In-Archives Handout
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Part of an in-archives exercise at http://www.teacharchives.org/exercises/gradual-manumission

Document Station
To be completed as a group:

1. Without reading through it, examine both documents. Discuss the following:
   • How old do you think these are? Which one looks older?
   • What similar and different physical characteristics do you notice?

2. Look at your citations to identify the earlier document. Read it out loud and transcribe (see glossary below) it. Circle any words you cannot decipher.
3. Read the later document out loud, and discuss the following:

- Each document is either a slave bill of sale or slave indenture (see glossary). What kinds of transactions do they chronicle?
- List the names of approximately 5 people mentioned in earlier document and determine their role in the transaction.
  ____________________________
  ____________________________
  ____________________________
  ____________________________
  ____________________________

  What is their relationship to each other?
  What is required of each person in the transaction?

- Do the same for the later document.
  ____________________________
  ____________________________
  ____________________________
  ____________________________
  ____________________________

  What is their relationship to each other?
  What is required of each person in the transaction?
4. Read the copy of the 1799 New York State Gradual Manumission Act. Plot the following on the below timeline:

   a) when the first indenture was written
   b) when the second indenture was written
   c) when the law was enacted
   d) when the people in the indentures will be freed?

1700  1800  1900

For further discussion
Propose a question that will serve as a prompt for class discussion when we meet next.