

# Shades of Hilton

## Hilton Estate Primary Source Assignment

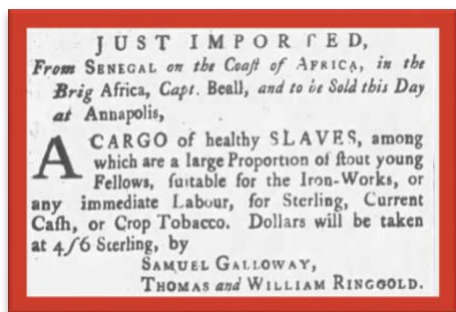


### What is a Primary Source?

A primary source is a first-hand or contemporary account of an event or topic. They are the most direct evidence of a time or event because they were created by people or things that were there at the time or event. These sources have not been modified by interpretation and offer original thought or new information. Primary sources are original materials, regardless of format.

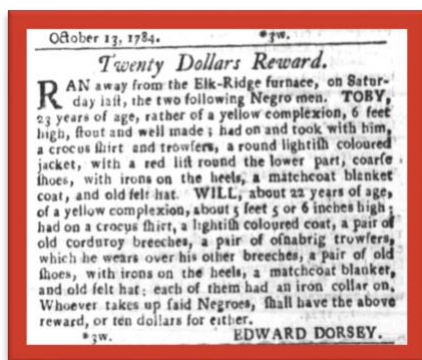
Letters, diaries, minutes, photographs, artifacts, interviews, and sound or video recordings are examples of primary sources created as a time or event is occurring. Oral histories, newspaper or journal articles, and memoirs or autobiographies are examples of primary sources created after the event or time in question but offering first-hand accounts.

Below, there are three primary sources concerning the history of the Hilton Estate in Catonsville, Maryland. These primary sources all relate to both free and enslaved African descended people that labored on the land at different periods of time. Look at the primary source, and then answer the related questions using the Shades of Hilton website for more information.



*The Galloway family owned Hilton Estate from 1742-1761. He was a Quaker, but he also imported a large number of enslaved Africans into the Annapolis port. This is a newspaper advertisement from 1760.*

1. Why was it important for Galloway to indicate from what region of Africa the enslaved people were imported?
2. What is the significance of listing different industries for which the Africans might be suited?
3. The advertisement mentions both dollars and sterling. Why?
4. What type of person would be the most likely purchaser of these enslaved Africans?
5. What else do you notice about the advertisement?



*The Dorsey family owned Hilton Estate from 1761-1818. For most of that time, the Dorseys ran three iron businesses and used enslaved labor. Oftentimes, the enslaved individuals ran away and the family would place an advertisement in the newspaper to find them. This is a newspaper advertisement from 1784.*

1. The reward is \$20.00 for the return of both men, how much would that be worth today?
2. Why does the advertisement list the type of clothes that Toby and Will were wearing when they left?
3. Does the advertisement indicate that they ran away together or alone? How can you tell?
4. What does "osnabrig" mean in the description of the shirt?
5. What else do you notice about the advertisement?



*The Glenn family owned Hilton Estate from 1837-1917. While they owned the land, it was utilized for dairy farming and raising thoroughbred horses. When enslavement ended, the Glens hired a free Black man named Remus Adams to shoe their horses. This is a letter from Willie Glenn to his father who was away in 1872.*

1. Willie Glenn was a young boy just learning to ride horses. What does this letter tell you about his progress?
2. Remus Adams lived two miles away from the Hilton Estate. What does this distance tell you about the landscape of Catonsville at this time?
3. Why did the Glenn family trust a free Black man such as Remus Adams with their horses and their son?
4. What else do you notice about the letter?