John Greenwood (European-American, 1727-1792)

**Jersey Nanny, mezzotint, 1748**

9 5/8 x 7 3/4 in. (24.4 x 19.7 cm.)


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Nature her various Skill displays  
*In thousand Shapes, a thousand Ways;*  
*Tho’ one Form differs from another,*  
*She’s still of all the common Mother:*  
*Then, Ladies, let not Pride resist her,*  
*But own that NANNY is your Sister.*

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Ann Arnold, an enslaved African American woman in colonial Boston, is portrayed in her work attire in this engraving by John Greenwood, a white Boston-born artist.¹  
Little else is known about this rare pre-Revolutionary portrait of an African American.

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Eight-year old Henry Darnall III, the son of a wealthy Maryland plantation owner, is portrayed with his African American slave. Note the metal collar around the slave’s throat.

Five-year-old Charles Calvert, a descendant of Lord Baltimore, the founder of Maryland, is depicted with his African American slave, who is dressed as a military drummer in accordance with the boy’s military regalia.