

## *Sydney (b. 1783)* *A Life of Transition*

In 1796, a 13-year-old girl named Sydney was manumitted by Jeremiah Banning. Her manumission did not take effect until 1811 when she was 28 years old. During the intervening years, Sydney was indentured to Katherine Banning, the wife of Benjamin Chew Jr., to learn the art of maid servant. During that time she was moved between Maryland and Philadelphia.



## *Katherine Banning Chew (1775 - 1855)* *Traversing Family Disputes*

For many women, management of a household and family relationships are a main consideration of their lives. When Katherine Banning married Benjamin Chew Jr. (1758-1844) in 1788 her future life often focused on the regulation of interpersonal relationships. Katherine had fourteen children, seven surviving to adulthood. When her husband died in 1844, her adult children battled with each other over their inheritance as Katherine served as mediator. Katherine attempted to protect her sons Benjamin and Anthony's interests despite tension they created within the family.



## *Mary Bowman (d. 1864)* *Caregiver*

Born in New Jersey, Mary Bowman worked and provided end of life care for several members of the Chew family from the start of her employment in 1816 until her death in 1864. Initially Mary served Benjamin Chew III (1793-1864) and his new wife Elizabeth Tilghman Chew (1796-1817) and their young son William. Elizabeth died shortly after childbirth in 1817 and William died in 1820. Mary continued to work for Benjamin (d.1844) and his mother Katherine (d.1855) as a housekeeper until both of their deaths.

