

## Portsmouth, NH

11. In 1797, Ona married John Staines and together they had three children: Nancy Staines, Eliza Staines, and Will Staines. She outlived her entire family.



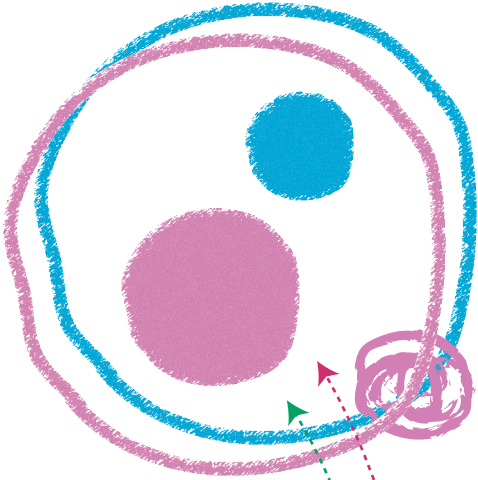
10. Portsmouth was unlike any place Ona Judge had ever lived. It was small compared to Philadelphia and New York City. She took a job as a laborer, the work was hard, and she was completely alone.

12. "Her life had been difficult, but for fifty-two years Ona Staines never lost faith in herself. Every day that the fugitive opened her eyes, she knew one thing to be true: she would 'rather suffer death' than return to slavery." Ona died on February 25, 1848, in Greenland, NH, she was 75 years old.

## New York, NY

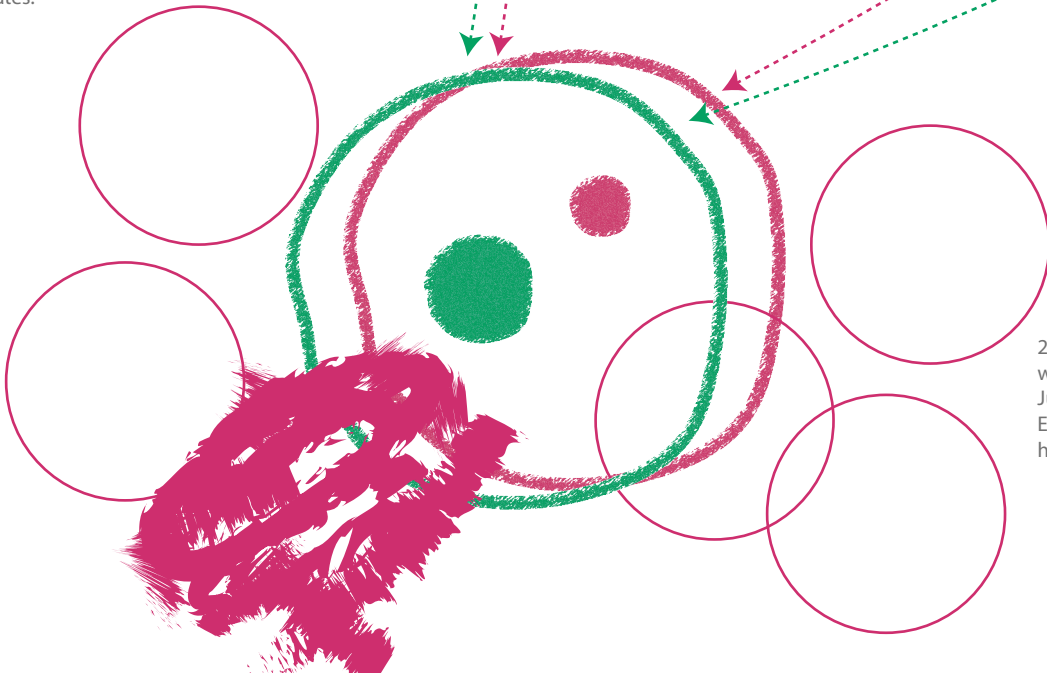
4. On April 30, 1789, at Federal Hall in New York City, the first capital of the United States, Washington took the presidential oath of office... [H]e said, "I, George Washington, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

5. We can only assume Ona's transition from Mount Vernon to the President's house in New York City was difficult, she left no record. She was thrust into the national spotlight and was charged with caring for Martha Washington and anticipating her every need.



6. Enslaved individuals who lived in New York City had to hide in plain sight. The city with its many residents and visitors presented dangers ranging from enslavers to potential attackers. Ona had to navigate this dangerous space nearly every day.

3. In 1789, the United States held its first presidential election and George Washington was unanimously elected president of the United States.



7. There were individual abolitionist actors of note furthering the cause in Philadelphia. One was the co-founder of the Free African Society and the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Richard Allen, who was a religious leader in Philadelphia's Black community. We are not certain, but he may have aided in Ona's

8. Just like she did in New York City, Ona was forced to serve Martha. She had to dress her, run errands for her, and serve her every need. Ona's time and existence were not her own.

9. Ona realized that she was going to be given as a wedding gift to the temperamental, nineteen-year-old Elizabeth Parke Custis, Martha's step-grandchild, and her husband who had a less than honorable reputation. Ona knew that the small moments of independence she enjoyed in Philadelphia would be gone forever. She knew that a lifetime of enslavement and possible sexual assault waited for her if she did not act. Ona still had no control of her life and future. Her service to the Washington's meant nothing to them. On Saturday, May 21, 1796, Ona Judge escaped from the President's house, hid, received support from the city's free Black community, and eventually sailed to Portsmouth to start a new life.

2. Ona, like her siblings, had a surname. It was her father's who was named Andrew Judge. Andrew was a white, indentured Englishman who abandoned Betty and his other children.

## Mount Vernon, VA

1. Ona's mother was named Betty, she born around 1738, and was a dower enslaved woman. Which meant that she was "property" owned by the Custis Estate. If the estate was devalued, Virginia law required the estate to be made financially whole.



## Ona Judge: Freedom Regained

### How to Read This Map

This map is about space, relationships to place, and the celebration of non-traditional power dynamics. Ona Judge's story and movements are shown through a series of quotes and shapes that trace her journey from Mount Vernon to Portsmouth. The map's symbology shows the key features of her journey, and the colors indicate the frequency of Judge's and George Washington's movements. The text, read in numerical order, guide the viewer through her quest to escape enslavement and gain her freedom.

### Why Was This Map Made

Judge, an enslaved women who was controlled by George and Martha Washington, is a seminal figure in American History. In 1796, Judge slipped out of the president's house in Philadelphia to begin a new life of freedom. This map shows her movements between Mount Vernon, where she was born enslaved; New York and Philadelphia, the new capitols of the United States where she served Martha; and Portsmouth to begin a life of freedom after hiding in Philadelphia and then clandestinely sailing North. We know her story because before her death in 1848, she allowed herself to be interviewed. Her empowering story was later celebrated with the release of Erica Armstrong Dunbar's *Never Caught: The Washington's Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave* in 2017.

