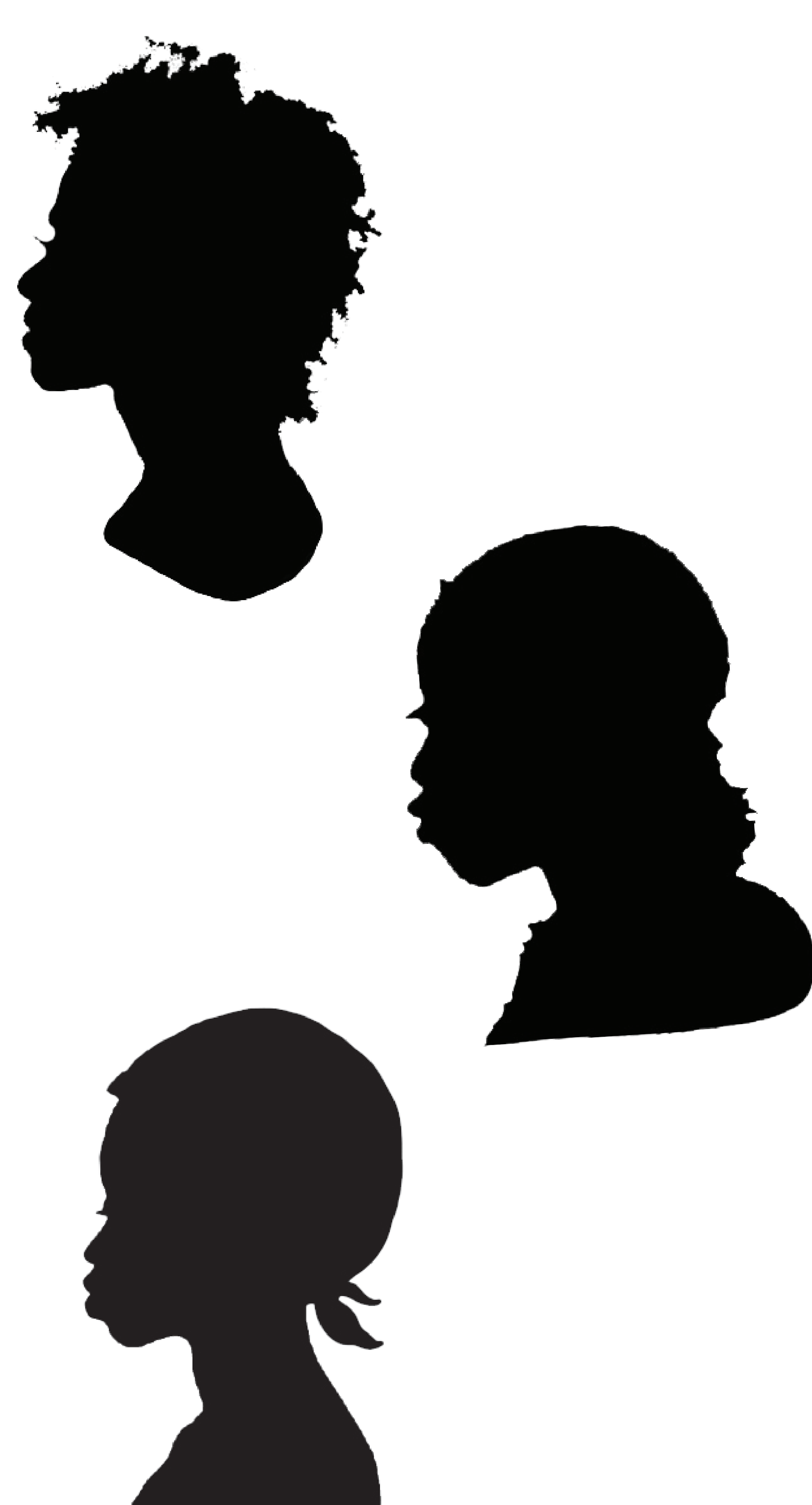


Enslaved Women Stories Yet to Tell

In addition to the many enslaved people toiling on plantations owned by the Chews in Maryland and Delaware during the late 18th century, fourteen enslaved workers were listed as living in Philadelphia in 1780. As part of Pennsylvania's Gradual Act for Emancipation passed that same year, enslavers were expected to enumerate their enslaved laborers residing in Pennsylvania. Of the fourteen people enslaved by the Chews, seven were female, including three under the age of fifteen. When the law was amended in 1788, two female children were added to the rolls. Further research is needed to help unearth more of their stories.



Elizabeth Oswald Chew (1732 - 1819)

Managing Home, Family & Society



Elizabeth Oswald Chew married Benjamin Chew in 1757. Her life focused on the management of multiple large households including twelve children by 1779 and numerous enslaved and free staff. Her account books from the late 18th and early 19th century illuminate a life of privilege and power with payments for luxury goods and household laborers. Her letters to her children and husband show both her caring nature and keen intellect. In letters to her son Benjamin in the early 19th century, Elizabeth shared concerns for her daughters as some started families and built homes and others dealt with illness. In correspondence with her husband during his house arrest in 1777-1778, Elizabeth shows her abilities as she reported on management of a large family and household.

above left: **Elizabeth Oswald Chew (1752)**, Chester County Historical Society, West Chest, PA.