

Preliminary Findings of the Penn Slavery Project

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Questions We Asked

- ▶ Not quite the same questions that were being asked elsewhere
- ▶ How many owned enslaved people?
- ▶ Proximity?
- ▶ Definition of “implicated”?
- ▶ Is it possible to trace enslaved folks’ lineage?
- ▶ What were the lives of these enslaved people like?

Our Research Methods

- ▶ Read Gary Nash's *Forging Freedom*
- ▶ Visited the University Archives website
- ▶ Met with Mark Lloyd
- ▶ Utilized Ancestry Library's database of Pennsylvania Tax Records
- ▶ Visited the Historical Society of Pennsylvania Archives
- ▶ Utilized *The Pennsylvania Gazette's* Archives
- ▶ Compiled our data into a Google Spreadsheet

Trustees, by the Numbers

126 Trustees in the 18th Century

28 Closely Investigated by PSP

20 Found to have Owned Slaves

Brooke's Research Subjects

- ▶ **William Allen (1704-1780)**
 - ▶ A founder of what became Penn
 - ▶ Held numerous public offices in Philadelphia including mayor
 - ▶ Freed the people he held in bondage in his will
- ▶ **William Bingham (1752-1804)**
 - ▶ Served as a U.S. senator
 - ▶ Reputed to be the wealthiest man in America in the 1790s
 - ▶ Held enslaved people until at least 1783
- ▶ **Dr. Thomas Cadwalader (1707-1779)**
 - ▶ Father of John Cadwalader
 - ▶ Founding trustee of Penn's medical school
- ▶ **John Cadwalader (1742-1786)**
 - ▶ Formed a successful mercantile business
 - ▶ Held at least 9 enslaved people until 1782, and at least one as late as 1786

John Cadwalader

- ▶ Five different versions of his will, of which four are largely the same
- ▶ Leaves most of his enslaved people to his wife and daughters in the first four versions and all of his enslaved people in the fifth
- ▶ Frees a man named James Sampson in first four versions of the will, but there is no mention of him in the fifth version

Death, to direct a suitable Tomb-stone to be erected
over the Grave with a short Inscription.
And further my will is, that in consideration
of the faithful Services of my negro Servant James
Sampson, I do hereby set him free for ever together
with his wife Sarah—likewise his Son Tomson, &
daughter Henry & a young Child about 8 months
old—all children of a negro wench named little
Moll—all of whom I hereby declare free from
Slavery for ever. I also give & devise to my said
Servant James Sampson fifty Penna^d current
Money to be paid to him by my Executors
in twelve Months after my Death. My will
John Cadwalader

(9)
is, that James Sampson, his wife Sarah & the
Children be set free from the Time of my Death
& all proper Certificates of the same I request
my Executors to give or obtain for them if ne-
cessary—
And as I am not certain whether I hold
a share in the Library of Philadelphia, I desire
my Executors may make inquiry concerning
the same—and if I have a share in the same
I give & devise the same to my Son Thomas
Cadwalader

VanJessica's Research Subjects

- ▶ Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) (Trustee: 1749-1790)
 - ▶ Founder and Trustee
 - ▶ Tax records indicate ownership of at least 1 slave
- ▶ John Inglis (1708-1775) (Trustee: 1749-1775)
 - ▶ Founder and Trustee
 - ▶ Tax records indicate ownership of at least 8 people
 - ▶ Died before more taxes were collected
 - ▶ Unable to locate will
- ▶ Isaac Norris (1701-1766) (Trustee 1751-1755)
 - ▶ Family owned enslaved people and bequeathed them to children
 - ▶ Norris and his sister who later freed them
 - ▶ Suggested inscription for Liberty Bell (symbol for the abolition movement)
- ▶ **William Moore...**

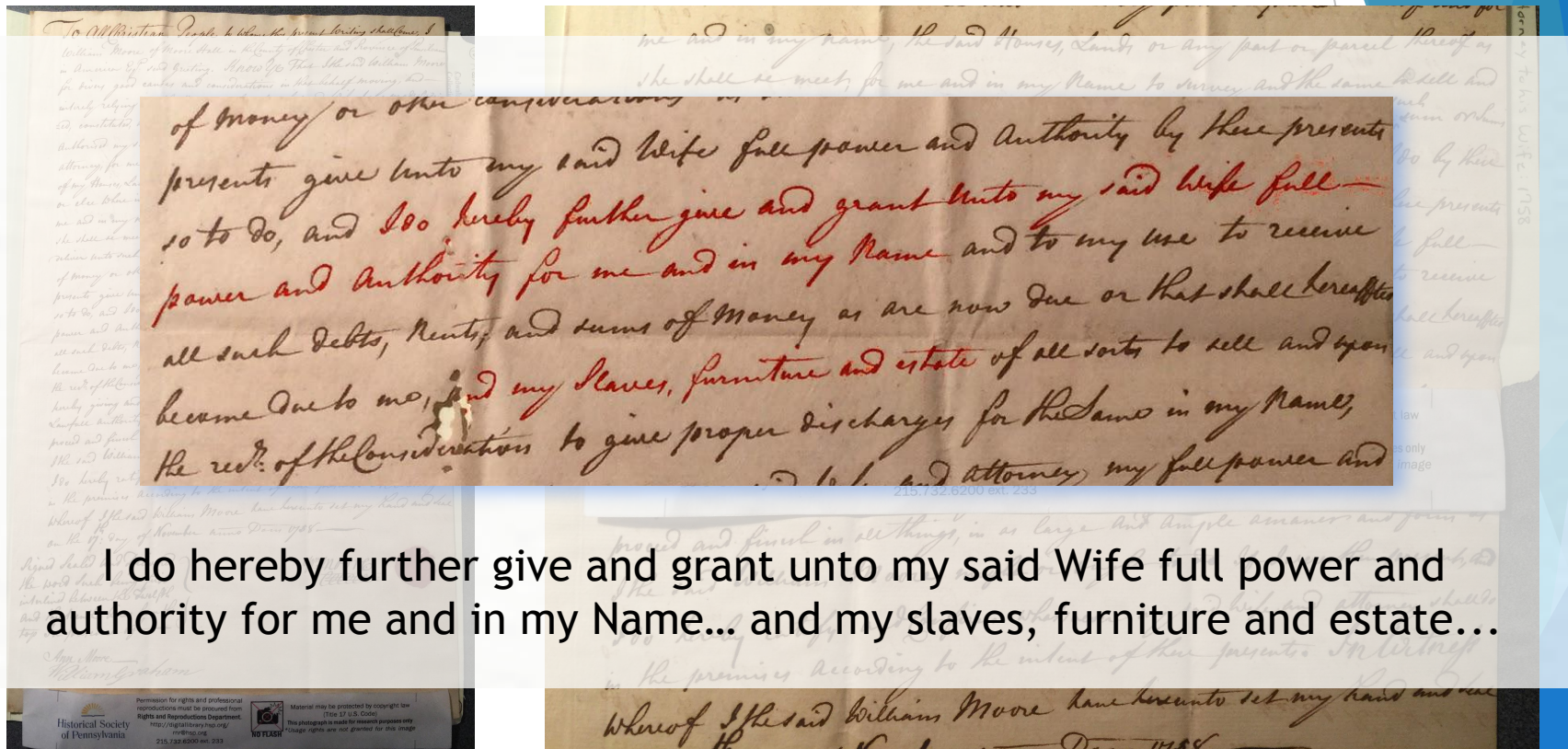
William Moore (~~1735-1793~~) (Trustee: ~~1781-1789~~)

RUN away from *William Moore* of *Moore-*
hall in *Chester County*, a likely young Negro Man
named *Jack*, speaks but indifferent English, and had on
when he went away a new ozenburg Shirt, a pair of strip'd
home-spun Breeches, a strip'd ticking Wastecoa, an old
dumity Coat, of his Master's with Buttons of Horse-teeth
set in Brass, and Cloth Sleeves, a Felt Hat almost new.
Whoever secures the said Negro, and will bring him to
his Master, or to *John Moore, Esq;* in *Philadelphia*, shall re-
ceive *Twenty Shillings* Reward and reasonable Charges.

August 10, 1730.

William Moore.

William Moore of Moore Hall



Willamina Moore of Moore Hall: Finally Free

ITEM My Will is that my three Mullatto Slaves, Solomon, George and Rachel at Moore Hall, be free as soon as the Plantations can be sold or Rented out, and the Possession thereof delivered to the Purchaser or Tenants, and that my Negro Boy Harry, be free at twenty eight Years of age, or earlier, at the discretion of my, Executrix, to whose Care I commit his Education.

My Will is that my three mullatto slaves, Solomon, George and Rachel at Moore Hall, be free... or Tenants, and that my Negro Boy, Harry, be free at twenty eight years of age

William Smith (1727-1803): First Provost

100	William Smith D, D,			
45	1 Negro, 2 Horse, 1 Cow	5	13	4
	\$25 of Fra: Stewart Blockly . . .	15	"	"
	\$27 do Auld Erwine . . . do . . .	16	4	4
	45 Acres wood Land . . . do . . .	5	"	"
	\$35 of Susana Commins Wm . . .	21	"	"
	\$50 do John Penn Esq . . . do . . .	30	"	"
	Empty House County Seat . . .	4	16	"
	Provost 4444	\$	97	13 4

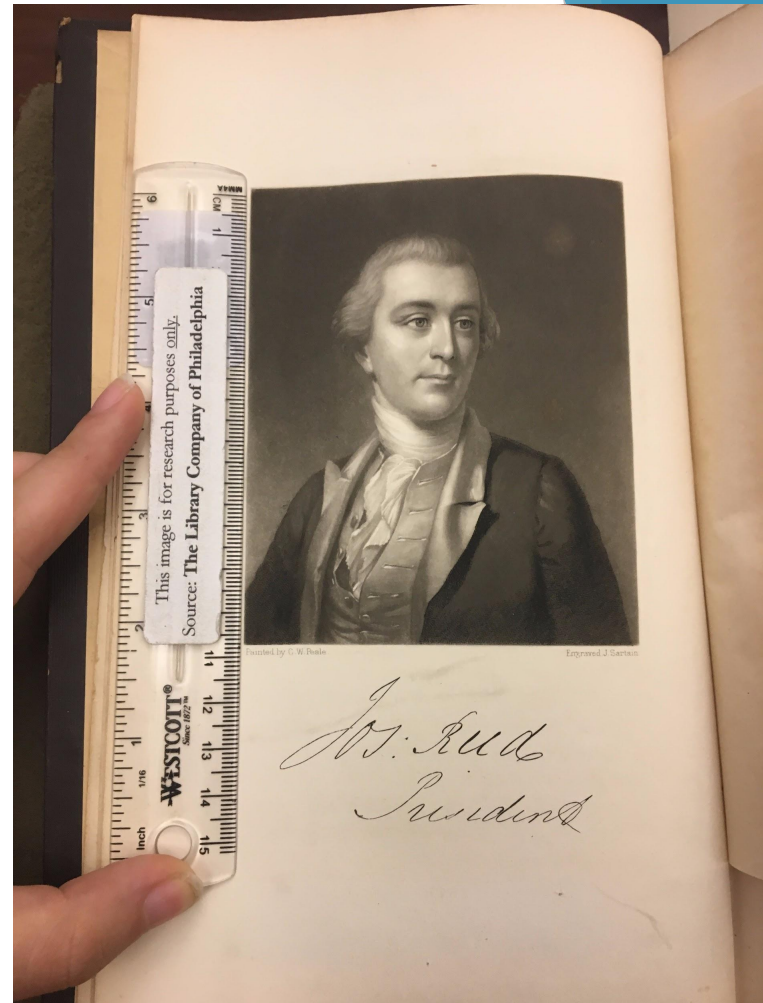
Pennsylvania Tax and Exoneration 1769

Caitlin's Research Subjects

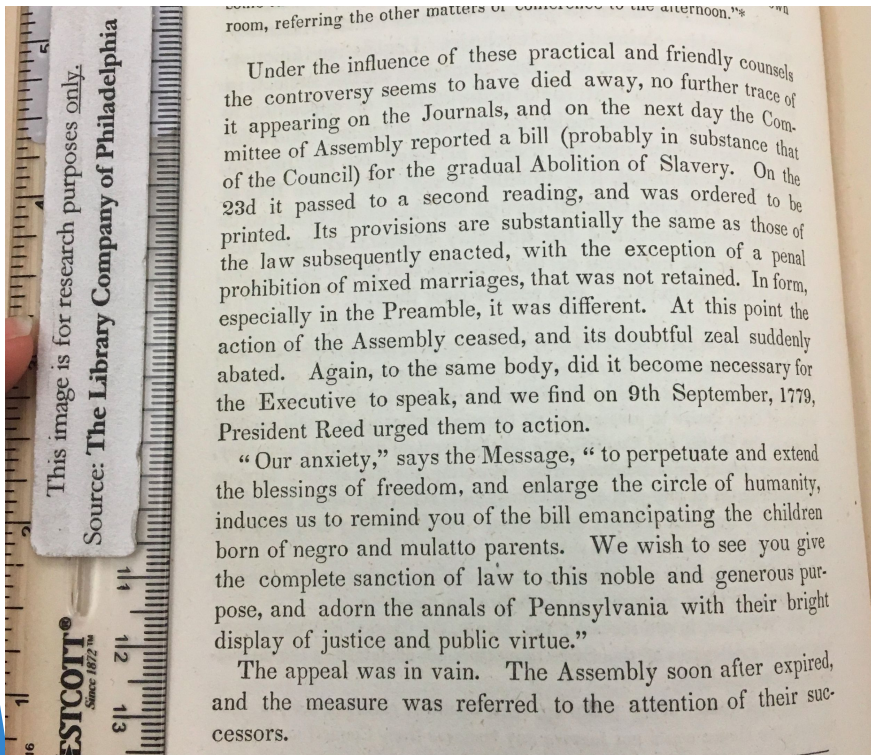
- ▶ **Benjamin Chew (1722-1810)**
 - ▶ Trustee 1757-1791
 - ▶ Very wealthy Maryland family, owned many enslaved people
 - ▶ Richard Allen
- ▶ **Thomas Willing (1731-1821)**
 - ▶ Trustee 1760-1791
 - ▶ Mayor of Philadelphia, Justice of PA Supreme Court, President of the Bank of North America
 - ▶ Three enslaved people in 1769, zero in 1782
- ▶ **Robert Morris**
 - ▶ Trustee 1778-1791
 - ▶ Merchant, Founder of the Bank of North America
 - ▶ Owned enslaved people up until 1797
- ▶ **Joseph Reed**
 - ▶ Trustee 1778-1785, President of Board of Trustees 1779-1781
 - ▶ Governor of PA

Joseph Reed

- ▶ Aide-de-camp to George Washington
- ▶ Owned one enslaved person in 1774
- ▶ Wrote the preamble of the Gradual Abolition Act



Joseph Reed



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AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY.

sonal conferences, until, on the 1st of March, 1780, the law entitled "An Act for the gradual Abolition of Slavery" was enacted, and adorns the statute-book of Pennsylvania, as the first legislative abrogation of involuntary servitude by the independent states of America; the first law enacted, in any part of Christendom, for the abolition of African slavery. A draught of the bill was communicated to the Assembly by the Executive Council, and the following preamble is believed to have been from the pen of President Reed. The fine spirit of a thoughtful and comprehensive humanity, which it breathes, has been the subject of high and deserved praise.

Dillon's Research Subjects

- ▶ James Potter (1729-1789)
 - ▶ Trustee
 - ▶ High-ranking General, Vice-President of Pennsylvania, and Frontiersman
- ▶ **Edward Tilghman Jr.** (1750-1815)
 - ▶ Trustee
 - ▶ Leading Philadelphia Lawyer
- ▶ James Tilghman (1716-1793)
 - ▶ Trustee
 - ▶ Lawyer, Secretary of the of the Land Office of Pennsylvania
- ▶ Caspar Wistar (1761-1818)
 - ▶ Trustee
 - ▶ Professor of Anatomy at Penn, President of American Philosophical Society
 - ▶ Leading abolitionist, President of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society

Edward Tilghman Jr.

- Bequeathed Whitehall Plantation in Delaware in 1772
- Sold the plantation to Benjamin Chew a few months later
- Whitehall is the only record of Tilghman Jr. owning enslaved people I have discovered so far

Edward Tilghman Jr.

List of negroes belonging to Whitehall

Name	Year	Notes
James	1748	
Chapin	1749	
Abby	1759	
Cato	1760	
Enos	1764	Whitehall
Brick	1766	
James J ^r	1777	
6 Aaron	1779	
Norm	1781	
Stephen	1791	Son of Jenny with Negro Harlow
Ben	1793	Whitehall
Rob	1796	son of Jenny
Jacob	1795	son of Man
Will	1796	son of Jack with his m ^r
Charles	1797	son of Brisselle & his m ^r
Nancy	1798	son of Jackell
Delicia	1798	daughter
Sarah J ⁿ		
Lacey	1760	
Rachel	1753	2 of her Child ⁿ with her husband John
Rachel J ⁿ	1760	4 her Child ⁿ with her husband Dennis in Dutch Neck
Brisselle	1762	4 her Children in Lab ^r Town
Man	1764	
Jenny	1777	with her husband Jonathan who is to maintain her 4 her Children
Sarah J ⁿ	1756	with her husband Jacob D & 3 her Child ⁿ
Ben	1758	with her husband James D & 2 her Child ⁿ
Ben	1779	4 her Child ⁿ with her husband Calhoun's Lane Dennis in Dutch Neck

This indenture made the Day of May in the year of our Lord 1772 Between Edw. Tilghman the younger of the City of Philadelphia eldest Son of Edward Tilghman of James town County of the Province of Maryland Esq. and Elizabeth his wife now deceased, who was one of the daughters of Samuel Chew formerly of the County of Westchester and one of the daughters of Past Gov. Benjamin Chew of the City of Philadelphia Esq. of the one part Whereas the said Samuel Chew in or about the year of our Lord 1744 did Substantiate in Fee simple Lands of a Trust or parcel of Land in Dutch Neck now called in the County of Westchester about three hundred & twenty acres called by the Name of Whitehall and Whereas in or about the year 1760 a Partition or Division of the real Estate of these which the said Samuel Chew did sever in the Year 1760 to the Order of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the said

Collection 2050
Delaware Land papers - Kent County Whitehall
Edw. Edward Tilghman to Benjamin Chew (1772)

Historical Society of Pennsylvania
web: <http://digitalibrary.hsp.org/>
email: mr@hsp.org
215-732-6200 ext. 233

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Matthew's Research Subjects

- ▶ James Logan (1674-1751)
 - ▶ Founder
 - ▶ Trustee 1749-1751
- ▶ **William Masters** (d. 1760)
 - ▶ Founder
 - ▶ Trustee 1749-1760
 - ▶ Up to 34 enslaved people, as late as May 1761
 - ▶ Signed Petition of 1741
- ▶ **William Plumsted** (1708-1765)
 - ▶ Founder
 - ▶ Trustee 1749-1765
 - ▶ Purchased an enslaved person as late as 1762
 - ▶ Signed Petition of 1741
- ▶ Charles Pettit (1736-1806)
 - ▶ Trustee 1786-1802
 - ▶ 1 female enslaved person listed in 1782 Tax and Exoneration lists

Interpretations

- ▶ Penn should publicly acknowledge their ties to slavery
- ▶ Acknowledge that the prominence and wealth of the trustees was integrally related to slavery even if they did not own enslaved people themselves (merchants, etc)
- ▶ Do something similar to what Georgetown did - atonement; find ancestors of enslaved people held by trustees, provosts, etc and give them admissions priority
- ▶ Include the results of our research on the University Archives page
- ▶ Retract its previous statement that it had nothing to do with slavery, as published in *The Philadelphia Tribune* and *The Daily Pennsylvanian*
- ▶ Need to conduct further research

Further Questions

- ▶ More about enslaved people
 - ▶ Name & Ages
 - ▶ Stories
 - ▶ Descendents
- ▶ Mapping of the original University
 - ▶ Physical proximity
- ▶ Delve deeper into explicit connections with the slave trade
 - ▶ Enslaved people sold to fund the University?

Questions & Answers...

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the frame, creating a modern, layered effect. The text 'Questions & Answers...' is centered on the left side of the white background.