

United States Daughters of 1812
A Minute in History at the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House #4
Grace Wisher

December 16, 1809, Mary Pickersgill receives the sum of twelve dollars and a Baize dress from Jenny Wisher as part of the indenture contract for her ten-year-old daughter Grace Wisher. Grace, a free African American girl, was indentured to Mary Pickersgill for six years to learn housework and plain sewing. During the summer of 1813, Grace, then aged 13, the same as Mary's daughter Caroline Pickersgill, would have been three years into her indenture and certainly would have been expected to take part in household work and business of flag making, including being present and active in the creation of the Star-Spangled Banner. Grace held a unique role in the ecosystem of the Flag House. As an indentured apprentice, she would have worked closely alongside Mary and the other Young-Pickersgill women and would have been confronted by the disparity in her household duties compared to the African American enslaved women-owned by Mary during this period who were not afforded the same opportunities Grace was as a free girl of color.



Quilt artist Grandmother Edna Lawrence stitches red and white fabric into her quilt dedicated to Grace Wisher for her exhibit, *Fabric Expressions*, at the Flag House, 2018 – 2019.