

The Barbados Mercury digitization and digital scholarship opportunities

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

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Archivist

Project Leader

December 11, 2017 Workshop

- What we learned

COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP, DECEMBER 11, 2017





QUESTIONS DISCUSSED IN THE DECEMBER WORKSHOP

- Who is the “creator” of the gazette?
- ➔ Who is involved in its production and dissemination?
- Which audience and what goals did the gazette serve?
- What does the physicality of the gazette reveals?
- Who writes and who reads? Who speaks, on behalf of whom?
- What genres of writing can be found in the gazette?
- What is its place in the network of other colonial papers?
- How does the gazette reflect colonial attitudes?
- What subjects and topics can the gazette be further mined for?

“Did the enslaved work in print houses?”

May 17, 1783

Runaways from Martinique: 2 negro men

- Raphael, 22 y.o., a barber
- Charles, 23 y.o., **“printer by trade”**



RUN away from the subscriber in Albemarle, a Mulatto slave called Sandy, about 35 years of age, his stature is rather low, inclining to corpulence, and his complexion light; he is a shoemaker by trade, in which he uses his left hand principally, can do coarse carpenters work, and is something of a horse jockey; he is greatly addicted to drink, and when drunk is insolent and disorderly, in his conversation he swears much, and in his behaviour is artful and knavish. He took with him a white horse, much scarred with traces, of which it is expected he will endeavour to dispose; he also carried his shoemakers tools, and will probably endeavour to get employment that way. Whoever conveys the said slave to me, in Albemarle, shall have 40 s. reward, if taken up within the county, 4 l. if elsewhere within the colony, and 10 l. if in any other colony, from

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

Reading in-between lines and against the grain

The written text above:

- The illusion of normalcy

The web of silences beneath

- A seething revolt

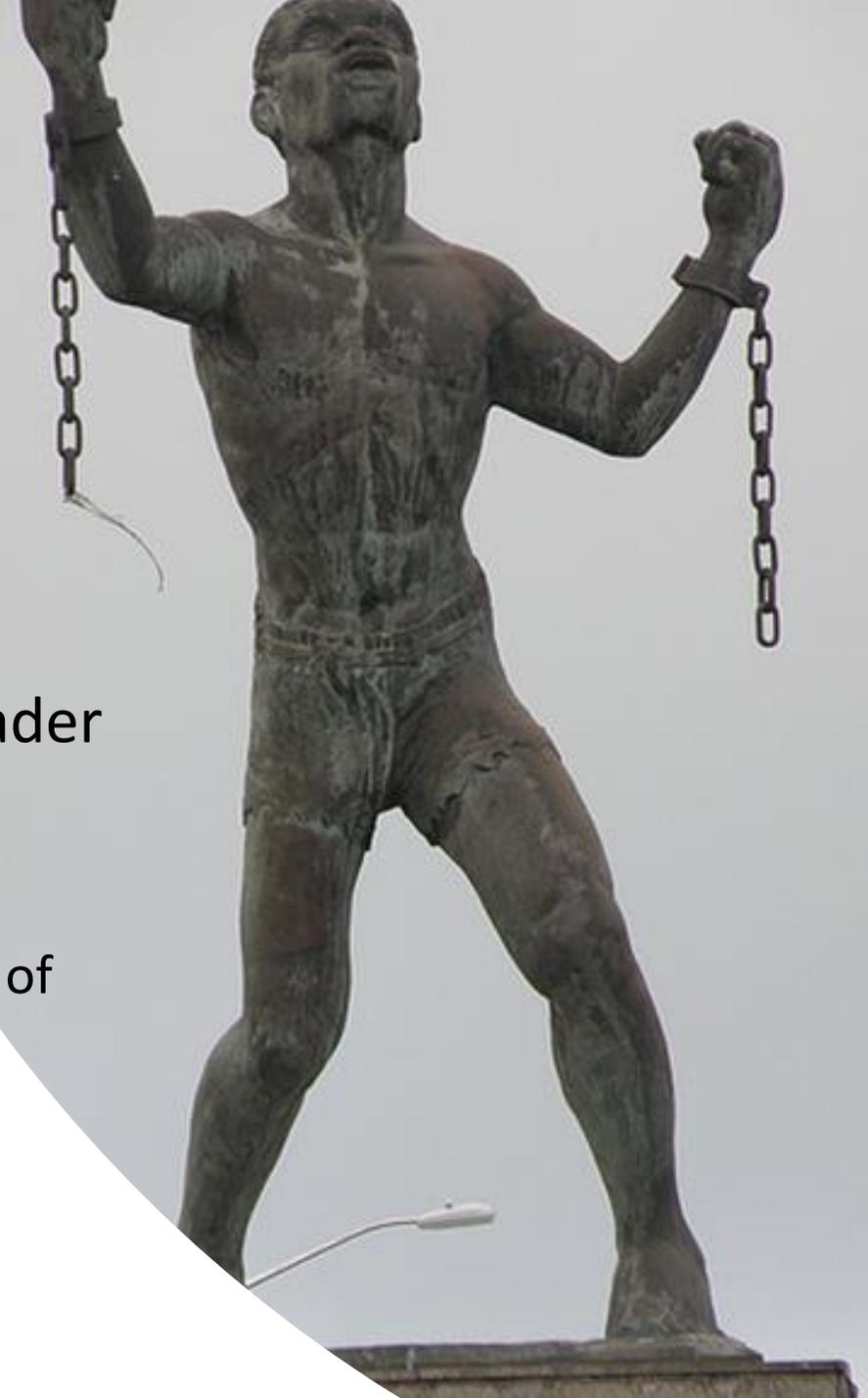
The power to form connections through historical newspapers

- “Old dusty stuff”?
 - People do coalesce around historical newspapers.
- In postcolonial societies, historical newspapers can have the power to help us ‘read’ a different past.
- They can instill in people pride in people’s past
 - Help them see slaves not as passive, but as people who fought back.

The power to change scholarship

BUSSA'S REVOLT (April 1816)

- Dominant narrative of a strong charismatic male leader
- Reading newspapers against the grain:
 - Shed light on role of women, and the power of networks of everyday people



Value-added when becoming part of larger initiatives

For Mercury: Barbados Archives + EAP + dLOC

1) Promote research that bridges collections siloed along national lines

2) Become part of other international projects:

- Transatlantic Digitised Newspapers project

- Transnational flow of information around the globe
- Innovative approaches to the digitized archives of historical American and British newspapers

- Runaway slave ads projects (patterns, networks).

3) Become part of communities that complement and enhance your knowledge

International collaborations

A balancing act.

Be clear and sincere.

Define expectations.

Learn to juggle different mentalities.

July 11, 2018 Workshop

Page 1

(of 10,500 pages)

Digitizing historical newspapers:
Opportunities for further scholarship
and public humanities projects about the enslaved

Digitization is not always the solution

- Selective and partial
- Resource-intensive (staff, funding)
- Time-consuming
- Fragile (digital preservation)

Digitization...

- *Perpetuates “sins” of traditional archives*
- *Reproduces inequalities, exclusions*
- *Can ‘privilege’ the privileged*

OCR...

- Favors written documents
- Favors mainstream (European) languages

When digitized, voiceless populations still remain “locked away”

- a) Documents scanned as images
- b) Not searchable
- c) Metadata that favor the ‘creator’

Slaves do not exist as “creators” of documents but as ITEMS in:

- A newspaper runaway ad....
- A slave ship’s cargo list
- A plantation’s holdings
- An owner’s will

*“The full story is not told
unless the cargo has a voice and the population speaks.”**

Need for culturally-sensitive + culturally appropriate description

- Beyond colonial worldviews
- *Pointers to marginalized stories and individuals*

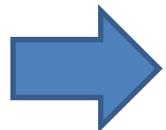
Aim of collaborative finding aid workshop – December 2017

Ongoing work, hope to replicate dialogue through a reading group.

OVERCOMING ARCHIVAL SILENCES ON MARGINALIZED PEOPLE

We need to consciously create the archival record for marginalized groups

- Create information “**retrospectively**” from collections
- If the information is “locked away,” we need to extract it

 “Collections as data”: opportunities for novel scholarship



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A digitized collection is...

Never a finished product,
– But a beginning

COLLECTIONS AS DATA



<http://merrick.library.miami.edu/cubanHeritage/cubanlaw/lagaceta.php>

UMiamiLibraries / collections-as-data

<> Code ! Issues 0 Pull requests 0 Projects 0 Insights ▾

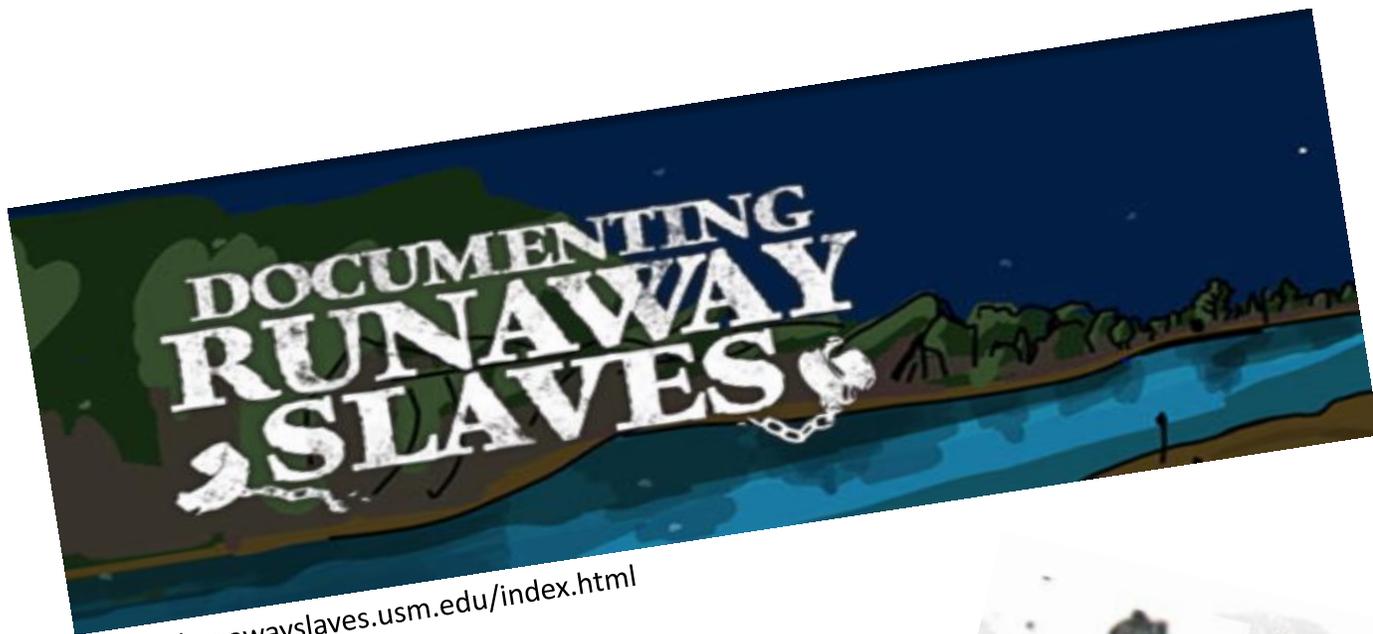
Branch: master ▾ collections-as-data / LaGaceta /

paigecm committed on GitHub Update readme.md

..

1849 January-June	Add 1849 La Gaceta files
1849_July-December	Add La Gaceta 1849 July-December files
1850_January-June	Add La Gaceta 1850 files
1850_July-December	Add La Gaceta 1850 files
1851_January-June	Added La Gaceta 1851 files
1851_July-December	Added La Gaceta 1851 files
1852_January-June	Added La Gaceta 1852 files
1852_July-December	Added La Gaceta 1852 files
1866_January-June	Added La Gaceta 1866 files
1866_July-December	Added La Gaceta 1866 files
1867_January-June	Added La Gaceta 1867 files
1867_July-December	Added La Gaceta 1867 files
1868_January-June	Added La Gaceta 1868 files

<https://github.com/UMiamiLibraries/collections-as-data/tree/master/LaGaceta>



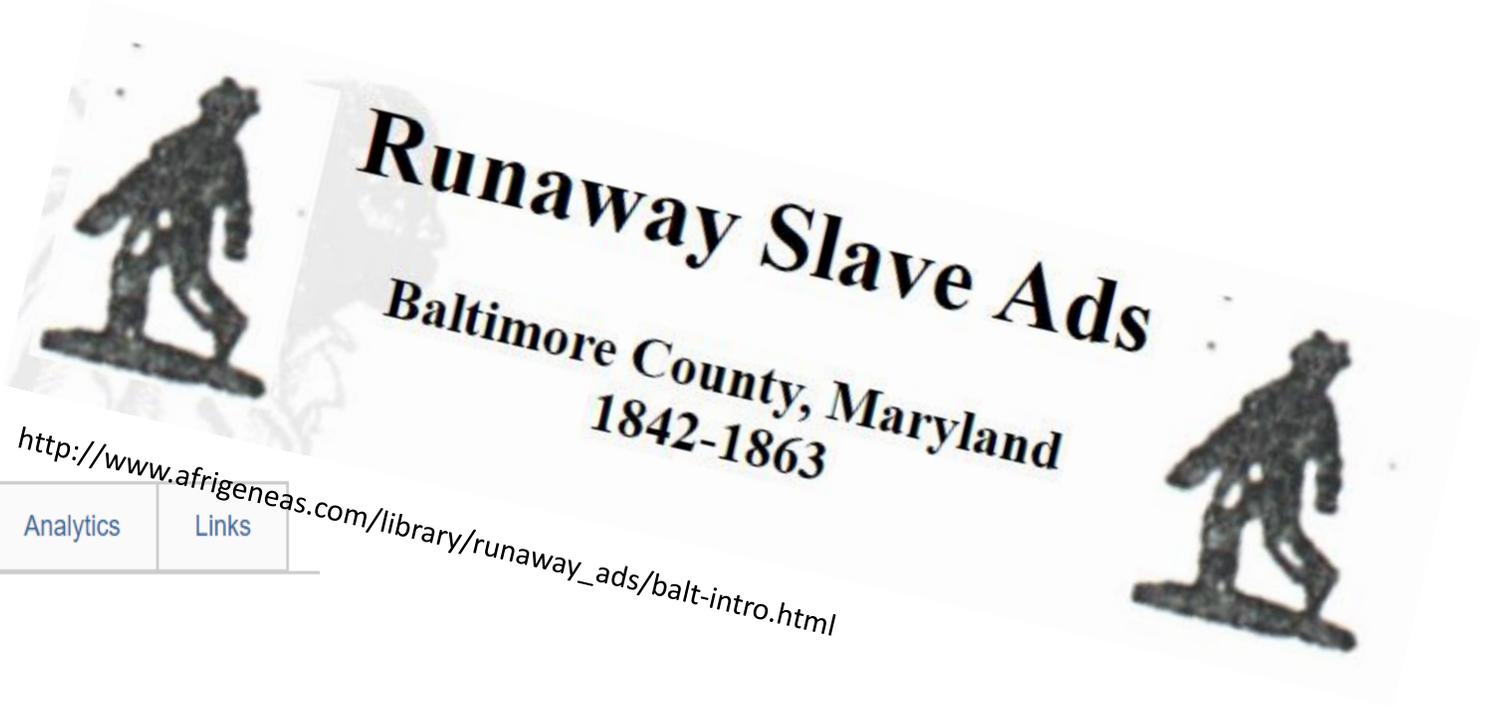
<http://runawayslaves.usm.edu/index.html>

RUNAWAY CONNECTICUT

About The Project	Browse the Ads	Map	Scholarship	Analytics	Links
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BROWSE (858 TOTAL)

<https://wesomeka.wesleyan.edu/runawayct/>





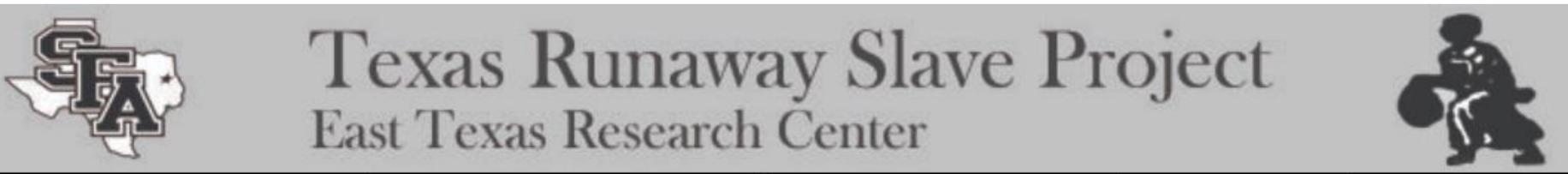
NORTH CAROLINA RUNAWAY SLAVE ADVERTISEMENTS, 1750-1840

<http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/RAS>

Louisiana Runaway Slave Advertisements, 1836-1865 1996 items

The 'Louisiana Runaway Slave Advertisements, 1836-1865' collection is a comprehensive digital collection of advertisements and notices harvested from the newspapers digitized as part of the Digitizing Louisiana Newspapers Project. In these advertisements people from Louisiana and the Lower Mississippi Valley demonstrate their agency and resistance against the institutions of slavery and indentured servitude.

<http://louisianadigitallibrary.org/islandora/object/lsu-p16313coll80:collection>



<http://digital.sfasu.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/RSP>

The Geography of Slavery



Advertisements

Documents

Essays

Profiles

Resources

<http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/gos/source.html>

Freedom on the Move

A database of fugitives from North American slavery

We are designing and beginning data collection for a database that will compile all North American slave runaway ads and make them available for statistical, geographical, textual, and other forms of analysis.

<http://freedomonthemove.org/>

TWITTER ACCOUNTS



Slavery Adverts 250

@SlaveAdverts250

Chronicling the role of newspaper advertising in perpetuating slavery in colonial America. Adverts for slaves 250 years ago today. Directed by @TradeCardCarl.

📍 Worcester, MA

🔗 adverts250project.org



Every Three Minutes

@Every3Minutes

[In the United States] a slave was sold on average every 3.6 minutes between 1820 and 1860 ~ Herbert Gutman

🔗 books.google.com/books?id=TUtFg...

Slave Societies Digital Archive



<https://www.vanderbilt.edu/esss/>



<http://informationwanted.org/>

Slave Revolt in Jamaica, 1760-1761

A Cartographic Narrative

1760-1761



Map Legend

Size of Force
[Icon of a person] = 100 people

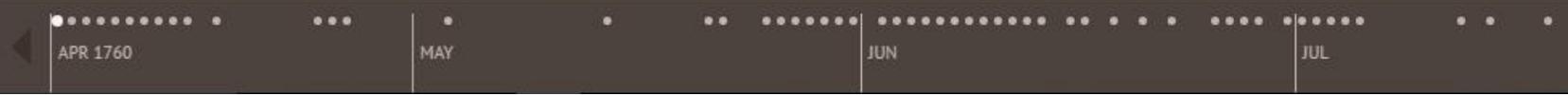
Clash with Rebels
[Icon of a flame]

- Troop Locations
- Rebels
 - Militia
 - Army
 - Navy
 - Maroons
 - Conspiracy
 - Slave Court
 - Uncertain location

Base map legend



April 10, 1760



nos terres se couvrent de riz, manioc, tayaou, ignames, pois, maïs, etc. etc. cet objet important doit occuper toute notre sollicitude.

Précautionnez-vous d'avance des objets urgens et de nécessités; n'attendez pas le dernier moment pour le faire, nous devons toujours être prêts, et ne pas nous laisser surprendre par les événemens.

Haytiens! O mes Compatriotes, la guerre n'est rien pour nous; conduits et dirigés par le grand homme que la divine Providence nous a donné pour veiller à nos destinées; que nos regards soient sans cesse tournés vers lui; qu'il soit toujours notre unique boussole et notre point de ralliement, nous serons invincibles. O mes Amis! qu'il est beau de mourir pour son Roi et son pays, et de laisser à sa postérité une réputation sans tâche, et le souvenir digne et glorieuse.

Ayons toujours les yeux sur notre Roi Royal, notre Généralissime qui, jeunous donne les plus grandes espérances, s'efforce déjà de suivre les traces d'un glorieux Père.

C'est en vain que nos tyrans pourrécavoir le fol espoir de nous désunir, la rébellion sera le signal de notre réunion.

Qui pourrait aujourd'hui nous trahir nos véritables intérêts? Qui pourrait entraîner par les promesses trompeuses d'un ennemi que nous connaissons par expérience? Quel est l'imbécille qui se livre ses jours, pour être brûlé ou pendu six mois après? Non, non que nous ayons la guerre, soyons terminés, ou soyons tous libres et indépendans.

Vive le Roi!
Vive la Liberté!



GAZETTE ROYALE D'HAYTI,

Du Mardi 16 Août 1814, l'an onze de l'indépendance.

Le premier qui fut Roi fut un soldat heureux.
Qui sert bien son pays n'a pas besoin d'aideux.
VOLTAIRE, Mécrope.

naient encore souiller notre territoire, en y mettant un pied hostile, que soudain nos Villes disparaissent, et que la Nation soit debout.

Si nos implacables ennemis, de certains Colons, persistaient toujours dans leurs projets absurdes et chimériques; s'ils parvenaient encore à entrainer le gouvernement actuel de la France à nous faire une guerre injuste, ruineuse et désastreuse pour elle; si, dis-je, ces Colons qui ne cessent de rêver chimère et esclavage, et qui depuis vingt-cinq ans harcèlent tous les gouvernemens qui se sont succédés en France, par des mémoires, des projets et des plans gans de conquêtes et d'esclavage, qui, à la seule lecture, des sentimens de mépris et d'horreur que l'on doit avoir pour ces atroces et misérables auteurs. Qu'ils se retirent donc ces marchands de chair humaine, ces perfides conseillers, pour mettre à exécution leurs grands plans, leurs systèmes d'Esclavage et de Destruction? Qu'ils se retirent à la tête des colonnes pour les vaincre, ils seront les premiers immolés à notre liberté, et la terre de la liberté se réjouira de voir couler le sang de ses oppresseurs? Alors que nous ferons une guerre d'extermination; nous ne ferons point de quartier, nous ne ferons point de prisonnier; qu'ils en fassent de même à leur égard; c'est alors que nous prouverons à l'ennemi tout ce dont est capable un Peuple libre, armé pour la plus juste des causes,

Explore Haiti's Early Print Culture

The division of early nineteenth-century Haiti into two separately governed states led to the creation of competing printing presses under Henry Christophe in the north and Alexandre Pétion in the south. Here, you can journey through the northern government of Haiti's official newspapers and explore its yearly almanacs. Remnants of a robust culture of print, these rare documents, collected from archives across Europe, the Caribbean, and North America, are presented together and in full text for the first time.

Add your voice by navigating to any article below and using the annotation feature to identify and discuss the many people, topics, and events that populate these pages.

THANK YOU!