



The Anna Maria Samuel Project:

RACE, REMEMBRANCE, AND RECONCILIATION



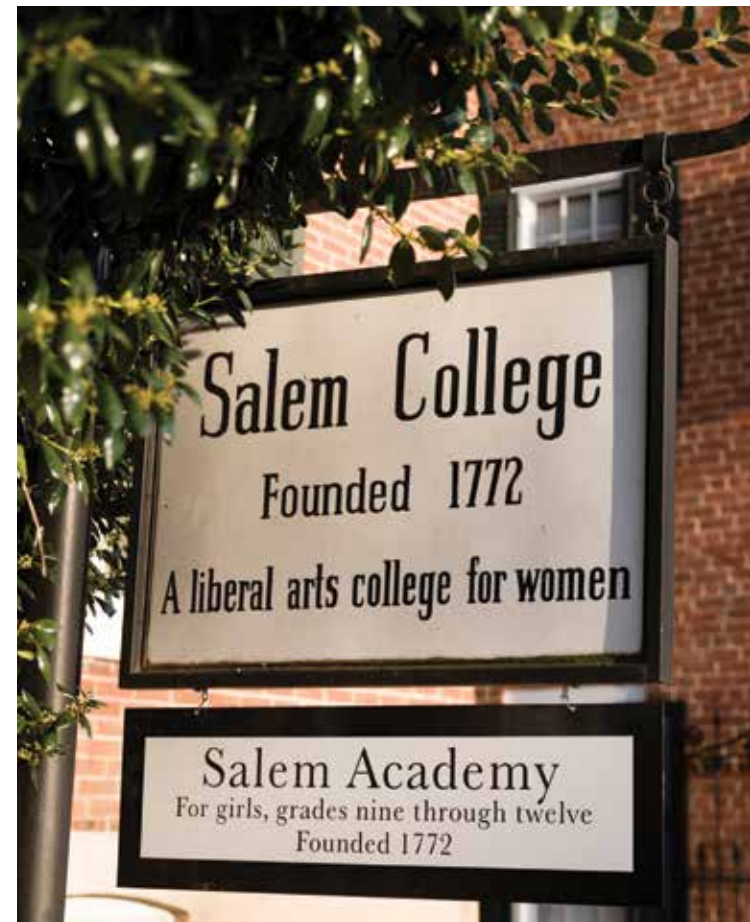
This timeline includes notable events in the history of Salem Academy and College that relate to slavery and race over the course of the academic institution's 250-year history. Other notable events may be discovered by further historical research. This timeline also includes highlights of the work of the Anna Maria Samuel Project up to the present day.

This booklet was created for Salem Academy and College's 250th anniversary and adapted from the timeline on the Anna Maria Samuel Project's website, salemacademyandcollege.org/ams.

The Committee on the History of Salem Academy and College, which included faculty, staff, student, alumnae, and trustee representation, was formed in the spring of 2017 to review College orientation traditions and to make recommendations about possible discoveries resulting from the research commissioned by the administration into

the relationship between the institution and slavery. The committee completed its charge in the spring of 2018. Its final recommendations resulted in Salem issuing a formal apology for the use of enslaved labor at the school, joining the Universities Studying Slavery, and creating an ongoing institutional task force, the Commission on Slavery and Its Legacy at Salem Academy and College.

On November 22, 2019, the Commission was renamed the Anna Maria Samuel Project: Race, Remembrance, and Reconciliation. The name change better reflects the scope of the work of the Commission and also honors an enslaved African American student at the Girls School in Salem (1793 to 1795). Anna Maria's father, Johann Samuel, was the first person baptized in Salem's Moravian congregation. Her brothers were well-known musicians in St. Philips Moravian Church, located south of Salem's campus on Church Street. Anyone wishing to know more about Anna Maria Samuel may visit the Academy and College museum in the Single Sisters House.



Salem Academy and College sign

April 22, 1772

Salem Academy and College traces its history to April 1772, when the Moravian community of Salem, North Carolina, founded a school for girls and appointed Sister Elisabeth Oesterlein as its first teacher.

January 5, 1785

Adam Schumacher received permission from the Aeltesten Conferenz (church council) to send Hanna, a 10-year-old enslaved girl, to the Little Girls' School in Salem. If or how long she attended the school is unknown.

April 5, 1786

Single Sisters moved into their newly constructed home on Salem square. Enslaved people worked at the Single Sisters House as early as 1788. An enslaved boy swept the chimney because he was the only person small enough to fit inside. In 1810, the Single Sisters rented an enslaved man named Sam "to serve in their household and management." In 1817, Sam married Betsey, an enslaved woman serving at the Boarding School (now South Hall) next door, and the Single Sisters rented at least two other enslaved men (whose names are unknown) to replace Sam. During the 1820s and 1830s, the Sisters continued to utilize enslaved labor in their household



This building was used as a wash kitchen and shed for the Single Sisters House, courtesy of the Wachovia Historical Society.

operations. Upon his death in 1824, a man named Lewis was "the property of the Single Sisters at Salem." Free African Americans including Christian Samuel, Miles Philippe, and Kelby worked for the Single Sisters.

January 9, 1788

Rudolph Crist, husband of Salem's first teacher, Elisabeth Oesterlein, purchased enslaved potter Peter Oliver. Oliver was a gifted craftsman and bought his own freedom from slavery in 1800. Peter Oliver died on September 28, 1810 and was buried in God's Acre.

1793

In June 1793, at the age of 11, Anna Maria Samuel, an enslaved girl from Bethabara, entered the Older Girls' Choir in Salem and moved into the Single Sisters House. As a member of the choir, she joined with the other Single Sisters in rituals and activities such as lovefeasts, choir meetings, classes, and chores. In 1795, Anna Maria returned to Bethabara. She and her family were freed by the Bethabara congregation in 1797. She died of a fever on February 13, 1798 and is buried in Bethabara's God's Acre.

May 1805

The completion of South Residence Hall marked Salem's shift from a day school to a boarding school. The original building contained classrooms, a dining hall, and lodging space for pupils and teachers in the early nineteenth century. Enslaved individuals may have lived in the school itself or in the 1817 wash house (now the Alumnae House) behind South Hall. Caty, who was owned by the Moravian Church, and a man named Nat, are both known to have worked at the school while they were enslaved in Salem. Ledgers from Salem Academy and College indicate that enslaved labor was used in the laundry from 1810 until at least 1840. Other records indicate that the school continued to rent enslaved individuals for various tasks through the end of the Civil War in 1865.

October 3, 1810

Inspector Abraham Steiner purchased Elisabeth, known as "Betsey," for \$400. Betsey worked in the laundry for the Girls Boarding School until 1817 when she married Sam, an enslaved man working in the Single Sisters House. She may have lived in the Inspector's House, or in the Boarding School, or in its surrounding outbuildings.

1818

Inspector Abraham Steiner wrote a report to the Moravian Synod which detailed the school's willingness to utilize enslaved labor. In his report, Steiner explained: "Experience has shown that two people are necessary for housekeeping. We also know that we cannot get two white people due to the fact such work arises, which here in this region no white person would willingly perform in public. One must have a negress slave."

1823

From 1823 until 1870, Salem Female Academy educated 13 Cherokee students, most of whom came from the Moravian missions at Springplace and Oochgelogy in Georgia. In 1823, sisters Martha and Mary McNair were the first Cherokee

Date	Description	Value	Total
1811 Aug 31	To Fanny J. Deaderick, for an overcharge	45	
	To Cash, for Sundries as per Journal	30	872
	To Interest, on \$500,00 Value of buildings	25	00
	To Laundry Accounts, as per Journal	161	25
	To Keyes Woman Putney, brought over	400	00
	To Profit & Loss, for Balance carried forward	82	722
	To Expenses, for Sundries	20	00
			4,680 30

1811 Ledger showing Betsey, valued at \$400, working in the laundry, courtesy of Salem Academy and College Archives.

students known to have enrolled in the school. Jane Ross, the daughter of John Ross, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, was also a student at Salem beginning in 1835. She left the school to join her family on the Trail of Tears in 1838.



Main Hall, 1858, courtesy of Old Salem Museums & Gardens

1859

Salem Female Academy was growing and in such need of space that Inspector Robert de Schweinitz proposed they could rent extra rooms in the Single Sisters House. As an alternate plan, he suggested that "the Boarding School would lease [Adam Butner's] plantation and his 2 negro men for its own use." This alternative plan never came to fruition but serves as an example of the school's willingness to rent enslaved laborers in the late antebellum period.

1861-1865

The school remained open during the Civil War, with great difficulty. Many "daughters of senators and representatives in the Confederate Congress" were sent to the school during the conflict because "it was thought that no place of refuge could be furnished as safe as Salem."

March 3, 1865

Jane, an enslaved woman owned by Assistant Principal Max Grunert's wife, confessed to "repeatedly attempting to poison her mistress" in order to leave the town of Salem and return to Bethania. Jane and two enslaved men were arrested when the poisoning plot inadvertently killed Grunert's eight-year-old daughter Anna. This is one of several examples of enslaved resistance in Salem.

March 23, 1865

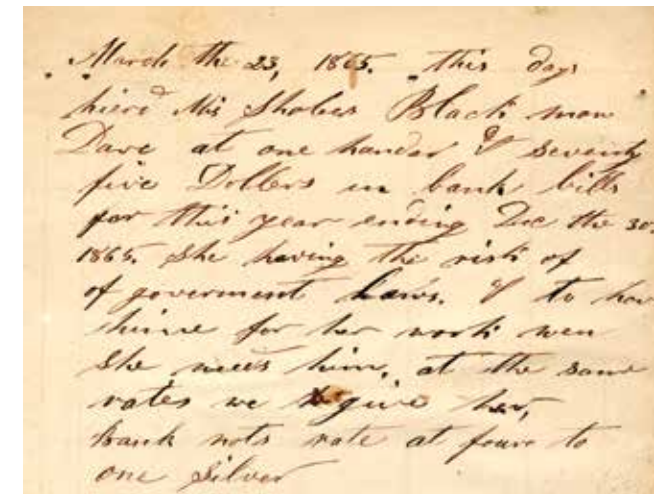
Records show that David Shober, enslaved in the household of Anna Shober, was rented to the school for manual labor, confirming the use of enslaved labor at the school after the Emancipation Proclamation. David Shober continued to appear in the steward account in 1865 and 1866. He died on February 14, 1868 and is buried in St. Philips Moravian Second Graveyard in Winston-Salem. His son, Dr. James Francis Shober was the first known Black physician with a medical degree to practice in North Carolina.

May 21, 1865

Reverend Seth G. Clark, 10th Regiment, Ohio Cavalry, read General Orders 32 from the pulpit of St. Philips Moravian Church, announcing universal freedom from slavery. Located a few blocks down Church Street from Salem Academy and College's Main Hall, St. Philips Moravian Church is the oldest standing African American church in North Carolina.

July 24, 1865

The Provincial Aeltesten Conference, the highest administrative body in Salem, reported that "in connection with the externals of the domestic establishment, all horses except 2 are to be given up and also all of the negroes who had been rented." This decision came two months after the



School financial record, courtesy of Salem Academy and College Archives.

declaration of freedom at St. Philips Moravian Church in Salem. Clearly, many Black workers remained in the service of the school into the summer of 1865, only being released when school officials recognized that there was a "small prospect for any considerable enrollment" due to the "uncertain and poor" financial situation in the South. This time period marks the shift from enslaved labor to working for wages.

1872

One of the most important developments during Reconstruction is the creation of Happy Hill, Winston-Salem's oldest Black neighborhood. In the late 1860s, Black men approached Salem's governing boards about purchasing land in the town of Salem; however, white members of the community expressed concern about living next to Black neighbors and the vote was postponed for several years. Finally, in 1872, the church decided to sell off the land of the former Schumann plantation, a farm across the Salem Creek where several enslaved workers lived during the antebellum period. These \$10 lots became the neighborhood of Liberia, also called Happy Hill. Many residents of Happy Hill were employed by Salem Academy and College in the 1870s and 1880s.

1890

The Salem College catalogue from 1917 boasted that "a force of sixty employees attends to the daily care of buildings, grounds, kitchen, laundry, etc." While this entry does not detail the demographics of the sixty employees, census records and city directories give insight into the segregation of domestic work at the Salem Female Academy. One entry in the alumnae newsletter from 1890 details the opening of Park Hall, a new residence hall that no longer exists. At the

opening ceremony, "a company of 8 stalwart colored men formed a procession between Main and South Halls and the new building...They were transferring the beds, bedding, trunks, etc. of the Park Hall girls to their new homes." This segregation of labor continued into the twentieth century.

1891

The names of many Black employees during this time period are unknown. Occasionally, they were mentioned in school publications. In the alumnae newsletter from 1891, students report that Anderson Smith left the Academy after working there for seven years. He lived on Church Street in Salem during his employment at the Academy. He may have lived in the tenement housing immediately south of the school.

1893

An entry in the alumnae newsletter details the tragic death of Matt Walker, a Black man who worked at the school for 13 years. A well-known man on campus, Walker was in "direct care of many of our large buildings." The students remarked that "all of the pupils knew Matt and the 'wants' which he filled would number tens of thousands." He was killed on the job while operating a new circular saw that had recently been installed in the school woodshed (located near the modern-day Lily Pond).

1894

Zebulon B. Vance, Governor of N.C. during the Civil War and U.S. Senator during Reconstruction, helped Salem keep doors open during the War by securing supplies and food for the institution. Principal Robert DeSchweinitz described Vance as a "close personal friend" of the school due to his assistance in securing supplies and food to help keep the doors open throughout the Civil War. Vance owned enslaved people until at least 1860, but after his death, students memorialized Vance by fundraising for a stained-glass window in his honor.

1895-1917

Tenement housing for African Americans bordered Salem Academy and College in the area where the Babcock and Bahnson residence halls now stand. City directories from the 1890s show that many of the residents of these houses worked in tobacco factories, in laundries, as plasterers, domestics, cooks, barbers, farmers, drivers, laborers, and included the principal of a grade school. By 1917, this street and the African American housing had disappeared, and a new college heating plant was constructed in the vicinity.



Zebulon B. Vance memorial window in the Salem College History Wing.



Salem Academy and College students with a daisy chain at the 1902 commencement ceremony, courtesy of Old Salem Museums & Gardens.

1900

At the turn of the century, many residents of Happy Hill worked for Salem Academy and College doing domestic work. Black employees worked in the kitchen, dining hall, grounds, and laundry. Old Salem researcher Mel White interviewed former Happy Hill resident Mr. Paul Bitting for

the 1998 Across the Creek museum exhibit. White wrote: "Even some of the employees' children found jobs; Paul Bitting remembers that the girls hired him and his friends Charlie Sheeks, Pike Page, and Fred Burl, to pick daisies so that the girls could have daisy chains for graduation. They got the job through Bitting's mother, who worked in the laundry." The exhibit also tells a story of Happy Hill residents attending Bible school at St. Philips in the 1890s, but "they would sometimes run into the "mean old man" in charge of the Salem College grounds who made them go the long way around." The identity of this man is unknown.

October 3, 1905

In 1903, the James B. Gordon Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy began a movement to place a Confederate monument in Court House Square in Winston-Salem. The monument was unveiled on October 3, 1905, with white supremacist Alfred Waddell (known for his role in the Wilmington Riot of 1898) giving the dedication speech. Dr. Henry T. Bahnson of Salem hosted the ceremony. Salem students were given the day off from classes to attend the unveiling.

1913

The United Daughters of the Confederacy unveiled the Silent Sam Confederate monument at UNC Chapel Hill. White supremacist Julius Carr gave the dedication speech. A group of women representing Salem attended the dedication of "Silent Sam," including three alumna faculty members and four students.

1914

After the success of the Vance Memorial window fundraising campaign, students considered the possibility of creating a stained-glass window dedicated to Confederate General Stonewall Jackson. Students and alumnae had a special interest in Jackson since his widow, Mary Anna Morrison Jackson, had attended the Academy from 1847-1849 and was one of its most famous graduates. She returned in 1914 to receive an honorary degree from Salem College. Students expressed the "consideration [they] felt for her late distinguished husband;" however, a memorial to Stonewall Jackson was never completed.



Salem faculty and students in period costume, holding banners with important dates in Salem's history, courtesy of North Carolina Collection Photographic Archives, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

1922

Clewell Residence Hall was completed. Named for Alice Wolle Clewell (wife of Salem Academy and College's 11th president John Clewell), the building was constructed behind the Single Sisters House. Photographs show Black men working on the construction of the building. It is unclear if these men worked for the school or for a construction company.



Laundry being hung behind the Clewell residence hall, where Clewell patio is today. Many Black women are listed in city directories as working in the laundry during the 1920s and 1930s. Courtesy of Salem Academy and College Archives.

1925

Bahnson infirmary was built on the site where African American tenement housing once stood. Bahnson infirmary was named in honor of Dr. Henry T. Bahnson, a Confederate soldier who was captured at the Battle of Gettysburg and held prisoner in Baltimore for six months before returning home to Salem and embarking upon the attainment of his medical license. Bahnson served as the Academy and College physician for several years before his death in 1917. The building is still in operation as the Bahnson Residence Hall for upperclassmen at Salem College.

1930

Louisa Wilson Biting Residence Hall was completed. A Salem College alumna, Louisa married Joseph Biting in 1858. According to North Carolina Slave Schedules in 1860, Joseph Biting enslaved 75 people on his tobacco plantation near the Yadkin river. In 1898, Louisa helped found the James B. Gordon chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in Forsyth County and was heavily involved in erecting the Confederate monument in downtown Winston in 1905. Louisa's daughter, Kate Biting Reynolds, financed the Biting Residence Hall and named it for her mother. She later helped finance the Kate Biting Reynolds Memorial Hospital for African Americans in East Winston Salem.

1936

Residents of Happy Hill crossed Salem Creek to get to their jobs at Salem Academy and College. Crossing the creek was difficult and unsafe. Happy Hill resident Wade Biting Sr. advocated for the construction of a bridge to make the journey easier for residents, including his wife Josephine who worked in the laundry at Salem Academy and College. In 2021, the Winston-Salem City Council voted to rename the bridge in Wade Biting Sr.'s honor.

1937

Salem Academy and College built a new library on the corner of South Church and West Streets. The library was constructed using bricks from well-known Winston Salem brickmaker George H. Black. Mr. Black's bricks can also be found in Old Salem and Colonial Williamsburg. In 1972, the library was moved ninety feet south and renamed for Salem Academy and College President Dale H. Gramley. Patrice Black Davis, George H. Black's great-granddaughter, graduated from Salem College in 1989 and currently serves on the Salem Academy and College Board of Trustees.



George Black showing off bricks used in the restoration of the Salem Tavern, courtesy of Old Salem Museums & Gardens.



Rev. Alma Boyd speaks at the 2017 Black History Month celebration hosted by BADU, Black Americans Demonstrating Unity, courtesy of Salem Academy and College.

1972

Rev. Alma Boyd graduated from Salem College, the first African American to graduate from the College. The Salem College Class of 2017 honored Rev. Boyd by dedicating their class gift to her trailblazing achievement. The gift, a portrait of Rev. Boyd, hangs in the Salem Academy and College student center.

April 2017

College students participated in a multi-day sit-in protest in Main Hall in part to raise concerns about the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the institution's founding narrative. These questions prompted the school to begin actively researching its history with slavery and ultimately led to the establishment of the Anna Maria Samuel Project.

2017

Salem Academy and College hired Dr. Grant P. McAllister, an Associate Professor with the Department of German and Russian at Wake Forest University, to conduct research to find evidence of either enslaved or free African American students at the school from 1772 to 1861 and to determine whether the institution had purchased or leased enslaved people during the period from 1772 to 1861. The result of Dr. McAllister's research demonstrates both the use of enslaved labor during the school's history until the Civil War as well as the acceptance of African American students at the school prior to 1793.

May 2017

The Committee on the History of Salem Academy and College, created by the President, reviewed orientation and Founders Day traditions and made recommendations in response to Dr. McAllister's report. The Committee completed its work in 2018 but recommended establishing a permanent commission to continue similar work. This new commission became the Anna Maria Samuel Project.

October 2017

The Salem Academy and College Board of Trustees voted to join the consortium Universities Studying Slavery (USS). The consortium "allows participating institutions to work together as they address both historical and contemporary issues dealing with race and inequality in higher education and in university communities as well as the complicated legacies of slavery in modern American society."

February 2018

C-SPAN showcased Salem Academy and College history and highlights during a weeklong visit to Winston-Salem. Michelle Hopkins Lawrence, Academy History teacher and Co-Chair of the Anna Maria Samuel Project, was interviewed about the history of the Single Sisters in Salem.



Inside the Single Sisters House Museum

April 2018

Salem Academy and College apologized "with profound remorse for the use of enslaved labor" at the school.

October 2018

Martha Hartley, Director of Moravian Research at Old Salem Museums & Gardens, presented a lecture on campus titled "The Hidden Town Project: To Research and Reveal History of Enslaved and Free Africans and African Americans in Salem, North Carolina." This event was part of the continuing

process of learning about the school's past connections to slavery and strengthening its ties to the local community as Salem Academy and College approached its 250th anniversary.



2020

The Anna Maria Samuel Project recommended the installation of historical signage at the Inspector's House, South Hall, and the Single Sisters House to mark the presence of enslaved and free African Americans on campus during the antebellum period. The Anna Maria Samuel Project also convened a special subcommittee to update the Single Sisters House Museum. These projects were completed in 2021 in preparation for Salem Academy and College's 250th anniversary.

