Slavery at Mount Vernon

specific to the year 1799, compiled from a list recorded by George Washington

317 enslaved people lived at Mount Vernon’s farms in 1799. These individuals were adults, children, and the elderly. George and Martha Washington owned most of these people, but George Washington also rented slaves from his neighbor Penelope French and his relative David Stuart.

207 enslaved people belonging to the Washingtons (not rented) were farm laborers and their families, assigned to Mount Vernon’s five farms.

- 89 were adults
- 20 were children of working age (at least 11-14)
- 98 were children too young to work

96 enslaved adults living on the five farms were married. Of these individuals, however, only 18 couples lived together in the same household.

123 enslaved persons belonging to George Washington

153 "dower slaves" – persons enslaved at Mount Vernon through the estate of Martha Washington’s first husband

41 rented enslaved workers and family members - 40 individuals rented from Penelope French one man rented from David Stuart

130 enslaved workers, owned and rented, were actively engaged in farm labor at Mount Vernon. Washington’s 1799 list also records 187 persons who were "not cultivators of the soil." These included children, the elderly, house servants, and tradespeople.

- Cooper (3)
- Tender of Livestock (1)
- Milkmaid (1)
- Postillions (2)
- Bricklayers (2)
- Ditchers (5)
- Carpenters (6)
- Elderly (18)
- Children (14)
- Spinners and Knitters (11)
- House Servants (9)
- Distillers (5)
- Wagoners and Carters (3)
- Millers (2)
- Dukes (1)
- Gardeners (2)
- Shoemaker (1)
- Smiths (2)