In-Archives Handout
by Kimberly Faith Jones

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

Northern Slavery Station

The Corrector, Sag Harbor, Long Island, vol. IV, no. 6 (whole no. 150), June 4, 1825, 1975.1391; Broadside collection, box 3; Brooklyn Historical Society.

The Long Island Star, Brooklyn, New York, January 10, 1822; Historic newspapers microfilm collection, reel 3; 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. Read aloud each runaway slave ad.

2. Transcribe each ad, making sure to include all of the information in each ad, and taking note of any words you cannot decipher.

3. Use the transcribed ads to complete the following tasks and answer the following questions:
   a. List the date the slave in each of the two ads ran away.

   • Is there a common factor regarding the dates the two slaves chose to run away?
• Although the two slaves have run away in the North, do the dates they chose to run away fit the profile the authors John Hope Franklin and Loren Schweninger established for southern runaway slaves?

b. List the characteristics the slave owners used to describe their slaves in the runaway slave ads they placed in The Corrector and The Long Island Star.

• How closely do these descriptions compare to those offered by Franklin and Schweninger?

• What are the differences and similarities between the ads placed by the two slave owners?

4. As a group, create an informal profile of the two runaway slaves and their slave owners in the New York area using the information you have gathered.

Presentation

At the end of the visit to the archives, your group will introduce your documents and will present a profile of the New York area runaway slaves based on the information you have gathered.