 of 8 returned.

Author: Barrow, Robert Ruffin, 1798-
Title: Robert Ruffin Barrow papers, 1857-1858, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana.
Published: Frederick, Md. : University Publications of America, ©1990.
[More on this record](#)

Author: Barrow, Robert Ruffin, 1798-1875.
Title: Robert Barrow manuscript, Mss. 553, 1858, Terrebonne and West Feliciana parishes, Louisiana.
Published: Bethesda, MD : University Publications of America, ©1997.
[More on this record](#)

Author: Barrow, Robert Ruffin.
Title: Robert Barrow manuscript (Mss. 553), 1858, Terrebonne and West Feliciana Parishes, Louisiana.
Published: Frederick, Md. : University Publications of America, 1988.
[More on this record](#)

Author: Percy, John Hereford, 1870-
Title: J.H. Percy papers, 1717-1978 (bulk 1905-1956).
Access: Location: <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/sites/default/files/sc/findaid/4759.pdf>
[More on this record](#)

Author: Barrow Family.
Title: Barrow family papers, 1776-1965.
[More on this record](#)

Figure 16

Records in smaller archives, historical society collections, and libraries

What happens if a slave owner’s papers do not appear in NUCMC? Does this mean research ends? Possibly, but it could mean the papers are at a local archives, historical society, or library whose collections do not appear in NUCMC.

Finding these papers is not impossible, but it will not be easy. You will need the knowledge you previously developed of the slave holding family. Where did the family live? Did they move after the Civil War? If so, to where? Start contacting repositories in those areas. The process will be labor intensive and time consuming and possibly fruitless, but worthwhile if you track down documents about your ancestors.

Manuscript collections tend to be an overlooked and untapped resource in genealogical research. Yet they might hold important information about enslaved ancestors who are not represented in public documents. How far back can they take your research?

Notes

1. "Researching Free Antebellum African American Ancestors," *PastPorts* (February 2016) https://www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/02_2016.pdf (accessed 12 January 2021).
2. A bibliography of African American genealogy resources can be found on the St. Louis County Library's website. <https://www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/Tracing%20your%20African-American%20Ancestors%20Bibliography.pdf> (accessed 12 January 2021).
3. "Finding the Last Owner of an Enslaved Ancestor," *PastPorts* (February 2020) pp. 1-10. https://www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/02_2020.pdf (accessed 12 January 2021).
4. Library of Congress, National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC). <https://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/> (accessed 12 January 2021).
5. See "Using Ante-Bellum Southern Plantation Records," *PastPorts* (February 2015) pp. 1-8. https://www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/02_2015.pdf (accessed 14 January 2021).
6. "List of slaves at Waterloo and Southdown plantations, and slave births and deaths, Jan 01, 1848 - Dec 31, 1852," "Records of Southern Plantations from Emancipation to the Great Migration, Series B: Selections from the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, Louisiana State University Libraries, Part 3: Louisiana Sugar Plantations (Bayou Lafourche and Bayou Teche), William J. Minor and Family Papers, 1779-1941, Ascension and Terrebonne Parishes, Louisiana;" also "Natchez, Mississippi. Volume 17, List of African Americans [Slaves], 1848-1852." 46 frames. Digitized by Proquest as *History Vault: Southern Life, Slavery, and the Civil War 1 & 2*. (https://hv.proquest.com/pdfs/009208/009208_002_0581/009208_002_0581_From_1_to_46.pdf : Accessed 28 January 2021)
7. See Heartman Manuscript Collection," *PastPorts* (February 2017) pp. 1-4. https://www.slcl.org/sites/default/files/02_2017_0.pdf (accessed 21 January Apr 2021).
8. Xavier University of Louisiana, *Guide to the Heartman Manuscripts on Slavery*. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1982. (SLCL Call no. R 976.3 X3G, SLPL Call no. Z6621.X38 H4326, OCLC Number 08377304).
9. Digitized records are at <https://cdm16948.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16948coll6> (accessed 21 January 2021).
10. "Bill of Sale for 10 Slaves from William H. Hanna to Robert R. Barron" (sic), Xavier University of Louisiana, Archives and Special Collections Series, Heartman Manuscripts on Slavery, (<https://cdm16948.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16948coll6/id/2136/rec/42> : Accessed 28 January 2021), Series III, Box H [8], No. 38.
11. "Bill of Sale for 2 Slaves (Nat & Rosalie)." Xavier University of Louisiana, Archives and Special Collections Series, "Heartman Manuscripts on Slavery," (<https://cdm16948.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16948coll6/id/1763/rec/35> : Accessed 28 January 2021), Series III, Box G [7], No. 30.
12. "Deposition Statement for Mortgage on Land and Slaves Taken by Robert R. Barrow" Xavier University of Louisiana, Archives and Special Collections Series, "Heartman Manuscripts on Slavery" (<https://cdm16948.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16948coll6/id/2874/rec/38> : Accessed 28 January 2021), Series IV, Box A [1], No. 35.

VIRTUAL
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FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE
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One-Step Webpages by Stephen P. Morse

Early in the emergence of online genealogy, Stephen P. Morse, PhD, created a very popular site known as [Steve Morse's One-Step Webpages](https://stevemorse.org) <<https://stevemorse.org>>. A former computer scientist for Intel, Morse established the site in 2001 as a means of more effectively searching arrivals at Ellis Island, ([Passenger Search—The Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island](https://heritage.statueofliberty.org/) <<https://heritage.statueofliberty.org/>>) which had recently come online with a cumbersome search function. His search form allowed the use of multiple parameters to narrow the user's search to one step, whereas previously one had to navigate multiple pages. The search form continued to evolve with his own and user-suggested improvements.

In 2002, the year of the 1930 census release, Morse and two volunteers from the National Archives created an enumeration district finder for large cities. This was especially useful, because a census index had not yet been created. After consulting a city directory to find an address for an ancestor. A researcher could enter two cross streets near that location and retrieve a list of all potential enumeration districts.

The enumeration district search is still useful, even though databases have made census records searchable. When databases searching is unsuccessful because of indexing errors and misspellings, Morse provides a method of determining the census enumeration district in which the ancestor lived, allowing the researcher to locate and browse records. The site currently offers a Unified Enumeration District Finder for census years 1870–1950. Search results links to Ancestry.com to view the census images as well, although this requires a subscription (images for the 1950 census are not currently available).

In addition to these foundational search engines, Morse also created an array of tools for searching various other record types. For example, one may search passenger lists from various ports, with results linking to images on FamilySearch or Ancestry. If foreign language records are an issue, Morse provides translation aids for languages with different alphabets such as Russian, Chinese or



Hebrew. There are also tools for transliteration that will convert a word from English to the target language's alphabet. For those performing German research, a converter will transform typed text into

Fraktur, Kurrent or Sütterlin script. Such aids are extremely useful for identifying words in historical documents. Morse also provides instructions so the technically inclined can learn how to create their own search applications.

These are just a sampling of the many tools on the One-Step site. Morse says his motivation for creating the tools stems from his philosophy that “Whenever I come across a site that offers some valuable service but doesn't provide the most flexible way of accessing that service, I'm motivated to improve the situation.”

IN MEMORIAM

Former H&G volunteer, **Michael McDermott**, passed away on Dec. 21, 2020. Mike spent many hours indexing death notices in the *Westliche Post* newspaper. The resulting [online index](http://bit.ly/3pdYwlx) <<http://bit.ly/3pdYwlx>> is an invaluable resource that has benefited researchers all over the world. Mike's wife Neoma (Lindwedel) subsequently passed away on Jan. 27, 2021. [The McDermotts' death notice is available online](http://legcy.co/2ZbVzai) <<http://legcy.co/2ZbVzai>>.

Live History & Genealogy classes via Zoom webinar

Classes are free and open to the public. Registration is required. Register online <<https://www.slcl.org/events>> or call 314-994-3300. Classes will be conducted by Zoom. Times listed are Central Standard Time.

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 6:30 p.m.

Deutsches Geschlechterbuch as a German Genealogical Source

Deutsches Geschlechterbuch is a series of books offering genealogical information for thousands of non-noble German families. Their standardized format makes using them possible for the non-German speaker. [Click to register.](#)

Saturday, Feb. 20, 10:30 p.m.

History & Genealogy in Newspapers

Newspapers are excellent sources of historical and genealogical information, and digitization has made them more widely available. The class will cover 19th-Century U. S. Newspapers, NewspaperArchive, Newspapers.com and St. Louis Post-Dispatch databases. [Click to register.](#)

Monday, Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m.

Tracing Your African American Ancestors: Advanced Techniques

The usual techniques can often lead to roadblocks in African American research. The instructor will use case studies to demonstrate how researchers can fill gaps in missing information. Prerequisite: "Tracing Your African American Ancestors: Digging Deeper" or comparable research experience. In Celebration of Black History Month. [Click to register.](#)

Thursday, March 4, 6:30 p.m.

Who Were my Ancestors? Beginning Genealogical Research

If you have little or no research experience, this is the class for you. Learn about the genealogical research process and the many resources available in History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library. [Click to register.](#)

Wednesday, March 10, 6:30 p.m.

Finding Ancestors in U.S. Census Records

Census records are a basic and essential source for genealogical research in the U.S. Learn how to search census records effectively using Ancestry Library Edition and other electronic databases. [Click to register.](#)

Monday, March 15, 6:30 p.m.

Before 1850: Early American Research

The 1850 US Federal Census was the first census to document everyone living within a household. Learn techniques for resolving who your ancestors were before the 1850 census. [Click to register.](#)

Saturday, March 27, 10:00 a.m.

Library Skills for Genealogical Research

Libraries offer essential tools for researching your ancestry. Learn how to search online library catalogs, obtain materials from distant libraries, locate periodical articles, and use the library's in-house guides. Prerequisite: Who Were my Ancestors? Beginning Genealogical Research class or previous research experience. [Click to register.](#)

History & Genealogy class recordings on demand

Genealogy classes online and on demand in History & Genealogy's Virtual Classroom <<https://www.slcl.org/genealogy/virtual-classroom>>.

Who Were My Ancestors? Beginning Genealogical Research

If you have little or no research experience, this is the class for you. Learn about the genealogical research process and the many resources available in History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library. [Click to view](#)

Library Skills for Genealogical Research

Libraries offer essential tools for researching your ancestry. Learn how to search online library catalogs, obtain materials from distant libraries, locate periodical articles, and use the library's in-house guides. [Click to view.](#)

Finding Ancestors in U.S. Census Records

Census records are a basic and essential source for genealogical research in the U.S. Learn how to search census records effectively in electronic databases. [Click to view.](#)

Exploring the Ancestry Library Edition Database

The Ancestry Library Edition Database is a powerful tool for genealogical research. Find out how to take advantage of Ancestry's capabilities in your research. [Click to view.](#)

NEW! Index to PastPorts

An index to *PastPorts* issues, 2008–2020 now available [online](https://bit.ly/2M3I2js) <<https://bit.ly/2M3I2js>>.

FamilySearch Basics

FamilySearch.org is a free website offering access to millions of records for genealogical research. This class will provide an overview of the kinds of records available and how to find them. [Click to view.](#)

Getting More out of FamilySearch

Basic search techniques will miss most records in FamilySearch. Learn to navigate un-indexed image collections, search the FamilySearch catalog effectively, and use advanced search features to tap into hard-to-find records. [Click to view.](#)

Discovering Ancestral Military Veterans

Explore strategies for military research in the Fold3 and Ancestry Library Edition databases, as well as in print and internet sources. [Click to view.](#)

Tracing Your African American Ancestors: Getting Started in Genealogical Research

Do you want to research your African American family but don't know where to start? This class will teach you the basics of genealogical research including resources available in History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library. [Click to view.](#)

Tracing Your African American Ancestors: Digging Deeper

Learn about additional sources and techniques to deepen your research and overcome roadblocks. This course will use specific examples of records available and show you how to use them. [Click to view.](#)

Using German Newspapers When You Don't Know Much German

German-language newspapers are a valuable source of obituaries and other genealogical information. This presentation offers tips for locating and deciphering obituaries in German newspapers. [Click to view.](#)

Using Ortssippenbücher to Research Your German Ancestors

Ortssippenbücher contain genealogical information about families within a specific town, village, or parish. Information can cover many generations of a family going back to the beginning of written records. Discover the areas of Germany where these books are available and learn how to use this resource yourself through a case study. [Click to view.](#)

Digital Archiving and Preservation Basics

Learn how to care for and protect digital files and photos. Library staff will share information about saving and preserving your digital memories. [Click to view.](#)

Finding Immigrant European Ancestors

Discover print and online resources for researching immigrant ancestors. This class will include an overview of information available on Ancestry Library Edition and other electronic databases. [Click to view.](#)

Discover History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library

With research materials covering the St. Louis metropolitan area, Missouri, migration trails into Missouri, and European homelands, the History & Genealogy Department's is your gateway to discovering your family's history. The library is home to the St. Louis Genealogical Society and National Genealogical Society collections. [Click to view.](#)

St. Louis Genealogical Society
49th Annual Family History Conference



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St. Louis Genealogical Society Programs

StLGS meetings are free and open to the public, but registration is required. [Visit the St. Louis Genealogical Society website for registration information](https://stlgs.org/) <https://stlgs.org/>. Meetings will be conducted using Zoom.

Sunday, Feb. 21, 1:00 p.m.

Jewish Special Interest Group

Jewish Genealogy Q&A

Join us from the comfort of your home with your questions about Jewish genealogy, and we will try to help you answer them. If your question is unusual, please send it ahead of time to jewishsig@stlgs.org.

Saturday, March 13, 10:00 a.m.

General Membership Meeting

Historical Context and Social History for Family Historians

Discover the importance of historical context and social history for family history research. Considering various historical factors helps family historians discover new resources and develop a more complete understanding of their ancestors. See how to use both primary and secondary sources to learn about the daily lives of your ancestors. Ellen Mays, Speaker

Wednesday, March 17, 7:00 p.m.

German Special Interest Group

What Day is It? Interpreting Dates when the Calendar Changes

Calendar changes can present challenges to our research. Understanding when and why they happened can help us better interpret our genealogical records. Dan Lilienkamp, Speaker

PastPorts is published by History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library, located on Tier 5 of Library Headquarters.

[Current and past issues can be downloaded from the web](http://www.slcl.org/pastports) <http://www.slcl.org/pastports>.

Contact us:

History & Genealogy
St. Louis County Library
1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63131

314-994-3300
genealogy@slcl.org
www.slcl.org/genealogy

History & Genealogy services

St. Louis County Library buildings are currently closed to the public because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The following H&G services are available.:

Photocopies

H&G can provide photocopies, prints, or digital scans of many library materials, including:

- Books and periodicals—up to 30 pages from one book or one article from a single journal issue. Staff can also photocopy or scan tables of contents and index pages.
- Microfilmed records—A list of microfilm available in the H&G collection can be [viewed online](https://bit.ly/3jrqw3j) <https://bit.ly/3jrqw3j>.
- Databases—H&G staff will print out database records if patrons cannot access the database at home.

Please use the [online lookup request form](https://bit.ly/2UQXJKE) <https://bit.ly/2UQXJKE> and be as specific as possible when submitting requests.

Print collection

One-third of the books in H&G's collection—more than 27,000—can be checked out. The entire collection is included in the library's [online catalog](http://webpac.slcl.org) <http://webpac.slcl.org>. Books with call numbers that do not begin with "R" are available to check out. Patrons can request books online or by calling 314-994-3300.

Research guidance

H&G staff members can provide research assistance over the phone or by email. Researchers whose information needs cannot be met in this way may schedule an appointment for a face-to-face meeting with an H&G librarian.

Book-a-Genealogist

Researchers who would like in-depth assistance can schedule a phone consultation with an H&G staff member. Requests can be made using the online [Book-a-Genealogist form](https://bit.ly/3fQbB0r) <https://bit.ly/3fQbB0r>.

Database access

Most library databases can be used at home by St. Louis County Library card holders living in the metropolitan area. The Ancestry Library Edition database, normally restricted to in-library use, can be accessed remotely on a temporary basis. [View the list of genealogical databases on the library's website](https://bit.ly/37GRbTF) <https://bit.ly/37GRbTF>.

For more information, please contact the History & Genealogy Department at 314-994-3300 or genealogy@slcl.org.