Introduction
For my digital history project, I decided to create a digital resource to map the Pearl incident, which was one of the largest attempted escape of enslaved people in the United States. The Pearl incident took place on April 15, 1848. Seventy-seven enslaved individuals attempted to escape D.C. on the Pearl schooner. Unfortunately, they were unsuccessful. After being caught by and returned to D.C., the fugitives were returned to their owners or resold into the slave trade. Since the history of the Pearl incident is not widely available online, I wanted to create a map that represented the experiences of the Pearl fugitives before, during, and after the attempted escape.

Methods
After trying a couple of different digital mapping tools and resources such as Google MyMaps and WordPress, I decided to use ArcGIS maps and StoryMaps to combine the narratives of the Pearl incident with maps that demonstrated the Pearl fugitives’ challenging and uncertain journeys after returning to D.C.

The process of compiling locations as well as creating pins for designated locations and events took some trial and error. I found that creating map layers designated to specific portions of the fugitives’ individual narratives provided the best organization of the information on the maps. Learning how to use StoryMaps to develop a narrative about the Pearl incident and slave trade also took some time to figure out. Since StoryMaps can manipulate information in a variety of different layouts, it was challenging to determine the best way to visually and textually present my research.

Results
After familiarizing myself with ArcGIS and StoryMaps, I decided to use the StoryMap’s narrative functions to share general history about the Pearl incident while using pins to share specific information and individual narratives. Although I am not entirely happy with the organization of the information, especially in the “Aftermath” section, I learned a lot about StoryMaps’s ability to share a variety of information in different mediums.

Conclusions
Overall, ArcGIS and StoryMaps helped me create a digital resource that allows me to share the history of the Pearl incident in a unique and engaging way. I have also learned a lot about the time and process required to create a digital resource. I am also happy that through this project, I have found another way to share the story of the Pearl incident and the history of slavery in Washington, D.C.