

FIRST VOICE (male):

They call me Yarrow now. My name in Guinea was Diallo, but the people here couldn't pronounce that name and called me Yarrow instead. I was just 16 when I came as a slave, but could read and write in Arabic and followed the teachings of Mohammed. Even here, I read the Quoran and pray to Mecca twice a day. I don't eat the meat of pigs or drink whiskey. It was wrong for them to make me a slave, but I made the best of it and through hard work and faith I was able to win my freedom and make a good life for myself and my family. After forty-five years as a slave, I made a deal with my master; he said that if I made the bricks for his new house in Georgetown he would set me free. Well I did that, but he died before he could free me. His wife kept his promise and freed me anyway. Not all slaves were so lucky. Before they ever freed me, I was able to make enough money to purchase my son's freedom; his mother had died as a slave and I wanted him to live with me. My son Aquilla wasn't truly free, though, until I was free too. I guess they didn't trust me. In my life I worked hard and learned how to make my way in America. I was a brickmaker mostly, but also made nets and baskets and did whatever else I could to make money. I bought my own house in Georgetown and earned and lost two fortunes before I learned about banks and that they were a safer place to keep your money than with people who could steal it. By the end of my time, I was known and respected by many and even had two portraits painted of me, one by the very famous Mr. Peale.

SECOND VOICE (female):

The stories of enslaved African Americans have often been lost. Yarrow Mamout died in 1823, but his two portraits and personal story provide a rare glimpse into the lives of enslaved African Americans in Montgomery County. Yarrow's story of slavery to freedom is unusual, but not

unheard of. In 1810, at the peak of slavery in the county, only about half of the African American population was enslaved.

To learn more about the life of Yarrow Mamout, slavery, and African American history in Montgomery County go to www.montgomeryconnections.org.