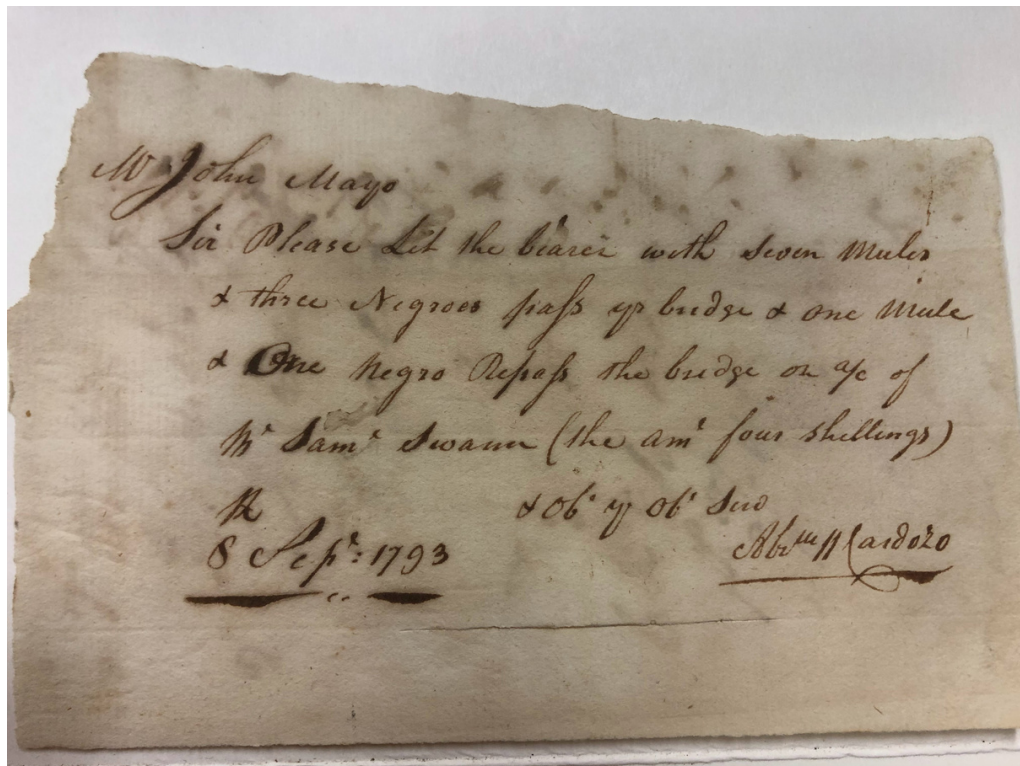


COLLECTIONS IN THE CLASSROOM

Mayo Bridge Pass from Abraham Cardozo, 1793



ERA

Late 18th century,
Building America

THEMES

Federal Richmond, Urban
Slavery, Industrialization

CITATION INFORMATION

Pass for the Mayo Bridge,
September 8, 1793, Abraham
Cardozo, The Valentine.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. In this note, the writer, Abraham Cardozo, is giving permission for three men to cross into Richmond and for one of them to return. Why do you think these men were traveling into Richmond and why is only one person returning?

CONTEXT

The Mayo Bridge, built in 1780, was the first bridge that allowed the villages on the southside of the James to access Richmond. This rudimentary toll bridge was operated by James Mayo and was prone to breaking and being washed away. This pass is part of the Valentine's Mayo Bridge papers and provides insight into the system of urban slavery post Revolutionary War. While the individuals who are given permission to cross the bridge are not named, they may have been enslaved. At this time in Richmond, enslaved individuals had to carry written permission like this one - which allowed them to move throughout the city. See the transcription below.

Mr. John Mayo

Sir please let the bearer with seven mules + three negroes --pass up bridge + one mule + one Negro repass the bridge on a/c of Mr. Sam'l Swann (the am' 4 shillings)

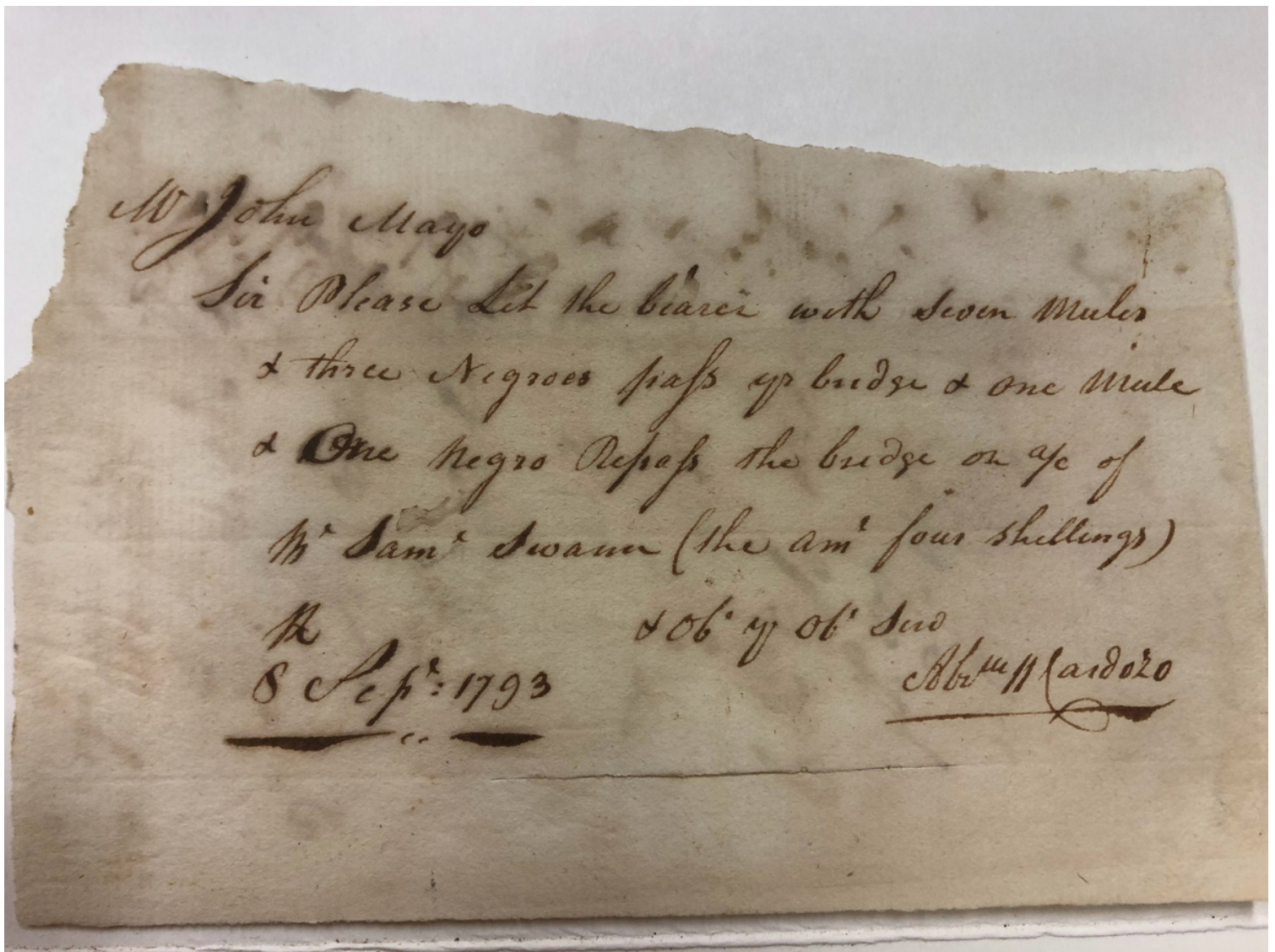
Abrahm Cardozo

8th of Sept 1793

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Pass for the Mayo Bridge, September 8, 1793, Abraham Cardozo, The Valentine.

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