

TIMBUCTOO

*A case study in antebellum African
American community development in New
Jersey*

PREPARED FOR:

**EXPLORING
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY
IN NEW JERSEY**

**GUY-OREIDO WESTON, MA
MAY 23, 2017**

POINTS OF DISCUSSION

- What do we know about Timbuctoo?
- Why do we know it?
- What common data sources are available to answer these questions?
- How can these data sources be accessed?
- How might these data sources alter the dominant narrative of African American history as we frequently learn it and illuminate our understanding of the African American experience in New Jersey?

WHERE DO I FIT IN TO THIS DISCUSSION?

- My 4th great-grandfather purchased a one-acre parcel in Timbuctoo on December 15, 1829 for \$30.
- My introduction to genealogy came through a gift of the original deed and other nineteenth century supporting documents which remain in my family today.
- To obtain clear title in 1992, we had to file a Quiet Title Action that had 15 defendants, five of whom were born before the Civil War.
- Names from these documents combined with microfilm research at the New Jersey State Archives in 1992 facilitated identification of relatives going back as far as c.1794.
- Conclusion: I cheated 😊

Giles family members born between 1881 and 1917 in Timbuctoo





BACKGROUND

Larger context of Timbuctoo's development

ANTEBELLUM FREE COMMUNITIES AREN'T AS UNIQUE AS WE MIGHT THINK

- Nearly 500,000 free African Americans were enumerated in the 1860 census. Free African Americans comprised between 11% and 14% of the African American population in each census since 1790.¹
- A number of African American communities existed during that period, such as those that founded Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church in Philadelphia in 1794, Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City in 1808, Jacobs Chapel AME Church in Mount Laurel in 1813, and Mount Moriah AME Church in Mount Holly, in 1826.
- Church leaders were actively involved in political advocacy efforts on behalf of African American communities. For example, Richard Allen was the first chairman of the Colored Convention Movement, organized in 1830 in Philadelphia.

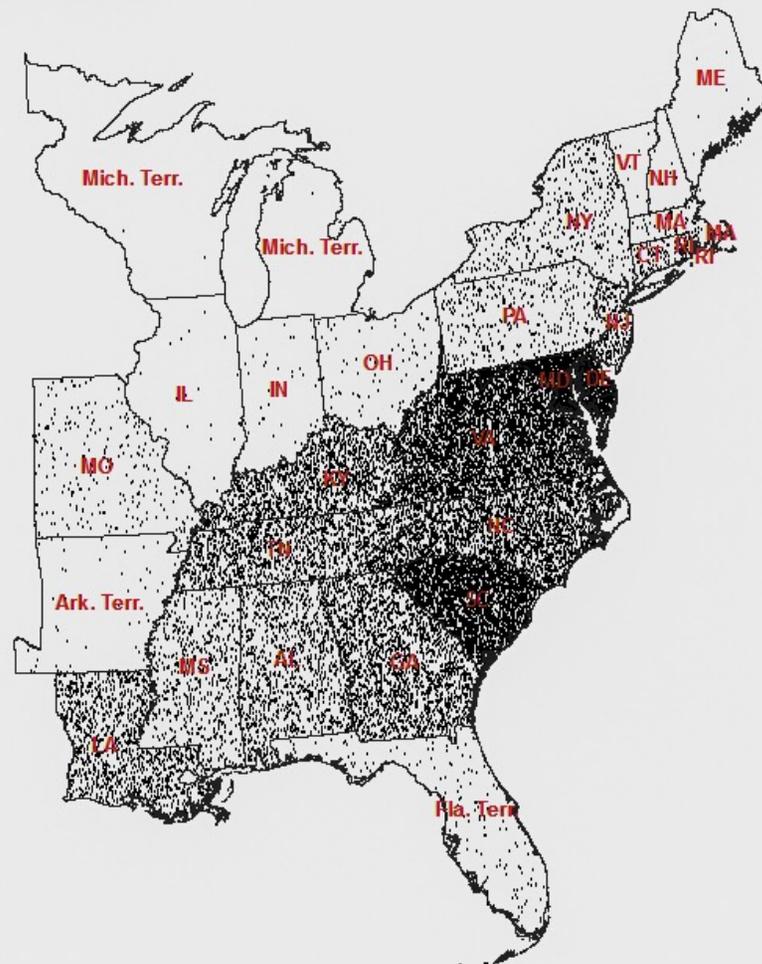
1830

Density of Black population by state (one dot=500 Black people)

US_state_1830

1 Dot = 100

total



State or Territory	Total Black inhabitants
Maine	1,192
New Hampshire	607
Vermont	881
Massachusetts	7,049
Rhode Island	3,578
Connecticut	8,072
New York	44,945
New Jersey	20,557
Pennsylvania	38,333
Ohio	9,574
Indiana	3,632
Illinois	2,384
Michigan Territory	293
Missouri	25,660
Delaware	19,147
Maryland	155,932
District of Columbia	12,271
Virginia	517,105
North Carolina	265,144
South Carolina	323,322
Georgia	220,017
Florida Territory	16,345
Kentucky	170,130
Tennessee	146,158
Alabama	119,121
Mississippi	66,178
Arkansas Territory	4,717
Louisiana	126,298

Shapefile provided by National Historical GIS

Data:
Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung, "Historical Census Statistics on Population Totals By Race, 1790 to 1990, and By Hispanic Origin, 1970 to 1990, for The United States, Regions, Divisions, and States," U.S. Census Bureau, September 2002

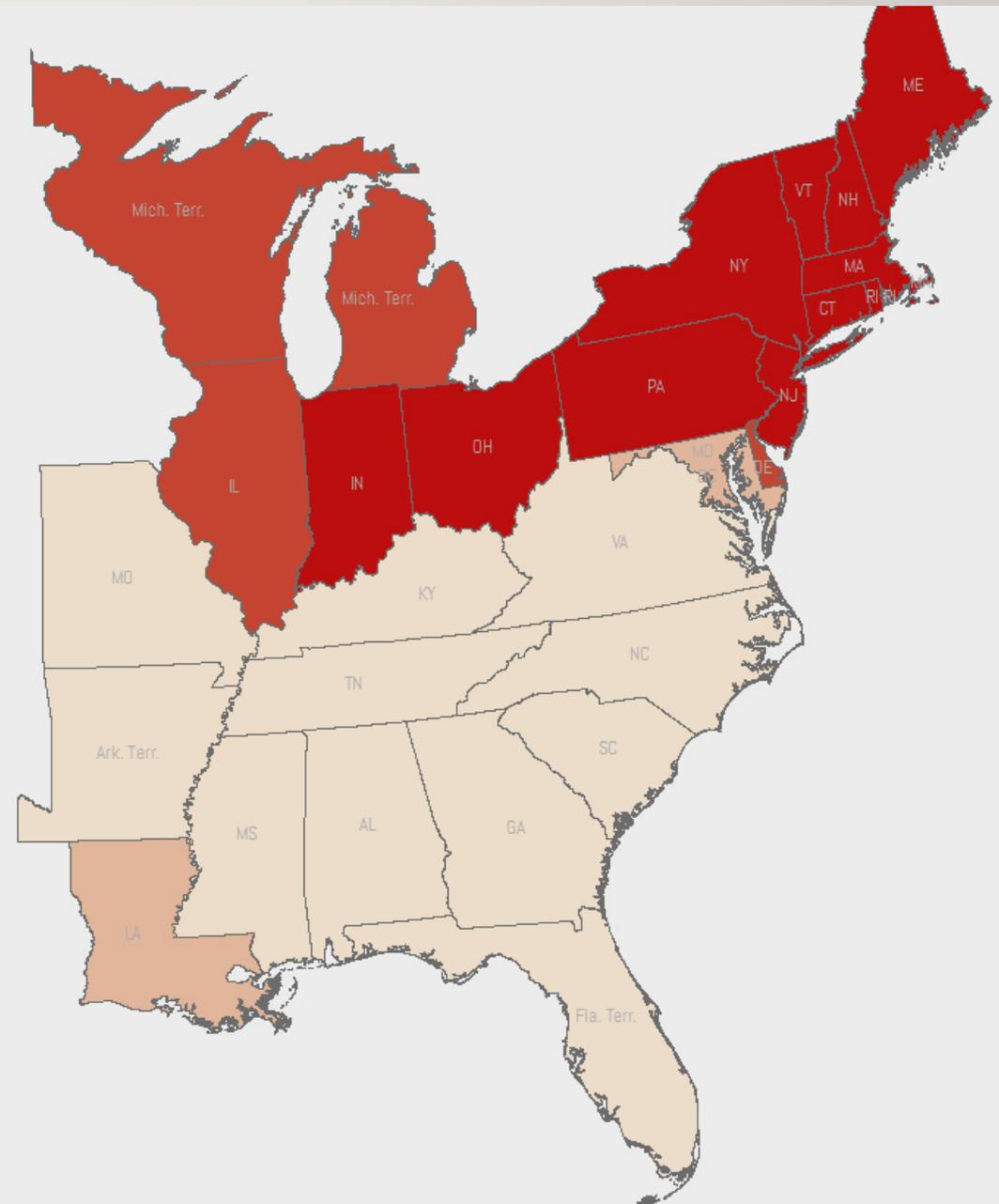
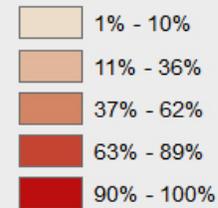
Cartography:
Eric Rhodes
MA Candidate in History
Miami University

1830

% of state's Black population classified as "free"

US_state_1830

free



Shapefile provided by National Historical GIS

Data:
Campbell Gibson and Kay Jung, "Historical Census Statistics on Population Totals By Race, 1790 to 1990, and By Hispanic Origin, 1970 to 1990, for The United States, Regions, Divisions, and States," U.S. Census Bureau, September 2002

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HENRY LOUIS GATES ONCE SAID....

“The fact that the vast majority of our ancestors were slaves until 1865 means that no census prior to 1870 is going to contain their names. So black Americans who are trying to trace their families back past 1870 must try to find the name of their last enslaved ancestor’s owner prior to emancipation.”¹

¹Henry Louis Gates, *In Search of Our Roots* (New York: Crown Publishing Company, 2009), 419-420

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in the Township of Westampton in the County of Burlington State 499
of New Jersey enumerated by me, on the 24th day of Sept. 1850. S. Hartman Ass't Marshal 50

Dwelling-house numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.				Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	PLACE OF BIRTH. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Persons over 20 yrs of age who cannot read & write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
			Age.	Sex.	Color.	White, Negro, or Indian.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
131	132	Daniel Jackson	40	Male	W	Walter	1.50	Pennsylvania					
		Bernardo Jackson	23	Female	W			New Jersey					
		Charles Jackson	4	Male	W			"					
132	133	Benjamin Armstrong	45	Male	W	Labourer	5.00	"					
		Sadda Armstrong	38	Female	W			"					
		George Armstrong	15	Male	W			"					
		Lewis Armstrong	12	Male	W			"		1			
		Charles Armstrong	10	Male	W			"		1			
133	134	Finah Guiz	45	Female	W			"			1		
		Edward Guiz	24	Male	W	Labourer		"			1		
		Margaret Armstrong	17	Female	W			"					
134	135	John Landee	50	Male	W	Labourer		"					
		Anna E. Landee	56	Female	W			"					
135	136	Major Mitchell	45	Male	W		6.00	"			1		
		Elizabeth Mitchell	44	Female	W			"			1		
		Catharina Mitchell	15	Female	W			"					
		Garrison Mitchell	12	Male	W			"			1		
		Mary Mitchell	8	Female	W			"					
136	137	Quint Hall	60	Male	W	Labourer	8.00	"					
		Ann Hall	52	Female	W			Pennsylvania					
		Catharine Hall	18	Female	W			New Jersey					
138		Lambert Guile	28	Male	W	Writer		"					
		Viviah Guile	25	Female	W			"					
		Emma A. Guile	5	Female	W			"					
		John B. Guile	3/2	Male	W			"					

LESSON #1

*Not all antebellum African
American history is slave history*

NOT ALL ANTEBELLUM AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY IS SLAVE HISTORY

- We know about the challenges, deficits, discrimination, and degradation.
- What do we know about the successes, accomplishments, resilience, and victories?
- What do we know about the larger context environments that facilitated our progress?

CONTEXT: NORTHERN STATES WERE ALL ENGAGED IN ENDING SLAVERY BY 1804

- 1777 - The Constitution of Vermont bans slavery
- 1780 - Pennsylvania prohibits further importation of slaves and establishes that all children are born free persons, regardless of parents' race.
- 1783 – Massachusetts Supreme Court rules slavery illegal based in 1780 constitution; **all slaves are instantly freed**
 - Maine is part of Massachusetts in 1783; enters the union as a free state in 1820

CONTEXT: NORTHERN STATES WERE ALL ENGAGED IN ENDING SLAVERY BY 1804

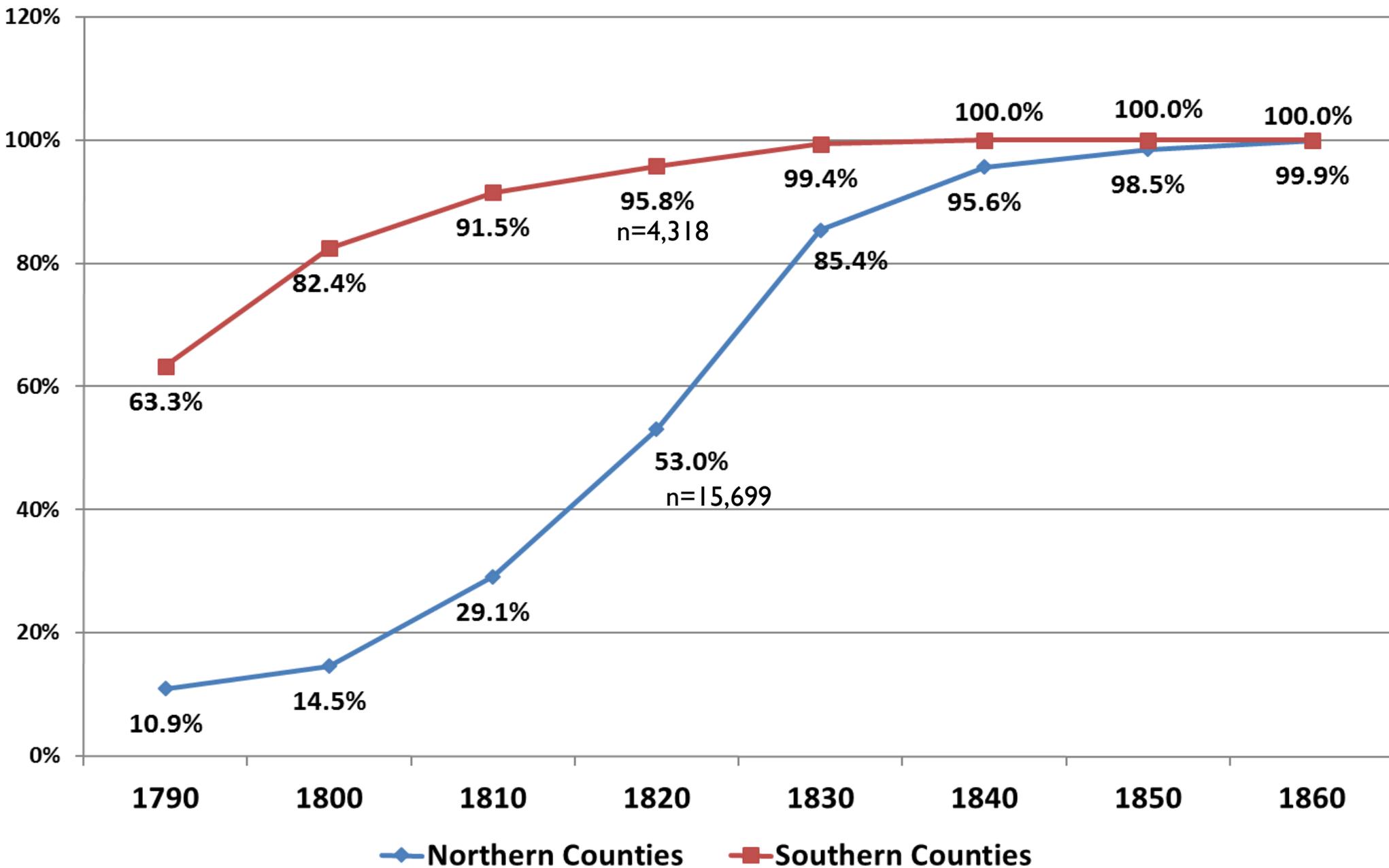
- 1783 New Hampshire begins gradual manumission
- 1784 - Connecticut begins gradual manumission
- 1784 - Rhode Island begins gradual manumission
- 1791 – Vermont enters the Union as a free state
- 1799 – New York begins gradual manumission

In 1800, 1,001,898 Blacks account for 19% of the US population. 108,298 or 11% of them are free, according to the 1800 Census. They are listed by name.

GRADUAL MANUMISSION IN NEW JERSEY

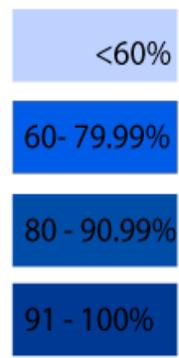
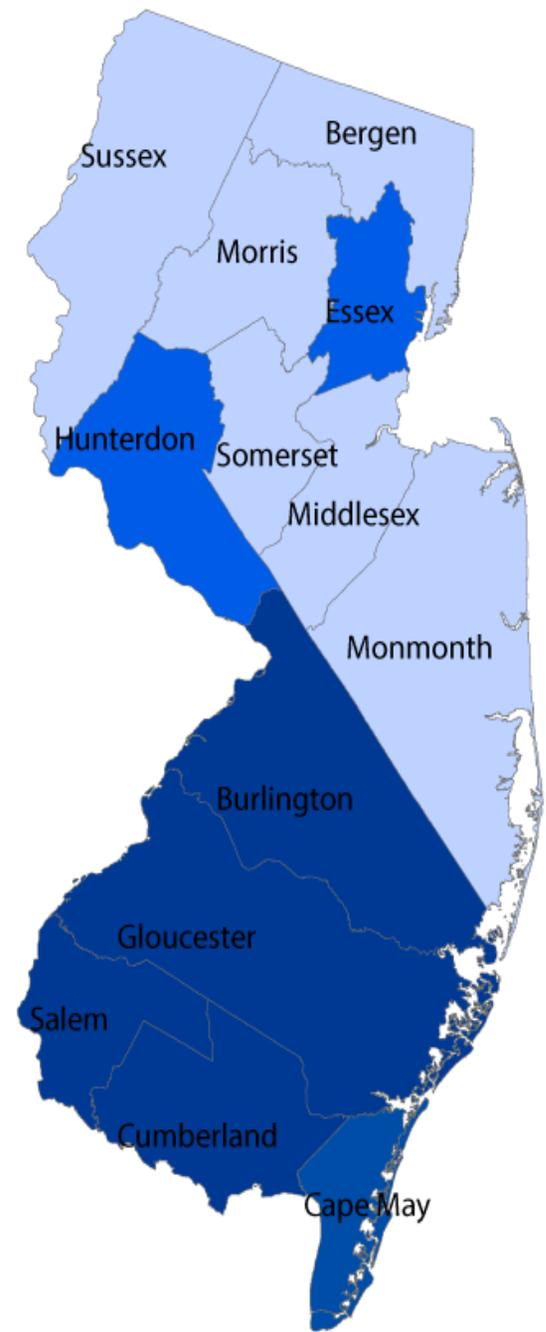
- In 1804, the State Legislature passed "An act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery" (P.L. 1804, chap. 103, p. 251). This monumental law required the registration of births of slaves' children born after 4 July 1804 and declared such children to be "free," but bound as servants to the owners of their mothers for a period of twenty-five years for males and twenty-one years for females.
- Notably, males born in 1804 would complete their indenture in 1829; females in 1825. Timbuctoo was founded in 1826

Progress of Gradual Manumission of Slaves in NJ: Percent Free in Each Decennial Census



1820

Percent of Black population recorded as "free," by New Jersey county



		1820	
		Free	N
Northern Counties	Bergen	38.6%	
	Essex	67.8%	
	Hunterdon	70.1%	
	Middlesex	50.5%	
	Monmouth	44.0%	
	Morris	41.0%	
	Somerset	57.0%	
	Sussex	55.6%	
	TOTAL NORTHERN	53.0%	
Southern Counties	Burlington	93.9%	
	Cape May	88.0%	
	Cumberland	97.1%	
	Gloucester	96.5%	
	Salem	98.5%	
		TOTAL SOUTHERN	95.8%

Cartography:
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NEW JERSEY POPULATION BY RACE AND COUNTY

1820		TOTAL POPULATION		TOTAL BLACK POPULATION			
		#	%	Total	Slave	Free	Free
				#	#	#	%
Northern Counties	Bergen	18,178	6.5%	2,742	1,683	1,059	38.6%
	Essex	30,793	11.1%	2,049	659	1,390	67.8%
	Hunterdon	28,604	10.3%	2,059	616	1,443	70.1%
	Middlesex	21,470	7.7%	2,045	1,012	1,033	50.5%
	Monmouth	25,038	9.0%	2,230	1,248	982	44.0%
	Morris	21,368	7.7%	1,114	657	457	41.0%
	Somerset	16,506	5.9%	2,609	1,122	1,487	57.0%
	Sussex	32,752	11.8%	851	378	473	55.6%
	TOTAL NORTHERN	194,709	70.1%	15,699	7,375	8,324	53.0%
Southern Counties	Burlington	28,822	10.4%	1,343	82	1,261	93.9%
	Cape May	4,265	1.5%	233	28	205	88.0%
	Cumberland	12,668	4.6%	623	18	605	97.1%
	Gloucester	23,089	8.3%	1,103	39	1,064	96.5%
	Salem	14,022	5.1%	1,016	15	1,001	98.5%
		TOTAL SOUTHERN	82,866	29.9%	4,318	182	4,136

US Census Bureau US Census of Population and Housing,

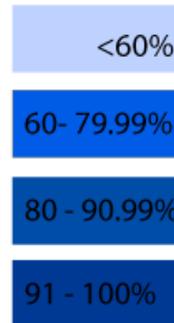
https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/overview/. Accessed on May 20, 2015

1830

Percent of Black population recorded as "free," by New Jersey county



1830	N
	Free %
Bergen	76.4%
Essex	89.9%
Hunterdon	91.1%
Middlesex	85.5%
Monmouth	90.1%
Morris	82.9%
Somerset	80.6%
Sussex	88.7%
Warren	90.0%
TOTAL NORTHERN	85.4%
Burlington	98.3%
Cape May	98.7%
Cumberland	99.7%
Gloucester	99.7%
Salem	99.9%
TOTAL SOUTHERN	99.4%
TOTAL NEW JERSEY	89.0%



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WHY WAS THE PROGRESS OF MANUMISSION DIFFERENT BETWEEN THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN REGIONS OF THE STATE?

- The influence of Quakers during that period of New Jersey's history is should be noted. John Woolman, arguably the most prominent Quaker abolitionist of the 18th century, was from nearby Mount Holly, NJ¹
- Quakers were also leaders of advocacy to end slavery in New Jersey, petitioning the legislature to enact laws to abolish slavery in 1785.² These efforts eventually led to An Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery, passed by the New Jersey legislature in 1804.³
- What other factors should be taken into account?

¹David Sox, John Woolman: Quintessential Quaker, 1720-1772 (York: Sessions Book Trust, 1999)

²Henry Scofield Cooley A Study of Slavery in New Jersey (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1896) 17-19

³Giles R. Wright, Afro-Americans in New Jersey: a short history. (Trenton, New Jersey Historical Commission, 1989), 19

REGIONAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN COUNTIES

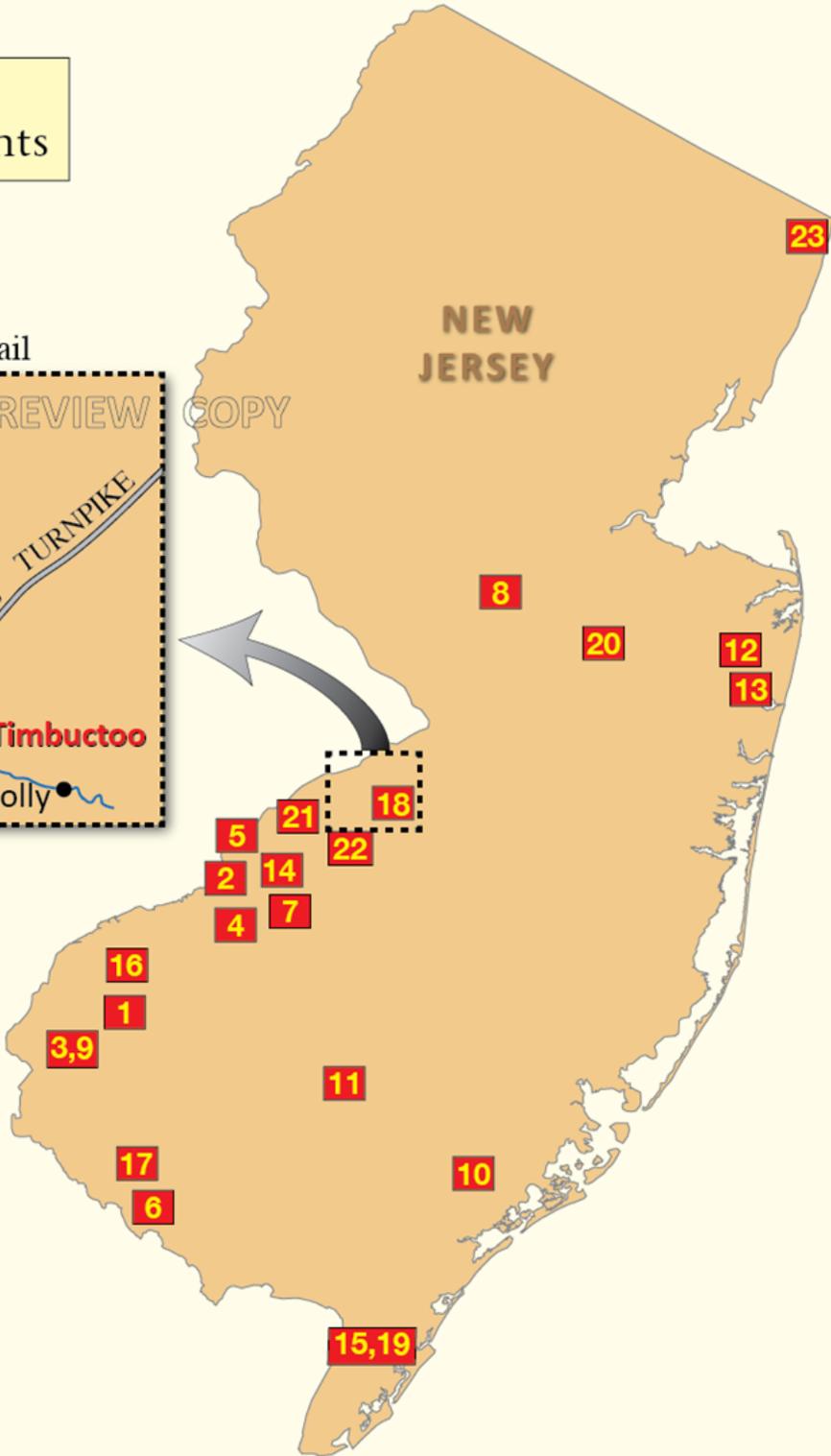
- During much of the slavery period, about 75% of bondsmen were found in Bergen, Essex, Middlesex, Hunterdon, Somerset, and Monmouth counties.¹
- These counties, tended to be more economically developed and have labor scarcities,² thereby having economies that relied more on slave labor.
- These counties had more German, Dutch and non-Quaker settlers.³
- In these areas, slavery endured the longest and, as the immigrant population grew, white workers increasingly viewed free blacks as a threat to their occupational security.⁴

TIMBUCTOO

A STOP ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Timbuctoo includes Church St. Blue Jay Hill Road, and adjacent areas. With the support of local Quakers, it was founded c1820 by free Blacks and runaway slaves. At its peak in the mid-nineteenth century, Timbuctoo had more than 125 residents, a school, an AME Zion Church, and a cemetery. The key remaining evidence of this community is the cemetery on Church Street, which contains graves of Black Civil War Veterans. Some current residents are descendants of early settlers.

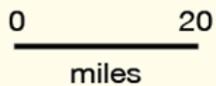
Black Settlements

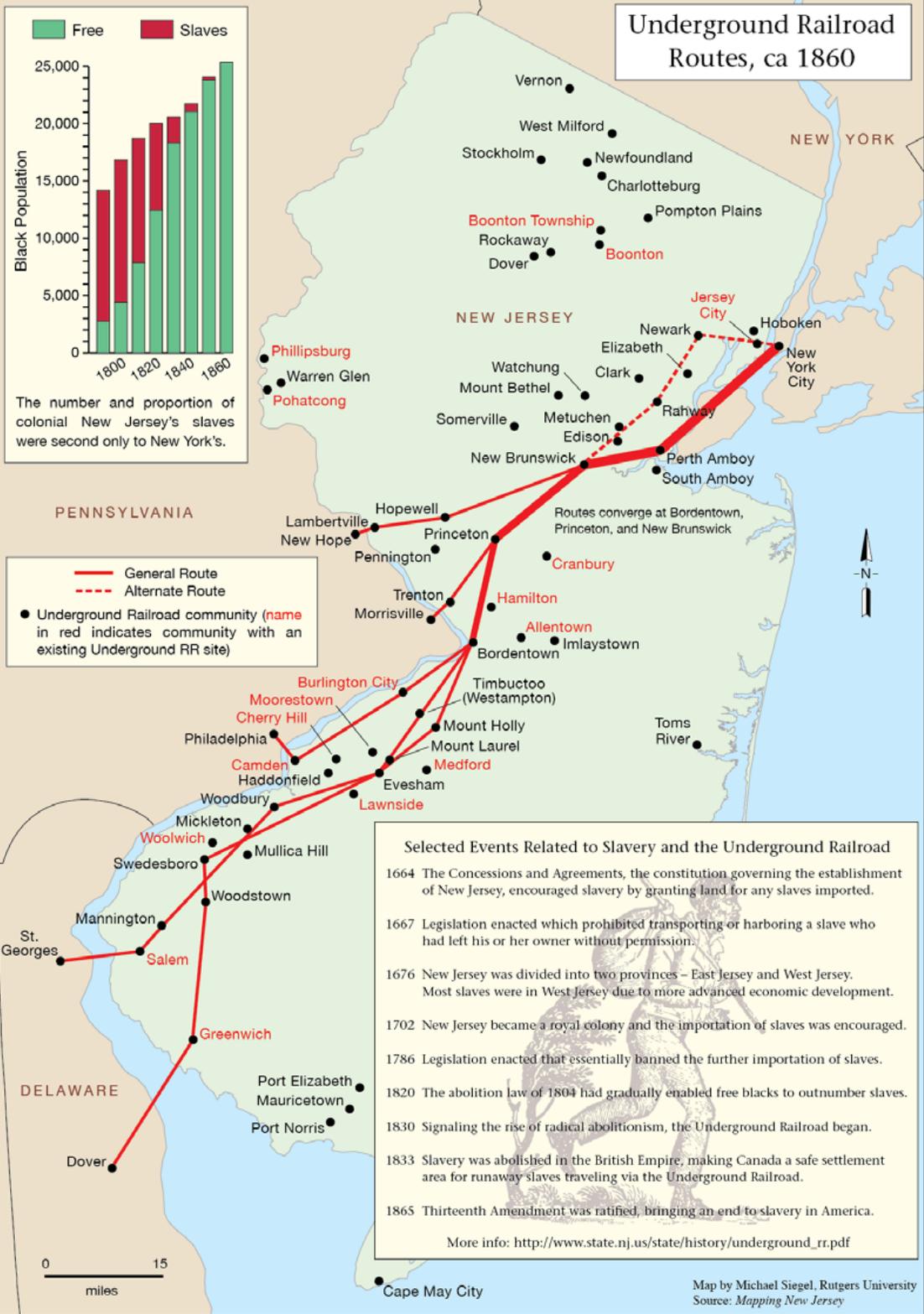


The black communities on this map were established in the 19th century or before; they have distinctive names; and there is evidence of the settlement (e.g. a cemetery, church, school, or houses).

- 1** Baileytown (Woodstown)
- 2** Davistown (Gloucester City)
- 3** Fenwick/Portertown/Cedarville (Mannington)
- 4** Jericho (Deptford)
- 5** Jordantown (Pennsauken)
- 6** Gouldtown (Fairfield)
- 7** Lawnside
- 8** Little Rocky Hill (South Brunswick)
- 9** Marshalltown (Mannington)
- 10** McKee City (Egg Harbor)
- 11** Newtonville (Buena Vista)
- 12** Pine Brook (Tinton Falls)
- 13** Reevytown (Neptune)
- 14** Sadlertown (Haddon)
- 15** Siegtown (Middle)
- 16** Small Gloucester (Woolrich)
- 17** Springtown (Greenwich)
- 18** Timbuctoo (Westampton)
- 19** Whitesboro (Middle)
- 20** Woodsville (Manalapan)
- 21** Wrightsville (Cinnaminson)

- Towns no longer in existence:
- 22** Colmantown (Mount Laurel)
 - 23** Skunk Hollow (Alpine)

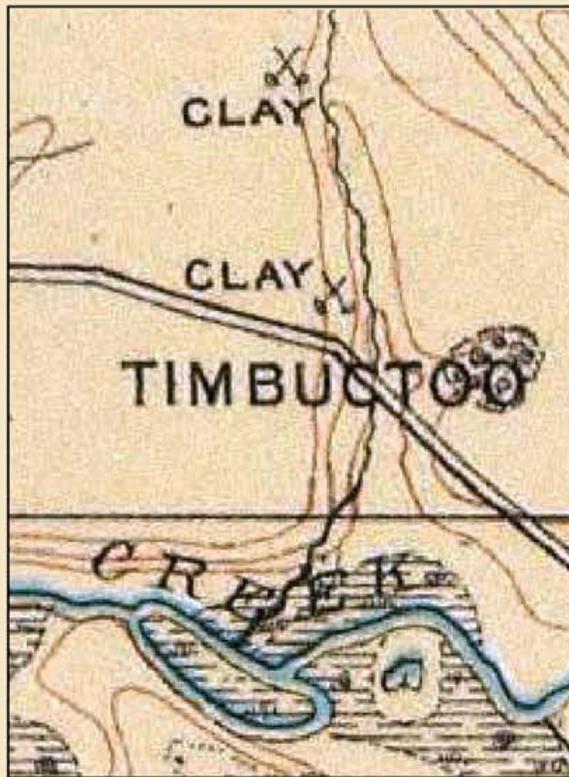
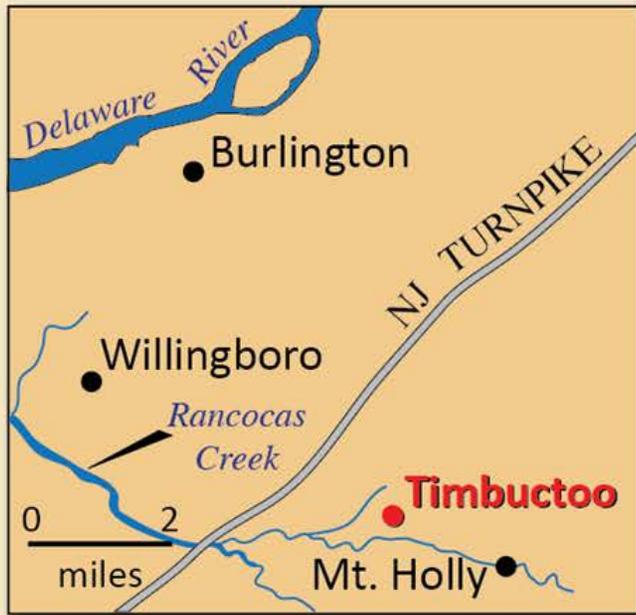




HOW DO WE KNOW WHEN TIMBUCTOO WAS FOUNDED?

- Detailed land records in the Burlington County Clerk's Office go back to the eighteenth century. The first land sales to African Americans in the area now known as Timbuctoo occurred in 1826, when five parcels of land are sold by a Quaker by the name of William Hilyard. The buyers were
- David Parker (1 acre for \$15.40)
- Ezekiel Parker (1.4 acres for \$22.16)
- Wardell Parker (1.5 acres for \$ \$24.05)
- Hezekiah Hall (.5 acre for \$8.33)

¹ There was a fifth sale to a George Wilmore which I have yet to find a deed for



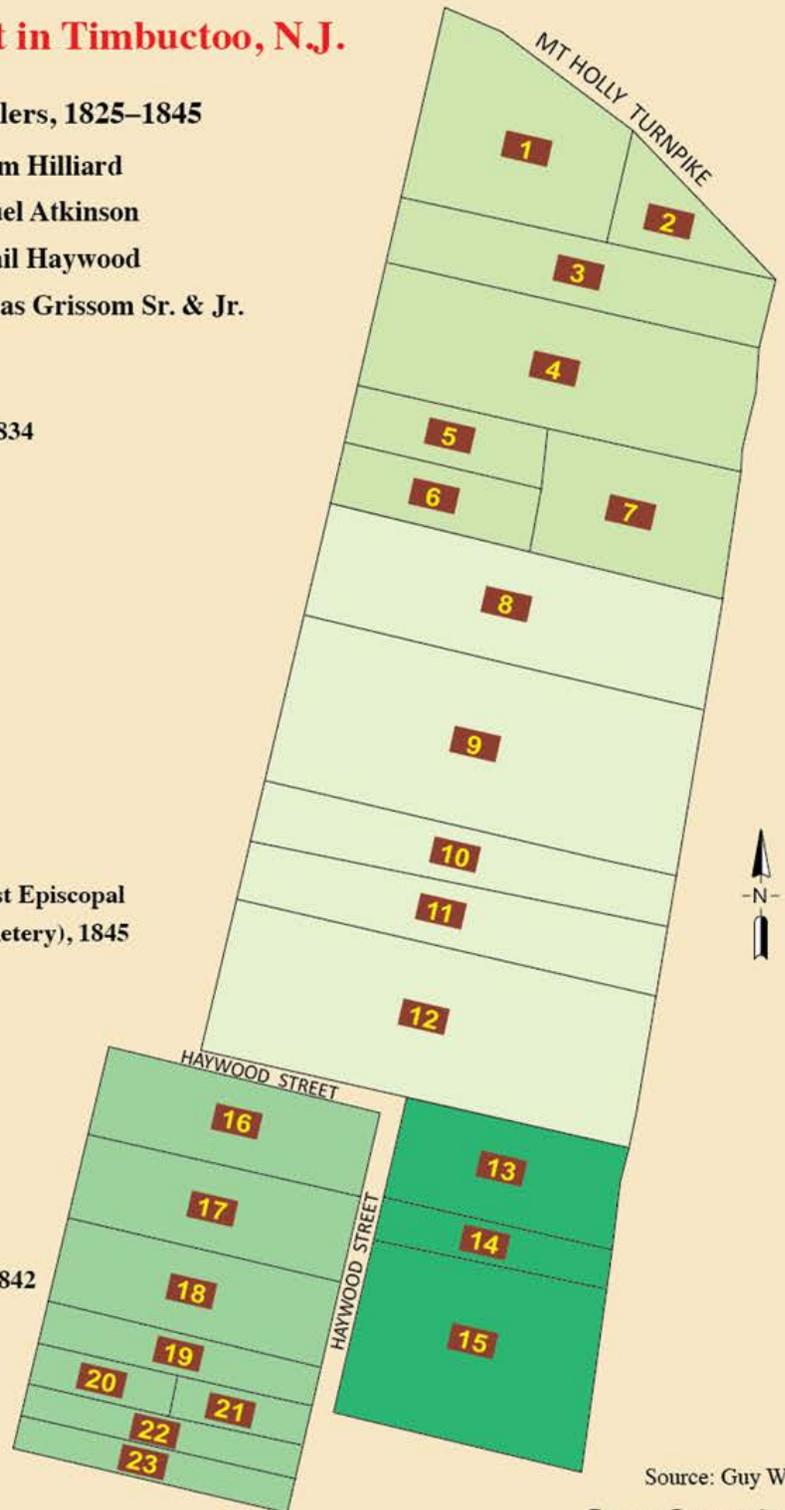
Source: NJ Geological Survey 1887

Early Settlement in Timbuctoo, N.J.

Property Sellers, 1825–1845

- 1st-William Hilliard
- 2nd-Samuel Atkinson
- 3rd-Abigail Haywood
- 4th-Thomas Grissom Sr. & Jr.

- 1** Peter Quire, 1831
- 2** African Union School, 1834
- 3** Major Mitchel, 1830
- 4** John Bruere, 1829
- 5** John Bruere, 1831
- 6** David Parker, 1831
- 7** Samuel Parker, 1831
- 8** David Parker, 1826
- 9** Wardell Parker, 1826
- 10** Hezekiah Hall, 1826
- 11** George Wilmore, 1826
- 12** Ezekiel Parker, 1826
- 13** Mary Hugg, 1838
- 14** Zion Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal African Church (& Cemetery), 1845
- 15** Joseph Hargrove, 1834
- 16** Henry Simmons, 1834
- 17** William Hill, 1839
- 18** Joseph Parker, 1833
- 19** David Parker, 1842
- 20** Levi Griffin, 1840
- 21** Gillis Parker, 1842
- 22** Joseph Hargrove, 1834
- 23** Alexander Armstrong, 1842



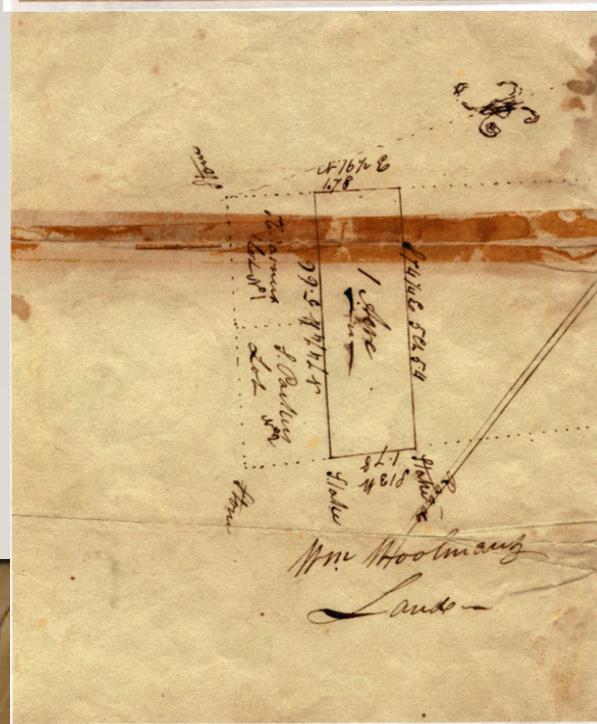
0 200
Feet

THE 6TH SALE HAD SUBSTANTIAL HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO ME PERSONALLY

- The seller was a Quaker by the name of Samuel Atkinson
- The buyer was named John Bruere
- John paid a whooping \$30 for a one acre parcel on December 15, 1829

Sale to John Bruere: December 15, 1829

Deed
 Samuel Atkinson
 of the County of Burlington
 John Bruere
 of the County of Burlington



This Indenture Made this fifteenth day of the twelfth month in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty nine between Samuel Atkinson of the township of Northampton in the County of Burlington and State of New Jersey and Hannah his wife of the one part, and John Bruere of the township and County aforesaid of the other part Witnesseth that the said Samuel Atkinson and Hannah his wife for the consideration of thirty dollars paid or secured to be paid to the said Samuel Atkinson by the said John Bruere, do grant, bargain, sell, and convey unto the said John Bruere and to his heirs and assigns, all that lot or parcel of lands, being part of a larger lot or tract of lands which the said Samuel Atkinson became seized of by virtue of a deed of conveyance duly executed from John Lucas & Lydia his wife and dated the first day of April in the year of our Lord 1818, and is recorded in book H 3 of deeds page 304 in the Clerks office at Mount Holly, reference thereto being had with more fully and at large appears, which said lot or parcel of lands hereby conveyed is bounded as follows to wit, Beginning at a stake in a line of lands belonging to Joseph Stokes and situate in the township of Northampton aforesaid and corner to a lot of land No. 1 sold by the abovesaid Samuel Atkinson to Henry Garner and runs partly by said Garners lot and partly by another lot sold by the said Samuel Atkinson to Samuel Parker South seventy four degrees and 1/4 an

LESSON# 2 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN TIMBUCTOO

And some political implications

Amendment to Articles of Incorporation of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Mount Moriah. July 22, 1840¹

Recorded July 22nd 1840
Trustees M. E. African Church
Mount Moriah
Burlington County State of New Jersey
Be it remembered that on the eighteenth
day of July AD 1840 personally appeared before me the subscriber
one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said County, Robert
Evans, Major Mitchell, Samuel Still, Thomas Harris and
John Brewer who have been duly elected trustees of the African
Methodist Episcopal Church Mount Moriah located
near Mount Holly in said County and did each take the
necessary qualifications of the Statute in such case made
and provided viz To support the Constitution of the United
States. To bear true faith and allegiance to the government
of this State. And faithfully to discharge the duties incumbent
on them as trustees of said Church according to the best
of their understanding and abilities.
Affirmed and subscribed
before me this eighteenth
day of July AD eighteen
four and forty.
Clayton Moursol Justice.
Recorded July 23rd 1840.
Jos. S. Read W.R.

Be it remembered that on this eighteenth day of July, AD 1840, personally appeared before me, the subscriber, one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said county, Robert Evans, Major Mitchell, Samuel Still, Thomas Harris, and John Brewer who have been duly elected trustees of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Mount Moriah located near Mount Holly ... did each take the necessary qualifications of the statute in such case made and provided viz. **To support the Constitution of the United States. To bear true faith and allegiance to the government of this State. And faithfully to discharge the duties incumbent on them as trustees of said Church according to the best of their understanding and abilities.**

¹Burlington County, NJ, Deeds, Y:339, Burlington County Clerk's Office, Mount Holly, NJ

1834: LAND PURCHASED TO ESTABLISH THE *AFRICAN UNION SCHOOL*¹

- Peter Quire is the seller. Edward Giles, Hezekiah Hall, and Major Mitchell are identified as Trustees in the deed, which states “whereas, in the Settlement of Tombuctoo...and in the vicinity thereof, there are many people of Colour (so called) who seem sensible of the advantages of a suitable school education and are destitute for a house for that purpose. And the said Peter Quire and Maria, his wife in consideration of the premises and the affection they bear to the people of Colour and the desire they have to promote their true and best interests are minded to settle, give, grant and convey...said premises to the uses and intents hereinafter pointed out and described.”
- The deed further describes some rules of operation, such as the **requirement that any future Trustees be people of Colour who live within ten miles of the premises.**

¹ Burlington County, NJ, Deeds, G3:389, Peter Quire to Edward Giles, et al, (1834 date illegible); Burlington County Clerk's Office, Mount Holly

OCTOBER 14, 1841: LAND PURCHASED FOR SCHOOLHOUSE AND PLACE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP¹

- This deed identifies William Hill, John Bruer, Major Mitchell, Samuel Stevens, and Hezekiah Hall who receive the premises as “joint tenants in trust” for the purpose of a schoolhouse (and a place of divine worship and for no other purpose).”
- The deed further stipulates that the **trustees may sell the premises and move elsewhere if they later determine that a different location would be more suitable for their purpose.**

¹Burlington County, NJ, Deeds, A4:422, Amos Bullock to William Hill, et al, 14 October 1841; Burlington County Clerk's Office, Mount Holly

MAY 2, 1845: LAND PURCHASED FOR ZION WESLEYAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF TIMBUCTOO¹

- The seller is Peter V. Coppuck. Trustees acting on behalf of the church are David Parker, Noble L. Johns, Adam Gibson, Jacob Colwell, James Pinion, Richard Christie, and William Chase.
- The deed stipulates that the premises are to be used “as a place of religious worship and a place to bury the dead.” Today this church is known as Wesley AME Church of Burlington.
- The cemetery is known today as the Timbuctoo Civil War Cemetery because the 13 remaining gravestones are all Civil War Veterans. **However, a geophysical survey conducted in 2008 identified approximately 79 graves. The large number of graves without stones may be attributed to the fact that wooden grave markers were common in the era of this cemetery and wooden markers may have disintegrated over time.** By contrast, war veterans may have had sufficient resources to purchase the cement markers that remain intact for more than a century after interment.

¹ Burlington County, NJ, Deeds, E6:256, Peter Coppuck to David Parker, et al, 2 May 1845; Burlington County Clerk's Office, Mount Holly



LESSON# 3
OBITUARIES OF SOME
TIMBUCTOO RESIDENTS

What do they tell us?

DEATH OF HEZEKIAH HALL

FOURTH SETTLER IN SEPTEMBER 1826
COMMUNITY LEADER IDENTIFIED IN INCORPORATION DOCUMENTS
HUSBAND OF MY FOURTH GREAT GRANDMOTHER

*In Timbuctoo, near Mount Holly, on Friday last, February 21, 1851, Hezekiah Hall, (colored) aged about 60 years. The deceased in early life, was a slave, and belonged to Charles Carroll, of Carrollton. He escaped from bondage in the year 1814. He settled in our midst about the year 1824, since which time he has resided here. **He was regarded by every one as a man of unblemished character, and his truly upright walk and Christian deportment commanded the highest respect.** His remains were followed to the grave on Sunday last, February 23, 1851, by a very large concourse of friends and neighbors.*

“Obituaries,” The New Jersey Mirror, 27 February 1951, p.3, col. 2; Indexed Transcription, Burlington County Library System (<http://www.bcls.lib.nj.us/newspapers/newjerseymirror/> accessed 5 December 2014),

DEATH OF DAVID PARKER

JUNE 1877

ONE OF THE FIRST THREE TIMBUTOO SETTLERS ON SEPTEMBER 23, 1826

David Parker, an aged colored man who for perhaps one half century has occupied a prominent position with his race in this vicinity and has commanded the respect and esteem of a large number of white friends, died at his residence in Timbuctoo on Sunday, aged about 75 years. "King David," as he had been known in other years, was possessed of more than ordinary intelligence, and a determined will, which made him a natural leader as long as his physical strength lasted, and he was general at the head of any movement among them....

... David was an ardent Republican, no effort availing to seduce him from the support of the party that gave him the ballot, and he allowed none of his followers to be caught by the enemy.

... The deceased will be missed by citizens of both races, and much sincere regret felt that his light has gone out.

DEATH OF LAMBERT GILES

APRIL 18, 1875

MY THIRD GREAT-GRANDFATHER

Lambert Giles, a well-known colored man, long a resident of this vicinity, was found dead by the side of the road from Mount Holly to Rancocas, near the barn of the late Caleb A. Woodward, on Monday evening about 7 1/2 o'clock. He had been at work at his usual occupation, white-washing, in Mount Holly during the day and left here for his home at Bucto about 7 o'clock.

*Deceased was subject to attacks of an epileptic nature and doubtless died in a fit of this kind. Coroner Laumaster viewed the body in company with Dr. R. E. Brown and no doubt being entertained of the cause of his death, an inquest was deemed unnecessary. **Lambert was an industrious and worthy man, and noted for his courtesy of manner. He was about 60 years of age....***

NEW JERSEY MIRROR NEWS BRIEF APRIL 29, 1875



The sudden demise of the old colored whitewasher, Lambert Giles, last week... put a number of housekeepers on the wing to find somebody to fill his engagements. ***Lambert followed an humble calling, but was regarded as about perfect in his art, and will be more missed than would many of our more pretentious citizens.*** He was often engaged weeks in advance.

REMEMBERING OUR FOREFATHER
IN 2016

LAMBERT GILES

MAY 15, 1815

APR. 19, 1875



IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHOSE GRAVE MARKERS
DID NOT SURVIVE TIME, APRIL 2017



LESSON#3
RESISTANCE AND
COMMUNITY
ORGANIZING

The Battle of Pine Swamp

BATTLE OF PINE SWAMP¹

DECEMBER 1860

A well-known slave-catcher, George Alberti, sought to capture an escaped slave by the name of Perry Simmons. Reportedly, Simmons had lived in the Timbuctoo area for a decade or more and had a strong network of supporters among Timbuctoo residents. When news of the attempt to capture Simmons reached his Timbuctoo allies, a large group rushed to Simmons aid yelling and screaming, and scared the smaller raiding party off.

Alberti had also solicited the aid of a local US Marshall under the false pretense that Simmons had stolen chickens from Moorestown. Once the constable learned that the chicken stealing charge was just a ruse, he declined to make an arrest.

¹Excitement at Timbuctoo, the Battle of Pine Swamp: Invaders forced to Retreat. The New Jersey Mirror, 6 December 1860. paper copy of microfilm

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS AND THEIR GENEALOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Document	Genealogical Significance
Original deeds conveying the premises to John Bruere in 1829 and 1831	Identifies 4 th great grandfather by name and his probable location at the 1830 Census
John Bruere's will from 1842	Provides names for John's wife and daughter (4 th great grandmother and 3 rd great grandmother). Identifies their probable location at the 1840 census. Also provides documentation needed to obtain a copy of the inventory of John Bruere's estate from the County Surrogate's office, facilitating further insight into his life.
Indenture of Mortgage 1845	Provides name for 3 rd great grandfather, introducing a surname associated with our present day family. Provides another name to use in searches of the 1840 and 1850 Censuses.

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS AND THEIR GENEALOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Document	Genealogical Significance
Mortgage payment receipts 1846 to 1896. (Annual payments are made into the 1860s, then sporadically until 1896)	Provides names for another generation of ancestors for searching census records during these decades, including 2 nd great grandfather. Receipt for 1875 and 1876 indicates payment of \$24 via 2000 bricks @ \$12 per 1000. This provides insight into the ancestor's probable occupation
Deed from 1930	Legal description identifies the premises as the same premises conveyed by the prior owner to John Bruere in 1829. Subsequent deeds for this parcel and adjacent unrelated parcels in the 1980s and 1990s continue to use these archaic references, which can identify family relationships

DATA SOURCES

Resource	Availability	Utility
New Jersey, Births and Christenings Index, 1660-1931	Ancestry.com http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=2539	Indexed search engine for New Jersey Births and Christenings from 1660 to 1931. Identified family births, beginning in 1850.
New Jersey, Deaths and Burials Index, 1798-1971	Ancestry.com http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=2540	Indexed search engine of New Jersey deaths and burials. Identified ancestor deaths, as early as 1872.
New Jersey Mirror October 14, 1818 to March 5, 1947.	Website of the Burlington County Library http://www.bcls.lib.nj.us/newspapers/newjerseymirror/	Includes obituaries and news stories about local residents, including African Americans. Identified family obituaries as early as 1851.
Historic Maps of Burlington County	Rutgers Cartography Lab http://mapmaker.rutgers.edu/BURLINGTON_COUNTY/OriginalBurlington.html	Substantial collection of local, regional and statewide New Jersey maps dating back to the eighteenth century

DATA SOURCES

Resource	Availability	Utility
US Census For population level data	Census.gov https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/overview/	Raw population data at the municipal, county, state, or national level from 1790 to 2010. Requires manual tabulation or import into statistical analysis software
US Census For population level data	Social Explorer www.socialexplorer.com	Social Explorer contains data from the first Census in 1790 to the present day. Using their data, the user can generate maps of population or specific demographic variables by location, as well as reports. May require paid subscription.
US Census Search for specific ancestors	Ancestry.com http://search.ancestry.com/search/category.aspx?cat=35	Indexed search engine for each decennial census from 1790 to 1940. Identified free ancestors by name as early as 1830.

QUESTIONS REGARDING TGE NAME AND ITS ORIGEN¹

- Named by whites pejoratively or by Blacks in high esteem?
- A site of great, riverine African civilization of surpassing wealth and beauty
- An extraordinarily remote, dangerous and difficult to reach place?
- A disappointingly ill looking and decidedly non-wealthy place surrounded by desert
- A Muslim city, hostile to outsiders, where all “native inhabitants” were “zealous Mohemetans”
- “My Timbuctoo is here”

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