

# Slavery Along the Shabakunks: Possible Evidence of Slavery at the William Green Plantation

Is there evidence of chattel slavery at the William Green House between the years of 1770 and 1820?

Nicholas Wekselblatt

Faculty Advisor: George Leader

## Circumstantial and Concrete Evidence

### INTRODUCTION

- William Green House built in the 1720s and now resides on the current TCNJ campus.
- Archaeological research first done in the 1990s and beginning again in 2015
- Recent evidence of indentured servitude



**Figure 1:** William Green Farmhouse.

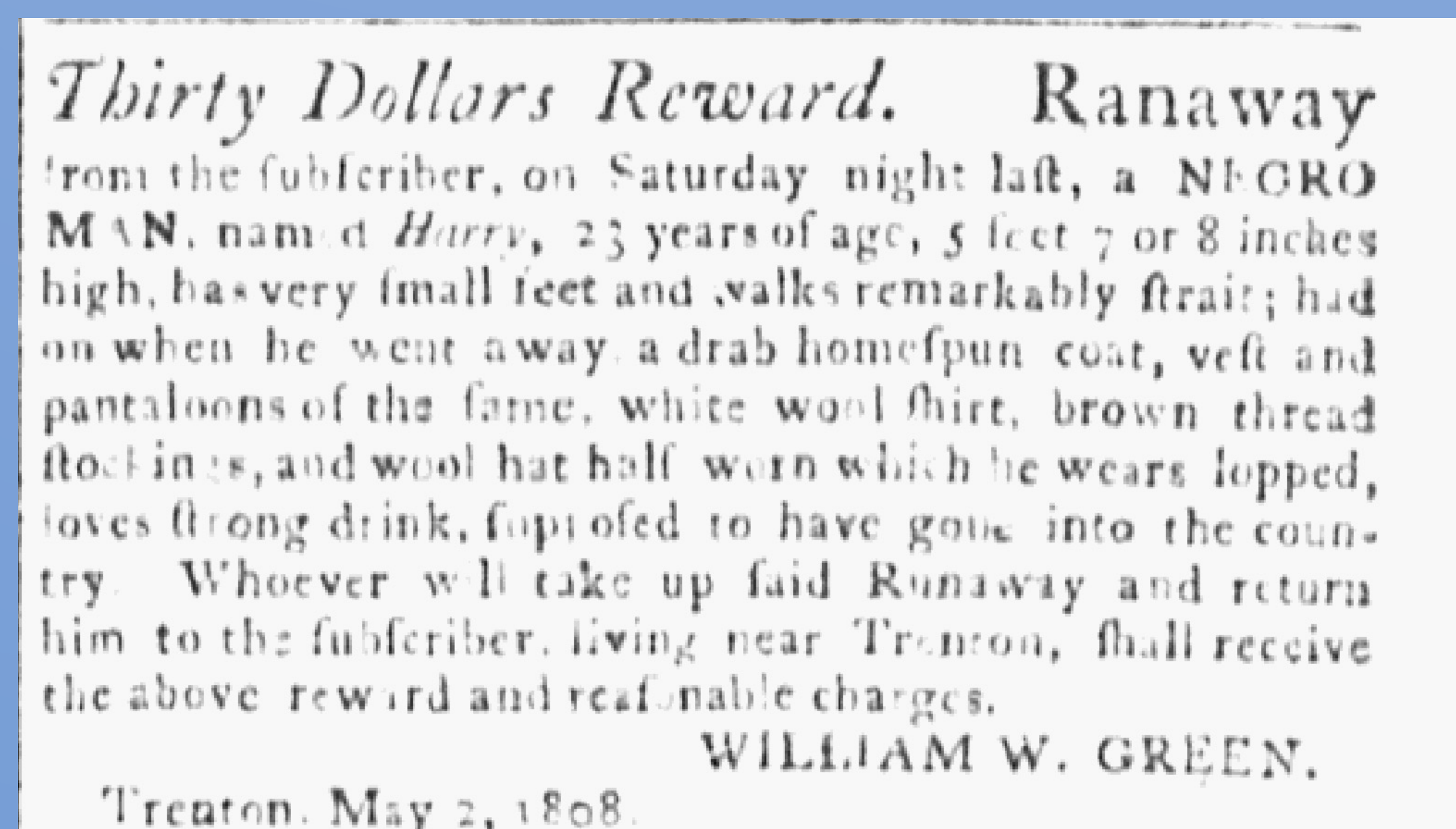
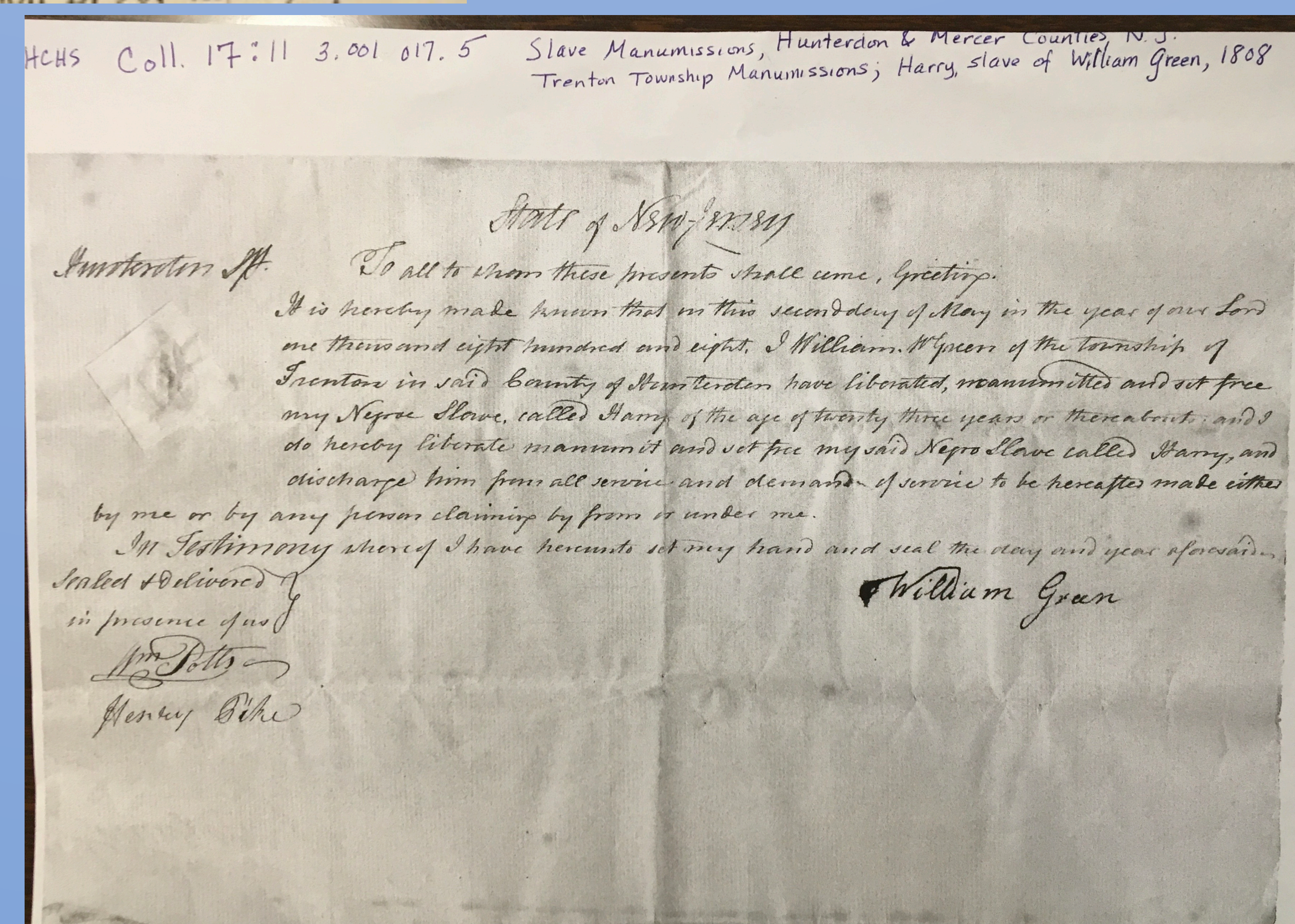
### METHODS

- Archival analysis of documents
- Current house is unsafe to enter
- Assemblage is not large enough to analyze on its own
- Documentation exists that proves members of the family not at the house were slaveholders
- Wills, tax records, newspapers, rateables, and manumission records

Ferguson, Joseph (no entry)	
Green, Rishard 367; 5h, 20c, 19p; 1	H
still; 1 ferry; 1 serv <sup>t</sup> ; ex, xs	H
Green, William 216; 2h, 7c, 5p; ex	H
Green, William junr 150; 4h, 14c, 7p;	H
1s; £1000	H
Green, Benjamin junr 142; 4h, 7c,	H
12p	H
Green, Joseph son B. 90; 4h, 6c, 5p	H

**Figure 2:** Tax sheet displaying William Green Jr. being taxed for "1s," one slave, 1779 (1).

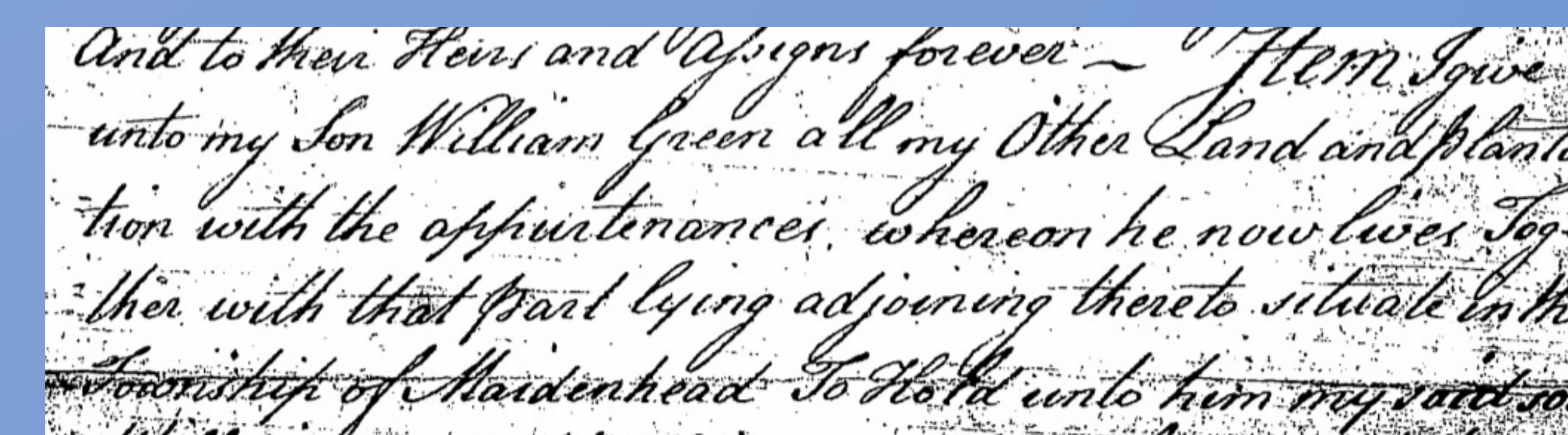
**Figure 3:** Manumission document of William W. Green freeing his "slave named Harry," 1808 (2).



**Figure 4:** Advertisement in the *Trenton Federalist* declaring that William W. Green's slave Harry had runaway, 1808 (3).

### CONCLUSIONS

- Did William W. Green live at the house?



**Figure 5:** Will of William Green Jr. passing ownership of the plantation to his son William Green III, 1786 (4).

- Family genealogy reveals only one possible William W. Green that corresponds to the date of the manumission and location of Trenton, William Green III
- Can confidently be said that chattel slavery was present at the William Green Plantation
- When did the Greens first become slaveholders?
- How many enslaved people were captive at the plantation?

### REFERENCES

#### Figures:

- Kenn Stryker-Rodda trans. *The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, vol 49, no. 1, January 1974, page 23.
- William W. Green. *Manumission of Harry, 1808*. From the Collections of the Hunterdon County Historical Society.
- William W. Green. "Runaway Slave Advertisement." *Trenton Federalist*, May 2, 1808.
- William Green Jr. *Will of William Green Jr.* 1786.

#### Sources:

- Bridges, Kristin. "Time of a Black Boy" *Slavery in New Jersey and the William Green Plantation*. TCNJ Departments of History, Sociology and Anthropology Capstone Thesis, 2020.
- Cooley, Eli F. and William S. Cooley. *Genealogy of Early Settlers in Trenton and Ewing "Old Hunterdon County"*. New Jersey: Trenton: New Jersey, 1883.
- Gigantino II, James J. *The Ragged Road to Abolition: Slavery and Freedom in New Jersey, 1775-1865*. Philadelphia: University of Philadelphia Press, 2015.
- Gigantino II, James J. "The Whole North Is Not Abolitionized": Slavery's Slow Death in New Jersey, 1830-1860." *Journal of the Early Republic* 34, no. 3 (2014): 411-37.
- Green, Robert Reeder. *The Land Along the Shabakunks: Adventures into Ewing's past from old Cross Keys to the William Green farm (Ewingville to Trenton State College Campus)*. Green, 1979.
- Delle, James A. *The Archaeology of Northern Slavery and Freedom*. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 2019.
- Samford, Patricia. "The Archaeology of African-American Slavery and Material Culture." *The William and Mary Quarterly* 53, no. 1 (1996): 87-114.
- Leader, George M. and Jason Hammer. "The First Excavations of the Colonial William Green House, Ewing, New Jersey and its Role as a Revolutionary War Billet." *Archaeology Society of New Jersey Bulletin*, no. 71-73 (2016-2018): 187-196.