

## **Black Georgetown Community History Project: Family Heirlooms Handout**

### **Questions to think about and research when looking at material culture objects:**

- Who purchased the object?
- Who used the object and how?
- Who created the object?
- Where and when was it made?
- What skills or knowledge were required to make or use the object?
- What can the object tell us about the identity of the maker and the owner?

### **Resources for caring for family heirlooms:**

[Minnesota Historical Society Conservation Podcast](#)- podcast with advice for caring for various objects.

[The Family Curator](#)- top 5 tips for saving your family heirlooms.

[American Library Association](#)- “Dear Donia” column- people write in and a preservationist gives advice. Many topics included from family bibles to purses to steamer trunks.

### **Resources for identifying and naming your heirlooms when seeking assistance from a professional:**

[Nomenclature for Museum Cataloging](#) – The naming and categorizing system used by museums throughout North America.

[The Getty Museum Art and Architecture Thesaurus](#) – A large database which can help in narrowing down the time period, location, creator, and other identifiers of a piece.

[Victoria and Albert Museum Collections](#) Online collections of the museum which can help in narrowing down the time period, location, creator, and other identifiers of a piece.

### **Contact information and websites for the panelists:**

[The Black Craftspeople Digital Archive](#)

Dr. Tiffany Momon, Founder of the Black Craftspeople Digital Archive:  
[tiffanymomon@gmail.com](mailto:tiffanymomon@gmail.com)

[George Washington’s Mount Vernon](#)

Jessie MacLeod, Assistant Curator at Mount Vernon: [jmacleod@mountvernon.org](mailto:jmacleod@mountvernon.org)

[Arlington House](#)

Kim Robinson, Curator at the George Washington Memorial Parkway, National Park Service:  
[Kimberly\\_Robinson@nps.gov](mailto:Kimberly_Robinson@nps.gov)

