

Outfitting the Slave Ship SALLY

Who was involved in preparing a Rhode Island ship for a voyage to Africa to procure captured Africans for sale in the United States and Caribbean?

Overview:

This activity, *Outfitting the Slave Ship Sally*, is a short in-class activity suitable for middle and high school students, though easily adapted for older and younger groups—in and out of the classroom. The objective of this lesson is to (1) familiarize participants with many of the people and materials needed to prepare a ship for a slave trading voyage in the eighteenth century and (2) to illustrate in a physical way the web of complicity from farms to the sea in the global enterprise of the slave trade.

Materials Needed:

- List of “Outfitting the Sally”
- Numbered cards cut apart
- Long length of yarn that can reach all participants and cover spaces in between (will depend upon space and number of students)
- Large enough space for participants to stand in a circle

Rhode Island Standards:

C&G 2 (9-12) 2.c

C&G 5 (7-8) 2.b

C&G 5 (7-8) 1.a

HP 1 (7-8) 1.b

HP 1 (9-12) 1.a, 1.b, 1.c

HP 2 (7-8) 1.c

HP 2 (7-8) 2.b

HP 3 (7-8) 2.b

Process:

- Cut cards provided with this lesson into individual sections
- Shuffle deck
- Pass out to participants (one or two cards each, but no more)
- Ask them to get into a large circle and keep the card with them
- Explain to them that preparing a voyage of a slave ship was not an individual endeavor, but involved an entire community and they are going to see how the web of complicity was made
- Leader should have the yarn at this point and leader will act as “runner” or should assign a student to the task
- Each card is numbered; ask the students to read them off in numeric order (not how they are standing, but according to the number on the individual card)
- Give the student who is reading the yarn and ask them to grab hold of it and not let go to their “point” in the yarn
- When the next student reads, have the “runner” hand the yarn to the next person
- A “web” will begin to develop
- Proceed in this way until you exhaust the list
- Discuss what they see

Primary Documents

Details from these and other documents were used in creating the activity list. These documents, and the entire "Voyage of the Slave Ship SALLY collection, can be found online at: <http://www.stg.brown.edu/projects/sally/>.

Stores

1 66 ^r Tarr	178
1 a Doctors Chest about	300
3 66 ^r Raisin a 200	90
7 66 ^r Oil	35
60 66 ^r Calamand a 20	70
28 ^r Swine f a 20	84
7 66 ^r Gunns	300
1 Cash powder 7 ^r	100
1 66 ^r Shell, grape shot 30	50
arm (200)	
1 66 ^r Lead	38
40 hand caps & 40 shades 200	150
3 Chances & other 100	170
24 nails	
4 66 ^r Guns & pins	100
24 66 ^r Beef a 270	1680
22 66 ^r pork a 210	2420
10 66 ^r minkadms a 15	150
30 ^r Bread	720
8 white soap 100	100
20 Shaken h ^r 2, white soap, 10	200
10 66 ^r with head	10
12 Gang Cash a 28	96
10 Iron Round Balls a 20	200
1 Red soap water h ^r	8 10
2 66 ^r h ^r	50
8 Small Arms a 200	240
10 66 ^r h ^r	52
2 66 ^r h ^r	42
Water Bales, Lines, Ropes, &c	100
1 Bolt Tacklin long 12 66 ^r	200
4 Bolts Roushie Duck, 200	500
1 Bolt Roushie Duck	70
2 66 ^r h ^r	2850
1 New Boat 72, 100 lbs Sails &c	1050
1 66 ^r h ^r	285
1 Small Iron Boat	191 2
1 66 ^r h ^r	250
1 66 ^r h ^r	120
1 66 ^r h ^r	120
1 66 ^r h ^r	20
1 66 ^r h ^r	2000 10

SHIPPED by the Grace of God, in good Order, and well condition'd, by
Nicholas Brown and Company
 in and upon the good Brigge call'd the *Sally*
 whereof is Master, under God, for this present Voyage,
Esek Hopkins and now riding at Anchor in the harbor
 of *Providence* and by God's Grace bound for
 the Coast of *Africa* to say

158, 160, 66^r Guinea, 8 Gang Lash & 20 66^r New
 Englandum Dry 27 1/2 Gn. 40 66^r flour, 51 Lovet Sugar
 66^r Candles, 66^r Ham, 2 66^r Mole-pes, 2 66^r Beef, 22 66^r Pork, 10 66^r
 Munkaden, 30^r Broad, 25 Cash Rice, 100^r Sundry with Sundry
 other Articles for the Crew & as Provision of the same, all which
 is consign'd to the said *Esek Hopkins* on the *Sally* and is
 being mark'd and number'd as in the Margin, and are to be delivered in the
 good Order, and well condition'd, at the aforesaid Port of *Coast of*
Africa (the Danger of the Seas only excepted) unto *Esek Hopkins*
 or to his Assigns, he or they paying Freight for the said Goods
 Nothing with Primage and Average accustom'd. In Witness where-
 of, the Master or Purser of the said Brigge hath affirmed to two Bills of
 Lading, all of this Tenor and Date; the one of which two Bills being accom-
 plish'd, the other one to stand void. And to God send the good Brigge
 to her destin'd Port in Safety. AMEN. Dated in *Providence* this
 Eleventh Day of September 1766.
Esek Hopkins

Manifest of the brig SALLY

“Providence September 11 1764
 Invoice of Sundry Merchandise
 Shipt on bord the brigantine Sally Esek Hopkins
 Master bound for the Coast of Africa
 by Nichs Brown & Co. which Goc on their
 account J Presque Consign'd to the said Master”

Outfitting the Sally

1. Investors provided financial backing for voyage - Nicholas Brown and Company (the four Brown brothers = Nicholas, John, Moses, and Joseph)
2. 185 barrels of Rum - from a Newport, RI distiller (approx 17,275 gallons)
3. 30 casks of bread - from George Gibbs, Newport baker
4. 1 large iron pot
5. Sailmakers - Robert Bell of Providence
6. 1,800 onions
7. 51 loaves of sugar
8. 40 barrels of flour (approx. 200lbs each)
9. 10 hogshead of tobacco (approx. 1000lbs each)
10. 15 crew members - includes Esek Hopkins (master), Sam Ward ("fore the mast"), James York (mate), Abraham Hawkins (carpenter), Edward Abbie ("negrow boy")

11. 40 handcuffs and 40 shackles
12. 7 swivel guns
13. 96 lbs of coffee
14. 300 iron hoops
15. 30 boxes of spermaceti candles - from the Brown family's candleworks in Providence
16. 25 casks of rice
17. Medical Supplies - from Jabez Bowen Jr. of Providence
18. 24 barrels of beef
19. Ship caulkers - Joshua Smith of Providence
20. Sheeting the brigantine's hull - William Cookoe of Providence

1.

Investors provided financial backing for voyage - Nicholas Brown and Company (the four Brown brothers = Nicholas, John, Moses, and Joseph)



2.

185 barrels of Rum - from a Newport, RI distiller (approx. 17,275 gallons)



3.

30 casks of bread - from George Gibbs, Newport baker



4.

1 large iron pot



5.

Sailmakers - Robert Bell of Providence



6.

1,800 onions



In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the towns of Whethersfield, Connecticut and Bristol, Rhode Island led the way in onion production. Onions were used for many medicinal purposes. Some of them include cough relief during colds and use as poultices for drawing poisons from wounds and ulcers. Onion poultices were used on the soles of the feet to reduce high fevers or placed on the chest to relieve congestion. One ancient remedy included onion tea to relieve cholera, fevers, and headaches, as well as being treatments for gout, arthritis, soothing burns, and speeding healing. It is now believed that the Vitamin C content of the onions helped sailors fight off scurvy, it is thus known as an “antiscorbutic,” which explains why ships carried so many.

7.

51 loaves of sugar



Sugar was a highly prized commodity of the 18th century and it is most likely that the Browns would have had access to great quantities of sugar grown in the West Indies.

8.

40 barrels of flour (approx. 200lbs each)



9.

10 hogshead of tobacco (approx. 1000lbs each)



Beginning in the 17th century, British colonists were growing shade, or Indian, tobacco, in Connecticut, particularly near the town of Enfield, in what is now known as the Tobacco Valley. This tobacco was not as prized as that from the West Indies, particularly Cuba. But, in 1762 a Connecticut man began growing Cuban tobacco in the colony. It is not known if the Browns would have shipped shade tobacco on the Sally, if the Cuban tobacco crops would have had time enough to grow in Connecticut to be shipped, or if instead they were shipping Cuban tobacco from the West Indian islands with which they were already trading heavily.

10.

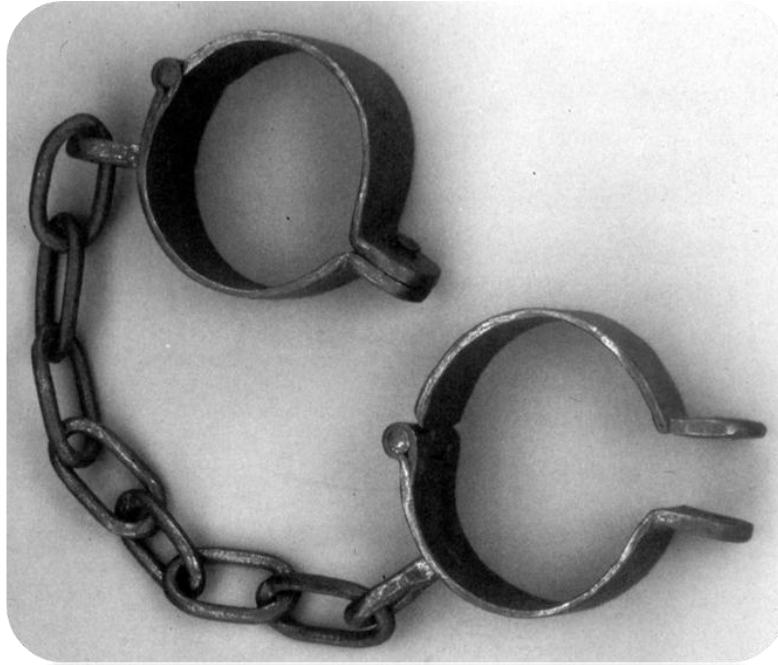
15 crew members - includes Esek Hopkins (master), Sam Ward ("fore the mast"), James York (mate), Abraham Hawkins (carpenter), Edward Abbie ("negrow boy")



(Admiral Esek Hopkins)

11.

40 handcuffs and 40 shackles



12.

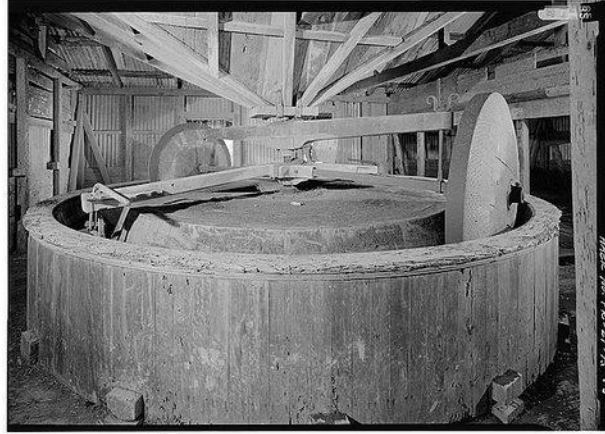
7 swivel guns



Swivel guns were found on most ships of this period. Sailors could pivot these small, mounted cannons to fend off pirates and other attackers. On slave ships they could also be used against slave risings and insurrections, as happened on the Sally.

13.

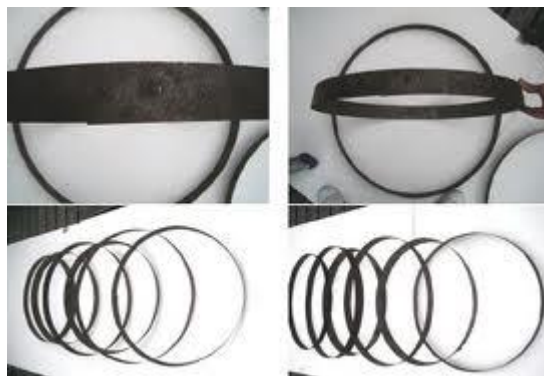
96 lbs of coffee



This is an image of an 18th century coffee husking machine, or “piladora.” Machines like this were used in Puerto Rico and throughout the West Indies and South America where coffee was grown and exported.

14.

300 iron hoops



Iron hoops like these were used to lash around wooden staves to make barrels. Abraham Hawkins, the carpenter, was on board and could fashion more wood, but iron hoops would have to be made before the journey.

15.

*30 boxes of spermaceti candles - from the Brown family's
candleworks in Providence*



Spermaceti oil comes from a wax found in the head cavities of sperm whales. The Brown's brother-in-law, Dr. David, or John, Vanderlight, perfected a technique for making spermaceti candles and the Browns used this method at their candleworks. The spermaceti itself most likely came from the whalers on Nantucket. Spermaceti candles were becoming the standard candle to use because they were not terribly smoky and they did not smell as awful as earlier animal fat-based candles did.

16.

25 casks of rice



Rice was brought to North America by European colonists in 1694. It soon became Georgia's staple crop; South Carolina was second in rates of production. Because of the Brown's network related to the provisioning, or West Indies, trade, they would have been able to trade for this grain along the Atlantic coast.

17.

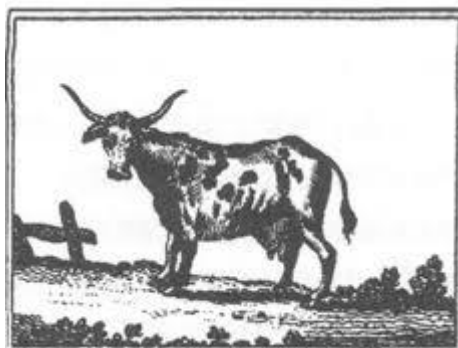
Medical Supplies - from Jabez Bowen Jr. of Providence



Slave ships needed to have either a doctor or medical equipment on board every ship. The African coast was a dangerous place. There was always the threat of insurrection, but there were also many diseases rampant, such as malaria, Yellow Fever, and dysentery. The huge, British slave ships would have a doctor on board, but the smaller Rhode Island ships would simply carry a medicine chest that contained necessities, like laudanum (a mixture of rum and opium) and calomel (mercury chloride). These drugs would be used to treat crew and, perhaps, contagious captives.

18.

24 barrels of beef



Meat in general, and beef in particular, was more available to people in the North American colonies than it was in Europe. For use on ships, the beef would most likely be dried, made into jerky, and put in barrels. South County in Rhode Island was a leading producer of cattle and dairy cows during this period.

19.

Ship Caulkers - Joshua Smith of Providence



Oakum, fibers (often from unraveled ropes) covered in tar, would be used by men called “caulkers” to caulk, or pack, the joints of timber in a wooden vessel to make it watertight and, therefore, seaworthy.

20.

Sheeting the brigantine's hull - William Cookoe of Providence



Copper was used to cover the hulls of ships, the area most thoroughly submerged in water. The copper protected the wood from rot and also made the boat much less attractive to marine life, such as barnacles, that would normally attach themselves to vessels.

At this time, the terms brigs and brigantine were interchangeable: a two-masted merchant vessel. Now the two terms refer to distinct types of ships with different rigging.

In West Africa, people often named their children for the day of their birth, boys born on Wednesday were often named Quacko. It is possible, therefore, that “Cookoe” is a corruption of this West African name and that this man was of African descent, but we do not know for sure.