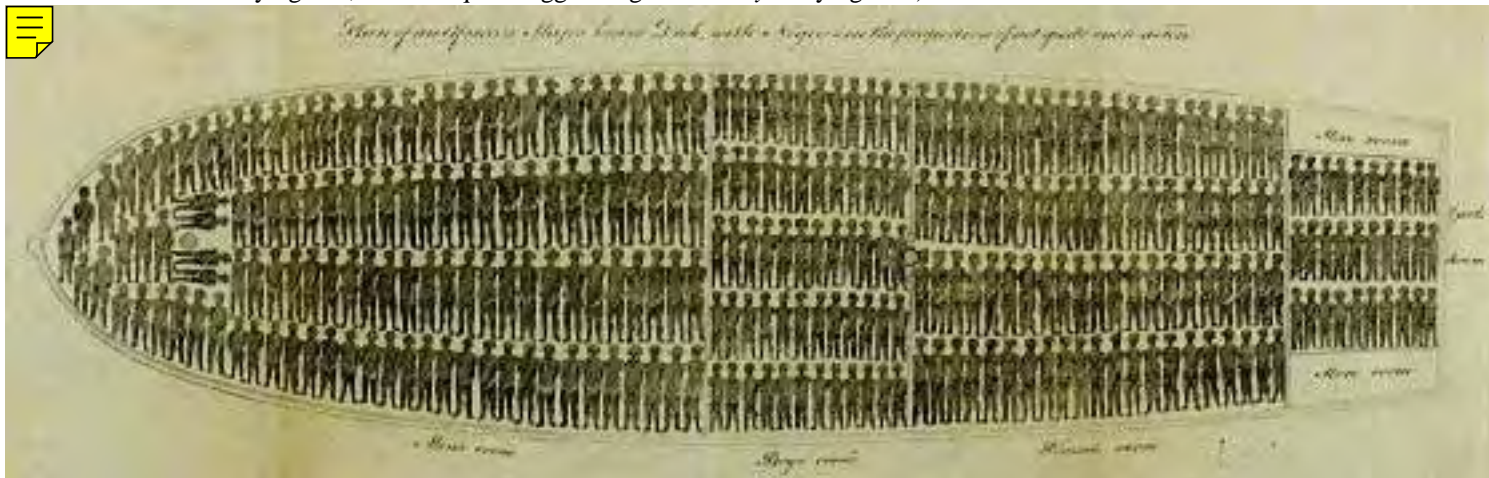




1767

November 29: Abraham Pereira Mendez wrote from Charleston, where he had journeyed to better control his cargo of human beings, to the international slavetrader [AARON LOPEZ](#) at [NEWPORT](#), [RHODE ISLAND](#): “These Negroes, which Captain Abraham All delivered to me, were in such poor condition due to the poor transportation, that I was forced to sell 8 boys and girls for a mere 27, 2 other for 45 and two women each for 35.”

Presumably the damaged-goods-sale amounts mentioned for the slaves are in pounds sterling. Boys and girls aren’t worth much if they aren’t in perfect condition — as anyone who deals in human flesh can tell you. (During this year, in [RHODE ISLAND](#) harbors, it has been estimated by Alexander Boyd Hawes, some dozen vessels were being fitted out for the international slave trade. If an average cargo of slaves was 109—as we have estimated on the basis of a number of known cargos—then a total of more than 1,300 souls were being transported in Rhode Island bottoms alone. Examples from this year include the Rhode Island brig *Benjamin* carrying a cargo of 115 slaves, the ship *Black Prince* carrying a cargo of 190, the sloop *Isabella* carrying 100, the brig *Polly* carrying 130, the ship *Polly* carrying 180, the snow *Polly* carrying 100, the brig *Royal Charlotte* carrying 105, and the square-rigged brigantine *Sally* carrying 120.)



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