

# who is

NICKA SMITH?

## Held in the Balance: The Trask 250

The Trask family ran a cotton empire in Mississippi and Louisiana valued upwards of \$4 million, all while remaining residents of Massachusetts. Discover how DNA shared by more than 350 people who descend from their formerly enslaved unearthed this discovery and how a multitude of documents detailing their lives have created a family history project documenting more than 5,400 people.

## Get Off the Train

Meeting with History

Morrie, Aunt Nora, and the two white ladies bearing gifts

## Finding Easter

The Five Year Journey

- The power of half relationships in genealogy and genetic genealogy
- Using primary source records to create a trail
- Finding relatives when the trail isn't quite clear

## Letting the DNA Take the Lead

Roots of the Trask 250+

- *Tip:* Test the appropriate people to get to the answer the desired hypothesis
- *Tip:* Track ancestral locations of triangulated DNA matches to unearth ties to slavery
- *Tip:* Research friends, associates, neighbors and possible relations for leads
- *Tip:* Create a timeline of the potential slaveholding family noting key events

## By the Numbers

Stats on the Trask 250+

- Nearly 50 transactions documenting the formerly enslaved
- More than \$24 million in transactions (adjusted for inflation)
- Tracking the Locations of the Enslaved:
  - Wilkes County, NC; Adams County, MS; Wilkinson County, MS; Orleans Parish, Louisiana; Concordia Parish, LA; Pointe Coupee Parish, LA
- More than 300 descendants of the formerly enslaved traced to date