

Document Detective

Looking for Evidence

First Impressions

See what you can discover about slavery by studying the documents. Make a list of any words or phrases that you do not know and look them up in a dictionary. Understanding the words will help you understand the document. Answer the following questions.

Who wrote the document?

What kind of document is it? (a letter, a diary, a newspaper advertisement, a will, a receipt, or a government document?)

Who are the people who ran away? How many are men? How many are women?

Can you tell **where** they lived?

10 DOLLARS REWARD.—Runaway from my Plantation in Christ Church Parish, my negro man **ABRAHAM**, said boy is 24 years old, about 5 feet 6 inches in height, of dark complexion, and hesitates a little in his speech, has the top of one ear bit off by a dog. The above reward will be paid for his delivery to me at Mount Pleasant, or if lodged in the Charleston jail.

July 5

mwf

J. H. McKEE.

TWENTY DOLLARS REWARD WILL BE given either for the delivery of my mulatto man **TOM** to me, or lodge him in any jail or work house, and Thirty Dollars more for furnishing evidence to conviction of any person harboring him. Tom is about thirty years old, of moderate height, and had whiskers around his face when he left my premises, which was on the 14th of this month.

SOLOMON LEGARE,

103 Tradd street.

June 23

w3

\$200 REWARD—Runaway from the subscriber some time in March last, his servant **LYDIA**, and is suspected of being in Charleston. I will give the above reward to any person who may apprehend her, and furnish evidence to conviction of the person supposed to harbor her, or Fifty Dollars for having her lodged in any Jail so that I get her. Lydia is a Mulatto Woman, twenty-five years of age, four feet eleven inches high, with straight black hair, which inclines to curl, her front teeth defective, and has been plugged the gold distinctly seen when talking, round face, a scar under her chin, and two fingers on one hand stiff at the first joints.

June 16

C. T. SCAIFE.

FIFTY DOLLARS REWARD.—Runaway on Sunday the 6th inst., from the South Carolina Railroad Company, their negro man **SAM**, recently bought by them with others at Messrs. Cothran & Sproulls sale at Arken. He was raised in Cumberland County, North Carolina, and last brought from Richmond Va. In height he is 5 feet 6 1/2 inches. Complexion copper colour, on the left arm, and right leg somewhat scarred. Countenance good. The above Reward will be paid, for his apprehension and lodgment in any one of the Jails of this or any neighboring State.

June 12

J. D. PETSCH,
Supt. Transportation.

\$150 REWARD.—Runaway from my Plantation on Wadmalaw Island, my Negro Fellow **RENTY**. Renty is of dark complexion, 5 feet 7 or 8 inches high, and a very fine looking fellow. There can be no doubt of his being harbored either in St. Andrew's, St. John's, or Wadmalaw Island. A reward of One Hundred Dollars will be paid on his delivery to the Master of the Work House, and no questions asked. An additional reward of \$25 will be paid on proof to conviction of his being harbored by a colored person, and \$25 more by a white person.

If Renty should return of his own accord, he will be forgiven.

JOSEPH WHALEY, Edisto.

June 11

sw12

\$100 REWARD FOR A RUNAWAY.—Runaway from his owner in Charleston on the 17th of January, **DICK**, a likely fellow, about 25 years old. He was formerly owned by a Mr. Campbell at or near Ridgeville, and is well known in that neighborhood; he was also hired to John R. Stall, esq. of Summerville, and has a wife at Major Hutchinson's Plantation. Dick has a scar on the under part of one of his arms, by which he can be identified; it is supposed he is lurking about near Ridgeville. I will pay One Hundred Dollars reward if proof to conviction can be obtained that Dick is harbored by a white man, or Twenty-five Dollars if he be lodged either in Charleston or Walterboro Jail.

May 13

w8

MOSES ROYNTON, Ashepoo Ferry.

Searching for More Information

The document is an advertisement found in the Charleston *Mercury*, a South Carolina newspaper. It describes slaves who ran away from their owners. Look again at the document and try to answer the following questions:

How were the runaways treated if they were recaptured? How do you know?

What is the highest reward offered in these ads? What is the lowest?

What are the differences between the slaves with the highest and lowest reward?

Interpreting Your Answers

Think about all that you have learned from this document. Discuss what you have discovered with your classmates or write a paragraph that explains your findings.