

EVIDENCE

The pieces of evidence are arranged according to their genre.

Genre	Page
Diaries	72
Graphs	77
Letters	86
Maps	106
Newspapers	165
Tables	230

Diary: The Reverend Abraham Essick, Diary, 1849-1864 [Citation: Key = E181]

Summary

The Reverend Abraham Essick was born in Franklin County and served as a Lutheran minister at several churches in the Valley. In the late 1850s he moved to Winchester, where he observed closely the differences between his home county and communities below the Mason-Dixon Line. In 1861 Essick moved back to Franklin, where he ministered throughout the war.

Excerpt

"Left Baltimore at nine o'clock, arrived at Winchester at five PM. During my visit to Pennsylvania I was deeply impressed by the contrast between the general appearance of the country and this. Naturally they are similar, both lying in the same valley, and presenting many of the same characteristics. But in Virginia the farms are large and the population sparse. The differences in cultivation, productiveness, and the general indications of thrift, are immensely in favor of Pennsylvania. It is usual to account for this on the grounds of Slavery." (June 6, 1857)

"Tuesday morning. I left home in company with my brother Hiram and his wife - their destination being their home in Farmerville, Louisiana, and mine being our old home in Franklin, Co. Pa. Brother and his wife spent two weeks with us. They came north in April and have been visiting their friends all summer, spending most of this time with her friends in Columbia, but part of it at our old Homestead in Franklin Co. We travelled together as far as Martinsburg, Va. where I left the cars and took a coach for Hagerstown. The ride was pleasant, through a rich and well improved country. The corn crops are very abundant in this region. Farming seems to be much better done in Maryland and Pa. than in Virginia. At Hagerstown I remained over night putting up at the Washington Hotel. Called and spent part of the evening with the Rev. C.C. Braughman at the Female Seminary. The school seems to be in a prosperous condition considering all the circumstances: but is still embarrassed in consequence of the bad management of its pecuniary affairs in the beginning. The building was put up from the proceeds of the sale of scholarships--then [sic] scholarships now give them pupils without a sufficient income to support the school." (September 8, 1857)

"Throughout all the neighborhood [Greencastle, Franklin County] I saw great changes, not only in the people, but more still in the general appearance of the country. New houses have been erected in places of the old, and farms have been divided and many houses built where none stood before.

On Monday (14th) Adam took me in his carriage to Gettysburg. My object in this visit was to attend the annual commencement of Pa. College. Here I had the pleasure of meeting a large number of my classmates and schoolmates in College. The exercises continued three days (Tues thru Thurs) were varied and all interesting. A class of 16 graduated from the College - only two from the Seminary. I returned to Winchester by way of Balt - spending the night (Friday) in Balt and reaching home on Saturday.

I forgot to mention in connection into my visit to Franklin Co that I sold my interest in the farm to my brother in law. Mr Slaughenhaupt. He is buying out all the heirs at the rate of \$60 per acre. The farms consists of 123 acres and a few [parcels]. This is the only real estate my father ever owned. This he paid for by his own industry and brought up on it a family of twelve (one died at the age of four years) children, giving them all an education equal to any his neighbor's children and the best which the neighborhood afforded. But when this is said it implies only a common school education. Only two of the sons (Hiram and myself) studied professions and the expense of these were borne ourselves. We made the money chiefly while engaged at study. What we got from home was charged to our account. I got, in all, but 283 dollars. Hiram got a trifle more. We could not complain of being charged for this as we had shared equally with the other children in this education which we got before leaving home. I received the loan of \$100 without interest from the Grindstone Hill congregation, which I refunded from the proceeds of my father's estate. The rest of my college expenses I made up teaching and colporting, etc." (September 19, 1857)

"Winter has gone and spring has come again, the gayest and loveliest of the seasons. How pleasant it is to walk forth in the green meadows or on the sunny side of the flower-decked hills! The orchard regales our senses with its fragrant blossoms, the groves and the meadows are clothing themselves in living green, the singing of birds has come, and all nature is joyous with new life. But alas, the din of war, and clash of arms are distracting our once happy land. The sectional strife, arising chiefly from the unfortunate contest about slavery, has culminated, and the result is a civil war between the north and the south. The attack of the secessionists on Fort Sumter has aroused such indignation in the loyal people of the free states that they are unanimous in favor of chastising the offenders. Active preparations for war are going on throughout the whole land. The President (Lincoln) has made a requisition upon the states for 75000 men, and will soon call for more. In the present state of feeling any number will be at his service." April 30, 1861

Full-text web version can be found at:

<http://etext.virginia.edu/etcbin/ot2www-cwdiaries?specfile=/web/data/civilwar/valley/cwdiaries.o2w&act=surround>

Diary: Alexander K. McClure, Old Time Notes of Pennsylvania, 1905 [Citation: Key = E180]

Summary

Alexander K. McClure was the Republican Party leader in Franklin and a national party operative whose leadership in 1860 helped Lincoln carry Pennsylvania.

Excerpt

"A decided political revolution was generally expected in 1860, but none then dreamed that it would mean anything more than merely halting the extension of the slave power, and liberalizing the policy of the government in the support of free industries against the slave labor of the South. Had it been generally believed in 1860 that the election of Lincoln would bring the bloodiest civil war of modern times, and the sudden and complete overthrow of slavery at the point of the bayonet, it is doubtful whether the popular vote of the country would have invited such an appalling entertainment. The sectional feeling was greatly intensified by the earnest and constantly growing agitation that began with the repeal of the Missouri Compromise in 1854 and had continued to convulse the country by the desperate struggles over Kansas, with the battle for a free State then unsettled. The North believed that the South was more bombastic than earnest in the threat of provoking civil war for the protection of slavery, and the South believed that the Northern people were mere money-getters, ready to yield anything rather than accept fratricidal conflict.

Had the North and the South justly understood each other, as they should have done when remembering the common heroism exhibited by Northern and Southern soldiers on every battlefield, there would have been no civil war. It was common in those days to hear demagogues on the stump in the North declare that, in the event of secession, the women of the North would sweep away the bombastic South with their brooms, and like demagogues of the South told how, in the event of civil war, they would march to Boston and command their obedient slaves on Bunker Hill. How it was possible for the bravest and noblest people of the world thus to misunderstand each other merely because of irritating sectional divisions, must be incomprehensible to any intelligent student of the present day. The people of the North and the South were of the same blood; they had the same proud traditions; their heroism and their grandeur in field and forum had been established side by side in every triumph, and only the madness of the fiercest passion could have made either section assume that cowardice could be an attribute of the American people, North or South. The most fearful atonement was made for this strange misunderstanding of each other, and there is nothing in Grecian or Roman story that equals the heroism of the soldiers of the blue and gray in four years of bloodiest conflict." (385-86)

Diary: Alansa Rounds Sterrett, Memoir, undated [Citation: Key = E183]

Summary

Sterrett's romantic view of plantation life in the South on the eve of the Civil War was written many years later based on her diary.

Excerpt

"Through the kindness of my friends I witnessed two novel scenes that winter. A cake walk and dance of the Willow Glen servants and a 'darkey wedding' at the home of a friend of the Sterretts to which they and I were invited. Both were comical, mirthful and hilarious affairs to black and white alike. The refreshments proved 'tip top' and tony and lavishly prepared by these slaves and by them also dispensed to those 'down at the house' as well as all at the 'quarters.'"

But alas! fun and social recreations were fast being relegated to the background and fiery political speeches took their places. For 'coming events cast their shadow before.' The two antagonistic factions of North and South were daily growing more and more embittered and determined. The one declaring slavery must and shall go; the other vowing never to give up their slave property by force." (January, 1861)

Full-text web version can be found at: <http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/personal/sterrett.html>

Original source can be found at: Augusta County Historical Society

Diary: Joseph Addison Waddell, Diary, October 15, 1856 [Citation: Key = E179]

Summary

Waddell owned and edited the Spectator, the Whig Unionist newspaper in Augusta County. His views on slavery briefly mentioned in his private diary never made it into the newspaper's editorials.

Excerpt

"Dr McGill proposed to buy Selena to-day, and offered me \$1000 -- I would not have sold her for \$20,000, unless she desired to go, or had grossly misbehaved. This thing of speculating on human flesh is utterly horrible to me -- the money would eat into my flesh like hot iron. Slavery itself is extremely repulsive to my feelings, and I earnestly desire its extinction everywhere, when it can be done judiciously, and so as to promote the welfare of both races. Yet I am no abolitionist. The day for emancipation with us has not come, and we must wait God's time. For the present all that the most philanthropic can do is to endeavor to ameliorate the institution; but it is hard to do this in the midst of the mischievous interference of outside fanatics."

Full-text web version can be found at:

<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/etcbin/toccer-valley?id=AD1500&tag=public&images=images/modeng/F&data=/texts/e>

Original source can be found at: Accession #38-258, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia

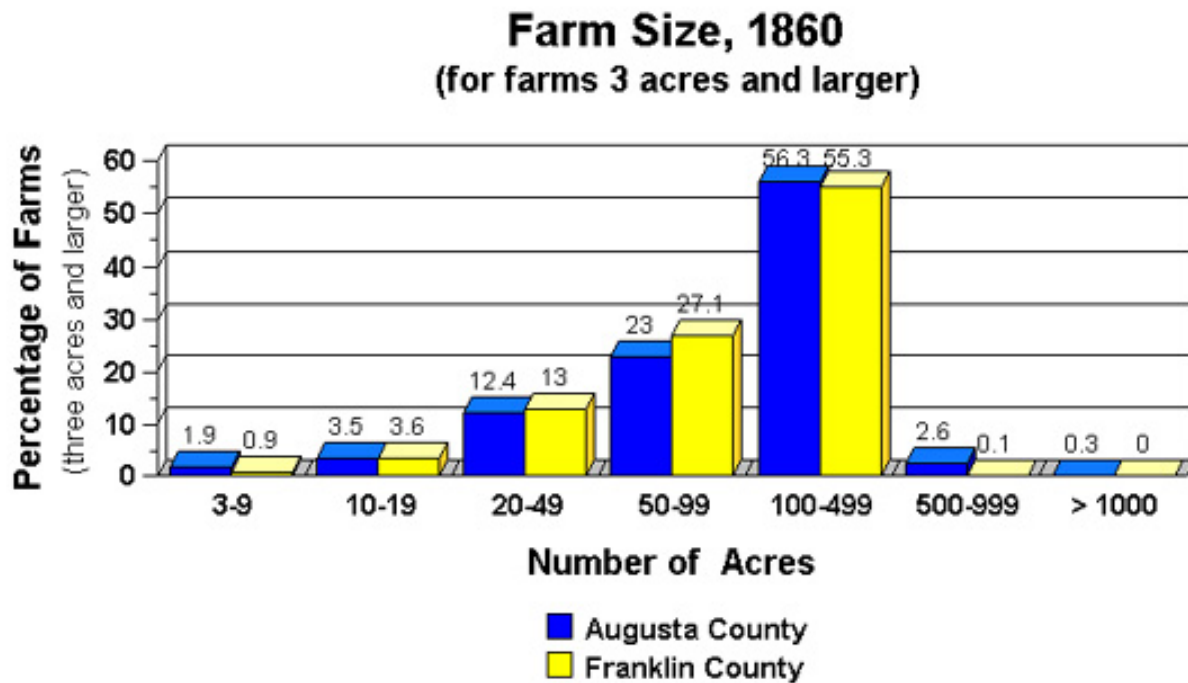
Graph: Acres of Farm Land, 1860 [Citation: Key = E065]

Summary

This graph shows the similar comparative size of farms and a percentage of farms.

Processing

U.S. Census Office, Eighth Census [1860]. Population of the United States in 1860, Compiled from the Original Returns of the Eighth Census. Washington, D.C., 1864. U.S. Census of Population, 1860. Augusta County, Virginia and Franklin County, Pennsylvania. In U.S. National Archives and Records Administration. Eighth Census of the United States, 1860. Washington: National Archives and Records Administration (Augusta: Reels 1333 and 1387. Franklin: Reels 1111 and 1112).



Graph: Annual Value of Manufacturing Per Capita, 1860 [Citation: Key = E067]

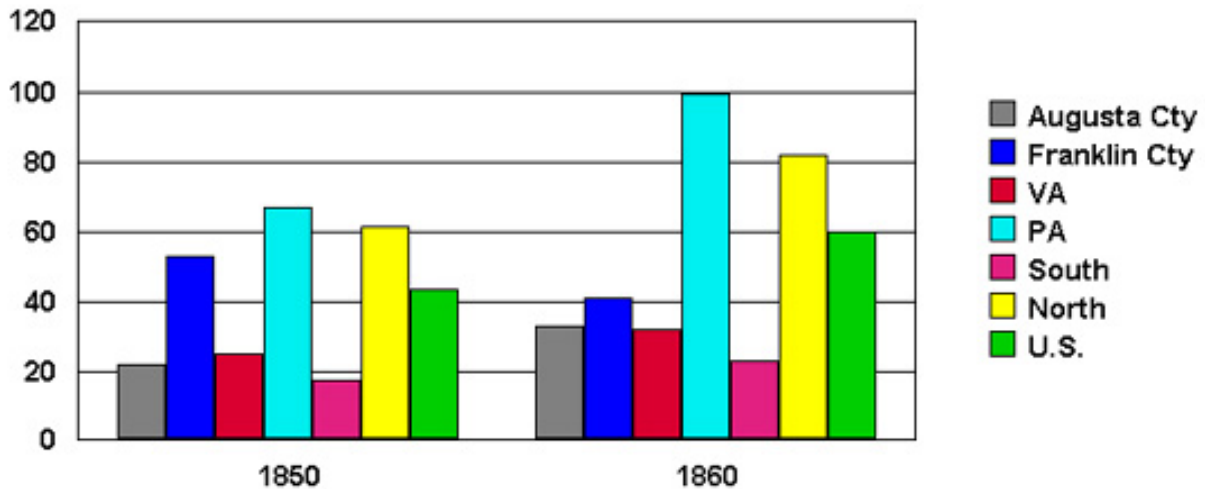
Summary

This graph compares the value of manufactured products on a per capita basis.

Processing

U.S. Census Office, Seventh Census [1850]. Population of the United States in 1850, Compiled from the Original Returns of the Seventh Census. Washington, D.C., 1854. U.S. Census Office, Eighth Census [1860]. Population of the United States in 1860, Compiled from the Original Returns of the Eighth Census. Washington, D.C., 1864.

Annual Value of Manufacturing Products Per Capita*, 1850 & 1860



*(Annual Value of Manufactured Products in Actual Dollars/Total Population)

Graph: Cash Value of Farms Per Capita Comparison, 1850 and 1860 [Citation: Key = E066]

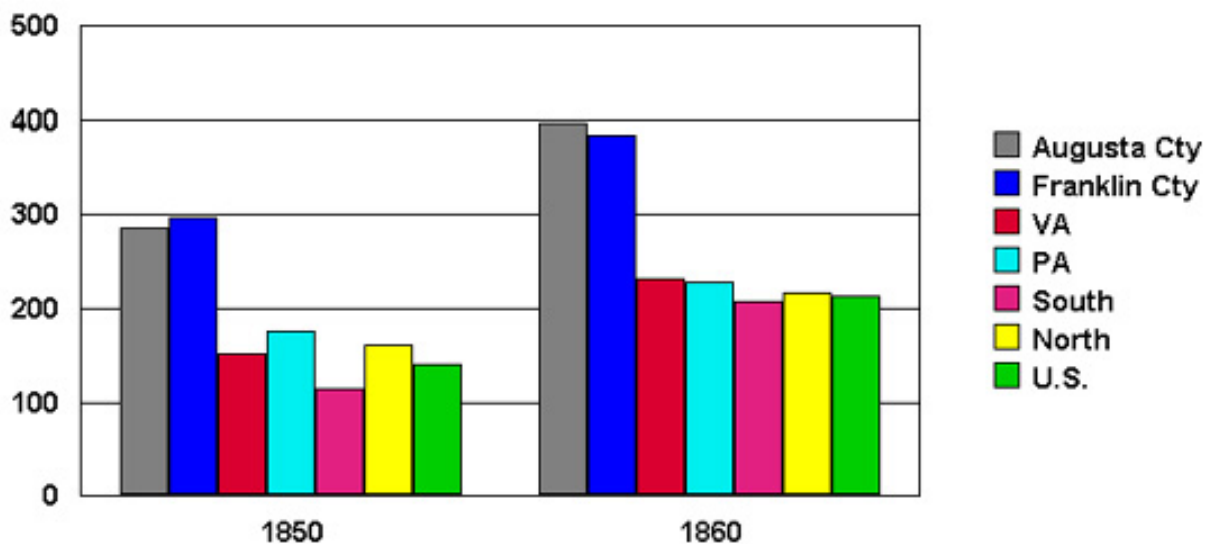
Summary

This graph compares the per capita value of farms in Augusta and Franklin with Virginia, Pennsylvania, the South, the North, and the U.S. In the 1850s the South, Virginia, and Augusta all exceeded or gained significant ground on the North, Pennsylvania, and Franklin.

Processing

U.S. Census Office, Seventh Census [1850]. Population of the United States in 1850, Compiled from the Original Returns of the Seventh Census. Washington, D.C., 1854. U.S. Census Office, Eighth Census [1860]. Population of the United States in 1860, Compiled from the Original Returns of the Eighth Census. Washington, D.C., 1864.

Cash Value of Farms Per Capita*, 1850 & 1860



*(Cash Value of Farms in Actual Dollars/Total Population)

Graph: Free Blacks as a Percentage of Total Population, 1860 [Citation: Key = E069]

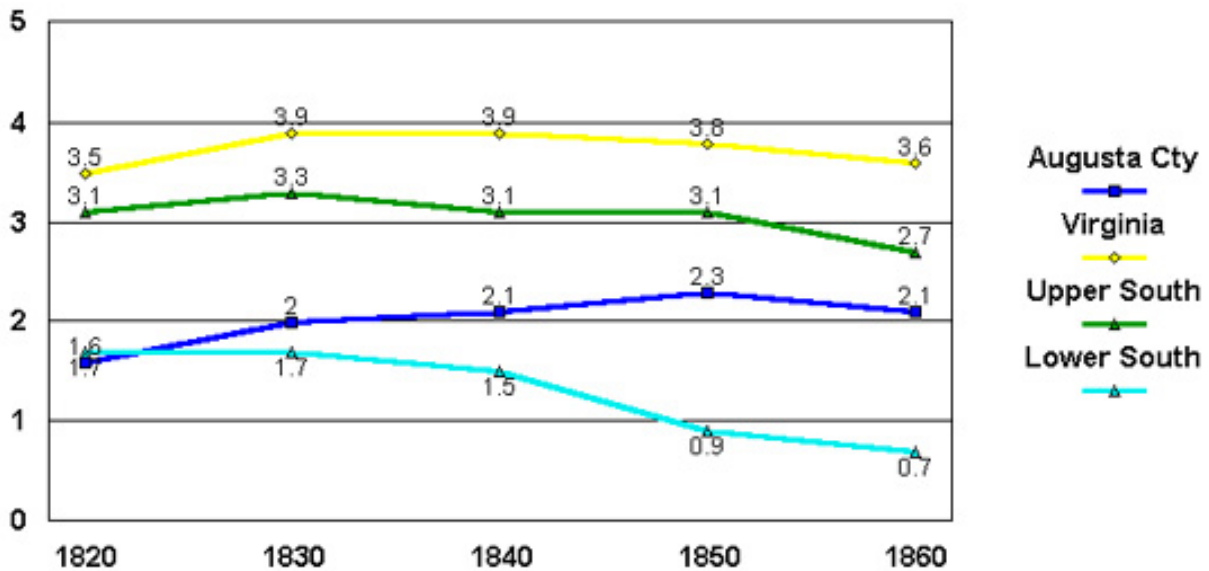
Summary

The free black population in Augusta declined in the 1850s as a percentage of the total population, just as it did in the Upper South and Virginia.

Processing

U.S. Census Office, Eighth Census [1860]. Population of the United States in 1860, Compiled from the Original Returns of the Eighth Census. Washington, D.C., 1864

**Free Blacks as a Percentage of the Total Population,
1820-1860**

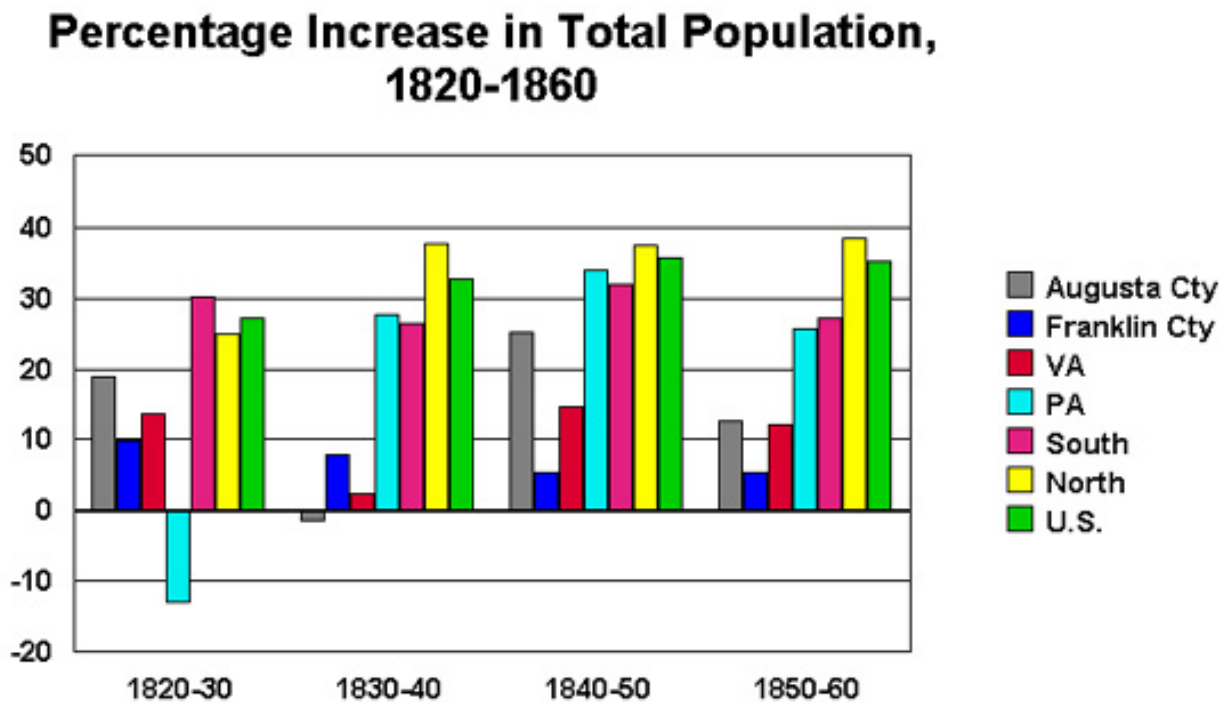


Graph: Percentage Increase in Total Population, 1860 [Citation: Key = E071]

Summary

Processing

U.S. Census Office, Eighth Census [1860]. Population of the United States in 1860, Compiled from the Original Returns of the Eighth Census. Washington, D.C., 1864



Graph: Profitability of Business Sectors, 1860 [Citation: Key = E064]

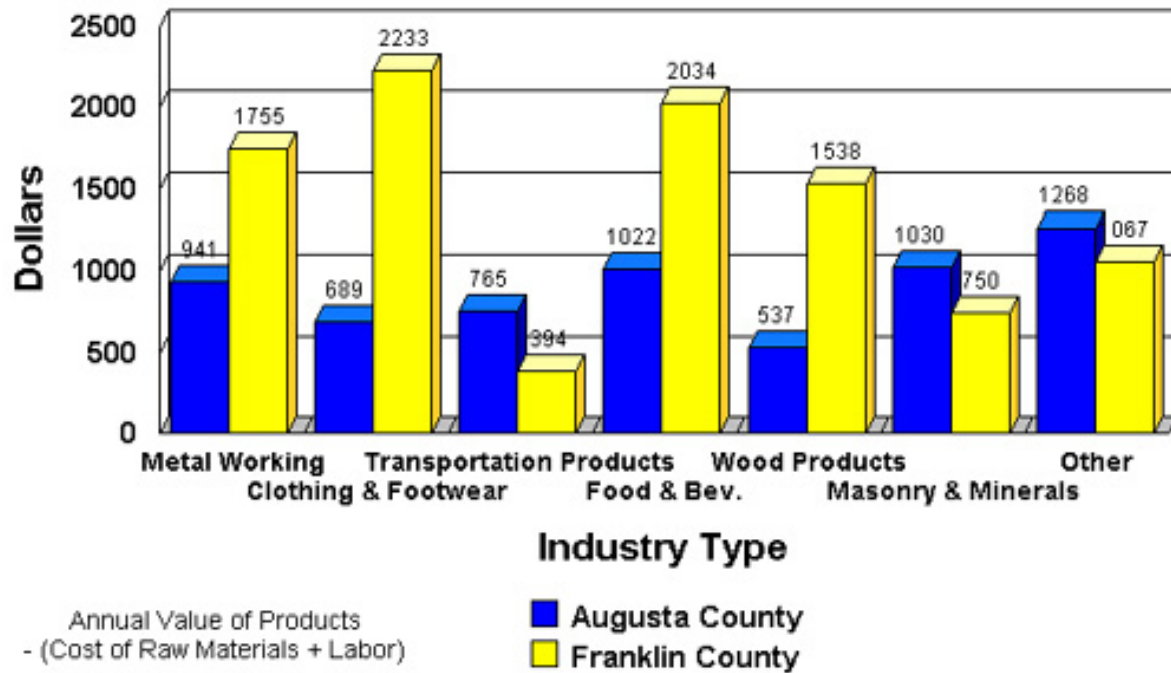
Summary

Franklin County's industries in metal working and clothing and footwear produced high levels of profitability, while Augusta outpaced Franklin in profitability in other sectors--masonry and transportation products.

Processing

U.S. Census Office, Eighth Census [1860]. Population of the United States in 1860, Compiled from the Original Returns of the Eighth Census. Washington, D.C., 1864. U.S. Census of Population, 1860. Augusta County, Virginia and Franklin County, Pennsylvania. In U.S. National Archives and Records Administration. Eighth Census of the United States, 1860. Washington: National Archives and Records Administration (Augusta: Reels 1333 and 1387. Franklin: Reels 1111 and 1112).

Average Profits Per Establishment by Industry and County, 1860 (in dollars)



Graph: Slave Population Comparison, 1860 [Citation: Key = E070]

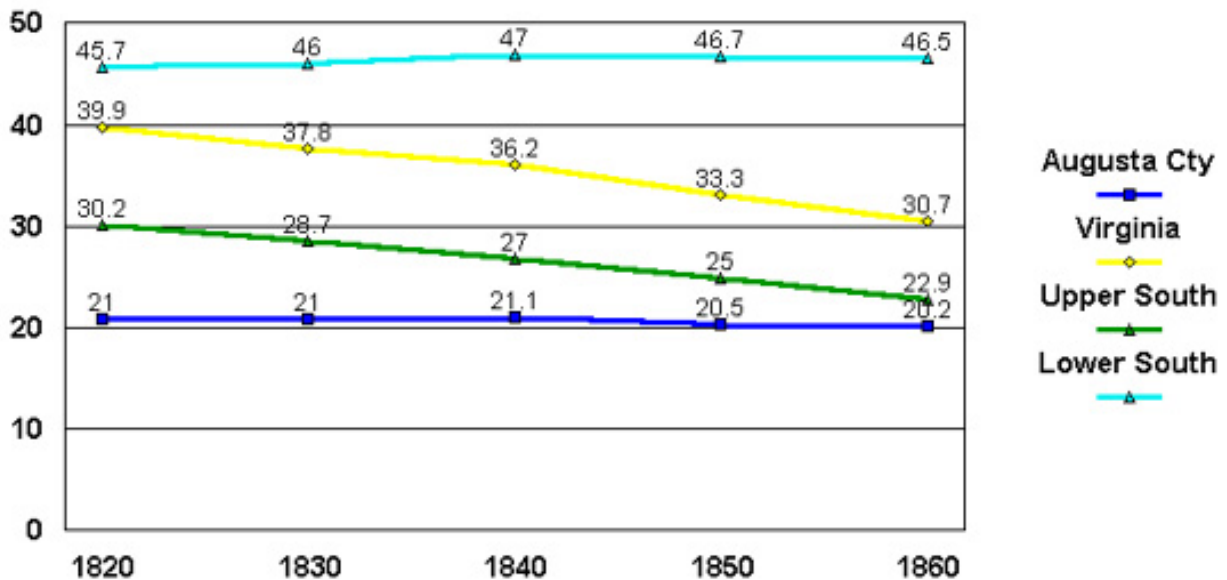
Summary

While Virginia and the Upper South's proportion of slaves in their total population declined from the 1830 to 1860, Augusta County's percentage of slaves in the total population remained steady around 20 percent from 1820 to 1860.

Processing

U.S. Census Office, Eighth Census [1860]. Population of the United States in 1860, Compiled from the Original Returns of the Eighth Census. Washington, D.C., 1864

**Slaves as a Percentage of the Total Population,
1820-1860**



Graph: Total Population as a Percentage of Virginia and Pennsylvania, 1860 [Citation: Key = E068]

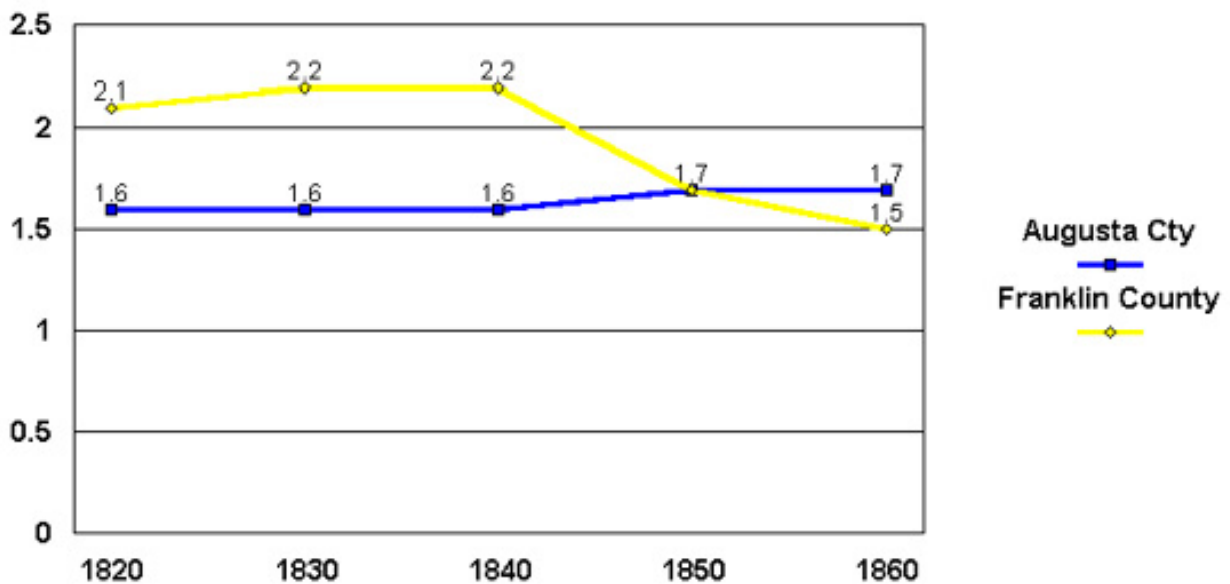
Summary

Augusta County remained steady as a percentage of Virginia's total population between 1820 and 1860, growing slightly in the 1840s. Franklin County, on the other hand, declined significantly as a percentage of the Pennsylvania population between 1840 and 1860.

Processing

U.S. Census Office, Eighth Census [1860]. Population of the United States in 1860, Compiled from the Original Returns of the Eighth Census. Washington, D.C., 1864

Total Population of Augusta and Franklin Ctys, as a % of the Total Population of VA and PA, 1820-1860



Letter: C. Alexander, C. Alexander to John H. McCue, December 18, 1858 [Citation: Key = E038]

Summary

Whites put hiring and slavery matters in postscripts.

Excerpt

"Your Fathers treatment of you I think is outrageous, but intirely in Keeping with all I have ever known of him. The Almighty Dollar is the power that governs all his actions."

"I wish to hire a cheap hand for next year would prefer a man some 45 or 5- years old, steady and trusty, that would work without overseeing If you know of such a one write me."

Full-text web version can be found at: <http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/personal/mccue/mccue18.html>

Original source can be found at: McCue Family Papers (MS 4406), Box 4, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia

Letter: C. Alexander, C. Alexander to John H. McCue, December 12, 1859 [Citation: Key = E062]

Summary

John Brown's raid made Whig leaders furious with the Democrats in Virginia. The Democrats, they suggested, were agitators of the slavery issue, recklessly endangering the fragile accommodation between the sections on slavery.

Excerpt

"There is considerable War Spirit in this country. We are seeing in the Harpers Ferry affair, the legitimate consequences of the Jno Letcher election--that result justified Old Brown & friends in believing that a Majority of Virginians were ready to join them. The Democracy are responsible for it, & should be held so, for all this slavery agitation they have kept it alive for years."

Full-text web version can be found at: <http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/personal/mccue/mccue17.html>

Original source can be found at: McCue Family Papers (MS 4406), Box 4, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia

Letter: J. Beck, J. Beck to John H. McCue, February 8, 1858 [Citation: Key = E046]

Summary

Slaves as property figured in all sorts of white owners' transactions, standing as collateral in a deal or as the bartered item for a service or piece of property.

Excerpt

"owned Boy \$1600.00 Mary & Child 1550.00 7 others 4200.00 >7350.00 Deduct the [?] [?] Boy
1600.00 amount of C. o Negros 3{ 5750.00 { 1916.66 =."

Full-text web version can be found at: <http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/personal/mccue/mccue1.html>

Original source can be found at: McCue Family Papers (MS 4406), Box 4, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia

Letter: W. J. D. Bell, J. D. Bell to John H. McCue, April 21, 1860 [Citation: Key = E041]

Summary

Slave renting and hiring often crossed county lines, as whites in neighboring counties looked to larger slaveholding places for potential hires.

Excerpt

"I see a negro Black Smith advertised by a gentleman of your town, which hand I would like to hire for the balance of this year. I want a smith that under Stands country work & particular Horse shoing."

Full-text web version can be found at: <http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/personal/mccue/mccue45.html>

Original source can be found at: McCue Family Papers (MS 4406), Box 4, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia

Letter: J. H. Cochran, J. H. Cochran to Mother, October 8, 1860 [Citation: Key = E033]

Summary

Twenty-year-old University of Virginia student John H. Cochran's letter discussed the changing political positions of his relatives, views which fluctuated in 1860 and probably went across party lines. Cochran viewed Stephen Douglas as a turncoat on the South, and he feared "slavish submission to a near numerical majority." Cochran's letter was composed in the midst of a political discussion all around him among his associates. Cochran and many other young elite white men considered the South's rights to slave property under assault.

Excerpt

Full-text web version can be found at: <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/etcbin/civwarlett-browse?id=A0571>

Original source can be found at: Cochran Family Letters, 1860-1861 (MS 92-032), Civil War Collections, Special Collections Department, Virginia Tech

Letter: Jonathan G. Coleman, Jonathan G. Coleman to John H. McCue, May 29, 1859 [Citation: Key = E051]

Summary

This runaway slave sought refuge with his owner's brother. The family conflicts extended well beyond the runaway.

Excerpt

"Old York has come to me this morning as a runaway and asks for my intercession in some way in his behalf. He complains of having recd much ill treatment at the hands of Mr. Sneed, and appears greatly distressed and dissatisfyed. Among other things he says, he is not regarded at your house as one of your negroes but as belonging to my Fathers estate."

"I hope you will not think it an offensive interference in your affairs as nothing is farther from my intention. Let me assure you that all I have said in this matter is in a spirit of friendship and in accordance with what I believe would be the wishes of our Father on this subject. And who, if he could be permitted to witness the present state of things between us, and the means by which it has been brought about, would deplore it with grief and anguish which would be inconsolable."

Full-text web version can be found at: <http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/personal/mccue/mccue29.html>

Original source can be found at: McCue Family Papers (MS 4406), Box 4, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia

Letter: F. Davis, F. Davis to John H. McCue, September 5, 1859 [Citation: Key = E039]

Summary

White slaveholders in Augusta looked to diversify their holdings and to reach Northern markets.

Excerpt

"I am or will shortly be in want of a Foreman as the one I have is going to attend to a place that I have purchased on James River below Richmond we are going into fruit raising there on a pretty large scale for the Northern Cities. I look upon it as the best paying business that a man can embark in at present."

Full-text web version can be found at: <http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/personal/mccue/mccue16.html>

Original source can be found at: McCue Family Papers (MS 4406), Box 4, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia

Letter: William S. Eskridge, William S. Eskridge to John H. McCue, May 21, 1858 [Citation: Key = E050]

Summary

Sheriffs and deputy sheriffs in Augusta controlled the disposition of government-seized property, including slaves. Political intrigue swirled around the business of the sheriff's office and its disposition of highly valuable slave property.

Excerpt

". . . had sold another Negro out of Jail taken about paying. The money to the auditor . . . of the former sale, the auditor said he did not recollect of but one Negro's sale being accounted for. This led to an investigation."

Full-text web version can be found at: <http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/personal/mccue/mccue42.html>

Original source can be found at: McCue Family Papers (MS 4406), Box 3, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia

Letter: William S. Garvin, William S. Garvin to Simon Cameron, January 24, 1861 [Citation: Key = E061]

Summary

Franklin resident, William Garvin, from Mercer in Montgomery Township, wrote Simon Cameron, the Secretary of War in 1861-62. Garvin doubted whether many Democrats in Franklin would fight to keep the South in the Union.

Excerpt

"There are hundreds in this county who voted for Lincoln, that will vote for any amendment to the constitution [Crittenden, [unclear: Brigler] , Douglass,] on any thing else almost that has a reasonable face. The small politicians will object, but from every quarter I hear of men breaking away from party trammels and avowing themselves ready to compromise to save the Union. I have no doubt the same can be said all over the state. If fight we must, it will be awful - and will give almost every state in the union trouble. I put it down, for instance, that the democrats no where in the north will sustain coercion, and if drafted will refuse the requisition. Will Mr. [unclear: Curtin] and McClure undertake to compel the democrats of this state to go south to fight their brethren. They will have a good time in doing it, I fancy. Coercion will never do - better the whole union broke up than coercion attempted in a single state. If we part peaceably, we can come together again, when the questions of the day have lost their acrimony, and when we realize how necessary to our security, prosperity, and happiness, the Union really is - but if we have war, farewell for ever to any future union."

Full-text web version can be found at: <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/etcbin/civwarlett-browse?id=F0935>

Original source can be found at: Library of Congress

Letter: W. W. Gibbs, W. W. Gibbs to John H. McCue, December 18, 1858 [Citation: Key = E047]

Summary

Whites went to great lengths to find good domestic slaves, making inquiries among friends, neighbors, acquaintances, and family across the region and state.

Excerpt

"I thought I could procure you a cook or nurse but could find none all having been disposed of. I hear Tho Bowan near Greenwood Tunnel has a good cook for hire if you are not supplied you had best write to him or come over and see him such as you want is hard to find."

Full-text web version can be found at: <http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/personal/mccue/mccue31.html>

Original source can be found at: McCue Family Papers (MS 4406), Box 4, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia

Letter: G. W. Imboden, G. W. Imboden to John H. McCue, April 12, 1860 [Citation: Key = E040]

Summary

Augusta slaveholders hired out slaves to nonslaveholders, companies, and governments.

Excerpt

"Mr. Bill Crawford has spoken to me concerning a claim he has on you, for the hire of a negro and requested me to write to you concerning it."

Full-text web version can be found at: <http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/personal/mccue/mccue40.html>

Original source can be found at: McCue Family Papers (MS 4406), Box 4, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia

Letter: John G. Imboden, John G. Imboden to John H. McCue, November 13, 1859 [Citation: Key = E052]

Summary

White elite families made gifts of slaves, passing on slaves in wills or as inherited property in dowries.

Excerpt

"Staunton is pleasant now. The usual winter evening entertainments over a bowl of oysters and a few friends have commenced. Week before last my father in law was here, & was invited out to several dinings & suppers. . . By the way the old gentleman is disposed to do the liberal with me. He has given us 5 negroes, and the offer of as many more as we may be disposed to have."

Full-text web version can be found at: <http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/personal/mccue/mccue74.html>

Original source can be found at: McCue Family Papers (MS 4406), Box 3, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia

Letter: John G. Imboden, Letter to John H. McCue, December 3, 1860 [Citation: Key = E060]

Summary

Imboden, a fiery Whig, could see many alternatives apart from immediate secession in the wake of Lincoln's election. He hoped to contain Lincoln, circumscribe his power, and freeze the president's power until the crisis passed. Although a prominent party activist in Augusta, Imboden would give limited time and attention to the wild national politics in 1860-61. Instead, he was busy with a new plantation venture in Kentucky.

Excerpt

"We are not really so far apart as you suppose. I understand that you are a 'Union man'--so am I. You would resist Republicanism--so would I. We neither think Va ought to secede, or rather revolt just now. You think S. Carolina ought to go out now, I think not--and here is the only point of difference between us, so far as I can see. That the entire South will speedily have to leave the Confederacy under the present Constitution I entertain no doubt whatever, but I dont think S. C. has put the issue upon a defensible ground--the mere election of a President under the Forms of law."

"If I had my way now, I would fight the Republicans thus--I would say to Lincoln 'You have been elected by the vote of only about one third of the people of the U. States. Your party is revolutionary in its organization, tendencies & aims. No man of your party ought to fill any national office if it can be prevented. We--the conservative 2/3rds of the American people still control the Senate & H. of Reps. of the U. States. We will use our power in those bodies to protect ourselves. We understand your party aims at the subjugation of 15 States & you as their head are expected to further their objects. We therefore declare war upon you & your party as you have declared war upon us. You shall have no tools of yours in office to aid you in your unholy work. The Senate must confirm all your appointments to office before they are valid. Now Sir! no man of your party is fit for any office, because his political opinions are destructive of American liberty. The Senate therefore will refuse--as they ought to do, being the reps. of the Sovereignty of the States which you seek to assail--to confirm to office any man who votes for you. We offer you the range of all other parties from which to select your Cabinet, your ministers, Post Masters, Collectors, Attorneys, Judges &c and we will confirm no others.' If this ground was firmly taken & maintained, Lincoln would be // utterly powerless. It would soon be understood that not he, but the Senate was the real appointive power, and then no man need hesitate about taking office under his administration for he would hold it, not from Lincoln but from the Senate. The President would have a Cabinet to watch him & control him. It may be said such a course would be revolutionary--perhaps it would--but it would be under & within the Constitution. And I would go further if he refused to submit to this control. I would defeat all appropriations of money for all purposes whatever & thus dissolve the government into its original elements."

Full-text web version can be found at: <http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/personal/mccue/mccue39.html>

The Differences Slavery Made: A Close Analysis of Two American Communities
William G. Thomas, III and Edward L. Ayers

Original source can be found at: McCue Family Papers (MS 4406), Box 4, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia

Letter: John B. McPherson, John B. McPherson to Edward McPherson, November 9, 1860
[Citation: Key = E035]

Summary

Congressman Edward McPherson's nephew John, like many young men in their twenties, became infected with politics in the 1860 election. John admitted his "dangerous" inexperience in politics as a "Young American." He predicted that the Republicans were gaining in the elections and recounted a joke about the Democratic editor's age--too young to be eligible to vote. Young ambitious men were especially attracted to the Republican Wide Awakes.

Excerpt

Full-text web version can be found at: <http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/personal/mcpherson/em82.html>

Original source can be found at: Edward McPherson Papers, Library of Congress, Box 47, Folder 1860

Letter: Maria Perkins, Maria Perkins to Richard Perkins, October 8, 1852 [Citation: Key = E045]

Summary

This letter from Maria Perkins, a slave, to her husband, also a slave, concerned her imminent sale. She hoped he would persuade his master to buy her. One of their sons, Albert, was sold already, and she described herself as "heartsick."

Excerpt

"Myself and other child is for sale also and I want to you let hear from you very soon . . . I want you to tell dr Hamelton and your master if either will buy me they can attend to it."

Full-text web version can be found at: <http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/personal/perkins.html>

Original source can be found at: Yale University Library Manuscripts and Archives, New Haven, CT

Letter: Alexander H. H. Stuart, Alexander H. H. Stuart to Reverend W. G. Brownlow, August 18, 1856 [Citation: Key = E063]

Summary

Alexander H. H. Stuart represented Augusta in the state senate and served in Millard Fillmore's cabinet. In 1856 he hoped to establish a "Constitutional Union" party that would help save the country.

Excerpt

"For the first time in the history of our country the alarming feature of sectionalism has been infused into the party strifes of the day. The democratic party, abandoning all its old land-marks has assumed the position of a slavery-extension party, & the black Republican Party on the other hand stands pledged to opposite principles of slavery-limitation. The necessary result of this array of adverse factions is to present the northern & Southern states in an attitude of irreconcilable antagonism & to cause the election to turn on the single issue of slavery. In such an unequal contest as this, it requires no spirit of prophesy to foretell which faction would be the victor, nor is it more difficult to foresee what would be the direful consequences of defeat. The dissolution of the union must inevitably follow, with a train of disastrous consequences which no pen can describe & no imagination conceive."

Full-text web version can be found at: <http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/personal/stuart/stuart18.html>

Original source can be found at: Stuart-Baldwin Papers (MS 228), Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia

Letter: Lucas P. Thompson, Lucas P. Thompson to John H. McCue, November 1, 1860 [Citation: Key = E034]

Summary

Thompson, certain that Lincoln would win the presidential election, predicted secession yet considered it "madness and folly of committing suicide for fear of dying." Thompson, a Whig, foresaw only more difficulties with disunion, and clung to a distant hope that Bell might win.

Excerpt

Full-text web version can be found at: <http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/personal/mccue/mccue61.html>

Original source can be found at: McCue Family Papers (MS 4406), Box 4, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia

Letter: C. T. Wills, C. T. Wills to John H. McCue, December 7, 1853 [Citation: Key = E049]

Summary

Some slave owners insured their slave property, just as they would their house or business. Lawyers, such as John H. McCue helped negotiate terms.

Excerpt

"We would be satisfied to take the risk on the lives of Dr. F. E Lucketes negroes provided they are proper subjects for Insurance. In order to Insure them you may select some Physician of standing in Dr L. neighborhood to examine them but he (Dr L) must pay the Examination fees, and we will allow him a credit of Fifty cents on each policy that being the fee we pay our Medical examiners. We will Insure the negroes to an amount equal to three fourths of their value provided it does not exceed Eight hundred Dollars the head."

Full-text web version can be found at: <http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/personal/mccue/mccue38.html>

Original source can be found at: McCue Family Papers (MS 4406), Box 2, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia

Letter: E. H. Wills, E. H. Wills to John H. McCue, March 25, 1857 [Citation: Key = E048]

Summary

Slaves ran from plantations and depended on a network of "acquaintances." When presented with the news of a runaway slave, white owners invariably tried to discover what was "in his head."

Excerpt

"Wilson has run off, and may possibly be about Staunton or somewhere in Augusta. There has been deprecations committed here from time to time."

"we found he had broken open the cabin where his clothes were and taken them off. You know he is such a sly negro that he may have more in his head than we know of. You can have an eye to it, as he may attempt to go farther than this neighborhood. You know he was once taken up in Augusta and has so many acquaintances that he may be harbored without its being known that he has run away, or perhaps may aim for a free state."

Full-text web version can be found at: <http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/personal/mccue/mccue26.html>

Original source can be found at: McCue Family Papers (MS 4406), Box 4, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia