

Chronology of the Slave Trade in Richmond and Virginia

- 1607-1699: Approximately 12,100 Africans imported into English mainland North America. (Eltis, 45)
- 1698-1774: White Virginians bought ca. 114,000 imported Africans at several customs ports. Bermuda Hundred was the closest such port to Richmond. Imported people were often resold elsewhere. (Kul., 65; W/G, 123; Min; O'Malley; Wal)
- 1619-1810: Approximately 453,000 Africans were imported into the Thirteen Colonies (and states). (Eltis, 45; O'Malley, 166; www.slavevoyages.org)
- 1769: One Richmond resident sold 80 slaves for a London slave trader. Sidbury, 154.
- 1775, August: Non-importation of enslaved Africans began in protest against British policies. (W/G, 22)
- 1775: Approximately 650 people lived in Richmond. (W/G, 8)
- 1775-1776: Manchester slave sale advertisements of numerous Virginia-born people appeared in the *Virginia Gazette*. Manchester was now a center of sales of enslaved Virginians to new owners. (W/G, 123)
- 1777-1782: Purchases and sales of central Virginia slaves began to concentrate in Richmond. (W/G, 123)
- 1778, October: Commonwealth of Virginia prohibited further importation of Africans. (McC, 165-67)
- 1780-1800: Richmond slave exporters mostly used ships to transport the enslaved to other markets. (Gud I, 56)
- 1782: Richmond's population was 1,031, of whom 428 were enslaved. (W/G, 8)
- 1787: Deep-South 1787 Constitutional Convention delegates to James Madison: prohibit African importation and Virginia slaves "would rise in value, and we should be obliged to go to your markets." (McC, 170)
- 1787: Richmond trader advertised for one hundred men and women to be sold out of Virginia. (McC, 164)
- 1787-1807: The "organized interregional traffic in American slaves" became established. (Tad, 12-21; Gud, II)
- 1788: First Mayo Bridge constructed; two replacements constructed by 1800. (Sidbury, 205-8)
- 1790-1830: Alexandria dominated the slave sales market in the Upper South. (Gud I, 12-13; Tad, 47-82)
- 1790-1859: More than 500,000 enslaved Virginians were moved to Deep South states. Most (300,000-350,000) were traded rather than transported by owners. (Tad, 11-46; Gud II, 18-20; Troutman; Deyle I and II)
- 1792: Virginia Governor "Light-Horse Harry" Lee reported one reason for slave rebelliousness in Norfolk and on the Eastern Shore was the "practice of severing husband, wife and children in sales." (Sch, 198)
- 1800-1850: Richmond traders relied heavily on transportation of the enslaved by foot. (Gud I, 56-58)
- 1801: Nine men convicted of conspiracy to rebel were transported out of the U.S., rather than hanged. Eger, 112-13, 149-62; Sch I; Sch, II.
- 1808, January 1: U.S. prohibited importation of Africans. British abolition occurred the same year.
- 1837-1840: Panic of 1837 damaged the slave trade; the business recovered in the 1840s. (Gud I, 84-85, 101-102)
- 1840: Richmond began to require slave trader licenses, reflecting increasing number of such dealers. These traders became cohort of professional experts concerning the sale of human beings. (Gud I, 29-30; Johnson)
- 1840s-1860s: Richmond dominated export of enslaved Virginians partly because of railroads. (Gud I, 35-36, 106)
- 1841, October 25: The ship *Creole* left Richmond, ca. 102 enslaved people on board, many shipped by Robert Lumpkin. These and others were bound for the New Orleans slave market. November 7, Madison Washington and other men took over the vessel, severely wounded the captain and killed a passenger—two of the enslaved were killed—then forced a stop at Nassau, the Bahamas. Almost all escaped or were released by British authorities. (*Sen. Doc.* 51; Jones; Troutman II)
- 1846-1849: R. H. Dickinson & Bro., a Richmond company, sold about 2,000 people a year. (Tadman, 64)
- 1850-1860: Richmond traders relied heavily on rail transportation of the enslaved. (Gud I, 58-60; Gud II, 22-26)
- 1852: Richmond levied taxes on slave-pen owners. (Gud I, 30)
- 1857: The *Richmond Enquirer* estimated that 1857 receipts for Richmond slave sale auctions totaled \$3,500,000. Another newspaper raised this estimate to \$4,000,000. (Gud I, 107; Tadman, 63)
- 1860: Fifteen slave-trade companies, nineteen auctioneers, and fifteen "general and collecting agents" operated in Richmond. (Gud I, 123-24)
- 1862: Silas Omohundro turned his slave jail into a boarding house. (Gud I, 120)
- 1867: Robert Lumpkin's jail became a school for the formerly enslaved. (Corey, *Negro in Virginia*, 293-94.)

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