

The Ties that Bind, from Slavery to Freedom

The Turner-Nelson Family

Three Generations of an African American Family
Living in the Shadows of St. Paul's Church



An elementary school social studies curriculum

Dear Students,

Welcome to the story of the Turner Nelson family, an African American family that lived right next to St. Paul's Church in the 19th and 20th centuries in the town of Eastchester, now called Mt. Vernon, in New York. You'll be exploring the lives of three generations of the family: the grandparents, who were freed slaves and became farmers on a piece of land of their own; their daughter, who married a hard-working man who kept the land going besides holding two jobs; and their granddaughter, who lived in a changing world and who fought to keep the land that was handed down to her. All of this family history will come alive through historic letters, pictures, charts, maps, diaries, and a will. Introducing each lesson will be a paragraph. This and the historic materials will help you find the answers to the questions at the end of each lesson. We hope you'll enjoy learning about this very interesting and inspiring family.

Here is a map of the area around St. Paul's Church from 1899, a long time ago. Then, the land of the Tuner-Nelson family was owned by a woman named Sarah E. Nelson. Can you locate the land she lived on? Place an **X** on it. How many years ago was this map made?



The Beginning of the Story: the early life of Rebecca Turner

Who was Rebecca Turner? Born during the American Revolution in 1781, her name is listed as a slave in “The Eastchester Book of Colored People”. This was written when she gave birth to a daughter named Mary in 1806. Seven years earlier, in 1799, New York had passed a law giving freedom little by little to all children born to an enslaved mother when they reached the age of 25 for girls and 28 for boys. So Mary’s birth to Rebecca was recorded. As New York law freed more and more slaves, Rebecca was manumitted in 1810 -- given her freedom. But her owner had to be paid. Perhaps part of the money for Rebecca’s freedom was paid by Benjamin Turner, a free African American man who was her husband.

Vocabulary:

Emancipation - to free from slavery

manumitted - to have been freed from slavery usually involving a payment of money

Don’t forget to read the documents that go with the lesson. They will help you answer the questions.

East Chester, March 6th 1810
 I Do hereby certify that my Black Servant
 Woman Rebecca was delivered of a Female
 Child whose Name is Mary on the Twenty
 fourth of September Eighteen hundred and Six
 Gloriana Franklin
 Entered East Chester March 6th 1810
 By me John Alstyne

East Chester March 6th 1810
 I Do hereby Certify that my Black Servant Woman Rebecca
 was delivered of a Female Child Whose Name is Mary on
 the Twenty fourth of September Eighteen hundred and Six
 Gloriana Franklin
 Entered East Chester March 6th 1810
 By me John Alstyne

RECORD OF SLAVE MANUMISSIONS IN NEW YORK 97

| Owner | Slave | Date of Instrument | Place of Record and Remarks |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------|--|
| Fisher, Leonard | Peter Edwards | Aug. 23, 1816 | R. 28 |
| Ford, William H. | Andrew | Oct. 2, 1810 | I, 46 |
| Franklin, Gloriana | Nan Cummings | Jan. 11, 1814 | I, 73 |
| Gibson, Solomon D. | Rebecca Turner | Apr. 2, 1810 | I, 21 |
| Glover, John G. (Exr. of) | Freeman Godfrey | Apr. 2, 1817 | R. 59 |
| Griffin, William | Catherine | Dec. 6, 1808 | I, 5 |
| | Henry Bartow, his wife, Jann, and their children. Jack, Charles, and Sarah | Jan. 12, 1821 | I. |
| Griffin, Edward D. | Samuel Skudder | Apr. 23, 1807 | I. 81-83. Articles of agreement. Griffin promises that if Samuel "behaves well" for 10 years, he will free him. Griffin also agrees |

Questions:

1. What war was fought when Rebecca was born.?
2. Who was Benjamin Turner?
3. What happened in 1810?
4. Whose mother was named Rebecca?
5. Who owned Rebecca, and later freed her?
6. What happened on September 24, 1806?
7. If Mary, Rebecca's daughter, was born in 1806, how old was she when her mother gained her freedom?
8. Who was manumitted on April 3, 1810?
9. How old was Rebecca when she gained her freedom?
10. Why do you think New York kept a record of slave manumissions?

Ben and Rebecca's Neighborhood

After gaining their freedom from slavery, Ben and Rebecca Turner lived in a small neighborhood in Eastchester , at the corner of the property belonging to St. Paul's church . Near their small homestead were other larger farms. Many of them were owned and worked by the descendants of the original 10 families that had settled in the area. Northwest of their cabin was South Columbus Avenue, and around the corner from St. Paul's was Guion's Tavern where stagecoaches stopped on their trips between New York and Boston. The Turner property and Guion's Tavern were there in the past and are on the map. But they are gone now. The rest of the map shows the present. The key will help you find the answers to some of the questions. “

Vocabulary:

Homestead - A farmhouse with land.

Descendants - Children Grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren in a family

Don't forget to look at the map that goes with the paragraph. You might have to turn the map side ways to get a better look at it.



- Key**
- 1. St. Paul's Church
 - 2. Museum
 - 3. Guion's Tavern
 - 4. Rebecca Turner Elementary School
 - 5. Benjamin Turner Middle School
 - 6. Eastchester Creek
 - 7. Turner's Grave
 - 8. Site of former Turner Homestead

A Plan of the
St. Paul's Church
 community today, including
 the *Turner farm* and *Guion's tavern*
 from the 19th century
 Located in Mount Vernon, N.Y.
 2016

Map composed by John R. Wright

Questions:

1. What direction would Rebecca be walking if she went from her cabin (8) to S. Third Avenue?
2. What shape (square, rectangle, triangle, or circle) was the Turner homestead?
3. About how many feet long was it?
4. What direction would Ben walk from his cabin to the stream , (6) and how far did he have to walk?
5. Approximately how many feet would Rebecca walk from her cabin when she went to work at Guion's Tavern?
6. Was Guion's Tavern (3) a good place for Rebecca to work? Why or why not?
7. About how long did it take for Ben and Rebecca to walk from their cabin to St. Paul's Church?
8. Name two places on the map that were not there when Ben and Rebecca were alive.
9. Why do you think the nearby elementary school was named The Rebecca Turner Elementary School?
10. Would Rebecca recognize the neighborhood if she came back today? Why, or why not?

Life along the creek: Plenty of food

Benjamin and Rebecca Turner worked their small farm along Eastchester Creek. (also called a brook or stream) The water was fresh and clear, and there were many different kinds of fish. There were also turtles and other kinds of animals. The creek was one of the most important places in the Turners' lives, along with their farm and their home.

In the creek there was a water community of plants and animals. This water community formed a food chain. At the bottom of the chain were the tiny plants that the sun helped to grow. These plants were eaten by small animals such as worms. The worms were eaten by some of the smaller fish, and those small fish were then eaten by larger fish. These fish were eaten by the largest water creatures in the stream, such as turtles and water birds. There were many different fish and turtles, so there was more than one food chain. And we humans are at the top of the food chain. That included Benjamin Turner, who did a lot of fishing in the creek, since it was located very close to his cabin.

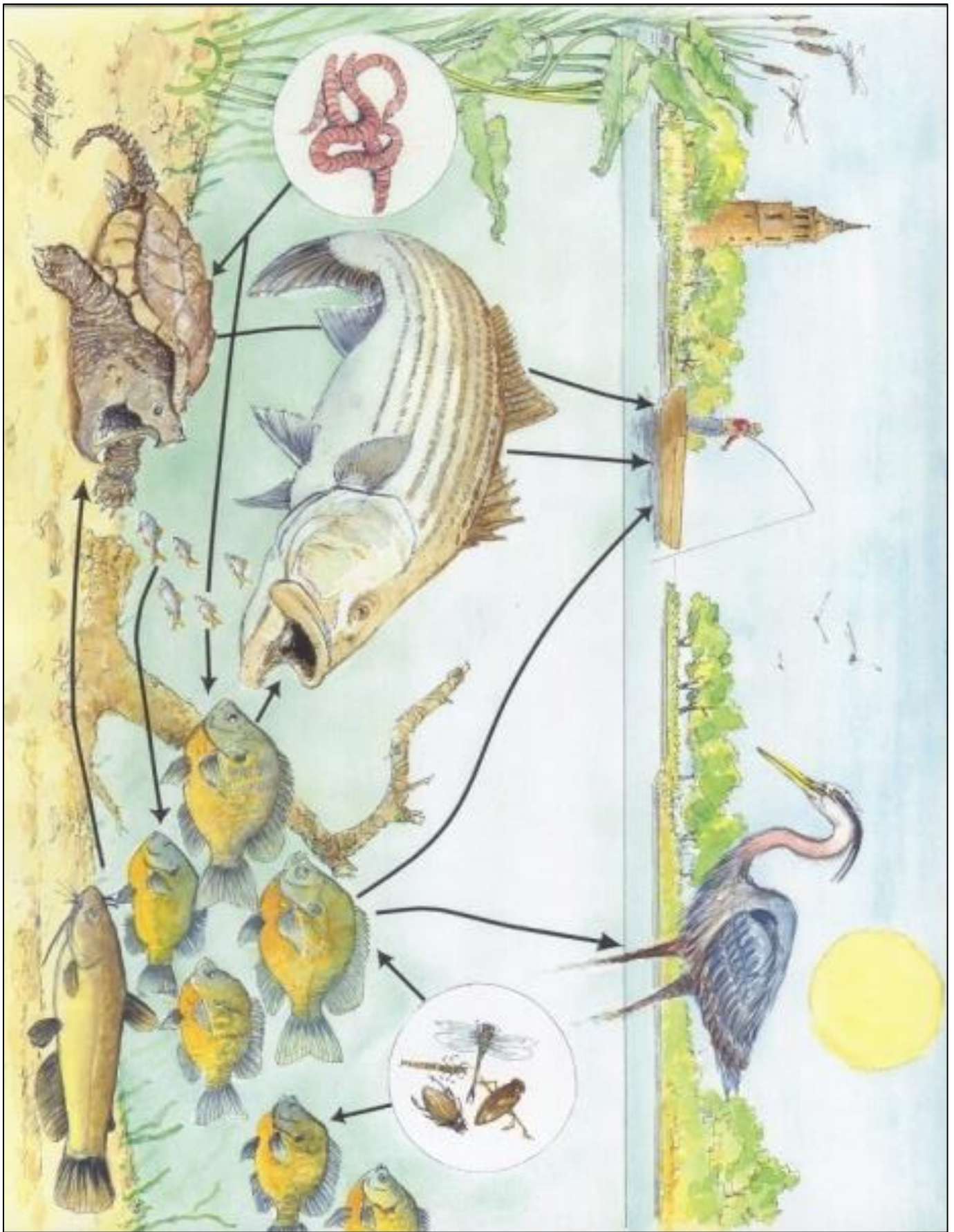
Vocabulary:

Oyster - a two shelled water animal

Community – A group of people or animals living together

Creatures – animals

Make sure you look at the picture before answering the questions, and also discuss the picture with your classmates.



Drawing by John R. Wright

Questions:

1. What is a synonym for the word "brook"?
2. What kind of community were these plants and animals called?
3. What do you think the arrows in the picture mean?
4. Name four living things that form a food chain in the picture of the water community.
5. What animals in the picture do not always stay in the stream?
6. What is at the very top of the food chain in the picture?
7. The heron bird is hunting for food. Which animal do you think it will catch?
8. What are the smallest creatures in the food chain in this picture?
9. How many small fish would Ben have to catch to equal the size of catching the big fish?
10. Was living along the creek a good place for Rebecca and Benjamin to have settled? Why, or why not?

A trusted job for Benjamin Turner

Benjamin had begun his life as a slave about five miles south of St. Paul's, but gained his freedom as a young boy. Years later he moved near St. Paul's, met and married Rebecca, and started their small farm. Ben also had another job. In the neighborhood, each farm owner had to build fences or stone walls so that their animals would not escape. But sometimes they got out. So the town decided it needed a pound - or fenced area - to hold the stray animals, and they would be caught by a man elected as pounder. The pounder would keep the animals until the owners repaired their fences and came and paid their fines; then they would take their animals back. But one pounder was not enough; another man was needed to work as a kind of assistant pounder. Whom do you think was picked for the job? It had to be someone every one trusted and everyone respected for this important job. The job of assistant pounder was given to Benjamin Turner ! How difficult it was – and still is -- to imagine in that time for a former slave to be given such a position of authority over his neighbors' valuable property -- their animals ; and the money from fines. Benjamin Turner had become a respected neighbor and official.

Don't forget to read the town clerk's entry below.

Vocabulary

Pounder -- person who catches and keeps stray animals inside a fenced area

constructed -- built

assistant -- someone who helps another person

area -- a place

Taken up on the 29th day of Sept 1818 a stray Cow a black Cow with white star in her forehead the owner May have her again by proving property and paying charges by applying to Benjamin Turner in the town of East Chester

N.B. Said Cow has 4 white feet & a belly

Entered East Chester Sept 30th 1818 By

Benjn. H. Underhill Town Clerk

fee not pd

1. What did Ben call his fenced area where he kept stray animals?
2. On what date was a stray cow captured?
3. Can you describe the cow?
4. What other farm animals do you think could escape?
5. Who was Benjamin Underhill?
6. Why do you think an assistant pounder was needed?
7. What did the owner have to do to get his cow back?

8. How many days passed between the day the cow was caught, and the entry by the town clerk?

9. Why do you think Ben was chosen as assistant pounder?

10 Do we have anything today like a pound? Do you think Ben would be able to fill this job? What skills would he have to learn?

A place to worship, but not on an equal basis

The Turner - Nelson family lived so close to St. Paul's Church that they could hear the bell ring. Both adults and children went to religious services. This made them part of the parish along with the other African-Americans. But the Turners and other African-Americans were not able to pay for their seats, which would have been a kind of box called a pew in the main part of the church. So they, along with white people who also could not afford to pay, had to sit on benches in the balcony, or gallery, as it used to be called. But in a rule that people today would find totally unacceptable, St. Paul's Church practiced segregation -- unfair separation by race. This segregation occurred in the Sunday school, which was religious instruction for children before the regular church service. There were two separate classes of children -- African American and white. Think how this must have made the small group of African-American children feel at such a young age! This did not happen at St. Paul's alone. This kind of segregation -- this unjust prejudice -- was the custom in many other churches of that time. But it was still unfair, and that is probably one of the reasons why the Turners stopped attending St. Paul's by the mid 1830s.

Vocabulary:

Services - religious ceremonies,

parish – a group of people belonging to a church,

segregated - people separated by race,

integrated - races that are joined together,

prejudice - - an unfair negative opinion of a group by race sex,, or religion.

Colored Class

Parents Names

Mitchell Pell
Venus Do.

Jack Pell

Moses Franklin

Mary Turner
Sally Ann do
Emeline do
Hannah do

Benjamin Turner

Sophia & Jackson

Gabriel Attackison

Jack Cojay
James Do
Baby Do

John Cojay

1822





Questions: To answer the questions, you will have to read the paragraph, look at the picture of the inside of the church and also carefully look at the document about the Sunday school class of 1822. Since the actual historic document of the Sunday school class might be hard to read, we have also written in out in modern type with information from that document.

1. Was the Turner family religious? How do you know?
2. Why didn't the Turners sit downstairs in a box?
3. What kind of seating was there in the balcony? Who used those seats?
4. Where did the children attend church? How many classes were there?

5. How many more children were there than parents?
6. What do you think the letters 'Do' stand for?
7. Which parent had the most children?
8. How many children did Jack Pell have?
9. Which child does not have a parent listed?
10. What was the term given to the Sunday School, and why would people have objected to that label? What is the term we use today?

Hard Work for Rebecca

Ben Turner died in the 1830s. So Rebecca worked even harder to hold on to the family property. One way she earned money was doing laundry for some of the neighbors. It was hard work; she was no longer young, and the grandchildren probably helped. First, wood had to be gathered the day before for the fire. Then on the next day – laundry day – water had to be boiled on the fire outside and poured into the washtub. Laundry soap was mixed into the hot water and the clothes were rubbed on a washboard. Sometimes an extra tub of hot water was used for difficult spots. And finally, more clean hot water was ready to rinse the clothes. But that was only half the job. After the clothes were dried, they had to be ironed. Two metal irons were cleaned and greased, and then heated on a fire: one to be used as quickly as possible, and the other reheating when the first got cold. Finally, everything would be folded and delivered. The children had to help because it was too much of a job for an elderly woman. But it was necessary to earn money to survive.

Vocabulary:

Iron -- to flatten and smooth wrinkled clothes

Hazard -- danger

Laundry - Dirty clothes, pillows, sheets, and napkins that need to be washed

Don't forget to look at the material that goes with the paragraph. They will help you answer the questions.

East Chester
July 23. 1858
Received from Rev. W.S. Coffey
Seven dollars & fifty
Cents being in full for
all demands on him for
washing up to this date
her
\$7.50. Rebecca X Turner
mark

East Chester
July 23, 1858
Received from Rev. W.S. Coffey
Seven dollars & fifty
Cents being in full for
All demands on him for
washing up to this date
her
\$7.50. Rebecca X Turner
mark



Questions:

1. How did Rebecca earn money?
2. Whom did she launder for?
3. Why did Rev. Coffey give Rebecca a receipt, and how much money had he paid her, according to the receipt? Do people use receipts today?
4. Do you think she needed help from other members of the family? Tell why or why not.
5. Why didn't Rebecca go to the laundromat, or use an electric iron? How do we do our laundry today?
6. Do you think Rebecca did more laundry for Rev. Coffey after July 23, 1858?
7. How could laundering be dangerous?
8. Why were two irons necessary? Looking at the picture of the irons, which was easier to use: the flat iron on the left, or the sad iron next to it? Why?
9. What did Rebecca need for washing day?
10. If Rebecca was born in 1781, how old was she when she was doing laundry for Rev. Coffey?

Another Way of Earning Money

Rebecca knew she had to earn more money for her family to survive. How did she do this? She cooked at an inn and tavern called Guion's, around the corner from St. Paul's, where she was probably paid with each day's leftover food for her family, and a small salary. Rebecca's home was close enough that she could walk to Guion's tavern to work there. Guion's, like many taverns on the Boston Post Road, served food as well as wine, beer, and other liquors, and put up stagecoach travelers overnight because the trip between New York City and Boston took three days. Some taverns served ordinary and even tasteless food; but Guion's did not because of Rebecca. Passengers knew that they would eat well. Here is a recipe for fish chowder that Rebecca may have used. It was probably one of her most popular dishes, especially on a cold and stormy day.

Vocabulary:

Chowder – Thick soup of fish or shellfish with vegetables and crackers.

Tavern - A Colonial establishment that sold food and liquor, and put up travelers overnight. Today, that would be kind of like a combination of a hotel and restaurant in one place.

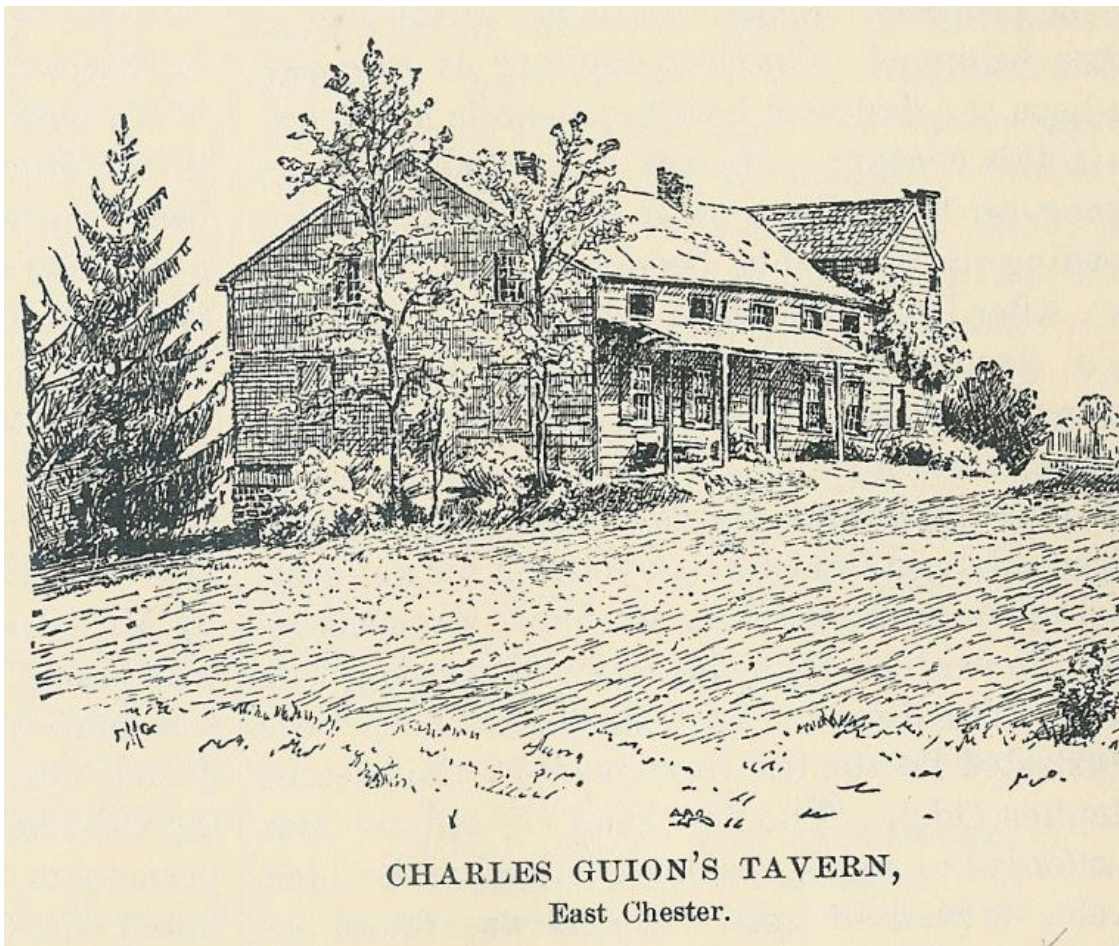
Layer - a single thickness spread out over a surface (ex : a layer of tuna on a slice of bread).

Saute' (saw tay) – to fry lightly in butter for a short time.

Season – to improve the flavor of food, usually with salt, pepper and other spices.

REBECCA'S FISH CHOWDER

Saute 4 or 5 slices of salt pork in a frying pan, let them cook slowly until brown, then dice them small. In a kettle place a layer of raw fish cut in lengthwise slices, then a layer of crackers, some of the diced pork, then a layer of sliced onions and a layer of fish again and so on. Strew a little salt and pepper over each layer. Cover with water. A sliced lemon adds flavor. A few clams improve it. Let it be so covered that the steam cannot escape. It must not be opened until cooked, to see if it is well seasoned.



Questions: Don't forget to check the recipe that goes with the material, and also look at the picture of Guion's tavern, where Rebecca worked.

1. Where was Guion's tavern?
2. Compare and contrast Guion's with a modern motel.
3. Between which cities did the stagecoach travel?
4. What kind of accident could Rebecca have making this dish?
5. What kind of fish would Rebecca use for her chowder? How do you know?
6. What were the spices that Rebecca used in her chowder?
7. Which was the most important part of the chowder?
8. What would both Rebecca and your mother use to slice a piece of food?
9. After reading about Rebecca as a cook at Guion's tavern, what would you say about her?
10. Look at the picture of Guion's. Where do you think the kitchen where Rebecca did her cooking was, and why was it located there?

Samuel Nelson Joins the family

Ben and Rebecca's four children had grown. Sarah, a daughter born in 1809, met a man named Samuel Nelson. Born in 1797, Samuel had arrived in the area in the 1830s and was taken in by the Grigg family who lived across the road from St. Paul's. Sam and Sarah married and lived part-time with the Turners, and Sam continued to work for the Griggs. Sam also became the gravedigger at St. Paul's for 25 years. It was not an easy job, especially in Winter, for there were many deaths -- sometimes two, even three, in one week. The church kept a record of payments to Sam for digging the graves in something called the Sexton's book. By looking at the Sexton's book, we can see the different kinds of things Sam received for the work. After his wife died, Sam and his two daughters lived with his mother-in-law Rebecca until his death in 1867 at the age of 70. He was buried in St. Paul's cemetery. On his tombstone were written the words, "For thirty years attached to the family of John Grigg."

Vocabulary:

Continuing - to keep on going

Resident - a person who lives in a place that belongs to him or her (She is a resident of the new apartment building.)

Sexton - a person who works for a church, taking care of the building.

To help you answer the questions, don't forget to look at the page from the Sexton's book and also the picture of Samuel Nelson's gravestone.

44/ Samuel Nelson Dr

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| June 13. No Soda | 110-3 |
| 27 - Pair Suspenders | 42-8 |
| 1 handkerchief | 1-4 |
| July 3 - 2 Fish Lines | 2-0 |
| 4. Pack Lin Crayons by Saml. | 0-0 |
| Bottle of Beer | 0-0 |
| 25 - Loaf Bread | 1-0 |
| 29 - - - - - Soap | 1-2 |
| 31 - Loaf Bread | 5-5 |
| - 6 th as p. other Side | 1-0 |
| | <u>6-5</u> |

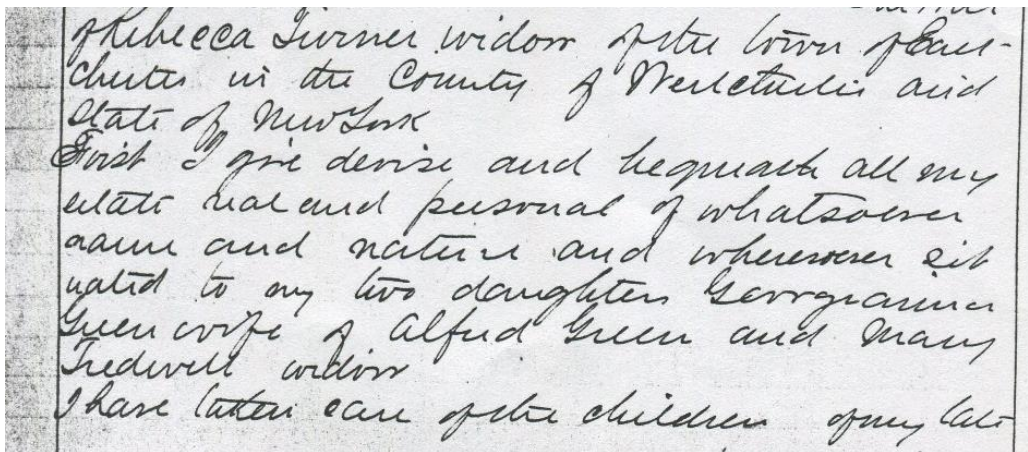


Questions:

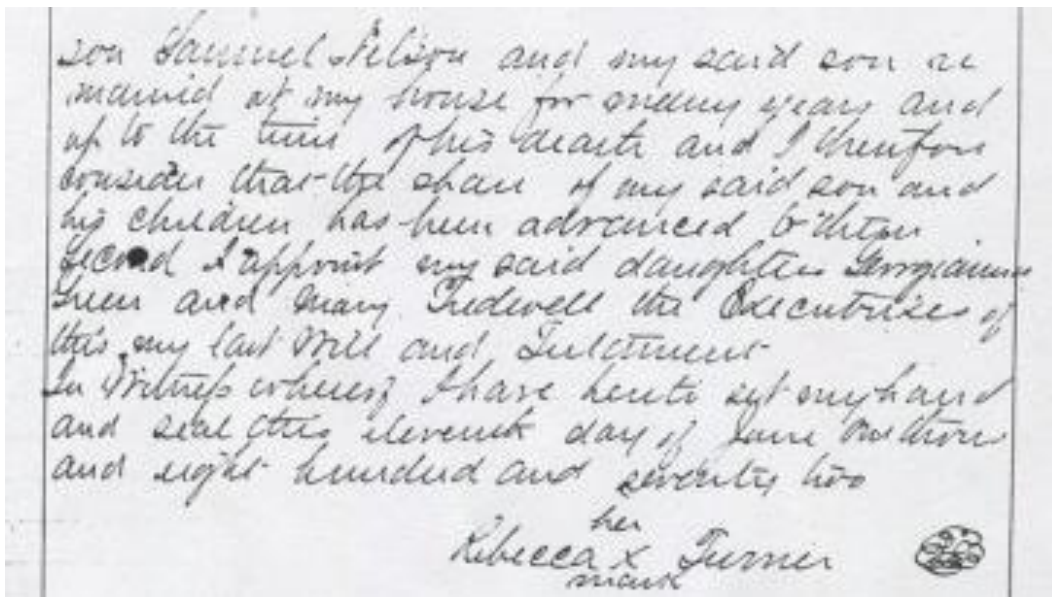
1. Whom did Sam marry, and who was older, Sam or his wife?
2. Who took Sam into his house? What would you say about him? Why do you think he took Sam in?
3. Look at the record of payments to Samuel Nelson. It was written by the sexton of St. Paul's Church. From his penmanship, what can you tell about the sexton?
4. What do think the numbers on the right represent?
5. You can tell that Samuel was paid in food and other things that he could use. Why do you think he was not paid in money?
6. Name two things that Sam received for digging the graves at St. Paul's.
7. What do you think was the most important payment that is shown on the record? Write the reason you chose the item .
8. What was the date of Sam's death? What year was he born in?
9. On Sam's gravestone, is written," For 30 years attached to the family of John Grigg." How do you think Sam was attached?
10. If Sam was the gravedigger, who do you think buried him when he died?

A Long Life Ends


Rebecca had lived a hard, rewarding and long life of 93 years. Most people did not live that long in the 19th century – or even today. She lived being a slave, freedwoman, wife, mother, mother in-law, grandmother, and widow. She shared her home with her son-in-law Samuel Nelson and his two daughters after the death of their mother in 1855. Finally, Rebecca died on March 27, 1874. Her burial followed three days later in the back section of St. Paul's cemetery where her gravestone can be found; **this lesson has a picture of her gravestone.** She left a will, which is a kind of paper somebody writes before they die telling what they want to happen with the things they owned. You can see the actual will, but since it is hard to read, we have also written it out to make it easier to read.



Rebecca Turner widow of the late John Turner
County of Westchester and
State of New York
First I give devise and bequeath all my
estate real and personal of whatsoever
name and nature and wheresoever sit
uated to my two daughters Georgianna
Green wife of Alfred Green and Mary
Tudwell widow
I have taken care of the children of my late



son Samuel Nelson and my said son as
married at my house for many years and
up to the time of his death and I therefore
consider that the share of my said son and
his children has been advanced to them
Second I appoint my said daughter Georgianna
Green and Mary Tudwell the Executrices of
this my last Will and Testament
In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand
and seal this eleventh day of June 1874
and eight hundred and seventy two

Rebecca ^{her} Turner 
_{made}

First I give, devise and (-----) all my estate (-----)
)...to my two daughters Georgianna Green wife of Alfred Green and Mary Tredwell
widow.

I have taken care of the children of my late son Samuel Nelson and my said son
remained at my house for many years and up to the time of his death and I therefore
consider that the share of my said son and his children has been advanced to them.

Second I appoint my said daughters Georgianna Green and Mary Tredwell the
Executrixes of this my last will and Testament.

In Witness thereof I have hereto set my hand and seal this

eleventh day of June, one thousand eight hundred and seventy two.

her
Rebecca x Turner
mark



Vocabulary:

Advanced - Given (such as money that was given)

Bequeath - To leave or give in a will

Devise - To plan in a will

Estate- All of the property and money left by a person who has died.

Executrix - A woman who carries out the wishes of a person who made a will and later died.

Questions:

1. When did Rebecca die, and on what date was she buried? How many days passed between her death and burial?
2. Why do you think most people did not live long?
3. Did Rebecca write her will by herself? Give a reason for your answer.
4. How many years after writing her will did Rebecca die?
5. How were the lives of Rebecca's daughters different from each other? How were they the same?
6. What had Rebecca done for her son-in-law Samuel?

7 What else could have been written on Rebecca's gravestone?

8 Do you think Rebecca's gravestone was placed soon after she died? Why, or why not?

9 What time of year was the picture of her gravestone taken?

10 Why do you think Rebecca was buried at the back of the cemetery?

No Longer Their land

More than a century had passed since Ben and Rebecca Turner had settled on their small plot of land. Their daughter Sarah had married Sam Nelson, and the Nelsons had a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, who was known as “Libby.” Libby lived on the property until 1909 . But she, along with her sister and aunt, left the family land. In a letter to the Mt. Vernon mayor and the City Council, Libby explained why. (See 1916 letter)

In 1937 the City of Mount Vernon wanted Libby’s land for business . For a number of years Libby had not been able to pay the taxes and had not been able to return to her land. She wrote this letter to the Westchester County Court, telling her reasons: (See 1934 letter)

Since Libby had not been able to pay her taxes for a number of years, the city took her land in 1937. She received nothing, and never returned to where her family had lived for so long. She died in Nyack, New York.

Vocabulary:

Heir - The man or woman who will receive land or objects from a person when he dies. Ex.: “Grandfather made his grandson his heir so that when he (grandfather) died, the grandson would receive the old racing car.”

Compelled -- To have forced someone do something,

obliged -- same as compelled,

summons -- a notice to appear or answer,

auction -- a sale in which property is sold to the person who offers the highest amount of money.

Don’t forget to read Libby’s two letters to help answer the questions.

Sarah Elizabeth Nelson's 1916 Correspondence

(entered in Common Council Minutes August 31, 1916)
Tenafly, N.J., Aug. 24, 1916

To the Mayor of the City of Mount Vernon
and Common council

Gentlemen:

I am one of the heirs of the property of Rebecca Turner deceased. We were compelled to leave the old place over four years ago on account of our surroundings.

I will explain right here what I mean. My sister and me lived alone; our chickens were taken and we were disturbed nights. The garbage was dumped around our place so that it was difficult for us to get to the road. It was also impossible for us to do laundry work for a living any more, as the grass and everything was covered with ashes and the well water was spoiled so that we were obliged to carry it from a neighbor's well, and the saloon was also an annoyance to us. So you can easily understand how we were put about. I know the Board was ignorant of all of this, yet they are facts, and we could not stand it any longer.

Will you please send me the bill of our taxes and assessments. We have been in possession of the property nearly a hundred years and paid our taxes until several years ago.

Gentlemen I appeal to you for help will you not reconsider this bill of ours and reduce it and give us another chance at it. When we left Mount Vernon the only debt we owed was out dues to the W.C.T.U. (Women's Christian Temperance Union) which has been cancelled long ago. My health is poor and we are not getting any younger and we are in need of the help we might get from the property.

I will go to Mount Vernon and see about it if you will send me word when to go.

Very respectfully yours,

S.E. Nelson.

Sarah Elizabeth Nelson's 1934 Correspondence

41 White Ave.
Nyack N.Y.
Sarah Elizabeth Nelson

County Court
County of Westchester
City of Mount Vernon, N.Y.

Aug. 28, 1934

Gentlemen,

I received a copy of the summons for taxes and have not been able to answer it till now.

We paid our taxes up a little after the assessment of Fulton Ave. which proved to much for us. Our will was spoiled which we endured a long while, then the dump came the ashes covering everything, and our chickens taken from us, we were compelled to leave our home.

The land is in your hands, I am the last heir, the city may go right on and do what they like as before.

It is now over a hundred years a go, since our dear and godly grand parents, gathered their children for family prayers, morning and evenings, and a blessing at each meal, and it was handed down to us, to me the last heir, Now I can say with boldness their God is my God.

A father to the fatherless and
a judge of the widows. Ps. 68.5
and,

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want. Ps. 23.1

Respectfully yours

Sarah E. Nelson

Questions:

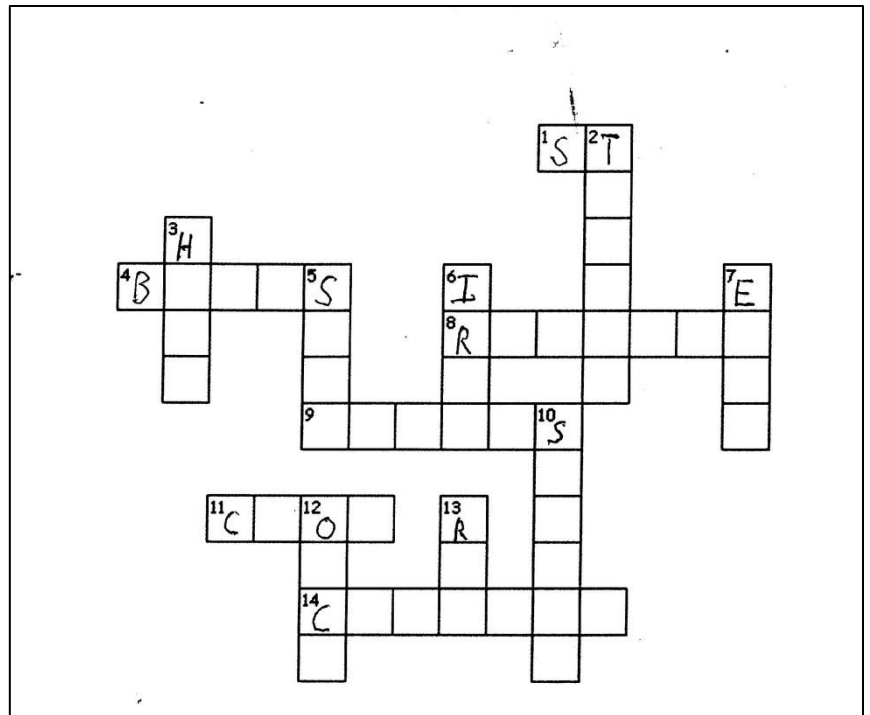
1. What is a century?
2. Who was “Libby?”
- 3 Why did Libby leave her land?
- 4 When Libby (and her sister) found a new place to live, how do you think she was able to earn money?
- 5 Can you find a misspelled word in Libby’s second letter?
- 6 How many generations of the family lived on the land?
- 7 What was the main idea of this selection?
8. Where do you think the garbage came from? { Libby’s first letter}
- 9 What sentence tells you that Libby has given up?
- 10 Summarize the history of the Turner-Nelson family in a few sentences.

Turner-Nelson Crossword Puzzle

Now that you have learned all about the Turner-Nelson family, it is time to use the things you learned to have some fun with a crossword puzzle. This crossword puzzle has clues that will help you find the answers. They are words and names that you read and learned about in the stories you finished. One letter will go in each box. Some words will go across, and some down. To help you a little, each answer will have the first letter of the word you are looking for. Start with number 1 --- and GOOD LUCK!

ACROSS

1. A short way, (or abbreviation) to write "street".
4. Things that ring in a church Tower .
8. A former slave that married Benjamin.
9. Things that grew in and alongside Eastchester Creek and were eaten by some fish.
11. Rebecca's job at Guion's tavern.
14. Thick fish soup that Rebecca cooked at Guion's tavern.



DOWN

2. Ben's last name.
3. A person who inherits property from another person who has died.
5. What Rebecca used in her laundry.
6. Something that is heated and used to remove wrinkles in clothes.
7. First word of the name of the town where Ben and Rebecca lived.
10. What Ben and Rebecca were before they were freed.
12. Something that Ben would have shouted if an animal bit him.
13. Food that is not cooked.