

Black Entrepreneurs

of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries

<http://www.economicadventure.org>

This exhibition focuses on enterprising black entrepreneurs of the 18th and 19 centuries in New England. Black entrepreneurs in this time period engaged in small-scale and large scale enterprises – ranging from home based businesses and small shops to regional, national and international companies. During the 18th and 19th centuries African-Americans faced a number of obstacles in their quest for social and financial gain; this exhibit showcases a wide range of their success and failures. While their gains varied, each of these entrepreneurs had an impact on future social and economic gains of African-Americans in America.

Middle School Scavenger Hunt: *Route 1*

Entrepreneurs: Find the placards discussing the lives of the following entrepreneurs: Wilson, (Edward) Bannister, Degrasse, Cuffe. Using the information find the answers to the questions below. .

Where was the entrepreneur born?

Wilson: _____
Bannister: _____ Degrasse: _____
Cuffe: _____

Where was one place they visited?

Wilson: _____
Bannister: _____ Degrasse: _____
Cuffe: _____

What was one interesting thing they did there?

Wilson: _____

Bannister: _____

Degrasse: _____

Cuffe: _____

Timeline: Using the timeline, write down what you believe are the five most important events in African-American history as depicted on the chronology.

Rare Books: Find the book where each of these passages is from. Read the full passage and then write down the author, title of the book and the year published.

“I have addressed large and influential meetings in New Castle and neighboring towns and the more I see and learn of the condition of the working classes of England, the more I am satisfied of the utter fallacy...”

Author’s name: _____
Title of Book: _____
Year Published: _____

“...by colored Americans, have (sad, but true, confession) yet left the necessity for a second revolution...”

Author’s name: _____
Title of Book: _____
Year Published: _____

“Traps slyly laid by the vicious to ensnare her, she resolutely avoided. In one of her tours, Providence favored her with a friend who, pitying her cheerless lot, kindly provided her with a valuable recipe...”

Author’s name: _____
Title of Book: _____
Year Published: _____