***Maps***

It helps to first work out exactly where the place or places mention in an advertisement are located. For example, an advertisement in the *Maryland Gazette* (Sept. 13, 1759) reported that a “new Negro man” named Sambo had escaped from Jasper Mauduit who lived near Bladensburg in Prince George’s County, Maryland. Start by looking for Bladensburg, Maryland on Google maps: zoom out, and see where Bladensburg is located (about 7 miles north-east of Washington DC, and about 30 miles south-west of Baltimore).

You can then use the various collections of early maps below to find maps of Maryland and of Prince George’s County, and see exactly what the area and its roads were like.

You can also do google searches like the following:

Search for: Bladensburg AND Maryland AND “Jasper Mauduit”

This will sometimes bring up references and documents that will give you a little more information about the place: in this case I discovered that Jasper Mauduit had two small pieces of land (named Mauduit’s Discovery and Makeshift) in or near Bladensburg. If you find a detailed map of Prince George’s County in the 1760s pr 1770s you may even find these small plots of land/plantations.

*Online sources of maps*

USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer

<https://livingatlas.arcgis.com/topoexplorer/index.html>

Enables you to find a place, and then explore historical maps of that location.

The John Carter Brown Library, digitized 17th and 18th century maps. <https://jcb.lunaimaging.com/luna/servlet/JCBMAPS~1~1>

* Click on ‘Browse’ and then select ‘where’ (e.g. North America) and then click on ‘when’ and select a date (e.g. 1777). You can then browse through the available maps.
* Alternatively, enter a place in the search box in the top right corner (e.g. Virginia), and then either browse through the results or select a date under when.

Library of Congress, digitized maps.

<https://www.loc.gov/maps/collections>

Change from ‘Collections with Maps’ to ‘Search Maps’.

* Enter a place is the search box in the top right corner (e.g. Virginia), and then select a date range (e.g. 1700-1799). Then browse through the results.

David Rumsey Map Collection, digitized maps.

<https://www.davidrumsey.com>

* Enter search term in search box in top right corner (e.g. Virginia).
* Then select dates under ‘when’

New York Public Library, maps in Digital Collections

<https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/divisions/lionel-pincus-and-princess-firyal-map-division>

* Enter place in keywords search box in top right corner (e.g. Virginia)
* Then enter dates in date range (e.g. 1760 to 1800) to narrow search

Osher Map Library, digitized maps

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps>

* Click on advanced search, and enter place (e.g. Virginia) in keyword box, and then dates (e.g. 1760 to 1800) in date boxes.

The King’s Topographical Collection, British Library.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/britishlibrary/albums/72157716220271206>

A collection of 15,000 maps and drawings produced between 1500 and 1824.

The British Library, georeferenced maps allowing overlay of historical maps on current maps.

<https://britishlibrary.oldmapsonline.org/start>