

**SLAVE OWNERS
ARE IN YOUR
POCKET!**

LET THE WORLD KNOW

STAMP Your bills

George Washington

At the age of eleven, he inherited ten slaves; by the time of his death there were 316 slaves at Mount Vernon, including 123 owned by Washington, 40 leased from a neighbor, and an additional 153 "dower slaves" which were controlled by Washington but were the property of his wife Martha's first husband's estate. As on other plantations during that era, his slaves worked from dawn until dusk unless injured or ill and they were whipped for running away or for other infractions. They were fed, clothed, and housed as inexpensively as possible, in conditions that



Alexander Hamilton He may have owned household slaves himself (the evidence for this is indirect; McDonald interprets it as referring to paid employees), and he did buy and sell them on behalf of others. He supported a [gag rule](#) to keep divisive discussions of slavery out of Congress, and he supported the compromise by which the United States could not abolish the slave trade for twenty years.

Andrew Jackson AJ bought his first slave, a young woman, in 1788. By 1794 his business included slave trading and he had purchased at least 16 slaves. In the 1820s Jackson owned about 160 slaves. He did not free his slaves in his will. Perhaps the most controversial aspect of Jackson's presidency was his policy regarding American Indians.[33] Jackson was a leading advocate of a policy known as Indian removal, which involved the ethnic cleansing of several Indian tribes.



The only evidence that US Grant owned slaves is a document he signed in 1859 freeing one, William Jones. However, Grant certainly had some control over and use of slaves his father-in-law gave his wife.

Benjamin Franklin was a slaveholder for most of his life. The enslaved Africans who are mentioned in Franklin's correspondence include Peter, Jemima, Othello (who died young), King, and George. While he wrote in his 1757 will "that my Negro Man Peter, and his Wife Jemima, be free after my Decease,"



Is it legal to write on or mark currency?

From the Where's George? Web-site where people stamp bills to track.

The law defines 'illegal' defacement as defacement that renders bills unfit to be re-issued. For the legal details from the *U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing*, "**Defacement of Currency:** Defacement of currency is a violation of Title 18, Section 333 of the United States Code. Under this provision, currency defacement is generally defined as follows: Whoever mutilates, cuts, disfigures, perforates, unites or cements together, or does any other thing to any bank bill, draft, note, or other evidence of debt issued by any national banking association, Federal Reserve Bank, or Federal Reserve System, with intent to render such item(s) unfit to be reissued, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than six months, or both. Defacement of currency in such a way that it is made unfit for circulation comes under the jurisdiction of the United States Secret Service."

writing on a bill doesn't technically render a bill unfit for circulation. Legally, the hobby falls into a gray area. Though the U.S. Code prohibits defacing currency, defacement means that the bill is rendered unusable and must be taken out of circulation* by the Federal Reserve, a Secret Service spokeswoman said. More to the point is part of the code that prohibits advertising on bills, 18 USC 475.

*The point of this exercise is education, which means to keep the bills circulating as long as possible.