



ENSLAVED PEOPLE of SOUTH CAROLINA & DATHA ISLAND

Africans Were Not the First
but Became the Many

September 26, 2022

THE STUDY OF SEA ISLAND COTTON IS ABOUT BEING IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME

“HOWEVER, THE AWFUL SIDE OF THE STORY IS THAT SEA ISLAND COTTON, LIKE ALL COTTON, WAS ONLY PROFITABLE IN THE ANTEBELLUM PERIOD WHEN ENABLED BY SLAVERY.

ALTHOUGH IT DELIVERED ENORMOUS WEALTH FOR A FEW, IT REQUIRED GREAT SUFFERING BY MANY.”

W. Riski

Sea Island Cotton (1790-1920)

March 14, 2022

Dataw Historic Foundation

Slavery Runs Deep in History

- Prehistoric Man:
 - Conquered Slaves, Hunter Gatherers, no need for slaves, too many mouths to feed
 - Agrarian: Yes: Farming, Animal raising, Needed help
- Egypt: Soldiering, Palace Servants, Build Pyramids
- Greek, Romans, Africans: Captured, Indebtedness
 - Rebellion: Spartacus
- Columbus: Enslaved Caribbean Indians into Mining and Farmwork

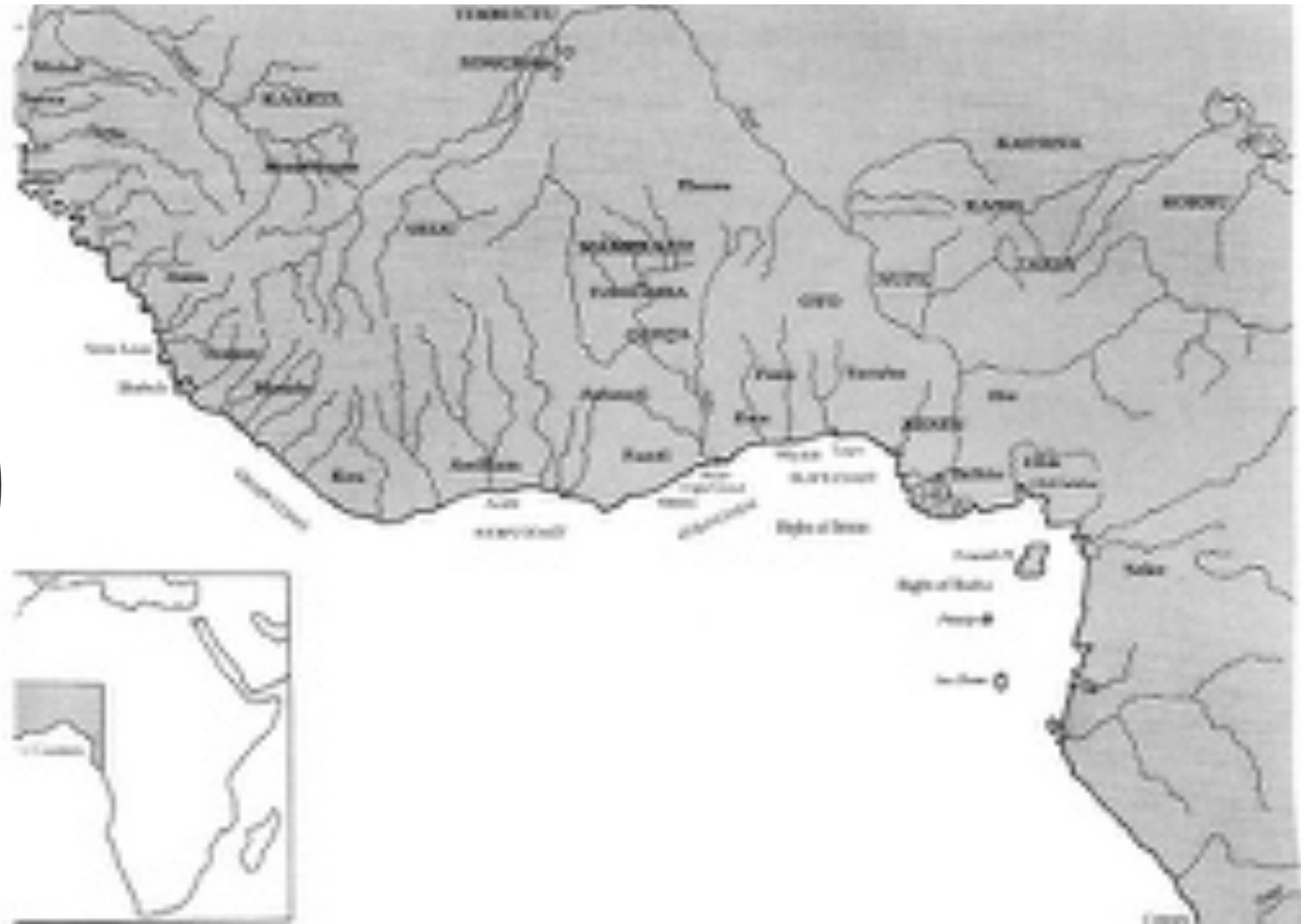
The Slave Trade 1492 - 1700

- 1450: Portuguese kidnapped then resorted to trading to buy slaves
- 1648: Eighty years war brought Dutch into trading
 - Imported to Brazil for Sugar and Tobacco
 - 1646: First slaves brought to Amsterdam from Brazil
- 1650: English gain superiority
 - Slaves to Caribbean, Barbados and Dominica (Sugar)
 - Coined the Guinea (African Coast) 1683-1814, James II
- Monopolies by country and Merchant Pirates
- 100,000 per year by mid-eighteenth century

SLAVE TRADE TRIANGLE



Guinea Coast

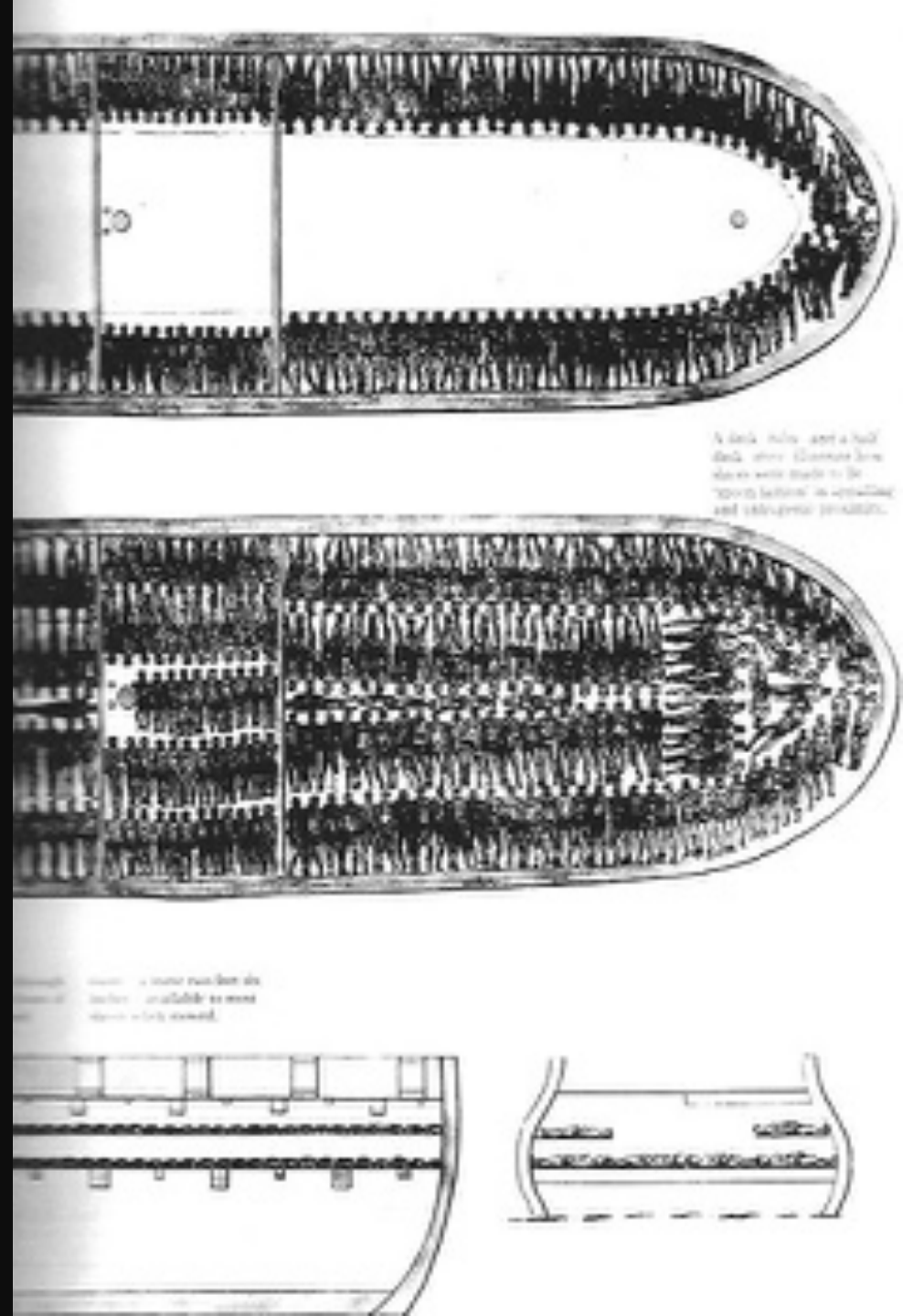


THE TRADE

The Diligent: A Voyage Through the Worlds of the Slave Trade

- Europe to Africa
 - Towns: Wyandah, Assou, Jakin, Pogo
 - Villages: Dahomey, Soui, Jacquin
- Kings, Commanders:
 - Assou: King Huffon
 - Dahomey: King Agaja
- Europeans trade for slaves in gold value then substitute similar value in goods (cloth, rum, Brandy, guns, powder)
- Voyage
 - Men and Women separated, Men chained , Women not

Ship Configuration



- Cargo ship was revised to 2 1/2' to 3' between 2 decks, sometimes washed with Vinegar to Clean
- Sustainable: Water and Gruel
- Daily Deck Exercise, Saltwater bathing
- Dead or seriously ill thrown overboard
- Crew was afraid of rebellion, suicide
- Value of slaves was dependent on general health of the population
- All were rubbed down with oil to appear healthy before putting into holding pens
- Ships captain negotiated with traders on price

Size of the Trade

I. CARRIERS

COUNTRY	VOYAGES	SLAVES TRANSPORTED
Portugal (including Brazil)	30,000	4,850,000
Spain (including Cuba)	4,000	1,600,000
France (including West Indies)	4,300	1,150,000
Holland	2,000	500,000
Britain	11,000	2,600,000
British North America, U.S.	1,500	300,000
Denmark	250	50,000
Other	250	50,000
TOTAL	54,300	11,000,000

II. SLAVES DELIVERED TO

Brazil	4,000,000
Spanish empire (including Cuba)	2,500,000
British West Indies	2,000,000
French West Indies (including Cayenne)	1,600,000
British North America & U.S.	500,000
Dutch West Indies (including Surinam)	500,000
Danish West Indies	25,000
Europe (including Portugal, Canary islands, Madeira, Azores, etc.)	200,000
TOTAL	11,325,000

Middle Passage Sites



- B** Ports where a marker has been placed and a ceremony has been held
- M** Ports where a marker has been placed
- C** Ports where a ceremony has been held
- N** Ports with neither a marker nor a ceremony

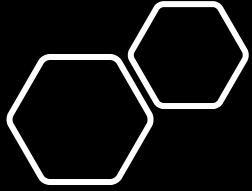
Why Were Slaves Needed in South Carolina?

RICE (None on St. Helena)

- 1730's Inland swamp method
 - Highly labor Intensive (clearing, growing)
 - High Capital Cost
- 1720 to 1740
 - Longest period of unrestricted slave importation in S.C. history
 - Nearly 40,000 Africans reached the colony
 - Largest group Angola/Congo region
 - first Beaufort sale 1739, mostly Angolans
- Stono Rebellion, September 1730
 - Jemmy led 100 slaves killing 20 whites in Beaufort District
 - Negro Act of 1740 made it illegal for enslaved persons to move abroad, assemble, raise food, earn money or learn to write

SOUTH CAROLINA INDIGO

- 1740's Introduced, Eliza Pinkney
- Provided cash crop for Sea Island planters
- Formerly Haiti and Guatemala
- Boiled, drained after settling, dried, cubed
- Again, slaves used to cut, clear, farm
- Mostly small farms where planter did much of the work himself
- The average family was not wealthy, nor had many slaves



COTTON

- Introduced 1780's
- Short Fiber Upland Parishes
- Long Fiber (Sea Island) in St. Helena Parish
- Brought Great wealth to Sea Islands but required great labor

SLAVE TRADERS

- 1736 Beaufort: Jean Pierre Purry, David Montagut
 - Three years later not all Sold
 - Tried to Sell as Seasoned but Several Escaped
- 1765 Beaufort: Middleton, Liston & Hope First group of slaves shipped directly to Beaufort
 - Angolan
- 1755-1765 Henry Laurens (& Austin), Earned his wealth over a 10-year period selling slaves from Charleston
 - Previously a rice planter on the SC side of the Savannah River
 - Delegate to 2nd Continental Congress, succeeded John Hancock as President
 - Presided over passage of the Articles of Confederation
 - VP of South Carolina



JUST imported in
the *Hare*, Capt.
Caleb Godfrey, di-
rectly from *Sier-*
ra-Leon, a Cargo of
Likely and Healthy
S L A V E S,
To be sold upon easy Terms, on *Tues-*
day the 29th Instant *June*, by
AUSTIN & LAURENS.

Why Did the Founding Fathers Allow Slavery?

- Most acknowledged that slavery violated the core ideal of Liberty
- But were also committed to private property rights, principles of limited government and intersectional harmony
- Considerable investment in slave based agriculture
- Thomas Jefferson, in his original draft of the Declaration Independence, condemns the injustice of slavery
 - Blamed the presence of enslaved Americans on avaricious British colonial policy
 - Declaration eventually left out by the Continental Congress

Goodness, More Founding Fathers?

Slaveholders		Non-slaveholders
Charles Carroll, MD	Thomas Jefferson, VA	John Adams, MA
Samuel Chase, MD	Richard Henry Lee, VA	Samuel Adams, MA
Benjamin Franklin, PA	James Madison, VA	Oliver Ellsworth, CT
Button Gwinnett, GA	Charles C. Pinkney, SC	Alexander Hamilton, NY
John Hancock, MA	Benjamin Rush, PA	Robert Treat Paine, MA
Patrick Henry, VA	Edward Rutledge, SC	Thomas Paine, PA
John Jay, NY	George Washington, VA	Roger Sherman, CT

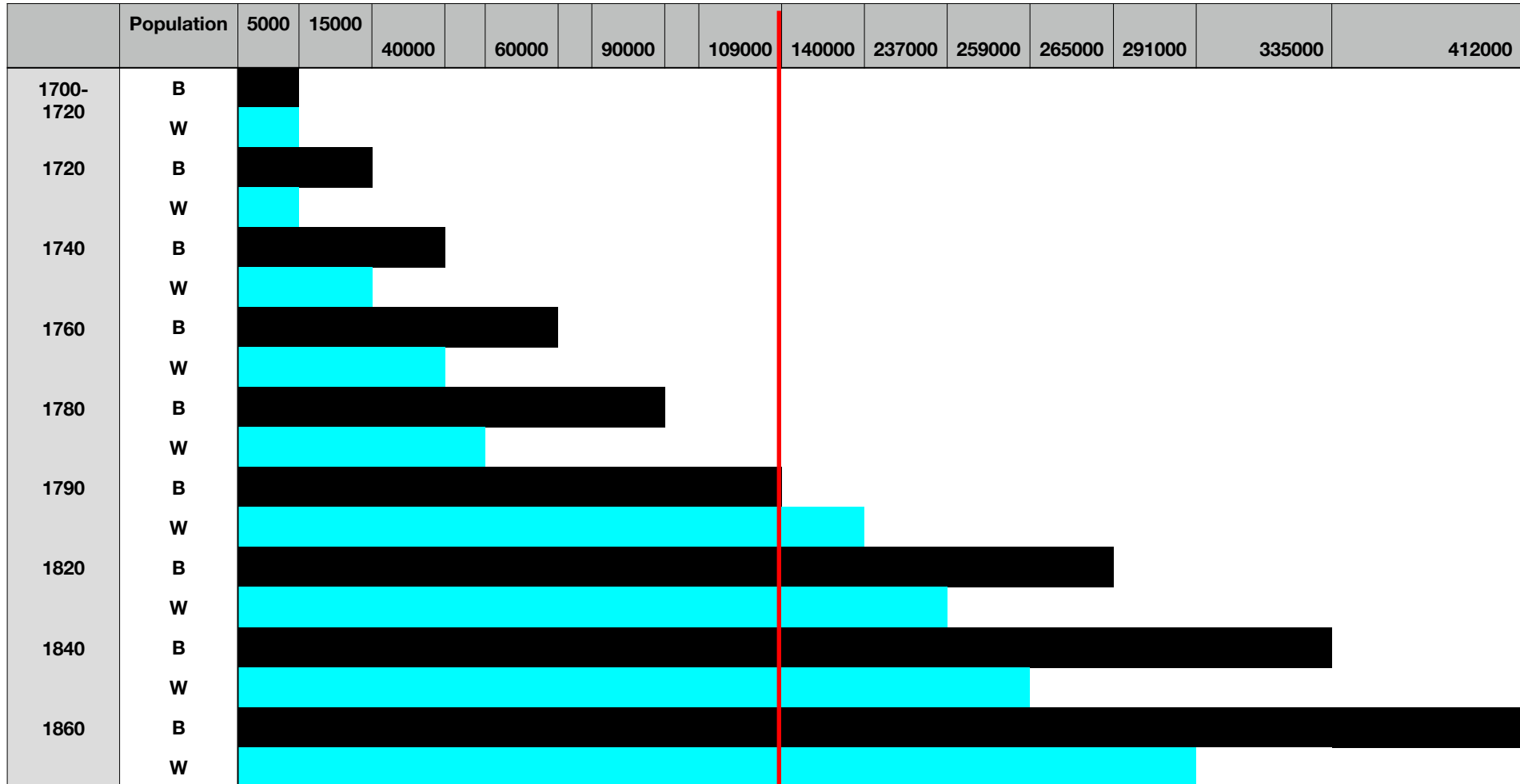
SLAVE TRADERS CONTINUED

Post-revolution

- 200,000 moved through the Charleston pesthouse in 18th Century
- Slave importation closes in all colonies at beginning of American Revolution (fear of rebellion)
- Some doubt if South Carolina ever stopped
- National law establishes 1808 as end of slave importation
- 1803 -1808 South Carolina imports 40,000 slaves for cotton industry (cotton gin)

SOUTH CAROLINA POPULATION 1700-1860

South Carolina Population

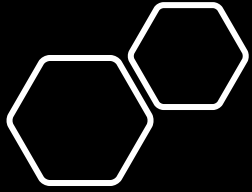


ORIGINAL SAMS

- Bonum Sams and Eustis Blake come to Charleston in 1681 as indentured servants
- After completing their indenture Bonum earns his 100 acres of homestead land in 1694, adds an additional 600 acres in 1711 (interestingly, founding of Beaufort)
- Grandson William Sams and wife Elizabeth Hext Sams
- William Sams purchases Datha from his cousin in 1783
- 1790 census lists William as having 84 slaves from Sea Island Cotton

Common Slave Punishment

On May 16, 1797, the following notice appeared in Charleston's City Gazette: "Taken up and brought to the Work House, a Negro Fellow, who says his name is July and that he belongs to Mr. William Sams, living on Dattah Island" (Brown and Sims). The Work House, also called the Sugar House, was in Charleston. It was a dungeon-like place where captured runaways were brutally punished by beatings with paddles and lashings with cowhide whips (Edgar).



Lives of Slaves

- Domestic: better clothing, hand-me-downs, living conditions
 - Cooking, sewing, child care, butler “Daily Give Servant”
- Skilled-Extra Men
 - Blacksmith, carpenter, boatmen, Tabby workers
 - James Julius Sams: My father (Dr.B.B.) “owned tailors, blacksmiths, and carpenters but he always seemed to know more about these trades than the servants themselves...”
- Field hands: Men, Women, children: most severe living conditions
 - Extreme heat and humidity
 - Insect-borne diseases (yellow fever, malaria)
- Children under 10 toted buckets, tools, supplies

- Supplies
 - Cloth at Christmas to make one set of cloths
 - One pair of shoes per year
- Driver
 - Older, experienced slave
 - Assigned tasks to field hands
 - Had his own house and was socially separate
- Overseer
 - Young & white
 - Several plantations

Daily Life

- Task System instituted around 1800
 - Daily task based on plot size, physical ability
 - Work more manageable, still 8-10 per field
 - Given 1/4 acre sections staked off for planting, animals
 - Fear of rebellion was reduced by giving some allowance
- Christianity allowed in small groups, Praise Houses
 - Moore & Coburn missionaries around 1820 preached to slaves
 - Promote better behavior and good morals
 - BB built a comfortable house of worship on Datha

Rebellion

- Task system was established to placate and reduce the possibility
- Slaves needed a pass to visit other plantations
- 1740 slave codes
- Citadel was founded after Denmark Vesey's plot stopped
 - Vesey was a free black pastor and community leader
 - Convicted of planning a major rebellion and hanged in 1822
 - More sanctions

From James Julius Sams's Written History

- Horace and his brothers had to do their part to prevent rebellion
- They performed patrol duty at night
- If the patrol caught a slave at night without a pass, he could be beaten

Southern Politics circa 1830

- Nullification
- Robert Barnwell Smith (nee Rhett)
- Secession House
- Serious Secession talk

Sams Family Slaves

- Elizabeth Hext Sams (1746-1813) had 141 slaves in 1810
 - Disciplined and strict with her slaves
 - “Demanded” her slaves arrive for midday meal then return to work
- Lewis Reeves Sams (1784-1856) owned Datha Point plantation, and others, for 51 yrs
 - 27 in 1810, 91 in 1820, 131 in 1830
- B.B. Sams (1787-1855), Dataw Inlet, Bluff, Laurel Hill plantations
 - 87 in 1820, 124 in 1830, 140 in 1840, 135 in 1850

- James Julius Sams (1826-1918), Son of BB, 1/2 owner Datha Inlet
 - 19 slaves in 1857, brother Horace ran plantation
- Horace Han Sams, (1829-1865), son of BB, ran Datha Inlet, died of typhoid in Greensboro, SC during the Civil War
 - 30 slaves in 1860
- Richard Fuller & Thomas Fuller Sams, sons of Louis, 67 slaves

The Slaves

Brutus was described as “.. An old African...a little old man, honest, and good-natured.”

He was a hog minder. The brothers often tried to fool him by pretending to be hogs, crouching low and making grunting sounds when Brutus was getting pigs into their pens in the evening.

Rev J. Julius Sams (1826-1918) memoir circa 1905

Slavery and Datha's Enslaved, Jane Griffith, 2020



Old Phyllis

- A domestic servant at Datha at the time James Julius and his brother Horace were young and often made fun of the slaves. Much to their shame.

Diana

- A domestic servant at the family's Beaufort house mentioned by Julius as asking his mother how she felt.

Cuffee

- A farm hand who was "too smart" because he reached through a fence to catch a squealing pig.

Mr. Ruffing

- The overseer/teacher lived in a home near the front of the stable. He was white since he was addressed as "Mister".

Mingo

- One of BB's slaves was a genuine African. He could speak both English and his original tongue, "Gullah." He was good and faithful but ugly as a baboon. Buried in Oakland Cemetery outside Datha.

Jimmie

- BB's man cook for 42 years

Cicero

- BB's coachman plus gardener and boatman

Jacob and Boz

- BB's dining room servants. Jacob was also his valet

Alfie, Louisa, Nancy, Diana

- Maids

Harriet

- Seamstress

Nancy, Juliet, Christmas

- Bought slaves. Christmas was a boatman.

Joe, Emma, Elisha and Winter

- Children born on Datha Island

Notes on Datha slaves from:

- *Slavery and Datha's Enslaved*, Jane Griffith, 2020
- *History of the Sams & Whittle Families*, Conway Whittle Sams, 1925 - [Original shared with DHF by Theresa (Sams) Colquhoun]

Ending

- November 7, 1861
- The Big Gun Shoot
- Plantation Owners Evacuate