

An Abominable Business

The Van Wickle Slave Ring of East Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey



Part I

The Match that Lit the Torch

A Runaway boy from Philadelphia uncovered a
“Nefarious Business”

15 Dollars Reward.

RANAWAY from the Subscriber, on Sunday the 5th inst. a NEGRO BOY named *Peter*, about five feet eight inches in height, yellowish complexion, and a singular dent or depression in his forehead below where the hair terminates, which he usually attempts to comb over it. Had on a greyish roundabout and common woolsey trowsers of a yellow colour. Whoever returns said boy shall be entitled to the above reward and all reasonable expenses. He had a brother living with Col. McCullough of Asbury, Sussex county, a short time since, and may possibly have gone that way.

JAMES T. CLARKE.
Trenton, April 16, 1818. 99-Sw.

Contemporary ad – original not located

Philadelphia Paper Reports Incident – Editorial Receives Wide Notice

FRANKLIN GAZETTE.
FRIDAY MORNING MAY 22, 1818.
PUBLISHED BY
RICHARD BACHE,

We are authorized, by a gentleman of unimpeachable honor and veracity, to state the following facts; and we feel at a loss to find time adequate to express our indignation and horror, at the cupidities and barbarity which they display. Our informant states, that a black boy belonging to him, some months ago, eloped from his service, but not very anxious to recover him, he took the usual precaution of advertising a small reward for his apprehension. He heard nothing of the runaway for a considerable time; and the first information was from a person who offered to purchase his time. The master declining the offer; and upon inquiry, found that the person proposing to buy the boy, had already kidnapped and sold him, to be transported as a slave, to the southward!!

With a zeal and humanity which reflect honor upon his character, he immediately made arrangements for the recovery of the unfortunate boy; and he was not only successful in reclaiming his servant from the foulest bondage, but has been the instrument, under Providence, of exposing a scene of villany almost unexampled.

The officer who was despatched for the purpose, reached a house on South River, about eight miles from South-Amboy, occupied or owned by a Jacob Vanvickle, (magistrate.) The house was almost like a garrison, so well was it guarded and watched. But the officer made his way, and reclaimed the boy, just on the eve, with about thirty others of different ages, of being consigned to a perpetual and cruel slavery.

We are requested to state that this abominable traffic in human flesh is carried on by men holding offices of respectability and trust, and that Jacob Vanvickle, a magistrate, and Nicholas Vanvickle, his son, and Charles Morgan, his son in law, are known to be aiding and assisting, and even the purchasers in this nefarious business. Peter Ferron Henry of West-Windsor, well-known in N. J. has sold several negroes as slaves for life to the persons just named, and is the person who kidnapped and sold them the servant of our informant, whose name is at the service of any person complaining of this article; and we request publishers throughout the U. States, to give the foregoing an insertion.

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May 22, 1818
Richard Bache
was the son-in-
law of Benjamin
Franklin

1775 – 4,500 slaves in New Jersey 7.5% of the population

Governor Livingston, 1778: “[Slavery] is utterly inconsistent with the principles of Christianity and humanity: and in Americans, who have almost idolized liberty, peculiarly odious and disgraceful.”

1790 – 11,423 slaves in New Jersey 6.2% of the population

1798 Law: “That from and after the passing of this Act, it shall not be lawful for any person...to bring into this State, either for sale or for servitude, any negro whatsoever.”

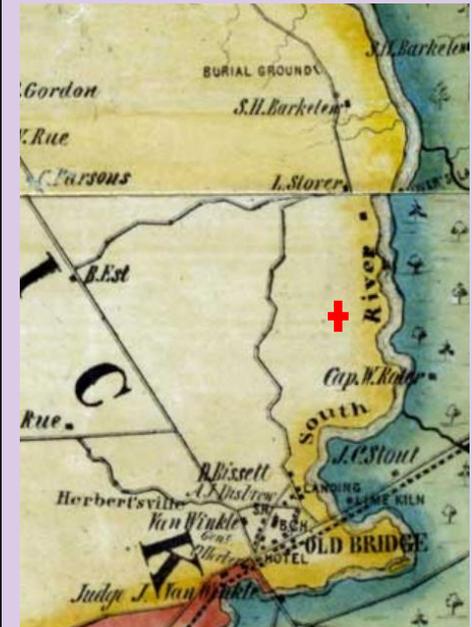
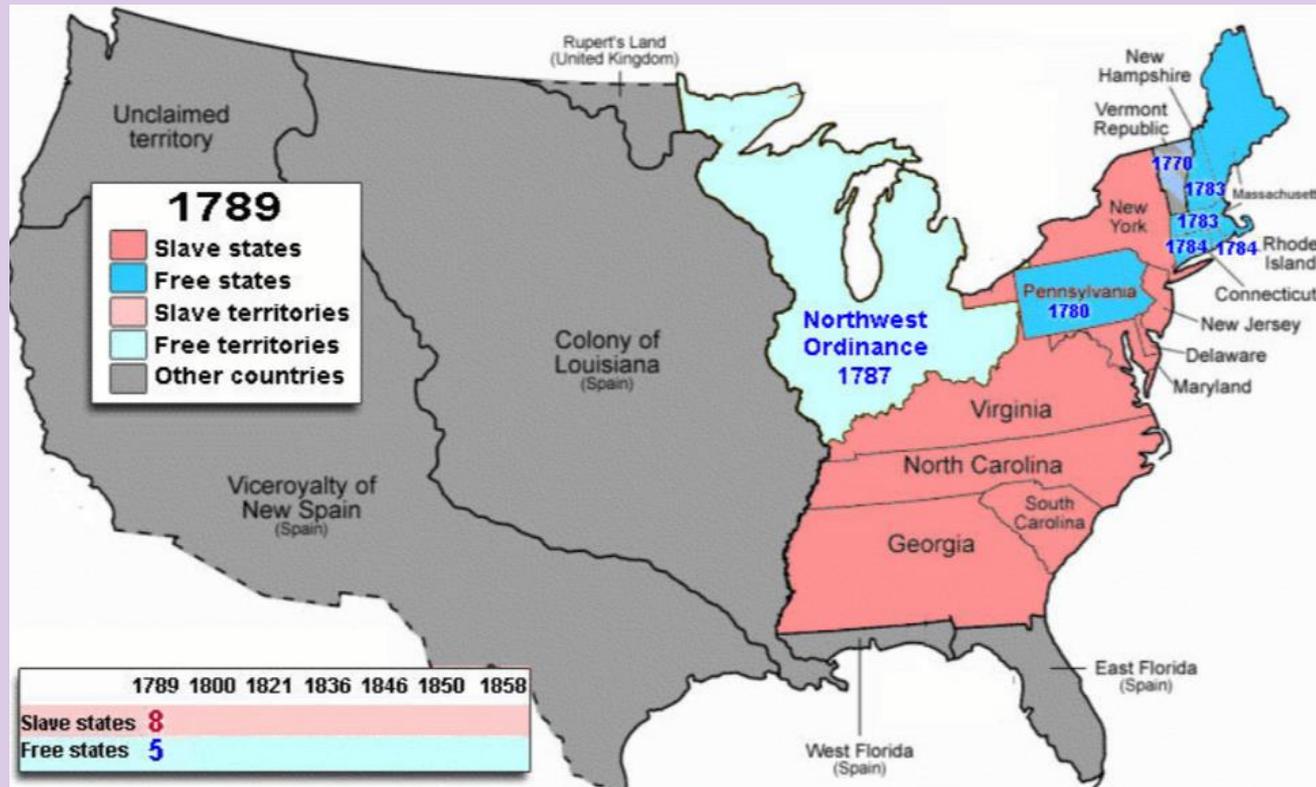
1802 – Petition submitted to the Assembly for the gradual abolition of slavery in New Jersey. Debated for two years and passed into law. Children born to enslaved mothers after July 4, 1804, would serve mandatory apprenticeship to the owner until the age of maturity; for women, age 21 – for men, age 25. The person could be bought or sold.

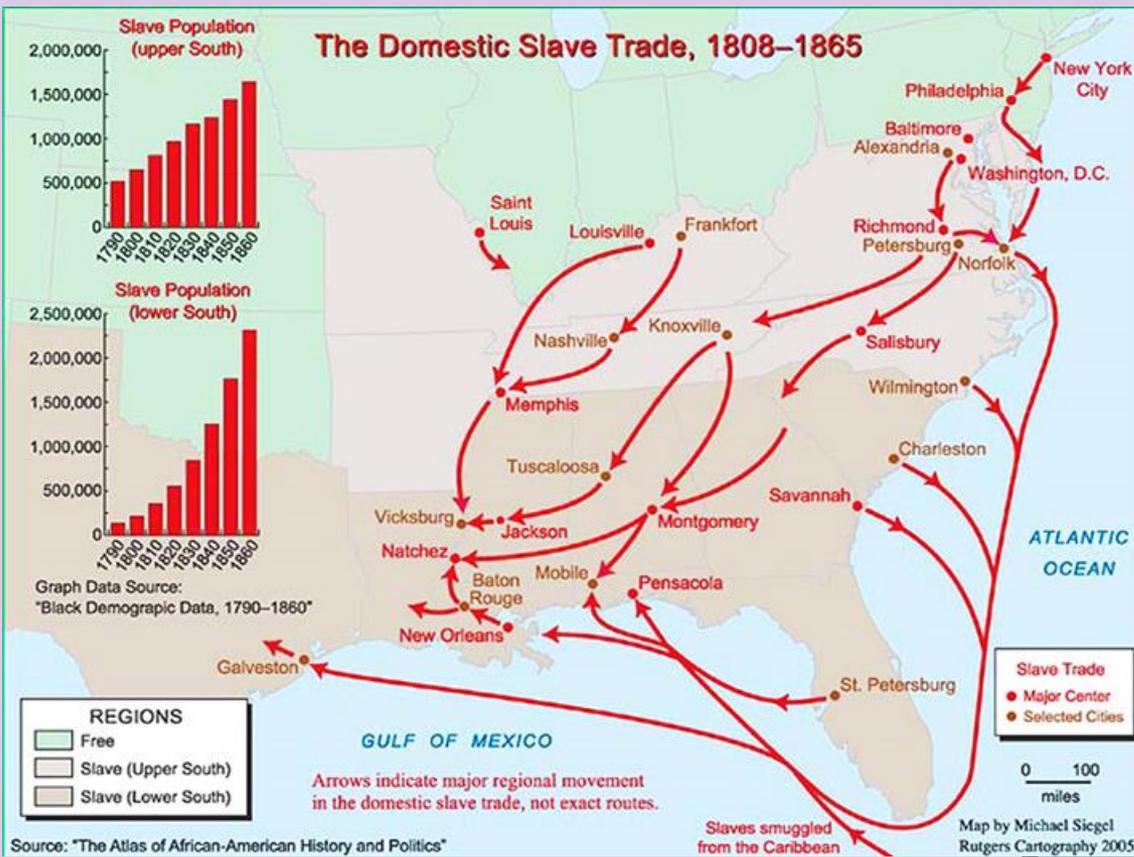
1800 – 12,422 slaves; 5.9% 1810 – 10,860 slaves; 4.5% 1820 – 7,557 slaves; 2.1%

1812 – Law enacted forbidding the removal of slaves & apprentices out-of-state without their direct assent and the approval of the mother in the case of children.

1860 – 18 slaves remaining in New Jersey!

Slavery in New Jersey – Local Example





The 1807 ban on the African Slave Trade fostered intense demand for enslaved people as new territories and states opened in the South. Removal of American Indian tribes, plus the invention of the Cotton Gin, led to a huge demand for cheap manual labor as new lands were opened for agriculture.

Part II

The Van Wickle Slave Ring

Judge Jacob Van Wickle – Ringleader of the Most Notorious Kidnapping Ring in New Jersey



Judge Jacob Van Wickle,
February 1841

List of Officers given in the County of Middlesex
from Oct 19th 1813 to Oct 20th 1844

Abm Vandercaldt Sheriff	October 1813	19 th
Wm B. Manning Coroner		26 th
Alexander Davis Coroner		28 th
Wm D. Jewell Coroner		Nov 9 th
John Lewis Judge		23 rd
Andrew Rowan Justice		29 th
Barnabé Henry Justice		29 th
Jacob Van Wickle Sheriff	December	8 th
Robert de Cherny Sheriff		9 th
John Lewis Justice		14 th
Ephraim Hurvitt Justice		15 th
John A. Randolph Judge	January	3 rd 1844
John Bastedo Justice		11 th
John S. Anderson Judge Justice		17 th
Robert Vandercaldt Justice		17 th
Abm Vandercaldt Sheriff	October	18 th
Wm D. Jewell Coroner		16 th

Witness my hand this 22nd October 1844
Wm D. Jewell
 Sheriff of the County

To James Lewis Esq
 Secretary of the
 State of New Jersey

Middlesex Republican Convention.

At a meeting of Republican Delegates from the several Townships of the County of Middlesex, at the city of West-
Brunswick, on Saturday the 15th of August, 1841,

JACOB VAN WICKLE, Esq. was elected President, and
BERNARD SMITH Secretary.

After considerable discussion the Convention unanimously agreed to recommend to the Republicans of Middlesex the following persons, as suitable characters to be supported at the ensuing election for the offices attached to their names respectively, viz.

For Council, John James, Anthony, John L. Anderson, James T. Dunn, Isaac Laing—Sheriff, John Brewster—Coroners, John P. Covenhoven, Richard Carter, Lewis Carmel.

The following persons were elected Delegates to represent this County at the State Convention, to be held on the second Tuesday in October next, viz :

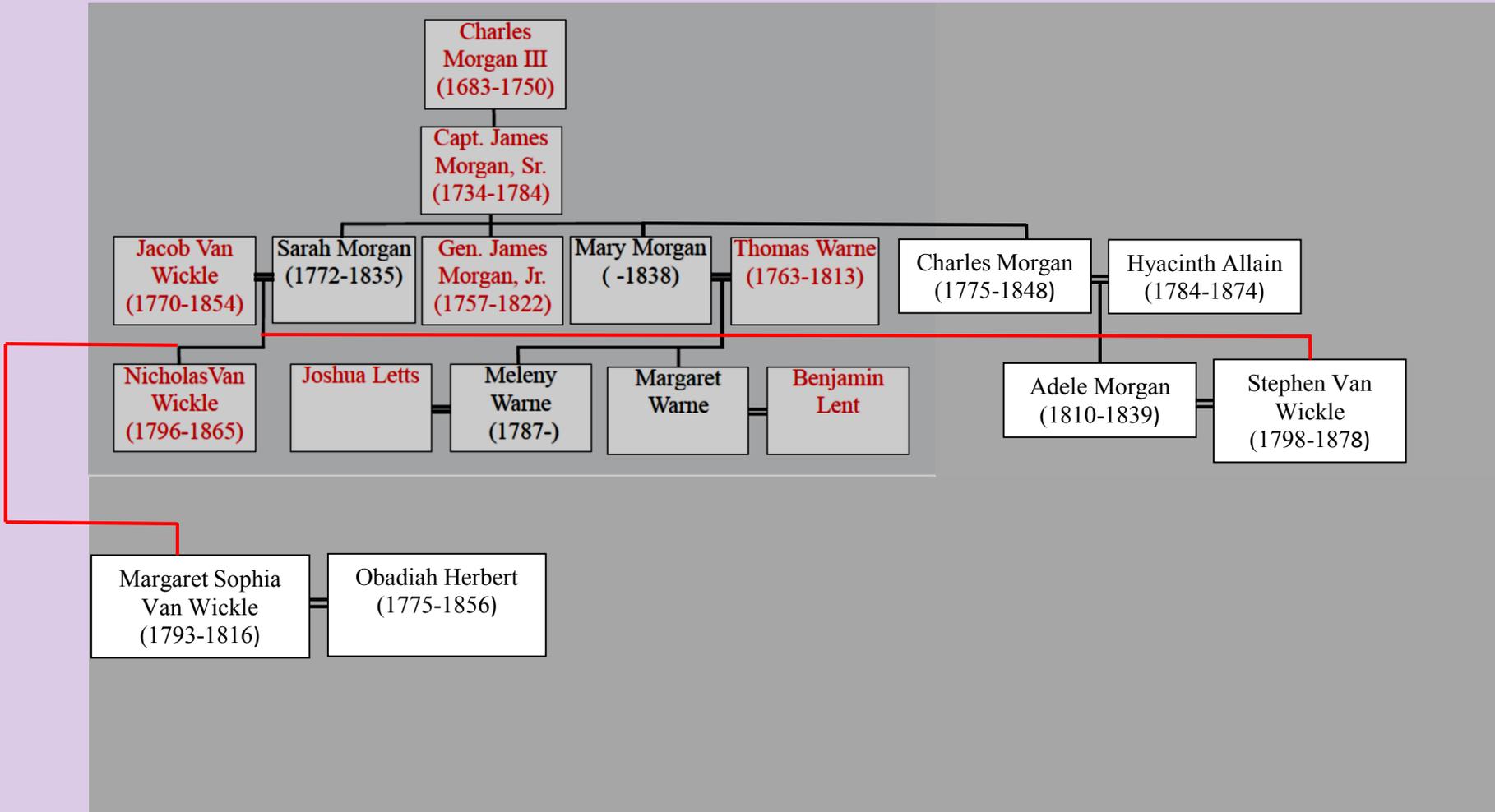
James Bennet, Robert Lee, John Fitz Randolph, Jacob Brookfield, James Compton, Joseph M Chesney, James and Joseph Stout.

The following persons were appointed to promote the election of the candidates above mentioned, and to act as a County Committee during the ensuing year, viz :

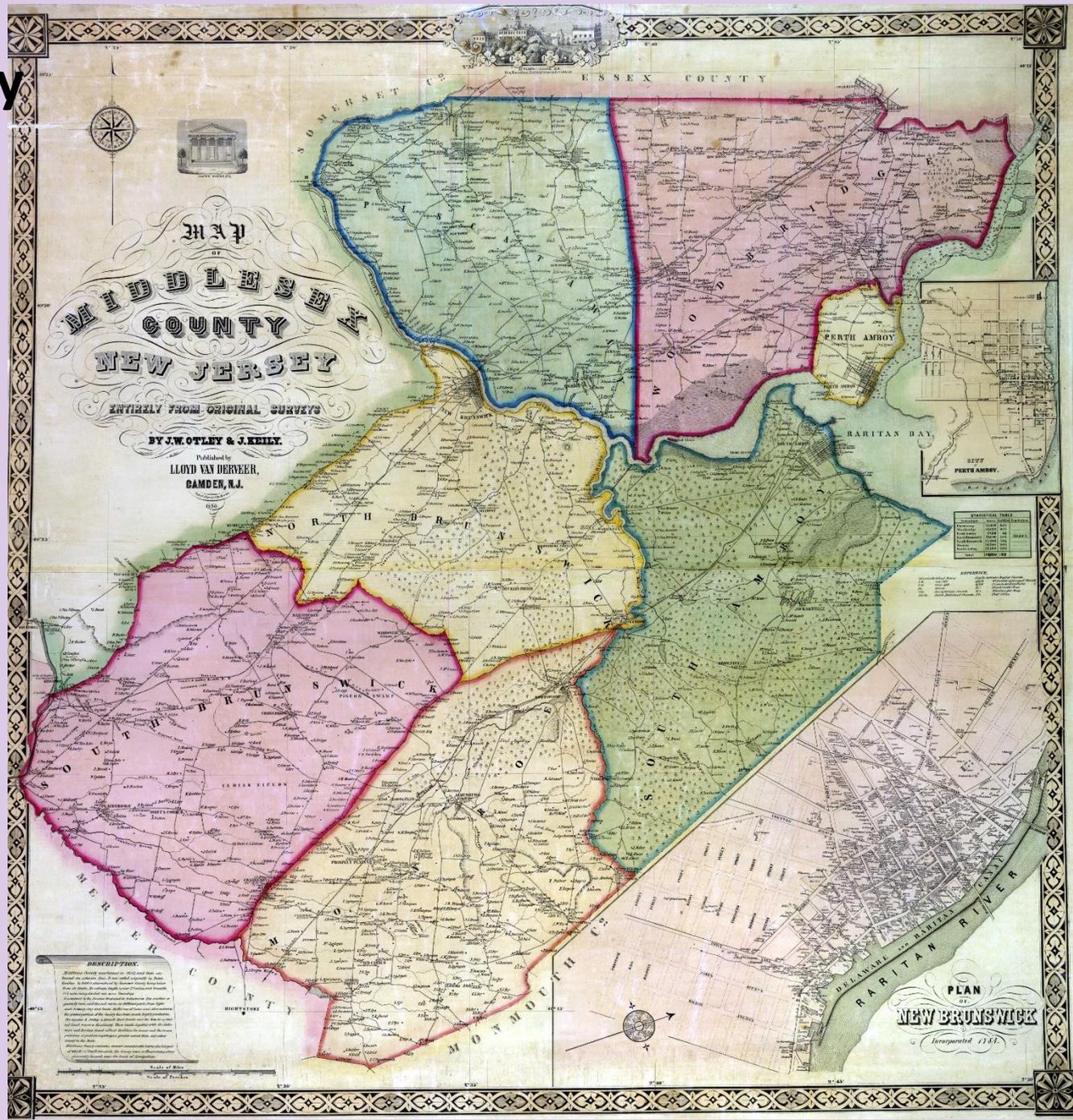
Bernard Smith, Robert Lee, and John Fitz Randolph

By order of the Convention.
JACOB VAN WICKLE, President.
BERNARD SMITH, Sec'y.

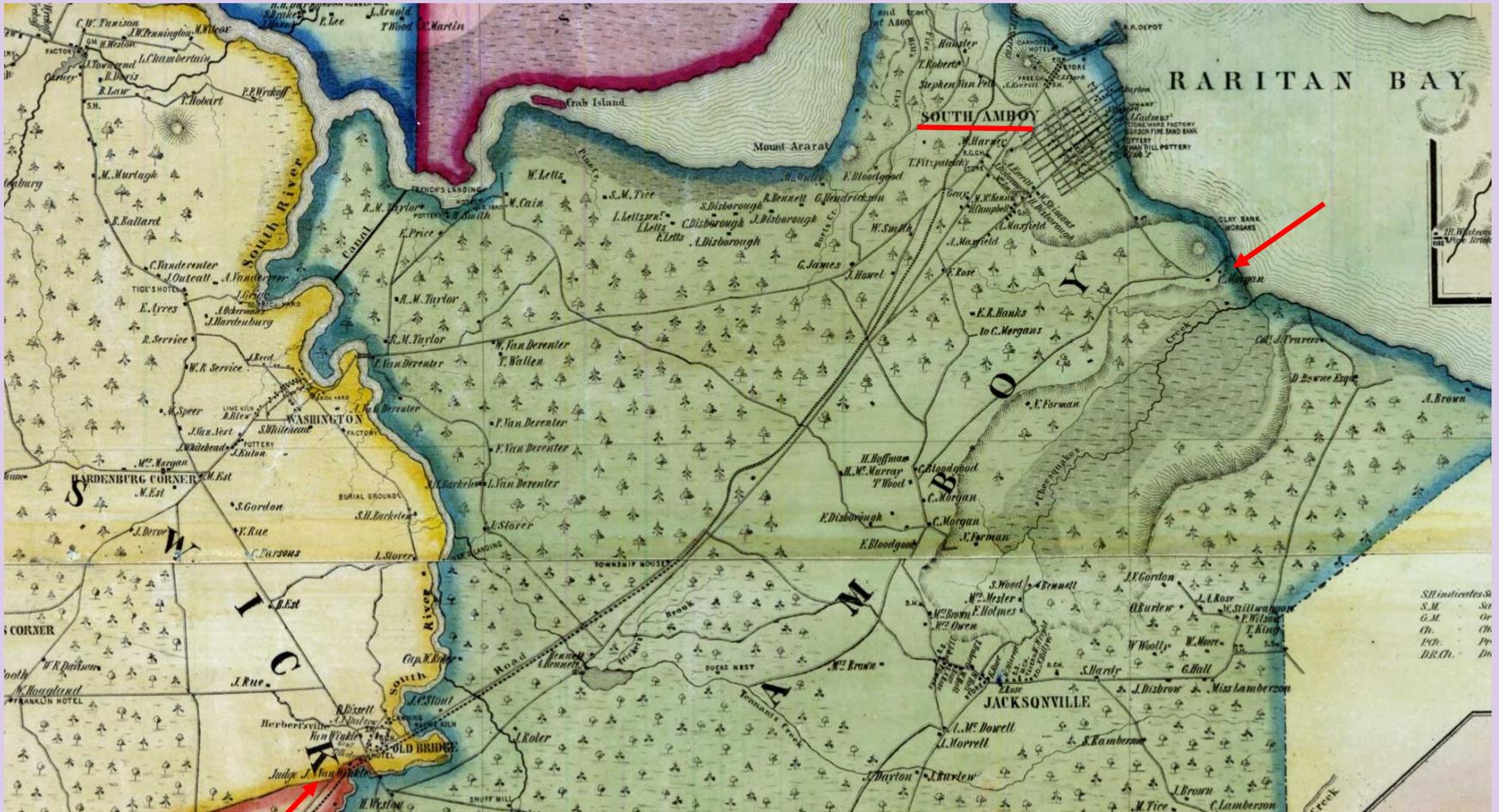
Jacob Van Wickle & Charles Morgan



Middlesex County 1850



From Old Bridge to South Amboy; Van Wickle - Morgan



The Slave Ring

Charles Morgan leaves Louisiana with \$45,000 to purchase slaves

Judge Van Wickle's 22 year-old son, Nicholas becomes the purchaser and appears before his father's court for the mandatory judicial requirement of the individual's consent.

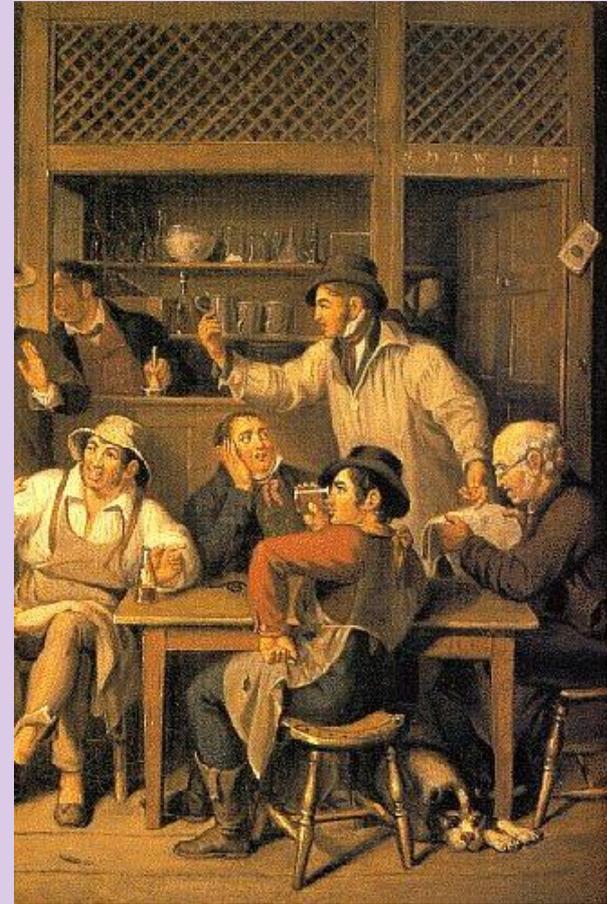
Numerous operatives spread out across New Jersey, to New York and to Pennsylvania to find, and if necessary, kidnap individuals for the Slave Ring. In June, 16 individuals were indicted for their participation in the operation.

Ultimately, three groups of African Americans are kept at Judge Van Wickle's farm in Old Bridge Village. The first set of "hearings" are held in February and March, 1818.

There is no general notice of these activities until May.

Examination at the Old Bridge Tavern

Judges Jacob Van Wickle & John Outcalt presiding



2071818	NVW	Peter	15			
2111818	Free	Simon	No age listed, a servant of Gen. James Morgan			
2111818	Free	Coven, Margaret				
2121818	NVW	Sarah*	21	Dianna		7 mo.
2261818	NVW	Rachel*	22	Regina		6 wks.
2261818	NVW	Hager*	29	Roda, Mary, Augustus		14, 2, 4
2261818	NVW	Florah*	23	Susan		7 mo.
2271818	NVW	Harvey (Harry)	14			
2271818	NVW	James	21			
2271818	NVW	Elmirah	14			
2271818	NVW	George	16			
2271818	NVW	Watt, Susan	35			
2271818	NVW	Moses	16			
3091818	NVW	Lidia	18			
3091818	NVW	Betty	22			
3091818	NVW	Pat (f)	22			
3091818	NVW	Bass (m)	19			
3091818	NVW	Christeen*	27	Diannah, Dorcas		9, 1
3091818	NVW	Claresse*	22	Hercules		2
3101818	NVW	Lidia*	22	Harriett Jane		3

1818 CALENDAR

February						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Date of departure

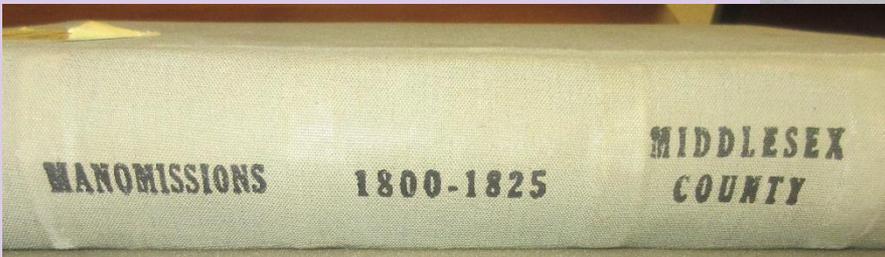
15 adults, 6 teenagers, 9 children Total 30

See arrival in New Orleans for discrepancy.

Removal
Certificate
Sams

92.50

State of New Jersey }
Middlesex County } Ps: Be it remembered that on
this twenty seventh day of
February in the year of our
Lord one thousand eight hundred and
eighteen Nicholas VanWinkle Jr. of the County
of Middlesex in New Jersey, brought
before us Jacob VanWinkle and John
Outcatt Esquires, two of the Judges of the
Court of Common Pleas of the County
and State aforesaid, his Male slave,
named Sams aged twenty one years
and the said Sams being by us
examined separate and apart from



from the first day of May next. -
In testimony whereof, we have hereunto
set our hands, the day and year first
above written. -

J. VanWinkle }
Jr. } Judges
M. Outcatt }
3

Received June 15th 1818 recorder the
name Nicholas VanWinkle is erased before the name Samuel
Gordon. -
Deare C. B

“On February 10, James Brown of Middlesex County Borough brought before us, Jacob Van Wickle and John Outcalt, two of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas... his female servant named Harriet, aged three years, four months and twenty-eight days, child of Lidia, and on the 26th day of February...Nicholas Van Wickle...brought before us...his female child named Susan, aged seven months child of Flora; and Mary aged 2 years and Augustus, a male child aged 4 years and the said Mary and Augustus, children of Hager and Rosinah aged 6 weeks, child of Rachel – and the 12th day of February, Dianah aged 7 months, child of Sarah and on the 9th day of March, Hercules a male child of Clarissa, aged 2 years 10 months and 7 days – and Dianah aged 9 years and Dorcas aged 1 year, children of Christeen – all of which children above named as far as they could answer being with their respective mothers by us privately examined, separate and apart from their said masters, declared their willingness and the said respective mothers declared their desire that they and their children should with them remove and go out of this State to Point Coupee in the State of Louisiana and there to serve Charles Morgan and Nicholas Van Wickle.”





Slaves brought off the slave ship to market



Arrival in New Orleans

Early May, 1818

Almost a two month passage

We are, however, much indebted to the enterprising and successful exertion of Mr. Charles Morgan, for the copiousness of the present supply, which, with the aid of three or four hundred that have been seized by general Jackson's officers at Mobile, will probably suffice for the next crop.

Jersey negroes appear to be peculiarly adapted to this market—especially those who bear the mark of judge Vanwickle as it is understood that they afford the best opportunity for speculation. We have a right to calculate on large importations in future, from the success which has hitherto attended the trade.

New Orleans Chronicle, July 14, 1818

From the Newark Messenger.

Mr. WARD,

Sir—The following is an extract of a letter now in my possession, received from a respectable gentleman in New-Orleans, dated 10th May, 1818, and which you are at liberty to publish in your paper with such introductory remarks as you may think proper.

"A few days ago was seized in this port by the officers of the customs, the brig Mary Ann, Wm. Lee master, from New-York, via Perth Amboy, for having on board thirty-six persons of color, without a manifest, &c. according to law. The names of the blacks are;

Susan, Peter, Moses, Harry, James, Bob, George, Simon, Rosanna, Elmira, Gloss, Betty, Boss, Lydia, and Patty, Clariss, and child. Hercules, Rachell, Ann and child Rosino, Flora and child Susan, Jenette (or Jane,) Lydia Ann and child Harriet, Jane, Hager and two children Mary and Charles. Christiana and two children Elias & Robert, Margaret, Cowan, Sarah and child Diana.

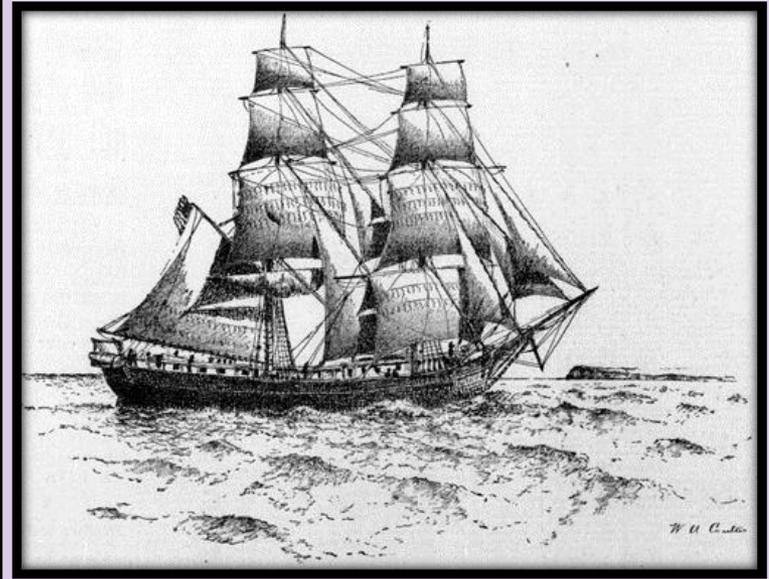
These blacks it is understood, were bro't from Amboy by a certain Charles Morgan, and put on board the brig after she had got to sea, and they appear by papers exhibited by the parties claimant here, to have passed through certain formalities before one Judge Van Wickle. The list furnished by the captain disagrees grossly with the truth as to their ages. Some, who from inspection, are evidently not more than 14 or 15, being put down as of 25."

36 individuals

Children's names do not match. Example: Dianah & Dorcas, daughters of Hager, are not listed. Did they die enroute to New Orleans?

Arrivals of American Slaves to the Port of New Orleans as of July 14, 1818

A brig



36 in the brig <u>Mary-Ann,</u>	}	from the states
30 in the sloop <u>Thorn,</u>		
97 in the ship Virgin,		
19 in the schooner Sea,		
17 in the schooner Fame,		
34 in the brig Venus,		
58 in the brig Franklin,		
37 in the schooner Hum- ming-bird,		

A sloop





MAP
OF THE PARISHES OF
POINTE COUPEE,
WEST BATON ROUGE
IBERVILLE
INCLUDING PARTS OF THE PARISHES OF
ST MARTINS AND ASCENSION
LOUISIANA
AS TAKEN COMPLETELY FROM THE LATEST AND MOST ACCURATE
UNITED STATES SURVEYS
THE RECORDS OF THE FEDERAL AND STATE LAND OFFICES, THE FILES
OF THE SURVEYAL RECORDS OFFICE, THE TITLES OF THE LANDS,
PROCEEDINGS BEFORE LAND OFFICERS, AND ALL
OTHER AVAILABLE AUTHENTIC SOURCES
AS ESTABLISHED



Morganza at Pointe Coupee

Sugar Cane along the Mississippi

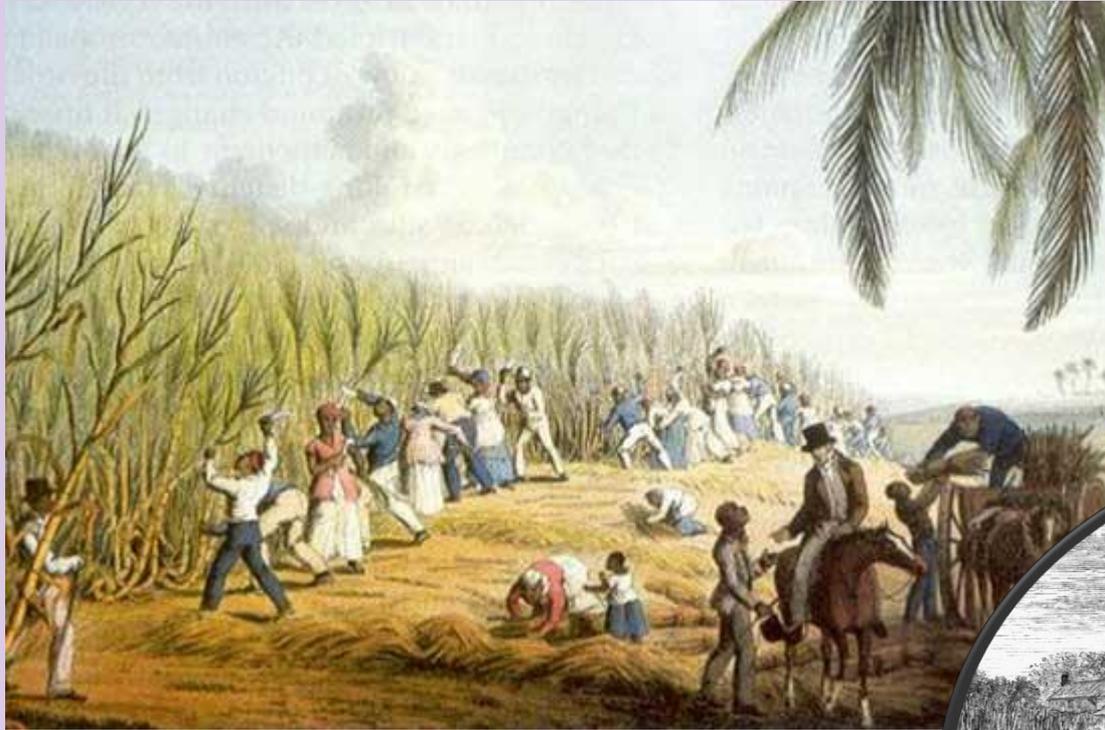
Second Group – Sold to Charles Morgan

3281818	NVW	Leta	21							March						
3281818	NVW	Dorcus	16							Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3311818	NVW	Sam Johnson	32							1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3311818	NVW	Margaret	21							8	9	10	11	12	13	14
4221818	NVW	Jane	25	John		4 yr.				15	16	17	18	19	20	21
4221818	NVW	Davis, Mary	23							22	23	24	25	26	27	28
4221818	NVW	Phillis	25	Charles		1 yr.				29	30	31				
4221818	NVW	Jack	16							April						
4221818	NVW	Harvey	22							Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4221818	NVW	Elizer (f)	19										1	2	3	4
4221818	NVW	Frank	21							5	6	7	8	9	10	11
4221818	NVW	Hester	18							12	13	14	15	16	17	18
4221818	LC	Peter	21							19	20	21	22	23	24	25
4221818	NVW	Silvey (f)	30	Jacob		18 mo.				26	27	28	29	30		
4291818	LC	Betsey	22													
4291818	Garret Story	Jonas	16	servant						May						
4291818	PFH	Sam	16							Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4291818	LC	William	22												1	2
5151818	NVW	Henry	21							3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5151818	NVW	Amey	22							10	11	12	13	14	15	16
5151818	PFH	Juda (f)	26	Samuel		2 yr.				17	18	19	20	21	22	23
5151818	LC	James	22							24	25	26	27	28	29	30
5201818	PFH	Sam	32							31						
5201818	LC	George	18													
5201818	LC	Hannah	16													
5211818	DFL	Nancy	22	son		2 days										
5221818	Sml Gordon	Peter	17	servant												
5231818	LC	Hannah	14													
5231818	LC	Jack	21													

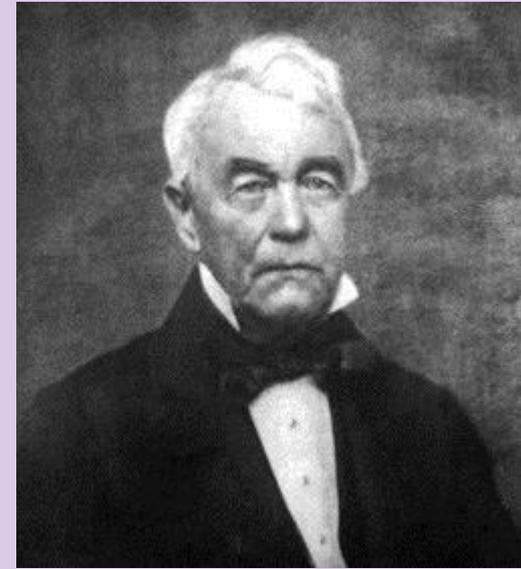
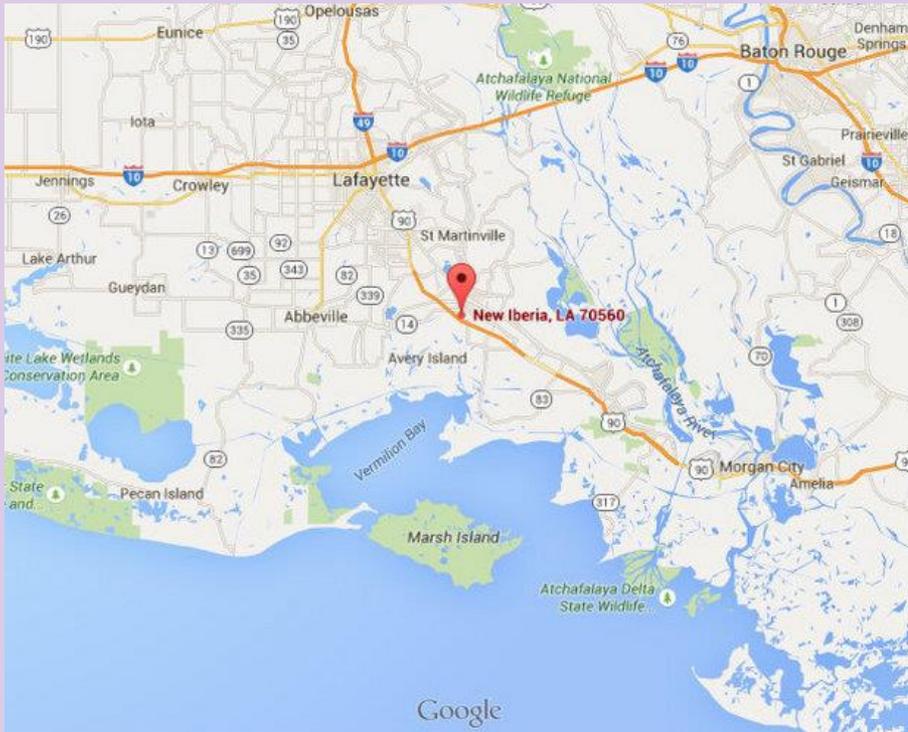
Date of departure

When the Philadelphia runaway was rescued

Sugar Plantations – Worst Type of Field Work



John Craig Marsh & Petite Anse (Avery Island)



John Craig Marsh, photograph (ca. 1855)



1810

Third Group – Sent to Petite Anse Sugar Plantation

10061818	LC	George	35		To New Iberia, LA to serve William Stone
10061818	LC	Cain	22		To New Iberia, LA to serve William Stone
10061818	LC	Frank	21		To New Iberia, LA to serve William Stone
10151818	LC	Jack	22		[To New Iberia] LA
10151818	LC	Lewis	22		To New Iberia, LA
10151818	LC	Elijah	31		To Palmira, MS; to serve Allen Reynolds
10151818	LC	Mary	27		To Palmira, MS; to serve Allen Reynolds
10151818	LC	Law	21	servant	To Allen Reynolds, MS, as a servant for 6 years.
10151818	LC	Phebe	21		To Palmira, MS; to serve Allen Reynolds
10151818	Lewis Abrams	Susan	23		To Palmira, MS; to serve Allen Reynolds
10211818	LC	Charles	43		To New Iberia, LA
10211818	LC	Petes (f)	14		To New Iberia, LA to serve William Stone
10211818	Lewis Abrams	Jane	23		To New Iberia, LA to serve William Stone

October						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

The following individuals were recorded as purchased by Wm. Stone, of New Jersey, acting as agent for Charles Marsh of Petite Anse. Four additional people were acquired by Charles Marsh from the NY/NJ area in 1822. By 1826, his plantation at Petite Anse had 29 slaves, almost all of whom came from New Jersey and New York.
(Italic – indentured servants sold into slavery in LA)

Ann Moore, indentured servant from NY, acquired by Stone 8/28/1818

Susan Jackson, ditto

Eliza Thompson, ditto

Betsy Carpenter, ditto

Mary Harris, ditto

Margaret Boss, ditto, 9/22/1818

Joseph Hendrickson, possibly of NJ, 10/23/1818

Robert Cook, indentured servant from NY, 1818

William McClane, ditto, 2/22/1818

George, 16; from Martha Phillips, Sussex Co., NJ to Charles Marsh, 7/18/1818

Hannah; from Abraham Van Cleve to Wm. Rayburg (Stone's agent)

Han, 21; from John Pettit, Sussex Co., NJ to Lewis Compton 7/29/1818

Will, 21; ditto

Samuel Jackson, 18; from Josiah Hornblower, Bergen Co., NJ to Wm. Stone 7/28/1818

Frank, 21; Middlesex Co., NJ to Wm. Stone, 10/6/1818 **[VanWickle 10/6/1818]**

Lewis, 22; Daniel P. Polhemus, Middlesex Co., NJ to Lewis Compton 10/12/1818 to Wm. Stone 10/22/1818 **[Van Wickle 10/15/1818]**

Jack, 22; Joseph Scott, Essex Co., NJ to Lewis Compton 10/15/1818 to Wm. Stone 10/22/1818 **[VanWickle 10/15/1818]**

Susan, 23; Lewis Abrams, Middlesex Co., NJ to William Stone 10/16/1818 **[Van Wickle 10/15/1818]**

Cain, 22; from John G. Smock, Middlesex Co., NJ to Wm. Stone 10/16/1818 **[Van Wickle 10/6/1818]**

Jane, 23; Lewis Abrams, Middlesex Co., NJ to William Stone 10/21/1818 **[Van Wickle 10/21/1818]**

Peter; Middlesex Co., NJ to William Stone

George, 35; Lewis Compton **[Van Wickle 10/6/1818]**

Charles, 43; Lewis Compton **[Van Wickle 10/21/1818]**

Petes (female), 14; Lewis Compton **[Van Wickle 10/21/1818]**

Public Outrage Leads to Efforts to End Kidnapping

TRENTON FEDERALIST.

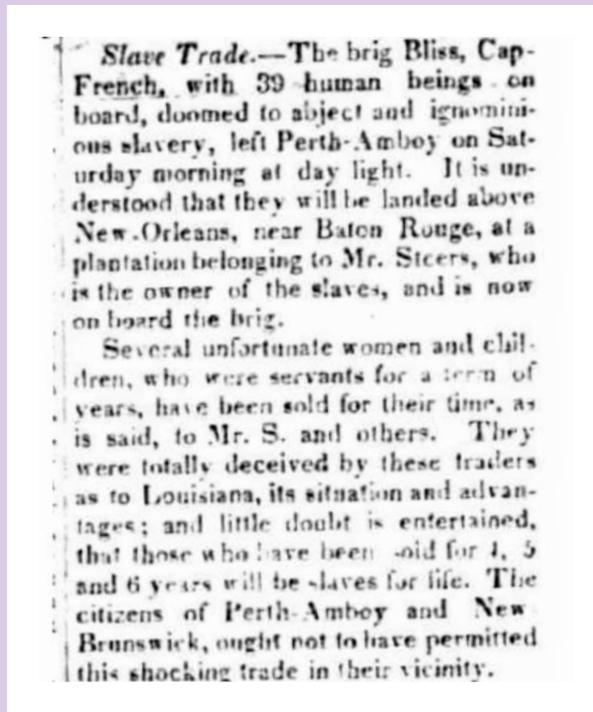
JUNE 1, 1818.

The Kidnappers—Since the South-River establishment in this State, was made known by the Philadelphia newspapers, some measures have been taken to ascertain further particulars in regard to this iniquitous business. The trade of buying up negroes for the southern market, it seems, has been carrying on for some time by certain persons in this state. Whether by force or deception, those concerned in the business, have been enabled to obtain the assent of the blacks to be transported out of the state, is not yet ascertained. In some cases they have procured such assent, before certain magistrates, as will probably shield them from the penalty of the law.—In others they have probably disregarded every form and stand liable to punishment. It is rumoured that they travel about and buy up all they can procure at very high prices—that they give as much for such as are only bound to serve for a term of years as for those who are sold for life. It is even said that they have had the address to hire free people of colour to go with them to the Southward for a certain time, under a promise of high wages, good treatment, and safe return. The reports all concur that *Morgan's* house at South-River, is the principal depot. Sundry other persons are named as active agents in the business—but there may be mistakes. It is probable ere long, that the records of the Supreme Court, will show who are really concerned in this abominable traffic.

Timeline

- May 16 Philadelphia runaway boy retrieved from Judge Van Wickle's farm
- May 22 First public notice of Van Wickle's slave ring appears in Philadelphia paper & reprinted
- May 25 Second group of victims are taken to South Amboy and board the sloop, *Thorn*
- June 1 Trenton Federalist updates the Kidnapping Ring situation with names and further details
- June 2 Judge Van Wickle subpoenaed in State vs. Peter F. Hendry
- June 2 Grand Jury indictments against Charles Morgan & Nicholas Van Wickle and other accomplices
- June 9 New Brunswick Fredonian reports Van Wickle ill over controversy
- June 24 Lewis Compton caught trying to export four New Jersey slaves illegally
- June 29 New Jersey papers reprint New Orleans article of May 10th
- July 10 Second group arrives at New Orleans 34 people were processed by Van Wickle; 30 arrive
- July 14 New Orleans paper: Charles Morgan protests his innocence against kidnapping accusation
- July 18 – 29 Compton buys servant contracts in New York and keeps them at Van Wickle's – no judicial review required
- July 30 Lewis Compton reported in paper as arrested for trying to send slaves & servants out of state
- July 30 Court in Elizabeth, NJ finds Compton & associates guilty
- July 30 First meeting of the Middlesex County Association for the Prevention of Kidnapping, held in Rahway
- August 1 Compton & associates ship 39 additional victims
- August 3 Trenton Federalist reports on Elizabeth court of July 30
- August 6 New Brunswick Fredonian briefly reports on case against Capt. Lee in the New Orleans matter
- August 6 New Brunswick Times reprints Morgan's letter which stated he relied on Stockton's & Deare's advice
- August 10 Second meeting of the Association for the Prevention of Kidnapping, held in New Brunswick
- August 10 Trenton Federalist reports on July 14 New Orleans account of numerous interstate slave ship arrivals
- August 13 New Brunswick Fredonian runs Van Wickle's rebuttal with supporting affidavits
- August 20 New Brunswick Times prints rebuttal editorial against Morgan's letter
- August 27 New Brunswick Times prints rebuttal letters from Stockton & Deare against Morgan's assertions

- September Middlesex County Court: Compton posts surety money for his future court appearance
- Sept. 3 New Brunswick Times prints front page editorial to support efforts to suppress kidnapping
- Sept. 7 Trenton True American reports that Van Wickle is “so sick” over the matter
- Sept. 18 Middlesex County Court: Judge Van Wickle misses the entire Quarterly Session
- Sept. 18 Middlesex County Court: James & Elsey Morgan & others are subpoenaed
- Oct. 6 – 22 Third group of African Americans processed by Judge Van Wickle for Compton (agent for Marsh)
- Oct. 25 Compton and associates attempt to take victims through Pennsylvania by land and are arrested
- Oct. 27 1st sitting of 43rd New Jersey General Assembly; Middlesex County petition reported
- Oct. 29-31 Additional petitions received from Middlesex, Somerset & Essex county groups
- Oct. 31 *An Act to Prohibit the Exportation of Slaves or Servants of Color out of New Jersey* is introduced
- Nov. 3 Bill is taken up, amended and voted on. It passes unanimously.
- Nov. 5 New Jersey Assembly petitions Congress to end the illegal interstate slave trade
- Nov. 5 United States government sells Africans taken from an illegal slave traders from the coast of Africa



Middlesex ss. The State of New-Jersey. To *Jacob Van Wickle*

W. Myer, Printer.

John Young & John Brewster GREETING:
WE command you, that laying aside all other business, and notwithstanding

an *excuse*, you *each of you* be in your proper person before our

Justices assigned to keep our peace in and for our county of *Middlesex*

and also to hear and determine diverse felonies, trespasses, and other misdeeds and offences in our

said county committed, at our Court of *Queen's Term* at *New Brunswick* and *John Belway* at

day of *December* next, at *Eleven* - o'clock in the forenoon of that day,

to testify on our behalf those things which you know touching a certain *misdeemeanor*

committed by *Peter H. Hendry*

whereof *he* stands indicted, as appears to us of record: And this you *each of you* may in no wise omit, under the penalty of one hundred pounds

WITNESS *Andrew*

Keith Patrick Esquire, presiding Justice of our said Court, at *New Brunswick*

the *second* - Tuesday in *June* in the year of our Lord one

thousand, eight hundred and *eighteen*

Chetwood Attorney for State.

Seale Clerk.

Subpoena issued to Jacob Van Wickle

From the *New-Brunswick Freeman*.
JACOB VAN WICKLE, Esq. who has been strongly censured in certain publications for alleged mal-conduct relative to the purchase and sending out of the state of certain blacks, requests us to state, that he is preparing for the press documents which he trusts will be considered a conclusive refutation of the statements in question, and complete vindication of his character.
June 9 1818, Newark Centinal of Freedom

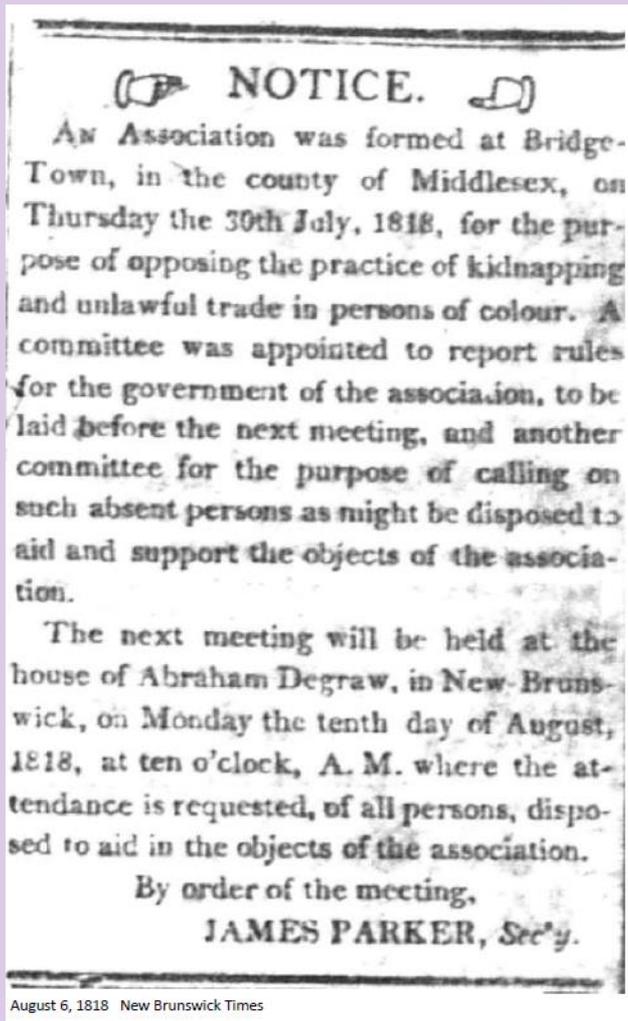
Outrage leads to new law

To the Council and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey –

The Subscribers, Inhabitants of the County of Middlesex, beg leave respectfully to call the attention of the Legislature to the condition of the People of Colour, Inhabitants of this State and to a Revision of the Laws enacted for their protection & gradual Emancipation from Slavery. By an act of the Legislature passed the 15th February 1804 it is enacted that every Child born of a Slave within this State after the fourth Day of July thence next Shall be free, but Subject to Service for a limited time as an apprentice –

A time however has arrived, never contemplated by the people of this State when the restraints imposed by the Legislature are insufficient to guard against the proceeding of persons whose thirst for Gain disregards the Laws of God and Man.

The High price of produce of the Southern States - The prohibition by the United States of the Slave Trade from Africa – The great Amount a human being will sell for in the publick markets of the South – has produced a slave Trade within the United States now in operation to an Extent which no one would have believed could exist in a Country boasting of its civic & Religious Liberty from this State without including those taken away by land and clandestinely -



Part III

Family Connections – Survival, Continuity & Family Roots

Written Records

DNA

Oral Tradition

Petite Anse – now Avery Island

Extensive study of the enslaved population of Petite Anse, published in Sweet Chariot by Ann Patton Malone, 1992.

“Some of the laborers brought to Petite Anse from New Jersey and New York...founded major kinship groups with lines extending until 1860, [generally resulting with unions of nonmigration slaves.]”

- Peter bought as a boy age 11 or 12 in NJ in 1818
- Living alone at age 21 in 1826
- In 1827, married 18 year old, Mary, bought from a New Orleans slave dealer
- By 1836, they had five children: John, Mary, Ann, Jerry, Margaret & Peter, Jr.
- 1854, the household consisted of the family, plus three more children, Henrietta, Dave and Jane, and a two-year old grandchild, Catherine, the daughter of Mary Ann.
- 1860, Peter & Milly recorded as a married couple, with most of their children and their respective spouses, listed directly after them. By this time, the grandfather was called “Old Pete”, aged about 54.

**1870 Census of Black & Mulatto Residents of the South
Born in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania between 1790 - 1810**

		NJ	NY	PA	Totals
Virginia	Black Mul.	1	4	5	10
North Carolina	Black Mul.		2	1	2 1
South Carolina	Black Mul.	1	3 1	1 1	5 2
Georgia	Black Mul.	2	3 2	5	10 2
Florida	Black Mul.	1	1 1	3	5 1
Alabama	Black Mul.		1 1	5 1	6 2
Miss.	Black Mul.	1	5 1	13 2	19 3
LA	Black Mul.		11 2	13 7	24 9
Arkansas	Black Mul.			2	2
Texas	Black Mul.	1	1 1	5	7 1
Tennessee	Black Mul.		3 1	5	8 1
Kentucky	Black Mul.	1 3	6 6	9 6	16 15
Missouri	Black Mul.		2 1	4 2	6 3
Totals		13	57	81	151

151 total
 Mississippi 22/151 15%
 Louisiana 33/151 22% } 37%

31/151 21%

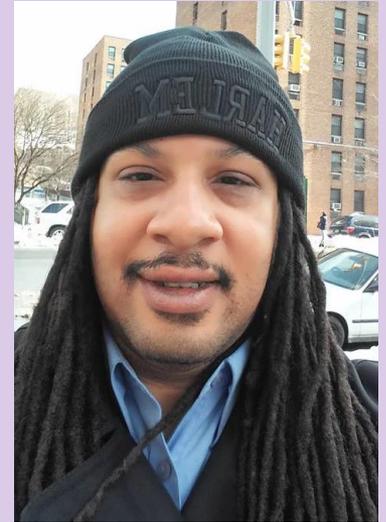
DNA – a New Tool for Finding Ancestors & Relatives

Unique Population Markers: Malagasy & New Jersey Native American



Teresa Vega is a professional genealogist of varied descent, including slaves brought to America from Madagascar. Her DNA test revealed a family member from Mississippi, related within the last 125 years.

Rhoda Johnson.



TL Dixon has a cousin in LA with both Malagasy & Native American Ancestry matching back to NJ-NY area. His relative lives in Vermillion Parish, next to Avery Island.

Family Tree DNA (Genie by Genie, Ltd.)

mtDNA - Ancestral Origins

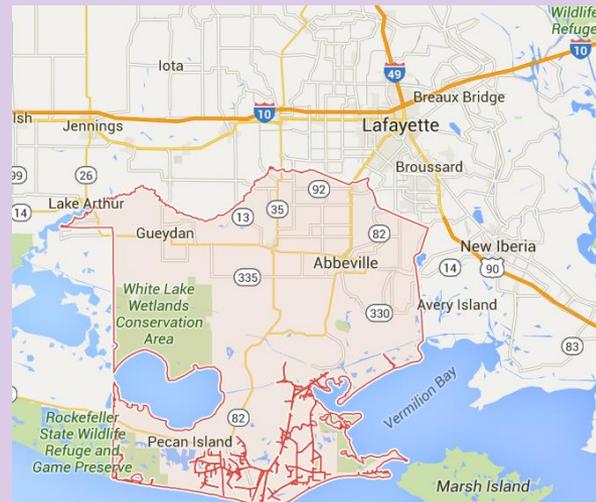
HVR1 MATCHES				
Country	Match Total	Country Total	Percentage	Comment
Canada	1	1,105	0.1%	
Madagascar	1	14	N/A	
Morocco	1	255	0.4%	
South Africa	3	191	1.6%	
United States (Native American)	1	3,519	< 0.1 %	

HVR1 AND HVR2 MATCHES				
Country	Match Total	Country Total	Percentage	Comment
Madagascar	1	11	N/A	

HVR1, HVR2, AND CODING REGION MATCHES

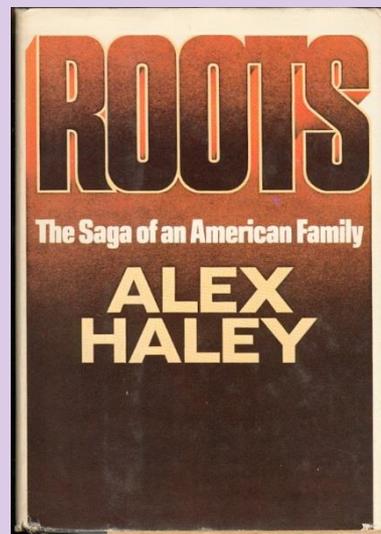
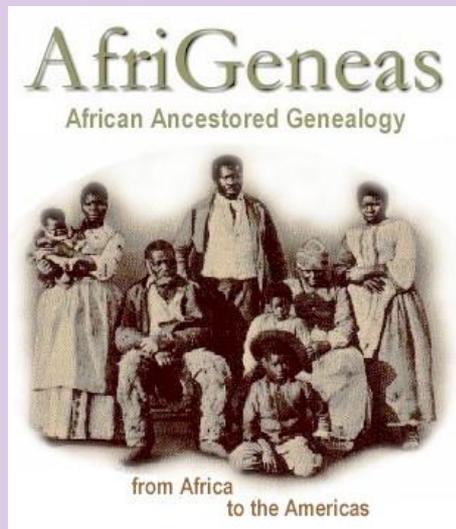
EXACT MATCH				
Country	Match Total	Country Total	Percentage	Comments
Madagascar	1	8	N/A	

GENETIC DISTANCE - 1				
Country	Match Total	Country Total	Percentage	Comments
Canada	1	634	0.2%	
South Africa	2	116	1.7%	



Oral History

Outreach to individuals & groups in Louisiana and the South to discover family oral traditions, in the spirit of Alex Haley's *Roots*



The Stain of Slavery Remains as Long as we Ignore or Conveniently Forget how the Wanton Acts of Aggression on Individuals, Families & Communities Impacted the United States

Human Trafficking still Exists



**Education, Enlightenment & Engagement
are the Keys to Building a Better Society.**

The Van Wickle Slave Ring story has led to the ***Van Wickle Project*** – to find descendants of those ensnared by Van Wickle & his cohorts for the purpose of establishing family connections throughout the nation.

Primary Documents – DNA – Oral History

The **Van Wickle Project** is an important component of the Old Bridge Village Heritage Center, proposed for the former Alice Appleby DeVoe Library, East Brunswick.

Lessons from the past guide us for the future.



Appleby Home – ca. 1820
166 Main Street
Old Bridge National Historic District
East Brunswick, NJ

Thank You.