Resource #4. Slave Tags

[A transcript of an interview with NPS interpreter Michael Allen, including an explanation of slave hire tags, will be added here.]

Here are two images of slave hire tags from Charleston. A “porter” is a term used to describe people who lift and carry goods. This was a common task in a port city like Charleston, where the work of loading and unloading ships often involved the labor of many enslaved people.

Resource #4. Slave Tags

Questions for Learning Activity #2:

- What kinds of work were enslaved people doing using these tags?
- How was this experience of slavery similar to or different from the experiences of enslaved men and women working on rice or cotton plantations?

Questions for Learning Activity #3:

- How were these slave hire tags used to keep control over enslaved people by their owners?
- In what ways would the slave hire tags make it possible for enslaved people to resist?