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YORK

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FEBRUARY 2025

SPECIAL EDITION



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New York Archives magazine is a donor-funded educational product published quarterly by the NYS Archives Partnership Trust. For subscription information, visit nysarchivestrust.org.

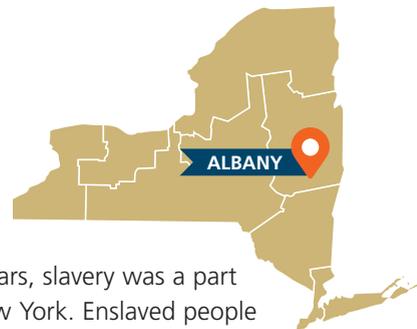
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Additional Resources and Activities can be found at:



ConsidertheSourceNY.org

Enslavement in New York



When the topic of slavery is discussed, many people think, “Slavery was just in the south!” or “There were only a few enslaved people in New York.” This just isn’t true.

After the voyages of Henry Hudson, the Dutch claimed the land that is now New York City, the Hudson River Valley and Albany. The West India Company (WIC) was started to control the business of trading in this area. They established the colony of New Netherland, where Europeans began to settle in 1624.

In 1627, the Dutch ship *Bruynvisch* became separated from the other ships in its fleet just south of Florida. The captain decided to sail up the coast to New Amsterdam to offload his cargo—a group of 22 Black, enslaved people that they had captured from a Portuguese ship. These people would become the first enslaved people in New Netherland. They were enslaved by the WIC. By the 1630s, there were around 100 enslaved men and women in New Amsterdam. This was about 1/3 of the population.

The British took over New Netherlands in 1664, and changed the name of the colony to New York. Under the British, slavery expanded. New York City had the second largest enslaved population in the colonies (Charleston, SC had the largest). The British also made it much more difficult, or sometimes impossible, for enslaved people to become free.

Gnaw on This



- Even after slavery was outlawed in NYS, there were still people held in bondage.
- New Yorker’s invested in Atlantic slave trade, even after slavery was illegal in NYS.
- Peter Stuyvesant, in his job for the WIC, facilitated the slave trade through New Amsterdam.
- When the British took control of the colony they made the Port of New York a major port for slave ships.

For the next 200 years, slavery was a part of the economy of New York. Enslaved people did many types of work. Some worked in the wheat fields. Others learned trades, like running a mill, or carpentry, while others worked as secretaries or did household work. Enslavers made money or benefited from the labor of those they enslaved.

In 1799, New York State passed the Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery. This law stated that any child born after 4 July 1799 would be free, but not until age 28 for males, and age 25 for females. People who were already in bondage were required to continue, though they were called indentured servants instead of slaves.

In 1827, an Act Relative to Slaves and Servants was passed. This law stated that all children born after 4 July 1799, were to remain enslaved until the age of 21. It also required that all slavery end in New York State by 1827.

Community Connections



- **The African Burial Grounds, Manhattan.** Take a tour or attend an event at the site of the African Burial Grounds. nps.gov/afbg/index.htm
- **Mabee Farm Historic Site, Rotterdam Junction.** Plan a visit to the oldest farm in the Mohawk Valley, dating to 1705. schenectadyhistorical.org/site/mabee-farm-historic-site/
- **Philipsburg Manor, Sleepy Hollow.** Learn about the enslaved persons who worked this manor in 1750. hudsonvalley.org/historic-sites/philipsburg-manor/
- **Philipse Manor Hall, Yonkers.** Learn about the lives of Indigenous, European and Africans who lived and worked this colonial era manor. philipsemanorhall.com/



Take a Closer Look

Student Name _____

A census is a counting of the people who live in an area. In 1790, the US government took a census of the entire country. The census lists the names of the “head of house”, then counts the number of people by male and female, age ranges, free or enslaved. Below is a summary of the population of the United States based on the data in the 1790 US Census.

8 FIRST CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Population of the United States as returned at the First Census, by states: 1790.

DISTRICT.	Free white males of 16 years and upward, including heads of families.	Free white males under 16 years.	Free white females, including heads of families.	All other free persons.	Slaves.	Total.
Vermont.....	22,435	22,328	40,505	255	116	* 85,530
New Hampshire.....	36,086	34,851	70,160	630	158	141,885
Maine.....	24,384	24,748	46,870	638	None.	96,540
Massachusetts.....	95,453	87,289	190,582	5,463	None.	378,787
Rhode Island.....	16,019	15,799	32,652	3,407	948	68,825
Connecticut.....	60,523	54,403	117,448	2,808	2,764	237,946
New York.....	83,700	78,122	152,320	4,654	21,324	340,120
New Jersey.....	45,251	41,416	83,287	2,762	11,423	184,139
Pennsylvania.....	110,788	106,948	206,363	6,537	3,737	434,373
Delaware.....	11,783	12,143	22,384	3,899	8,887	* 59,094
Maryland.....	55,915	51,339	101,395	8,043	103,036	319,728
Virginia.....	110,936	116,135	215,046	2,866	292,627	747,610
Kentucky.....	15,154	17,057	28,922	114	12,430	73,677
North Carolina.....	69,988	77,506	140,710	4,975	100,572	383,751
South Carolina.....	35,576	37,722	66,880	1,801	107,094	249,073
Georgia.....	13,103	14,044	25,739	398	29,264	82,548
Total number of inhabitants of the United States exclusive of S. Western and N. territory	807,094	791,850	1,541,263	59,150	694,290	3,893,685

	Free white males of 21 years and upward.	Free males under 21 years of age.	Free white females.	All other persons.	Slaves.	Total.

 I Observe:	 I Infer:	 I Wonder:

See the online resources for extensions on this activity.

Learning Activity



As part of the online resources there is a three page timeline that lists some significant events in the history of slavery in New York State. You can view it at [considerthesource.s3.amazonaws.com/1717/3861/5642/Timeline.pdf](https://www.considerthesource.org/s3.amazonaws.com/1717/3861/5642/Timeline.pdf) or use the QR code.

A TIMELINE OF SOME SIGNIFICANT EVENTS RELATING TO SLAVERY IN NEW YORK STATE

- 1627** Arrival of first Africans aboard the ship *Bruguisch*. They were enslaved to the Dutch West India Company.
- 1641** Manuel de Gorriz de Rens was to be hung for the crime. He was tied with two good ropes, but both ropes broke, saving his life. The people there that day felt this was a sign from God and pardoned all the enslaved men thought to be involved.
- 1643** Establishment of "Land of the Blacks" and half freedom to 11 enslaved men and their wives. Their current and future children would remain enslaved, and they must continue to work for the WIC.
- 1664** The British Take Control of New Netherland and rename it New York.
- 1702** New York Slave Codes enacted. These laws gave the enslaver the power to punish the enslaved as they wished, restricted gatherings of the enslaved to no more than 3 people and outlawed trading with an enslaved person.
- 1712** First Slave Insurrection. Twenty-seven were captured and tried in court. Twenty-one were cruelly executed. After this, stricter laws were enacted to try and prevent more insurrections.
- 1741** Second Slave Insurrection, also known as the New York Conspiracy. 200 people (mostly enslaved Blacks and about 20 poor Whites) were arrested. Their trials were based on little to no evidence. Those convicted were sentenced to death or deported.
- 1761** Jupiter Hammon, enslaved on Long Island, becomes the first published Black poet. Note: unlike the south, it was not against the law to teach Blacks to read and write in New York.
- 1799** An Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery is passed. Children born to a slave mother after July 4, 1799 were declared free, but not until male children had turned 28, and females 25.
- 1810** Nathaniel Rochester, founder of the City of Rochester, moves from Maryland to Dansville, NY, bringing 10 enslaved people with him. He was a slave trader. Slavery was not limited to NYC.
- 1810** New York State passes a law requiring enslavers to teach the people they enslave how to read and write.
- 1817** An act relative to slaves and servants is passed. Every child born of an enslaved person after this act was passed was legally owned by the mother's enslaver until age 21. According to the terms of the law, all slaves were to be free by 1827.
- 1827** The legal end of slavery in New York, but not all held in bondage were free.
- 1840** Despite slavery being outlawed in 1827, there are still people listed as enslaved in the 1840 US Census for New York State.
- 1861** The United States Civil War begins. New York State is part of the Union.

Select one of the events and research it.

Create a way to share the information you learn with others. You might make a poster, a digital slide show, a video—be creative!

What event are you most interested in learning about?

List sources of information on the lines below.

How will you present your information?



Discover more activities for **Jr!** Archivist at [considerthesource.org/new-york-archives-jr/special-edition-enslavement-new-york/junior-archivists](https://www.considerthesource.org/new-york-archives-jr/special-edition-enslavement-new-york/junior-archivists)