

## SLAVE TRADERS, SPECULATORS AND THE DOMESTIC SLAVE TRADE

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### What was the Domestic Slave Trade?

- The Transatlantic slave trade officially ended with the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 1807 which went into effect on January 1, 1808. Illegal trading continued after the ban but gave rise to the Domestic Slave Trade from the Upper South into the Lower South.
- In 1790, 45% of all Southern slaves lived in Virginia<sup>1</sup>
  - This number dropped to 28% in 1820 and 12% in 1860.
  - Between 1820 – 1860 the slave population of Virginia increased 15%
- 18th century
  - States along the Chesapeake Bay (Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and DC) were slave exporting states.
  - Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia were slave importing states.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Century
  - North Carolina, Kentucky and South Carolina were slave exporting states
  - Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Missouri and Arkansas were slave importing states
- Slave population growth between 1820 – 1860
  - Alabama – population grew by more than 393,000
  - Mississippi – In 1820 less than 33,000 slaves and in 1860 that number increased to 437,000
  - Louisiana – Slave population grew 263,000
  - More than 875,000 slaves were transported from the Upper South to the Lower South.

### Slave Traders & Slave Pens

One of the most famous slave traders was Isaac Franklin of Franklin & Armfield in Alexandria, Virginia. All roads lead to Virginia when it came to the slave trade and the expansion West. Franklin & Armfield had ships moving from November to April with enslaved individuals in Baltimore and Richmond.

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<sup>1</sup> Steven Deyle, *Carry Me Back: The Domestic Slave Trade in American Life*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005)

**Some Major Slave Markets:** Alexandria, Baltimore, Mobile, Natchez, New Orleans, Norfolk and Richmond.

### **Speculators vs. Traders**

- Speculators: Were often looking to go West and expand their wealth through land and enslaved individuals.
- Enslaved individuals were purchased based on future cotton production with the enslavers paying professional slave traders.
- In the early 1830's, many states such as Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi tried to control the slave trade. Some through bans on the importation of slaves.

### **Records used in Research**

- History Department, Dissertations and Master's Thesis
- New Orleans Louisiana Slave Manifests, 1807-1860
- Probate Records
- Personal papers
- Slave Certificates
- U.S., Southeast Coastwise Inward and Outward Slave Manifests, 1790-1860 (Ancestry.com)
- Virginia Chancery Court Records

### **Resources**

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Tadman, Michael. *Speculators and Slaves: Masters, Traders and Slaves in the Old South*, Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1996.