

Too Much Compromise! The Great Dismal Swamp

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In history, many countries, such as Britain, Spain, and France, have owned slaves or participated in the slave trade. One of those countries was the United States before and after they fought their war for independence in the Revolutionary War. The states that had the highest population of slaves were Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Maryland.¹ Many slaves tried to escape slavery by running away, however almost all of the time they were found and brought back to slaving away in a socially unjust society. Slavery went on for years in the US because of too much compromise.

The US government worked to compromise and to try to prevent conflict with slavery, but too much compromise can lead to an enormous conflict, such as the civil war. One of the most well known ways of Africans escaping their torturous forced labor was the Underground Railroad. A lesser known escape tactic was running away to a swamp located in Virginia and North Carolina called the Great Dismal Swamp. The swamp was able to hide its residents until the Emancipation Proclamation. The Great Dismal Swamp was a striking and forceful place saving hundreds possibly thousands of lives.

Slavery

Black slavery took root in Virginia and the American colonies slowly.² Slavery first began in Virginia in 1619 with the arrival of a Dutch trading vessel in Jamestown, Virginia. The

¹ Statistics on Slavery." *Weber State University*, faculty.weber.edu/kmackay/statistics_on_slavery.htm. Map.

² "Slavery Takes Root in Colonial Virginia." *Digital History*, Copyright 2016 Digital History, www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtid=2&psid=3576.

ship carried twenty men from Africa who were brought to America with the intentions of replacing the weakened European labor force.³

At first, slaves and servants worked together as equal partners. Sobel, in his book entitled, *The World They Made Together*, quotes Elizabeth Spring, an indentured servant, who discusses this relationship: Servants and slaves worked together, drank together, often lived together...sharing the same rough life, the same hardships, the same abuse. This relationship, however, soon began to lose change as slaves lost the equality that was once established with the whites, resulting in a change of status. As the two different races became more and more interwoven with one another, the white upper class began to fear a rise in black power. Soon, slaves began to make up the majority of the labor force, while the whites began to take over different positions. No longer were they working as indentured servants, but if seen on the plantations at all, it was to oversee the work of the slaves.⁴

Historians now know that small numbers of Africans lived in Virginia before 1619, the year a Dutch ship sold some twenty blacks (probably from the West Indies) to the colonists. But it was not until the 1680s that black slavery became the dominant labor sy

stem on plantations in Virginia. As late as 1640, there were probably only 150 blacks in Virginia and in 1650, 300. But by 1680, the number had risen to 3,000 and by 1704, to 10,000.⁵

³ "Slavery in the Chesapeake." *Chesapeake*, www3.gettysburg.edu/~tshannon/hist106web/site8/slavery_in_the_chesapeake.htm.

⁴ "Slavery in the Chesapeake." *Chesapeake*, www3.gettysburg.edu/~tshannon/hist106web/site8/slavery_in_the_chesapeake.htm.

⁵ "Slavery Takes Root in Colonial Virginia." *Digital History*, Copyright 2016

The increase of slaves in Virginia was due to the exploitation of cheap labor. North Carolina's use of slaves and its participation in the slave trade have been well documented. Beginning in the late 1600s and early 1700s, North Carolina employed slave labor.⁶

Although the difficult-to-navigate Outer Banks kept much of North Carolina from participating fully in the slave trade, Wilmington, North Carolina did become an active trading port, and “blacks in Wilmington outnumbered whites 2 to 1” by the 1800s. The first laws such as Slaves and Free Persons of Color. An Act Concerning Slaves and Free Persons of Color, used to control slaves enacted with the North Carolina Slave Code of 1715.⁷

The United States of America, “*a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal,*” began as a slave society.⁸ The United States has made numerous compromises on slavery to deny the right of equality to all. Three examples of pointless compromise the government put forward to dismiss the major conflict of slavery were: the Three-Fifths Compromise, the Missouri Compromise, and the Fugitive Slave Act.⁹ All of these “compromises” were enacted to keep the southerners and the northerners satisfied and try to avoid war which didn’t end so well. A terrible price had to be paid that caused not only slaves,

Digital History, www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtid=2&psid=3576.

⁶ North Carolina Slaves and Free Persons of Color. an Act concerning Slaves and Free Persons of Color." *Documenting the American South*, © Copyright 2004 by the University Library, docsouth.unc.edu/nc/slavesfree/summary.html.

⁷ North Carolina Slaves and Free Persons of Color. an Act concerning Slaves and Free Persons of Color." *Documenting the American South*, © Copyright 2004 by the University Library, docsouth.unc.edu/nc/slavesfree/summary.html.

⁸ "An American Tragedy: The legacy of slavery lingers in our cities' ghettos." *Brookings*, Copyright 2018 The Brookings Institution, www.brookings.edu/articles/an-american-tragedy-the-legacy-of-slavery-lingers-in-our-cities-ghettos/.

⁹ Slavery in Territories and New States." *Core Knowledge*, ©2018 The Core Knowledge Foundation, www.coreknowledge.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/CKHG-G5-U11-about-the-missouri-compromise.pdf.

but hundreds of thousands of people, in a tragic, calamitous civil war, before this new democracy could be rid of that most undemocratic institution.¹⁰

Throughout colonial and antebellum history, U.S. slaves lived primarily in the South.

Slaves comprised less than a tenth of the total Southern population in 1680 but grew to a third by 1790. At that date, 293,000 slaves lived in Virginia alone, making up 42 percent of all slaves in the U.S. at the time. South Carolina, North Carolina, and Maryland each had over 100,000 slaves. After the American Revolution, the Southern slave population exploded, reaching about 1.1 million in 1810 and over 3.9 million in 1860.¹¹

However, unfortunately for blacks, the end of slavery was just the beginning quest for democratic equality.¹² Another century would pass before the nation came fully to embrace that goal. Even now millions of Americans recognizably of African descent languish in societal backwaters.¹³ To escape the racist and discriminatory world, the slaves trapped on plantations had to run away in search of freedom from the socially unjust society for a lesser known destination that was the Great Dismal Swamp.

¹⁰ "An American Tragedy: The legacy of slavery lingers in our cities' ghettos." *Brookings*, Copyright 2018 The Brookings Institution, www.brookings.edu/articles/an-american-tragedy-the-legacy-of-slavery-lingers-in-our-cities-ghettos/.

¹¹ "Slavery in the United States." *EH.net*, Economic History Association, eh.net/encyclopedia/slavery-in-the-united-states/.

¹² "An American Tragedy: The legacy of slavery lingers in our cities' ghettos." *Brookings*, Copyright 2018 The Brookings Institution, www.brookings.edu/articles/an-american-tragedy-the-legacy-of-slavery-lingers-in-our-cities-ghettos/.

¹³ "An American Tragedy: The legacy of slavery lingers in our cities' ghettos." *Brookings*, Copyright 2018 The Brookings Institution, www.brookings.edu/articles/an-american-tragedy-the-legacy-of-slavery-lingers-in-our-cities-ghettos/.

The Great Dismal Swamp

The Great Dismal Swamp was a swamp that runaway slaves, also known as Maroons, escaped to, too escape tortuous forced labor. The Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is the largest intact remnant of a vast habitat that once covered more than one million acres of southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina (Appendix A).¹⁴ A bill passed for the swamp to become a National Wildlife refuge in 1973.¹⁵ The Great Dismal Swamp has saved countless lives by hiding the escaped Maroons in its vegetation from slave catchers. As you may know from the name, The Great Dismal Swamp was, for lack of a better word, a very dismal swamp. There was little fresh water the Maroons could drink from, and the germs were deadly. These germs can cause weakness, chills and fever, aches in the bones and mucus, and may induce dangerous maladies.¹⁶ The once-notorious panthers are gone, but bears, birds, deer and amphibians are still abundant. So are venomous snakes and biting insects.¹⁷ The struggles are not just with the animals. In the awful heat and humidity of summer the swamp teems with water moccasins and rattlesnakes. The mosquitoes get so thick that they can blur the outlines of a

¹⁴ About the Refuge." *Great Dismal Swamp*, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services, www.fws.gov/refuge/great_dismal_swamp/.

¹⁵ United States, Congress, House. H.R.2198 93rd Congress (1973-1974). Government Printing Office. *Library of Congress*, Copyright.gov, www.congress.gov/bill/93rd-congress/house-bill/2198. Accessed 15 Jan. 1973. House Bill 2198.

¹⁶ The Great Dismal Swamp." *The Press Democrat* [Santa Rosa, California]. *California Digital Newspaper Collection*, [cdnc? a=d&d=SRPD19020629.2.71](http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=d&d=SRPD19020629.2.71).

¹⁷ "Deep in the Swamps, Archaeologists Are Finding How Fugitive Slaves Kept Their Freedom." *Smithsonian.com*, Smithsonian Institution Air & Space Magazine Smithsonian Store Smithsonian Journeys Smithsonian Channel Smithsonian Books, www.smithsonianmag.com/history/deep-swamps-archaeologists-fugitive-slaves-kept-freedom-180960122/.

person standing 12 feet away.¹⁸ It may be a huge conflict to live in the swamp, but because of that reason, it also helped the slaves escape enslavement.

In an interview with Steve Moyer, a Writer-Editor, who is part of the HUMANITIES, a historical magazine, Daniel Sayers says in response to the question “*What is the Great Dismal Swamp?*”

“*It’s a place that likes to steal my sunglasses, Zippo lighters, and archaeological equipment—its bears like to chew up my dirt sifters. It’s a hundred ninety-square-mile wildlife refuge in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina.*”¹⁹

The identity of a swamp is: dirty, bug infested, little clean water, and so on. A swamp is not a place a human should live. The slave catchers thought this as well and put little effort into searching near the swamp for the missing slaves. “The dense, tangled hostility of the swamp and its enormous size enabled hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of escaped slaves to live here in freedom.”²⁰

“*Wasn’t it more difficult to try to survive in the Dismal Swamp than to endure the life of a slave on a plantation?*”²¹ Steve Moyer, from HUMANITIES, asks Daniel Sayers, an

¹⁸ "Deep in the Swamps, Archaeologists Are Finding How Fugitive Slaves Kept Their Freedom." *Smithsonian.com*, Smithsonian Institution Air & Space Magazine Smithsonian Store Smithsonian Journeys Smithsonian Channel Smithsonian Books, www.smithsonianmag.com/history/deep-swamps-archaeologists-fugitive-slaves-kept-freedom-180960122/.

¹⁹ "Anthropologist Daniel Sayers on Maroons Who Found Freedom in the Great Dismal Swamp." *Humanities*, www.neh.gov/humanities/2015/marchapril/iq/anthropologist-daniel-sayers-maroons-who-found-freedom-in-the-great-di-letter.

²⁰ "Deep in the Swamps, Archaeologists Are Finding How Fugitive Slaves Kept Their Freedom." *Smithsonian.com*, Smithsonian Institution Air & Space Magazine Smithsonian Store Smithsonian Journeys Smithsonian Channel Smithsonian Books, www.smithsonianmag.com/history/deep-swamps-archaeologists-fugitive-slaves-kept-freedom-180960122/.

²¹ "Deep in the Swamps, Archaeologists Are Finding How Fugitive Slaves Kept Their Freedom." *Smithsonian.com*, Smithsonian Institution Air & Space Magazine Smithsonian Store Smithsonian Journeys Smithsonian Channel Smithsonian

archaeologist working in the Great Dismal Swamp. “*Naw, I don’t think so. That racist and violent world outside the swamp was not safe for anyone, except for maybe the top 10 percent of the white population. The swamp has its dangers, but if you are aware, observant, and smart, most of those dangers are avoidable.*”²²

Maroons

Wherever Africans were enslaved in the world, there were runaways who escaped permanently and lived in free independent settlements. These people and their descendants are known as “Maroons.” The term probably comes from the Spanish *cimarrón*, meaning feral livestock, fugitive slave or something wild and defiant.²³

It’s the year 1800. You’re a slave in southeast Virginia. You manage to escape. Your freedom is only going to last as long as you can hide. Where do you go?²⁴ You travel to the Great Dismal Swamp and are able to find sanctuary. This is an example of how a Maroon might have felt. Maroons were defiant people entirely undermined and left the racist and brutal modern world. They created a social and economic world of their own. This was the civil rights, occupy, and labor movements all rolled into one and made inspiringly manifest for more than two

Books, www.smithsonianmag.com/history/deep-swamps-archaeologists-fugitive-slaves-kept-freedom-180960122/.

²² "Anthropologist Daniel Sayers on Maroons Who Found Freedom in the Great Dismal Swamp." *Humanities*, www.neh.gov/humanities/2015/marchapril/iq/anthropologist-daniel-sayers-maroons-who-found-freedom-in-the-great-di-letter.

²³ Deep in the Swamps, Archaeologists Are Finding How Fugitive Slaves Kept Their Freedom." *Smithsonian.com*, Smithsonian Institution Air & Space Magazine Smithsonian Store Smithsonian Journeys Smithsonian Channel Smithsonian Books, www.smithsonianmag.com/history/deep-swamps-archaeologists-fugitive-slaves-kept-freedom-180960122/.

²⁴ "Great Dismal Swamp Hid a Secret Human World." *American University*, Copyright © 2017 American University., www.american.edu/media/news/20110517-Sayers-Dismal-Swamp-Research.cfm.

hundred fifty years.²⁵ Evidence proves that even in the 1640s and 50s Maroons have escaped from plantations and their owners and found sanctuary in the Great Dismal Swamp.²⁶

The Maroons had another obvious conflict: They lived in a swamp (Appendix B).²⁷ Living in a swamp was difficult, but they would rather live in a bug and disease infested swamp than endure social injustice. Although there is very little information about how Maroons lived in the swamp, archaeologists were able to find that they knew which plants were edible, usable for dyes and medicine, or good for keeping mosquitoes at bay.²⁸ Archaeologist Daniel Sayers says in an interview with HUMANITIES: “*They probably cultivated community rice and grain fields, and made numerous things out of wood and plants (like furniture, musical instruments, and containers).*”²⁹

It is believed that many, probably most, of the Maroons who came to the Great Dismal Swamp stayed there. Some left to go fight in the Union War, and some left for Canada, but most stayed.

²⁵ "Anthropologist Daniel Sayers on Maroons Who Found Freedom in the Great Dismal Swamp." *Humanities*, www.neh.gov/humanities/2015/marchapril/iq/anthropologist-daniel-sayers-maroons-who-found-freedom-in-the-great-di. Letter

²⁶ "The Great Dismal Swamp: History on How Slaves Utilized the Area." *WTKR*, COPYRIGHT © 2017, WTKR, wtkr.com/2017/11/14/the-great-dismal-swamp-history-on-how-slaves-utilized-the-area/.

²⁷ "The Maroons of the Great Dismal Swamp." *Jubilo! The Emancipation Century*, jubiloemancipationcentury.wordpress.com/2013/09/13/the-maroons-of-the-great-dismal-swamp/.

²⁸ "Anthropologist Daniel Sayers on Maroons Who Found Freedom in the Great Dismal Swamp." *Humanities*, www.neh.gov/humanities/2015/marchapril/iq/anthropologist-daniel-sayers-maroons-who-found-freedom-in-the-great-di. Letter

²⁹ "Anthropologist Daniel Sayers on Maroons Who Found Freedom in the Great Dismal Swamp." *Humanities*, www.neh.gov/humanities/2015/marchapril/iq/anthropologist-daniel-sayers-maroons-who-found-freedom-in-the-great-di. Letter

Searchers for interior Maroons had problems. They would have had to walk—no boats or horses were going to get through that vine- and foliage-thick swamp. Searchers were not necessarily going to get through on foot either. There was the standing water, spongy peat, sinkholes, and even, maybe, pockets of quicksand here and there. Finally, Maroons were tough and not afraid. So, even if raiders found one of the interior communities, they had to actually overtake them. Maroons were armed, and they probably booby-trapped the swamp surrounding their villages.³⁰

“While in the swamp, the Maroons had weapons, from trade and from their own creation, that they could use if any slave catcher thought to look in the swamp for fugitive slaves. “Make no mistake about it. These were resistance communities. They weren't going out there because they loved swamps, they were going out there because they were living in a very brutal and oppressive world of enslavement and colonialism.”³¹

Archaeology Evidence

Trained in philosophy, anthropology, history, and archaeology, Dr. Sayers is a Historical Archaeologist who works in the United States.³² He is now currently, working on the Great Dismal Swamp Landscape Study and is exploring the social and economic history and world of resistance communities that thrived in the swamp interior from 1607 up through the Civil War.³³

³⁰ "Anthropologist Daniel Sayers on Maroons Who Found Freedom in the Great Dismal Swamp." *Humanities*, www.neh.gov/humanities/2015/marchapril/iq/anthropologist-daniel-sayers-maroons-who-found-freedom-in-the-great-di-Letter

³¹ "Fleeing to Dismal Swamp, Slaves and Outcasts Found Freedom." *Wisconsin Public Radio*, © 2017 npr, www.npr.org/2014/12/28/373519521/fleeing-to-dismal-swamp-slaves-and-outcasts-found-freedom.

³² "Daniel Sayers." *American University Home College of Arts & Sciences Homepage*, © 2017 American University., www.american.edu/cas/faculty/sayers.cfm

³³ "Daniel Sayers." *American University Home College of Arts & Sciences Homepage*, ©

Since 2003, Sayers has found thousands of artifacts during Great Dismal Swamp digs. In his laboratory at American University, he unwraps several; bits of clay tobacco pipes, nails and traces of at least a dozen cabins, along with what could have been an arsenal — a place where Sayers found gun flints and lead shot.³⁴ He has found numerous footprints of their cabins and tiny fragments of their tools, weapons and white clay pipes.³⁵ Daniel Sayers was asked in an interview if he has found discoveries of human skeletal remains. “No. We haven’t found anything like that, nor has anyone else recorded anything like that in the swamp previously.”³⁶ In Steve Moyer’s interview with Daniel Sayers, Sayers is asked “*Who were the Maroons?*” And, “*how did the Maroons survive?*”³⁷

The history of the Great Dismal Swamp is certainly not a Robinson Crusoe story.

*Maroons were enslaved Africans who permanently removed themselves from slavery by finding out-of-the-way and remote places. They knew which plants were edible, usable for dyes and medicine, or good for keeping mosquitoes at bay.*³⁸

2017 American University., www.american.edu/cas/faculty/sayers.cfm.

³⁴ "Fleeing to Dismal Swamp, Slaves and Outcasts Found Freedom." *Wisconsin Public Radio*, © 2017 npr, www.npr.org/2014/12/28/373519521/fleeing-to-dismal-swamp-slaves-and-outcasts-found-freedom.

³⁵ "Anthropologist Daniel Sayers on Maroons Who Found Freedom in the Great Dismal Swamp." *Humanities*, www.neh.gov/humanities/2015/marchapril/iq/anthropologist-daniel-sayers-maroons-who-found-freedom-in-the-great-di. Letter.

³⁶ "Anthropologist Daniel Sayers on Maroons Who Found Freedom in the Great Dismal Swamp." *Humanities*, www.neh.gov/humanities/2015/marchapril/iq/anthropologist-daniel-sayers-maroons-who-found-freedom-in-the-great-di. Letter.

³⁷ "Anthropologist Daniel Sayers on Maroons Who Found Freedom in the Great Dismal Swamp." *Humanities*, www.neh.gov/humanities/2015/marchapril/iq/anthropologist-daniel-sayers-maroons-who-found-freedom-in-the-great-di. Letter.

³⁸ "Anthropologist Daniel Sayers on Maroons Who Found Freedom in the Great Dismal Swamp." *Humanities*, www.neh.gov/humanities/2015/marchapril/iq/anthropologist-daniel-sayers-maroons-who-found-freedom-in-the-great-di. Letter.

*These people performed a critique of a brutal capitalistic enslavement system, and they rejected it completely. They risked everything to live in a more just and equitable way, and they were successful for ten generations. One of them, a man named Charlie, was interviewed later in Canada. He said that all labor was communal here. That's how it would have been in an African village.*³⁹

This archaeology evidence proves the story of the maroons who would rather risk their lives in a lethal swamp than live in a society where there is an overwhelming amount of social injustice.

Conclusion

Slavery was apart of the United States. Unsuccessful compromises were made to prevent conflict over slavery. To escape slavery, enslaved Africans would run away. A lesser known place the slaves would run to was called the Great Dismal Swamp. This was a miserable swamp located in southeast Virginia and northeast North Carolina. Living in the swamp was a hard life. The runaway slaves feared not only to be discovered and brought back to the cruel plantations, but many dangers within the swamp such as disease and predators hunting them constantly. These runaway slaves were known as Maroons. These Maroons lived in the swamp in freedom. They made a life in the swamp despite the harsh conditions of their environment. Archaeological evidence has proven evidence of the kind of life the Maroons lived. The Great Dismal Swamp

³⁹ "Deep in the Swamps, Archaeologists Are Finding How Fugitive Slaves Kept Their Freedom." *Smithsonian.com*, Smithsonian Institution Air & Space Magazine Smithsonian Store Smithsonian Journeys Smithsonian Channel Smithsonian Books, www.smithsonianmag.com/history/deep-swamps-archaeologists-fugitive-slaves-kept-freedom-180960122/.

can be viewed as a place that saved many lives and allowed a slave to have a form of freedom and life independent on their own.

Appendix A



"Deep in the Swamps, Archaeologists Are Finding How Fugitive Slaves Kept Their Freedom."

Smithsonian.com, Smithsonian Institution Air & Space Magazine Smithsonian Store

Smithsonian Journeys Smithsonian Channel Smithsonian Books,

www.smithsonianmag.com/history

[deep-swamps-archaeologists-fugitive-slaves-kept-freedom-180960122/](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/deep-swamps-archaeologists-fugitive-slaves-kept-freedom-180960122/).

This website gave information about evidence on an archaeologist searching through The Great Dismal Swamp looking for more artifacts and evidence of the escaped slaves. This map shows the location of the Great Dismal Swamp.

Appendix B



"The Maroons of the Great Dismal Swamp." *Jubilo! The Emancipation Century*, Thomas Moran, jubiloemancipationcentury.wordpress.com/2013/09/13/the-maroons-of-the-great-dismal-swamp/.

This blog provided an image of painting of maroons in the Great Dismal Swamp. This painting is significant because it shows how vast the swamp is and the emotion of the Maroons.

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www.fws.gov/refuge/great_dismal_swamp/. This website is the official site of the Great Dismal Swamp. It gave me information on what the swamp is like to day. This information tells me what the swamp is like today.

“An American Tragedy: The legacy of slavery lingers in our cities’ ghettos.” *Brookings*,

Copyright 2018 The Brookings Institution,

www.brookings.edu/articles/an-american-tragedy-the-legacy-of-slavery-lingers-in-our-cities-ghettos/. This website talks about slavery today and how our government dealt with it. This website provides information about how slavery impacts us today

“Anthropologist Daniel Sayers on Maroons Who Found Freedom in the Great Dismal Swamp.”

Humanities,

www.neh.gov/humanities/2015/marchapril/iq/anthropologist-daniel-sayers-maroons-who-found-freedom-in-the-great-di. Letter. The archaeologist that found so much about the Great Dismal Swamp, Daniel Sayers, got interviewed by the Magazine of the National Endowment for the Humanities. This is critical information because you can find facts on multiple websites, but you cannot find many things about a person who has found important facts and artifacts, processed them in his mind, and recognized their significance.

“Daniel Sayers.” *American University Home College of Arts & Sciences Homepage*, © 2017

American University., www.american.edu/cas/faculty/sayers.cfm. The College of Arts

and Sciences institute at the American University of Washington DC created a webpage about an archaeologist named Daniel Sayers. Who Daniel Sayers is, is significant because he found very interesting artifacts that help uncover the secrets of the Great Dismal Swamp.

“Dismal Swamp Tract of Cavalier.” *Department of Game and Inland Fisheries*, © 2018 Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, www.dgif.virginia.gov/wma/dismal-swamp/. The website from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has information about activities you can do at the Great Dismal Swamp and how to get there. This website lists the things you are allowed to do if you actually go to the swamp.

“The Great Dismal Swamp.” *The Press Democrat* [Santa Rosa, California]. *California Digital Newspaper Collection*, cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=d&d=SRPD19020629.2.71. This newspaper is informal because it provided me information about the diseases at the Great Dismal Swamp. This information means that the escaped slaves that lived there must have had to fight against the diseases at the Swamp.

“Great Dismal Swamp Hid a Secret Human World.” *American University*, Copyright © 2017 American University., www.american.edu/media/news/20110517-Sayers-Dismal-Swamp-Research.cfm. This article from a website from the American University was about Daniel Sayers investigating the Great Dismal Swamp. Daniel Sayers is an archaeologist studying the Great Dismal Swamp for more artifacts and evidence of the maroons community in the swamp.

“He Bought a Dismal Swamp.” *Library of Congress*,

www.loc.gov/wiseguide/feb06/swamp.html. This website from the Library of Congress talks about George Washington buying the Great Dismal Swamp. It tells me about George Washington interaction with the Great Dismal Swamp.

“North Carolina Slaves and Free Persons of Color. an Act concerning Slaves and Free Persons

of Color.” *Documenting the American South*, © Copyright 2004 by the University

Library, docsouth.unc.edu/nc/slavesfree/summary.html. This document is from a

database called Documenting the American South. The information provided in this

document was slavery in North Carolina from 1600 to 1800. This document’s

information was important because it helps explain the conflict at the time (1600-1800).

“On the Trail of the Maroons.” *Humanities*,

www.neh.gov/humanities/2017/spring/feature/the-dismal-swamp-one-road-out-slavery-to-ok-you-straight-the-boggiest-place-you%E2%80%99ve-ever-been. This webpage is

about a maroon’s perspective on running away, and traveling there. This information is

significant because it has someone’s point of view of what happened.

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[www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeli](http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/expref/slavery/)

[ne/expref/slavery/](http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/expref/slavery/). This article from the Library of Congress gave me information about

slavery in the 1800’s. This is important information because explained how slavery

affected the civil war.

“Slavery in the Chesapeake.” *Chesapeake*,

www3.gettysburg.edu/~tshannon/hist106web/site8/slavery_in_the_chesapeake.htm. This

website informed me of slavery in Virginia. This information is significant because slavery was the a huge conflict during 1600 to 1800.

“Slavery Takes Root in Colonial Virginia.” *Digital History*, Copyright 2016 Digital History, www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtid=2&psid=3576. This webpage from Digital History is about the history of slavery in Virginia. Virginia was one of the biggest slave states in America, that owned thousands of slaves.

“Slaves and the Courts, 1740-1860.” *Library of Congress*, www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/slaves-court/file.html. This webpage contains images and information about court cases concerning slavery. The Library of Congress provides information about real life court cases.

“Statistics on Slavery.” *Weber State University*, faculty.weber.edu/kmackay/statistics_on_slavery.htm. Map. This chart from Weber State University was a chart on the statistics on slavery in the US. It shows the statistics on New England and southern states.

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Smithsonian Journeys Smithsonian Channel Smithsonian Books,

[www.smithsonianmag.com/history/deep-swamps-archaeologists-fugitive-slaves-kept-free-](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/deep-swamps-archaeologists-fugitive-slaves-kept-freedom-180960122/)

[dom-180960122/](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/deep-swamps-archaeologists-fugitive-slaves-kept-freedom-180960122/). The website’s information was evidence on an archaeologist searching

through The Great Dismal Swamp looking for more artifacts and evidence of the escaped

slaves. This information is critical because the more artifacts archaeologists find the more

we can learn what it was like living in horrible conditions such as a swamp.

“Fleeing to Dismal Swamp, Slaves and Outcasts Found Freedom.” *Wisconsin Public Radio*, ©

2017 npr,

[www.npr.org/2014/12/28/373519521/fleeing-to-dismal-swamp-slaves-and-outcasts-foun-](http://www.npr.org/2014/12/28/373519521/fleeing-to-dismal-swamp-slaves-and-outcasts-found-freedom)

[d-freedom](http://www.npr.org/2014/12/28/373519521/fleeing-to-dismal-swamp-slaves-and-outcasts-found-freedom). This website has information about a former slave, that worked on The Great

Dismal Swamp, bought his freedom, and returned to The Great Dismal Swamp to live.

Grandy, the former slave, is one of the only slaves that lived on the Great Dismal Swamp

that has been interviewed.

“The Great Dismal Swamp.” *99% Invisible*, © 99% Invisible,

99percentinvisible.org/episode/great-dismal-swamp/. This website gave me information

on what the swamp is today, and how enslaved Africans and African Americans lived

there. This is important because knowing this information, we can better understand what

it was like to be a run-away slave, and how some escaped slaves lived in the wilderness.

“The Great Dismal Swamp: History on How Slaves Utilized the Area.” *WTKR*, COPYRIGHT ©

2017, WTKR •,

wtkr.com/2017/11/14/the-great-dismal-swamp-history-on-how-slaves-utilized-the-area/.

This website gave me a summary of the history of The Great Dismal Swamp. This has the history on how slaves utilized the area.

“History of Slavery in America.” *Infoplease*, © 2000–2017 Sandbox Networks, Inc., publishing as Infoplease, www.infoplease.com/timelines/history-slavery-america. This website has a timeline on the history of slaves in America. This timeline is significant because it gives me chronological order of slavery in America.

“History of the Dismal Swamp.” *Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center*, © Copyright 2017 Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center, dismalswampwelcomecenter.com/history/. This website gave me information about George Washington’s encounter with the Great Dismal Swamp. This is important because this shows that the Great Dismal Swamp has been “used” more than once in America’s history, and by a name many people will recognize; George Washington.

“Life in the Swamp.” *The New York Times*, © 2017 The New York Times Company, opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/10/19/life-in-the-swamp/. This website gave me information on a maroon’s life in the swamp. This is important because anyone who has read that article now understands the hardships maroons had to face, and the conditions they had to live in.

“The Maroons of the Great Dismal Swamp.” *Jubilo! The Emancipation Century*, Thomas Moran, jubiloemancipationcentury.wordpress.com/2013/09/13/the-maroons-of-the-great-dismal-swamp/. This blog provided an image of a painting of maroons in the Great Dismal

Swamp. This painting is significant because it shows how vast the swamp is and the emotion of the Maroons.

“Slavery and the Law in Virginia.” *Colonial Williamsburg*, © 2018 The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, www.history.org/history/teaching/slavelaw.cfm. Map. This website gave me a chart showing: The Growth of the Black Population. This records the slave population from 1625, to 1775.

“Slavery in Territories and New States.” *Core Knowledge*, ©2018 The Core Knowledge Foundation, www.coreknowledge.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/CKHG-G5-U11-about-the-missouri-compromise.pdf. This PDF from Core Knowledge gave names of acts, compromises, and so on concerning slavery. This is significant because I used it to help build my argument.

Slavery’s Exiles: The Story of the American Maroons. Sylviane Anna Diouf *Historian of the African Diaspora*, www.sylvianediouf.com/slavery_s_exiles__the_story_of_the_american_maroons_119566.htm. *Slavery’s Exiles: The Story of the American Maroons* is a book about maroons who escaped slavery and are living on their own. Because of this book and many others, the maroons are not completely forgotten.

“What’s in a Name? | Great Dismal Swamp.” *The Virginian-Pilot*, © 2017 | The Virginian-Pilot | pilotonline.com | 150 W. Brambleton Ave., Norfolk, VA | Privacy Policy, pilotonline.com/news/local/history/what-s-in-a-name-great-dismal-swamp/article_3d4bd87c-37cc-5f66-9462-ad14c9859102.html. This website informed me of why the Great

Dismal Swamp is named what it is. Knowing this information is important because the Great Dismal Swamp was named more than 280 years ago. That's important because the swamp may have changed in more than one way since then.

“Slavery in the United States.” *EH.net*, Economic History Association, eh.net/encyclopedia/slavery-in-the-united-states/. This database was about slavery in the United States. This database covers slavery in the north and the south.