Hampton Mansion

When visiting the Hampton Mansion you will learn about many people who lived and worked there. The Ridgely family dates back many, many years and one of the ways they managed their business, land, and home through slavery.

As you tour the grounds of the Mansion you will explore the conditions that the slaves lived in and the conditions that the Ridgelys lived in.

(Images courtesy of National Park Service Hampton website)

Nancy Davis was born a slave and when she was given her freedom she decided to stay as a paid servant at the Hampton Mansion. We do not know a lot about the slaves and servants at the Hampton house, but we know she was special to the family because she was buried with in the Ridgley family cemetery when she died.
When you go to the Hampton Mansion think about:

- How life was different for the slaves and servants than it was for the members of the Ridgley family?
- How was their lives different and similar from yours?
- How might the slaves and servants felt about the Ridgleys?
- Why did the Ridgelys favor Nancy Davis?

Writing Task:
When you return from your trip, you will use what you have learned to compose a letter from Nancy Davis to a member of the Ridgley family or from a Ridgley to Nancy Davis. You will need to include information about the daily life of both people.