

SHADES OF HILTON

Black Laborers at the Hilton Estate

Black men and women labored on the Hilton Estate performing many different types of tasks in different industries.



1700

Tobacco Farming

Just as tobacco was the dominant crop for the colony of Maryland, it was also cultivated on the Hilton Estate along with wheat and other grains. The laborers were almost entirely enslaved Africans.

- What were the daily tasks that enslaved workers had to perform on a tobacco plantation?
- What was the task system and how did it help to dictate a worker's day?
- What is a hogshead?



1775

Iron Production

The Dorsey family owned three iron ventures on the land that would become the Hilton Estate. They extensively utilized enslaved laborers to fulfill their labor needs.

- Why did ironmasters recruit enslaved laborers from certain parts of Africa?
- Why were enslaved iron workers more privileged than agricultural workers?
- What is a collier?



1860

Equestrian Pursuits

The Glenn family were heavily involved in the breeding, training, and racing of thoroughbred horses, using free and enslaved Black laborers in every aspect of their endeavors.

- Why did enslaved men dominate the horse industry in the 19th century?
- Why were enslaved equestrian workers trusted more than others?
- What is a ferrier?



1900

Dairy Farming

The Hilton Estate was a working dairy farm that provided various items at their roadside stand and at Lexington Market. The work was done almost entirely by Black workers.

- What are some of the tasks that are necessary on a dairy farm?
- What was the division of labor on a dairy farm between men and women?
- What is a milking parlor?