

Handout for St. Philip's, 5 November 2024
The Rev. Rhonda M. Lee, PhD

Excerpt from John Stark Ravenscroft accounts, March 1828

(The names or descriptions of the enslaved persons sold are given first, then the name of the buyer, then the price received.)

“...1 cutting machine [to] Dr. Alex Field \$1.37
Negro boy, John, to John F. Finch \$207.50
Nelly and child James, W.W. Young \$261
Boy Abram, John F. Finch \$153
Michael, R[?] Allen \$161
Old Abram, Aggy and William, J.F. Finch \$301.50
Providence [ditto ditto] \$353
Eliza and child Thomas, James Bower/Bowers \$341
John [ditto ditto] \$100
Robert [ditto ditto] \$120
Emorilla [?] [ditto ditto] \$150
Molly and child [ditto ditto] \$334
Absolum, Thomas Bragg \$200
Daniel, E.C [second letter unclear; Eb.?] Hepburn \$500
Armstead, William Steel \$0.50
Old Fanny [ditto ditto] \$5
Elizabeth, R[?] Allen \$149
805 acres of land Wm. Steel \$1610
1 no horned cow George B. Green \$8.25
1 black cow and calf Robt. White \$5.50
...”

Harriet Ann Jacobs, 1813-1897, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

If you visit Edenton, NC, you can tour sites that were important in Harriet Jacobs's life:
<https://harrietjacobs.org/edentonsites.html>

Somerset Place:

<https://www.ncpedia.org/history/somerset-place>

Dorothy Spruill Redford with Michael D'Orso, *Somerset Homecoming: Recovering a Lost Heritage*
(Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2000; originally published 1988)

A helpful guide to meditating on this history is found in “Breathing Through a Difficult History,” on the diocesan website at https://www.episdionc.org/uploads/images/breathingthrough-pdf_193.pdf.
(On the diocesan homepage, go to “Ministries” along the top right, then choose “Reparations and Restitution,” then scroll down to the bottom of the “Reparations and Restitution” page.)