Accessing Runaway Slave Ads Online

The Geography of Slavery

Online, navigate to The Geography of Slavery, a digital collection of advertisements for runaway slaves of the 18th and 19th centuries from the University of Virginia. Students often find advertisements from their home state or states with which they are familiar to be of particular interest. At this site, you can explore ads by state, locale in a state, and by decade. Ads for runaway slaves from the Caribbean and other countries are also provided here.

Preselected Advertisements

Runaway Slave Advertisements 1745-1775: A Selection This document includes a pre-selected group of 30+ runaway slave advertisements from 1745–1775. It is an excellent selection and these ads reveal ways how the runaway slave was “resisting” slavery prior to running away. This selection includes only 18th-century ads.