



**“A Plan of the City of New York from an Actual Survey”
The Maerschallck 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

The title page of James Albert Ukawsaw Gronniosaw (1774 American edition), *A narrative of the most remarkable particulars in the life of James Albert Ukawsaw Gronniosaw, an African prince / written by himself.* First published in England in 1772.

*Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library,
Yale University, JWJ Zan G898 770Nb*

A
NARRATIVE
OF THE
Most Remarkable Particulars
IN THE
LIFE
OF

James Albert Ukawsaw Gronniosaw,
An African Prince,
Written by HIMSELF.

*I will bring the Blind, by a Way that they know not,
I will lead them by Paths that they have not known :
I will make Darkness Light before them, and crooked
Things straight. These Things will I do unto
them, and not forsake them. Isaai. xlii. 16.*

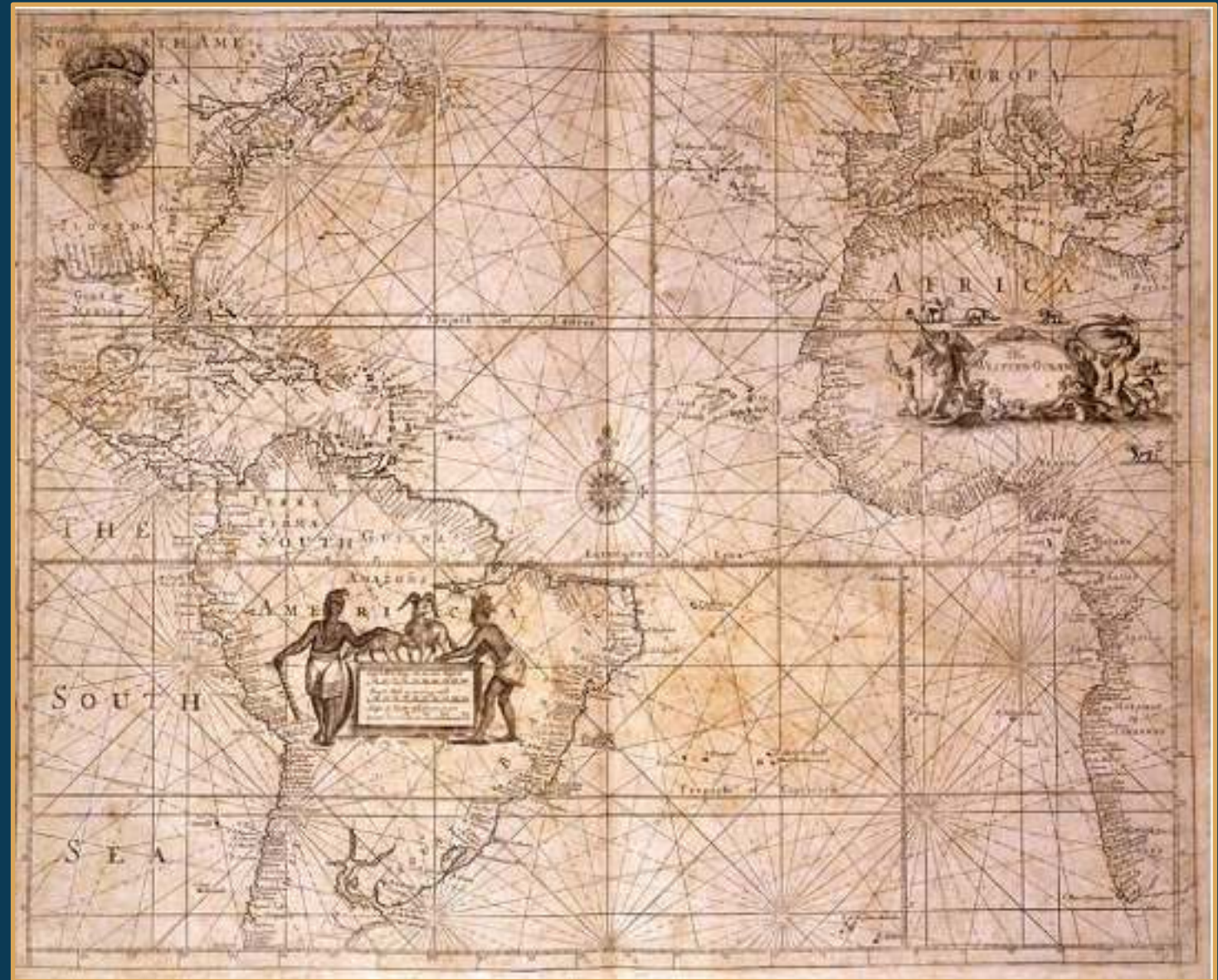
BATH Printed :

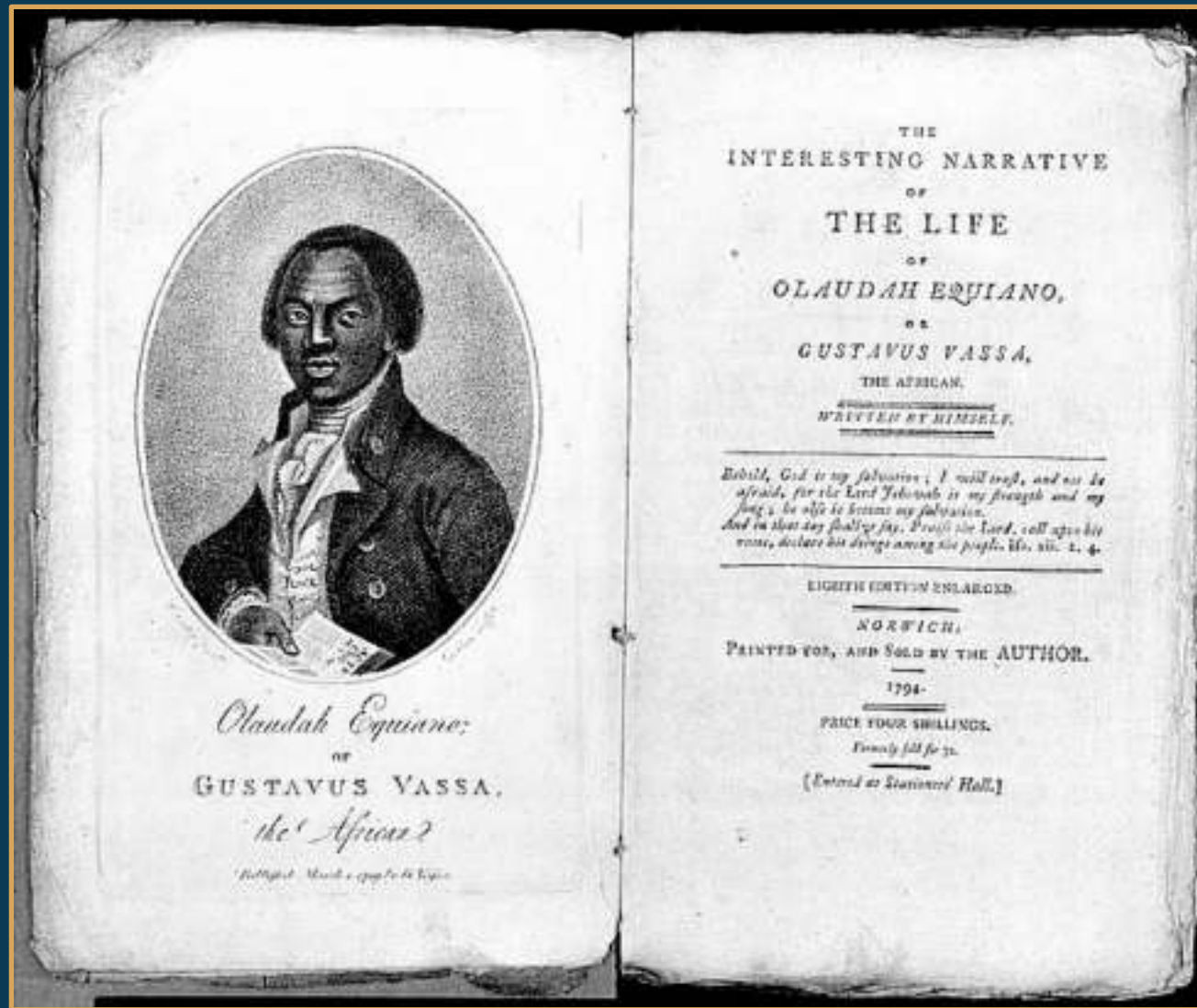
NEWPORT, RHODE-ISLAND : Reprinted and Sold by
S. BOUTHWICK, in Queen Street, 1774.

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

City Readers

Digital Historic Collections at the New York Society Library

City Readers > Books > The interesting narrative of the life

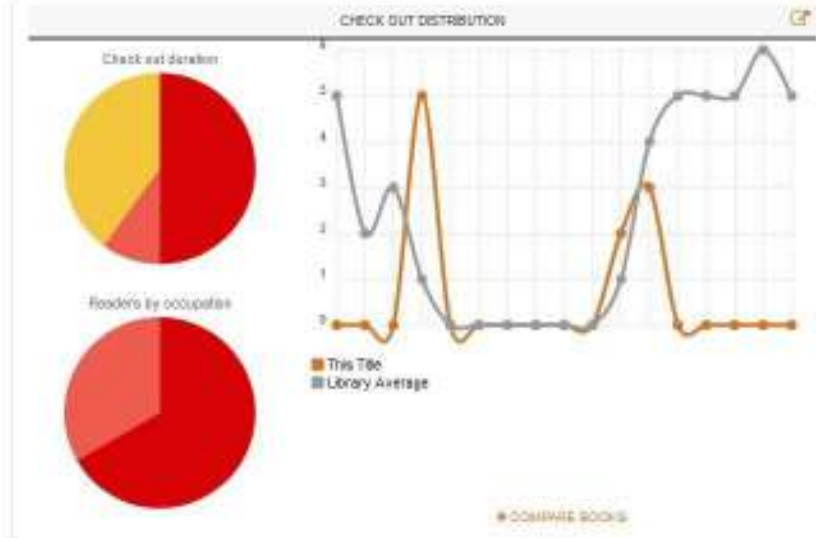
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Claudah Equiano

The interesting narrative of the life of Claudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African. Written by himself. London: Printed for, and sold by the author: Sell'd also by Mr. Johnson ... , 1789.

NYSL Collection

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BORROWING HISTORY

RELATED PEOPLE & ORGANIZATIONS

RELATED DOCUMENTS

BORROWER NAME	VOLUME	DATE OUT	DATE IN	FINE	TRANSCRIBED TITLE	REF	LEADER
Sidney Phoenix		1/20/1792	1/26/1792		Gustavus Vasa		
Charles John Evans		2/11/1792	2/20/1792		Gustavus Vasa		
James Seeborn		3/21/1792	3/30/1792		Gustavus Vasa		
William Linn		4/2/1792	4/21/1792	5s.	Gustavus Vasa		
John L. Noton		4/26/1792			Gustavus Vasa - 1/1		
Joseph King		8/12/1792	8/19/1792		Gustavus Vasa		
James Stuart		1/7/1803	1/14/1803		Gustavus Vasa		
Henry Seaman		1/15/1803	1/25/1803		Gustavus Vasa		
William W. Stoney		1/27/1803	1/31/1803		Gustavus Vasa		

The nine members who checked out Equiano's memoir, from the Library's historic charging ledger

The New York Society Library

51

Jan 1		James Beekman Sep 20 1791	
1	100	1	100
2	100	2	100
3	100	3	100
4	100	4	100
5	100	5	100
6	100	6	100
7	100	7	100
8	100	8	100
9	100	9	100
10	100	10	100
11	100	11	100
12	100	12	100
13	100	13	100
14	100	14	100
15	100	15	100
16	100	16	100
17	100	17	100
18	100	18	100
19	100	19	100
20	100	20	100
21	100	21	100
22	100	22	100
23	100	23	100
24	100	24	100
25	100	25	100
26	100	26	100
27	100	27	100
28	100	28	100
29	100	29	100
30	100	30	100
31	100	31	100

James Beekman's ledger page, showing the circulation of Equiano's memoir

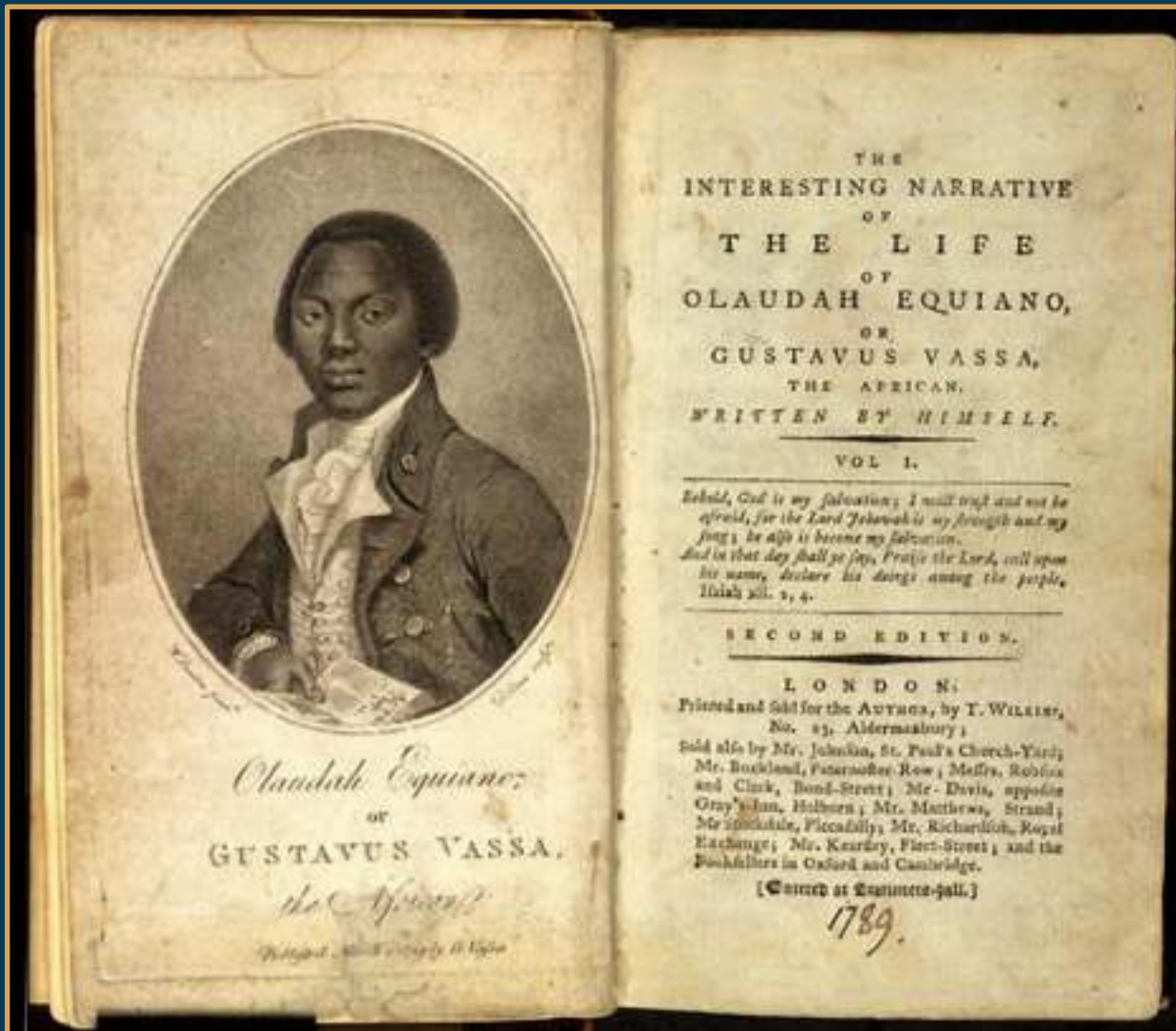
The New York Society Library



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

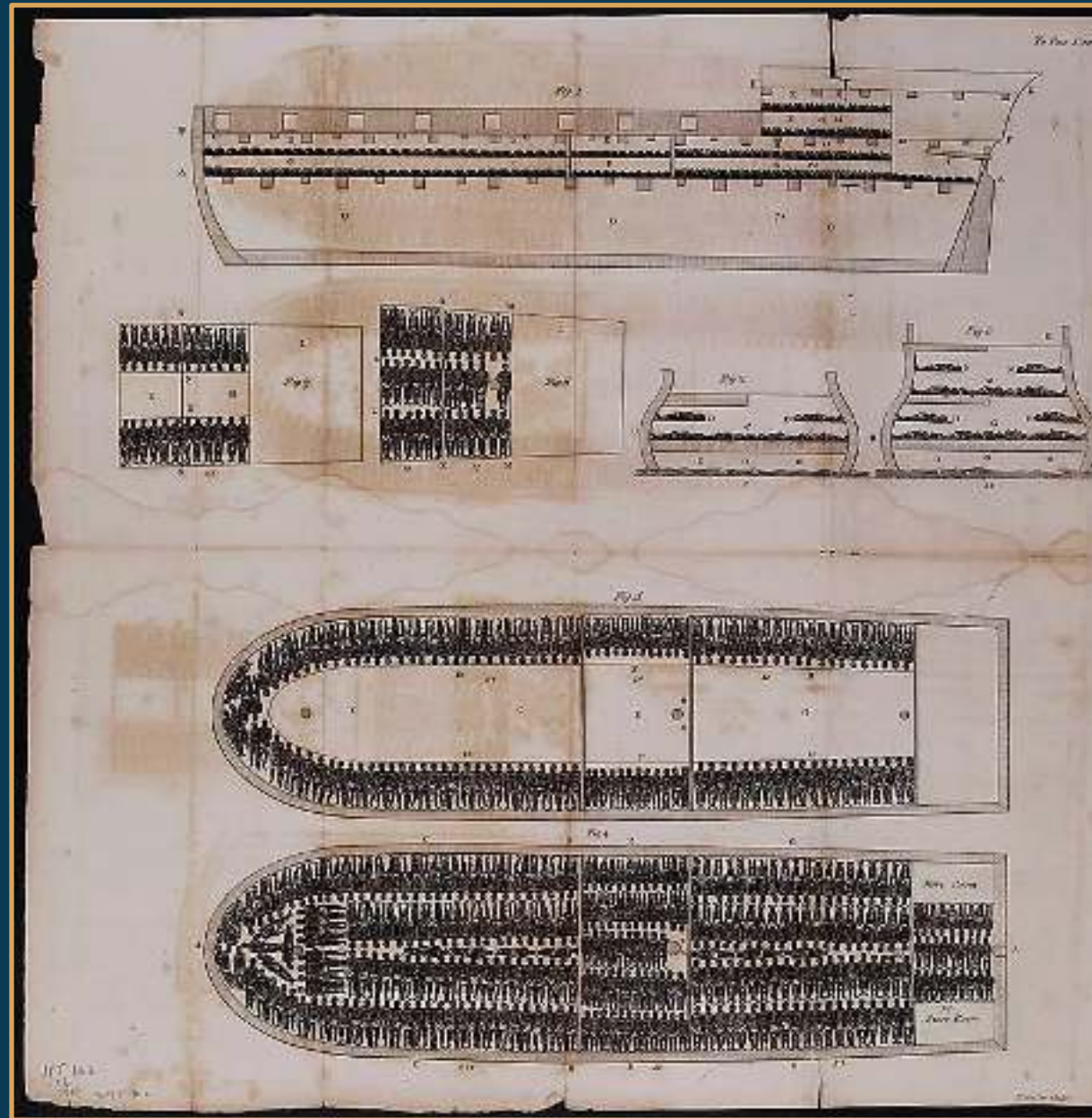


The interesting narrative of the life of O. Equiano, or G. Vassa, the African ... written by himself (London, 1789)

The British Library

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.

connecticuthistory.org

To all People to whom these Presents shall Come, Greeting.

K NOW YE, That *J. Abel Bingham* of *Salt Haddam* in the County of *Hartford* & Colony of *Connecticut* in *New England*.

For the Consideration of *Twenty Pounds Lawful money* Received to my full Satisfaction, of *Venture a free negro Resident in Andover in the County aforesaid* Do Give, Grant, Bargain, Sell and Confirm unto the said *Venture & his heirs & assigns forever* One Certain Lot of Land Lying in *Salt Haddam* bounded as follows to wit Beginning at a Stake & Stone which is the Northeast Corner of *Francis Chapman's* Land thence westerly by *id Chapman's* Land about the head to wit Stake & Stone in *Capl Joseph Sedgwick's* thence westerly Ten Rods on and *Bingham's* Land to Bounds with thence southerly about thence to the Spring Cove thence by a Cove to the first mentioned Bound and East containing Ten acres of Land. Said *Venture* to have liberty to & his heirs & assigns to Dig & Repose & to Cut thence *Salt Haddam* Land in the East Path to the water & also liberty to Carry up his wood on the Banks the left to *Salt Haddam* Damage.

To have and to hold the above Granted and Bargained Premises, with the Appurtenances thereto unto *his* the said *Venture & his heirs & assigns forever* in full and sole Right. And also, *J. Abel Bingham* Do for my self my heirs, Executors and Administrators, Covenant with the said *Venture* his heirs and assigns, That at and until the Expiring of such Period, *J. Abel Bingham* well found of the Premises as a good and lawful Estate, For himself and his good heirs to Buy and Sell the same in Market and Town at a more Willing, and that the same is free of all Incumbrances whatsoever.

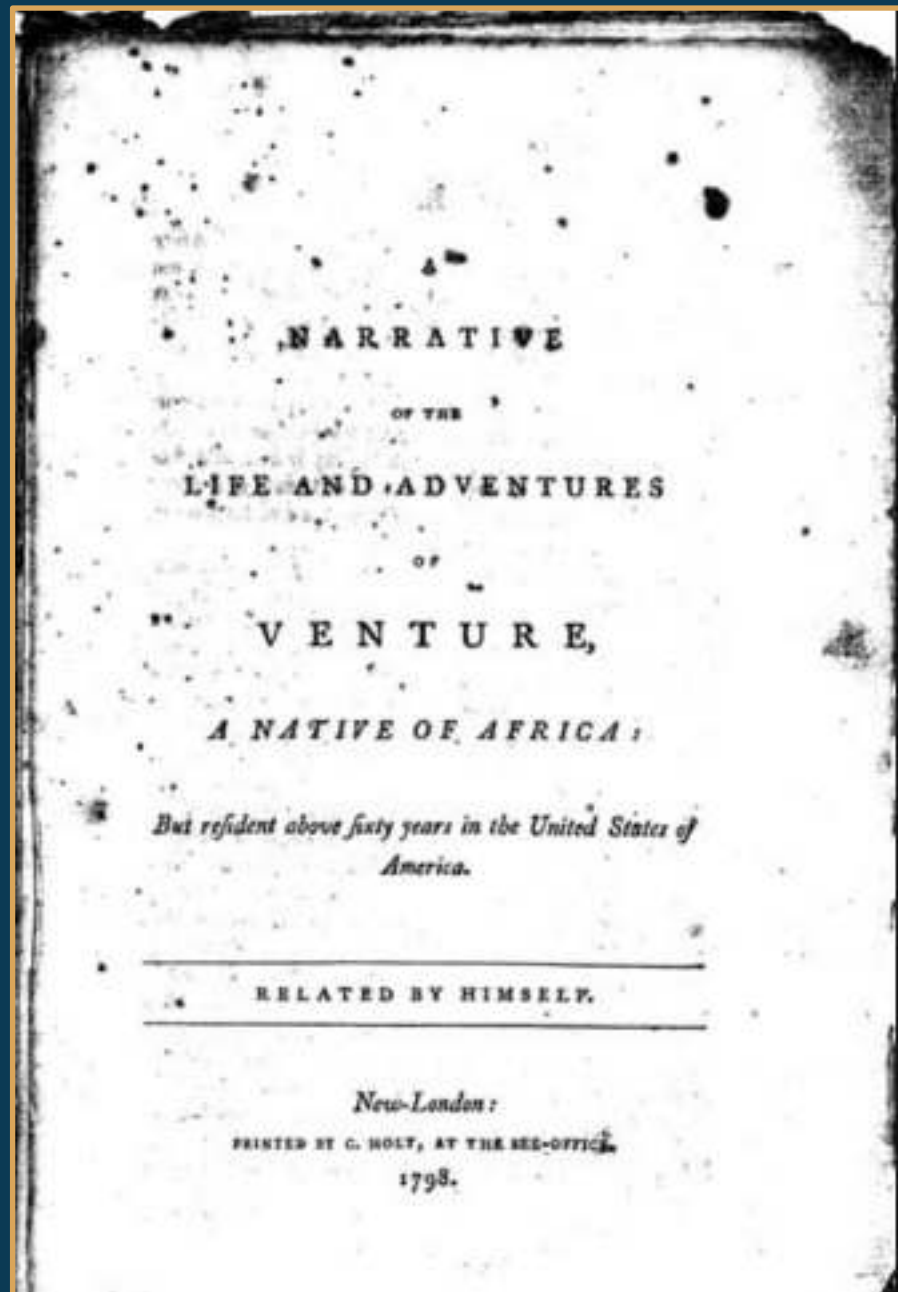
And Furthermore, *J. Abel Bingham* do by these Presents bind my heirs for ever to WARRANT and defend the above granted and bargained Premises unto the said *Venture* his heirs and assigns, against all Claims and Demands whatsoever.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal the 3rd Day of *March* In the 25th Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord *George the Third* of Great-Britain, his KING: *Abel Bingham* & a Seal

Witness, Read and Approved in Presence of
Samuel Huntington Deputy of the Honorable *Abel Bingham* Deputy
Josiah Huntington Justice of the Peace for the County of *Hartford*
 Recorded April 26th 1775 *Samuel Huntington* Justice of the Peace

Title page of Venture Smith's
autobiography, published in New
London, Connecticut, in 1798.

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.

T WAS 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, 5
“ Their colour is a diabolic die.”
Remember, *Christians, Negroes*, black as *Cain*,
May be refin'd, 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*.

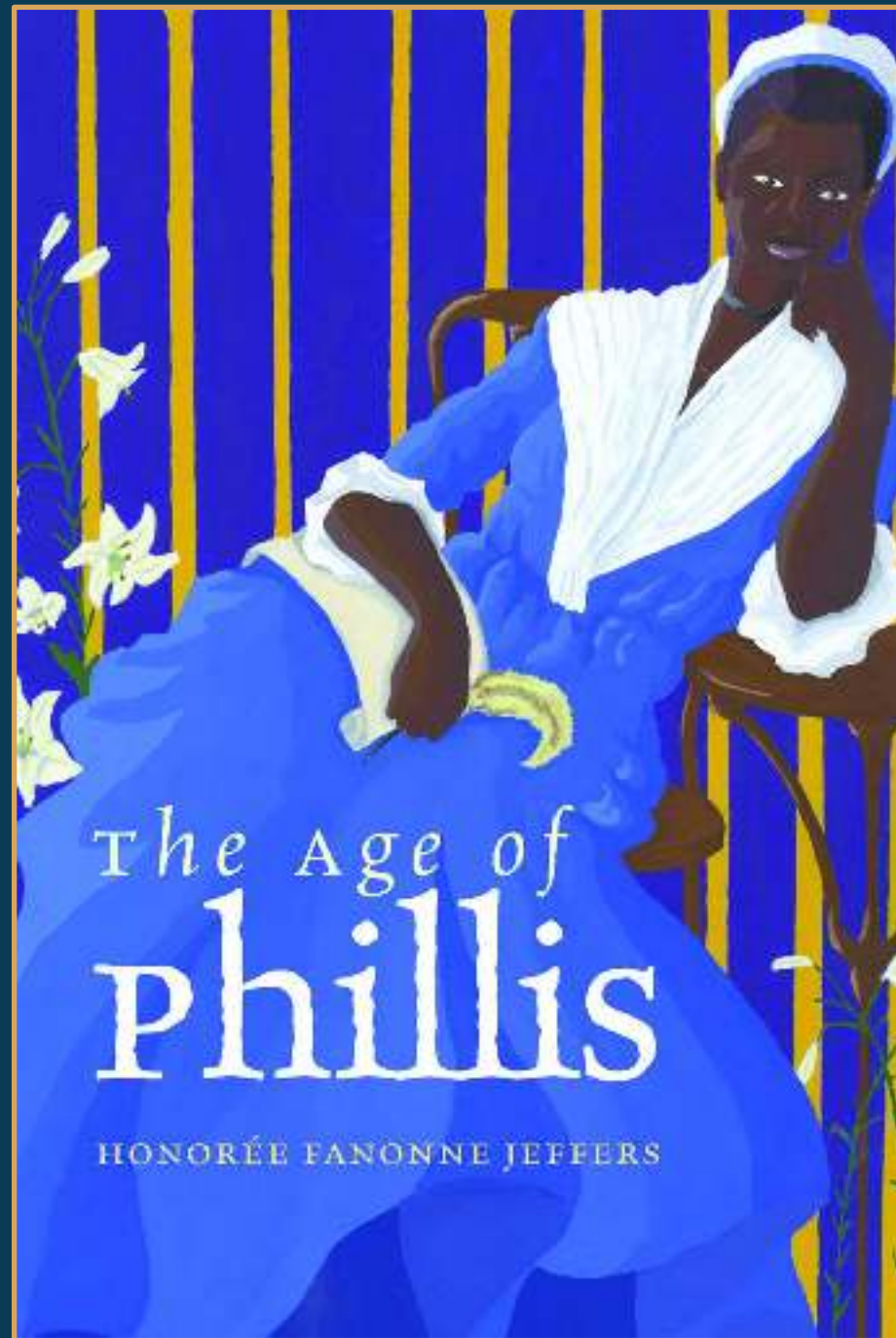
The portrait is attributed by some scholars to Scipio Moorhead (active c. 1773), an enslaved African American artist based in Boston, who is mentioned in the dedication of one of Wheatley's poems.

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

AN
ADDRESS
TO THE
NEGROES
IN THE
STATE OF NEW-YORK.

BY JUPITER HAMMON,

Servant of JOHN LEON, JUN. Esq. of the Manor of Queen's Village,
Long-Island.

"Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of
persons:

"But in every Nation, he that feareth him and work-
eth righteousness, is accepted with him."—

Acts x. 34, 35.

NEW-YORK:

Published by SAMUEL WOOD, No. 362 Pearl-street.

1806.

Jupiter Hammon's 1789
"An Essay on Slavery"

Hillhouse Family Papers in Manuscripts and
Archives, Yale University Library

On Slavery 9 an Essay —
We come as sinners unto thee
We know thou had the sword
Come bleed for us make us free
And bring us to our God.
10
Although we are in Slavery
We will pray unto our God
He hath mercy ~~and~~ beyond the sky
As in his holy word.
11
Come unto me ye humble souls
Although you live in strife
I keep alive with save the soul
And give eternal life.
12
To all that do repent of sin
Be they ~~then~~ bond or free
I am their Father and their King
They must come unto me.
13
Hear the words of the Lord
The call is loud and certain
He must be judg'd by his word
Without respect of person.
14
Come let us seek his precepts now
And love his holy word
With humble soul we'll ~~surely~~ bow
And wait the great reward.
15
Although we come from Africa
We look unto our God
To help our hearts to sigh and pray
And love his holy word.
16
Although we are in Slavery
Bound by the yoke of Man
We must always have a single eye
And do the best we can.
17
Come let us join with humble voice
Now on the Christian shore
If we will have our only choice
His Slavery no more.