

In-Archives Handout

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Part of an in-archives exercise at <http://www.teacharchives.org/exercises/runaway-slave-ads>

Baxter Journal Station

Runaway slave advertisements in Black Code of the State of Louisiana, circa 1835; Slavery pamphlet collection, PAMP Black-1; Brooklyn Historical Society.

To be completed as a group. You may want to photograph documents so each person will have a copy for the activity and the later assignment.

1. Write down any entries about runaway slaves you find on the following pages:

Volume 1: page 116
Volume 2: pages 21 and 133

2. Do the dates of Baxter's entries fit the profile authors John Hope Franklin and Loren Schweninger establish in their "runaway slave profile"?
3. How does Baxter describe his runaway slaves in his journal entries? What is his tone?

- b. Are there any entries that stand out from the others?

4. What change occurs in the number of entries Baxter makes in his journals over time?

5. Read aloud the *Act for the gradual abolition of slavery*
 - b. Discuss and summarize the meaning of the document.
 - c. What is a possible relationship between this document and the change in the number of runaway slave entries in Baxter's Journal?

Presentation

At the end of the visit to the archives, your group will introduce your document and discuss:

- whether or not Baxter's runaways fit any aspect of the Franklin/Schweninger "runaway slave profile"
- the manner in which Baxter mentions his runaway slaves in his journal entries
- the change in the number of runaways that occurred over time
- the historical context in which this change in the number of runaways occurred