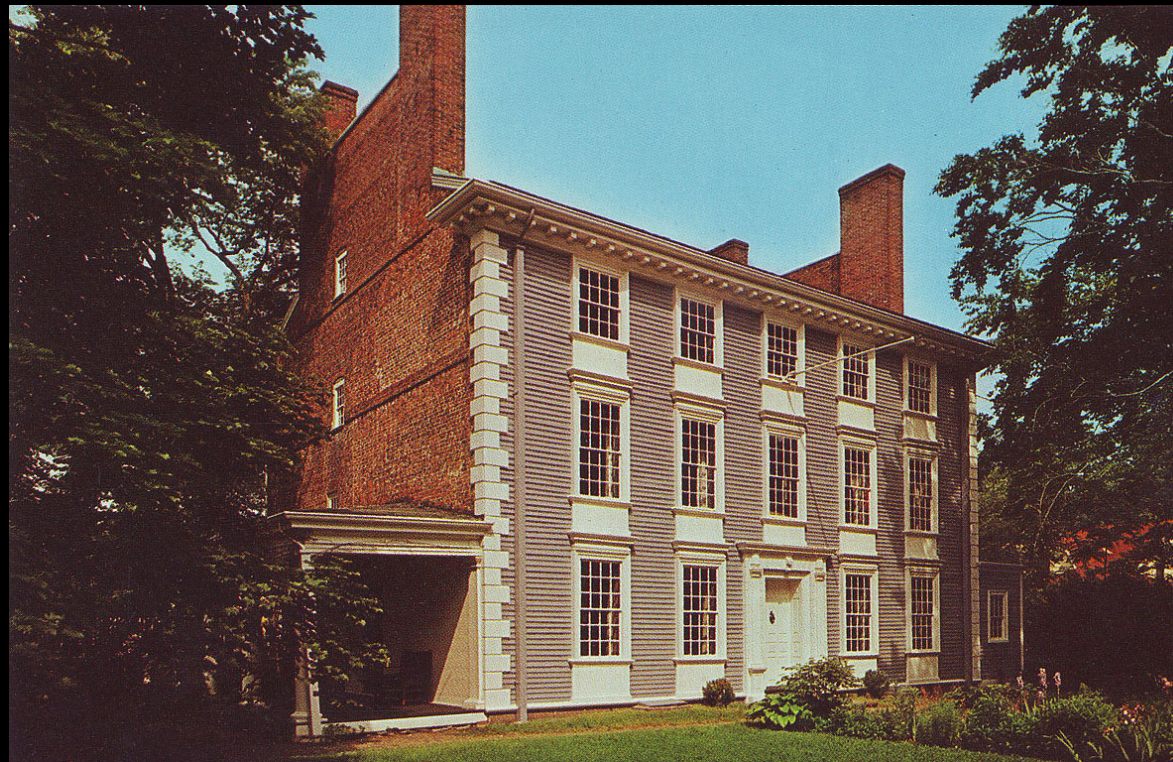


UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
DIVERSITY FORUM

Carrying It Forward:
Material Culture, Living Memory, and Historical Engagement

Tiya Miles
Harvard University
November 2022

ROYALL HOUSE & SLAVE QUARTERS
(BY PERMISSION OF RHSQ)



ROYALL HOUSE & SLAVE QUARTERS
(BY PERMISSION OF RHSQ)



ASHLEY'S SACK, DETAIL

My great grandmother Rose
mother of Ashley gave her this sack when
she was sold at age 9 in South Carolina
it held a tattered dress 3 handfuls of
pecans a braid of Roses hair. Told her
It be filled with my Love always
she never saw her again.
Ashley is my grandmother
Ruth Middleton
1921

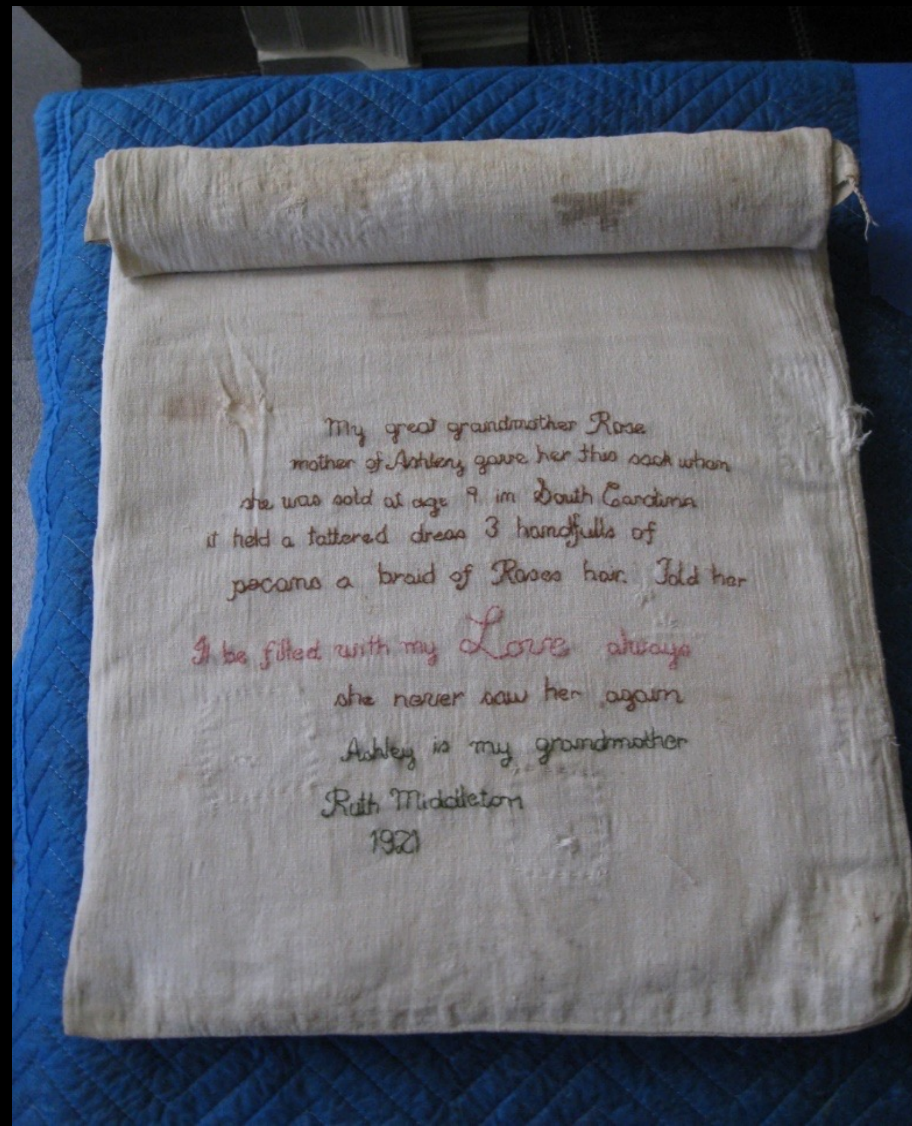
SACK TEXT

My great grandmother Rose
mother of Ashley gave her this sack when
she was sold at age 9 in South Carolina
it held a tattered dress 3 handfulls of
pecans a braid of Roses hair. Told her

It be filled with my Love always

She never saw her again
Ashley is my grandmother
Ruth Middleton
1921

ASHLEY'S SACK, ROLLED



My great grandmother Rose
mother of Ashley gave her this sack when
she was sold at age 9 in South Carolina
it held a tattered dress 3 handfulls of
became a braid of Roses hair. Told her

It be filled with my Love always

she never saw her again

Ashley is my grandmother

Ruth Middleton

1921

ASHLEY'S SACK, BACK



All images of the sack used by permission of Middleton Place Foundation.

HARRIET POWERS
PICTORIAL QUILT
(COURTESY MFA BOSTON)



NEW YORK TIMES “HEIRLOOMS” PROJECT



The New York Times

Heirlooms, Redefined

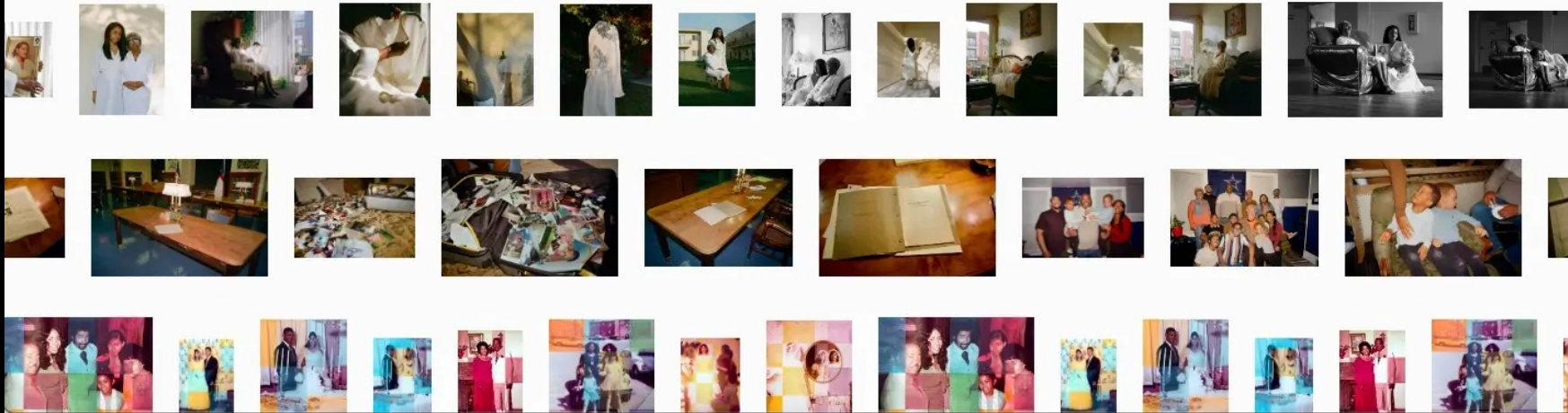
Words by Tiya Miles and Michelle May-Curry

Families cohere by keeping histories and telling stories — and conveying what the English have called heirlooms. The “loom” in heirloom is not coincidental. This root word retains the old expectation that a familial inheritance will include practical tools, such as looms.

For many Black families, kinship bonds have endured through an enlarged definition of the term heirloom that includes everyday items that have come to serve as carriers of tradition and vessels of inheritance.

Here, ten photographers take up the camera as a loom, weaving stories of kinship and care across generations.

Select any image to begin. ↗





THANK YOU