



AUNT HANNAH.

Memorializing the Enslaved in Arlington 1669-1865

“We owe it to ourselves, our ancestors, and our future generations to preserve—and share—the full American story. Sometimes preserving that story means working through a difficult past to create a more inclusive future.”

- National Trust for Historic Preservation

“A person is only forgotten when his or her name is forgotten.”

- *Talmud*

Memorializing the Enslaved in Arlington



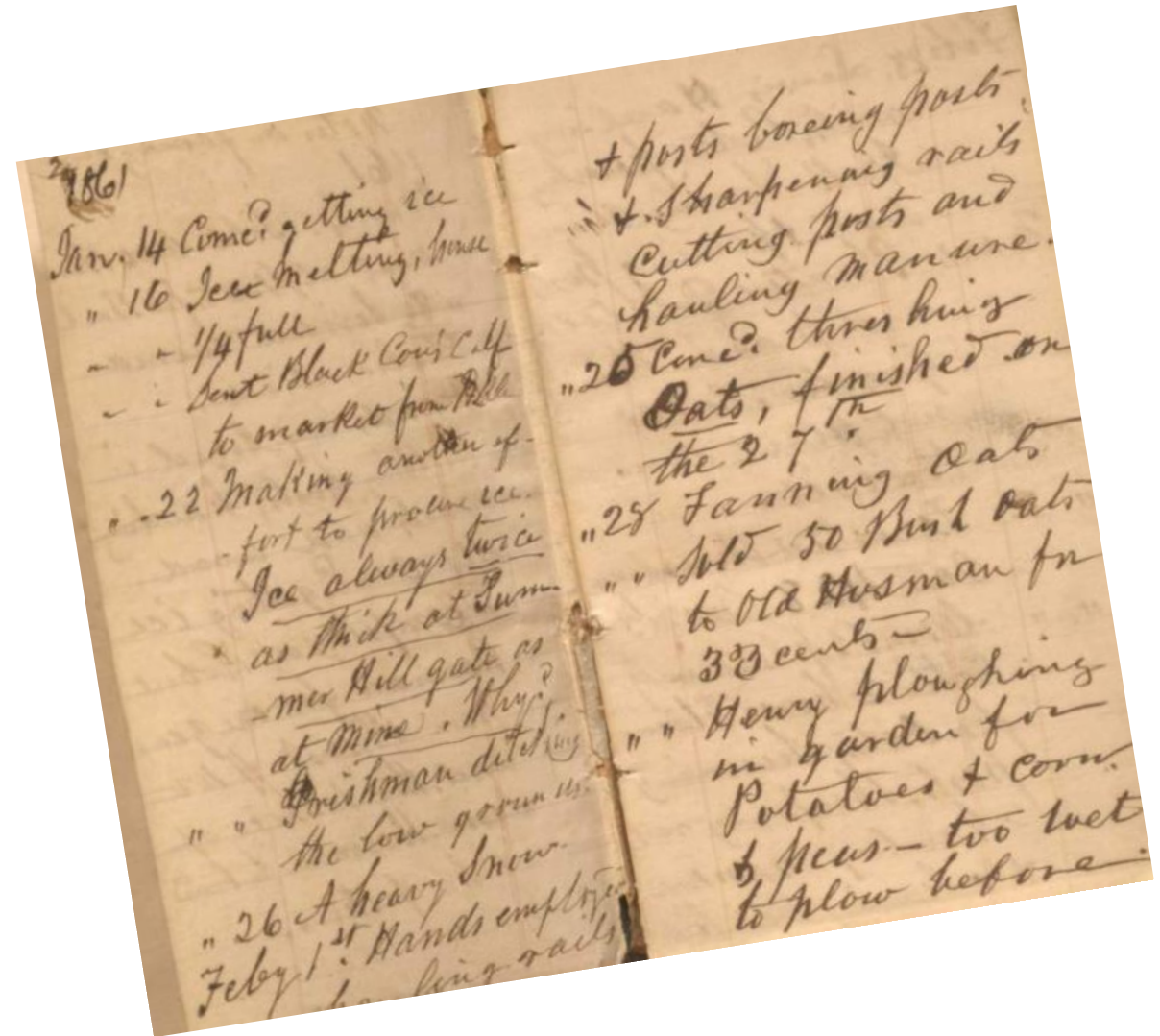
Selena Gray (right) and other enslaved women, Arlington House

The Arlington Historical Society, in collaboration with the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington (BHMA), aims to:

- Reveal the largely unknown history of the county's enslaved population and to chronicle their lives.
- Provide names, when possible, for enslaved individuals to honor their memory and ensure they are not forgotten
- Mark the locations in Arlington where slavery occurred with plaques or stumbling stones
- Confront a difficult history and honor our shared humanity

Sources

- Probate – wills, accounts and inventories
- Court records
- Manumissions
- Newspapers
- Diaries
- Letters
- US Census
- Maps
- Photographs/illustrations
- Tax records
- Deeds/Land Records
- Vital records – birth, death, marriage
- Grave sites



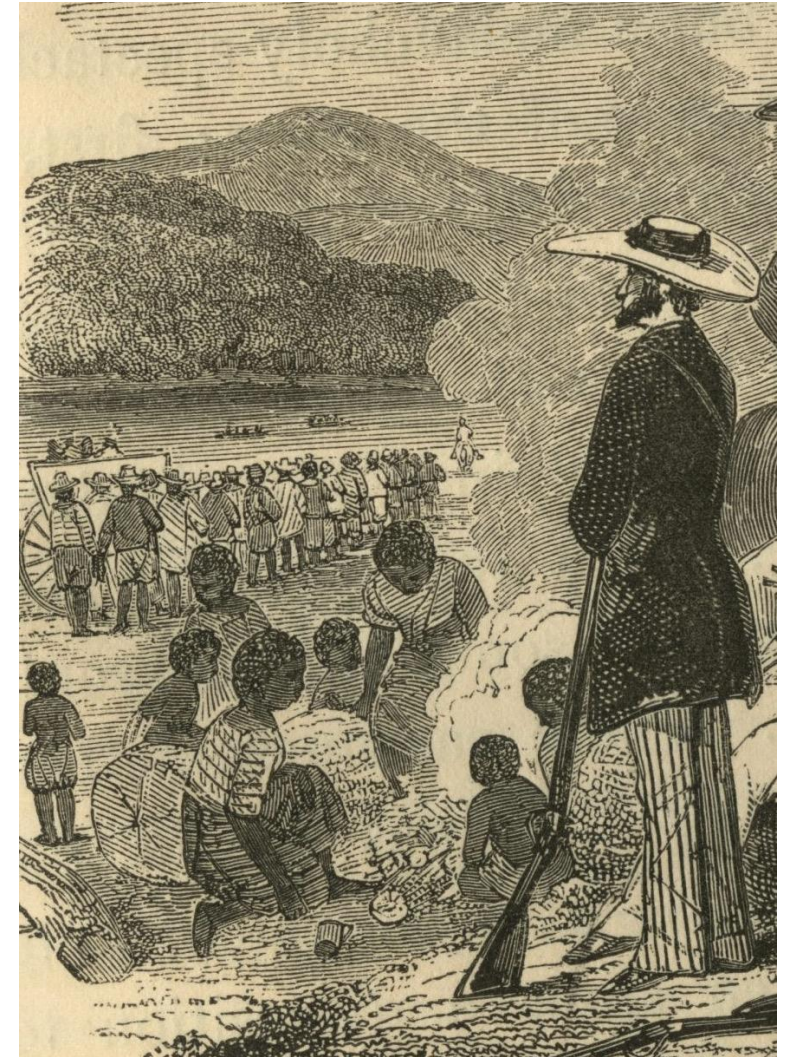
Diary of Bushrod Hunter, 1861

Accomplishments to Date

- Timeline of Slavery
- Spreadsheet of 1,400+ Enslaved Individuals
- Article on Runaway and Other Newspaper Advertisements
- Climbing Jacobs Ladder: Stories of Arlington's Enslaved People
- (Interactive) Map of Enslavement Locations
- Placement of First 3 Stumbling Stones at the Ball-Sellers House
- APS Lesson Plans on Slavery in Arlington

AHS Website:

<https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/2023/05/names-of-the-enslaved-in-arlington-uncovered/>



Coffle of enslaved people being transported by Franklin & Armfield armed guards

ARLINGTON SLAVERY TIMELINE, 1669-1865

Howson Patent
1669

Abingdon Built
1735-1761

Three Fifths Clause
1789

Alexandria County, DC
1801

Arlington House
1802

Franklin & Armfield
1828

Retrocession
1846

Civil War Begins
1861

Emancipation Proclamation
1863

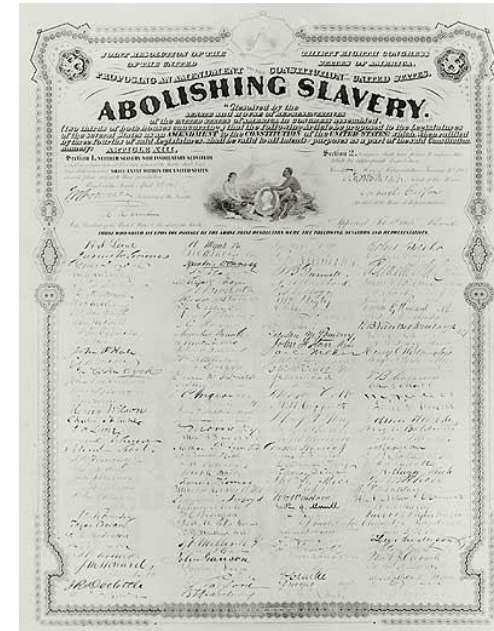
Freedman's Village
1863

13th Amendment
1865



1669

1865

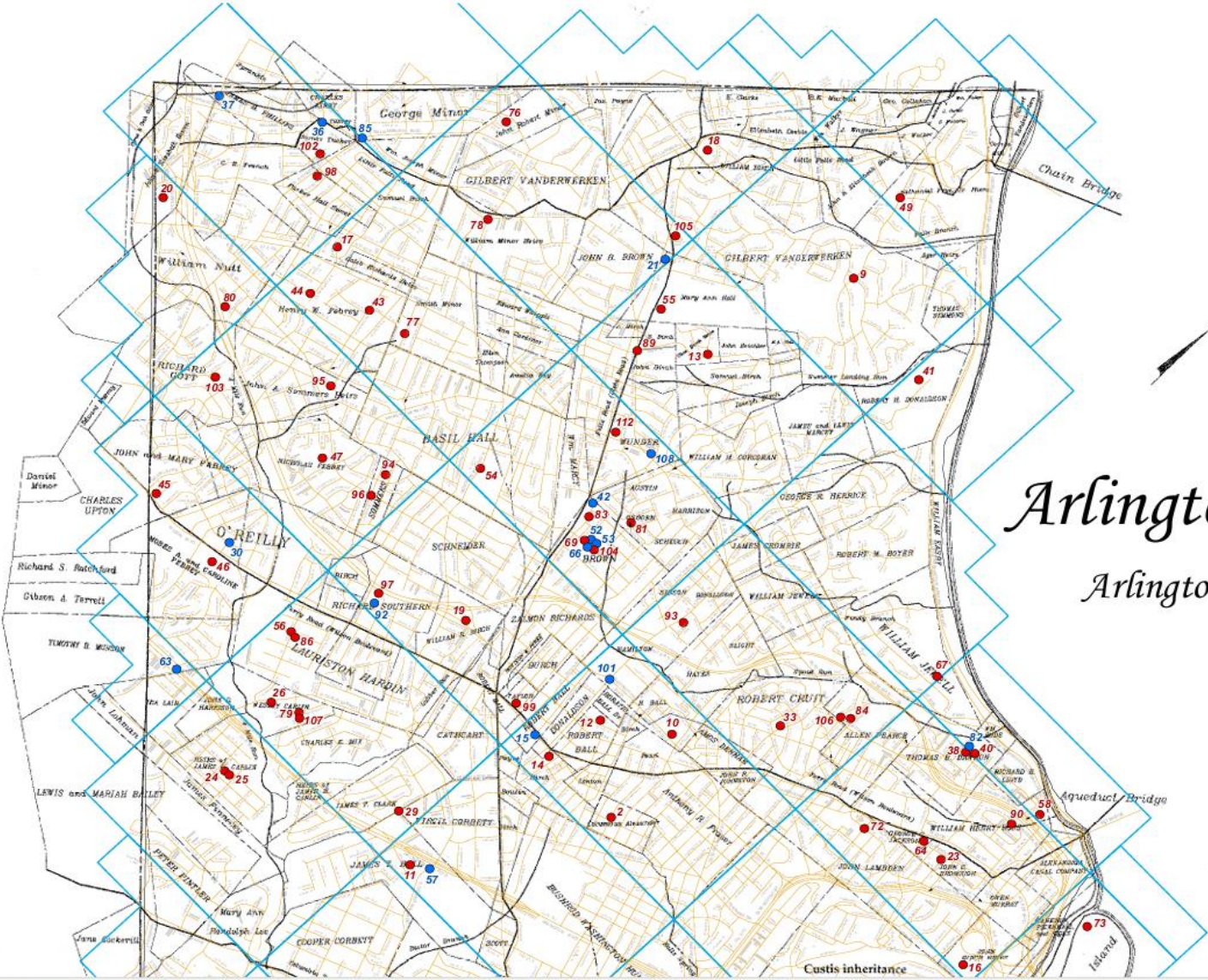


Spreadsheet of Arlington's Enslaved Population

Enslaved name	Enslaved first name	Enslaved surname	Enslaved name note	Enslaved birth date	Enslaved Death Date	Enslaved gender	Enslaved description	Child(ren) of enslaved	Mother of enslaved	Father of enslaved	Enslaved occupation(s)	Enslaved description
	Hannah					f						
Moses Bennet	Moses	Bennet		1813		m	5'8", dark copper color, stout and well made				farm hand, waggoner, marketer	
Julia Branson	Julia	Branson		1810		f	5'5", black color				fine servant, cook, washer, ironer	
William Branson	William	Branson		1837		m	6', very erect and straight, black color				wagoner, farm hand, marketer	"He stands good wagoner, marketer"
Mary Ann Branson	Mary Ann	Branson		1843		f	5'7", tall and fine looking, copper color				Cook, good washer, ironer	
Horace Branson	Horace	Branson		1845		m	5'10", black in color				wagoner, farm hand	
James Branson	James	Branson		1849		m	5'10", black in color					
Frank Branson	Frank	Branson		1851		m	5'3", dark color, sprightly and healthy					
	Louis			1815	1855	m	committed suicide					
	unknown			1806-1820		m						

Map of Enslavement Locations

ID #	Slaveholder
1	Addison, AE
2	Alexander, Columbus
3	Alexander, George Dent
4	Alexander, Gerard (1714-1761)
5	Alexander, Philip (1742-1786)
6	Alexander, Robert (1740-1793)
7	Antsell, Thomas
8	Awbry, John
9	Ball, Charles H
10	Ball, Ens. John
11	Ball, James T
12	Ball, Robert
13	Birch, Caleb
14	Birch, James
15	Birch, Joseph
16	Birch, Randolph/John
17	Birch, Samuel
18	Birch, William
19	Birch, William R
20	Bowen, Jonathan W.
21	Boyleston, William
22	Brewer, John
23	Bronough, JC
24	Carlin, Elizabeth
25	Carlin, Letitia
26	Carlin, Wesley
27	Carlyle, John
28	Chapman, Constant and Nathaniel
29	Clark, James T
30	Colom, Henry
31	Corbett, Sewall
32	Cosene, John
33	Crut, Robert/Susan
34	Custus, GWP/Robert E Lee
35	Custus, John Parke
36	Darne, Henry
37	Darne, Thomas
38	Dawson, Thomas B
39	Dodge, Allen
40	Donaldson, John
41	Donaldson, RH
42	Earp, Matthew
43	Ely, Henrietta
44	Febrey, Henry
45	Febrey, John
46	Febrey, Moses
47	Febrey, Nicholas
48	Fraser, Anthony
49	Frye, Thomas B
50	Gibson, Joshua
51	Graham, CB
52	Griffith, David
53	Griffith, Jr, David
54	Hall, Basil
55	Hall, Mary Ann
56	Hardin, Laureston
57	Hardin, William
58	Hoover, Andrew
59	Hunter, Alexander



Arlington's Enslavers
 Arlington Historical Society

Aqueduct Bridge
 Built in 1843, this bridge was replaced by Key Bridge in 1915.

LEGEND

Climbing Jacob's Ladder: Stories of the Enslaved



Read about the struggles and triumphs of several of Arlington's enslaved men and women. Put yourselves in their shoes and explore how enslavement shaped their opportunities; journey with those who made the transition to freedom.

- Horace Branson
- Eliza
- Charlotte Hyson
- Farr Family
- Jones Family
- Wesley Norris
- John Ringgold
- Samuel Smith
- Wesley Snowden
- Henry Speaks
- Winnie Steele
- Sandy Watts

Teaching about Slavery in Arlington

Partnership with APS

- Lesson plans developed from primary sources for elementary, middle and high school social studies classes
- Middle school CTE classes to help create stumbling stones while learning about enslavement in Arlington

Community Learning

- AHS/BHMA website with a database and interactive story map of our findings
- Articles and lectures on slavery in Arlington
- Ceremonial placement of stumbling stones open to all

Goal of Memorializing the Enslaved in Arlington

Stolpersteine or Stumbling Stones as Memorials to Victims of the Holocaust

Over 70,000 found throughout Europe



Amsterdam

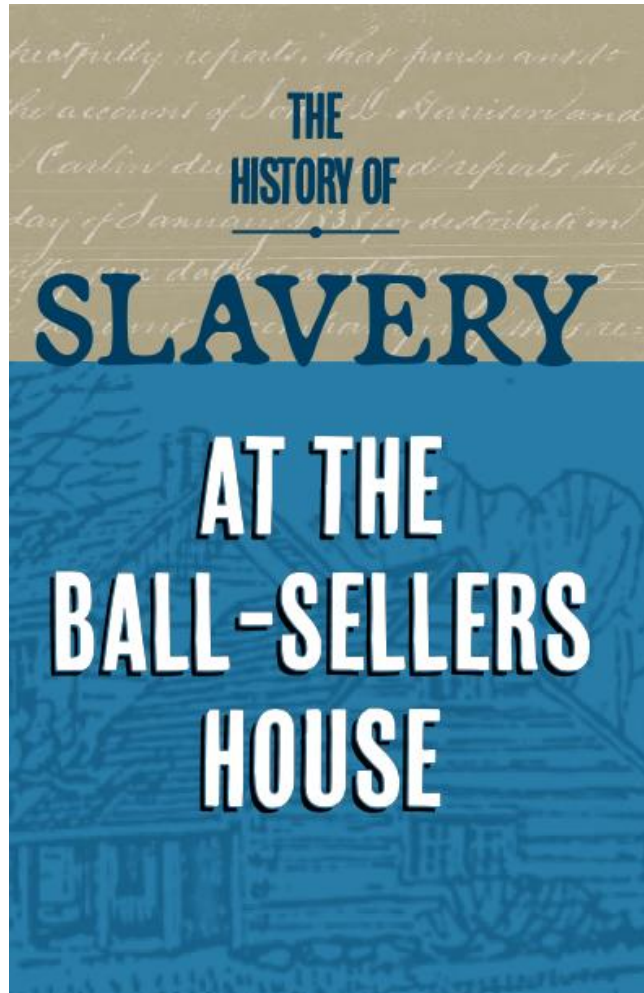


Rome



Berlin

Stumbling Stones Tell a Story



Stumbling Stones to Mark the Locations in Arlington where Slavery Occurred and Honor Enslaved Individuals

- APS middle and high school CTE classes to create “stumbling stones” on sheets of brass
- Name of enslaved individual
- Birth and death dates
- Powerful reminders that slavery occurred in our own neighborhoods
- Seeking county help in placement of markers



AHS/Arlington County Stumbling Stones Agreement

7/2/24 Memorandum of Understanding

“Realizing Arlington’s Commitment to Equity”

1. “Continuing the dialogue about race and equity, using research and learning from other organizations and people and having the conversations, engagement and education needed to share information about disparity.”
2. Collaborating on initiatives to address inequities in Arlington, establishing partnerships among the County Board, County staff, APS and non-profits, businesses, neighboring jurisdictions, . . . aimed at enhancing our effort and commitment to fostering equity.”

AHS shall:

1. Produce 4” x 4” square or 4” x 6” round non-skid bronze plaques for installation
2. Obtain permits if needed (i.e., VDOT, NPS)
3. Provide list of proposed locations
4. Collaborate with County DES on details and specifications for installation
5. Retain ownership and maintain plaques

The County shall:

1. Review, permit and install the plaques
2. Assist in replacement
3. Establish a GIS layer to identify installation locations

Future Plans

- Generate Story Maps
- Develop Speakers Bureau
- Use Enslavement Curriculum to Teach about Local Enslavement in the schools
- Create Walking and Driving Tours of Columbia Pike and Glebe Road
- Institute Middle School Commemorative Projects
- Write Additional Biographical Sketches
- Fabricate and Place Additional Stumbling Stones

Let's Remember Together

“To forget is to offend, and memory, when shared, abolishes this offence. If we want to share the beauty of the world, if we want solidarity with its suffering, we need to learn to remember together”

Edouard Glissant, philosopher and historian