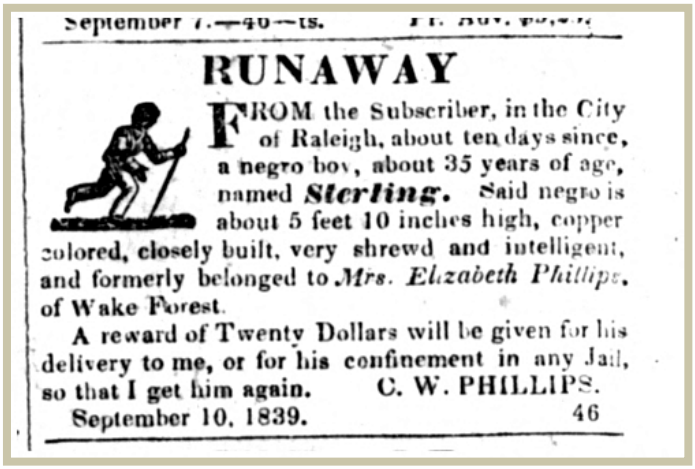
Enslaved Persons Research Resources Online

Visit new website **Freedom on the Move** a database of fugitives from American Slavery. It is a collaborative effort between many universities, the National Archives, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The data shared by these collaborators is a curation of "runaway ads" from early newspapers. The stories are compiled, transcribed, and enhanced with metadata to produce a compiled story of resistance "that has never been accessible in one place." Think thousands of stories in digital form with searchable OCR content to create a previously unimagined level of access.



September 7.—40—ts.

RUNAWAY

FROM the Subscriber, in the City of Raleigh, about ten days since, a negro boy, about 35 years of age, named ***Sterling.*** Said negro is about 5 feet 10 inches high, copper colored, closely built, very shrewd and intelligent, and formerly belonged to *Mrs. Elizabeth Phillips*, of Wake Forest.

A reward of Twenty Dollars will be given for his delivery to me, or for his confinement in any Jail, so that I get him again. C. W. PHILLIPS.

September 10, 1839. 46

There are a couple pages of ads for Wake County including the one above. A search for North Carolina currently reveals 6,383 ads to browse. The database currently contains a total of 10,000 plus ads and should continue to grow as volunteers work on transcribing the content.

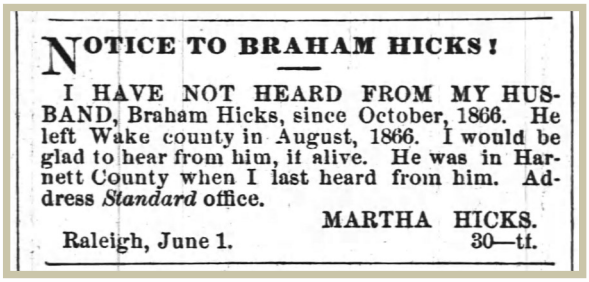
I tested out their search feature with the ad shown here to see if I could pull it up directly. Using the search phrase "*sterling, wake, Phillips*, " the record shown was the first hit. That is really encouraging.

The subject matter at Freedom on the Move is unfortunate and the descriptions in the disparaging terms of the day are uncomfortable to read. However, this offering is very exciting because it is pulling from a record collection that has been ignored or underused up until now and the level of detail included in the ads is priceless. I hope some find this site helpful.

Several other record sets of use to the African American researcher have come to my attention including these:

The **Digital Library on American Slavery** (DLAS) includes court petitions, runaway slave notices, slave deeds, the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database, and Slavery Era Insurance Registry of California. Visit DLAS.

Last Seen: Finding Family After Slavery focuses on ads placed by family members trying to regroup in the post war decades. This is another database that is still growing. They are seeking transcriptions volunteers and funding. To transcribe, one only needs to create a log in. Visit Last Seen at Informationwanted.org.



NOTICE TO BRAHAM HICKS!

I HAVE NOT HEARD FROM MY HUSBAND, Braham Hicks, since October, 1866. He left Wake county in August, 1866. I would be glad to hear from him, if alive. He was in Harnett County when I last heard from him. Address *Standard* office.

MARTHA HICKS.

Raleigh, June 1. 30—tf.

The African American Digital Bookshelf is a Family Search Wiki Page and a subpage of the main African American Genealogy section at the wiki. There are books that reference most states and some that cover the US. This is a very comprehensive list including topics as broad and familiar as the Slave Narratives and accounts of the Underground Railroad, to things as singular as "Two Colored women with the American Expeditionary Forces" and "Progress of a race [microform]; or, The remarkable advancement of the American Negro, from the bondage of slavery, ignorance, and poverty to the freedom of citizenship, intelligence, affluence, honor and trust." The titles included in this collection are all readable online. Visit The African American Digital Bookshelf.

It is also important to note that the **Wake County Enslaved Persons Project** started last fall is complete. Visit the project here. - *CD*