

Slavery on the Main Street of Deerfield - 1752

This is a "1752 snapshot" of slavery on the main street of Deerfield. I estimate the total population on Deerfield's main street as about 300 in 1752. The map below gives my best estimate (based on a variety of sources: tax lists, fragments of tax lists, church records, wills, letters, store accounts, inventories, a few secondary sources such as Sheldon's *History of Deerfield*, etc.) of who the slaves were and to whom they belonged. I show 21 slaves (7% of the total population), belonging to 12 different families. For lot numbers, etc., see McGowan & Miller, *Family & Landscape*, 1996. Numbers in { } are modern street numbers of sites where enslaved African-Americans lived in 1752. The map shows all current buildings on the main street (with street numbers of the slave sites), and two other approximate sites where no building now stands: Elijah Williams's store and Abijah Prince's home.

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Jenny [1718 (?)-1808]
 Cato [1738(?)-1825]
 Titus [1725(?) -]
 (Reverend Jonathan Ashley [1712-1780],
 Deerfield's minister from 1732-1780, lot 2 {129A}.
 Now Historic Deerfield's "Ashley House",
 approximately as it was during the 1700s.)

Cesar
 (Lt. Jonathan Hoyt [1688-1779], lots 4-5-6, {113}.
 Now the "David Dickinson House", built ca 1780.)

Ishmael
 (Thomas Dickinson [1718-1814],
 lot 8 {99}. House built ca 1752.)

"Our poor negro girl"
 (Dr. Thomas Williams [1718-1775], lot 9 {93}.
 House from mid-1700s, remodeled in early 1800s.)

Two male slaves?
 (Elijah Williams [1712-1771]'s store, east end
 of the "ministry lot", west side of common. In
 1753, Elijah (son of Reverend John Williams),
 was in his father's 2nd house, built ca 1707 when
 John Williams returned from Canada.)

Cemetery

Humphrey
 Cesar
 Phillis
 (Timothy Childs [1686-1776], lot 15S {43}.
 The present "Champney House" - which has
 been moved a bit - may be the one that
 Timothy Childs built after a 1730 fire.)

Cesar
 Mesheck
 (Ebenezer Hinsdale, [1707-1763], lots
 40-41-42, {128}. Now Historic
 Deerfield's "Hinsdale-Williams House",
 extensively remodeled 1816+.)

Routes 5 & 10

Prince
 (Joseph Barnard [1717-1785], lots 31-32 {72}.
 Now "The Manse" - many changes since 1752.)

Abijah Prince [1706(?) - 1794]
 (Free black. Probably lived to the
 east of Routes 5 & 10).

Cesar
 Lucy Terry [1724(?) - 1821]
 (Ebenezer Wells [1691-1758], lot 26 {52}.
 Now Historic Deerfield's "Wells-Thorn
 House", built 1720(?) - 1751.)

Cesar
 (Samuel Childs [1679-1756], lot 24
 {40}. Present house built in 1872.)

"Negro wench and two children"
 (Samuel Dickinson [1687-1761], lot 23 {36}. Present house
 built in 1857. The name of the "wench" may be **Fortune**,
 and one of the children may be (yet another) **Cesar**.)

(Daniel Arms [1719-1784], lot 21S {22}. Present house built in 1872.)

0.5 miles

0.4

0.3

0.2

0