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# Texas Runaway Slave Digital Project - Final Report to the Summerlee Foundation

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# The Texas Runaway Slave Digital Project

Final Report submitted to the

## **Summerlee Foundation**

5556 Caruth Haven Lane  
Dallas, Texas 75225

By

The SFASU Foundation, Inc.

on behalf of the

The East Texas Research Center and the

Ralph W. Steen Library located at

Stephen F. Austin State University

January 26, 2015

## **I. Executive Summary**

The SFASU Foundation, on behalf of the East Texas Research Center (ETRC), Ralph W. Steen Library, Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA), was awarded a Summerlee Foundation grant to research slavery in Texas through the lens of newspaper advertisements, articles and capture notices for runaway slaves. A \$10,000 grant from the Summerlee Foundation supported the project. The ETRC hired six student assistants for 780 hours of digital research.

The students looked at newspaper issues from 1835-1865 in the collection of the Texas Digital Newspaper Program. The researchers reviewed 62.5 percent (4,735) of the available content, found 1,116 records and input their findings into a Microsoft Excel database. This research was then organized and added to the Texas Runaway Slave Project (TRSP) website, which is part of the ETRC's publicly available digital archives. All the records found by the student assistants are now online. At present the TRSP documents 1,285 runaway slaves from Texas in 1,058 advertisements, articles and capture notices. Google Analytics data shows that students, scholars and genealogists worldwide are using the project research.

## **II. Program Changes**

The project manager modified the work plan and schedule submitted in the grant to match changes to the award amount and to conform to university labor policies.

### Revisions

- Labor: The project manager allocated \$10,000 for student labor (800 hours). Six students were hired; five for 150 hours each and one for 50 hours.
- Timeline: Student research on the project began May 12, 2014 to coincide with the beginning of university's summer academic calendar. Student research concluded 12 weeks later on July 31, 2014.

## **III. Accomplishments**

### A. Grant Objectives

1. To support the further development of the Texas Runaway Slave Project (<http://digital.sfasu.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/RSP>).

Between the students and the project manager, 97.2 percent of relevant newspapers issues indexed by the Texas Digital Newspaper Project are complete. The only online content that remains is several German-language newspapers. All the student research is online and fully searchable to users.

Table 1 illustrates the significance of the Summerlee Foundation-funded research to the TRSP. The students were able to do 125 percent more research in two months than the project manager accomplished in 26 months. The student's research saved the project manager almost three years

(2.72) of individual labor. This contribution cannot be overstated. The grant-funded research now represents a majority (55.6 percent) of the total project research. There is still a lot of work to do, but it will be much more manageable because of the Summerlee Foundation support.

**Table 1: TRSP Research Statistics**

	Reviewed by Students		Reviewed by Project Manager				To-Do	Total
	5/12/14-6/16/14	6/17/14-7/31/14	12/12-10/1/13	10/2/13-6/16/14	6/17/14-7/31/14	8/1/14-1/16/15		
<b>TDNP Digital</b>	2,258	2,477	1,115	1,022	495	0	212	7,579
<b>LOC Digital<sup>1</sup></b>	0	0	0	0	0	310	0	310
<b>Microfilm<sup>2</sup></b>	0	0	192	36	176	437	1,930	2,772
<b>Original<sup>2</sup></b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	343	343
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>2,258</b>	<b>2,477</b>	<b>1,307</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>741</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,735</b>		<b>3,777</b>				<b>2,485</b>	<b>11,004</b>

<sup>1</sup> The Library of Congress digitized the *Dallas Weekly Herald* (1855-1865).

<sup>2</sup> The project manager is still researching new microfilm and original issues on the Library of Congress' Chronicling America newspaper index. The total number may be within as little as a few hundred or as many as several thousand more.

## B. Marketing / Publicity

Due to a quirk in the JavaScript for the Digital Archives, Google Analytics was not activated for the TRSP website until November 2, 2014. In the 80 days since then (as of January 20, 2015) there were 312 new visitors to the website landing page. Extrapolating this data, the project manager estimates there were 1,423 unique visitors in 2014.

Google Analytics provides a plethora of other data. Below, Table 2 shows the cities where the TRSP website is generating the most traffic. It should be assumed that the overwhelming majority of the Nacogdoches usage is from the project manager's quality control. Outside of Nacogdoches, however, the website had 7,916 pageviews, 2,698 unique pageviews and 524 entrances.

**Table 2: TRSP Website Traffic**

<u>Locations</u>	<u>Pageviews</u>	<u>Unique Pageviews</u>	<u>Entrances</u>
Nacogdoches, TX	9,479	3,410	175
Long Beach, CA	2,024	728	106
Houston, TX	741	256	48
Austin, TX	439	167	16
Fort Worth, TX	312	115	26
New York, NY	300	69	7
Hattiesburg, MS	162	58	14
Bowling Green, KY	151	42	7
Inglewood, CA	136	34	1
Beaumont, TX	124	33	1
Dallas, TX	120	27	8
United Kingdom	570	211	47
All Others	2,837	958	243
Totals	17,395	6,108	699

Google Analytics defines Pageviews as “the total number of pages viewed. Repeated views of a single page are counted. Unique Pageviews are “the number of visits during which the specified page was viewed at least once. A unique pageview is counted for each page URL + page Title combination.” Entrances are “the number of times visitors entered your site through a specified page or set of pages.” The information in Table 2 is very encouraging for the future of the project. People not only in Texas, but around the United States and in the United Kingdom, are using the website. The sustained usage of the website is also borne out in how the TRSP fares in Internet searches (Table 3). Even searches that don’t specifically use the project name consistently appear on the first page of results across Google, Yahoo and Bing.

**Table 3: Search Engine Results for Project Terminology**

<u>Search Term</u>	<u>Google</u>	<u>Yahoo</u>	<u>Bing</u>
Texas Runaway Slave Project	1st	1st	1st
Texas Runaway Slaves	1st	5th	1st
Runaway Slaves and Texas	1st	6th	1st
Runaway Slave Project	1st	1st	1st
Runaway Slaves	32nd	226th	>500th

## IV. Evaluation

### A. Researchers

The students as a team exceeded expectations and completed all of the research assigned to them. They reviewed 4,735 total newspaper issues in 12 weeks. The data suggests that the students became much more efficient as their research progressed (Table 4). Even though they worked significantly fewer hours in the final six weeks, they worked at a faster rate and reviewed more newspapers.

**Table 4: Issue Review Rates for Student Researchers**

	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate (issues/hour)</u>
<b>Grant Estimate</b>	782 <sup>1</sup>	4,692	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Weeks 1-6</b>	408 <sup>1</sup>	2,258	<b>5.5</b>
<b>Weeks 7-12</b>	354	2,477	<b>7.0</b>

Several student researchers were exceptional (Table 5). Student A reviewed the *Austin Texas State Gazette*, *Houston Telegraph and Texas Register*, et al. and managed to be both economical with their time (7.31 issues/hour) and productive (526 database entries, 47.1 percent of the student total). Student B was the fastest researcher, working predominantly on San Antonio and Galveston newspapers, and perfected skimming the newspapers for key words. Together Students A and B accounted for 68.5 percent of the newspapers researched and each individually looked at more newspapers than the rest of the team combined.

<sup>1</sup> When coming up with the hourly issue estimate for the grant, the project manager did not account for the training each student researcher would need to receive before working independently on the TRSP. A conservative estimate for training time per student was three hours (18 hours total).

**Table 5: Student Researcher Productivity**

<b>Student</b>	<b>Hours Completed</b>	<b>Issues Reviewed</b>	<b>Database Entries</b>	<b>Issues/Entry</b>	<b>Issues/Hour</b>
Student A	210.01	1,535	526	2.92	7.31
Student B	175.00	1,719	229	7.51	9.83
Student C	171.39	610	108	5.65	3.56
Student D	149.88	521	203	2.57	3.48
Student E	39.75	210	16	13.13	5.28
Student F	33.92	140	34	4.12	4.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>779.95</b>	<b>4,735</b>	<b>1,116</b>	<b>4.24</b>	<b>6.07</b>
Project Manager	n/a	3,777	714	5.29	n/a
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>8,512</b>	<b>1,830</b>	<b>4.65</b>	<b>n/a</b>

That is not to say that the other student researchers were not proficient. The newspaper research was assigned at random and there were a number of variables in every issue that might make one newspaper go very quickly and another one agonizingly slow. Some of those include:

- a) Legibility – Some newspapers were scanned out-of-focus, too dark, or too light.
- b) Size – Newspapers ranged in length (typically 1-4 pages) and width (typically 2-8 columns). An important variable since researchers were asked to skim the whole newspaper for articles as well as the more common and distinctive advertisements and capture notices.
- c) Content – Some newspapers featured more articles, which tend to be longer and more tedious to transcribe, than advertisements and capture notices.
- d) Noticeability – The runaway slave advertisements in some newspapers, like the *Houston Morning Star*, are unremarkable with no title or bold font to make them stand out. The article to advertisement ratio and location of advertisements varies with each publication.

For example, Students A and D got bogged down by the *Austin Texas State Gazette*, which all by itself accounted for 41 percent (455 total) of the student’s project database entries. In 1850 this newspaper was three columns wide and eight pages long (half the normal width but twice the standard length). Student C was both very meticulous and, for whatever reason, happened to find lots of long articles. Students E and F worked hard during their limited time on the project.

All the students, to one level or another, struggled with the level of detail required by the project. This will be covered in more depth in the evaluation of the project director.

### B. Budget

The project manager did not plan for student fringe benefits (workers compensation and healthcare) and went over-budget by \$111.40. At 780 hours of research, the project manager received a budget update from the university comptroller and suspended research. The Ralph W. Steen Library covered the additional cost.

**Table 6: Grant Expenditures**

Summerlee Funding	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
Student Wages (780 hours x \$12.50/hour)	-9,750.00
Student Benefits	-\$361.40
Total	<b>-\$111.40</b>

### C. Management

#### 1. *Project Manager*

Preparation for the project was good. As noted in the six-month report, The Ralph W. Steen Library information technology department installed a four-computer suite in the ETRC's workroom (see Figure B) and the project manager created an 18-page procedure and troubleshooting manual (see Appendix).

Each student received roughly three hours of training to begin the project and ongoing supervision and quality control over the duration of their research. Training consisted of a step-by-step review of the procedure manual as the student researched their first newspaper issues. Students started working on the project at different times, which was an unanticipated but welcomed outcome because the project manager was able to train each student individually.

For the first couple of weeks, the project manager quality-controlled the research of each student on a daily basis. The students all struggled with the level of detail required, especially project-specific nuances of punctuation, formatting, and file-naming. After each workday, the project manager identified mistakes to be discussed and corrected the following workday. This was a successful method for correcting errors and employed on a case-by-case basis. Some students were more mistake-prone than others. Overall, while there were a lot of quality control issues through May, the students seemed to find their own working rhythms through June and July.

Primary quality control for the project commenced in late July 2014 as the students completed their research hours. The project manager reviewed each student's research, combining all six spreadsheets into a master spreadsheet August 8th. From August 4th through November 3rd, the project manager more thoroughly reviewed every student database entry, finding and fixing mistakes, looking for duplicates (single runaway slaves identified by separate student researchers as different people), and formatting transcripts. Over the same three-month period, six batches of content were sent to the website content manager for upload. In December, the project manager reviewed every single record on the TRSP website (about 1,200), looking for errors missed during the first two stages of quality control. Four sets of revised records were uploaded in December. At the start of the New Year, the project manager compared the online content to the master spreadsheet and found outlying records which had slipped through the cracks of the quality control and upload. These were uploaded in seven batches ending January 22, 2015.

The project manager underestimated how intensive the quality control for the project would be. It was a painstaking process at every phase of the post-research review. The most time-consuming fixes were:

a) The project manager edited, reformatted or redid *every* single student PDF transcription (more than 1,000 total). The purpose of the transcriptions was to as closely as possible replicate the original runaway materials in PDF form, down to the text, formatting, and special characters, so that researchers could have a true-text copy of the original material. The students did their best based on the procedure manual, but it was not enough. With all the instruction and quality control the project manager did while the students were working, this is the one aspect that was overlooked.

b) One of the main fields in CONTENTdm, the website software used by the project to organize the research, is *ObjectFileName*. This was the field in the master Microsoft Excel spreadsheet for the JPEG image (Luke02.jpg), but there was no field in the spreadsheet for the file name without the extension (Luke02). Therefore, this field for most of the material uploaded between August and October defaulted to “0.” Website users could search for runaway slaves by *Name*, but when browsing there was no sequencing. The project manager, content manager, and a metadata librarian had to make this fix manually.

Also, small mistakes became big mistakes (and incredibly difficult to spot) in a Microsoft Excel database with forty fields and over 12,000 rows of data and in the very finicky CONTENTdm software. Punctuation was the main issue. For example:

a) The CONTENTdm software does not recognize the en-dash or em-dash. Every time there is a special character that the software does not recognize, the software replaces that item with a question mark inscribed in a diamond (◆) in that spot on the website. Almost all the runaway slave advertisements uploaded had en-dash and em-dashes that had to be replaced with either a single or double dash.

b) Students did not realize a comma denotes continuation while a semi-colon indicates a break. This was an issue in the *Repetition* and *Possessions* fields most commonly, but also when there were multiple names associated with one field.

All in all, the research, content upload and quality control concluded within a year of the grant award and roughly within the timeline set forth in the grant. For this the project manager should be commended. The regular work supervisor of the project manager is also due recognition for accommodating the intensive quality control. The grant budget estimated the project manager’s labor at two hours per week for the fall 2014 semester. In reality, the project manager devoted at least 30 hours per week to finishing the grant on schedule.

## 2. The *co-Project Manager* and *Website Content Manager*

The website content manager did not participate in the supervision of students or the quality control of their work. The website content manager’s role was to upload the grant research to the TRSP website. This was tedious and repetitive work executed perfectly by the website content manager over and over.



## V. Research Results

Student productivity is measured throughout the report in terms of database entries. This is not the same metric as individual runaway slaves, which is how the website is organized, and there is a good reason for that. The best way to explain is to look at an example (Table 7).

**Table 7: Research Crossover**

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Dave01 Shade01 Fortune01 Tom09 Jacob01	<b>(a) Version 1</b> <i>The Southern Intelligencer</i> Student A	<b>(b) Version 2</b> <i>The San Antonio Ledger</i> Student B	<b>(b) Version 2</b> <i>Daily Ledger</i> Project Manager

Runaway slaves Dave, Shade, Fortune, Tom and Jacob were advertised for by R. T. Johnson and John C. Edwards of Freestone County, Texas in July and August 1858. Two versions of the advertisement appeared in three total newspapers. Three different researchers found this group in their individual research. Each made five Microsoft Excel database entries to document the group (one for each runaway slave). Researcher crossovers like the table are typical in the TRSP research. While it would be nice to be able to attribute the five runaway slaves to a specific researcher or to grant-funded research versus the project manager's research, it is not possible. The project manager felt database entries would be the best measure of student output because even if there are multiple iterations of the same material, the researcher still made a record for each. The example above is measured as five runaway slaves, two advertisements (a and b) and 15 database entries. The TRSP website shows the information in columns two through four collated for each of the five runaway slaves.

Another important note about the research was that it was not confined only to runaway slaves in Texas. The project manager instructed the students to record any article, advertisement or capture notice irrespective of geography. The breadth of location is best illustrated by articles (see Table 8). Context is the best reason for recording the non-Texas material. Texas newspaper editors often reprinted stories from other newspapers around the country. The project manager felt that knowing what Texans read about runaway slaves elsewhere might be useful to scholars. For example, Editor R. W. Loughery of the Marshall *Texas Republican* reprinted many articles panning the unwillingness of abolitionist officials in Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania to enforce the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. The scathing stories promoted Southern solidarity and reminded local subscribers that they could expect no cooperation if their own slaves absconded North.

**Table 8 – Newspaper Articles**

State	Runaways	Articles	Database Entries
TX	163	94	119
MA	9	14	15
NY	10	13	13
PA	11	8	11
KY	60	3	10
Misc.	1	7	7
Canada	96	4	5
LA	1	4	4
OH	4	3	3
GA	8	2	2

State	Runaways	Articles	Database Entries
MO	15	2	2
MD	201	2	2
VA	11	2	2
DC	3,004	2	2
Indian Territory	0	1	1
NC	2	1	1
FL	3	1	1
IL	1	1	1
IN	4	1	1
KS	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,605</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>208</b>

The article results are misleading without some additional explanation. Many of the articles compiled during research generalize about large numbers of runaway slaves in a single article. This is true for Kentucky (articles of 18 and 38), Canada (article with 94), Maryland (article with 200), and Washington, D.C. (article with 3,000). There were two articles that speak to groups of 22 and 25 runaways in Texas respectively. Without these outliers, most articles documented one or two runaway slaves. The adjusted total of runaways in articles is a much more modest 208.

**Table 9: Capture Notices by Place of Origin**

State	Runaways	Capture Notices	Database Entries
TX	387	355	431
LA	79	85	98
AR	13	11	14
Indian Territory	16	6	13
MS	9	10	10
AL	4	7	7
NC	1	4	4
MO	2	2	2
SC	2	2	2
TN	2	1	2
GA	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>584</b>

**Table 10: Advertisements by Place of Origin**

State	Runaways	Advertisements	Database Entries
TX	693	609	921
LA	40	30	46
AR	12	12	16
TN	8	3	8
Indian Territory	2	4	4
AL	2	2	3
GA	1	1	1
MS	4	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>1,000</b>

Even though there was some research on material from outside of Texas, Tables 9 and 10 demonstrate that the overwhelming majority of runaways documented by the TRSP are from Texas. One thing that surprised the project manager during the compilation of this data for these tables was that there were only 20 instances where the same runaway slave had an advertisement and a capture notice (Alabama [1], Louisiana [2] and Texas [17]) made for them. There were also combinations of articles and advertisements (Texas [7] and Louisiana [8]) and articles and capture notices (Louisiana [1] and Texas [18]).

**Table 11: Totals**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Runaways</b>	<b>Articles/Ads/ Notices</b>	<b>Database Entries</b>
TX	1,285	1,058	1,471
LA	151	119	148
AR	25	23	30
Indian Territory	18	11	18
MA	9	14	15
NY	10	13	13
Others	3,434	65	138
Total	4,932	1,303	1,833

The question that precipitated the results section of the final report was very simple: How many Texas runaways does the TRSP actually document? Answering this was the basis for Table 11. Texas runaway slaves account for 1,285 of 1,587 of the total documented (81 percent) when counting the outlying articles from Canada, Kentucky, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. as single runaways. Likewise, 81 percent of articles, advertisements and capture notices are from Texas and there are 1,471 Texas-specific database entries (80.2 percent).

## **VI. Continuation of the Project**

The project manager is looking at all avenues to review the remaining microfilmed and original content. Nothing is in the works at the moment, but future collaboration seems like the most viable option. A significant quantity of the remaining research material is not at SFA. The project manager is open to working with students (any level) or faculty at other institutions to continue to populate the SFA dataset. The project manager is also interested in expanding the content of the TRSP from newspapers to court records and documents from archival manuscript collections.

## **VII. Portraits of Freedom**

*Portraits of Freedom*, also organized by the project manager, is a juried student art exhibit of runaway slaves drawn from the newspaper advertisements aggregated by the TRSP. The exhibit will open in Nacogdoches June 13, 2015 at the Nacogdoches Railroad Depot and remain through September 25th. The exhibit will feature drawings, lithographs, paintings, screen-prints from art students at SFA, Texas Christian University (TCU) and Lamar University. An adjunct faculty member at the University of Texas at Arlington will also be contributing an illustration. The exhibit will also have interpretative panels to contextualize what's on display. These will come from the collaborating faculty at TCU, the University of North Texas and the University of Texas at Tyler.

There is an opening reception June 11, 5:00pm-7:30pm, at the Nacogdoches Courthouse Annex,

which will feature two lectures that place slavery and freedom in Texas within larger geographical contexts, as well as unveil several pieces from the exhibit. Dr. Douglas Chambers from the University of Southern Mississippi will speak about runaway slaves in the Atlantic World and Dr. Daina Berry from the University of Texas at Austin will lecture on Juneteenth.

The exhibit is funded by \$2,500 from the Ralph W. Steen Library. The speaker program is funded by a \$1,000 grant from Humanities Texas. The Nacogdoches Chamber of Commerce is helping to promote the exhibit by making it the official art component of the 2015 Texas Blueberry Festival. This event draws 20,000 people to downtown Nacogdoches every year. *Portraits of Freedom* opens the same day.

**Figure A: Publicity Image, *Portraits of Freedom***



**Frances02  
Kim Jenkins, SFASU, Fall 2014**

**\$30 REWARD.**  
RANAWAY, from the subscriber, on the 6th instant, a negro woman named Frances. She had on when she left home, a white homespun cotton dress. Said negress is about eighteen years old, is of yellow complexion, rather resembling the Indian, (has some Indian blood in her) eyes red, stoops in standing or walking. No other marks recollected except some few scars on her back scarcely perceivable. The above reward will be paid to any one who will deliver the said negro to Wm. Donoho in Clarksville, or at my house on Pine Creek.  
JAMES H. KING.  
Nov. 18th 1844. No 2 if..

Clarksville *Northern Standard*  
November 20, 1844 – December 19, 1844

### VIII. Student Essays

The project manager asked each student researcher to write a short essay on their experience with the project. The essay was not mandatory but four students submitted their thoughts.

#### Student A

When I told my grandmother that I was going to be working away my summer doing research for a Runaway Slave database, she asked me why we would work so hard to put something online that people could access for free. As a historian, I feel like that is my whole purpose. Too many people are uninterested in the past, so collecting and republishing information for the purpose of genealogy, education, or other research moves the historical conversation forward. Working on the Texas Runaway Slave Project was my first experience with an archive and putting my love for history to work. It's one thing to study events of the past, but sifting through newspapers really made things come alive.

One thing that I loved about looking at the old newspapers was how things never really change. The ads became more numerous, the print got smaller, and articles were being published about "what your eye color says about you!" It was almost like I was looking at the evolution of Facebook, but it was just a daily Texas newspaper from the 1840s. As soon as I came across what I was looking for, a Runaway Slave advertisement, I quickly realized how much times *had* changed. It is difficult for a modern person to try to process. Of course I knew there was slavery in the South, but the way it was so commonplace really surprised me.

One interesting thing was that the slave owners were trying very hard to justify the fact that they *owned* other people. Runaway Slave ads were not altogether the same as estrayed or stolen horse ads. These owners knew the difference between animal property and a human being. This justification was especially evident within articles that explained how slaves that had run north had *worse* conditions where they were freed, and so they returned to their original plantation.

While I wouldn't say that the circumstances were entirely falsified, white slave owners would be reading these articles, not potential runaway slaves. So, the purpose of these articles was not for warning the slaves, but a justification for the owners – the life they have on your farm is much better than a life of freedom.

Overall I enjoyed my time working on the Texas Runaway Slave project. While it could be tedious looking through so many newspapers, it was a positive experience that brought a world that is so foreign to the 21<sup>st</sup> century student to life. One thing to keep in mind is that these advertisements, articles, and capture notices did not come up in a vacuum. I would suggest looking at the full newspapers to get a sense of the context from which these excerpts came. The world was different from ours, but not so much that it is unrecognizable.

### Student B

Working on this project was the experience of a lifetime and because of this opportunity I truly feel like I have given a voice to the thousands of runaway slaves documented. Over the duration of the project I began to imagine what horrendous circumstances the runaway slaves faced and how they might feel. I began to ask myself what would they eat and how would they stay dry and warm. Halfway through the project I began to cheer for the runaways and hoped they were not found. Each article documented tells a small portion of the runaway's experience even though that was not its intended use.

This experience was not only an educational experience but it also allowed me the opportunity to hone in my skills with various computer programs used to make the documenting process efficient. Half of the challenge was adhering to the long list of minute details and standards set by Kyle. Sifting through seemingly endless newspaper articles made for a tedious task and the only reward was actually finding a runaway slave advertisement. Finding an advertisement is where the real challenge began.

I hope that the work done is used to help other people in the quest for more information about this project.

### Student D

As a member of the research team for the Runaway Slave Project, I found myself learning and enjoying it more than expected. It was interesting to see a part of history, in a different way.

At times, it seemed overwhelming because of the amounts of newspaper issues that we needed to go through, but it was worth it in the end.

It was exciting when I was scanning through what seemed like endless newspapers and then came across a new advertisement. Every advertisement was different from the rest. Some of the descriptions were extensive, and some seemed to not have any identifying information at all. One of the issues we began to see was the fact that the same advertisement for a runaway slave could have been copied into other newspapers during the same time. As the rest of the researchers found new runaway slave ads, we all had to do a quick search so that we could

identify if this was truly a new article, or a repeat of one previously found. I am glad that when I couldn't clearly distinguish, I could just ask Kyle, and he would go through it with me.

One of the most challenging parts was to mimic the article or advertisement as closely as possible in the transcript. This part of the research took the most time because of the amount of detail. We had to pick the right format, pick an image, if there was one, and then figure out the correct spacing. This was the most frustrating part.

Overall, I am grateful I was given the opportunity to work on such a well-run project.

### Student E

I enjoyed working on the TRSP this past May. Each student researcher received a long in-depth one-on-one training. They also received a detailed training packet that broke down each step. While working on the project it was clear that the priority was to go through as many newspapers as quickly as possible. However, each newspaper yielded plenty of usable historical information that would benefit scholars. Not getting distracted remained a challenge for me. Another challenge of the project was perfecting the format of each found slave ad in Microsoft Word. Aside from the mentioned challenges, the project ran smoothly and I was able to go through 210 issues. It was especially fun when someone found a "new" slave advertisement. Due to the location of the newspaper publications, there were many slave advertisements that ran in multiple newspapers over lengthy periods.

I enjoyed working on this project and am excited that it yielded so much usefully information. I hope that other institutions are able to continue the project nationwide in order to provided further information for families and researchers.

## IX. Appendices

### A. Notable Runaway Slave Advertisements

#### Caesar02

Capture Notice


*State Gazette*, March 13 - April 10, 1858

**Runaway Negro Boy.**  
**T**HERE was committed to jail in the county of Dallas, and State of Texas, on the 27th day of February, 1858, a negro boy, Caesar, 35 or 40 years old, about 5 feet 4 or 5 inches high, will weigh about 165 pounds. Said negro says he belongs to Jefferson Moore, six miles above Alexandria, La.  
Owner of said property is hereby notified to come forward, prove property, pay charges and take him away, otherwise he will be dealt with according to law. JOHN A. SOWERS,  
Deputy Sheriff, Dallas Co.  
March 13, 1858—no39-4w.

Capture Notice

*Dallas Herald*, July 3 - August 21, 1858

**A Runaway in Jail.**  
**T**AKEN UP and committed to the Jail in Dallas County, on the 27th day of February last,  
**A NEGRO MAN,**  
5 feet 8 inches high; says his name is C.E-SAR; heavy built, light complexion, apparently about 35 years old, but says he was born in 1818; left ankle affected with rheumatism, making him quite lame at times; quite intelligent and shrewd. The boy says he belongs to Jefferson Moore, who resides in Bossier Parish, La.; first said his master lived 6 miles above Alexandria, in Rapides Parish.  
The owner of said negro is notified to come forward, pay charges, and take said negro away before the 27th day of August next, or he will be advertised and sold as directed by law. ALLAN BEARD,  
Deputy Sheriff Dallas County, Texas.  
July 3, 1858—1:tf.



Sale Notice

*Dallas Herald*, September 15 - 29, 1858

**Notice—Sale of Runaway Negro.**  
**I** WILL expose to sale, at public outcry, at the Court House in the town of Dallas, for cash, on Saturday the 16th day of October, 1858, a negro man, who was committed to the jail of Dallas county, as a runaway negro; who says his name is Caesar—that he belongs to Jefferson Moore, who lives six miles above Alexandria, in the State of Louisiana. Sale to take place at 11 o'clock, on the day above mentioned.—  
This the 7th of Sept., 1858. W. CARTER,  
11:5t. Sheriff Dallas Co., Texas.

Report of Sale

*Dallas Herald*, October 20, 1858

The negro man Caesar, who has been confined in our jail as a runaway for more than eight months past, was sold by our Sheriff on Saturday under the provisions of law. He brought \$800, which after paying charges will go into the county treasury. Every diligence was used to learn the whereabouts of his owner but without success. He said his owner resided in Rapides parish, La., and after in Bossier parish. Both stories are believed to be mere fictions.



Cain01

Runaway Advertisement  
*Telegraph & Texas Register,*  
October 9 - November 20, 1939

**One hundred and fifty dollars Reward**  
**R**ANAWAY from the plantation of the subscriber, on the night of the 7th ultimo, the following Negroes:  
William, a dark mulatto, about 25 years old, about 5 feet 8 inches high, stout built, has two of his fore-fingers on his right hand broke.  
Charlotte, a black, about 30 years old, very thick projecting lips, clips her words when she speaks, her right leg shorter than the other.  
Cain, her son, about 13 years old, black; thick lips; has small scar on his forehead over his left eye; wore away a light mixed Kentucky jeans hunting shirt.  
The above reward in Texas money, will be given for apprehending and delivering to me the above described negroes, or \$75 in Texas notes, if secured in any jail in this Republic, and information given to the subscriber, or to  
Col Wm T AUSTIN, at Velasco.  
Brazoria county, Oct 1  
w4-228  
P BERTRAND

Runaway Advertisement  
*Galveston Weekly News,*  
November 3, 1857

**NEGROES RANAWAY,**  
**F**ROM the Plantation of the Subscriber, in Fort Bend county, near the railroad, three Negro Boys, viz: Cain, about five feet nine inches high, stout built, dark complexion, speaks quick, about 26 years old. Jake, about five feet high, slender, about 22 years old, has a scar over his right eye, grif color. Richard, about 14 years old, copper color, good size for his age. A liberal reward will be paid for the delivery of these Negroes at any place where the owner can get them, by addressing the undersigned at Walker's Station, Fort Bend county or Wm. T. Austin, Galveston.  
EMILY A. BERTRAND.  
Per Wm. T. Austin.  
sept16-wtf-tw1t

B. Photographs

Figure B – Student Researchers, May 2014



C. Student Researcher Procedural Manual

**Note: This is the original procedure given to the students in May 2014. The naming and transcription guidelines have been modified and update since then.**



**The Texas Runaway Slave Project**  
East Texas Research Center  
Stephen F. Austin State University

Welcome to the Texas Runaway Slave Project (TRSP) Team. This guide outlines the TRSP purpose and workflow. It will help orientate newcomers to the project and assist student as they begin their research.



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Digital Archivist and Head  
Center for Digital Scholarship  
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# **I. Background**

## **A. Timeline**

**December 2012** – Project started by Kyle Ainsworth

**August 2013** – Dillon Wackerman joins the project, begins developing the website

**October 2013** – Website launched

**January 2014** – Grant from the Summerlee Foundation awarded

**May 2014** – Grant research commences

## **B. Purpose**

Wherever there was slavery, there were runaways; wherever there were newspapers, there were runaway advertisements. This project provides researchers the opportunity to investigate Texas history in an innovative environment. The student assistants will be able to use the project to prepare for their next step in academia or as valuable career experience. It gives the participants a chance to illuminate a brilliant but heretofore under-scrutinized primary source: colonial and antebellum newspaper advertisements. These provide a diverse audience of scholars, students, teachers, and genealogists worldwide to learn more about the world of runaway slaves.

## **C. Audience**

Students, teachers, genealogists, and scholars are just a few of the user groups that will use the Texas Runaway Slave Project. Because the TRSP is a digital humanities initiative, students and teachers at every level can access the student assistants' runaway slave research through the classroom computer or lecture hall projector without coming to the archives. Genealogists will find the TRSP collection very useful. People researching their slave ancestry often can only find the names of their ancestors recorded in personal paper collections and court records. Even then, there is rarely a mention of descriptive characteristics. The runaway slave advertisements and notices often combine all these scant details into a succinct description of the slave that cannot be found anywhere else.

## **D. Significance**

The access provided by the TRSP is remarkable in the context of the traditional sources of information about slaves. Scholars of slavery often utilize county records (probate and estate papers, court cases, and deed records), archival collections (personal and family manuscripts) and federal government records for their research. While county records and archival collections are excellent source material for scholars seeking information on a particular time and place, they often require meticulous on-site research. Records from the federal government are more widely accessible, but they have their own issues when it comes to doing research on slavery. Although the 1850 and 1860 U. S. Censuses have slave schedules, they do not generally provide any information about individual slaves, only the age, sex, color, and quantity of bondsmen owned by a particular individual. While researchers can discern detailed information about former slaves from the 1870 and 1880 U. S. Censuses, Freedmen's Bureau Records, and Civil War pension records, these primary sources still leave much to be desired.

Outside of the handful the slave narratives written while slavery was still legal in the United States and the more extensive WPA Slave Narratives, the aforementioned sources illustrate a body of primary sources that continue to frustrate all but the most determined researchers. Scholars have written extensively about how slaves lived (their family structure, folkways, leisure time, music, religion, etc.) and interacted with their owners (labor, resistance, sexual relations, etc.) but there is not very much about who these people were. What was their personality? What did they look like? What did they wear and what were the things they carried? These are just some of the questions that runaway slave advertisements and capture notices in newspapers can address.

However, as the information on runaway slaves in newspapers is difficult to find and compile, it has about the same usefulness as county records. The aggregation of research in the TRSP is one solution

to this problem. It represents a conscious decision to make the project viable and immediately internationally accessible. The TRSP maps only a fraction of the slaves that were in Texas, but taken together they are an important “community” nevertheless that is now visible where once it was relatively invisible.

### **E. Historical Context**

Historian Randolph Campbell writes that many Texans have a myopic notion of the role of slavery in the development of the state. This narrative looks to the frontier, the mythos and romanticism of the West, and dismisses the equally, if not greater, influence of antebellum Southern culture.<sup>2</sup> Campbell postulates that this is a defense mechanism, a way for Texans not to confront both the end of an economic, political and social institution that dominated Texas for 50 years (1816-1865) and the aftermath that continues to affect race relations to the present.<sup>3</sup>

In fact, slavery is intimately intertwined into the early history of Texas. Over the course of 25 years, the slave population in Texas grew from an estimated 5,000 in 1836 to nearly 170,000 in 1861.<sup>4</sup> Anglo-Americans that immigrated to Texas brought slaves with them. Campbell found that 77 percent of the heads of household in the 1860 census of Texas were born in the South. The state, with fertile soil and abundant land, was a natural frontier for the westward expansion of slavery. The success of cotton as a cash-crop encouraged the rapid growth of Texas. Clarksville newspaper editor Charles De Morse speculated in 1859 that there were not enough slaves in the entire South to satisfy the demand in Texas. “We doubt whether, in a hundred years, we shall have slave labor enough in Texas, to develop its resources.” Texans understood that slaves were the ultimate economic commodity because they could perform all manner of agricultural and domestic service, harvest the cash crop cotton, reproducing by natural increase, and increase in value as they grew to adulthood. From the same article, De Morse writes of slaves, “we need them” because “we desire the practicality; the increase of our productions; the increase of our comforts and wealth of the population; and if slavery, or slave labor, or Negro Apprentice labor ministers to this, why that is what we want.”<sup>5</sup> In a very short time, Texas went from a society with slaves to a slave society.<sup>6</sup>

Although bondage by definition highly curtailed their free will, slaves still found many ways to create their own space. At work in the fields or in the house, with family and with friends, slaves asserted themselves and tested the master-slave relationship. “Running away” was one way slaves challenged the status quo. Slaves would visit friends on other nearby and regional plantations, but come back when they were ready to be “caught.” Mrs. R. Chambers advertised for her runaway slave Lee in the 1861 *Bellville Countryman* only to learn later when he was caught that he had been “about her premises” the entire three months.<sup>7</sup> Other runaways in Texas were more ambitious, taking off to make a permanent escape. Runaways in Texas were liable to travel great distances. Owners documented in the TRSP data most often speculate that their bondsmen were headed for Mexico (where slavery was illegal), Indian Territory (to join the Choctaw Nation), to other plantations in Texas (to find family), or to other states (to find family). One planter even advertised that he thought his runaway slave might be making his way to Georgia.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Campbell rhetorically notes that Texas identifies as Western and not Southern because his book is the very first history of slavery in Texas. By 1989, every other Southern slave state, except Texas and Delaware, had books on slavery in their state.

<sup>3</sup> C. Vann Woodward, *The Burden of Southern History* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1960).

<sup>4</sup> Randolph B. Campbell, *An Empire for Slavery: The Peculiar Institution in Texas, 1821-1865* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1989), p.56, 252.

<sup>5</sup> Charles De Morse, “The Cloud in the Distance; and considerations connected therewith,” *The Northern Standard*, 19 February 1859, p.2.

<sup>6</sup> Paraphrased and cited statistics in the first two paragraphs from the introduction and conclusion to Randolph B. Campbell, *An Empire for Slavery: The Peculiar Institution in Texas, 1821-1865* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1989), pp.1-4, 252-259.

<sup>7</sup> *The Bellville Countryman*, 8 May 1861, p.3.

<sup>8</sup> Charles De Morse, “Ran Away,” *The Northern Standard*, 24 July 1847.

## **F. Work Plan**

*Phase I: Digitized Newspapers* – These are accessible from the home or office and exhausting this resource first is the most convenient. The University of North Texas (UNT) hosts two platforms, *The Texas Digital Newspaper Project* (<https://tdnp.unt.edu/>) and the *Portal to Texas History* (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/>), which have, at present, 7,594 issues scanned and searchable from Texas newspapers prior to 1865. A \$10,000 grant from the Summerlee Foundation is helping to complete this portion of the project.

*Phase II: Microfilmed Newspapers* – Some of what UNT does not have digitized is on microfilm. The plan is to use the microfilm available at the East Texas Research Center and through Interlibrary Loan, and then as travel as necessary when the materials are not in circulation.

*Phase III: Original Newspapers* – Original newspapers are the least accessible of the research options available for this project. Institutions with major collections of pre-1865 Texas newspapers include the University of Texas at Austin, the Panhandle-Plains Museum in Canyon, Texas, and Yale University.

## **II. Workflow**

### **A. Project Navigation**

Outlined below are is the computer drive map for all the folders that student researchers will need to use while working on the Texas Runaway Slave Project.

Texas Runaway Slave Project Folder

- > JPEGs and PDFs Folder
  - > Advertisement Images Folder
    - JPEGs Folder (Save PhotoShopped PDFs Here)
    - PDFs Folder (Save Screenshots Here)
  - > Advertisement Transcripts Folder
    - PDFs Folder (Save Transcript in PDF Here)
    - Word Folder (Save Transcript in Word Here)
    - Word Templates Folder (Find Transcript Templates Here)
  - > Runaway Images Folder (Has the Special Characters for Transcription)
- > Student Workers Folder (Student Assistant Spreadsheets Saved Here)

### **B. Search**

The dependability of the UNT-hosted websites is excellent for some search tools, but not for the most important aspects of this project. Keyword searches for “runaway” and “ranaway” yield results, but they are not comprehensive. Although the websites are text-searchable via Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software, the search engine has a very difficult time picking up the variable sizes, fonts, and image qualities of the digitized newspapers. The keyword search is good for establishing a starting point, but ultimately each individual newspaper issue must be browsed to get a complete and accurate record.

**TEXAS DIGITAL NEWSPAPER PROGRAM**

HOME PARTNERS PROCESS FUNDING STANDARDS FAQs CONTACT US

**About the Program**

The University of North Texas (UNT) Libraries was selected as the lead institution in Texas for the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), *Chronicle America: Historic American Newspapers*. The National Digital Newspaper Program is a joint project by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Library of Congress (LOC) to develop an Internet-based, searchable database of U.S. newspapers from 1690 to the present. During the next 20 years, NDNP will create a digital resource of historically significant newspapers published between 1836 and 1922 in all 50 states and U.S. territories. For each two-year phase of the grant, UNT delivers 100,000 pages of digitized newspapers to LOC, and UNT also hosts these images on the Portal to Texas History, for free and open access.

Beyond *Chronicle America*, the Texas Digital Newspaper Program seeks to form partnerships with a wide array of groups to digitize as many Texas newspaper titles as possible, through private foundation funding, friends of the library projects, and individual partner self-funding. Our goal is to create a digital newspaper repository that represents all Texas counties, and this is only achievable through statewide collaboration. Our newest initiative is to preserve and host digital newspaper PDFs. Digital newspaper PDFs, which are the PDF print masters sent to a newspaper printing office, are a significant next frontier for newspaper access and preservation. For all newspapers included in the repository, whether they are scanned from microfilm or acquired through PDF print master, the Texas Digital Newspaper Program draws upon best practice standards established by the Library of Congress and the NEH for the National Digital Newspaper Program.

**SEARCH**

Go

**LINKS**

Digital Newspaper Unit  
UNT Libraries

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

News  
TDNP Map  
Coming Soon  
College/University Titles

Titles: A to C  
Titles: D to H  
Titles: I to N  
Titles: O to S  
Titles: T to V  
Titles: W to Z

Counties: A to J  
Counties: K to Z  
Other State Digital Newspaper Programs

©2008 Texas Digital Newspaper Program

1. Go to the Texas Digital Newspaper Project page <http://tdnp.unt.edu/>. Find the newspaper(s) assigned to you under “Titles.”

**THE PORTAL TO TEXAS HISTORY** Home Search Explore About Help

Basic Search Advanced Search Search Results

**Decade:**

- 1880-1889 (412)
- 1870-1879 (88)
- 1860-1869 (192)
- 1850-1859 (452)
- 1840-1849 (307)

**Serial/Series Title:**

- The Standard (992)
- The Northern Standard (439)

Search within the The Portal to Texas History

Everything | Books | Maps | Photos | Newspapers More

Search: [ ] fulltext Submit

You limited your search to:

- Collection: The Northern Standard, from Clarksville, TX Remove

Results 1 - 10 of 1,431 Sort by: Best Match

**The Northern Standard. (Clarkville, Tex.), Vol. 6, No. 18, Ed. 1, Saturday, August 26, 1848**

Date: August 26, 1848  
 Creator: De Morse, Charles  
 Description: Weekly newspaper from the Clarksville, Texas area that includes local, state and national news along with extensive advertising.  
 Contributing Partner: The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History

2. Select the newspaper. It will redirect into the Portal to Texas History. It is easiest to find specific issues by:
  - a. Sort by: Tab – Date Created (Oldest)
  - b. Decade Tab – Select a Decade. It will then organize by Year.

3. [Click](#) the large image on Subpage A.

THE PORTAL TO TEXAS HISTORY [Home](#) [Search](#) [Explore](#) [About](#) [Help](#)

[About this Newspaper](#) [Read this Newspaper](#) [Other items in this serial \(439\)](#)

The Northern Standard. (Clarksville, Tex.), Vol. 1, No. 2, Ed. 1, Saturday, August 27, 1842

[Brief Record](#) [Full Record](#) [Statistics](#)



<b>Description:</b>	Weekly newspaper from the Clarksville, Texas area that includes local, state and national news along with extensive advertising.
<b>Creator(s):</b>	<a href="#">De Morse, Charles</a>
<b>Location(s):</b>	<a href="#">United States - Texas - Red River County - Clarksville</a>
<b>Creation Date:</b>	August 27, 1842
<b>Partner(s):</b>	<a href="#">The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History</a> <a href="#">About</a>   <a href="#">Browse this Partner</a>
<b>Collection(s):</b>	<a href="#">Texas Digital Newspaper Program</a> <a href="#">About</a>   <a href="#">Browse this Collection</a>
	<a href="#">The Northern Standard, from Clarksville, TX</a> <a href="#">About</a>   <a href="#">Browse this Collection</a>
	<a href="#">Early Texas Newspapers</a> <a href="#">About</a>   <a href="#">Browse this Collection</a>
<b>Usage:</b>	Total Uses: 247 Past 30 days: 5 Yesterday: 0

Search Inside

[Return to Search Results](#)

[Citation](#)

[Metadata](#)

[Share](#)

More Options

[All Pages](#)

Resources<sup>4</sup> Educators

We offer teaching materials that connect your students with primary source historical documents to dramatically enrich their learning. [See all resources.](#)

Feedback:

If you are having problems, need to report errors, or have questions or comments for the staff, please use our [Feedback Form](#).

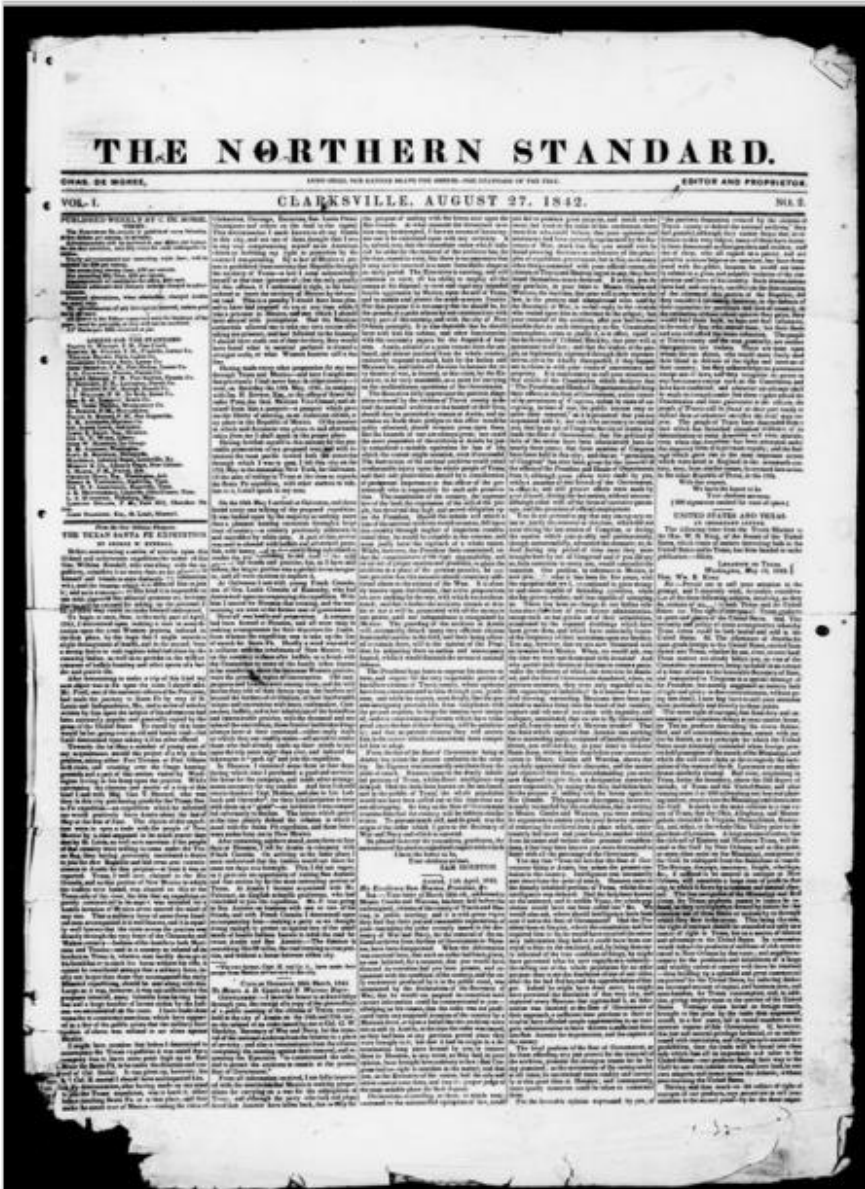


Subpage A

4. Subpage B will open up. Click "Zoom Full Page." Subpage C will open.

The Northern Standard. (Clarksville, Tex.), Vol. 1, No. 2, Ed. 1, Saturday, August 27, 1842

Zoom (Full Page) Lower Lights Sequence: 1



Search Inside  
  
Search

- [Return to Search Results](#)
- [Citation](#)
- [Metadata](#)
- [Share](#)
- [More Options](#)
- [All Pages](#)
- [All Image Sizes](#)
- [Zoom \(Full Page\)](#)

Resources<sup>4</sup> Educators  
We offer teaching materials that connect your students with primary source historical documents to dramatically enrich their learning. [See all resources.](#)  
Feedback:  
If you are having problems, need to report errors, or have questions or comments for the staff, please use our [Feedback Form](#)



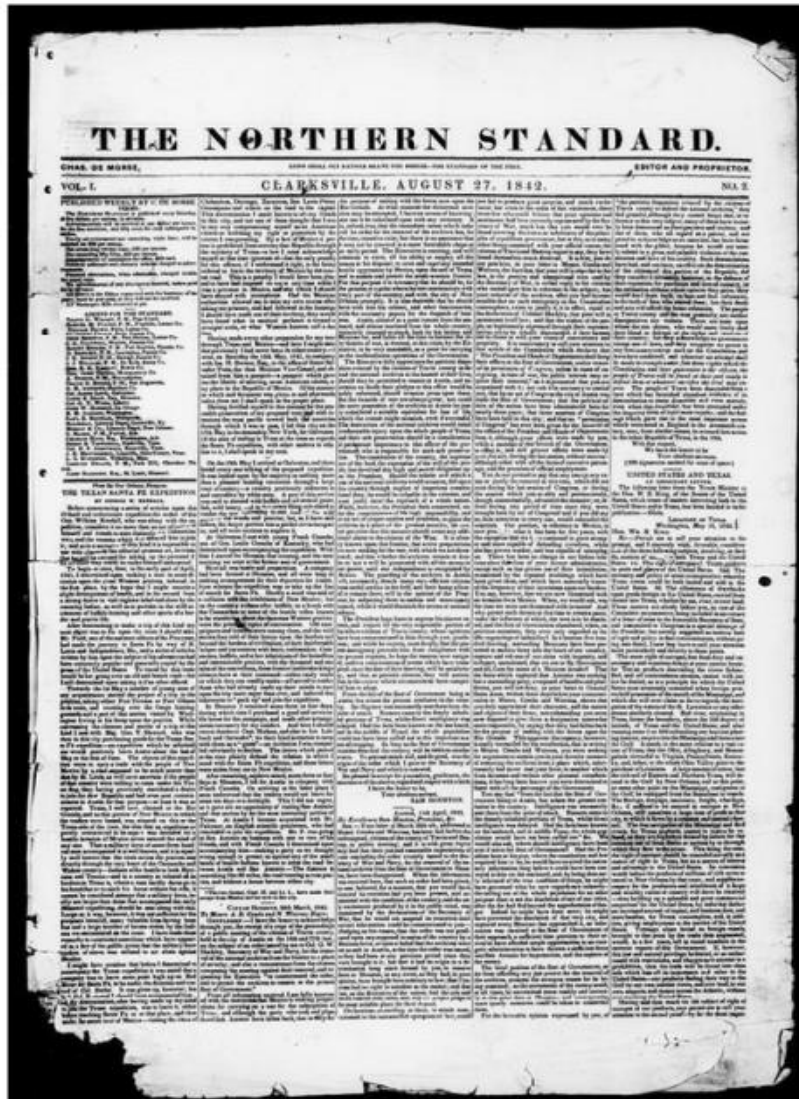
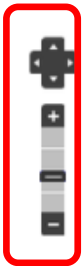
# Subpage B



Normal Display

Sequence: 1

Permalink



## Subpage C

5. On Subpage C, manipulate the image with the Zoom control (left) and change pages with the Sequence box.
6. Browsing: What are we looking for?
  - a. Runaway Slave Advertisements
  - b. Runaway Slave Capture Notices
  - c. Articles about Runaway Slaves
  - d. Other Articles. If you see something that could be tangentially related to the project (i.e. news of a slave insurrection/revolt, capture of a slaver vessel, etc.), make a note of the page,

column # and title of the article in the “Notes” section of your Excel spreadsheet (see below). This information may be used at a later date.

7. What is the best way to search? Browse the newspapers in the TDNP. The zoom required to see the newspapers clearly will depend on the clarity of the digitization, the width of the newspaper (anywhere from 3 to 8 columns of text), and your eye sight. Scroll through 2-3 columns of text at a time looking for keywords like “runaway”, “slave”, “negro”, “committed”, “taken up”, etc.
8. Should I read every word on every page? No. Scan for the keywords. Advertisements and capture notices tend to be near the end of the newspaper. Articles can be anywhere, so it is important to be diligent and not cut corners.
9. What if the digitized newspaper page on the TDNP is illegible? This happens all the time. A lot of the newspapers were scanned from microfilm, which aren’t always the best quality. Please write down the page where there is illegible, missing, or torn in the “Notes” section of your Excel Spreadsheet. There may be a copy or original somewhere that will be in better condition.



10. What if there is an error message or blank screen when opening or zooming in on a particular newspaper issue.
  - a. Use the “Sequence” box (Subpage C) to view the other pages of the issues. Sometimes there is an error message for only one of the pages, but the rest display correctly.
  - b. Try to view the newspaper from Subpage B. Keyboard “Control +” to magnify the page. There is also a “Sequence” box on Subpage B. Sometimes the image will be clear enough to browse the newspaper from here.

### **C. Description**

All the text information in the TRSP website originates in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. Each student worker will work within Excel to document runaway slaves and their overall progress on the project. If an advertisement is for a group of slaves, make a separate row for each individual slave. This is best seen in the example below from January 20, 1838. Although Joe and Henry are named in the same capture notice, each gets their own row. Also, there is a separate third row for repeat runaway slave advertisements that appeared in that issue. We do not the information in the third row to end up on the website.

**W:Kyle\Texas Runaway Slave Project\Student Workers\Your Name**

#### **Fields**

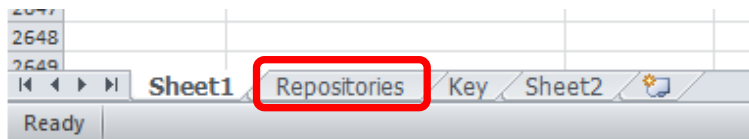
1. **Set Upload** – Don’t worry about this until your data set is confirmed to be on the webpage.
2. **Newspaper Title** – Input for the first newspaper in the series and every issue where there is an advertisement, notice or article.
3. **Newspaper Editor** – Input for the first newspaper in the series and every issue where there is an advertisement, notice or article.
4. **Newspaper Location** – Input for the first newspaper in the series and every issue where there is an advertisement, notice or article. Write down in this format: City, County, State.
5. **Newspaper Language** – Input for the first newspaper in the series and every issue where there is an advertisement, notice or article.

Volume	Newspaper Date	Associated Date	In-Form	Dated	Viewed	Repository	Original	Host Institution	Hyperlink	Type	Title	Page, Column	Reward (\$)	Description	Repetition
3, 6	1/20/1838	1830-1839	Digital	UNT				Texas Digital New	<a href="http://texashistory.unt.org">http://texashistory.unt.org</a>	Notice	STOLEN NEGROES FOUND. NOTICE is hereby given to the owner of two Negroes named Joe and Henry, who were stolen from Louisiana in July last that they have been captured at Columbus, Colorado county, Texas, and are now in charge of the undersigned. These Negroes say they belong to a Mr. Burr, who resides about sixty miles above New Orleans. STEPHEN TOWNSHEND, Sheriff of Colorado co. Columbus, Jan. 13, 1838. '10-3t				2/3/1838 (pg.4, col.1)
3, 6	1/20/1838	1830-1839	Digital	UNT				Texas Digital New	<a href="http://texashistory.unt.org">http://texashistory.unt.org</a>	Notice	STOLEN NEGROES FOUND. NOTICE is hereby given to the owner of two				2/3/1838 (pg.4, col.1)
3, 6	1/20/1838											Y	pg.4, col.4	Repeat, see 12/16/1837 ad for Gumby and Zow	
3, 7	1/27/1838											Y	pg.4, col.4	Repeat, see 12/16/1837 ad for Gumby and Zow	
3, 8	2/3/1838	1830-1839	Digital	UNT				Texas Digital New	<a href="http://texashistory.unt.org">http://texashistory.unt.org</a>	Advertiser	\$20 REWARD, FOR apprehending and delivering to the subscriber or to				2/10/1838 (pg.3, col.3); 2/17/1838 (pg.4, col.1); 2/24/1838 (pg.4, col.3)
3, 8	2/3/1838											Y	pg.4, col.1	Repeat, see 1/20/1838 ad for Joe and Henry	
3, 8	2/3/1838											Y	pg.4, col.4	Repeat, see 12/16/1837 ad for Gumby and Zow	
3, 9	2/10/1838											Y	pg.3, col.3	Repeat, see 2/3/1838 ad for Julia	
3, 9	2/10/1838											Y	pg.4, col.4	Repeat, see 12/16/1837 ad for Gumby and Zow	
3, 10	2/17/1838											Y	pg.1, col.4	Repeat, see 12/16/1837 ad for Gumby and Zow	
3, 10	2/17/1838											Y	pg.4, col.1	Repeat, see 2/3/1838 ad for Julia	
3, 10	2/17/1838	1830-1839	Digital	UNT				Texas Digital New	<a href="http://texashistory.unt.org">http://texashistory.unt.org</a>	Advertiser	Twenty Dollars Reward. RANAWAY from the subscriber on the 20th of January, a Negro man named BEN. He is six feet high and proportionally stout, complexion rather of a light cast for a negro, forward in his manners, and when in liquor, (which he is very fond of) impudent; is a rough Carpenter. Ben was brought to Houston in the early part of December by Dr. Berry, and remained there some ten or twelve days, where it is most probable he now is. The above reward will be given for his apprehension, and all necessary expenses paid for his delivery at Marion. ROBERT M. FORBES, Columbia, Feb. 13, 1838.-'14-2t For D. A. Barry.				2/24/1838 (pg.3, col.3); 3/3/1838 (pg.3, col.4); 3/10/1838 (pg.4, col.4); 3/10/1838 (S117, pg.3.
3, 11	2/24/1838											Y	pg.1, col.4	Repeat, see 12/16/1837 ad for Gumby and Zow	
3, 11	2/24/1838											Y	pg.3, col.3	Repeat, see 2/17/1838 ad for Ben	
3, 11	2/24/1838											Y	pg.4, col.3	Repeat, see 2/3/1838 ad for Julia	

### Key

	Uploaded to the website.
	Reviewed issues. In such a massive spreadsheet, this helps distinguish completed projects.
	Second batch awaiting upload to the website. This includes corrections to material already online.
	Third batch awaiting upload to the website. This includes corrections to material already online.
	Edits to finished batches.
	These changes need to be made to the web content.
	Internal organizational fields deleted when the spreadsheet is published to the website.

- Volume, Issue** – Enter this information before reviewing each issue. The entry of this data is another way (along with the forest green color-coding) to keep your place as you work through a newspaper collection.
- Newspaper Date** – Edit as necessary. Typos are common.
- Associated Date** – Decade range. Only input this information for runaway slave advertisements, notices and articles.
- Viewed-In Format** – Input either *Digital* or *Microfilm* for each runaway slave advertisements, notices and articles.
- Format Repository Locations [Digital, Microfilm, Original]** – The abbreviations denote where a copy of the issue can be found. All the digitized issues on the TDNP should be pre-entered into the database. The repositories are inventoried on the second page of the spreadsheet.



- Host Institution** - The name of the institution that provided the newspaper for viewing.

12. **Hyperlink** – Input the web address for the newspaper page with the advertisement, article or notice. Copy the URL into the Excel text box and hit ENTER. It should automatically add the http:// in front of the web address.

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window displaying a newspaper page from the Portal to Texas History. The address bar contains the URL: [texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph47974/m1/3/zoom/](http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph47974/m1/3/zoom/). Below the browser, an Excel spreadsheet is visible with the same URL entered in cell N5859.

13. **Type** – Input *Advertisement* (by owners), *Notice* (by captors), or *Article* (from the newspaper).

For organizational purposes, this is where all the Y's (**Yes, there is a runaway slave advertisement, but it is a repeat**) and N's (**No, there are no runaway slave advertisements in this issue**) go. This information will not go online, but helps the researcher keep track of their progress.

14. **Title** – Title of the runaway slave advertisement, notice or article.

15. **Page, Column** – Input like this: **pg.2, col.4**

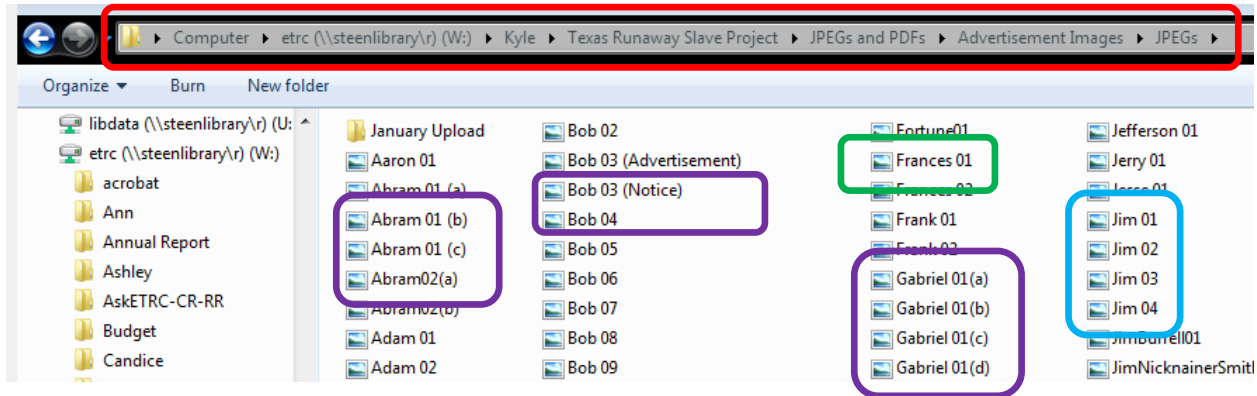
16. **Reward** – Input the amount offered for the capture of the runaway slave. Separate different amounts with a semi-colon and a space.

17. **Description** – Input a corrected transcription of the advertisement, article or notice. Fix spelling and punctuation errors and write out all abbreviations (usually first names and months). The text should all run together, so do not indent for new paragraphs.

18. **Repetition** – One of the biggest challenges in the project is to avoid the duplication of records for individual runaway slaves. The project wants to record the first iteration/appearance of each advertisement. In this field, note every repetition of the original. Format like this: **mm/dd/yyyy (pg.#, col.#).**

Newspaper Date	Type	Title	Page, Column	Reward (\$)	Description	Repetition
6/5/1839	Advertisement		pg.3, col.4	15; 400	RUNAWAY from me, on 6th day of April last, a brown colored negro man, by name of Isaac, 24 years old, near upon 6 feet high, short and chunky made, has large eyes, and a bushy head somewhat; no brands	6/12/1839 (pg.3, col.4); 6/19/1839 (pg.4, col.1); 6/26/1839 (pg.4, col.1)
6/5/1839	Y		pg.4, col.2		Repeat, see 11/28/1838 ad for Maranda	
	Y		pg.4, col.2		Repeat, see 4/6/1839 notice for Sanco, Doo and Luther	
6/12/1839	Y		pg.3, col.4		Repeat, see 6/5/1839 ad for Isaac	
	Y		pg.4, col.2		Repeat, see 11/28/1838 ad for Maranda	
	Y		pg.4, col.2		Repeat, see 4/6/1839 notice for Sanco, Doo and Luther	
6/19/1839	Advertiser	Fifty Dollars	pg.3, col.4	25; 50	Fifty Dollars Reward, IN Texas Treasury notes, will be paid for the apprehension and delivery to me of my Negro Man, TOM, who ran away from me at Harrisburg, on the night of Saturday, the 13th inst., or twenty-five dollars, and all expenses will be paid, for lodging him in any jail in this	6/26/1839 (pg.3, col.5); 7/3/1839 (pg.4, col.5); 7/10/1839 (pg.4, col.5); 7/17/1839 (pg.4, col.5)

19. **Description** – Input a corrected transcription of the advertisement (Correct spelling, fix punctuation, spell-out abbreviations).
20. **Runaway’s Name** – Input the runaway’s name. This is the principle organizing field for the project.
  - a. If the advertisement does not give a name, enter “Unnamed.”
  - b. If more than one name is given for the same person, enter both and separate them with a semicolon.
  - c. If there is more than one runaway slave in the advertisement, insert a new row in the spreadsheet and copy the information from #s 1-19. Every individual runaway slave gets their own entry in the database.
21. **Sex** – Input *Male* or *Female*.
22. **Age** – Input the runaway’s age. If more than one age is given, enter both and separate them with a semicolon.
23. **Height** – Input the runaway’s height. If more than one height is given, enter each one and separate with a semicolon. Format like this: 6’ 2”.
24. **Weight** – Input the runaway’s weight. If more than one weight is given, enter each and separate with a semicolon.
25. **Complexion.** The word used to describe the slave’s skin tone. Input the runaway’s complexion, including gradations of light and dark (i.e. light copper or dark mulatto).
26. **Runaway’s Language** - Input the runaway’s language. DO NOT MAKE ASSUMPTIONS. Only enter information for this field if it is specifically listed in the advertisement.
27. **Runaway’s Education/Trade Skills** – If the advertisement indicates that the runaway can read, write, do figures, or has a job or trade skill, enter that information in this field. Separate each skill with a semicolon.
28. **Possessions** – Input here whatever the advertisement says the runaway stole or took with them, including clothes, tools and animals. Separate each possession with a semicolon.
29. **Number of Runaways** – Enter *Single* (1), *Pair* (2), or *Group* (3 or more) depending on the advertisement.
30. **Submitted By** – Input the name of the person who submitted the advertisement, article, or notice to the newspaper.
31. **Location of Submitter** – Enter in this format: Town, ABCD County, State. For towns that you are not familiar with, double-check them on Google and in Google Maps. It may be that the town exists, but it is in a new county. Input the new county. If you can’t find the town on the map, default to the county.
32. **Captor** – Input the name of the person in newspaper capture notice’s ONLY that caught the runaway slave.
33. **Location of Capture** – Enter in the same format as Field #31.
34. **Slave-owner** - Input the name of the person who owns the runaway slave.
35. **Location of Slave-owner** – Enter in the same format as Field #31.
36. **Previous Slave-owner** – Sometimes advertisements will give this additional detail.
37. **Location of Previous Slave-owner** – Enter in the same format as Field #31.
38. **Contributor** – Enter your name for each distinct runaway slave advertisement, article or notice that you find.
39. **Grant Funding** – “The Summerlee Foundation funded student research on this entry to the Texas Runaway Slave Project. For more information on the Summerlee Foundation, please visit their website <http://www.summerlee.org/>.”
40. **Rights** – “This item may be protected under Title 17 of the U.S. Copyright Law. It is available for non-commercial research and education. For permission to publish or reproduce, please contact the East Texas Research Center at [asketrc@sfasu.edu](mailto:asketrc@sfasu.edu).”
41. **Image** – See Imaging, Section 2f.



For Object File Name (#42) and Transcript File Name (#43), consult the JPEG folder:

**Texas Runaway Slave Project > JPEGs and PDFs > Advertisement Images > JPEGs**

Check for the name of your runaway slave. The file name will depend on the existing records:

- a) **New Name:** Append “01” to the runaway’s name.
- b) **Repeat Name, New Runaway:** Add whatever the next number in the sequence is to your runaway’s name. (i.e. Jim04).
- c) **Repeat Name, Previously Recorded Runaway:** This is where it gets *tricky*. See Section I below.

**42. Transcript File Name** – Input “RunawayName00.pdf.”

**43. Object File Name** – Enter “RunawayName00.jpg.”

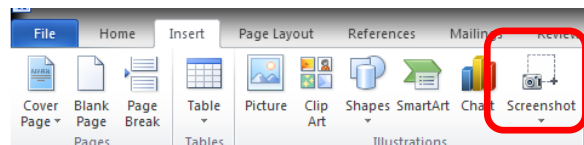
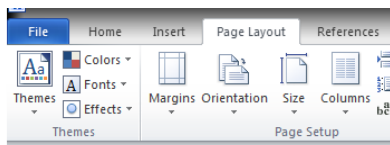
**44. Object Identifier** – This is just a sequence number that identifies the order in which records are being found for the project. When you make a screenshot of the advertisement in Word and save it as a PDF, the title of that PDF will be this number. Find the most up-to-date number here (should look like *00132*):

**etc(\steenlibrary\r) (W:) > Kyle > Texas Runaway Slave Project > JPEGs and PDFs > Advertisement Images > PDFs**

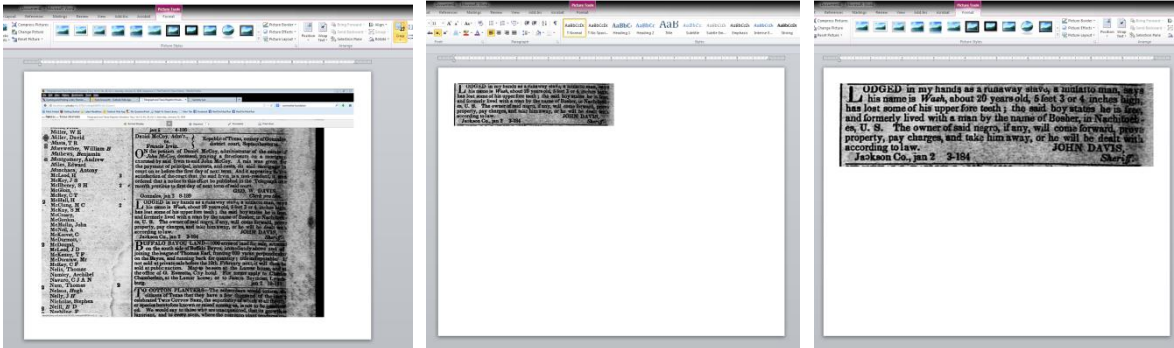
**45. Notes** – If you see something that could be tangentially related to the project (i.e. news of a slave insurrection/revolt, capture of a slaver vessel, etc.), write down the page, column # and title of the advertisement or article here.

## D. Imaging

1. Digitized Newspaper: Making a screenshot in Microsoft Word.
  - a. Zoom in on the advertisement as far as you can.
  - b. Open a Microsoft Word document. In Page Layout tab, change the margins to “Narrow” and the orientation to “Landscape.” Next, insert the screenshot of the advertisement.



- c. Crop the screenshot to the edges of the borders of the advertisement. Right click the image and scroll down the list that pops up and click *Format*. Set the width of the image to fit the document margins.



- d. Click *File*. Click *Save As* and save the folder to the Advertisement Images PDF folder.
  - i. Go to **Texas Runaway Slave Project > JPEGs and PDFs > Advertisement Images > PDFs**.
  - ii. Use the file name assigned to the advertisement in Field #44.
  - iii. In the *Save as Type* box at the bottom, select PDF.
  - iv. Save.

## 2. Digitized Newspaper: Converting a PDF to JPEG in Adobe PhotoShop

- a. Open PhotoShop. Click *File* and then click *Open*. Follow the same Folder path from above.
- b. Select the appropriate PDF and open the file. There should be a checkerboard pattern along the bottom and right edges that needs to be cropped off.
- c. To crop the advertisement image, make sure the *Rectangular Marquee Tool* is selected. Use the mouse to outline the advertisement, enclosing everything that needs to be saved. Click *Image* on the tool bar and scroll down to *Crop*.
- d. Click *Image* on the toolbar and scroll down to *Adjustments* and then scroll down to the second entry on the pop-up list for *Auto Levels*.
- e. Click *File*, Click *Save As*, and save the folder to the Advertisement Images JPEG folder.
  - i. Go to **Texas Runaway Slave Project > JPEGs and PDFs > Advertisement Images > JPEGs**.
  - ii. Use the file name assigned to the advertisement in Field #43.
  - iii. In the Format box at the bottom, select JPEG.
  - iv. Save.
- f. For the Excel Spreadsheet (Field #41), click the tab for Insert on the taskbar, select Picture and select the newly created JPEG. Right click the image and scroll down the list that pops up and click *Size and Properties*. Set the width of the image to 2 inches.

## 3. Microfilmed Newspaper – Newer microfilm readers allow users to make high quality scans of the screen contents in multiple image formats.

## 4. Original Newspapers – Digital camera adjusted for non-flash photography.

## E. Transcription

The true transcription reflects the printed composition of the advertisement as closely as possible. It shows all line breaks and font variation and keeps hyphenated and abbreviated words, as well as spelling errors, intact. The TRSP also includes the special characters, like the miniature image of a runaway slave,

which many of the records have. Creation of the true transcripts is laborious, but a nice touch to the website.

1. Template Selection – The TRSP has Microsoft Word tables created for the five most common formats for runaway advertisements, articles and notices. Go to **Texas Runaway Slave Project > JPEGs and PDFs > Advertisement Transcripts > Word Templates**. Open the appropriate template.
2. Copy the corrected transcript from the Excel spreadsheet (Field #19) into the space below the template table. Change the font and size to 14-point Baskerville Old Face. Some of the titles and oversize lettering may look closer to the original lettering in Bodoni MT, Bodoni MT Black and Blackoak Std. Change as necessary. Use the original advertisement and the diagram below to dictate where the different words belong in the template.

**DIAGRAM Use the Original to Fill the Template**

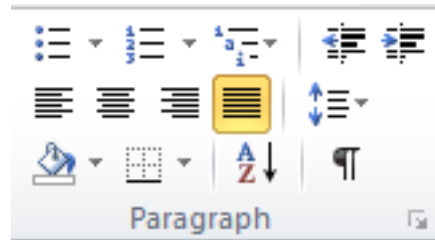


**\$50** REWARD-Ranaway from the subscriber, a negro girl Maranda, of dark complexion, rather low, and heavy built, about nineteen years old, formerly the property of Lewis Knight, of this county; said girl carried off, when she left, two domestic dresses, one plaid blue and red domestic dress, one black silk dress, one black muslin dress. The above reward of Fifty Dollars will be paid to the person who may detain said girl, so I can obtain her. ROBERT F. MILLARD. Nacogdoches, nov2 272-tf

	<b>\$50</b> REWARD-Ranaway from the subscriber, a negro girl Maranda. of dark complexion. rather low, and heavy built, about nineteen years old, formerly the property of Lewis Knight, of this county; said girl carried off, when she left, two domestic dresses, one plaid blue and red domestic dress, one black silk dress, one black muslin dress.	
	The above reward of Fifty Dollars will be paid to the person who may detain said girl, so I can obtain her.	
	ROBERT F. MILLARD.	
	Nacogdoches, nov2	272-tf



3. Undo Corrections – This is the true transcription, so undo all the corrections made in the Excel spreadsheet.
4. **Re-Size the Table** – Adjust the sizes of the columns and rows as necessary to fit the advertisement. This is *VERY TRICKY* and will take some practice.
5. **Justify** – Once the text is copied into the table, click the *Justify* button on the toolbar to align text on the right and left margins like a newspaper. You may need to use the space bar some to get the text to align better.



6. **Hide the table borders**. Right click the top left of the table and scroll down to *Table Properties*. In the new window, select the button for *Borders and Shading* at the bottom and click. In that window, select the “None” button and click *Okay*.
7. Click *File* and *Save As*. The file to save to is at **Texas Runaway Slave Project > JPEGs and PDFs > Advertisement Transcripts > Word**
8. Save As “Transcript – RunawayName 00” in Microsoft Word.
9. Click *File* and *Save As*. The file to save to is at **Texas Runaway Slave Project > JPEGs and PDFs > Advertisement Transcripts > PDFs**
10. Save As “RunawayName 00” as a PDF.

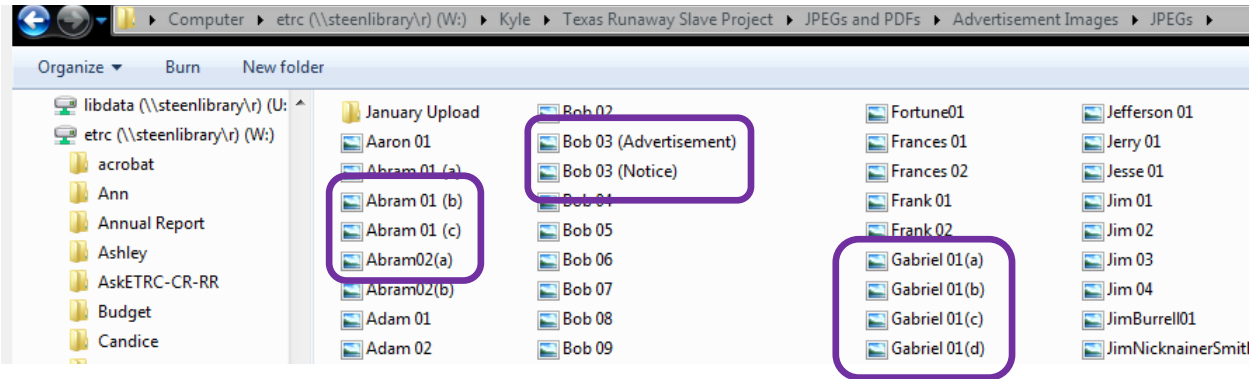
## **F. Maps**

The Texas Runaway Slave Project has five associated location fields. These are input into Google Fusion Tables spreadsheets, along with other select fields, to give the researcher a dynamic visual way to understand runaway slave activity. The Content Manager will manage the map section.

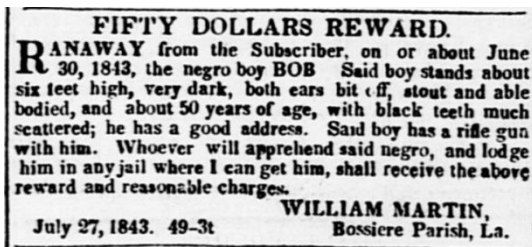
## **G. Content Upload**

All the project data is entered into an Excel spreadsheet. It includes all the aforementioned fields, as well as several administrative fields. To upload the spreadsheet to ContentDM, a copy is made, the administrative fields are deleted, and the spreadsheet is saved as a tab-delineated text file. The Content Manager will handle this task.

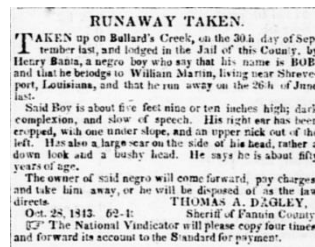
**H. Advanced Troubleshooting** - When a student researcher finds a **Repeat Name, Previously Recorded Runaway** in the **JPEG** sub-folder of the **Advertisement Images** folder, there are several things they need to do:



1. Look at the new record. It should be a:
  - a. **Different Format** (i.e. Bob below, where there is an advertisement and a capture notice).



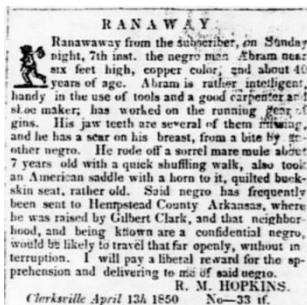
Bob 03 (Advertisement)



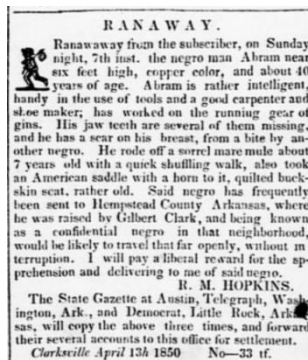
Bob 03 (Notice)

Here, there is an advertisement and a capture notice. Observe above how they are entered in the JPEG folder above.

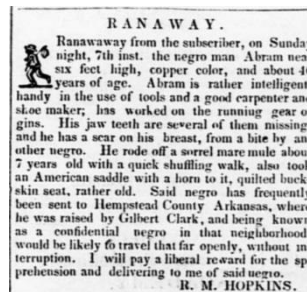
- b. **Same Format, but with different text** (i.e. Abram and Gabriel below, where there is more text, less text, a title, no title, an image, not an image, a change in the page breaks, or an increase in the award amount).



Abram 01 (a)



Abram 01 (b)



Abram 01 (c)

Here, there is an advertisement which ran in the same newspaper but was revised three times.

**A Runaway Negro.**  
**T**R A K E N up by one Solomon Cole in the county of Jefferson. on or about the 1st day of July, 1838 a negro man who calls himself Gabriel, says he belongs to one Virgess of North Carolina, (Wilmin: ton,) about five feet seven inches high about thirty-two years of age; no marks visible except a small scar on his left ear, one on his left hand, supposed to be a burn, three small scars on his face—weighs about one hundred and seventy pounds and affable in his manners. The owner is requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges and take him away.  
 Beaumont, July 11 42-3m WM. STEPHENSON, Sh'f. J. C

Gabriel 01 (a)

**T**R A K E N up by one Solomon Cole in the county of Jefferson. on or about the 1st day of July, 1838 a negro man who calls himself Gabriel, says he belongs to one Virgess of North Carolina, (Wilmin: ton,) about five feet seven inches high about thirty-two years of age; no marks visible except a small scar on his left ear, one on his left hand, supposed to be a burn, three small scars on his face—weighs about one hundred and seventy pounds and affable in his manners. The owner is requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges and take him away.  
 Beaumont, July 11 42-3m WM. STEPHENSON, Sh'f. J. C

Gabriel 01 (b)

**A RUNAWAY NEGRO.**  
**T**R A K E N up by one Solomon Cole in the county of Jefferson. on or about the 1st day of July, 1838 a negro man who calls himself Gabriel, says he belongs to one Virgess of North Carolina, (Wilmin: ton,) about five feet seven inches high about thirty-two years of age; no marks visible except a small scar on his left ear, one on his left hand, supposed to be a burn, three small scars on his face—weighs about one hundred and seventy pounds and affable in his manners. The owner is requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges and take him away.  
 Beaumont, July 11 42-3m WM. STEPHENSON, Sh'f. J. C

Gabriel 01 (c)

**A Negro Man.**  
**T**R A K E N up near the Sabine Bay, is now in the possession of the subscriber. Said Negro calls himself GABRIEL, he is about thirty-five years old, five feet seven inches high, very affable in his manners, a small black wart on the side of his nose, a small scar on his upper lip, two small scars on his forehead, has a scar on his left hand, supposed to be a fire burn. He says he was sold by one Virgess in Wilmington, N. C. to a man living in Kentucky; the second night after he was sold he ran away with a man named Davis, found Davis wanted to sell him, and ran away from him, when he boarded a steamboat on the Mississippi. He can be obtained by applying to  
 WM. STEPHENSON, Sheriff of Jefferson county, 43-41  
 Beaumont, July 20th, 1838.

Gabriel 01 (d)

Here, the text in a), b) and c) does not change, but the layout does. Each gets its own entry in the spreadsheet. Advertisements like Gabriel's are why this project is so labor-intensive. Researchers need to notice these subtle changes as they work.

c. Different Formats and Different Texts – Gumby is the best example. Edwin Waller ran an advertisement for two years in Houston and other regional newspapers hoping to catch Gumby.

Gumby 01 (\$50)	Gumby 01 (\$200a)	Gumby 01 (\$500a)
Gumby 01 (\$100)	Gumby 01 (\$200b)	Gumby 01 (\$500b)
	Gumby 01 (\$200c)	Gumby 01 (\$500c)

2. The student researcher should:

- Enter their data in the Excel Spreadsheet. Save the advertisement image as a JPEG
- The transcripts for runaway slaves with multiple entries are all combined into one document. Use the PDF transcript for Gumby as a template:

Telegraph and Texas Register (6/8/1837 - 6/24/1837)

**Fifty Dollars Reward.**

**R**AN away from my plantation on Oyster Creek, two negro men: one by the name of Gumby, about five feet ten inches high, and has a remarkably wild look. Tom is about six feet one or two inches high, black; and had on when they left, blue cotton clothes and red caps. I will give the above reward if delivered at my house on Oyster Creek, near Brazoria.

EDWIN WALLER.  
73-3\*

June 8, 1837

Telegraph and Texas Register (7/22/1837 - 8/5/1837)

**One Hundred Dollars Reward.**

**R**UNAWAY from the subscriber in March last, two African Negro men, about 5 feet 8 or 10 inches high, aged from twenty to twenty-five years, one not so large as the other, both of middle size. Any person delivering the said negroes to Edward Waller living on Oyster creek, near Brazoria, shall be paid

the above reward.  
July 22, 1837

79-34\*

EDWIN WALLER.

Matagorda Bulletin (10/4/1837 - 4/18/1838)

**\$200 REWARD.**

**I** WILL give the above Reward for the delivery to me of two African Negroes, named GUMBY, and ZOW, who absconded from my plantation, Oyster Creek, county of Brazoria, some time since. The above slaves are about 30 years of age—one about 5 feet 10 inches, the other 5 feet 8 inches—the largest has a broad face, the other a very wild look.

EDWIN WALLER.  
September 27, 1837. 9-4f

c. Let the project manager know that the compound object online needs to be updated with the new JPEG image and revised transcript.