

November 2024



AFRICAN AMERICAN KNOWLEDGE

Missouri Botanical Garden





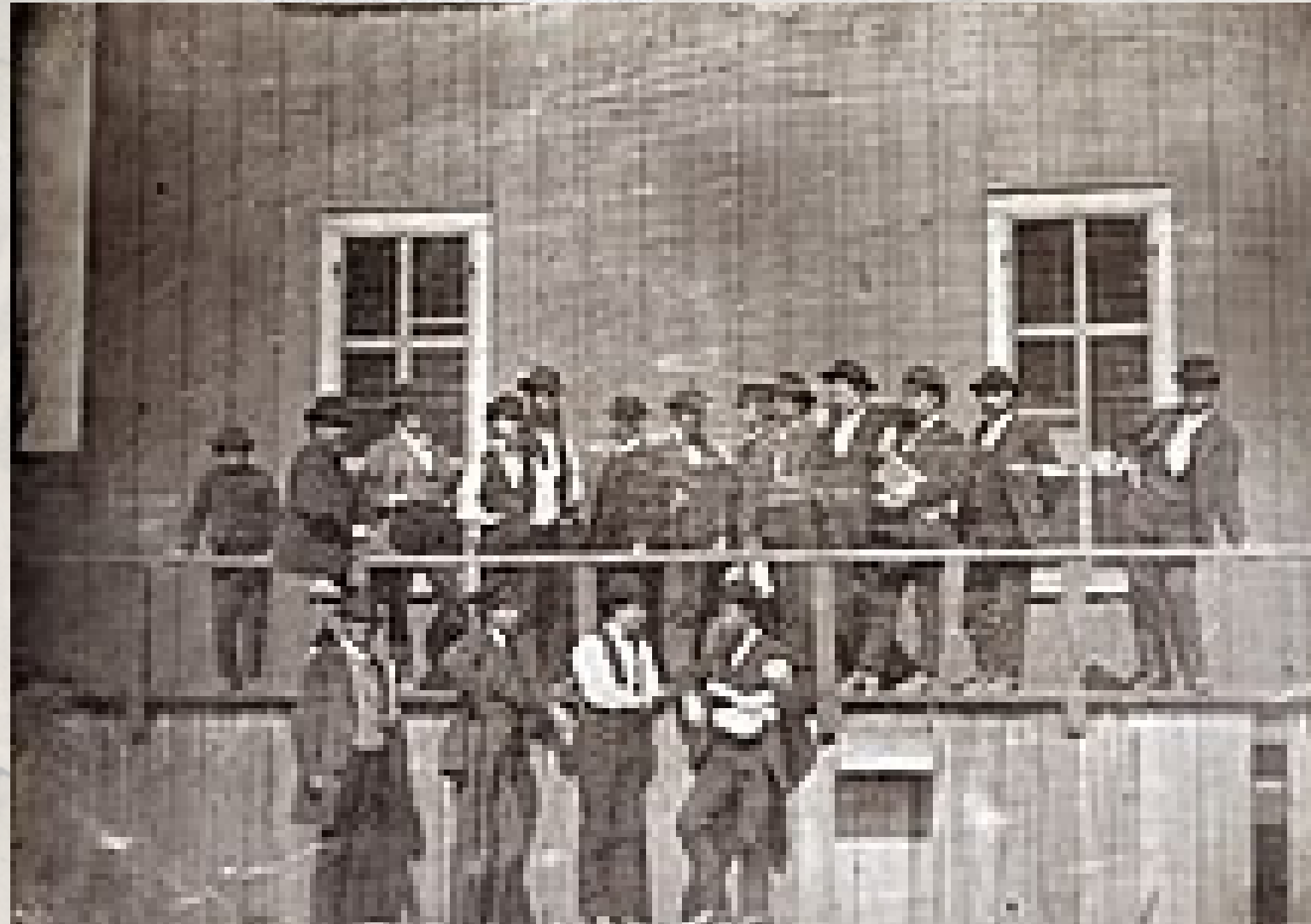
Mary Meachum
(creator of the Mary
Meachum Freedom
Crossing)

Introduction

- Telling the stories of the enslaved
- Giving more of an accurate representation of what the garden was like
- Implimentation plan



Bernard Lynch



- Bernard Lynch was a well-known bounty hunter in St. Louis responsible for capturing slaves.
- Esther and Sarah escaped from Henry Shaw's home partaking in a daunting journey for freedom
- Lynch is hired by Henry Shaw in the 1800's to capture his escaped slaves (Esther and Sarah)
- Esther and Sarah make it to Chicago where they are unfortunately captured
- Lynch owned a slave pen where he held Esther, Sarah, and a multitude of others

Tax Documents

Document 1

(Joseph, Tabitha, and Sarah)

This document has the census records of the three enslaved individuals Joseph, Tabitha, and Sarah. They were freed soon after Caroline Shaw's death (Henry Shaw's sister).

Document 2

(Ester, her children, and Jim)

The four escaped from the Tower Grove House on May 20, 1855, and crossed the Mississippi River through the Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing. Shaw then put out a bounty for their return and used Lynch to capture Ester in Illinois. Soon after Sarah was sold to John Fondren of Hinds County, Mississippi as shown in the receipt document.

SCHEDULE 2 - Slave Inhabitants in *Jeff. Co. Va.* in the County of *Jefferson* of *Virginia*, enumerated by me, on the *30th* day of *April*, 1850. *Amos Marshall*

NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS							DESCRIPTION							Color & Rank, Sex, Age, or Status						
1							2							3						
No.	Name	Sex	Age	Color	Rank	Value	No.	Name	Sex	Age	Color	Rank	Value	No.	Name	Sex	Age	Color	Rank	Value
1	Mr. Chapman	M	27	B			1	Mr. Long's	M	12	B									
2		F	3	B			2		F	12	B									
3		F	2	B			3		F	12	B									
4	Mr. Hald	M	17	B			4		M	12	B									
5		M	15	B			5		M	12	B									
6		M	14	B			6		M	12	B									
7		M	13	B			7		M	12	B									
8		M	12	B			8		M	12	B									
9		M	11	B			9		M	12	B									
10	Mr. Coppinger	M	10	B			10	James G. Washell	M	12	B									
11	J. Cooper	M	10	B			11		M	12	B									
12		M	10	B			12		M	12	B									
13		M	10	B			13		M	12	B									
14		M	10	B			14		M	12	B									
15		M	10	B			15		M	12	B									
16		M	10	B			16		M	12	B									
17		M	10	B			17	Edw. H. Taylor	M	12	B									
18		M	10	B			18	David Latham	M	12	B									
19	Bro. Hottelman	M	10	B			19	Geo. W. Doy	M	12	B									
20		M	10	B			20	Henry Shaw	M	12	B									
21	Mr. E. Marshall	M	10	B			21		M	12	B									
22		M	10	B			22		M	12	B									
23		M	10	B			23		M	12	B									
24		M	10	B			24		M	12	B									
25		M	10	B			25		M	12	B									
26		M	10	B			26		M	12	B									
27		M	10	B			27		M	12	B									
28		M	10	B			28		M	12	B									
29	Mr. Long's	M	10	B			29		M	12	B									
30		M	10	B			30	David Latham	M	12	B									
31		M	10	B			31	John A. Smith	M	12	B									
32		M	10	B			32		M	12	B									
33		M	10	B			33	P. F. Murch	M	12	B									
34		M	10	B			34		M	12	B									
35		M	10	B			35		M	12	B									
36		M	10	B			36		M	12	B									
37		M	10	B			37		M	12	B									
38		M	10	B			38		M	12	B									
39		M	10	B			39		M	12	B									
40		M	10	B			40		M	12	B									
41		M	10	B			41		M	12	B									
42		M	10	B			42		M	12	B									

Received of W. M. Lynch one hundred Dollars in full payment for Return of Negro Woman Ester from Illinois - Thos. L. Lewis
11th May 21st 1850
T. W. Lynch

Secondary Sources

- Established in 1764 by French settlers, it relied on slave labor for domestic and agricultural work. About 30% of the people living in St. Louis were slaves at the time.
- William Wells Brown was born in 1814 and spent eight years in St. Louis. Brown was hired by his owner to work on various steamboats along the Mississippi River. He took advantage of this chance to escape from a steamboat that had docked in Ohio. He managed to avoid being captured.
- Upon his newfound freedom, Brown became a famous abolitionist, the first known Black American to publish a novel and write a play, and in his free time, he helped recruit Black soldiers for the U.S Army during the Civil War in the 1860s.



Conclusion

There is a long history of slavery in the St. Louis area

and our group hopes we can share the stories of the enslaved people. We have researched the tax documents, the history of Benard Lynch, and information from secondary sources. We plan to educate those visiting MOBOT on African American Knowledge and slavery.



THANK
YOU!