“A Plan of the City of New York from an Actual Survey”
The Maerschalck Map, 1755

The Library of Congress
Gronniosaw Maps:

*Left:* The 1743 Homann Heirs map delineates the 3,400-mile area of the slave trade known at the time as Guinea (in yellow). The savannah region runs in a broad east-west band across West Africa between the Coastal rainforest to the south and the Sahara Desert to the north. *Right:* The borders of West African countries are superimposed on the original 1743 map. Gronniosaw was born in the city of Bournou in northeastern Nigeria.

*Homann Heirs map courtesy of Geographicus Rare Antique Maps, geographicus.com*

Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, JWJ Zan G898 770Nb
Atlantic Ocean c. 1765
This 18th Century map depicts the Atlantic Basin, the center of the so-called Triangle Trade. Textiles, rum, and manufactured goods from New England or Europe were traded in West Africa for slaves; slaves were carried to the Americas; sugar, tobacco, rum and cotton were transported to New England or to Europe, whose clockwise winds and currents favored the triangular direction of the trade.

*The New York Public Library*
Portrait of Olaudah Equiano facing the title page of the 1794 edition of his popular autobiography, first published in England in 1790 and reprinted a number of times and in different languages.

*The Library of Congress*
The nine members who checked out Equiano’s memoir, from the Library’s historic charging ledger

*The New York Society Library*
James Beekman’s ledger page, showing the circulation of Equiano’s memoir

*The New York Society Library*
Equiano Maps:

*Left:* The 1743 Homann Heirs map delineates the 3,400-mile area of the slave trade known at the time as Guinea (in yellow). The savannah region runs in a broad east-west band across West Africa between the Coastal rainforest to the south and the Sahara Desert to the north. *Right:* The borders of West African countries are superimposed on the original 1743 map. Olaudah Equiano came from Eboe (Igbo or Ibo peoples) in today’s eastern Nigeria.

*Homann Heirs map courtesy of Geographicus Rare Antique Maps, geographicus.com*
This famous diagram of the slave ship *Brookes*, in an age before photographs, was one of the first widely reproduced political posters and one of the abolitionists’ most powerful tools.

*from Thomas Clarkson’s 1808 History of the Abolition of the African Slave Trade*
Venture Smith Maps:

Left: The 1743 Homann Heirs map delineates the 3,400-mile area of the slave trade known at the time as Guinea (in yellow). The savannah region runs in a broad east-west band across West Africa between the Coastal rainforest to the south and the Sahara Desert to the north. Right: The borders of West African countries are superimposed on the original 1743 map. Venture Smith, whose African name was Broteer, was born in Dukandarra—probably north of the present-day country of Ghana.

Homann Heirs map courtesy of Geographicus Rare Antique Maps, geographicus.com
Venture Smith’s first real-estate purchase in 1775 in East Haddam, Connecticut.

*Documenting the American South*,
docsouth.unc.edu
Venture Smith’s headstone. Smith, who died in 1805, is buried beside his wife, Meg, in the graveyard of East Haddam’s First Congregational Church.

The inscription reads

“Venture Smith, an African, tho the Son of a King he was kidnapped & sold as a slave but by his industry he acquired Money to purchase his Freedom.”

*Courtesy of photographer David C. Nelson*
On being brought from AFRICA
to AMERICA.

’Twas mercy brought me from my Pagan land,
Taught my benighted soul to understand
That there’s a God, that there’s a Saviour too:
Once I redemption neither sought nor knew.
Some view our sable race with scornful eye,
“‘Tis their colour is a diabolic die.”
Remember, Christians, Negros, black as Cain,
May be refined, and join th’ angelic train.

Poem by Phillis Wheatley, published in her 1773 book
Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral
Frontispiece portrait of Phillis Wheatley, author of *Poems on Various Subjects Religious and Moral*.

The portrait is attributed by some scholars to Scipio Moorhead (active c. 1773), an enslaved African American artist based in Boston, who is mentioned in the dedication of one of Wheatley’s poems.

The frame reads “Phillis Wheatley, Negro Servant to Mr. John Wheatley of Boston.”

*National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institute*
This book of verse centered around Phillis Wheatley was just nominated for a National Book Award.
Frontispiece portrait of Phillis Wheatley, author of *Poems on Various Subjects Religious and Moral*.

The portrait is attributed by some scholars to Scipio Moorhead (active c. 1773), an enslaved African American artist based in Boston, who is mentioned in the dedication of one of Wheatley’s poems.

The frame reads “Phillis Wheatley, Negro Servant to Mr. John Wheatley of Boston.”

*National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institute*
Joseph Lloyd Manor on Long Island, where Jupiter Hammon lived and wrote

*Courtesy of Preservation Long Island*
Hammon’s Address, published in New York and Philadelphia in 1787.
Jupiter Hammon’s 1789
“An Essay on Slavery”
Hillhouse Family Papers in Manuscripts and
Archives, Yale University Library