

# The Georgetown Slavery Archive

## Wikipedia Editing Workshop



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WIKIPEDIA  
The Free Encyclopedia



WIKIMEDIA  
DC

Presented by  
The Georgetown Slavery Archive  
&  
Wikimedia District of Columbia

February 2, 2018 | Washington DC

2PM-7PM

# Agenda

- Overview: Georgetown Archive
  - Housekeeping: Wifi, Wiki event page
  - Introduction: What is Wikipedia?
  - Wikipedia and gender
  - Basics and policies
  - Create and username/Sign-in
  - Article anatomy
  - Let's practice
  - Other ways to edit
  - Let's edit!
-

# Thank you

## The Georgetown Slavery Archive



# Housekeeping

**Navigate to the wiki event page.**

**Go to Wikipedia.org and enter the following shortcut into the search bar.**

**WMDC-GSA**

**Bookmark this page. We will use it throughout the day.**

# Introduction

# Wikipedia: the 21st-century encyclopedia



*“Imagine a world in which every single person on the planet is given free access to the sum of all human knowledge. That's what we're doing.”*

-Jimmy Wales, co-founder, Wikipedia

# About us

Free as in beer, Free as in freedom ... gratis et libre

Created and edited by volunteers

Overseen by nonprofit Wikimedia Foundation

All edits and versions recorded forever (revision history)

5+ million articles, 270+ languages

75k active users/month, 11k very active users/month





# Free...

All content freely licensed without restrictions

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Public Domain

Written content or image/video/audio uploads

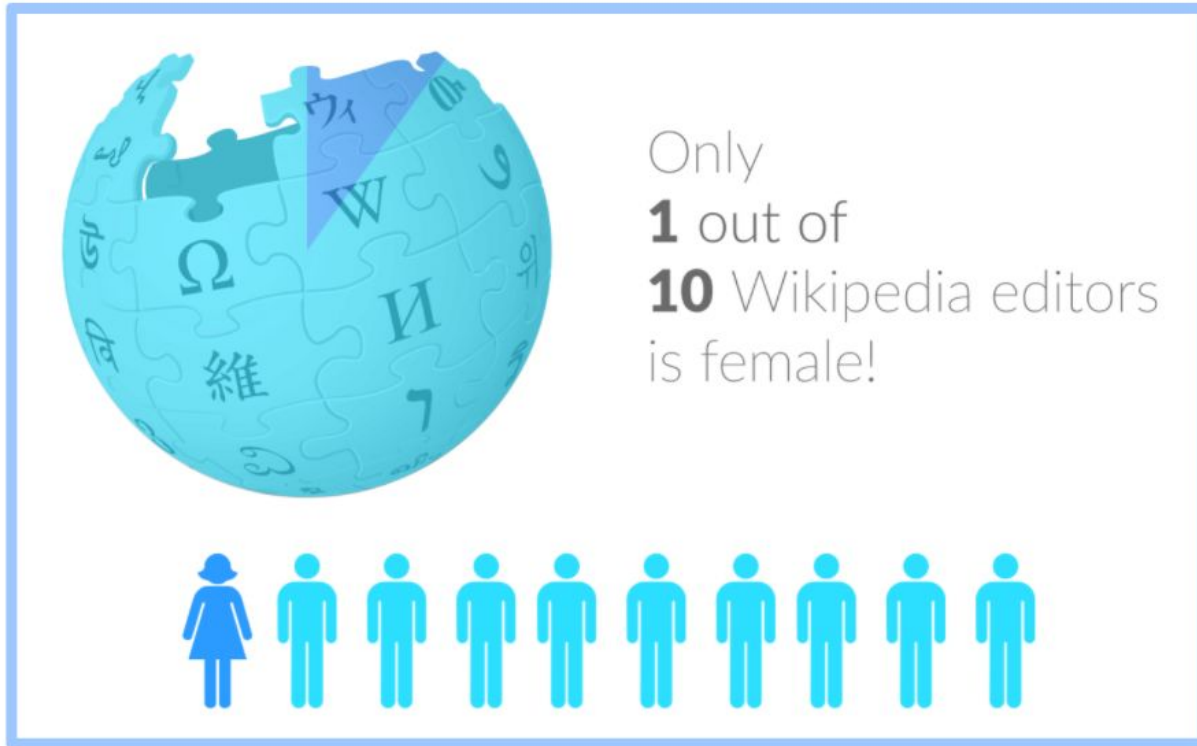
Wikimedia Commons - multimedia repository  
[commons.wikimedia.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org)

Commercial re-use is absolutely allowed. Google,  
publishers...



# Wikipedia and Gender

# Editor gender gap? Unsilence the silent



# Content gender gap? Make the invisible visible

## Percentage of women's biographies

1957	November 2014	May 2017
<b>3.6%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>16.97%</b>
Ramón Armando Rodríguez. <i>Diccionario Biográfico, Geográfico e Histórico de Venezuela</i>	English language Wikipedia	English language Wikipedia

# How Can We Fix This?

- Engagement through edit-a-thons, training opportunities and [Wikiprojects like Women in Red](#).
- Ideal Partners Are: Nonprofits\*, colleges/universities, government entities and beyond

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**\*75% of nonprofit employees are female.  
These nonprofits include educational, scientific and literary organizations. It's time to engage these 'gatekeepers'.**

\*Source The White House Project's 2009 report, *Benchmarking Women's Leadership*,

# Basics and Policies

# Wikis

- A website where anyone can edit any page at any time
- Meant to be "quick"
- Remembers all versions (nothing ever destroyed)
- Hyperlinks between pages

# Wikipedia policies

- **Neutral Point of View** - written so all sides can agree
- **Notability** - significant independent sources -> importance
- **Verifiability** - Using reliable sources to reference information
- **No original research** - point to existing scholarship
- **Assume good faith** - start with congenial spirit
- **Conflicts of interest** - disclose and abide by terms of service



# Create A Username/Sign-in

# WIKIPEDIA

The Free Encyclopedia

**English**

5 550 000+ articles

**日本語**

1 091 000+ 記事

**Deutsch**

2 142 000+ Artikel

**Español**

1 381 000+ artículos

**Italiano**

1 409 000+ voci

**Português**

988 000+ artigos

**Русский**

1 447 000+ статей

**Français**

1 947 000+ articles

**中文**

986 000+ 條目

**Polski**

1 260 000+ hasel



EN ▾

🌐 Read Wikipedia in your language ▾

Read

View source

View history

Search Wikipedia



- Arts
- Biography
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Science
- Society
- Technology
- **All portals**

9 BC) was a queen of [Seleucid](#) daughter of [Ptolemy VIII](#) and became the queen of Egypt in 115 to her brother, King [Ptolemy IX](#), King [Ptolemy X](#). In 103 BC, in alliance with the Seleucid ruler

## In the news

- The British construction and services company [Carillion](#) goes into [compulsory liquidation](#).
- The oil tanker *MV [Sanchi](#)* sinks with the loss of all 32 crew eight days after [colliding with another ship](#).



Mudflow damage in Santa Barbara County

## Create account

Username

*Enter your username*



[\(help me choose\)](#)

Password

*Enter a password*



Confirm password

*Enter password again*



Email address (optional)

*Enter your email address*

To edit this page, please enter the words that appear below in the box ([more info](#)):

CAPTCHA Security check

de1jpw0z

[Refresh](#)

*Enter the text you see on the image*

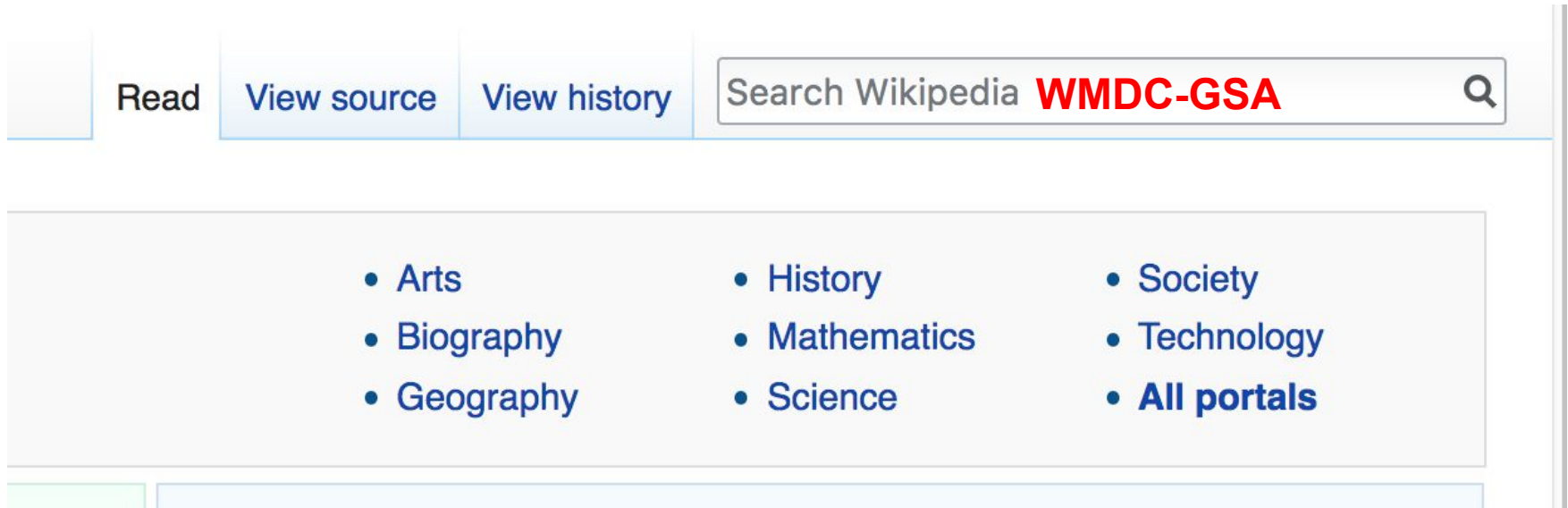
Can't see the image? [Request an account](#)

# 1. Create account and login

<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Special:CreateAccount>

- Individuals only; no institutional, shared accounts
- Advantages
  - Signals membership in community
  - Facilitates discussion
  - Preferences and privacy

## 2. Navigate to the wiki event page



The image shows a screenshot of a Wikipedia page. At the top, there are three navigation tabs: "Read", "View source", and "View history". To the right of these tabs is a search bar with the text "Search Wikipedia" and "WMDC-GSA" entered. Below the search bar, there is a list of categories and portals, including Arts, Biography, Geography, History, Mathematics, Science, Society, Technology, and All portals.

Read View source View history Search Wikipedia **WMDC-GSA**

- Arts
- Biography
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Science
- Society
- Technology
- **All portals**

# Wikipedia:Meetup/DC/Georgetown Slavery Archive Editing Workshop and Edit-a-thon [\[ edit source \]](#)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

[< Wikipedia:Meetup | DC](#)

[Shortcut](#)  
**WMDC-GSA**

*Join us for the...*

## Georgetown Slavery Archive Editing Workshop

Wikipedia is an openly editable resource, meaning that you can improve the quality and accuracy of Wikipedia entries. As one of the web's most visited reference sites, Wikipedia serves as a starting point for visitors who want to learn more about a variety of topics.

In 1838, Jesuit priests sold 272 enslaved people who worked on Jesuit plantations in Southern Maryland. Proceeds from the sale were used to pay a portion of Georgetown University's debts. The Georgetown Slavery Archive was established in 2016 to maintain and share materials related to slavery and the 1838 sale. We will use these materials to edit and create relevant Wikipedia articles. New editors are welcome.

Training will be provided.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. Lunch will be provided.

Laptops are required. Please bring your own. Wikimedia has two laptops to loan. Reserve one by emailing [info@wikimediadc.org](mailto:info@wikimediadc.org).

### When

**February 2, 2018 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM**

# Article anatomy



WIKIPEDIA  
The Free Encyclopedia

- Main page
- Contents
- Featured content
- Current events
- Random article
- Donate to Wikipedia
- Wikipedia store

Interaction

- Help
- About Wikipedia
- Community portal
- Recent changes
- Contact page

Tools

- What links here
- Related changes
- Upload file
- Special pages
- Permanent link
- Page information
- Wikidata item
- Cite this page

Discussion

Edit buttons  
Edit = Visual Editor, Edit Source = Code

Article Talk

Read Edit Edit source **View history** More Page TW

Search Wikipedia

# Freedom suit

Lead paragraphs

Main photo or Infobox placement

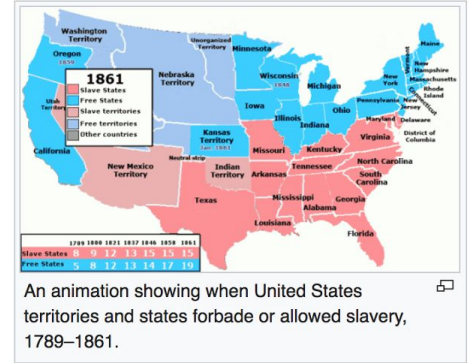
A B-class article from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Freedom suits** were lawsuits in the Thirteen Colonies and the United States filed by **enslaved people** against slaveholders to assert claims to freedom, often based on descent from a free maternal ancestor, or time held as a resident in a free state or territory.

The right to petition for freedom descended from English **common law** and allowed people to challenge their enslavement or indenture. Petitioners challenged slavery both directly and indirectly, even if slaveholders generally viewed such petitions as a means to uphold rather than undermine slavery. Beginning with the colonies in North America, legislatures enacted slave laws that created a legal basis for "just subjection;" these were adopted or updated by the state and territorial legislatures that superseded them after the United States gained independence. These codes also enabled enslaved persons to sue for freedom based on wrongful enslavement.

While some cases were tried during the colonial period, the majority of petitions for freedom were heard during the **antebellum** period in the border or the **Southern United States**. After the American Revolution, most northern states abolished slavery and were considered "free." The United States Congress prohibited slavery in some newly established territories, and some new states were admitted to the union as free states. The rise in travel and migration of masters with slaves between free and slave states resulted in conditions that gave rise to slaves suing for freedom. Many free residency limits for masters who brought slaves into their territory; after that time, the slave would be considered slaves sued for wrongful enslavement after being held in a free state.

ands for suit were that the person was freeborn and illegally held in slavery, or that the person was illegally held because of being descended from a freeborn woman in the maternal line. The principle of *partus sequitur ventrem*, first incorporated into English colonial slavery law by a 1662 statute in Virginia, established that children's status was that of the mother. It was adopted into law by other English colonies, and the states of the United States.



Wikidata

Part of a series on  
**Slavery**



Contemporary [show]



On January 6, 1773, black petitioners submitted the first of five appeals written during the year, asking for a range of rights, to [Governor Hutchinson](#) and the General Court of Massachusetts.<sup>[4]</sup> The petition, written by a slave named Felix, the document petitioned for the freedom and rights of all slaves in the Massachusetts colony. While the tone of the petition is cast in the “unhappy State and Condition” in which enslaved persons are forced to live.<sup>[4]</sup> Abolitionists later published the petition as a pamphlet, along with other abolitionist documents. Felix’s petition expressed the talk of freedom, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness that was circulating around Massachusetts and other colonies before the American Revolution. No record of a response from the [Massachusetts General Court](#) exists. Although slavery was never explicitly abolished in the Massachusetts Constitution after the Revolutionary War, rulings in freedom suits by [Mum Bett](#) and [Quock Walker](#) established that its reproduction was incompatible with slavery, and remaining slaves effectively gained their freedom.

With the outbreak of war, thousands of enslaved persons gained their freedom during the Revolution. Enslaved persons during these years found their freedom through military service, petitions for freedom, and manumission. Many believed that “every man is created equal” and manumitted their slaves.<sup>[citation needed]</sup> By the end of the war, more than 5,000 enslaved African Americans gained their freedom through their military service with the [Continental Army](#) and joined the new America as free men, vastly increasing the number of free black people in the new nation.<sup>[page needed]</sup>

## References [\[edit\]](#)

- <sup>1</sup> <sup>^</sup> <sup>ab</sup> Anne Silver, *Slavery and Freedom in the American Confluence, from the North to the South*, Ph.D. dissertation, Princeton University, 2010, [vii](#).
- <sup>2</sup> <sup>^</sup> Vivier, *The Slave Family in Early New York, 1626-1827* (PhD diss., Columbia University, 2007) [§](#).
- <sup>3</sup> <sup>^</sup> Howell, *The Origin of the Institution of Slavery in the United States: What Causes and Purposes* (Georgia, 1856). [§](#).
- <sup>4</sup> <sup>^</sup> <sup>ab</sup> "Historical Document- Felix's Petition" [§](#). *Africans in America*. Public Broadcasting Service. January 1, 1773.
- <sup>5</sup> <sup>^</sup> <sup>ab</sup> Heather Andrea Williams, *American Slavery: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, 2014 [§](#).
- <sup>6</sup> <sup>^</sup> Peter Kolchin, *American Slavery*, p. 79
- <sup>7</sup> <sup>^</sup> Peter Kolchin (1993), *American Slavery*, pp. 77–78, 81.
- <sup>24</sup> <sup>^</sup> Paul Heinegg, *Free African Americans in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland and Delaware (1995–2005)* [§](#).
- <sup>25</sup> <sup>^</sup> Purcell Guild, June (1936). *Black Laws of Virginia: A Summary of the Legislative Acts of Virginia Concerning Negroes From Earliest Times to the Present*. New York: Negro Universities Press. pp. 63–65.
- <sup>26</sup> <sup>^</sup> "Archives of Maryland, Volume 0105, Page 0249 - Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly, 1796" [§](#). *msa.maryland.gov*. Retrieved 2015-10-23.
- <sup>27</sup> <sup>^</sup> William Bensing Webb, John Wooldridge, *Centennial History of the City of Washington, D.C.* [§](#), Dayton, Ohio: United Brethren Publishing House, 1892
- <sup>28</sup> <sup>^</sup> Sweig, Donald (Oct 1985). "The Importation of African Slaves to the Potomac River, 1732-1772". *The William and Mary Quarterly*. Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture. **42** (4). [JSTOR 1919032](#) [§](#).
- <sup>29</sup> <sup>^</sup> Davis, Damani (Spring 2010). "Quok Walker, Mumbet, and the Abolition of Slavery in

References or notes  
(Inline citations)

## Further reading [ edit | edit source ]

- [Shannon Doherty, \*Slavery On Trial: Law, Abolitionism, and Print Culture\*](#), Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007
- Mary Beth Corrigan (2002). "Imaginary Cruelties? A History of the Slave Trade in Washington, D.C". *Washington History*. **13** (2): 4–27. [JSTOR 40073372](#).
- Jeffrey Brandon Morris; Chris Rohmann. *Calmly to Poise the Scales of Justice: A History of the Courts of the District of Columbia Circuit*.
- Loren Schweninger. *The Southern Debate over Slavery: Volume 2: Petitions to Southern Legislatures, 1775-1867*.
- Edlie L. Wong, *Neither Fugitive nor Free: Atlantic Slavery, Freedom Suits, and the Legal Culture of Travel*, New York University Press, 2009

## External links [ edit | edit source ]

- [Freedom Suits](#), *African-American Life in St. Louis, 1804–1865, from the Records of the St. Louis Courts*, [Jefferson National Expansion Memorial](#), National Park Service.
- ["St. Louis Circuit Court Records"](#), A collection of images and transcripts of 19th century Circuit Court Cases in St. Louis, particularly freedom suits. A partnership of Washington University and Missouri History Museum, funded by an IMLS grant
- ["Hundreds of the descendants of Indians have obtained their freedom:' Freedom Suits in 18th and 19th Century Virginia"](#), Out of the Box blog, Archives at the Library of Virginia, 26 September 2012
- ["Chancery Records Index"](#), Archives at the Library of Virginia, includes approximately 100 freedom suits
- ["O Say Can You See: Early Washington D.C. Law & Society"](#) constructs the social world of early Washington, D.C., especially its multigenerational family networks, by collecting, digitizing, making accessible records and case files between 1800 and 1862.
- <sup>^</sup> [Fede, Andrew \(2011\). \*Roadblocks to Freedom: Slavery in the United States\*. Quid Pro Books.](#)

### Categories

Categories (+): [United States slavery case law](#) (–) (±) | [Legal history of the United States](#) (–) (±) | [Freedom suits in the United States](#) (–) (±)  
| [Slavery in the United States](#) (–) (±) | (+)

# Article history

Article [Talk](#) [Read](#) [Edit](#) [Edit source](#) **View history** [More](#) [Page](#) [TW](#)

## Freedom suit: Revision history

[?](#) [Help](#)

[View logs for this page](#)

Search for revisions

From year (and earlier):  From month (and earlier):  Tag filter:

For any version listed below, click on its date to view it. For more help, see [Help:Page history](#) and [Help:Edit summary](#).  
External tools: [Revision history statistics](#) · [Revision history search](#) · [Edits by user](#) · [Number of watchers](#) · [Page view statistics](#) · [Fix dead links](#)

(cur) = difference from current version, (prev) = difference from preceding version, **m** = minor edit, **→** = section edit, **←** = automatic edit summary

- (newest | oldest) View  (2)
- [\(cur | prev\)](#)  [07:30, 3 November 2017](#) [119.192.180](#) [\(talk\)](#) .. (67,665 bytes) (+2) .. (*→Notable United States cases*) ([undo](#))
  - [\(cur | prev\)](#)  [18:02, 7 October 2017](#) [InternetArchiveBot](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) .. (67,663 bytes) (+75) .. (*Rescuing 0 sources and tagging 1 as dead. #IABot (v1.5.5)*) ([undo](#))
  - [\(cur | prev\)](#)  [10:43, 30 August 2017](#) [Jpbowen](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) **m** .. (67,588 bytes) (+21) .. (*Link*) ([undo](#) | [thank](#))

Date

Editor username

Edit summary

# Talk:Freedom suit [ edit source ]

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

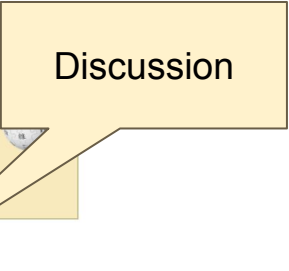
 This article is of interest to the following **WikiProjects**: [hide]

<b>WikiProject United States History</b> (Rated B-class, Low-importance) <span>[show]</span>
<b>WikiProject United States</b> (Rated B-class, Mid-importance) <span>[show]</span>
<b>WikiProject Missouri</b> (Rated B-class, Low-importance) <span>[show]</span>
<b>WikiProject St. Louis</b> (Rated B-class, Low-importance) <span>[show]</span>

A fact from **Freedom suit** appeared on Wikipedia's **Main Page** in the **Did you know?** column on 23 February 2011 (check views). The text of the entry was as follows: "Did you know

- ... that **St. Louis, Missouri**, has the most slave **freedom suits** available to researchers in the **United States**, and 301 cases are searchable **online**?"

A record of the entry may be seen at [Wikipedia:Recent additions/2011/February](#).



## Coverage [ edit source ]

Given the fact that most freedom suits were filed in the antebellum US period, the discussion seems overly focused on an earlier period. I think there needs to be more content related to changing conditions in the country, and how they affected slavery, including the abolition of Indian slavery both in the English colonies and under Spanish rule (the latter affected slaves in Louisiana and west of the Mississippi River.)[Parkwells \(talk\)](#) 10:27 pm, 24 June 2016, Friday (1 year, 7 months, 9 days ago) (UTC−4)

There were numerous suits filed in the western states of Missouri, Louisiana, Mississippi, etc., in addition to those in Washington, DC, reflecting the special conditions of the capital with VA and MD law [Parkwells \(talk\)](#) 5:04 pm, 27 June 2016, Monday (1 year, 7 months, 6 days ago) (UTC−4)

**Let's Practice...**

# Edit w/ Visual Editor = What you see is what you get (mostly)

1. Locate an article
2. Select 'Edit'
3. Unsure if you are in Visual Editor?  
Select the Pencil (red arrow), select 'Visual editing'
4. Edit as you would in a word processor

The screenshot shows the Wikipedia interface for the article "Henry Johnson (Louisiana politician)". The page title is "Henry Johnson (Louisiana politician)" with links for "[ edit | edit source ]". Below the title is a note: "A start-class article from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia". At the bottom, there is a disambiguation note: "For other people named Henry Johnson, see [Henry Johnson \(disambiguation\)](#)".

Annotations include:

- A yellow callout box labeled "Formatting buttons" points to the top toolbar containing options like Paragraph, Bold (A), Link, Quote, List, and Insert.
- A yellow callout box labeled "Edit buttons" points to the top navigation bar, specifically the "Edit" and "Edit source" buttons, with the text "Edit = Visual Editor, Edit Source = Code".
- A red circle highlights the edit menu, which is open to show "Visual editing" (with an eye icon) and "Source editing" (with a code icon). A red arrow points to the pencil icon in the top right corner that opens this menu.

# Cite your sources

1. Place cursor in desired location, select 'Cite'
2. Follow prompts

The screenshot shows the Wikipedia article for Henry Johnson. The 'Cite' button in the editing toolbar is circled in red. A citation dialog box is also circled in red, showing options for 'Automatic', 'Manual', and 'Re-use' citation methods. The 'Manual' tab is selected, and the 'Basic form' option is chosen. The dialog box is positioned over the 'Early life' section of the article.

**Henry S. Johnson** (September 14, 1783 – September 4, 1864) was an attorney and politician, the fifth Governor of Louisiana (1824-1828). He also served as a United States representative and as a United States senator.

### Early life

Johnson was born in Virginia.<sup>[1]</sup> His family is said to have resided in southern Virginia, where Johnson completed academic study and became a member of Virginia bar. He was Episcopalian.<sup>[2]</sup>

### Marriage and family

After passing the bar, Johnson married Ann Plater, a daughter of George P. Charlton Key, who married Roger B. Several years after the United States He was appointed as clerk of the St. Mary Parish in the southwest.

### Political career

**Henry S. Johnson**  
United States Senator from Louisiana  
In office

# Create links between articles

1. Select text
2. Select link icon
3. Select article and 'Done'

(1824-1828). He also served as a [United States representative](#) and as a [United States sen](#)

## Early life

Johnson was born in Virginia.<sup>[1]</sup> His family is said to have resided in southern Virginia, where he studied and became a member of Virginia bar. He was [Episcopalian](#).

## Marriage and family

After passing the bar, Johnson married Elizabeth Rousby Key (who was styled here as "Mrs. Ann Plater, a daughter of [George Plater](#); Elizabeth's father was an uncle of [Francis Scott Key](#) Charlton Key, who married [Roger B. Taney](#). The couple had a family together.

Several years after the United States made the [Louisiana Purchase](#), the Johnsons moved to Louisiana. He was appointed to the [St. Mary Parish](#) court, he was a

## Political career

### 1812 to 1828

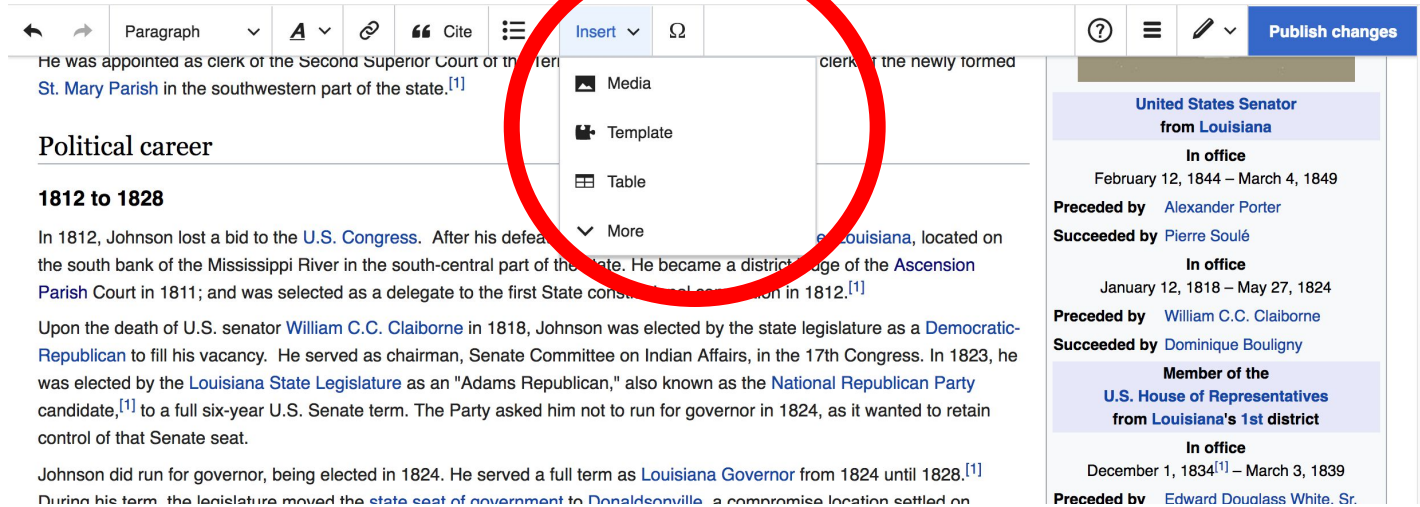
In 1812, Johnson was elected to the southern bank of the [Louisiana Purchase](#) Parish Court in New Orleans. Upon the death of [John M. Clayton](#), he was elected by the [Republican Party](#) to fill the vacancy. He was elected by the [Republican Party](#) to fill the vacancy. He was elected by the [Republican Party](#) to fill the vacancy.

Johnson did run for the [Louisiana Purchase](#) Historic State Park

The screenshot shows the Wikipedia article editor interface. At the top, the 'Link' icon in the toolbar is circled in red. Below the article text, a 'Link' dialog box is open, showing a search for 'Louisiana Purchase'. The search results are also circled in red, with the top result 'Louisiana Purchase' being the most relevant. The 'Done' button in the dialog box is also visible.



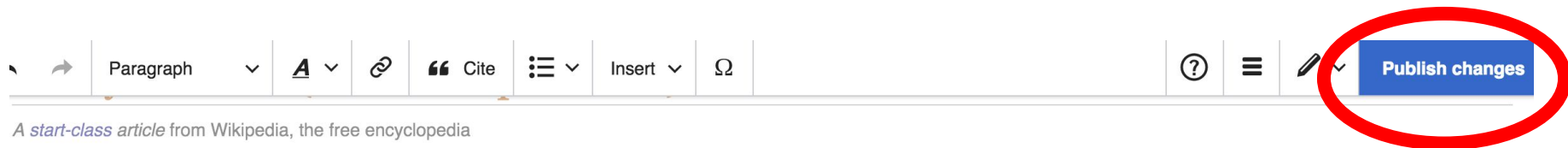
# Adding Photos with Wikimedia Commons



The screenshot shows a Wikipedia article editor interface. The 'Insert' menu is open, and the 'Media' option is highlighted with a red circle. The article text discusses a political career, mentioning 'St. Mary Parish' and 'Louisiana'. The right sidebar shows a summary of the subject's political roles, including 'United States Senator from Louisiana' and 'Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Louisiana's 1st district'.

1. Place cursor
2. Select: 'Insert' + 'Media'
3. Enter search term
4. Select photo + 'Use this image'

# Don't forget to 'Save Changes'



A screenshot of a Wikipedia editor toolbar. The toolbar includes various editing tools such as Paragraph, Bold (A), Link, Cite, List, Insert, and Omega. On the right side, there are icons for help, a menu, and a pencil. The 'Publish changes' button is highlighted with a red circle.

*A start-class article* from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*For other people named Henry Johnson, see [Henry Johnson \(disambiguation\)](#).*

**Henry S. Johnson** (September 14, 1783 – September 4, 1864) was an attorney and politician, the [fifth Governor](#) of [Louisiana](#) (1824-1828). He also served as a [United States representative](#) and as a [United States senator](#).



## Explore linked articles

- Search linked articles for relevant information
- ‘Copy and Paste’ is acceptable between WP articles as long as content is relevant
  - Also a good way to find new sources

# Other Ways to Edit...

# Adding Categories

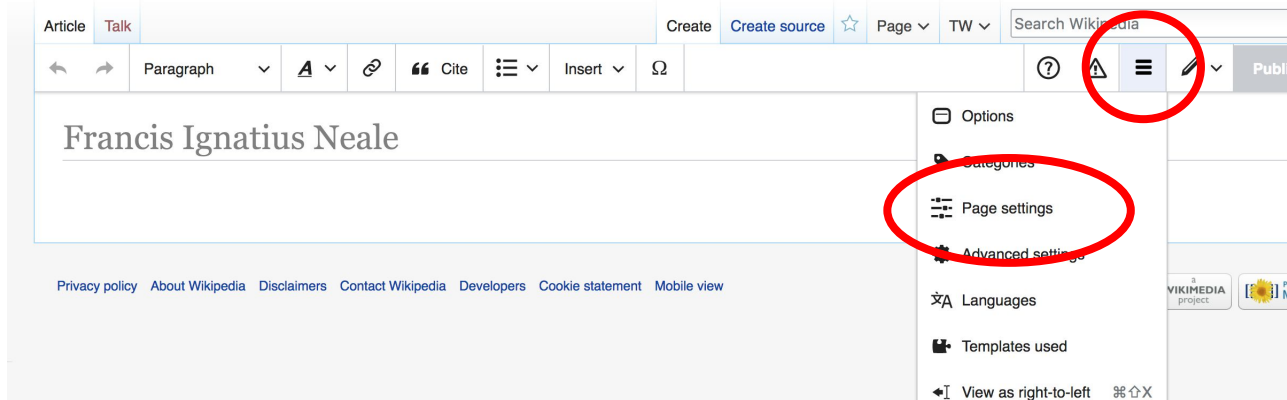
- • Fede, Andrew (2011). *Roadblocks to Freedom: Slavery and Manumission in the United States*. Quid Pro Books.

Categories (+): United States slavery case law (-) (±) | Legal history of the United States (-) (±) | Freedom suits in the United States (-) (±)  
| Slavery in the United States (-) (±) | (+)

1. Select +
2. Type the category name into the field, i.e. **Slavery in the United States**. Only existing categories will appear in the list of options. You may create new categories.
3. Select **'Apply Changes'**

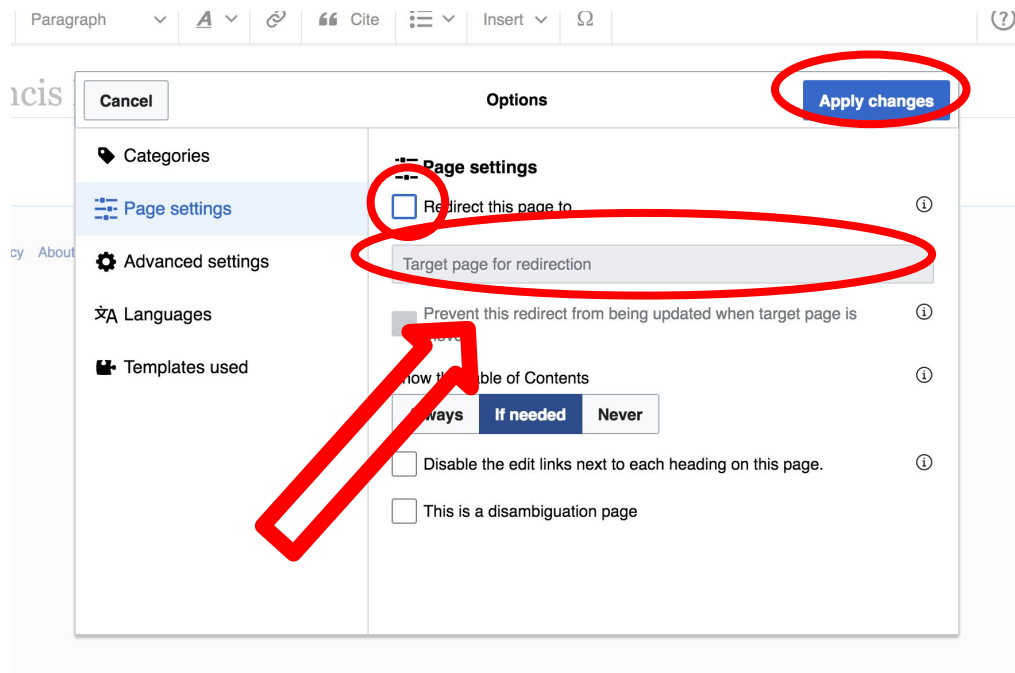
# Redirects

1. Identify target article-Ex. **Francis Neale**
2. Create a new article. Name it the alias.  
**'Francis Ignatius Neale'**
3. To Redirect, select icon w/ three lines.
4. Select Page settings.



# Redirects cont.

4. Select 'Redirect page to'
5. Enter name of the target article (Ex. **Francis Ignatius Neale**)
3. Select Apply changes
4. Select 'Apply changes'



**Let's edit!**