

Reparations Task Force

January 28, 2025 Public Meeting



1. Chair of Reparations Task Force Opens Meeting
2. Takes roll call of RTF members
3. Notice of language accommodations and interpreters' introduction
4. Opening remarks
5. Vote on securing economist (public comments from 12/16/2025)
4. Tufts University research update and critical findings
5. Public Comments
6. Update for Next Meeting
7. Adjournment



City of Boston
Equity and Inclusion

REPARATIONS TASK FORCE

Call to Order + Roll Call

Mariama White-Hammond, L'Merchie Frazier



City of Boston
Equity and Inclusion

**REPARATIONS
TASK FORCE**



Opening Remarks

Mariama White-Hammond, L'Merchie Frazier



City of Boston
Equity and Inclusion

**REPARATIONS
TASK FORCE**



Researchers Progress Report

Tufts University



City of Boston
Equity and Inclusion

**REPARATIONS
TASK FORCE**



City of Boston / History and Legacy of Slavery Research Team (1620-1940)



Kyera Singleton

Royall House and Slave Quarters

Commissioner, Boston

City Commemoration Commission



Kerri Greenidge, Ph.D.
Tufts University



Kendra Field, Ph.D.
Tufts University

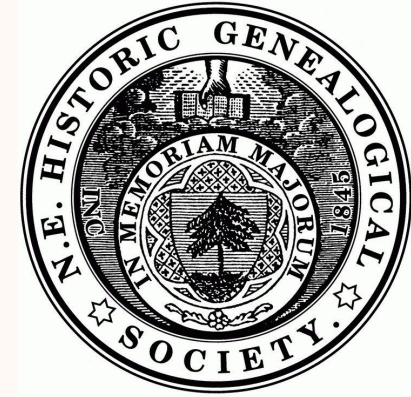
Additional Research Associates and Advisors:

- ❑ Dr. John Hannigan, Tufts Archival Research Ctr
- ❑ Dr. Brandon Terry, Scholar Advisor
- ❑ Dr. Jared Hardesty, Scholar Advisor
- ❑ Dr. Gloria Whiting, Scholar Advisor
- ❑ Joe Bagley, Dir. of Archaeology, City of Boston
- ❑ Tufts GIS Data Lab
- ❑ Wayne Tucker, Independent Researcher
- ❑ Teresa Salvato, Project Administrator, CSRD

Key Archival Repositories and Partners



BOSTON
ATHENÆUM



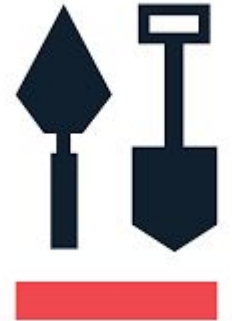
HARVARD
LIBRARY



ES geospatial CARTOGRAPHICS
TICS GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS
CE **DATA LAB**
e
A HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING NLP
s Machine Learning *bioinformatics*
ing TEXT MINING GPS *Digital A*
Lab.tufts.edu | @TuftsDataLab | DataLab-support@el

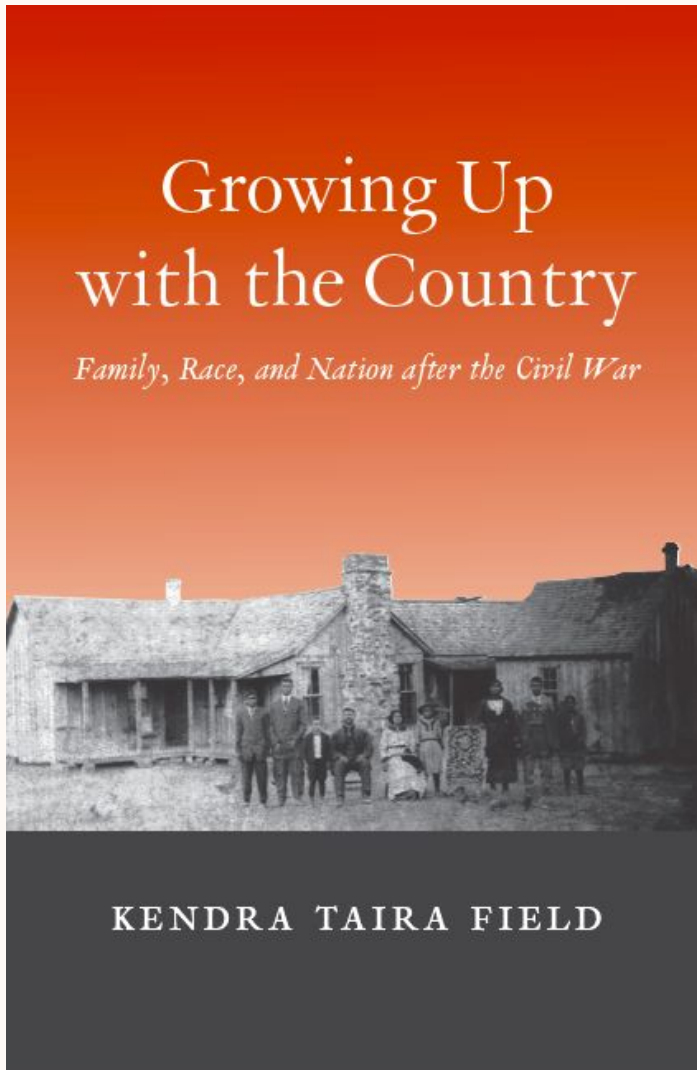


ROYALL HOUSE &
SLAVE QUARTERS



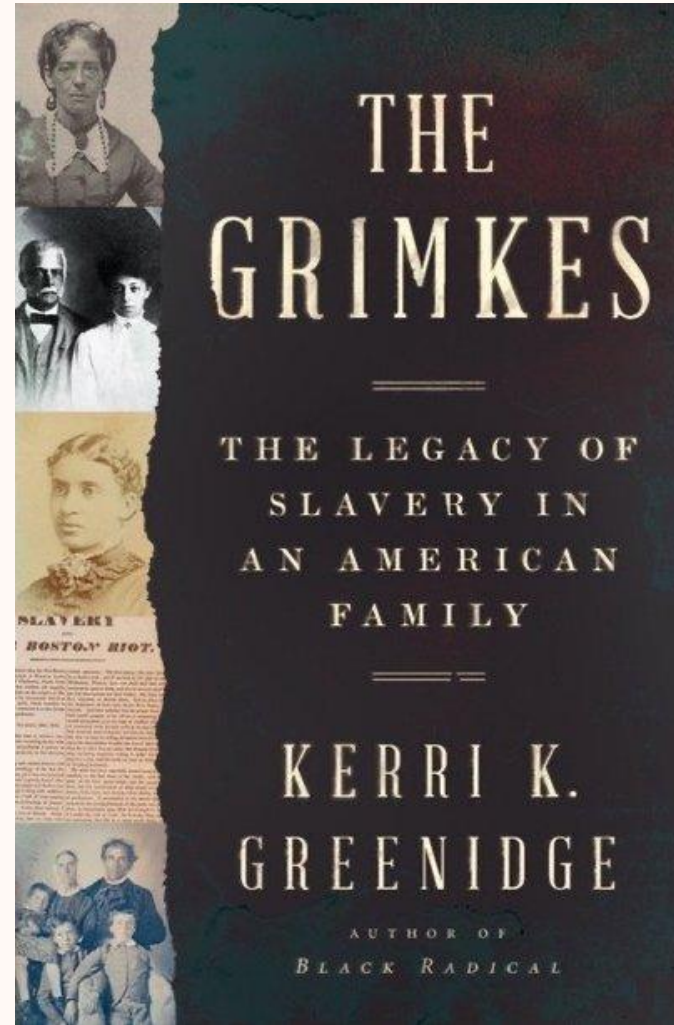
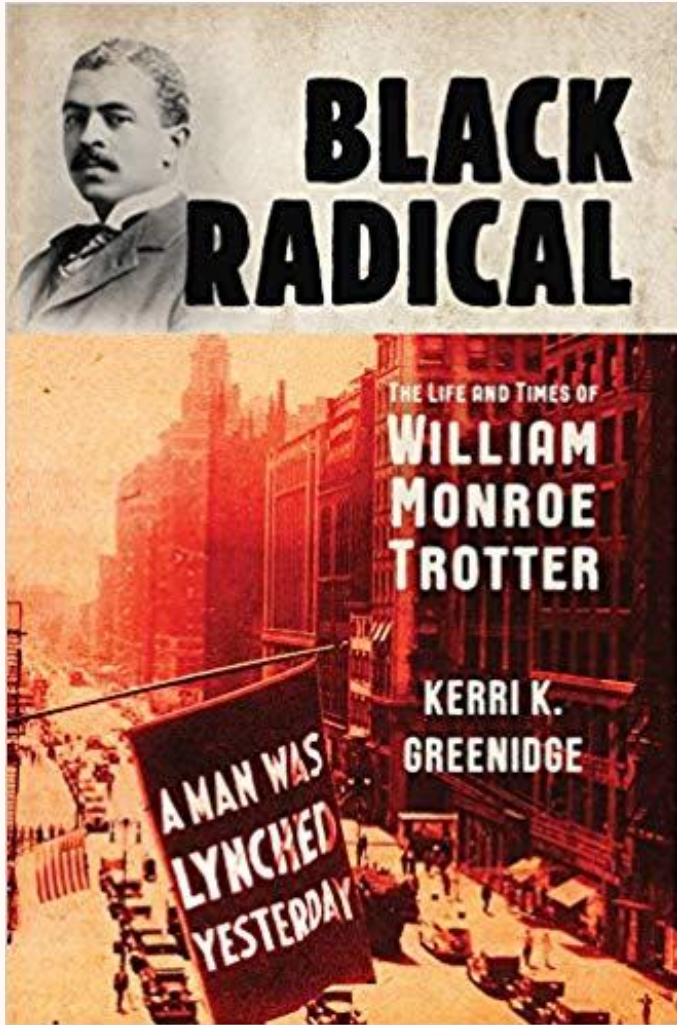
Dr. Kendra Taira Field

Associate Professor, Tufts University



Odevia (Brown) Field (center) and her siblings (c. 1940)
Author's Personal Collection

Dr. Kerri Greenidge
Associate Professor, Tufts University



Dr. Kyera Singleton

Exec. Director, Royall House and Slave Quarters



Royall House and Slave Quarters
Medford, MA (previously Charlestown)



Enslaved Potters in Massachusetts

The history of slavery is not solely set in the American South. Jack and Acton were two enslaved potters, forced to create various kitchen wares in Charlestown, Massachusetts, now a Boston neighborhood. In the 18th century, many colonial Americans used redware ceramic vessels produced at Isaac and Grace Parker's workshop in Charlestown. Although the Parkers were well-known proprietors of the largest pottery and stoneware business in the Northeast (in operation 1715–74), distributing as far south as South Carolina, their wares were the products of Boston-based enslaved labor.

While neither Jack nor Acton signed their works, their hands shaped many of the mugs, milk pans, bowls, baking pans, and platters that were produced in the fire of the Parkers' kiln. It's impossible to understand the history of decorative arts in the United States without acknowledging the forced labor of Black women, men and children who made the goods of everyday life in Boston, Edgfield, and beyond. Yet, we cannot simply reduce Jack and Acton's lives to their production. While little is known about Acton, in 1742 Jack married Flora, a woman enslaved by Joseph Gowen. Enslaved potters made redware vessels, but we must never forget that they also built lives for themselves despite the violence of slavery.

Kyera Singleton, Executive Director of the Royall House and Slave Quarters



THE AFRICAN AMERICAN TRAIL PROJECT

MAP OF SIGNIFICANT SITES



TUFTS UNIVERSITY

ESIGN

The New York Times

PLAY THE CROSSWORD

Black History Trail Makes 200 Stops Across Massachusetts

A Tufts University project seeks to make “history more visible” — from slavery to Black Lives Matter — with a map of historic African-American sites in Boston and beyond.

Give this article



12



The Royall House in Medford, Mass., the colonial-era home of Massachusetts's largest slaveholding family. Cody O'Loughlin for The New York Times

By Katharine Q. Seelye

Feb. 21, 2019

MEDFORD, Mass. — During Black History Month, Massachusetts likes to point out its reputation as the enlightened 19th-century hub of the abolition movement. The state was one of the first to end slavery, long before the 13th Amendment formally banned it

Themes



Niagara Movement
Boston 1907



Smith Court, c.1900
Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities

PRIMARY THEMES 1620 - 1940

- The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and the Founding of Boston
- Segregation, Discrimination, and Economic exploitation
- Law Enforcement and Criminalization
- Freedom and Black Social, Political, and Legal Activism

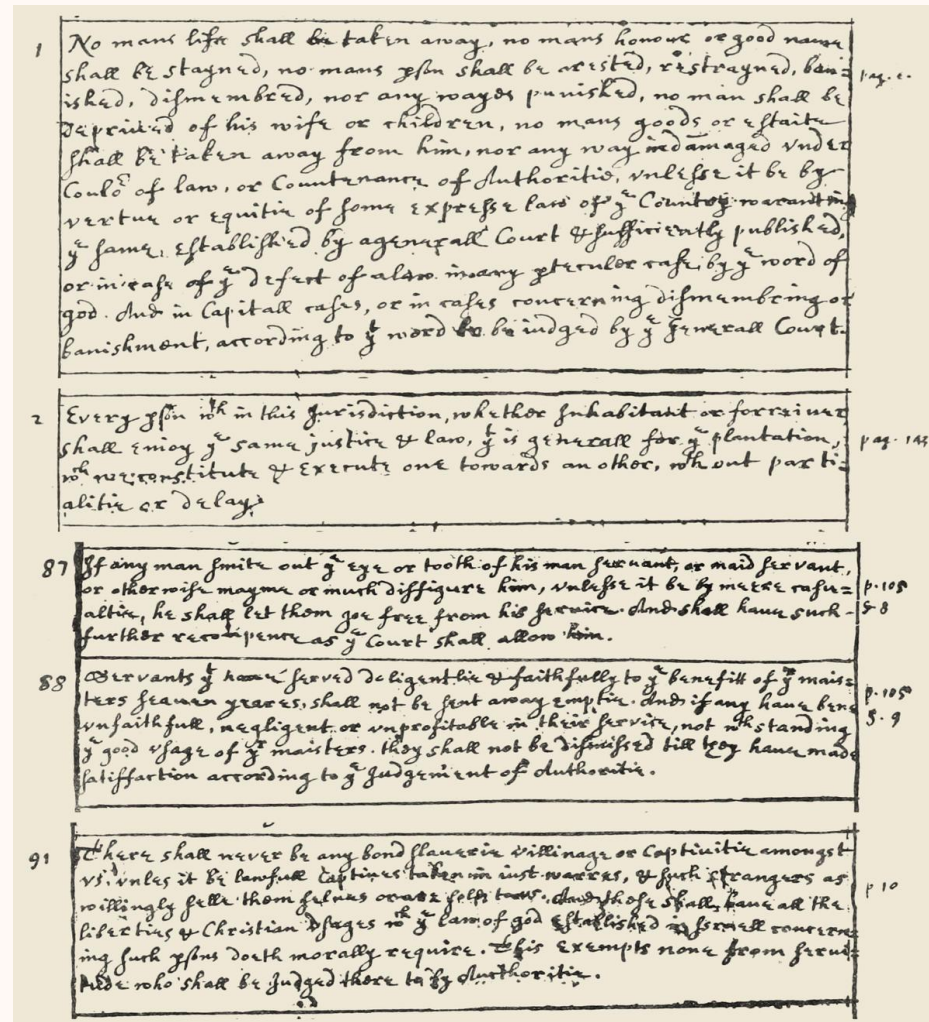
Key Methodologies:

1. Mapping people and places; enslaved and slave owning families.
1. Impact of laws and policies on the everyday lives of enslaved people and their descendants.
1. Incorporating history and genealogy; ancestors and descendants.

Method #1: Mapping People and Places



Method #2: Impact of Laws and Policies on the enslaved and their descendants



Massachusetts Body of Liberties, MA General Court, 1641

Method #2: Impact of Laws and Policies on the enslaved and their descendants

Summary Timeline of The Origins of Slavery Legislation in Boston

- 1614-Squanto (Tisquantum) is kidnapped alongside 23 men from the Patuxet and Nauset Nations
- 1637-The Pequot War, which resulted in the enslavement of Pequot women, men, and children. Men and boys were used by the colonists to trade in the Caribbean for African enslaved labor and commodities
- 1638-The Desire Slave Ship brought the first enslaved Africans to Massachusetts
- 1641-Massachusetts established the Body of Liberties and legalized slavery
- 1670-MA passes a law to allow enslaved children to be sold into slavery-legalizing family separation
- 1675-King Philip's War-indigenous communities enslaved and deported
- 1703-Adam sues John Saffin for his freedom and wins
- 1723-Boston passed a law to forbid enslaved and free Black people to be outside after 9pm
- 1765-Jenny Slew sued for her freedom and won
- 1773-Felix Holbrook and Prince Hall used petitions to try to overturn slavery. Although they never won, their lawsuits set the foundation for the eventual end of slavery in Massachusetts
- 1783-Slavery is legally abolished as a result of freedom cases by Elizabeth Freeman and Quock Walker

The Boston Globe

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2024

**By John Hilliard
and Sean Cotter**
GLOBE STAFF

The 215-page report released Tuesday provides the most compre-

a shooting. A New York hospital released Card last summer, under the mistaken belief that the Army Reserve petitioned to have Card's guns seized. The military failed to share complete information about Card's aggressive actions and threats with local law enforcement, or made sure Card received mental health care.

But the commission's final report was more of a retrospective rather

MASS SHOOTING, Page A7

MASS SHOOTING, Page A7

By Steve Peoples, Jonathan J. Co
and Zeke Miller
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DEMO

Each year, communities around Massa-
SLAVERY, Page A7

Shepperson's kn
her family history is
mother was born in
County, Conn., and

Guiding Research Questions (1620-1940): Historical Context

- ❑ Who were the enslaved in Boston? Where did they come from?
- ❑ How did slave labor and trading contribute to Boston industries, familial wealth, and economy from 1620 - 1790?
- ❑ How did Boston's economy benefit from the trans-Atlantic slave trade and slavery from 1790 - 1865?
- ❑ How did city policies, both official and unofficial, effect Black Bostonians' employment, education, and housing opportunities between 1790 and 1940?
- ❑ How were people of African descent excluded from the Boston economy between 1620 and 1940?
- ❑ How did city policies, both official and unofficial, effect Black Bostonians' employment, education, and housing opportunities between 1620 and 1940?
- ❑ How did enslaved and free Black people shape the social, political, economic, and legal culture in Boston and define freedom on their own terms?

Re-Imagining who is Documented in Boston

Boston Maps 1676 (with approx. location of slaveholding families and individuals).

Re-Imagining who is Documented in Boston

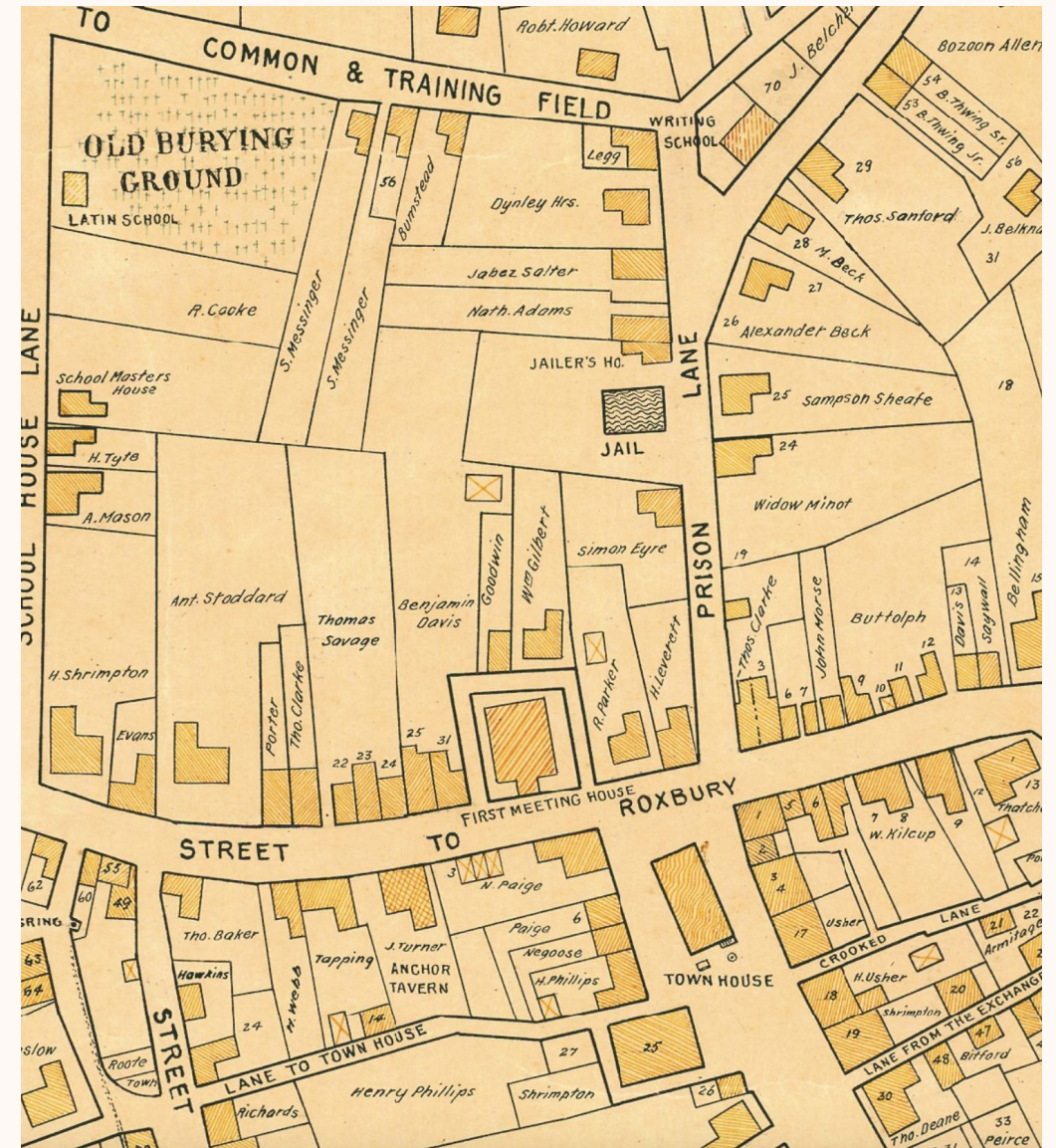
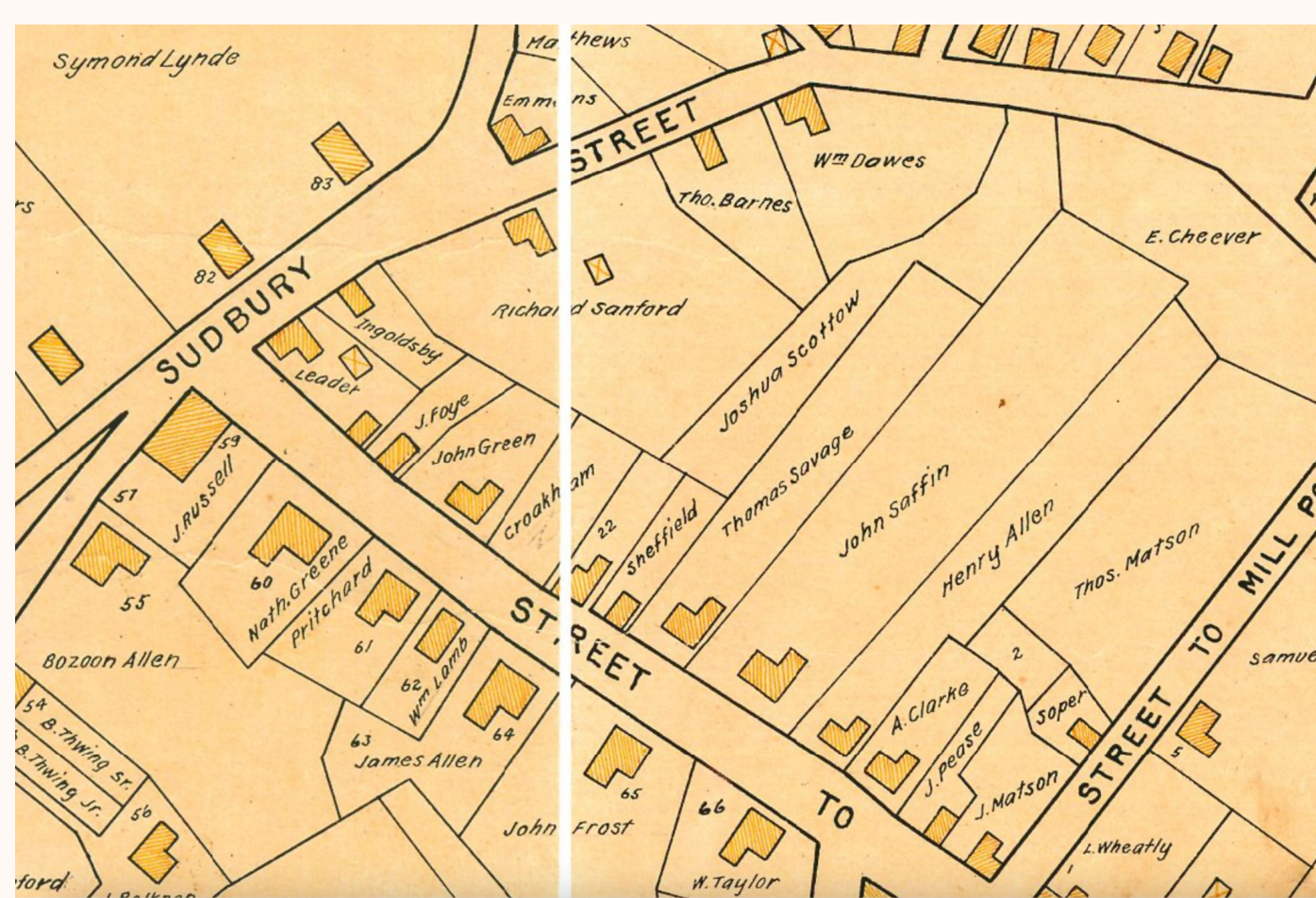
Boston Maps 1676 (with approx. location of slaveholding families and individuals).



Re-Imagining who is Documented in Boston

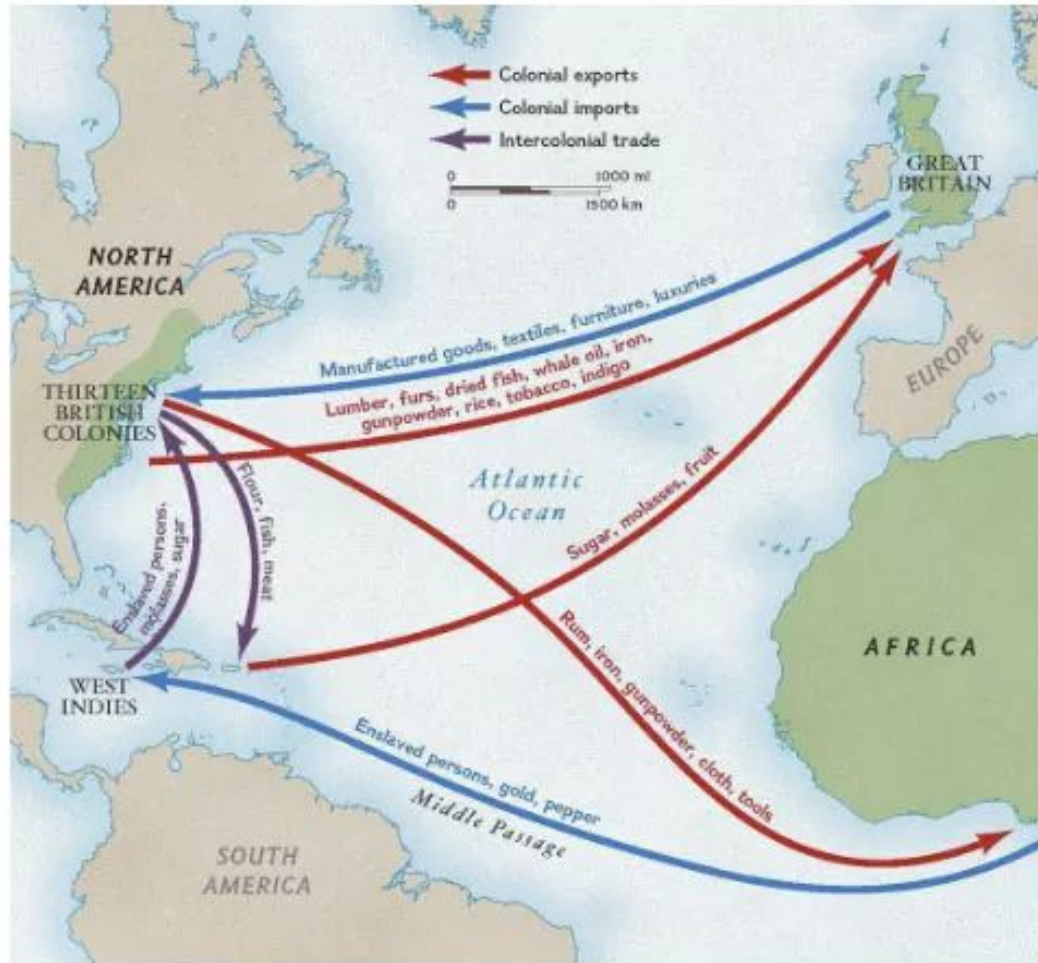
Boston Maps 1676 (with approx. location of slaveholding families and individuals).

Drawn by Samuel C. Clough



Documenting the Slave Trade and Scope of Slavery in Boston

Boston Economy and Slave Trading 1700-1790



fail the 1st of June.

Advertisements.

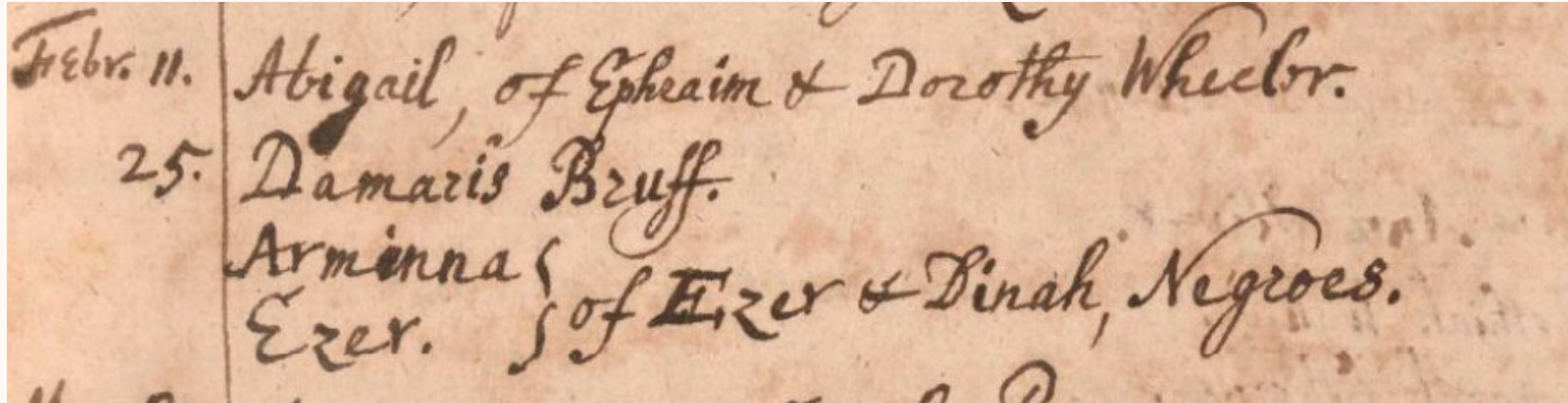
TWO Negro men, and one Negro Woman & Child; to be sold by Mr. John Colman, Merchant; to be seen at Col. Charles Hobbey, Esq. his House in Boston.

RAN-away from his Master Seth Sweetzer of Charlestown, in N-Engl. August 15. 1703. A Young man, named John Logen, about 19 Years of Age, of a middle Stature, black Hair, by occupation a Taylor, he's said to be gone to Long-Island, thence to Pennsylvania: Whosoever shall take him up & convey him safe to his Master shall have 4 pounds reward.

THIS News Letter is to be continued Weekly, and all who have Advertisements to insert, may have 'em at a reasonable rate, from 12d. to 5s. not to exceed: And all persons in Town & Country may have said News-Letter every week by the Year: Agreeing with John Campbell Post-Master for the same.

29 Boston Ministers Enslaved Black Bostonians

Slavery and Family Separation



Feb 25th Baptismal Record for Arminna and Ezer's two children
(Old South Church / Tomas Prince's diary)

Rev. Cotton Mather writes to Rev. Thomas Prince on February 24, 1721/22:

TO REV. THOMAS PRINCE...SIR, Our Servant, Ezer, after a due Examination of his Knowledge and Beleef, and a due Testimony of his Good Conversation, was Received into the Covenant of GOD, and Baptised Lately with us.' For which Cause, his offspring (whereof I hear, part is newly born in your Family) is humbly recommended unto the Christian Baptism with you, by, Sir, Your Brother and Servt.

One Enslaved Woman's Experience of the Boston Slave Trade

Eunice Gunney & The Interconnectedness of Boston's Elite Families (1747-1800s)

no, thereby possessed of the said Negro Girl, then & there promised the said Scipio to redeliver
twelve months as afor. Now the ~~Plt~~ in fact faith, That afterwards viz. On the Tenth
Boston afor. pursuant to his promise to & agreement with the said Estes Now ~~the~~
of, and demanded of the said Estes the said Bill of Sale of the said Negro-
& the said Estes then & there utterly refused, ^{notwithstanding} ~~not regarding~~ his said promise &
Negro Girl to the said Scipio according to his said promise & agreement,
Province to parts to the said Scipio unknown; whereby & by means whereof
as afor. but is wholly deprived of the said Negro Girl his said Daughter her
Scipio the Sum of Nineteen pounds Thirteen Shillings & four pence lawfull ^{money}
said Estes promised the ~~Plt~~ to pay him the same on Demand Yet the
do.

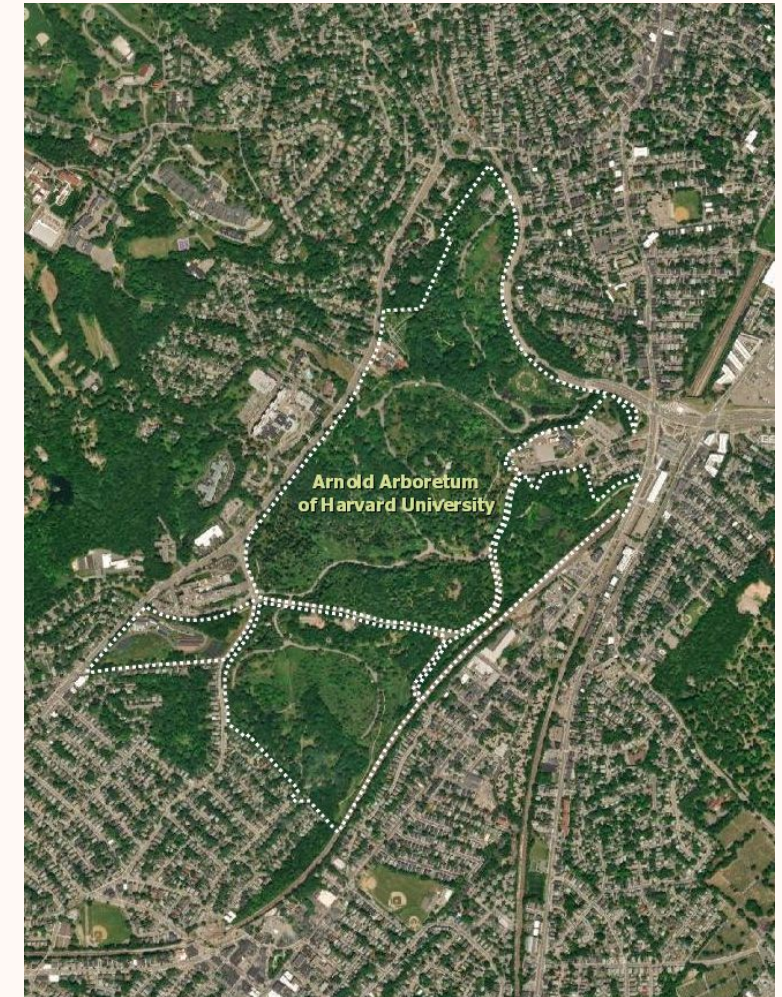
1770 JULY. 6. 57

Suffolk Court's judgment against Estes How, where he is ordered to pay Scipio Gunney "Nineteen pounds Thirteen Shillings + four pence" for depriving Scipio of his daughter Eunice, who was sold to a man in Nova Scotia. Suffolk Court of Common Pleas. Gunney v. How, 1769 Apr 106. Massachusetts State Archives.

Peter Bridgham's 18th century Roxbury Land Purchase

Family Asset for 136 years (1714 – 1907)

2420	3202	Simon Giler	70	m	13	Farmer
		John Bancroft	46	m	13	Labuer
		Hannah "	33	f	13	
		John H. "	14	m	13	
		Mary Elizabeth "	10	f	13	
		Stephen "	6	m	13	



1850 US Census, Roxbury | Map of Arnold Arboretum

1800 Census

(showing no enslaved people in MA by 1800)

ENUMERATION of Persons in the several DISTRICTS of the UNITED STATES.

Names of Districts.	FREE WHITE MALES.					FREE WHITE FEMALES.					All other free persons except Indians not taxed.	SLAVES.	TOTAL.
	Under 10 years of age.	Of 10 and under 16.	Of 16 and under 26, including heads of families.	Of 26 and under 45, including heads of families.	Of 45 and upwards, including heads of families.	Under 10 years of age.	Of 10 and under 16.	Of 16 and under 26, including heads of families.	Of 26 and under 45, including heads of families.	Of 45 and upwards, including heads of families.			
New-Hampshire	30,694	14,881	16,379	17,589	11,715	29,871	14,193	17,153	18,381	12,142	852	8	183,858
Massachusetts	63,646	32,507	37,905	39,729	31,348	60,920	30,674	40,491	43,833	35,340	6,452	—	422,845
Maine	27,970	12,305	12,900	15,318	8,339	26,899	11,338	13,295	14,496	8,041	818	—	151,719
Connecticut	37,946	19,408	21,683	23,180	18,976	35,736	18,218	23,561	25,186	20,827	5,330	951	251,002
Vermont	29,420	12,046	13,242	16,544	8,076	28,272	11,366	12,606	15,287	7,049	557	—	154,465
Rhode-Island	9,945	5,352	5,889	5,785	4,887	9,524	5,026	6,463	6,919	5,648	3,304	380	69,122
New-York	83,161	36,953	40,045	52,454	25,497	79,154	32,822	39,086	47,710	23,161	8,573	15,602	484,065
Supplemental return for New-York state	16,936	7,320	9,230	9,140	6,358	16,319	6,649	9,030	8,701	5,490	1,801	5,011	101,985
New-Jersey	33,900	15,859	16,301	19,956	12,629	32,622	14,827	17,018	19,533	11,600	4,402	12,422	211,149
Eastern district of Pennsylvania	52,767	24,438	29,393	33,864	20,824	51,176	23,427	29,879	30,892	19,329	11,253	557	327,979
Western district of Pennsylvania	50,459	21,625	24,869	25,469	17,761	48,448	20,362	24,095	22,954	14,066	3,311	1,149	274,566
Delaware	8,250	4,437	5,121	5,012	2,213	7,628	4,277	5,543	4,981	2,390	8,268	6,153	64,273
Maryland, inclusive of Washington county, in Columbia	33,520	16,581	20,560	22,169	12,617	32,463	15,718	21,506	20,363	11,240	18,646	102,465	317,348

Boston Maps 1830 with approximate location of Black Communities



Who Does The Labor?

Black Bostonians and Their Occupations

**BOARDING HOUSE
FOR COLORED SEAMEN.**

The subscriber begs leave to inform such colored seamen as may visit Boston, that he has opened an excellent Boarding House for their accommodation on temperance principles, at No. 5, Sun Court Street (first house below the Bethel Church,) and will be happy to receive their patronage. No pains will be spared on his part to make their situation pleasant and satisfactory. The rules of the house will be in accordance with good order and the principles of morality.

CHARLES A. BATTISTE
No. 5, Sun Court Street, Boston.

Boston, June 8, 1842.

To Abolitionists
AND FRIENDS IN GENERAL.
JOHN P. COBURN
INFORMS his friends and customers, that he has removed from No. 8 Brattle-street, to
51 Cornhill and 24 Brattle-street
Where he continues his same line of business, with an addition, viz :
CLOTHING,
Cut and made in the neatest and most fashionable style. He has also taken considerable pains to select **A FIRST RATE CUTTER**, who will give his attention to cutting only. He has selected an assortment of the most fashionable **CLOTHS**, viz : Broadcloths, Cassimeres, Doeskins, Tweeds, as well as **VESTINGS** of the latest style, all of which he will make up in the most fashionable style, and on reasonable terms, and will take **GENTLEMEN'S OFF-CAST GARMENTS** in pay, or part pay.
Please give him a call, if you wish to be used well and get the worth of your money.
J. P. COBURN would furthermore inform the public, that he has made extensive arrangements, and is prepared to execute any amount of Clothing in the above line.
The highest price paid for Gentlemen's off-cast Garments. Also, clothing cleaned and repaired in the neatest and most thorough manner, at short notice.

Advertisement for John Coburn Clothing Shop, 1845
Image Courtesy The West End Museum

Black Bostonians and Fugitive Slave Laws, 1790-1860

**A MAN
KIDNAPPED!**

A PUBLIC MEETING AT
FANEUIL HALL!
WILL BE HELD
THIS FRIDAY EVEN'G,
May 26th, at 7 o'clock,
To secure justice for A MAN CLAIMED AS A SLAVE by a
**VIRGINIA
KIDNAPPER!**

And NOW IMPRISONED IN BOSTON COURT HOUSE, in
defiance of the Laws of Massachusetts. Shall he be plunged into the Hell of
Virginia Slavery by a Massachusetts Judge of Probate?
BOSTON, May 26th, 1854.



Lewis Hayden (1811 - 1889),
Courtesy Boston Public Library

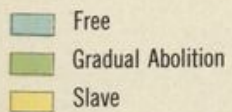


Eliza Gardner (1831 - 1922),
Courtesy Boston Public Library



William C. Nell (1816 - 1874),
Courtesy Boston Public Library

Ⓔ



The dates are those on which states or territories became "free"

Boston Economy, 1865-1900

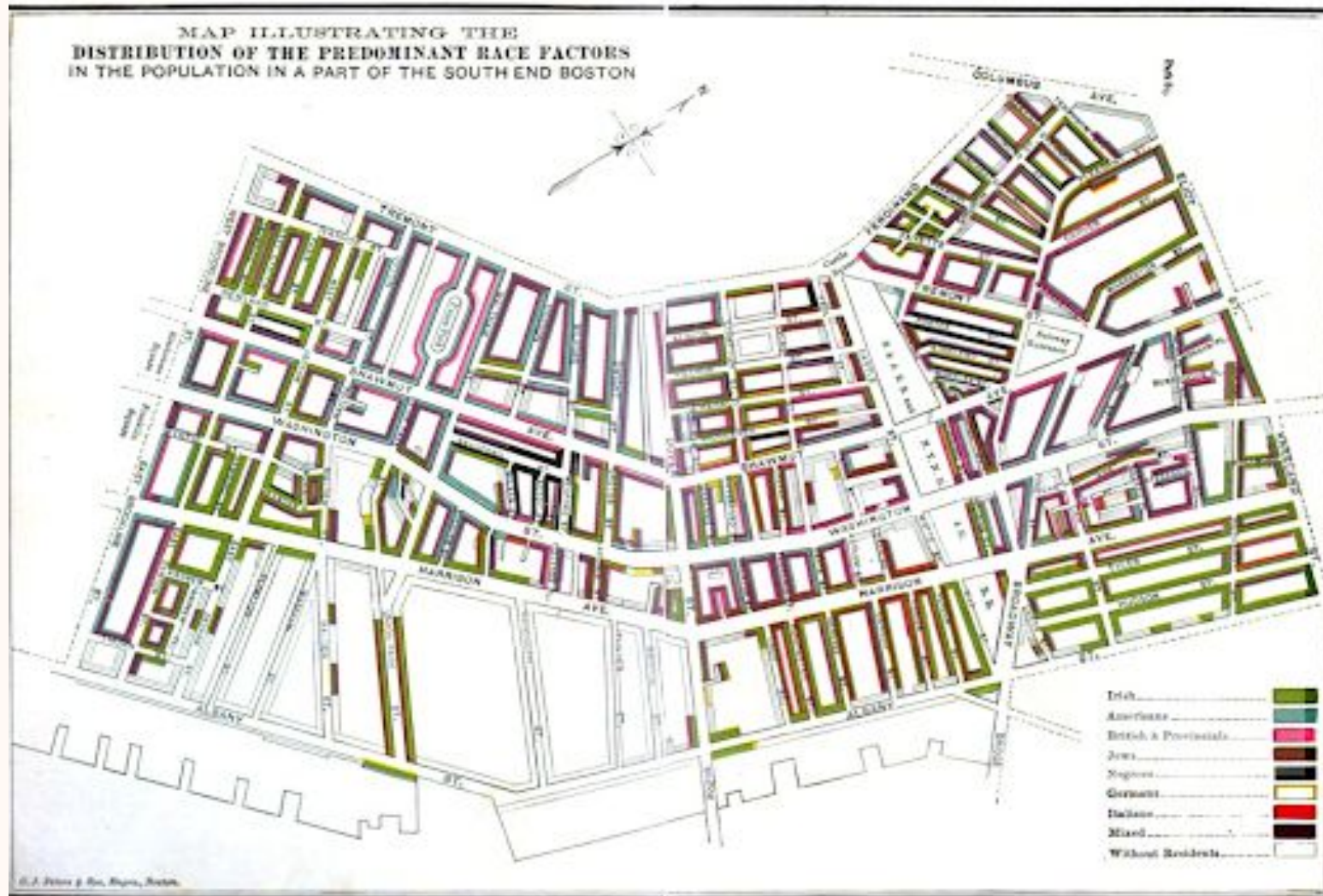


10% of Jobs in Boston Closed to Black workers
Elizabeth Pleck et al.

Construction of Tremont Station c.1895
Image Courtesy Boston Public Library

Map of Boston, 1940

Showing approx. location of Black communities



Boston Industries and Black Labor, 1900-1940



A "sugar boat" passing through the Fort Point Channel with the Custom House Tower visible in the background (c. 1929). Image Courtesy Boston Public Library

Selected Secondary Sources:

Catherine Adams and Elizabeth Pleck, [*Love of Freedom: Black Women in Colonial and Revolutionary New England*](#) (2010)

Millington W. Bergeson-Lockwood, [*Race Over Party: Black Politics and Partisanship in Late Nineteenth Century Boston*](#) (2018)

Adelaide M. Cromwell, [*The Other Brahmins: Boston's Black Upper Class 1750 – 1950*](#) (1995)

Franklin A. Dorman, ed. [*Twenty Families of Color in Massachusetts, 1742 – 1998*](#) (1998)

Eric Foner, [*Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad*](#) (2016)

Janette Thomas Greenwood, [*First Fruits of Freedom: The Migration of Former Slaves and Their Search for Equality in Worcester, Massachusetts, 1862-1900*](#) (2010)

Marilyn Halter, [*Between Race and Ethnicity: Cape Verdean American Immigrants 1860 - 1965*](#) (1993)

Marilyn Halter and Violet Showers Johnson, [*African & American: West Africans in Post-Civil Rights America*](#) (2014)

Jared Hardesty, [*Unfreedom: Slavery and Dependence in Eighteenth-Century Boston*](#) (2017)

James Horton, [*Black Bostonians: Family Life and Community Struggle in the Antebellum North 1750 – 1950*](#) (2000)

James O. and Lois E. Horton, [*In Hope of Liberty: Culture, Community, and Protest Among Northern Free Blacks 1700 – 1860*](#) (1998)

James Jennings et al., [*"The State of Black Boston: A Select Demographic Profile"*](#) (2010)

Violet Showers Johnson, [*The Other Black Bostonians: West Indians in Boston 1900 - 1950*](#) (2010)

Daniel R. Mandel, [*Tribe, Race, History: Native Americans in Southern New England 1780 - 1880*](#) (2010)

Joanne Pope Melish, [*Disowning Slavery: Gradual Emancipation and "Race" in New England 1780 - 1860*](#) (2000)

Stephen Kantrowitz, [*More Than Freedom: Fighting for Black Citizenship in a White Republic 1829 - 1889*](#) (2013)

Jason Sokol, [*All Eyes Are Upon Us: Race and Politics From Boston to Brooklyn*](#) (2014)

Wendy Warren, [*New England Bound: Slavery and Colonization in Early America*](#) (2016)

Craig Steven Wilder, [*Ebony and Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America's Universities*](#) (2013)



Public Comments

Mariama White-Hammond, L'Merchie Frazier



City of Boston
Equity and Inclusion

**REPARATIONS
TASK FORCE**



General Public Comments

We will now open the floor and the Zoom chat for questions and comments.

Please keep your comment limited to **2 minutes** or less. We will time comments.



City of Boston
Equity and Inclusion

**REPARATIONS
TASK FORCE**



Update for Next Meeting

Mariama White-Hammond, L'Merchie Frazier



City of Boston
Equity and Inclusion

**REPARATIONS
TASK FORCE**



Adjournment

Mariama White-Hammond, L'Merchie Frazier



City of Boston
Equity and Inclusion

**REPARATIONS
TASK FORCE**

