

**ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY REFERENCES
TO THE
TRANS-ATLANTIC HUMAN TRADE
ON
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

Compiled by Jessica Hanson under the guidance of Stephanie Bryan, Ann Chinn, and Ann Cobb
for the Middle Passage Ceremonies and Port Markers Project 2024.

SELECTED SECONDARY SOURCES:

American Antiquarian Society. "View of Harvard College by Paul Revere, 1767." *Revere Collection*. Box 2. Folder 4. Accessed July 13, 2024. <https://collections.americanantiquarian.org/revere/b2.htm#f4>. This engraving by Paul Revere mentioned in the Harvard report, depicts enslaved laborers “working” at Harvard [then Cambridge] (to the left on the back of a carriage as a footman)

American Antiquarian Society. "Masonic Certificate for William Peirce." *Revere Collection*. Box 2. Folder 5. Accessed July 13, 2024. <https://collections.americanantiquarian.org/revere/b2.htm#f5>. This engraving by Paul Revere is a Masonic certificate for the captain of the ship *Desire* William Peirce [Pierce], which was the first ship to bring enslaved Africans to Boston; the ship was also made in Marblehead.

Bay State Banner. "Phillis Wheatley Comes to Life at Old South Meeting House." Last modified October 25, 2023. Accessed July 13, 2024. <https://baystatebanner.com/2023/10/25/phillis-wheatley-comes-to-life-at-old-south-meeting-house/>. "Phillis in Boston," a play by Ade Solanke staged at the Old South Meeting House in late 2023, dramatized Phillis Wheatley's efforts to retrieve

her books from the ship Dartmouth during the Boston Tea Party, highlighting her role as America's first published Black poet amidst the revolutionary fervor of 1773. Directed by Reggie Life and featuring Adreyanua Jean-Louis, the production revealed lesser-known aspects of Wheatley's life and her impact on American history.

Battle-Baptiste, Whitney. *Black Feminist Archaeology*. 1st ed. (page #s 124-133). Copyright 2011. Born into enslavement in 1767 in Boston, Lucy Foster was given to Hannah Foster of Andover at age four and freed at sixteen when slavery was abolished in Massachusetts. Despite being subjected to the "warning out" practice, she continued to live in Andover and became an active member of the South Church for fifty years, even inheriting an acre of land from her former enslaver Hannah, and building a home. Black female archaeologist Whitney Battle-Baptiste honored Foster by highlighting artifacts found in her home, suggesting involvement in the Underground Railroad. Students from Penguin Hall Academy in Wyndham helped identify Foster's likely burial spot in South Church Cemetery, Andover, honoring her with a special ceremony. For more information on Lucy Foster's history, visit the following links: [Find a Grave](#); [History Buzz](#); [Salem News](#); [Andover Townsman](#)

Beatrice Brooks, Rebecca. "Was Faneuil Hall Built with Slave Money?" *History of Massachusetts*, March 13, 2012. Accessed July 13, 2024. <https://historyofmassachusetts.org/faneuil-hall-was-built-with-slave-money/>. Rebecca Beatrice Brooks' article reveals that Faneuil Hall was funded by profits from Peter Faneuil's slave trading enterprises, highlighting its troubling financial origins despite its later role as a pivotal site in the American Revolution. Proposed as a gift to Boston in 1740, the hall was financed through proceeds from the Triangle Trade and accepted despite initial debate.

Boston Archaeology. "Boston Slavery Exhibit." City of Boston. Accessed July 13, 2024. <https://www.boston.gov/departments/archaeology/boston-slavery-exhibit#:~:text=The%20local%20government%20hired%20enslaved,of%20everyday%20life%20in%20Boston>. The Boston Slavery Exhibit explores the city's deep ties to slavery, from Native American enslavement to the arrival of African captives via the Middle Passage, highlighting figures like Paul Cuffee and Crispus Attucks. Archaeological excavations at Faneuil Hall, uncovering 38,000 artifacts, vividly illustrate Boston's economic prosperity during the trans-Atlantic trade era and its enduring legacy shaped by the exploitation of enslaved individuals.

Boston.gov. "City Council Votes to Change Name of Faneuil Hall." Last modified October 30, 2023. Accessed July 13, 2024. <https://www.boston.gov/news/city-council-votes-change-name-faneuil-hall>. The Boston City Council's resolution proposes renaming Faneuil Hall due to its association with Peter Faneuil's involvement in the trans-Atlantic slave trade, reflecting public support for addressing the hall's connections to slavery and racism. Suggested new names honor figures like Crispus Attucks or Frederick Douglass, aiming to promote democratic values and a more accurate historical context.

Boston Literary District. "Old South Meeting House and Phillis Wheatley (1753-1784)." Accessed June 30, 2024.

<https://bostonlitdistrict.org/venue/old-south-meeting-house-and-phillis-wheatley-1753-1784/>. Phillis Wheatley, the first published African-American writer, was influenced by Boston's Old South Meeting House, a center of revolutionary ideas despite ties to slavery. Wheatley's book was published in London due to Boston publishers' reluctance, with her writings reflecting Enlightenment and republican values that challenged slavery.

CityDays. "Faneuil Hall Market." Accessed July 13, 2024. <https://citydays.com/places/faneuil-hall-market/>. Faneuil Hall in Boston, funded by slave trader Peter Faneuil, was originally a site for slave trade goods but later became a key venue for abolitionist speeches and revolutionary meetings against British policies, including the Boston Tea Party. Today, the site states it stands as a National Historic Landmark and vibrant marketplace, reflecting its layered historical significance.

"Early History." Narragansett Indian Tribe, <https://narragansettindiannation.org/history/early/>. Accessed 1 July 2024. During King Philip's War in 1675, colonists from Massachusetts and Connecticut massacred Narragansett in the Great Swamp, leading survivors to retreat or face enslavement in the Caribbean, often traded for enslaved Africans.

Greene, Lorenzo Johnston. *The Negro in Colonial New England, 1620-1776*. Chapter I: Black Merchandise, pp. 19-22. HathiTrust, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.49015000060286?urlappend=%3Bseq=21>. Accessed 1 July 2024. Greene argues, in agreement with scholars Moore & Donnan, that enslavement in New England began in 1638 when the ship *Desire*, captained by William Pierce, traded "fierce" Indigenous Pequot warriors for enslaved Africans. Samuel Maverick, the son of a preacher, is mentioned as possibly one of the earliest enslavers, preceding Governor John Winthrop. Winthrop's journal also documents Benjamin Franklin's stepbrother, Josiah Franklin, advertising enslaved individuals at his tavern/house, often serving as a "show room" for human chattel.

Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery. "Chapter II: Slavery in New England & at Harvard." Accessed June 17, 2024.

<https://legacyofslavery.harvard.edu/report>. Harvard University's early history intertwines with enslaved labor, starting with Nathaniel Eaton, its first schoolmaster, who held an enslaved person known as "The Moor," arriving aboard the ship *Desire*. Requests from Puritan John Winthrop to trade Pequot Indigenous people for enslaved Africans in Bermuda also marked Harvard's founding years. Harvard continued its ties to slavery through land grants on Pequot lands and enrollment efforts of Indigenous students, including Cheeshahteaumuck of the Wampanoag tribe, who graduated in 1665 despite historical biases.

Harvard and Slavery Project. "Financial Ties: Harvard and the Slavery Economy." Accessed July 13, 2024.

<https://legacyofslavery.harvard.edu/report/financial-ties-harvard-and-the-slavery-economy>. Boston merchants played a crucial

role in sustaining the Caribbean sugar economy through the transatlantic slave trade, enriching prominent families whose wealth shaped Harvard University's early financial foundation. This legacy persisted into the 19th century through significant donations that underscore Harvard's deep ties to slavery-derived wealth and its lasting influence on the institution's growth.

Indigenous History and Ways of Knowing - Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area (U.S. National Park Service).

<https://www.nps.gov/boha/learn/indigenous-stories.htm>. Accessed 1 July 2024. This source discusses major Indigenous tribes that inhabited what would later become the Massachusetts Bay area, including the Massachusett (*Moswetuset Hummock*) the present-day Commonwealth was named for. The tribe the “English Invaders” first encountered when “between 1620 and 1660, 80,000 English speaking people crossed the Atlantic writes George Horner in *Red Indians, White Invaders.*” They, along with other tribes, including the [Nipmuc Nation](#) or “fresh water people” (the sole state-recognized tribe in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, since 1976), and the [Narragansett](#) and Wampanoag (Mashpee & Gay Head) tribes lived on the land and water, protected it, and used it as a sacred natural resource for thousands of years as communities, where they fished, hunted, traded, and created complex societies and cultures long before European colonists arrived.

Library of Congress. "Colony of Massachusetts-Bay, 1776. Broadside by Henry Andrew Francken, [1784]." Last modified 2024.

Accessed July 13, 2024. <https://www.loc.gov/item/rbpe.34701200/>. The document "Colony of Massachusetts-Bay, 1776" is a broadside containing declarations of belief and allegiance by individuals in Massachusetts Bay Colony during the American Revolutionary War, asserting their separation from British rule. The statements affirm their commitment to war efforts and resistance against British authority.

Marblehead Museum. "Ship Desire." Accessed July 12, 2024.

<https://marbleheadmuseum.org/ship-desire/>. The ship *Desire*, built in Marblehead in 1636, played a pivotal role in the early trans-Atlantic slave trade by bringing enslaved Africans to Massachusetts Bay Colony, noted in Governor John Winthrop's papers. *The Marblehead Messenger* article critiques the town museum for emphasizing the *Desire's* role as a cargo vessel rather than acknowledging its significant impact on the founding of slavery in Massachusetts.

“Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.” *Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe*, 9 May 2024, <https://mashpeewampanoagtribe-nsn.gov>. The Wampanoag people had lived in the Boston area for thousands of years before it was colonized by the English in the early 17th century. Archaeological evidence suggests their presence in the region dates back at least 10,000 years.

The Massachusett Tribe at Ponkapoag – Welcome To Our Tribal Website. <https://massachusetttribe.org/>. Accessed 1 July 2024.

The first inhabitants of what became Boston and the Massachusetts Bay Colony were the Massachusett people, part of the Algonquian-speaking tribes in the region. The name 'Massachusett' originates from their language, referring to the Blue Hills south of Boston, which holds deep cultural and spiritual importance to the tribe.

Massachusetts. "Massachusetts Constitution and the Abolition of Slavery." Mass.gov. Accessed June 22, 2024.

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/massachusetts-constitution-and-the-abolition-of-slavery#:~:text=in%20the%20Commonwealth.,However%2C%20during%20the%20years%201781%20to%201783%2C%20in%20three%20related,with%20the%20new%20state%20constitution>. After Massachusetts established its Constitution (1781-83), African Americans and others began fighting for freedom, exemplified by Quock Walker's cases challenging enslavement. Mumbett, later Elizabeth Freeman, became the first Black American woman in Massachusetts to win her freedom through a lawsuit, *Brom and Bett v. Ashley*, after defending her enslaved family member from abuse, as detailed further in an [NPR article](#).

Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities. "First Slaves Arrive in Massachusetts." *Mass Moments*. Accessed June 22, 2024.

<https://www.massmoments.org/moment-details/first-slaves-arrive-in-massachusetts.html>. This article discusses after the 1636-1638 Pequot War when they were defeated by the English [and Narragansett tribe] and were unable to be controlled easily, they were exchanged due to their defiance for African enslaved (Intra-American trade) in the West Indies of a Salem ship (the *Desire*) with a Mr. Pierce; this made them the first documented enslaved brought to what would one day be Boston (New England) on February 26, 1638. Quickly, in 1641, Massachusetts Bay Colony was the first colony to make enslavement legal in a code of laws, and it stayed that way for 140 + years.

Melish, Joanne Pope. *Disowning Slavery: Gradual Emancipation and "Race" in New England, 1780–1860*, Chapter 2: The Antislavery Impulse: "To Clear Our Spirits": Whites' Expectations of Freedom from Slavery, 64-65. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1998. Accessed on JSTOR: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7591/j.ctt1tm7jcc.8>. The book chapter discusses post-Revolutionary War efforts for gradual emancipation in New England, influenced by legal cases like the 1783 Quock Walker decision in Massachusetts. It highlights Prince Hall's 1771 petition for immediate freedom and limits on enslaving children, which, though ultimately tabled, contributed to weakening slavery in Massachusetts.

National Park Service. "African Meeting House." Last modified March 21, 2023. Accessed July 13, 2024.

<https://www.nps.gov/boaf/learn/historyculture/amh.htm>. The African Meeting House in Boston, pivotal for formerly enslaved individuals and the African American community, served as a cultural and political hub, hosting abolitionist meetings and recruiting African American soldiers during the Civil War. Its educational activities and role in the abolitionist movement highlight its significance in African American history and the fight against slavery and discrimination.

Pierce, William. "Great Allotment - William Pierce." Winthrop Memorials. Accessed July 12, 2024.

<https://winthropmemorials.org/great-allotment/pages/william-pierce.html>. William Pierce (Peirce), a notable sea captain and

early Boston settler, initiated the New England slave trade in 1637 by transporting Pequot prisoners to the West Indies and returning with African slaves aboard the *Desire*. His voyages also introduced sweet potatoes to the region and included publishing the first book in North America, a Marine Almanac in 1639, cementing his legacy in colonial trade and maritime history.

Scachetti, Leanna. "Boston Tea Party Museum Highlights Historic Poet's Legacy on Eve of 250th Anniversary." WCVB, December 15, 2023. <https://www.wcvb.com/article/boston-tea-party-museum-highlights-historic-poets-legacy-on-eve-of-250th-anniversary/45400378>. The Boston Tea Party Museum commemorated the 250th anniversary by honoring Phillis Wheatley, America's first Black female poet, whose books arrived on the *Dartmouth*, the same ship involved in the Boston Tea Party. The museum used actors, including Philipp portraying Wheatley, and displayed one of Wheatley's surviving books to highlight her historical and literary significance in the event.

Ship Desire, William Peirce, Master – The First Ship to Traffic Enslaved Africans into the Massachusetts Bay Colony. <https://marbleheadmuseum.org/ship-desire/>. Accessed 1 July 2024. The source details William Pierce's involvement in possibly the first documented Intra-American slaving mission from Nicaragua to Boston, Massachusetts, as well as Governor Winthrop's journal mentioning his trade of Indigenous individuals captured near present-day New Haven, Connecticut. While the museum portrays the *Desire*, built in Marblehead, primarily as a cargo ship, it acknowledges its historical role in transporting captive Indigenous and enslaved Africans alongside other goods.

SELECTED PRIMARY SOURCES (Boston Intra-American & trans-Atlantic Trade):

Downing, Emanuel. Letter to John Winthrop, August 1645. In Winthrop Papers, Volume 5, 38-39. Massachusetts Historical Society Collection. Digitized in Internet Archive, 153, 155. Accessed June 22, 2024. <https://ia801505.us.archive.org/23/items/winthroppapersv5wint/winthroppapersv5wint.pdf> Lawyer Emanuel Downing from London wrote a letter to his brother-in-law, the governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, detailing plans to exchange defeated Indigenous Pequot for African enslaved Moores in the trans-Atlantic trade, citing economic profit as a motive. The letter underscores Governor John Winthrop's documented involvement in endorsing the enslavement trade, reflecting broader economic practices in the colony.

“Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to America / [by] Elizabeth Donnan ... v.3.” *HathiTrust*, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/pst.000018404012?urlappend=%3Bseq=24>. Accessed 1 July 2024, pg. 24. This primary source is from Governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony John Winthrop's journal discussing how Pierce captain of the *Desire*

(constructed in Marblehead) had purchased in Providence (Island in present-day Nicaragua) “negroes” and other inanimate resources. In the footnote, it adds Pierce had traded using captive Indigenous (imagery which could be used in table below)

<p style="text-align: center;">MASSACHUSETTS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I. EXTRACT FROM JOHN WINTHROP'S <i>JOURNAL</i>, 1638.</p> <p>26 [February]. Mr. Peirce, in the Salem ship, the <i>Desire</i> turned from the West Indies after seven months. He had Providence,² and brought some cotton, and tobacco, and negro from thence, and salt from Tertugos. Dry fish and strong are the only commodities for those parts. He met there two war, set forth by the lords, etc., of Providence with letters of who had taken divers prizes from the Spaniard, and many ne</p>	<p>¹The <i>Desire</i> was a Marblehead vessel of 100 or 120 tons, in which William Pierce had in 1637 carried Indian captives to Providence Island in the bean, returning with the cargo here described. In 1638 when Josselyn, on his first voyage to New England, lodged with Samuel Maverick he found him possessed of at least a dozen negroes, whom he may have purchased from Captain Pierce (Winthrop, <i>Journal</i>, p. 331; John Josselyn, <i>Account of Two Voyages to New England</i>, Boston, 1865, p. 2) an account of the early trade of Massachusetts Bay in captive Indians see G. H. Roper, <i>Notes on the History of Slavery in Massachusetts</i>, pp. 1-7, 30-48.</p> <p>²For want of any other explanation it has been assumed that an item of 1639, concerning Richard Davenport, who was allowed "for charge disbursed slaves which when they have earned it he is to repay back againe," related to the cargo of the <i>Desire</i>. The amount was £3 8 s. <i>Massachusetts Colonial History</i>, I. 253.</p> <p>[2] ¹The <i>Laws of Massachusetts of 1672</i> (facsimile, ed. Whitmore, 1884) the bracketed words. For a discussion of this act and the legal status of slavery it see Moore, <i>Notes on Slavery</i>, pp. 12-18, and Emory Washburn, "Slavery as it prevailed in Massachusetts," in <i>Lectures before the Lowell Institute</i> (1869), p. 225. To Moore this law gave to Massachusetts precedence over all other colonies in sanctioning of perpetual bondage; to Washburn it proved that slavery was a crime to the colonists.</p> <p>[3] ¹Massachusetts Archives, LX. 290. ²Cape Verde.</p>
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Pierce, Frederick Clifton. *Pearce Genealogy, Being the Record of the Posterity of Richard Pearce, an Early Inhabitant of Portsmouth, in Rhode Island, Who Came from England, and Whose Genealogy Is Traced Back to 972. With an Introduction of the Male Descendants of Josceline de Louvaine* .. Rockford, Ill. [Press of J. Munsell's sons, Albany], 1888. *Internet Archive*, <http://archive.org/details/pearcegenealogyb00pier>. *The American Branch*, pg. 37. **Captain Pierce of the *Desire* in 1638 received approval from King Charles I to sail to New England with provisions and passengers. The *Desire's* voyage marked the first documented instance of enslaved Africans being brought from Providence Island (present-day Nicaragua) to Boston, traded for Pequot Indigenous war prisoners, highlighting Providence Island's significant role in the Atlantic slave trade and interactions between Indigenous peoples, Europeans, and Africans during the 17th century.**

2-26-1638	100026	<i>Desire</i>	Flag of vessel: Great Britain; place registered: Salem, Massachusetts	Providence Island	The first place where captives were landed: Boston, Massachusetts (<i>the first enslaved to be documented, who landed in Boston/New England</i>); exchanged Pequot [Indigenous] captives for enslaved Africans	Total embarked: 8 Total disembarked: 7	William Pierce (Delivered enslaved for original owners)
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Trans-Atlantic Slave Voyages Database [Link](#):

Year of Arrival	Slave Voyages ID	Vessel Name	Voyage itinerary imputed port where began (ptdepimp) place	Voyage itinerary imputed principal place of slave purchase (mjbyptimp)	Voyage itinerary imputed principal port of slave disembarkation (mjslptimp) place	Captives arrived at 1st port	Captain's name
1678	25151	Unknown	Boston	Madagascar	Boston	Total embarked: 53 Total disembarked: 45	Unlisted

Donnan,III,14-15:

Donnan, Elizabeth, ed., *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to the Americas, vol. III* (Washington, DC, 1930); **this source shows correspondences from the last Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony Simon Bradstreet verifying an enslaved ship or peoples had not been in Boston for 50 years since 2 years prior from Madagascar, 1678 for a 20 month voyage ~40-50 captives and claimed only ~100-120 enslaved living; John Winslow a very rich merchant in Boston was petitioning the government to allow him to bring his “negros to Boston” since no longer sick with smallpox. ([Primary source imagery linked](#))**

Relevant source about [smallbox coming to Boston](#) with enslaved, as well as an enslaved man Onesimus giving Cotton Mather the idea to save people with inoculation, which worked.

Moore,George,49: Moore, George H., *Notes on the History of Slavery in Massachusetts* (New York, [1866] 1968). **Moore details the same record of Governor Bradstreet, but says the numbers of enslaved in Boston changed dramatically rising to 400 (1708) to 6,001 (1790). ([Primary source imagery linked](#))**

Year of Arrival	Slave Voyages ID	Vessel Name	Voyage itinerary imputed port where began (ptdepimp) place	Voyage itinerary imputed principal place of slave purchase (mjbyptimp)	Voyage itinerary imputed principal port of slave disembarkation (mjslptimp) place	Captives arrived at 1st port	Captain's name
1700	25154	<i>Friendship</i>	Boston	Africa, port unspecified	Boston	Total embarked: 31 Total disembarked: 25	Windsor, Thomas

Donnan,III,17,25:

Donnan, Elizabeth, ed., *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to the Americas, vol. III* (Washington, DC, 1930): **Verifies**
Friendship went from Africa to Boston ([Primary source image](#))

T70/351,51:

British National Archives (Kew); their website [The National Archives \(UK\)](#).

Year of Arrival	Slave Voyages ID	Vessel Name	Voyage itinerary imputed port where began (ptdepimp) place	Voyage itinerary imputed principal place of slave purchase (mjbyptimp)	Voyage itinerary imputed principal port of slave disembarkation (mjslptimp) place	Captives arrived at 1st port	Captain's name
1737	25161	Unlisted	Boston	Africa, port unspecified	Boston	Total embarked: 149 Total disembarked: 126	Ball

Donnan,III,40: [Page 40 in Vol III does not seem to align with this voyage.](#)

Donnan, Elizabeth, ed., *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to the Americas, vol. III* (Washington, DC, 1930)

Year of Arrival	Slave Voyages ID	Vessel Name	Voyage itinerary imputed port where began (ptdepimp) place	Voyage itinerary imputed principal place of slave purchase (mjbyptimp)	Voyage itinerary imputed principal port of slave disembarkation (mjslptimp) place	Captives arrived at 1st port	Captain's name
1740	25179	Poultney	Boston	Africa, port unspecified	Boston	Total embarked: 123 Total disembarked: 101	Unlisted

Donnan, III, 50: Donnan, Elizabeth, ed., *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to the Americas, vol. III* (Washington, DC, 1930. This was a notice of sale from October 7, 1740, regarding young enslaved persons (boys and girls) and men and women from the coast of Africa being sold by a John Jones (they would be viewed upon the vessel *Poultney*). Jones was in the footnote noted as likely the brother in law of Peter Fanueil (who built Fanueil Hall with profits of enslavement); Jones also was a partial owner of another slaving vessel *Jolly Batchelor* (voyage ID36114), which arrived in Boston with enslaved in 1746 from an African port. ([Image of primary source linked](#))

Year of Arrival	Slave Voyages ID	Vessel Name	Voyage itinerary imputed port where began (ptdepimp) place	Voyage itinerary imputed principal place of slave purchase (mjbyptimp)	Voyage itinerary imputed principal port of slave disembarkation (mjslptimp) place	Captives arrived at 1st port	Captain's name
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1739	25180	Mermaid	Boston	Gambia	Boston	Total embarked: 50 Total disembarked: 40	Robinson, John
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Donnan,III,50-2:

Donnan, Elizabeth, ed., *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to the Americas, vol. III* (Washington, DC, 1930). [This \(primary source linked\)](#) details that the master of the vessel *Mermaid* had to speak before a council as the 50 captives and all his 11 white crew had contracted smallpox coming from the “River Gambo” [Gambia] 5 months back for 10 weeks. He had burned brimstone [sulfur] thought to get rid of the highly contagious smallpox; they’d also had measles and flux; 15 enslaved had died and he buried two “in sight of Cape Cod.” He cleaned water casks and noted enslaved are all younger than 20 years old.

Relevant source about [smallpox coming to Boston](#) with enslaved, as well as an enslaved man Onesimus giving Cotton Mather the idea to save people with inoculation, which worked.

BPB, 39.07.16.: *Boston Post Boy*; [The American Antiquarian Society](#) only has later versions of the *Boston Post Boy*.

BWNL, 39.07.05.-39.07.12.:

Boston News-Letter, (Boston, Mass.) This was said to have been the first continuously published newspaper in America since 1704’s first issue. The Massachusetts Historical Society is said to house the database with their digitized records, but the only thing I found was a watercolor of a ship called **Mermaid**; *The HMS Mermaid* led by Captain John Robinson in 1739 was a different vessel from the *HMS Mermaid* involved in the blockade of Boston Harbor in October 1768. *The Mermaid* in 1739 was a British Royal Navy frigate. In contrast, *the Mermaid* in 1768 was part of the British response to colonial unrest and was present during the arrival of British troops to enforce the Townshend Acts.

Year of Arrival	Slave Voyages ID	Vessel Name	Voyage itinerary imputed port where began (ptdepimp) place	Voyage itinerary imputed principal place of slave purchase (mjbyptimp)	Voyage itinerary imputed principal port of slave disembarkation (mjslptimp) place	Captives arrived at 1st port	Captain's name
1743	25186	_____	Boston	Africa, port unspecified	Boston	Total embarked: 149 Total disembarked: 126	Beer

Donnan, III, 51: Donnan, Elizabeth, ed., *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to the Americas, vol. III* (Washington, DC, 1930). It mentions Captain Beer twice in this [\(linked screenshotted primary source\)](#); once July 29, 1742, they were cleared to go to Africa; it appears these various vessels listed got the captives to be sold later in 1743 by a Charles Apthorp on the vessel the *Post Boy* (which is the name of another arrival # 25189) in 1744; another mention of Beer below states that in 1747 Beer (the “master”) and almost all the crew were killed by enslaved resisting. This was a Rhode Island-owned vessel off [Cape Coast Castle](#) (the largest of the buildings which contains the legacy of the trans-Atlantic slave trade and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.)

Year of Arrival	Slave Voyages ID	Vessel Name	Voyage itinerary imputed port where began (ptdepimp) place	Voyage itinerary imputed principal place of slave purchase (mjbyptimp)	Voyage itinerary imputed principal port of slave disembarkation (mjslptimp) place	Captives arrived at 1st port	Captain's name
1743	25187	_____	Boston	Gambia	Boston	Total embarked: 149 Total disembarked: 126	Ball, Robert

1744	25189	Post Boy	Boston	Africa, port unspecified	Boston	Total embarked: 95 Total disembarked: 74	Ball, Robert
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Donnan,III,51,65: Donnan, Elizabeth, ed., *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to the Americas, vol. III* (Washington, DC, 1930) Again, it mentions Captain Robert (?) Ball in this [\(linked screenshotted primary source\)](#); once October 11, 1742, they were cleared to go to Africa; it appears these various vessels listed got the captives to be sold later in 1743 by a Charles Apthorp on the vessel the *Post Boy* (possibly connected to captives procured by Ball on another arrival # 25187) in 1743? It gives further information they may have been imported from Guinea (vs. an unspecified port in Africa, like Slave Voyages details).; in this source on pg. 65, it details how Ball brought young boy & girl captives from the Coast of Guinea to sell on the *Post Boy* at a warehouse/wharf belonging to a Mr. James Russell (of Charleston/likely Charlestown, Massachusetts); there was a prominent merchant named James Russell who lived in Charlestown, Massachusetts, during the 18th century.

Boston Gazette,44.08.14.:*Boston Gazette*, (Boston, U.S.A.): Cannot access on Hathi Trust or LOC

Year of Arrival	Slave Voyages ID	Vessel Name	Voyage itinerary imputed port where began (ptdepimp) place	Voyage itinerary imputed principal place of slave purchase (mjbyptimp)	Voyage itinerary imputed principal port of slave disembarkation (mjslptimp) place	Captives arrived at 1st port	Captain's name
1749	25192	_____	_____	Africa, port unspecified	Boston	Total embarked: 271 Total disembarked:2 17	Besham

Donnan,III,66-7: Donnan, Elizabeth, ed., *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to the Americas, vol. III* (Washington, DC, 1930). This source details captains, including Besham who were arriving from Africa to the Boston Custom House 1746-1757. This aligns with the 1749 arrival Besham captained. [Image one linked](#). On the [second image](#), Captain Besham was bringing captives September 21, 1749 specifically entering into Boston from Cape Verde; so it is not an unspecified African port; this should be updated on Slave Voyages. Cape Verde an archipelago located off the northwest coast of Africa, was not a port on the African mainland but a significant location in the trans-Atlantic slave trade. The islands were used by the Portuguese as a staging post for the trans-Atlantic slave trade, where enslaved Africans from the mainland were brought before being transported across the Atlantic. ([LOC Cape Verde map](#))

Year of Arrival	SlaveVoyages ID	Vessel Name	Voyage itinerary imputed port where began (ptdepimp) place	Voyage itinerary imputed principal place of slave purchase (mjbyptimp)	Voyage itinerary imputed principal port of slave disembarkation (mjslptimp) place	Captives arrived at 1st port	Captain's name
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1752	25193	Betsey	_____	Africa, port unspecified	Boston	Total embarked: 149 Total disembarked: 126	Lanphier, Samuel
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Donnan,III,66: Donnan, Elizabeth, ed., *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to the Americas, vol. III* (Washington, DC, 1930). On June 22, 1752, a notice was published documenting the sale of captive Africans from 1744 to 1758. The entry from June 14 describes the arrival of the vessel *Betsey*, which had sailed from the coast of Guinea under the command of Samuel Lanphier. The ship carried a group of young boys and girls "of the blackest Sort." This sale was advertised by Alexander Rait, a merchant deeply involved in the transatlantic slave trade, who profited from the transportation and sale of enslaved Africans. ([Primary source image link](#)) I am unsure if this source is accurate to be linked with Boston, like *Slave Voyages* has; Kittery is in Maine and what the *Betsey* is connected with with the Captain Samuel Lanphier. Immediately above the entry, it mentions Boston Oct. 1751; this may have been an error. However, I am linking just in case to verify. [There is an Alexander Rait listed with a connection to Harvard in Boston, MA in the Colonial Society of Massachusetts papers; so this may be the connection \(unclear\)](#)

Year of Arrival	Slave Voyages ID	Vessel Name	Voyage itinerary imputed port where began (ptdepimp) place	Voyage itinerary imputed principal place of slave purchase (mjbyptimp)	Voyage itinerary imputed principal port of slave disembarkation (mjslptimp) place	Captives arrived at 1st port	Captain's name
1746	25195	_____	_____	Africa, port unspecified	Boston	Total embarked: 149 Total disembarked: 126	Ball

Donnan, III, 66: Donnan, Elizabeth, ed., *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to the Americas, vol. III* (Washington, DC, 1930). *Note: There are 9 arrivals on Slave Voyages that have the same exact embarkation & disembarkation #s; it makes me think it was a transposing error; there are many connected to the Captain Ball or Ball, Robert, as well (the other Captains with the same exact # of captives for the arrivals are: Beer, Lanphier, Thomson, Carpenter, & Ellery, William; it just seems too coincidental).* This source details captains, including Ball who were entering from Africa to the Boston Custom House 1746-1757. This aligns with the 1746 arrival Ball captained. [Image one linked](#). Captain Ball was bringing captives June 16, 1746.

Year of Arrival	SlaveVoyages ID	Vessel Name	Voyage itinerary imputed port where began (ptdepimp) place	Voyage itinerary imputed principal place of slave purchase (mjbyptimp)	Voyage itinerary imputed principal port of slave disembarkation (mjslptimp) place	Captives arrived at 1st port	Captain's name
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1747	25196	_____	_____	Africa, port unspecified	Boston	Total embarked: 149 Total disembarked:1 26	Thomson
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Donnan,III,66: Donnan, Elizabeth, ed., *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to the Americas, vol. III* (Washington, DC, 1930). This source details captains, including Thomson who were entering from Africa to the Boston Custom House 1746-1757. This aligns with the 1747 arrival Thomson captained. [Image one linked](#). Captain Thomon was bringing captives May 21, 1747.

Year of Arrival	Slave Voyages ID	Vessel Name	Voyage itinerary imputed port where began (ptdepimp) place	Voyage itinerary imputed principal place of slave purchase (mjbyptimp)	Voyage itinerary imputed principal port of slave disembarkation (mjslptimp) place	Captives arrived at 1st port	Captain's name
1748	25197	_____	_____	Gold Coast, port unspecified	Boston	Total embarked: 149 Total disembarked: 126	Ball, Robert

Donnan, III, 66: Donnan, Elizabeth, ed., *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to the Americas, vol. III* (Washington, DC, 1930). This same source page that has been listed for many of the arrivals for Boston shows Ball, but with two arrivals ([1746](#)) ([1747](#)) & July 30, 1749. None of those align with this arrival in 1748. The last one says he “cleared out” for Africa in [1749](#). None of them also mention Gold Coast, either. (Unclear source provided by Slave Voyages)

Year of Arrival	Slave Voyages ID	Vessel Name	Voyage itinerary imputed port where began (ptdepimp) place	Voyage itinerary imputed principal place of slave purchase (mjbyptimp)	Voyage itinerary imputed principal port of slave disembarkation (mjslptimp) place	Captives arrived at 1st port	Captain's name
1750	25203	_____	Boston	Africa, port unspecified	Boston	Total embarked: 149 Total disembarked: 126	Fuller (see below)

Donnan,III,67: Donnan, Elizabeth, ed., *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to the Americas, vol. III* (Washington, DC, 1930). [This source](#) shows Captain Fuller “Entered out for Africa” August 3, 1749. This could allign with him arriving back in Boston 1750; however, unclear of how again those same embarkation/disembarkation #s are listed in Slave Voyages (149/126 with the other 8 arrivals)

Year of Arrival	Slave Voyages ID	Vessel Name	Voyage itinerary imputed port where began (ptdepimp) place	Voyage itinerary imputed principal place of slave purchase (mjbyptimp)	Voyage itinerary imputed principal port of slave disembarkation (mjslptimp) place	Captives arrived at 1st port	Captain's name
1760	25215	Phillis	Boston	Winward Coast, port unspecified	Boston	Total embarked: 149 Total disembarked: 126	Gwinn, Peter (a) Gwyn

1761	25219	Thomas	Boston	Gorèe	Boston	Total embarked: 76 Total disembarked: 75	Day
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Donnan, III, 67: Donnan, Elizabeth, ed., *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to the Americas, vol. III* (Washington, DC, 1930). In the Journal of Negro History, Bly cites Donnan again, “ Judging from the numerous letters to and from slave trading companies, as well as slave ship chronicles, it is undoubtedly clear that slave uprisings plagued a great number of ships during the Middle Passage. In a newsletter dated September 24, 1761, Captain Day wrote of an unsuccessful slave rebellion that occurred on the sloop Thomas.” [This article discusses many enslaved rebellions during the Middle Passage.](#) However, Donnan’s note is much more detailed, noting that in the letter from Captain Day, the enslaved opened the hatches, formed an insurrection against the crew and their ringleader was shot and killed. ([primary source image](#))

MedfordHS, Slave Trade Letters, 1761.11.01.: <http://www.medfordhistorical.org/slavetradeletters.php> (again this link S.V. provides does not work); same from another arrival.

Year of Arrival	Slave Voyages ID	Vessel Name	Voyage itinerary imputed port where began (ptdepimp) place	Voyage itinerary imputed principal place of slave purchase (mjbyptimp)	Voyage itinerary imputed principal port of slave disembarkation (mjslptimp) place	Captives arrived at 1st port	Captain's name
1762	25220	Phillis	Boston	Windward Coast, place unspecified	Boston	Total embarked: 95 Total disembarked: 74	Captain: Gwinn, Peter (a) Gwyn; Vessel Owner: Fitch, Timothy

Donnan,III,67,68: Donnan, Elizabeth, ed., *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to the Americas, vol. III* (Washington, DC, 1930): [This notice of sales](#) of captives from 1759-1762; it mentions Captain Gwin/Gwinn multiple times. In a May 14, 1759 advertisement published in the *Post Boy* 1760, August 7, it noted very young “prime” enslaved were to be sold aboard the *Phillis* at New-Boston; they had been captured off the Windward Coast. This was the vessel famed author Phillis Wheatley arrived on and she was named for by her later enslaver, the Wheatleys. She was only ~7-8 years old, fitting the “very young” in the advertisement. There isn't a specific enslaved census showing when Phillis Wheatley was purchased by the Wheatley family. The details of her purchase and arrival in Boston are primarily known through [historical accounts](#) (including the [Smithsonian](#)) and records of the Wheatley family, rather than through a formal enslaved census. Phillis Wheatley was purchased around 1761 when she arrived in Boston, and her life and achievements are documented through various historical sources and her own writings. **So really in Slave Voyages that should be updated to arrival 25221 (1761) only. It lists the book about her on three of the voyages, only leaving off the 1763 voyage from Sierra Leone estuary.**

The [source](#) suggested for 1762 shows Captain Gwinn May 20, 1762 advertising the sale of captives from the Windward Coast at a Mr. Blanchard's Store. There was a Thomas Blanchard said to be a prominent merchant and trader in Boston during the colonial period. However, none of the dates align with this Blanchard/Gwinn (1762).

Robinson, 3-5: Robinson, Walter, *Phyllis Wheatley and her Writings* (New York, 1984). [Purchasable book; not free on Google Books either.](#)

Robinson,4-5: Robinson, Walter, *Phyllis Wheatley and her Writings* (New York, 1984).

MedfordHS,Slave Trade Letters,1761.09.04.: <http://www.medfordhistorical.org/slavetradeletters.php> (links S.V. provided don't work)

MedfordHS,Slave Trade Letters,1761.11.01.: <http://www.medfordhistorical.org/slavetradeletters.php> (links S.V. provided don't work)

Year of Arrival	Slave Voyages ID	Vessel Name	Voyage itinerary imputed port where began (ptdepimp) place	Voyage itinerary imputed principal place of slave purchase (mjbyptimp)	Voyage itinerary imputed principal port of slave disembarkation (mjslptimp) place	Captives arrived at 1st port	Captain's name
1761	25221	_____	_____	Africa, place unspecified	Boston	Total embarked: 149 Total disembarked: 126	Carpenter

Donnan, III, 67: Donnan, Elizabeth, ed., *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to the Americas, vol. III* (Washington, DC, 1930). [This source](#) states Carpenter came in June 24, 1761.

Year of Arrival	Slave Voyages ID	Vessel Name	Voyage itinerary imputed port where began (ptdepimp) place	Voyage itinerary imputed principal place of slave purchase (mjbyptimp)	Voyage itinerary imputed principal port of slave disembarkation (mjslptimp) place	Captives arrived at 1st port	Captain's name
1761	25481	Phillis	Boston	Windward Coast, place unspecified	Boston	Total embarked: 96 Total disembarked: 75	Captain: Gwinn, Peter (a) Gwyn; Vessel Owner: Fitch, Timothy

Robinson,4-5: Robinson, Walter, *Phyllis Wheatley and her Writings* (New York, 1984). [Purchasable book; not free on Google Books either.](#)

MedfordHS,Slave Trade Letters,60.11.08.: <http://www.medfordhistorical.org/slavetradeletters.php> (link doesn't work from S.V.)

Donnan,III,67: Donnan, Elizabeth, ed., *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to the Americas, vol. III* (Washington, DC, 1930): [This notice of sales](#) of captives from 1759-1762; it mentions Captain Gwin/Gwinn multiple times. In a May 14, 1759 advertisement published in the *Post Boy* 1760, August 7, it noted very young “prime” enslaved were to be sold aboard the *Phillis* at New-Boston; they had been captured off the Windward Coast. This was the vessel famed author Phillis Wheatley arrived on and she was named for by her later enslaver, the Wheatleys. She was only ~7-8 years old, fitting the “very young” in the advertisement. There isn't a specific enslaved census showing when Phillis Wheatley was purchased by the Wheatley family. The details of her purchase and arrival in Boston are primarily known through [historical accounts](#) (including the [Smithsonian](#)) and records of the Wheatley family, rather than through a formal enslaved census. Phillis Wheatley was purchased around 1761 when she arrived in Boston, and her life and achievements are documented through various historical sources and her own writings. [So really in Slave Voyages this should be updated as the only arrival historically agreed upon: 25221 \(1761\). It lists the book about her on three of the voyages, only leaving off the 1763 voyage from Sierra Leone estuary.](#)

Year of Arrival	Slave Voyages ID	Vessel Name	Voyage itinerary imputed port where began (ptdepimp) place	Voyage itinerary imputed principal place of slave purchase (mjbyptimp)	Voyage itinerary imputed principal port of slave disembarkation (mjslptimp) place	Captives arrived at 1st port	Captain's name
1758	25671	Jenny	_____	Africa, place unspecified	Boston	Total embarked: 149 Total disembarked: 126	Ellery, William

1725	26304	Africa	Boston	Africa, place unspecified	Boston	Total embarked: 83 Total disembarked: 69	Harris, John
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Donnan, III,28: Donnan, Elizabeth, ed., *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to the Americas, vol. III* (Washington, DC, 1930). [Inconclusive evidence if he purchased enslaved according to document.](#)

Year of Arrival	Slave Voyages ID	Vessel Name	Voyage itinerary imputed port where began (ptdepimp) place	Voyage itinerary imputed principal place of slave purchase (mjbyptimp)	Voyage itinerary imputed principal port of slave disembarkation (mjslptimp) place	Captives arrived at 1st port	Captain's name
1746	36114	Jolly Batchelor	Newport	Africa, place unspecified	Boston	Total embarked: 165 Total disembarked: 138 Captives arrived at 1st port: 138 Captives landed at 1st port: 64 Captives landed at 2nd port: 74	Robinson, John

1763	37292	Phillis	Boston	Sierra Leone estuary	Boston	Total embarked: 95 Total disembarked: 74 First place where captives were landed: St. Croix	Captain: Gwinn, Peter (a) Gwyn
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Donnan,III,68: Donnan, Elizabeth, ed., *Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to the Americas, vol. III* (Washington, DC, 1930): Source on pg 68 does not align with the 1763 arrival:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=pst.000018404012&seq=88&q1=Jolly+Batchelor>

None of the links provided by Slave Voyages below, work:

MedfordHS,Slave Trade Letters,1762.10.99.: <http://www.medfordhistorical.org/slavetradeletters.php>

MedfordHS,Slave Trade Letters,1763.06.04.: <http://www.medfordhistorical.org/slavetradeletters.php>

MedfordHS,Slave Trade Letters,1762.10.30.: <http://www.medfordhistorical.org/slavetradeletters.php>

MedfordHS,Slave Trade Letters,1765.10.99.: <http://www.medfordhistorical.org/slavetradeletters.php>

Year of Arrival	Slave Voyages ID	Vessel Name	Voyage itinerary imputed port where began (ptdepimp) place	Voyage itinerary imputed principal place of slave purchase (mjbyptimp)	Voyage itinerary imputed principal port of slave disembarkation (mjslptimp) place	Captives arrived at 1st port	Captain's name
1737	39100	_____	Boston	Gambia	Boston	Total embarked: 151 Total disembarked: 126	Robertson (a) Robinson

