FINDING ISARIAH:

DIGITAL APPROACHES TO NORTH CAROLINA SLAVERY

by

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A master’s thesis submitted to the Graduate Faculty in Liberal Studies in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts, The City University of New York

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This manuscript has been read and accepted for the Graduate Faculty in Liberal Studies in satisfaction of the thesis requirement for the degree of Master of Arts.

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ABSTRACT

Finding Isariah: Digital Approaches to North Carolina Slavery

by

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Finding Isariah is imagined as a comprehensive digital collection of free-to use resources on North Carolina slavery. While serving as a home for bibliographic and statistical material, its main component will be a relational database linking together various repositories of knowledge on enslaved persons living in in the state before the Civil War. For my thesis project, I will be completing a pilot version of Finding Isariah. Focusing upon a single township in 1860, the goal of this pilot is to show how creative approaches to the study of slavery cannot only encourage, facilitate and improve scholarship on North Carolina, but on the American South as a whole. The project takes its name from my third great grandmother, Isariah Wood, whose experiences as a slave in antebellum Craven County, NC initially inspired its creation.

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I. INTRODUCTION