
Capitalized Womb: Primary Document Analysis

Read and analyze the documents below.

- What inferences can be drawn from these primary sources about how the value of enslaved women changed between the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries?
- What inferences can be drawn from these primary sources regarding how the lives of enslaved women changed after 1808?

Primary Document 1: February 27, 1773, placed by Dr. William Jepson

A likely Negro Girl,
about 15 or 16 years of age, to be sold for no
fault but because she is like to be a good breeder
— For further particulars enquire of the Printer.

Primary Document 2: March 2, 1768, *Providence Gazette*

TO BE SOLD,
(For no Fault, but on Account of her breeding fast).
A healthy likely
Negroe Wench,
about 20 or 25 Years of Age, can do all Kinds of
House-Work, and has lived on a Farm. Likewise
two male Children. Enquire of JOHN LYON, at
Rehoboth. (14)

Primary Document 3: (Pay particular attention to #29)

**EXTENSIVE SALE OF
 CHOICE SLAVES**

Comprising Field Hands, Mechanics and House Servants,
 AT THE ST. LOUIS HOTEL.

By C. E. GIRARDEY & CO.,
 OFFICE, 37 MAGAZINE STREET.

ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1859,

At the ST. LOUIS EXCHANGE, commencing immediately after the succession sales,
 will be SOLD AT AUCTION, the following valuable Slaves to wit :

1. AUGUSTIN, black, creole, aged 17 years, very likely, No. 1 field hand.
2. HENRY, black, aged 21 years, very likely, No. 1 field hand.
3. FRANK black, aged 32 years, and his wife
4. CELIA, black, aged 30 years, both field hands.
5. BILL, black, aged 19 years, No. 1 field hand.
6. LOUISA, black, aged 16 years, good child's nurse and house servant, speaks French and English.
7. JUDY, black, 24 years, good cook, excellent washer and ironer, country raised.
7. JOE, black, 21 years, fair engineer, and practical Saw-Mill man.
9. JANE, black, 18 years, Seamstress and House Servant.
10. MARIA, black, 15 years, Field Hand and House Servant.
11. PRESCILLA, black, 16 years, Field Hand and House Servant.
12. KIZZIE, do. 17 do. do. do.
13. DAN, do. 16 do. do. do.
14. BARRY, do. 16 do. do. do.
15. EMILY, do. 19 do. House Servant.
16. ISAAC, do. 26 do. Field Hand.
17. LOUISA, do. 9 do. Orphan.
18. BURWELL, do. 15 do. Field Hand, Runaway.
19. HENRY, do. 21 do. do. do. } These two are sold subject to the certificate of Dr.
 20. NED, do. 19 do. do. do. } R. H. Moss and the late Dr. Graham, pronouncing
 them sound, but guaranteed in title only.
21. JOHN, mulatto, aged 16 years, raised by T. J. Casey, Esq., an accomplished House and Dining Room Servant.
22. JANE, black, aged about 25 years, a first-rate Seamstress and good Washer and Ironer, and her son
23. BEN, black, aged 3 years.
24. THERESA, black, aged 22 years, Creole, speaks French and English, good Cook, Washer and Ironer.
25. MATILDA, dark griff, aged about 40 years, excellent child's Nurse, also good Cook and Ironer, has absented herself once, otherwise fully guaranteed.
26. EDWARD, black, aged about 28 years, Creole, general Laborer.
27. BAILY, black, aged about 35 years, a superior Woodman and general Laborer.
28. JOHN, dark griff, aged about 23 years, a first class Waiter and House Servant, Creole, speaks French and English.
29. RACHEL, black, aged 19 years, a superior House Servant, good Seamstress, and fair Cook, Washer and Ironer, and Hair Dresser, raised in the city. Her mensus are irregular, otherwise fully guaranteed.
30. BOB, black, aged 43 years, No. 1 Field Hand, and his wife
31. JANE, black, 36 do. do. do. do.
32. WINNEY, do. 14 do. do. do. do.
33. MARY, do. 12 do. do. do. do.
34. HENRY do. 9 do. do. do. do.
35. BOB, do. 6 do. do. do. do.
36. ALEXANDER, black, aged 24 years, an accomplished Carriage Driver, House and Dining Room Servant.

} One Family.

The above are all fully guaranteed, with exceptions stated.

TERMS.—12 mos. Credit for approved City Acceptances, bearing 8 per cent. interest—or cash if the purchaser prefers.

Acts of Sale before E. BARNETT and W. J. CASTELL, N. Y., at the expense of the Purchasers.
 N. B.—Slaves will not be delivered under any circumstances until terms are fully complied with.

Broadside announcing the sale of "Choice Slaves" along with detail of Rachel, #29, who has irregular "mensus [sic]." She is discussed on page 76.

Primary Document 4:

TABLE 2.2 Prices of Male and Female Slaves, 1859 and 1860

<i>State and year</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Price of male slave</i>	<i>Price of female slave</i>
Alabama, 1859	19		\$1,635	
Georgia, 1859		Cotton hand, house servant		\$1,250
South Carolina, 1859		Field hand	\$1,555	
Texas, 1859	17, 14		\$1,527	\$1,403
Alabama, 1860	18, 18, 18			\$1,193
Georgia, 1860	21	Best field hand	\$1,900	
Georgia, 1860	17	With nine-month-old infant		\$2,150
Georgia, 1860		Prime, young	\$1,300	
Mississippi, 1860		No. 1 field hand	\$1,625*	\$1,450*
South Carolina, 1860		Prime	\$1,325	
South Carolina, 1860		Wench		\$1,283
South Carolina, 1860		Girl		\$1,705
Texas, 1860	21, 15		\$2,015	\$1,635
Virginia, 1860	17–20	Best	\$1,350–\$1,425*	\$1,275–\$1,325*

Source: Woodman, *Slavery and the Southern Economy*, 89.

*Based on average price listing.