

Northeast Slavery Records Index



[HTTPS://NESRI.COMMONS.GC.CUNY.EDU/](https://nesri.commons.gc.cuny.edu/)
[HTTP://NESRI.US](http://nesri.us)

Purpose

The Northeast Slavery Records Index (NESRI) at <https://nesri.commons.gc.cuny.edu/> or <http://nesri.us> provides free access through its website to 94,000 records of slavery in 9 northeastern states from Pennsylvania to Maine, including 45,000 records from New York State, viewable individually or in locality reports. NESRI locates and shares information about enslavement and life events of enslaved people in the Northeast, supporting both academic and community histories of enslavement.

NESRI exists now, a project of John Jay College of Criminal Justice and CUNY. No other source provides the quantity and granularity of data, accessible in free online reports focusing on counties, cities and towns.

NESRI and New York Reparations

A deep understanding of slavery's many aspects is foundational to designing and implementing reparative programs. NESRI's mission aligns perfectly with the Commission's duty to document the capture, procurement, transport, sale, and treatment of enslaved Africa-descended people across New York, and to communicate this individualized information to inform community-level understanding and reparative projects in counties, cities and towns.

NESRI and New York Reparations

Expand and enhance NESRI's records of enslavement of Black and Indigenous people across New York State. We know we can find additional records to continue to build the most complete collection extant.

An example is missing birth registration records required by the 1799 Graduate Abolition Act.

NESRI and New York Reparations

Expanding NESRI's documentation of family relationships among the enslaved people to support genealogical research by descendants.

We are coding parent, marriage and sibling relationships and presenting lists of enslaved people grouped as families.

NESRI and New York Reparations

Sharing names of the enslaved people from the NESRI database with the 10MillionNames project, further enhancing the ability of descendants to discover their family histories.

Our partnership project is ongoing focusing first on Massachusetts and Maine.

NESRI and New York Reparations

Develop an Enslavement Intensity Measure that will score the intensity of enslavement taking place in each locality based on measures like the percent of Black and the general population enslaved, and the percent of political and religious leaders who were enslavers This index will assist the Commission in designing slavery reparation initiatives that focus on places where slavery was most intensive.

NESRI and New York Reparations

Expand NESRI's coding of enslavement by colonial era university alumni, donors and staff.

We present lists of graduates who were exposed to slavery as students and practiced slavery after graduation.

NESRI and New York Reparations

Design ways for K-12 teachers and college faculty to use NESRI in the classroom.

NESRI and New York Reparations

Reinforce and support use of NESRI as a unique free resource for individuals and communities in New York State studying slavery and designing reparation programs.

Records

NESRI's data is available now to assist the Commission's work, and together we could make it even more useful. For NY State there are

- 8,835 records naming individuals who were enslaved;
- 43,111 records naming enslavers, including 209 elected government officials;
- 1,042 records of advertisements for fugitives;
- 559 records of sales; and
- 3,660 records of New York slave ships.

Locally, for example, there are 4,896 records from Ulster County, and 903 records about Hempstead.

A Demonstration: New York Borough



Search records of slavery within the
Northeast Colonies and States:
ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI, NY, NJ and PA.

Home SEARCH Sources ▾ Project Organization Donations Comments In The News Education

CONNECTICUT • MAINE • MASSACHUSETTS • NEW HAMPSHIRE • NEW JERSEY • NEW YORK • PENNSYLVANIA • RHODE ISLAND • VERMONT

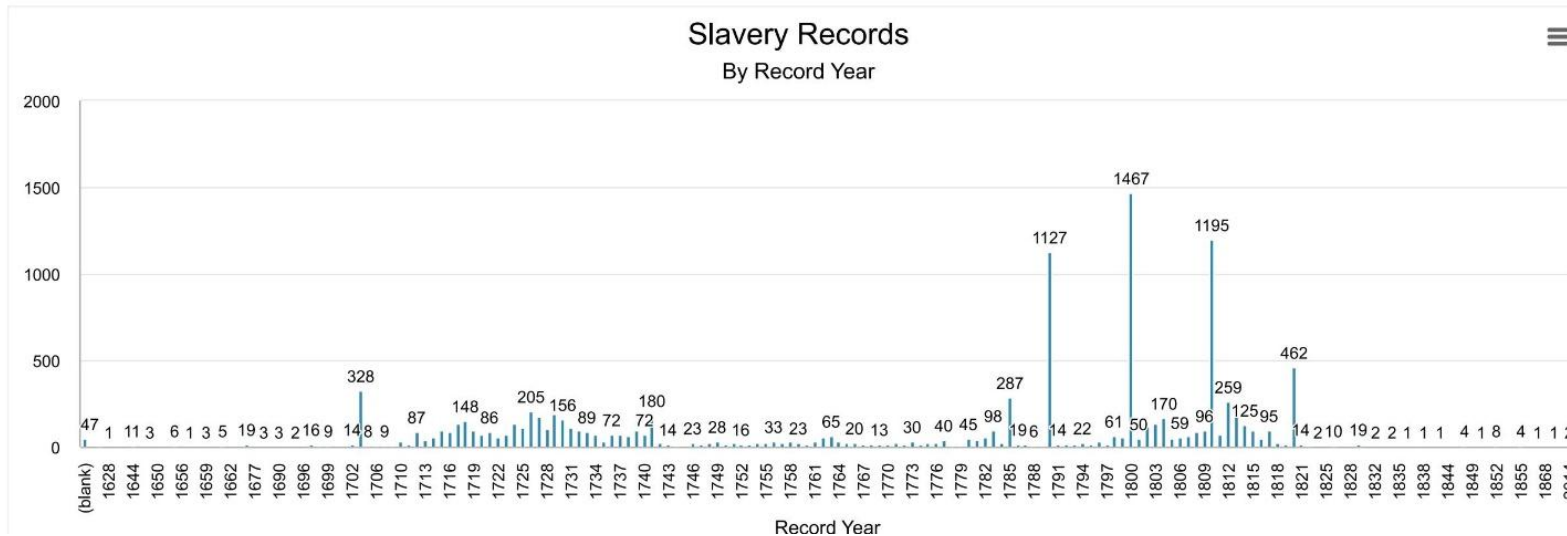
Locality Record Summary



Locality Indexed Records Report

<http://nesri.us> <https://nesri.commons.gc.cuny.edu/>

State: NY **County or Borough: New York** **Locality:**



Section One: Census Records

This table summarizes enslaved population census records for the area selected, such as the U.S. Census records and other colonial census records.

Table 2A: Colonial and United States Census Records

Census Year ▲	County	Locality	Number Enslaved	Adult Male	Minor Male	Adult Female	Minor Female	Total Population	Percent	Source Document
1790	New York		2373					30738	7.7%	U.S. Census 1790
1800	New York		2868					57621	5.0%	U.S. Census 1800
1810	New York	New York Ninth Ward	233	101		132		3461	6.7%	NYC Archives
1810	New York	New York Second Ward	144	44		100		7076	2.0%	NYC Archives
1810	New York	New York Third Ward	271	95		176		7891	3.4%	NYC Archives
1810	New York	New York First Ward	517	230		287		8824	5.9%	NYC Archives
1810	New York	New York Eighth Ward	142	50		92		9533	1.5%	NYC Archives
1810	New York	New York Tenth Ward	93	31		62		9833	0.9%	NYC Archives
1810	New York	New York Fourth Ward	64	22		42		10325	0.6%	NYC Archives
1810	New York	New York Sixth Ward	99	48		51		11097	0.9%	NYC Archives
1810	New York	New York Seventh Ward	76	24		52		11597	0.7%	NYC Archives
1810	New York	New York Fifth Ward	227	86		141		15113	1.5%	NYC Archives

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remember them as individuals with families and personal life accomplishments and events.

Table 3A: Names of Enslaved People

Family 	Locality	Enslaved First Name	Last Name	Enslaved Person Code	Year	Enslaver First Name	Last Name	Search Tag	
Sarah Edwards									
	New York	Sarah	Edwards	NY_Edwards_Sarah_18754	1783		Carleton	BON	 View Details
NY_Vandhome_Sarah_20026									
	New York	Eliza	Vandhome	NY_Vandhome_Eliza_20025	1804	Daniel	Proudfit	REG EDUS_Columbia	 View Details
	New York	Sarah	Vandhome	NY_Vandhome_Sarah_20026	1804	Daniel	Proudfit	REG EDUS_Columbia	 View Details
NY_Stuyvesant_Betsey_19923									
	New York	Betsey	Stuyvesant	NY_Stuyvesant_Betsey_19923	1807	Augustine H	Lawrence	REG	 View Details
	New York	James	Stuyvesant	NY_Stuyvesant_James_19924	1807	Augustine H	Lawrence	REG	 View Details
NY_Sperry_Mary_19890									
	New York	Mary	Sperry	NY_Sperry_Mary_19890	1803	Gulian	Ludlow	REG	 View Details
	New York	Mary	Sperry	NY_Sperry_Mary_19891	1803	Gulian	Ludlow	REG	 View Details
NY_Spader_Lavinia_19880									
	New York	Michael	Pappan	NY_Pappan_Michael_19558	1819	Peter	Stryker	REG	 View Details
	New York	Lavinia	Spader	NY_Spader_Lavinia_19880	1819	Peter	Stryker	REG	 View Details
NY_Robinson_Ann_19725									
	New York	Ann	Robinson	NY_Robinson_Ann_19725	1800	John	Hughes	REG	 View Details
	New York	Ann	Robinson	NY_Robinson_Ann_19726	1800	John	Hughes	REG	 View Details
NY_Robinson_Abigail_19723									
	New York	Abigail	Robinson	NY_Robinson_Abigail_19723	1809	Thomas	Hazard	REG	+  View Details



Table 3B: Names of the Enslavers

Enslaver Last Name ▲	Enslaved First Name	Number Enslaved	Locality	Year of Record	Search Tag	
?	Moses	2	New York	1726	SHIP INV	View Details
?	Peter	3	New York	1726	SHIP INV	View Details
?hoven	Day	33	New York	1726	SHIP INV	View Details
Abbot	Abijah	1	New York	1790		View Details
Abeel	Garret B	2	New York	1800		View Details
Abeel	Garrit B	2	New York	1810		View Details
Abeel	Garrit B	1	New York	1811	EMN	View Details
Abeel	John Neilson		New York	1787	EDUS_Princeton	View Details
Abeel	Rev. Doctor John N.	1	New York	1812	EMN REV EDUS_Princeton	View Details
Abella	John	4	New York	1800		View Details
Abline	John	2	New York	1719	REMOVAL SHIP INV	View Details
Abline	John (Captain)	2	New York	1719	REMOVAL SHIP	View Details
Abner	James	2	New York	1790		View Details
Abraham			New York	1786	KIDNAP FRE SHIP	View Details
Abraham	Isaac	3	New York	1800		View Details
Abraham	Isaac	1	New York	1800		View Details
Abraham	Isaac A.	1	New York	1804	REG	View Details
Abraham	Isaac A.	1	New York	1804	REG	View Details
Abrahams	Benajah	1	New York	1805	REG	View Details
Abrahams	Benajah	1	New York	1805	REG	View Details

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Records 1-20 of 10149				

The next table lists newspaper advertisements for enslaved people who fled from their enslavers. They name the enslaved person as well as the enslaver, and they sometimes provide meaningful descriptions of the enslaved person.

Table 3C: Advertisements for Fugitive Enslaved People

Year of Record	Enslaver Last Name	First Name	County or Borough	Locality	Comments	Enslaved Person Last Name	First Name	
1852	Lemmon	Jonathan	New York	New York	Lemmon was moving to Texas and traveled via New York City with six people he enslaved. Louis Napoleon, and underground railroad advocate, assisted the six enslaved people, petitioning Judge Elijah Paine. John Jay Jr. (Grandson of John Jay) supported the petition in court, and the Judge ruled that these six people were not fugitives (they were just being transported) and were therefore free. Virginia eventually appealed the case to the Supreme Court by hte case was never heard because Virginia seceded from the Union.		Emiline	 View Details
1852	Lemmon	Jonathan	New York	New York	Lemmon was moving to Texas and traveled via New York City with six people he enslaved. Louis Napoleon, and underground railroad advocate, assisted the six enslaved people, petitioning Judge Elijah Paine. John Jay Jr. (Grandson of John Jay) supported the petition in court, and the Judge ruled that these six people were not fugitives (they were just being transported) and were therefore free. Virginia eventually appealed the case to the Supreme Court by hte case was never heard because Virginia seceded from the Union.		Amanda	 View Details
1852	Lemmon	Jonathan	New York	New York	Lemmon was moving to Texas and traveled via New York City with six people he enslaved. Louis Napoleon, and underground railroad advocate, assisted the six enslaved people, petitioning Judge Elijah Paine. John Jay Jr. (Grandson of John Jay) supported the petition in court, and the Judge ruled that these six people were not fugitives (they were just being transported) and were therefore free. Virginia eventually appealed the case to the Supreme Court by hte case was never heard because Virginia seceded from the Union.		Ann	 View Details
1852	Lemmon	Jonathan	New York	New York	Lemmon was moving to Texas and traveled via New York City with six people he enslaved. Louis Napoleon, and underground railroad advocate, assisted the six enslaved people, petitioning		Edward	 View Details

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This table provides a list of sales of enslaved people. Some sales are between two people, and others are general auctions. These documents are frequently callous and disturbing, particularly when children are offered for sale without their parents.

Table 3D: Notices or Records of Sales

Year	Enslaver Last Name	First	Number Sold	Locality	Description	Documentation	
1661			40	New York	Resolution to offer at public sale on public account forty negroes, young and old, male and female, recently received from Curaçao; payment to be made in beavers or in beef, pork, wheat or peas.	NYSA_A1809-78_V09_0760	View Details
1768			20	New York	["about 20 fine healthy Negroes, consisting of men, women, boys and girls, just arrived", to be sold at the Merchant's Coffee-House]	N-Y Gazette and W Mercury, June 6, 1768, p. 3, col. 2>>slaves:sale >>slavers	View Details
1749	Alexander	William	12	New York	Also refers to sales in 1750	New York Historical Society Guide to the Alexander Papers 1668-1818 (bulk 1717-1786) MS 8	View Details
1661			4		Petition. Burgomasters of New Amsterdam for a gift of four able bodied negroes for the use of the city.	NYSA_A1809-78_V09_0915	View Details
1768	Durham	Thomas	4	New York	NEGROES, TO BE SOLD, By THOMAS DURHAM, A Parcel of young able bodied Negro Men, one of whom is a Cooper by Trade, two Negroe Wenches, and likewise two Girls, one of 12 Years old, and the other 16, the latter is a good Seamstress, and can be well recommended.	N-Y Journal, or General Advertiser, June 23, 1768, supplement, p. 2, col. 3. See also June 20, 1763. >>slaves:sale >>slaves:skills >>slaves:children	View Details
1796	Hamilton	Alexander	2	New York	Hamilton purchased 2 "negro servants from N. Low who might have been Nicholas Low who appears in the Census in NY in 1800 owning 3 enslaved persons. Hamilton's account book shows the purchase was "for me."	Hamilton, Allan McLane, The Intimate Life of Alexander Hamilton, (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1911), 268.	View Details
1848			1	York	In April of 1848, Mary and Emily fled enslavement aboard a ship called the Pearl. At the ages of 15 and 13 respectively, they were just two of the 70 fugitives comprising the largest escape ever attempted by enslaved people in the United States. Their ship left Washington, D.C., under the cover of darkness, but was forced to drop anchor	Edmonson Sisters	View Details


Table 3E: Slave Ship Owners, Operators and Investors

Enslaver Last Name	First Name	Number Enslaved	ShipName	Comments	
Lafayette	Augustus	487	Wanderer	This vessel was constructed in Brookhaven, registered in Unknown, and the voyage began in New York. People were purchased for enslavement at Congo River. The primary destination for delivery of enslaved people was Georgia, port unspecified. A total of 487 enslaved persons were transported. Augustus Lafayette was an investor.	 View Details
Lamar	Charles	487	Wanderer	This vessel was constructed in Brookhaven, registered in Unknown, and the voyage began in New York. People were purchased for enslavement at Congo River. The primary destination for delivery of enslaved people was Georgia, port unspecified. A total of 487 enslaved persons were transported. Charles Lamar was an investor.	 View Details
Sweerts	Jan	455	Witte Paard	This vessel was constructed in Unknown, registered in Unknown, and the voyage began in Texel, Netherlands. People were purchased for enslavement at Loango. The primary destination for delivery of enslaved people was New York. A total of 455 enslaved persons were transported. Jan Sweerts was an investor.	 View Details
Wittepaert	Dirck Pietersen	455	Witte Paard	This vessel was constructed in Unknown, registered in Unknown, and the voyage began in Texel, Netherlands. People were purchased for enslavement at Loango. The primary destination for delivery of enslaved people was New York. A total of 455 enslaved persons were transported. Dirck Pietersen Wittepaert was an investor.	 View Details
Boyd	W.	437	Port Mary	This vessel was constructed in New York, registered in Charleston, and the voyage began in London. People were purchased for enslavement at Congo River. The primary destination for delivery of enslaved people was Charleston. A total of 437 enslaved persons were transported. W. Boyd was an investor.	 View Details
Boyd	William	423	Port Mary	This vessel was constructed in New York, registered in Charleston, and the voyage began in unknown. People were purchased for enslavement at Congo River. The primary destination for delivery of enslaved people was Charleston. A total of 423 enslaved persons were transported. William Boyd was an investor.	 View Details
Cunliffe	Foster	395	Pineapple	This vessel was constructed in New York, registered in Liverpool, and the voyage began in Liverpool. People were purchased for enslavement at Africa., port unspecified. The primary destination for delivery of enslaved people was Charleston. A total of 395 enslaved persons were transported. Foster Cunliffe was an investor.	 View Details
Hampson	Richd	395	Pineapple	This vessel was constructed in New York, registered in Liverpool, and the voyage began in Liverpool. People were purchased for enslavement at Africa., port unspecified. The primary destination for delivery of enslaved people was Charleston. A total of 395 enslaved persons were transported. Richd Hampson was an investor.	 View Details
Hardman	John	395	Pineapple	This vessel was constructed in New York, registered in Liverpool, and the voyage began in Liverpool. People were purchased	 View Details

The next table presents narratives, biographies and autobiographies of enslaved people.

Table 3F: Narratives and Biographies of Enslaved People

This table lists records of narratives, biographies and autobiographies of enslaved persons from the locality. These documents present their stories, sometimes in their own words. It can be important to consider whether a narrative is authored by the enslaved person, an enslaver, or a historian writing years later.

County or Borough	Locality	Enslaved Person First Name	Enslaved Person Last Name	Website Address	Comments	Source Document	
New York	New York	Katy	Ferguson	Link to the document online	This was the beginning of the Sabbath-school in the Murray Street Church; and KATY FERGUSON, the colored woman, who had been a slave, is believed to have thus gathered THE FIRST SABBATH SCHOOL IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.	Narratives of Colored Americans, P. 69	 View Details
New York	New York	William	Grimes	Link to the document online	William Grimes is sold twice more before being purchased by his final owner, a Mr. Wellman. When the Wellman family travels to Bermuda, Grimes takes his opportunity to escape. Left behind to work for wages, Grimes gets a job loading the Brig Casket from Boston. Grimes makes friends with the "Yankee sailors," who help Grimes escape by leaving "in the centre of the cotton bales on deck, a hole or place sufficiently large for me to stow away in, with my necessary provisions" (p. 51). Grimes stows away and avoids detection at Staten Island, but he is in New York only a short time before he meets Oliver Sturges, his	Life of William Grimes, the Runaway Slave. Written by Himself	 View Details

The next table presents enslavers who were elected or appointed governance officials for the jurisdiction of the report. This project is evolving, focusing initially on the highest level officials. Overtime, county and town/city officials will be included. For this reason the table will not initially have content for many towns and cities.

Table 3G: Names of Governance Officials Documented as Enslavers

Enslaver Last Name ▲	Enslaved First Name	Number Enslaved	Locality	Year of Record	Search Tag	
Benson	Egbert		New York	1813	WAPO GOV_USHouse EDUS_Columbia	View Details
Burr	Aaron	2	New York	1800	GOV_NYAssembly1800	View Details
Burr	Aaron		New York	1797	WAPO GOV_USHouse GOV_NYAssembly EDUS_Yale EDUO_Princeton REV	View Details
Clinton	De Witt		New York	1803	WAPO GOV_USHouse GOV_NYAssembly GOV_NYSenate EDUS_Columbia GOV_NYMayor	View Details
Clinton	George	4	New York	1800	GOV_NYAssembly1800	View Details
Clinton	George Jr		New York	1809	WAPO GOV_USHouse GOV_NYAssembly EDUS_Columbia ART10007A	View Details
Colden	Cadwallader David		New York	1823	WAPO GOV_USHouse GOV_NYAssembly GOV_NYSenate GOV_NYMayor	View Details
Denning	William		New York	1811	WAPO GOV_USHouse GOV_NYSenate GOV_NYAssembly	View Details
Duane	James	1	New York	1790	GOV_NYSenate1790	View Details
Evertson	Nicholas	1	New York	1800	GOV_NYAssembly1800 EDUS_Yale1787	View Details
Heathcote	Caleb		New York	1708	GOV_Mayor_NYC1711	View Details
Irving	William		New York	1819	WAPO GOV_USHouse	View Details
Kane	Elias K.		New York	1813	EDUS_Yale WAPO GOV_USSenateIL	View Details
King	Rufus		New York	1777	WAPO GOV_USSenate GOV_NYAssembly EDUS_Harvard	View Details
King	Rufus		New York	1825	WAPO GOV_USSenate GOV_NYAssembly EDUS_Harvard	View Details
Livingston	Brockholst	1	New York	1800	GOV_NYAssembly1800	View Details
Livingston	Edward	1	New York	1790	WAPO GOV_USHouse GOV_USSenate GOV_NYMayor EDUS_Princeton	View Details
Livingston	Edward	1	New York	1800	WAPO GOV_USHouse GOV_USSenate GOV_NYMayor EDUS_Princeton	View Details
Livingston	Edward		New York	1781	WAPO GOV_USHouse GOV_USSenate GOV_NYMayor EDUS_Princeton	View Details
Livingston	Edward		New York	1805	ART10007A WAPO GOV_USHouse GOV_USSenate GOV_NYMayor EDUS_Princeton	View Details

Table 6A: Further Research Based on Record Tags

 [Download Data](#)

Year	Enslaver Last Name	Enslaved Person First Name	Comments	Source Document	Website Address	Search Tag	
1749		UNKN	To be SOLD, a Likely Negro Girl of about 10 Years of Age, also a Negro boy of about 6 Years: Enquire of the Printer.	N-Y Gazette Revived, June 19, 1749, p. 4, col. 2 >>slaves:sale >>slaves:children	George A. Thompson Research Notes" Page 10	SALE CHILD	 View Details
1752			A Likely Negro Boy about 10 Years of Age, is to be sold: Enquire of the Printer hereof.	N-Y Gazette Revived, April 6, 1752, p. 3, col. 2 >>slaves:children >>children:slaves >>slaves:sale	George A. Thompson Research Notes" Page 13	SALE CHILD	 View Details
1758		UNKN	A Likely young Negroe Lad of about 16 Years old, has had the small Pox, is extremely handy, knows something of the Goldsmith's Business, and is fit to wait on a Gentleman. Enquire of the Printer in Beaverstreet.	N-Y Gazette & W Post-Boy, November 16, 1758, p. 3, col. 3 >>slaves:sale >>slaves:skills	George A. Thompson Research Notes" Page 19	SALE CHILD	 View Details
1758			AT the Merchants Coffee-House, . . . the Sloop ROVER, Burthen about 70 Tuns, now lying in Rotten Row, with all her Stores, &c. as she lately arrived from Sea. N. B. A Negro Boy, belonging to the said Sloop, to be sold at the same Time.	N-Y Gazette & W Post-Boy, August 7, 1758, p. 2, col. 3 >>slaves:sale	George A. Thompson Research Notes" Page 18	SALE CHILD SHIP	 View Details
1759		UNKN	TO BE SOLD, A good Kittereen, and two extraordinary Horses, the one fit either for the saddle or chair, and the other the saddle only: Neither of the Horses exceed seven Years old. Likewise, a likely nimble negro Boy of about eight Years old, country born. Enquire of W. Weyman.	N-Y Gazette [Weyman's], April 2, 1759, p. 3, col. 3 >>slaves:sale >>slaves:children >>children:slaves	George A. Thompson Research Notes" Page 19	SALE CHILD	 View Details
1759	Weyman		TO BE SOLD, AN unlikely, but very willing negro boy, about 14 years of age: He is not fit to wait on a table, but is however very handy in a kitchen. Price Forty-five Pounds. Enquire of William Weyman. ***	N-Y Gazette [Weyman's], April 23, 1759, p. 3, col. 1 >>slaves:sale	George A. Thompson Research Notes" Page 20	SALE CHILD	 View Details












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Clergy: Table Four identifies members of the clergy, for various religions, who had official roles or who graduated from the college or university in the report. Important resources that document the universities attended by colonial clergy are [Colonial Clergy of New England](#) and [Colonial Clergy of the Middle Colonies](#).

 [Download Data](#)

Sort by 

Unique ID	Record Type	Enslaver Last Name	Enslaver First Name	State	County or Borough	Locality	Year of Record	Enslaved Person First Name	
[-] CT_JohnSamu_01									
	Clergy	JOHNSON	SAMUEL	NY	Fairfield	Stratford			 View Details
[-] CT_SeabSamu_01									
	Clergy	SEABURY	SAMUEL	NY	New London	New London	1748		 View Details
	Enslaver	Seabury	Samuel	CT	New London	New	1756	Mary	 View Details
	Enslaver	Seabury	Samuel	CT	New London	New London	1760		 View Details
	Enslaver	Seabury	Samuel	CT	New London	New London	1790		 View Details
	Enslaver	Seabury	Samuel	CT	New London	New London	1790	Nell	 View Details
	Enslaver	Seabury	Samuel	CT	New London	New London	1796	Rose	 View Details
	Enslaver	Seabury	Samuel	CT	New London	New London	1796	Nell	 View Details
[-] NJ_ErruReve_01									
	Enslaved	Erruckson	Reverend	NJ	Monmouth	Freehold	1758	Peter	 View Details
[-] NY_GebhJohn_01									
	Clergy	GEBHARD	JOHN GABRIEL	NY	Columbia	Claverack			 View Details
	Enslaver	Gebhard	John Gabriel	NY	Columbia	Claverack	1799		 View Details