

The Charlottesville *Semi-Weekly Chronicle*:

Wednesday, 6 September 1865

BY BENSON & BRO., Auct's.

Large Auction Sale of Splendid
BALTIMORE MADE SADDLES,

Bridles, Buggy-harness, Horse Collars, &c.

ON Saturday morning next, Sept. 9th, at the Room over our Store, we will sell at public auction, 6 Quilt seat McClelland Saddles, 6 citizens' McClelland Saddles, 6 beautiful Side Saddles, 6 do. Knee Puff, do. 6 citizens' Saddles, 6 sets elegant Buggy Harness, 24 double-reined assorted Bridles, 12 round reined do., 24 handsome Gig Whips, 24 Blind Bridles, 24 Hog Skin Horse Collars.

Sale at 11 o'clock.

Terms—Fifty dollars and under, Cash, over that amount, sixty days credit for good paper.

BENSON & BRO.

Sales of slaves took place at private farms and plantations, and in front of public buildings like taverns and the court house. Community activity centered on the Court Square area, especially during Albemarle court days; and slave sales conducted in the open air often took place in front of the court house, on its steps, or in its vicinity. When he was 101 years old in 1949, Fountain Hughes told an interviewer of his days as a slave in Charlottesville: "We belonged to people. They'd sell us like they sell horses an' cows an' hogs an' all like that. Have an auction bench, an' they'd put you on, up on the bench an' bid on you jus' same as you bidding on cattle you know . . . They'd have a regular, have a sale every month, you know, at the court house." In a more recent interview, Rebecca Fuller McGinness, when aged 106, related a memory of a tree stump in front of the Albemarle County Court house: "My grandmother told me that they used to sell slaves on that tree stump. They ended up taking one daughter and leaving one. That was one of my main experiences of what slavery