

African American Documents
18th – 19th Century

The McCormick Library holds a small collection of documents and correspondence pertaining to Africans and their descendents in the Americas in the 18th and 19th centuries. Slavery materials from Rhode Island, Cape of Good Hope, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, the Carolinas, Tennessee, and Virginia include correspondence on the slave trade and slave cargos, assignments on chain gangs, bills of sale, manumission papers, and wills with bequests regarding slaves. Free African Americans in Maine, Maryland, and Massachusetts are represented by letters providing character references, reports on schools and the African American religious community in Baltimore, and an indenture between a printer and a new apprentice.

Unique files in this collection include several documents and correspondence related to abolitionist Frederick Douglass (1817?-1895): a bill of sale for Frederick Bailey (aka Frederick Douglass) from Thomas Auld to Hugh Auld, letters from Douglass to members of the Auld family regarding his past with them, and letters from the Auld family and Helen Douglass to J.C. Shaffer regarding the sale of these materials. J.C. Shaffer, a Northwestern University patron, donated these materials to the university library.

West Indies materials include a holograph manuscript in French of copies of the documents made by M. L. E. Moreau de Saint-Mery (1750-1819) on Haiti, known as Saint-Domingue. "Archives des Colonies" includes correspondence, proclamations, memoirs, notes for a "memoire sur les Negres", and an annotated index to related materials in the Biblioteque Nationale.

For other colonial era African American materials held by the McCormick Library, see the French manuscript of prison memoirs from 1802 by Haitian revolutionary Pierre Dominique Toussaint L'Ouverture (1743-1803) accompanied by a letter to General Rochambeau (West. Ms. 6). The transcripts of Charleston County, South Carolina records from 1719-1763 contain inventory lists of property including slaves, records of manumission, indentures, and apprenticeships, as well as proceedings in the court of common pleas (series CXIX). See also leases, indentures, trusts, and a marriage settlement written in the West Indies in the latter part of the 18th century; these documents also outline slave ownership and plantation life (Wakefield Collection Box G).

Consult the Northwestern University Library online catalog for published materials in the McCormick Library including slave narratives and travels in the South and the West Indies.

F. 1 U.S. Colonial slave trade

Newport, Rhode Island, 10 February 1750, 2pp.; report to C. Durant re:
Slave cargo of the ship *Royal Charlotte* whose captain William Taylor who died on the passage from Africa and was succeeded By chief mate William Pinnegar; cargo included 95 slaves.

Newport, Rhode Island, 18 February 1756, 3pp.; ALS from William Vernon to Capt. William Pennegar re: directions to the captain of

the slaver *Snow Venus* on a trip to the Gold Coast to purchase slaves; mentions Gambia, Sierralione Jamaica, Barbados and other locations; gives instructions about condition and health of slaves. Signed by William Vernon, the first secretary of the Navy Board.

Cape Good Hope, 28 November 1797 to 17 December 1797, 32pp.

Copies of letters by R.O. Blerk to arrange permission for sale of some slaves to provision a voyage to Montevideo; mentions involvement of governor of Mozambique, Lord Macartney, and roles of French, English and American, and Spanish nationals.

F. 2 Slavery – United States (general)

Bills of sale: 3 February 1853, 1p. R.M. White received of Allen Vance \$1100 for a Negro woman named Margaret and infant child.

4 March 1853, 1p. B.N. Yates paid \$900 by Thomas Rigby for a Negro man by the name of Charles.

Memorandum, 1783?, account of controversial sale of Elizabeth Peale's blind Negro "wench Doll" and son to Edward Hopkins, 3pp.; from S. Callister

F. 3 Slavery – Louisiana

Warrant: [New Orleans] 30 Juillet 1811, 1p. re: arrest of Jacob Cruse

Receipts: Nouvelle-Orleans, 9 Avril 1821, 1p.; to D. Poincy; signed by Jas.

Roppignac, Mayor re: bread rations for slaves in city jail

Nouvelle-Orleans, 29 Janvier 1822, 1p.; to Jacob Hart for work by slave James on chain gang

Nouvelle-Orleans, for 1 Mai 1833, 1p.; pd. 27 Sept. 1834, P.A.

Cuvillier re: property and slaves

New Orleans, for May 1, 1833, 1p.; pd. 28 June 1834, Thos. Love

Re: property and slaves

New Orleans, Feb. 2, 1843, 1p. re: slave work on chain gang performed by Nancy of Hoccy or Lee; signed Samuel White, agent.

New Orleans, Sept. 12, 1846, 1p re: slave work on chain gang

Reports: [New Orleans] 19 Juillet 1830, 1p. From city surveyor to mayor re: number of slaves hired by the day, etc.

[New Orleans] 11 Fevrier 1831, 1p. From city surveyor to mayor re: number of slaves employed in chain gangs, etc.

Bills of sale: New Orleans, 2 June 1855, 1p. Bernard Kendig sale to Jno. H. Randolph for \$1150 a Negro man named Thomas; signed by witnesses R.T. Inghram and W.M. Geddes. (this may be a 20th century facsimile)

New Orleans, 11 December 1850, 2pp. re: sheriff's sale of a slave named William for the estate of Auguste Petitpierre.

Manumission: New Orleans, 9 March 1849, 1p., English and French.

Re: emancipation of slave named Heliarynthe, a mulatto aged about thirty-five years; on verso there are three certifications of transaction.

Citizenship oath: New Orleans, 19 October 1865, 1p. sworn by Peter Elizardi to "support all Laws and Proclamations which have been Made during the existing rebellion, with reference to the emancipation of slaves." Signed by G. Burke, mayor of New Orleans.

F. 4 Slavery – Maryland

Manumission document, 30 March 1767, by Joseph Plummer, Frederick

- County, Maryland freeing Negro woman Alce; 1p.
- F. 5 Slavery – Mississippi
ALS, S.R. Hughes to Mr. Shaffer, Vicksburg, Miss., 2 May 1898, 1p.
Re: bill of sale for slave owned by father-in-law
- F. 6 Slavery – North Carolina and South Carolina
Bill of sale: Charleston [South Carolina] 3 February 1843, 1p. re: sale of Negro slaves George, Toby, Julian and child by D.A. Trice to Allen Vance for \$1350; witness, Thos. Clagett
Greenville Dist., South Carolina, 10 July 1851, 1p. H.R. Williams
Rec'd of Allen Vance \$800 for slave named Alfred.
Will & Testament: Brunswick, North Carolina, 21 November 1824, 4pp.
Benjamin Smith requests that his servants Betty, Horace, Laura, Lucilla, Sam and John be manumitted and set free upon his death. He also enumerates material bequests to some of them as well as to his relatives. This is certified copy of the original; signed by clerk J. Rutlan. [Benjamin Smith, 1756-1826, Governor of North Carolina from 1810-1811]
- F. 7 Slavery – Tennessee
Bill of sale: 31 January 1855, Tennessee, 1p. C.W. Hunt to Coulon Jumonville of New Orleans, \$900 for sale of fifteen-year-old slave, a Griffe girl named Mary.
- F. 8 Slavery – Virginia
Bill of sale: Richmond, Virginia, 22 November 1863, 1p. re: sale of Negro slave named Mary for \$1060 by Wm. Smith.
Letter: Warrenton [Virginia] 13 April 1841, 1p. J[oseph?] Bruin to "Dear Sir" re: purchase of one girl and interest in a "yellow girl in jail here" listed at \$500; going next to Centerville. [possibly Joseph Bruin, slave dealer in Alexandria, VA; he worked with another dealer in Centerville]
Cassius Carter [copy of last will and testament], Tecumseh [Prince William County, Virginia] December 27, 1820; appended October 12, 1821. 3pp. Mentions wishes for treatment of slaves to be held by brother and preferably not sold.
- F. 9 U.S. Anti-Slavery Movement
S. Sanford, *Poem; suggested by A.F. Biard's picture of a slave mart*; Boston, 185-. Twelfth National Anti-Slavery Bazaar, Faneuil Hall, Boston. (3 copies; also Spec 811.3 S224p)
- F. 10 Frederick Douglass, 1817?-1895
Thomas Auld bill of sale to Hugh Auld for Frederick Bailey (aka Frederick Douglass), Talbot County, Maryland, October 25, 1845. 2pp.
Witnessed by Wrightson Jones. With typed transcript, 1p.
[Anna H. Richardson] ALS to Hugh Auld. Newcastle on Tyne [England] August 17, 1846. 3pp. With typed transcript, 1p. Re: Douglass.
Walter Lowrie, ALS to Hugh Auld. New York [New York], September 10, 1846. 1p. With typed transcript, 1p. Re: Frederick Douglass.
Frederick Douglass, ALS to Hugh Auld. Rochester, New York, October 4, [c1865] 2pp. With typed transcript, 1p. Re: past with Auld family.
Frederick Douglass, ALS to Captain [Benjamin?] Auld. Cedar Hill, Anacostia, D.C. September 16, 1891. 3pp. With typed transcript, 1p. Re: past with Auld family.
Benjamin F. Auld, ANS to W.H. Shaffer. Baltimore [Maryland] October 13,

1896. 1p. Receipt of sale for Frederick Douglass materials.
Benjamin F. Auld, ALS to J.C. Shaffer. Baltimore [Maryland] October 26,
1896. Re: Frederick Douglass's history with the Auld family.
Helen Douglass, ALS to J.C. Shaffer. Cedar Hill, Anacostia, D.C.
November 10, 1896. 2pp. Re: Frederick Douglass
Helen Douglass, ALS to J.C. Shaffer. Cedar Hill, Anacostia, D.C.
January 26, 1897. 2pp.
- F. 11 Frederick Douglass ephemera (clippings)
John G. Challice, *Frederick Douglass' Ancestry*, n.d., 1p.
Theodore Stanton, *Frederick Douglass; recollection of his last visit to
Europe, New York Daily Tribune*, March 17, 1895. 1p.
- F. 12 Free African Americans – Maine
Samuel E. Smith, ALS to Joseph E. Smith. Wiscasset [Maine] June 22,
1814. 2pp. Re: legal counsel in Boston Court of Pleas for Goodwin,
"a Negro" who agreed to sail under Capt. Ezra Ryan in lieu of debt
repayment, but who deserted the ship.
Edwin Smith, ALS to brother. Wicasset [Maine] September 19, 1821. 2pp.
Re: interest in "little black boy. . .when he should become old
enough to be useful. . ."
- F. 13 Free African Americans – Maryland
Henry Jardine, ALS to J[oseph?] E. Smith. Baltimore [Maryland] July 29,
1821. 4pp. Re: Jardine's teaching position in the African American
community in Baltimore.
J.E. Smith and Henry Jardine, Boston [Massachusetts] 9 August 1821,
2pp. Receipt for \$30 given to Jardine by Smith. Signed by Jardine.
Henry Jardine, ALS to J.E. Smith. Baltimore [Maryland] 5 November
1821. 4pp. Re: establishment of a "coloured Protestant Church"
for which Jardine will be rector.
- F. 14 Free African Americans – Massachusetts
Samuel Gardner, ALS "to all persons", Boston [Massachusetts] 13 April
1809. 2pp. Re: safe conduct for Joseph Johnson, hairdresser and
"a free Black man"; with character references from Julius Angel
and David Bradley.
Indenture between printer John Mosely Dunham and David Taunton,
Boston [Massachusetts] 17 May 1809. 3pp. Re: indentured for five
Years to perform various duties, including those of sailor.
- Haiti (Archiv des Colonies, series C)
Moreau de Saint-Mery, M.L.E.
- F. 15 Correspondence and proclamations, 1790 - 1792; Gouvernement M. de
Blanchelande with correspondence: M. de Proisy, M. de Fleurien, M. de
Grimouard, M. de Rochambeau; George Washington (24 September 1791)
- F. 16 1788 – 1789; Gouvernement M. de Chilleau with correspondence
Memoire M. de Chilleau; observation de M. de Marbois
- F. 17 Archives Nationales, serie DXXV; Archive du Comite Colonial de la
Constituante. Correspondence (Dec. 1791 – Sept. 1792). Memoire de
Leborgne sur les causes des troubles de St. Domingue.
Compte-Rendus imprimes de Mirbeck et St. Leger a l'Assemblee Nationale
. . .mission a St. Domingue. Memoires. . .de Roume. Proces de Blanchelande.
- F. 18 Archives Nationales, serie DXXV, 1789 – 1791.

- Archives de comite Colonial de la Constituante; Archives de la Societe Massiac;
Archives de la Commission speciale etablie contre des Amis des Noirs
- F. 19 Archives des Colonies, serie C, 1789 – 1790.
Gouvernement de M. de Peinier; correspondence;
Relation des evenements du Cap. (Sept 1789); Relation . . .Port au Prince dans
La nuit du 29 au 30 Juillet 1790 (rapport); acte federatif d'Aquin.
- F. 20 Index Biblioteque Nationale with notes and descriptions.
Memoire sur les Negres (notes for indexing)
- F. 21 Biblioteque Nationale index notes (Description topographique. . .)
- F. 22 Moniteur; notes, index, table of contents

West Indies Documents (Wakefield Collection Box G)

- G 2 1742 July 20. George II. Document of parchment, 5 skins, incomplete, first and last sheets missing. The indenture deals with the ownership of plantations, slaves, and similar West Indies properties. Family name is Duport. Assignment Mrs. Harris to John Spooner; her maiden name may have been Duport.
- G1 1793 George III. West Indies, Island of St. Vincent. 3 skins of parchment, being a schedule of slaves in an indenture, being a marriage settlement between Sir William Young, and his intended second wife Barbara Talbot. George, Marquis of Buckingham and Jacob, Earl of Radnor are named as trustees for the settlement, with Duncan Campbell and James Hartley appointed as attornies. The slaves are subdivided into Negroes, Boys all Creoles, Women, and Girls Creole. The grand total is 227; ages range from the forties to the seventies, with one woman of 96.
- G 3 1794 April 9. George III. Lease for one year of property in the West Indies, including slaves, from Hungerford Spooner and Sir Cecil Wray to Thomas Norton. Consideration money and an annual rent of one peppercorn. Signed and sealed by Spooner and Wray.
- G 4 1794 October 16. 5 skins, incomplete. Indenture regarding the ownership through various trusts of a plantation in the West Indies, complete with slaves, tenements, messages, plantation utensils, storehouses, cattle, horses, etc. A payment of 60,000 pounds was made at some time. Interested parties include: Sir Cecil Wray, William Manning, Samuel Bosanquet. Previous indentures quoted.