



Virginia Untold:

Hear the Ancestors Speak: Slavery
Accounts from Library of Virginia
Records

Virginia Untold



Virginia Untold

Project began in 2013

Funded by Dominion Power and Library Services & Technology Act funds

15,000+ records

Over 20 record types

Date range: 1655-1870

Almost 200,000 names indexed (enslaved and free)

Fiduciary Records
 Lancaster Co.,
 Estate Inventory
 1670

Emmanuel an old negro	30	00	00
little Gumbie a negro	30	00	00
George a negro	30	00	00
Simon a negro	30	00	00
Abraham a negro	30	00	00
Gingie a very old negro woman	30	00	00
Kate a negro woman	10	00	00
Norah a negro woman	25	00	00
Betty a negro woman	25	00	00
Colo an old negro woman	25	00	00
a young negro boy of little Gumbie	20	00	00
a young negro Gault of old Gumbie	10	00	00
a young negro boy of Colo	10	00	00
a young negro boy now wretches	10	00	00
Betty's young Suchny boy	06	00	00
Grash an old negro	04	00	00
Gumbie an old negro	20	00	00
frank a negro	15	00	00
Mundina an old negro woman blind	30	00	00
blind doll a negro woman & her child	10	00	00
John oak boy having three yards or thereabouts to Servt	10	00	00
Isobell having 3 yards $\frac{1}{4}$ or thereabouts to Servt	13	00	00
	10	00	00

Fiduciary Records, Appraisement, 1781

In Obedience to an Order of Lancaster County Court Dated April 1781 we the subscribers being sworn did meet on the 28th Day of May following & appraised all the Estate of Mr. Prawligh Downman (Dec'd) at his Plantation in Sanguier as followeth Viz

To 1 Negro Man Andrew 200.	1 D ^o . D. Plato 15.	105.0.0
1 D ^o . young Plato 50.	1 D ^o . Mare 45.	145.0.0
1 D ^o . Will 25.	1 Negro Boy Douglas 50.	152.0.0
1 D ^o . New 25.	1 D ^o . John 25.	90.0.0
1 D ^o . Jeffery 20.	1 D ^o . Nancy 20.	40.0.0
1 Negro Woman 60.	1 D ^o . Alice 45.	60.0.0
1 D ^o . Winny 50.	1 D ^o . Pott 50.	140.0.0
1 D ^o . Young Kelly 45.	1 Negro Girl Venus 50.	95.0.0
1 D ^o . Kate 45.	1 D ^o . Frank 45.	115.0.0
1 D ^o . Leanna 30.	1 D ^o . Mincey 10.	40.0.0
10 Narrow Hoes 24.	5 grubbing D ^o . 10.	1.14.0
6 Broad D ^o . 12.	5 Narrow Axes 25.	1.17.0
10 D ^o . Blazey Face Mare 25.	10 D ^o . D ^o . 25.	0.0.0
10 D ^o . Black Horse 22.	1 young Bay Mare 10.15.	12.15.0
27 head cattle old & young		60.15.0
21 head Sheep		6.6.0
a parcel Carpenters Tools 25.	2 Sets Widges 10.	1.15.0
1 Cotton Wheel 10.	1 Flax D ^o . 10.	1.0.0
1 pr. Wool Cards 1/3.	2 old Iron Potts & 1 pr. Hooks 27/6.	1.0.9
1 Cart & 39 Goats & 1 Chain		5.10.0
5 Sows 2.6.	6 largest Hogs 25.	15.14.6
16 D ^o . 16/.	36 D ^o . 11/3.	1.10.3
6 D ^o . Plows 36/.	2 small old Subbs 2/9.	1.19.9

1102.5.3

Charles Martin
Daniel Abbott
John Wheatley

Recorded and *cc.*

J^r. Thos. M. Coarty Clk L. C.

In Obedience to an Order of Lancaster County Court Dated April 1781 we the subscribers being sworn did meet on the 29th Day of May following & appraise all the Estate of Mr. Prawligh Downman (Dec'd) at his Plantation in Stafford County called Windsor. Forist as followeth Viz

To 3 Sows 20/.	12 largest Hogs 26/.	6.6.0
16 smaller D ^o .	7 Hogs 21/.	4.11.0
29 Head cattle old & young		43.10.0
14 Sheep		5.12.0
1 Cart Wheals	Yock & Chain	4.0.0
1 Dark Bay Mare 29.	1 Blazey Face D ^o . 12.	21.0.0
1 Bay Horse 22.		7.10.0
1 Negro Woman Leanna 40.	1 D ^o . Mincey 15.	05.0.0
1 D ^o . Alice 50.	1 D ^o . Lucy 15.	135.0.0
1 D ^o . Han 35.	1 D ^o . Phillis 10.	67.0.0
1 D ^o . Patty 15.	1 Negro Boy Jonathan 40.	55.0.0
1 D ^o . Stephen 40.	1 D ^o . John 30.	100.0.0
1 D ^o . Abel 25.	1 D ^o . Jack 25.	65.0.0
1 D ^o . Alley 15.		1.17.0
7 Narrow Hoes 24/6.	5 grubbing Hoes 12/6.	1.17.0
2 pr. Widges 10/.	1 pr. old Cotton Cards 2/6.	0.10.6
1 D ^o . Cotton Wheel 4/10.	1 pr. old Flax D ^o . 7/6.	0.13.6
1 pr. old Wool Cards		0.8.6
1 Iron Pott		0.9.0

602.9.6

John Mason
James Jefferies
John Humphrey

Purpose of Virginia Untold

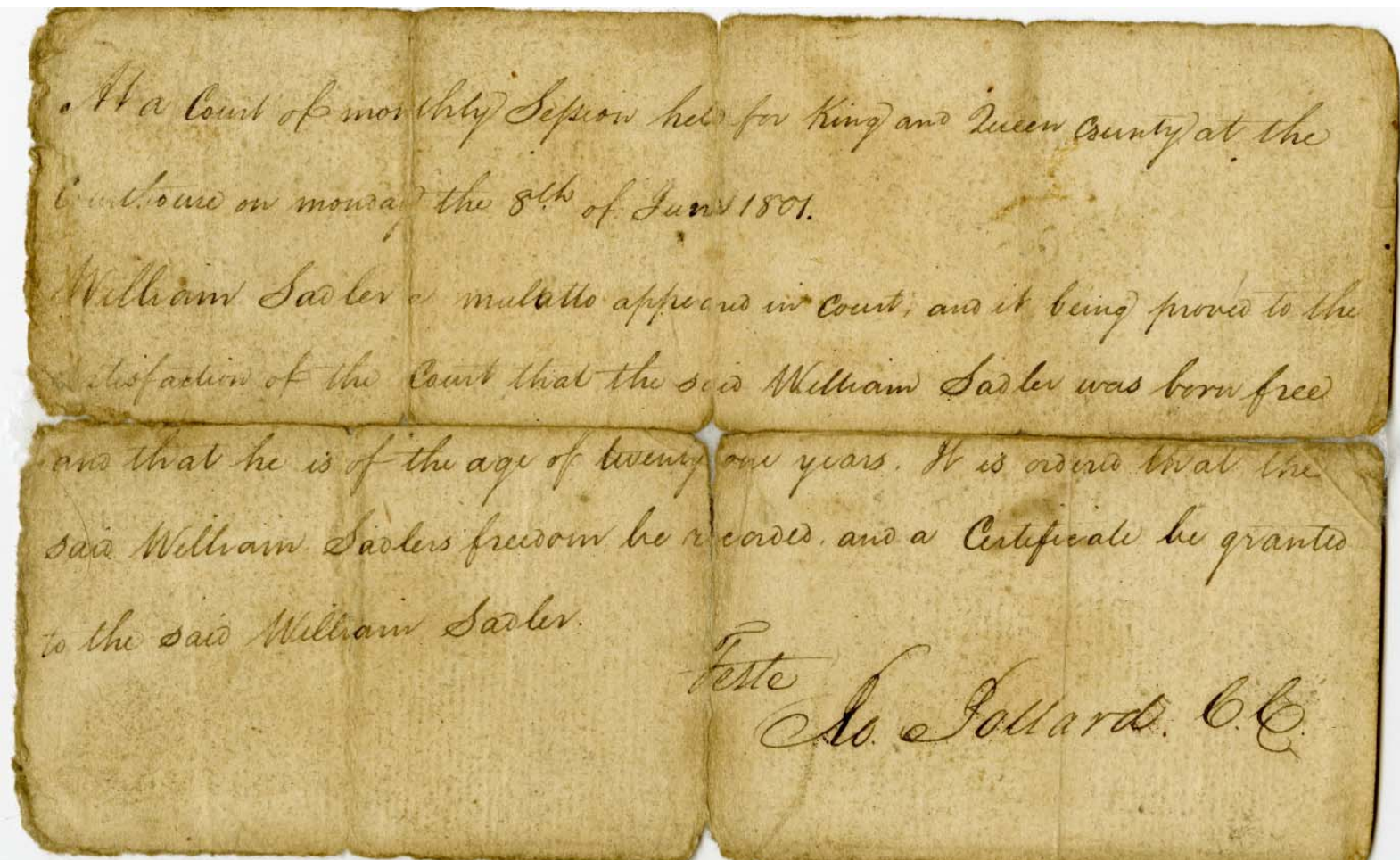
Not just names. The names are access points to individual stories of African-Americans, slave and free, who lived in Virginia from the establishment of slavery to the Reconstruction era. Collectively, these stories form a narrative of a people that has not been fully told.

Fiduciary Records: Guardian's Account, Elizabeth Mitchell, 1836

Aug. 1st Amount of Sales of Negro Woman
Leieca and three Amace Chuedun (Levina
Spencer - and Infant in the arms, sold by me
to go to the Western Country (with negro
Man Tony the husband of the woman &
Father of the Chuedun) The said Tony
having been sold by Mr. W. C. Hughton to
go to the West } 757 50

Free Negro Certificates

William Sadler, recorded in K&Q County in 1801.
Later recorded in Henrico Co. in 1807.



At a Court of monthly Session held for King and Queen County at the Court house on Monday the 8th of June 1801.

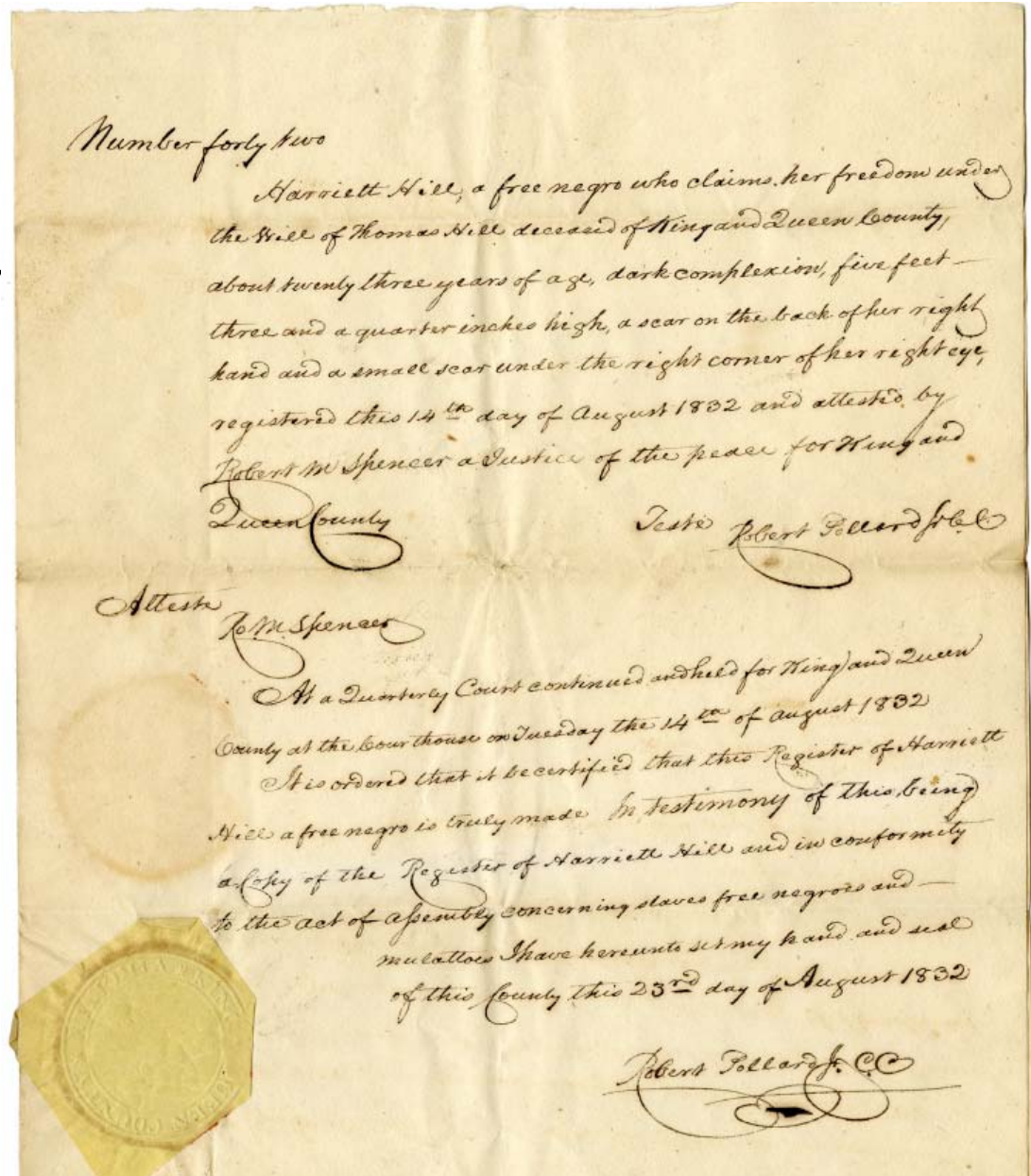
William Sadler a mulatto appeared in Court, and it being proved to the satisfaction of the Court that the said William Sadler was born free and that he is of the age of twenty one years. It is ordered that the said William Sadlers freedom be recorded, and a Certificate be granted to the said William Sadler.

Feste
S. Jollard. C.C.

Free Negro Certificates

Harriet Hill
K & Q County
1832

Later
recorded in
Henrico Co.




Free Negro Certificates

Delaware Davis, recorded in King William County in 1844. Later recorded in city of Richmond.

N^o 112. Virginia: King William County, to wit:
Registered in my Office Delaware Davis, aged 21 years, his feet
one and three fourth inches high, has no perceivable marks or scars, and
was born free. Given under my hand this 22^d day of April 1844.
Attest: *Ch. Tompkins J.P.* A Copy - Teste: *Co. Pollard, C.*

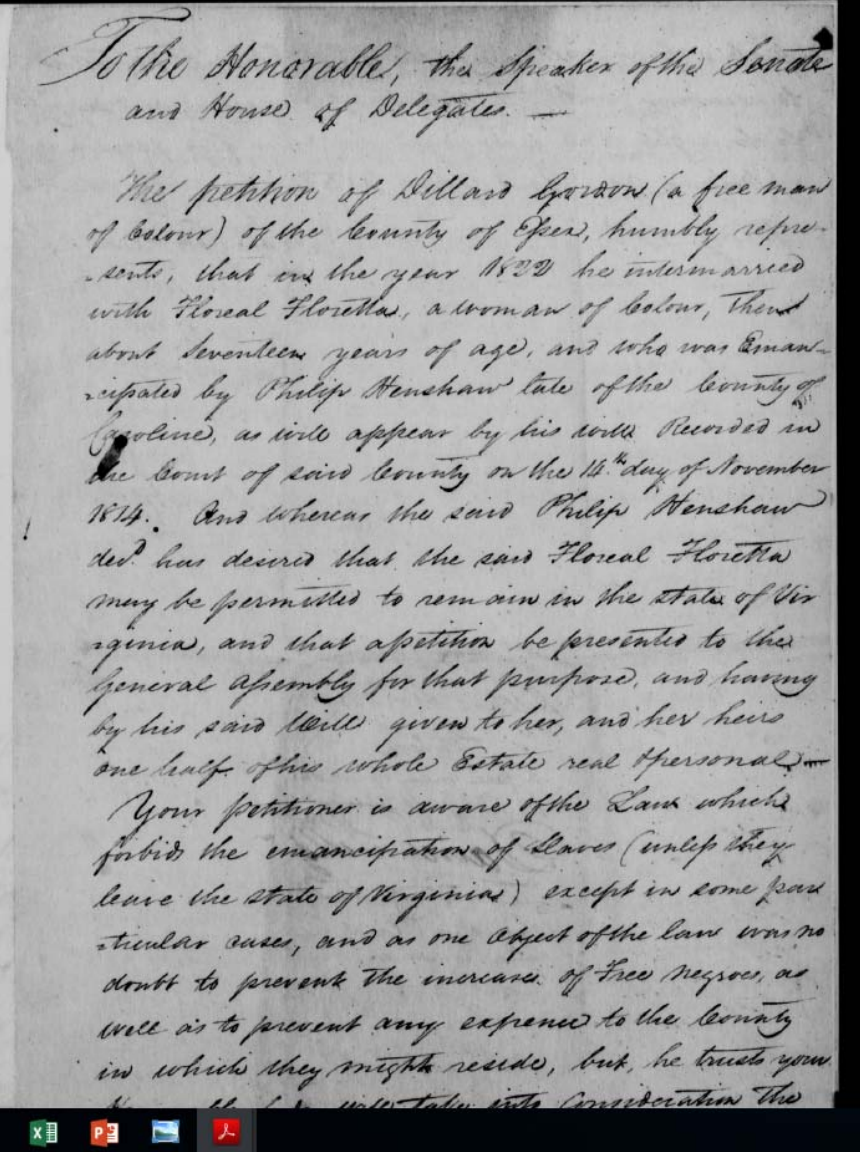
At a Court of monthly Session held for King William County on the
22^d day of April 1844: The Court doth certify that the Register
of Delaware Davis, attested by Christopher Tompkins - Esq. a Justice
of the Peace for the said County, has been truly made by the Clerk of
this Court.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my
hand and affixed the Seal of the said County
hence, this 22^d day of April 1844.
Co. Pollard, C.



Petitions to Remain

Legislative Petition
Dillard Gordon
Essex County
1825



To the Honorable, the Speaker of the Senate
and House of Delegates. —

The petition of Dillard Gordon (a free man
of colour) of the County of Essex, humbly repre-
sents, that in the year 1822 he intermarried
with Floreal Floretta, a woman of colour, then
about seventeen years of age, and who was eman-
cipated by Philip Henshaw late of the County of
Essex, as will appear by his will Recorded in
the Court of said County on the 16th day of November
1814. And whereas the said Philip Henshaw
decd. has decreed that the said Floreal Floretta
may be permitted to remain in the state of Vir-
ginia, and that a petition be presented to the
General Assembly for that purpose, and leaving
by his said will given to her, and her heirs
one half of his whole Estate real & personal.

Your petitioner is aware of the Law which
forbid the emancipation of slaves (unless they
leave the state of Virginia) except in some par-
ticular cases, and as one object of the law was no
doubt to prevent the increase of free negroes, as
well as to prevent any expense to the County
in which they might reside, but, he trusts you
will be pleased to take into consideration the

Billard Gordons

Petition

a free man of colour
for the passage of a
law

James Tully

allowing his wife
who was Floral, Fla:
etc to remain in
Cant.

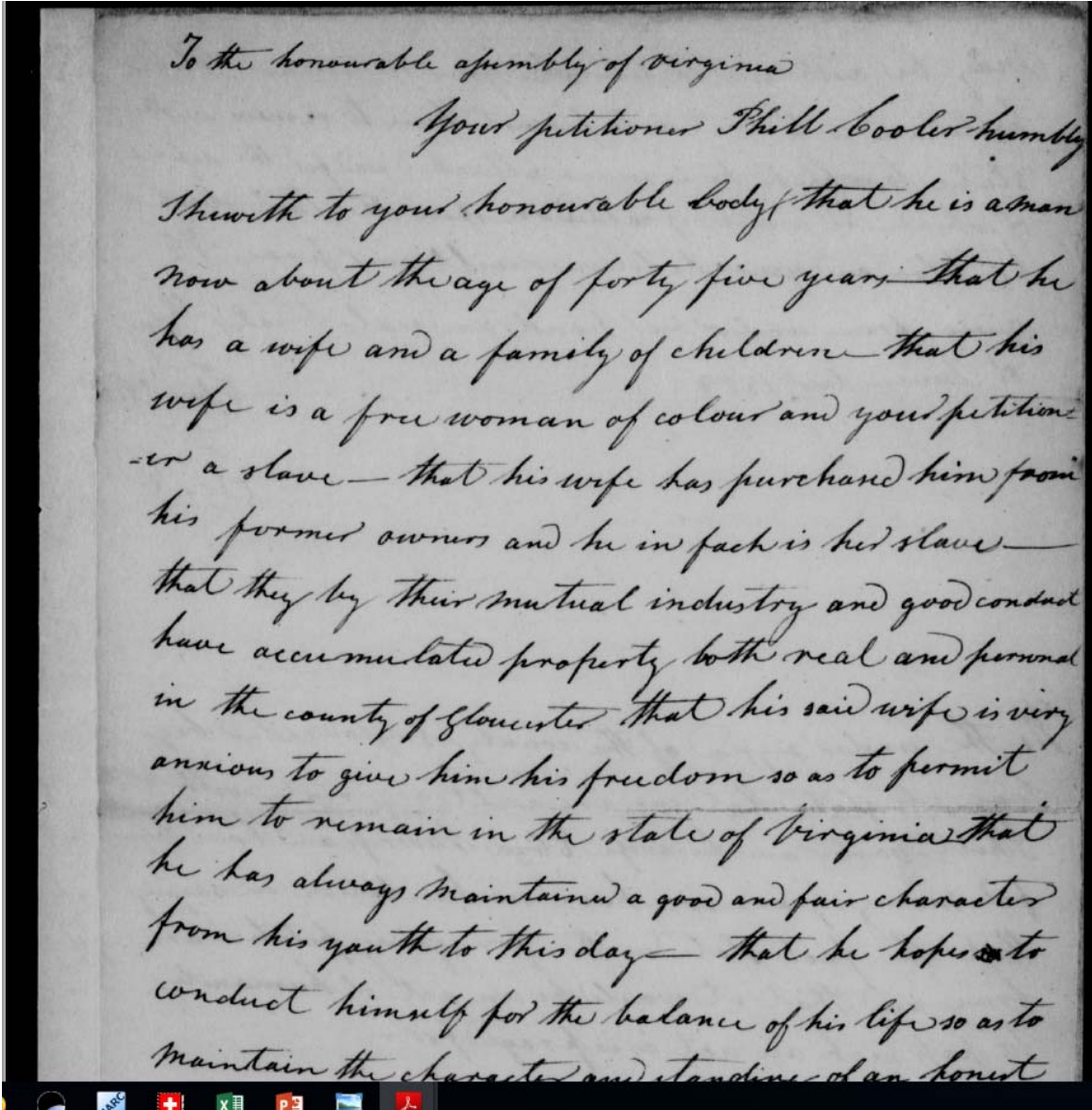
Dec: 15th 1825

ref^d to C^o. of J.

1826 Jan 3. Rejected

Petitions to Remain

Legislative Petition
Phill Cooler
Gloucester County
1829

A photograph of a handwritten petition document on aged paper. The text is written in cursive and is addressed to the Virginia Assembly. The petitioner, Phill Cooler, describes himself as a man of forty-five years with a wife and children. He states that his wife is a free woman of color who purchased him from his former owner, making him her slave. He claims that through mutual industry and good conduct, they have accumulated property in Gloucester County. His wife is anxious to give him his freedom so he can remain in Virginia. He asserts that he has always maintained a good and fair character and hopes to continue to do so, maintaining the character and standing of an honest man.

To the honourable assembly of Virginia
Your petitioner Phill Cooler humbly
Sheweth to your honourable body that he is a man
now about the age of forty five years that he
has a wife and a family of children that his
wife is a free woman of colour and your petitioner
is a slave — that his wife has purchased him from
his former owners and he in fact is her slave —
that they by their mutual industry and good conduct
have accumulated property both real and personal
in the county of Gloucester that his said wife is very
anxious to give him his freedom so as to permit
him to remain in the state of Virginia that
he has always maintained a good and fair character
from his youth to this day — that he hopes to
conduct himself for the balance of his life so as to
maintain the character and standing of an honest

Phill Book & Wife
Petition

John Phillips of

Gloverston Co

Dec. 17th 1879

ref. to C. C. of

Dec 24. Rejected

Petitions to Remain

Petition
Eliza Lowe
Lancaster County
1838

To the worshipping County Court of Lancaster
Eliza Lowe an emancipated slave take the
property of James Corbin dec^d of the s^d
County most humbly & respectfully sets forth
that ~~the~~ the s^d James Corbin by his last
will & testament emancipated & liberated the
whole of his slaves after the payment of his
debts which will fully appear by reference
to the will of s^d Corbin which is of record
in the office of the County Court of Lancaster
that subsequently your petitioner applied to the
s^d County Court of Lancaster for a Certificate
of her freedom which she obtained which
is now here in court subject to the inspec-
-tion of your worship, now your petitioner
in the hope & belief that she has shown
satisfactorily to your worship that she is
entitled to her freedom and with a conscious-
-ness of a course of honest & virtuous indu-
-stry & rectitude most respectfully prays that
she may be permitted to remain

The Petition
of 3
Elyza Lowe

1838
July, application
admitted?

Petition of Re-Enslavement filed in 1860 by George Kent of Northumberland County

To his Honor
R. H. Colman Judge of
the 8th Judicial Circuit
The undersigned your petitioner
Respectfully represent that having
been Emancipated by the last
Will of J. B. Burpess ~~My de. (Mat)~~
And preferring to remain in the
Good old Commonwealth that
gave me birth to freedom in
Africa humbly pray your
Worship to Grant me the privi-
lege of remaining in Virginia
under the provisions of the
Act of Assembly passed 18th Feby
1856 And to accomplish this
End I have Chosen for my
Future Master J. B. Burpess
hoping it will be your
honors Good pleasure to favor
my prayer I subscribe
myself your humble suplicant
This 27th day of October 1859
George^{sr} Kent
Mark

Geo. J. Chinn
D. A. Lelandbrook

Freedom Suit: Ann Daniel Westmoreland County, 1847

To the worshipful County Court of Westmoreland, Your
petitioner ^{Ann Daniel for herself & her three children} humbly complaining, would respectfully set
forth, that many years ago, one Capt. Lowe of this County,
came to this County, as your petitioner is informed
from Scotland bringing with him a certain negro
woman, as a domestic servant - that your petitioner
was born after reaching this County, and is personally
unacquainted with the conditions under which
her mother, who was the woman aforesaid, came
to this County in company with the said Lowe, and
if petitioner was of too tender years to learn any
thing from her mother, she having died many years
ago. But this petitioner was frequently told by the said
Lowe & his wife, that her said mother was a free woman
and had never been held as a slave, and
that as the said Lowe had no property in, or right
to sell your petitioner - your petitioner further sets forth
that she has recently learned, that similar declara-
-tions were repeatedly made by the said Lowe, and

APA Records – Public claims

A Court of Oyer and Terminer appointed and held at King and Queen Courthouse on Monday the 6th day of May 1833 for the Trial of John a negro man slave the property of Pratts Shubb, charged with the murder of Thomas Gilmore on the 24th day of September One thousand eight hundred and thirty two

Present

Robert Courtney Archibald R. Starwood John Mollen Thomas H. Spencer and Peter S. Pollard Gent. Justices

The Court doth assign Robert B. Waller Counsel and attorney to defend the prisoner and the said John being led to the Bar and charged pleaded not guilty and Fanny Gilmore and James Gilmore mulattos being charged sworn and examined and Doctor Beverley Roy and Doctor James T. Boyd and William Fleet Witnesses on behalf of the Commonwealth being sworn and examined and the arguments as well of Charles Hill attorney for the Commonwealth as of Robert B. Waller attorney for the prisoner being heard and the evidence of the Witnesses being maturely considered

The Court are unanimously of opinion that the said John the prisoner at the bar is guilty of the murder of the said Thomas Gilmore

Therefore it is considered by the Court that the said John the prisoner at the bar be hanged by the neck until he be dead and that execution of this Judgment be made or done upon him the said John by the Sheriff of King and Queen County on Friday the 14th day of June next between

Executive Department

October 31st 1833.

It appears from the Record on file in this department, that the Court of King and Queen on the 6.th day of May 1833 condemned a slave by the name of John, the property of Pruntip Chubb to be hanged on the 14 June 1833 for murder and appraised the value of the said slave at the sum of Four hundred & fifty Dollars - I also certify that the Executive refused to pardon the said slave.

W. Richardson

APA Records – Public claims

State of Virginia:—

At a Court of Oyer and Terminer, called and held for the County of King William, at the Courthouse, on Monday the 17th of April, 1843, for the trial of Charles, a negro man slave, the property of Thomas Carter, charged with consulting, advising and conspiring with a number of slaves to rebel and make insurrection.
Present: Roger Gregory, Baylor Temple, W^m Spotswood Fontaine, Thomas Robinson and Bro. S. Lewis, Gen^l Clerks.
Homen^l Justices.

The said Charles was set to the bar in the custody of the Sheriff, and and W^m A. Gregory, Esq. is assigned Counsel by the Court to defend the prisoner at the bar: and thereupon, the Attorney for the Commonwealth filed his information in writing - And thereupon, the said prisoner being arraigned, pleaded "Not Guilty": whereupon, sundry witnesses being sworn and examined, and arguments, as well of the Attorney for the Commonwealth, as of the Counsel for the prisoner, fully heard, the Court is of opinion that the prisoner at the bar is guilty of the offence wherewith he stands charged, in manner and form as in the Indictment against him is alleged; and doth adjudge and order that for the said offence and felony he be remanded to the jail for Criminals. There

Executed Department Feb 13 1844

The within mentioned slave Charles has been returned by the Executive and conveyed to the Penitentiary for sale & transportation

Recd 13 Feb: 1844 a warrant of three hundred and seventy five dollars
Thos Carter

King William County Feb 3rd 1844.

I do hereby certify that the Justices composing the Court called, and held on the 17th April 1843 for the trial of Charles a negro man slave the property of Thos Carter, were unanimous in valuation of said ^{slave} and that the valuation put upon said slave was the sum of three hundred and seventy five dollars, as the within copy of the proceedings of the Court shows. Given under my hand and seal the day and year above

King Wm County Court

John S Lewis J. P.

1844

That John S Lewis

APA Records – Public claims

Amount Commonwealth Reimbursed
Enslavers

1800-1859 – \$704,823

2018 dollars - \$19,735,044



VIRGINIA UNTOLD

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN NARRATIVE

The Library of Virginia's collections are rich with records documenting the lives of African Americans in Virginia. However, access to those materials dating from before the American Civil War is limited at best. These limitations are the result of period perspectives on the identities of enslaved and disenfranchised populations, as well as sheer volume. Due to this, the individual stories form a narrative of a people that has not been fully told.

The Library's African American Narrative project aims to provide greater accessibility to pre-1865 African American history and genealogy found in the rich primary sources in its holdings. Traditional description, indexing, transcription, and digitization are major parts of this effort. However, and perhaps more importantly, this project seeks to encourage conversation and engagement around the records, providing opportunities for a more grassroots and diverse narrative of the history of Virginia's African American people.



[Search the Narrative](#)



[Join the Narrative](#)



[About the Narrative](#)

SEARCH THE NARRATIVE

Access the original csv indexes (spreadsheets) created for this project at [Collections Data @ LVA](#)

[Tip Sheet: Basic Search - Virginia Untold](#) (pdf)

[Tip Sheet: Spelling Variations for Names Found in Virginia Untold](#) (pdf)

[Tip Sheet: African American Narrative Record Types](#) (pdf)

[Tip Sheet: Related Resources and Collections](#) (pdf)

Search the collection:

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Record Type:	<input type="text" value="All Record Types"/> ▼
Locality:	<input type="text" value="All Localities"/> ▼
<input type="button" value="Search"/>	
Browse the entire collection .	

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- [Formation histories for Virginia counties & independent cities](#)
- [Library of Virginia digital collections](#)
- [Research Notes and Bibliographies](#)
- [Virginia Heritage](#) guides to Virginia collections











































digitalcollections

LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Search 'W-Coverage= lynchburg' in 'Admin Unit LVA01' Collection [Sorted by: Title/Creator]

[Brief view](#) [Table view](#) [Full view](#)

Records 1- 20 of 195

- | | | | |
|---|---|----|--|
| 1 | 
Adams, Biddy : Deed Of Emancipation
1840



 | 2 | 
Anderson, Abraham (M, 29): Free Negro Certificate
1814



 |
| 3 | 
Anderson, Abraham (M, 29): Free Negro Certificate
1817



 | 4 | 
Anderson, Admiral: Free Negro Certificate
1822



 |
| 5 | 
Anderson, Isaiah (M, 20): Free Negro Certificate
1814



 | 6 | 
Anderson, Judith James (F, 23): Free Negro Certificate
1816



 |
| 7 | 
Anderson, Martha (F, 26): Free Negro Certificate
1815



 | 8 | 
Archer : Deed Of Emancipation
1822



 |
| 9 | 
Armstrong, David (25): Free Negro Certificate | 10 | 
Armstro |

Search

Looking For:
lynchburg in the current document

Results:
1 documents with 3 instances

New Search

Results:

- L2V4bGlicmlzL2R0bC9kM18xL2FwYWNoZ...
- Emancipation, **Lynchburg** 1840 11447;
- of **Lynchburg** at the court house on th
- Emancipation, **Lynchburg** 1840 11447;

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LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA Adams, Biddy: Deed Of Emancipation, **Lynchburg**
1840
1144773_0009_0019_0001.jpg

For and in consideration of the good will which I bear towards my Slave Biddy commonly known by the name of Biddy Adams and for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred & fifty Dollars to me in hand paid by the said Biddy Adams the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged and for other causes and considerations me thereunto moving I do hereby emancipate and forever quit claim to the services of the said Biddy Adams and set her free from all control of mine my heirs or assigns
In Witness whereof I hereto set my hand and seal this 16th day of March 1840
Saml. Rennick (Seal)
At a court of Hustings held for the Corporation of Lynchburg at the court house on the 6th day of April 1840 This deed of emancipation from Samuel F Rennick to Biddy Adams was acknowledged in open court by the said Samuel F Rennick and ordered to be recorded
Teste James Benagh clk

Mets Viewer - Internet Explorer
http://digitool.lva.lib.va.us:1801/view/action/nmets.do?DOCCHOICE=1092810.xml&dvs=1454517575834-31&locale=en_US&search_terms=lynchburg&adjacency=N&VIEWER_URL=/view/action/nmets.do?&DELIVERY_RULE_ID=1&usePid1=true&usePid2=true

ExLibris **Digitool** - Resource Discovery
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lynchburg >> Adams, Biddy : Deed Of Emancipation > Original

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Adams, Biddy : Deed Of Emancipation
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For and in consideration of the good will which I bear towards my slave Biddy commonly known by the name of Biddy Adams and for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred & fifty Dollars to me in hand paid by the said Biddy Adams the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged and for other causes and considerations one thereto moving I do hereby emancipate and forever quit claim to the services of the said Biddy Adams and set her free from all control of mine my heirs or assigns. In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal

100%

11:53 AM
2/3/2016

COLLECTIONS DATA @ LVA

Library of Virginia staff devote a considerable amount of time, energy, and expertise into indexing, describing and making digitally available of our amazing array of collections. While our databases are great ways to manage and deliver this content, sometimes the raw data can be an extremely valuable resource to researchers. So, we've decided to make many of our indexes available to the public as comma separated value (CSV) files. You can manipulate, search, and examine this bulk metadata in any way you'd like. As a matter of fact, we'd love for you to do something totally cool with this material - we invite you to explore these files, pose new questions of the data and see what you can discover.

African American Narrative

- [Certificates of Importation](#) (csv)
- [Coroner's Inquisitions](#) (csv)
- [Deeds of Emancipation](#) (csv)
- [Free Negro Certificates](#) (csv)
- [Free Negro Lists](#) (csv)
- [Freedman's Contracts](#) (csv)
- [Freedom Suits](#) (csv)
- [Indentures of Apprenticeship](#) (csv)
- [Petitions for Reenslavement](#) (csv)
- [Petitions to Remain in the Commonwealth](#) (csv)
- [Requisitions for Public Use](#) (csv)

aan_deeds_emancipation_master.csv [Read-Only] - Microsoft Excel

Year	First Name	Middle Name	Surname	Alias	Gender	Age	Physical	D	Means of Manumission	Previous Owners Name	Additional Slave Names	Addition Free Blac Names	Additional Surnames	Processor
1795	Milley				F					John Hite				htt
1795	Lucy				F					John Hite				htt
1796	Patty		Robinson		F	18				Robert Carter				htt
1798	Jack				M	47				John Talbott				htt
1798	Pegg			Margaret	F	10				John Talbott				htt
1798	Will				M	9				John Talbott				htt
1798	Ben				M	6				John Talbott				htt
1798	Jin				F	4				John Talbott				htt
1798	Abraham				M	2				John Talbott				htt
1798	Harry				M					John Talbott				htt
1806	Harry				M					George Clark; Thomas Babb; William Mercer; John Mercer				htt
1814	Daniel		Boden		M					Mary Page; Lucy Gwyn Page				htt
1820	Catharine			Caty	F	19	mulatto			Robert Carter Burwell; Philip Nelson				htt
1843	Si				M		mulatto			Joel Pennybacker				htt
1821	Ann				F	11				Nathan Perkins				htt
1824	Fanny		Gantt		F	40	mulatto			Griffin Haynie				htt
1824	Robert		Gantt			14				Griffin Haynie				htt
1824	Harriet		Gantt			10				Griffin Haynie				htt
1824	George	Wesley	Gantt			4				Griffin Haynie				htt
1824	Presley		Gantt							Griffin Haynie				htt
1795	Simon									Isaac Zane; Sarah Zane				htt
1795	Harry									Isaac Zane; Sarah Zane				htt
1795	Charles									Isaac Zane; Sarah Zane				htt
1795	Will									Isaac Zane; Sarah Zane				htt
1795	Tom									Isaac Zane; Sarah Zane				htt
1795	Dick									Isaac Zane; Sarah Zane				htt
1795	Dan									Isaac Zane; Sarah Zane				htt
1795	Buston									Isaac Zane; Sarah Zane				htt
1795	Lewis									Isaac Zane; Sarah Zane				htt
1795	Venus									Isaac Zane; Sarah Zane				htt
1795	Bett									Isaac Zane; Sarah Zane				htt
1795	Hester									Isaac Zane; Sarah Zane				htt
1851	Meredith			Mulatto	M		mulatto		emancipated by will	Dr. Alfred Magill				htt
1841	Priscilla			Priscilla	G	F			purchased by Major Garnett	James H. Terrell		Major Garnett		Major Gar htt
1842	Nelson		Roberts	Nelson	M				emancipated by deed	Lucy Minor				htt
1843	Fanny			Fanny	Lee	F			emancipated by deed	Martha F. Walker				Mother of htt
1843	George			George	Le	M			emancipated by deed	Martha F. Walker				Child of F htt
1843	Reubin		Lee	Reubin	M				emancipated by deed	Martha F. Walker				Father of htt
1857	Sachel				M		negro		emancipated by will	Mary J. Oldham				htt
1858	Isaiah			Isaiah	Crai	M		12	brown cor emancipated by deed	Martha L. Crank				htt




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Home / African American Narrative

African American Narrative


The names of millions of African Americans, slave and free, who lived, worked, worshiped, loved, and died in Virginia, are buried deep in the archival records and manuscript collections housed at the Library of Virginia. Whether contained in local court and state government records, private papers and business records, or newspapers and journals from the time, the untold narrative of a people is waiting to be discovered.



George : Coroner's Inquisition
Not Started



Gilbert : Coroner's Inquisition
Not Started



Jacob Cross: Coroner's Inquisition
Not Started




John Johnson: Coroner's Inquisition
Not Started




John McRae: Coroner's Inquisition
Not Started




Judy : Coroner's Inquisition
Not Started



Marshall Tyler: Coroner's Inquisition
Not Started



Nelson : Coroner's Inquisition
Not Started

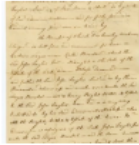


Randolph : Coroner's Inquisition
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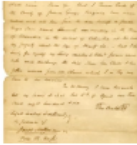
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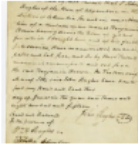
Bristol: Deed Of Emancipation, Arlington County

Not Started



Hannah: Deed Of Emancipation, Arlington County

Not Started



Brown, Benjamin: Deed Of Emancipation, Arlington County

Not Started



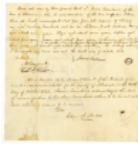
Bryan, Alexander: Deed Of Emancipation, Arlington County

Not Started



Berry, Ann: Deed Of Emancipation, Arlington County

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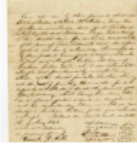
Townshend, Caroline: Deed Of Emancipation, Arlington County

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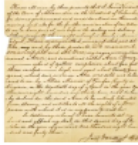
Williams, William: Deed Of Emancipation, Arlington County

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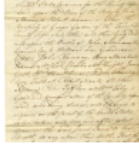
Gibson, Sarah: Deed Of Emancipation, Arlington County

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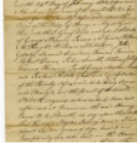
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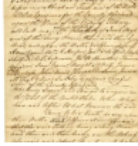
Murrey, Jane: Coroner's Inquisition, Arlington County

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Henny: Coroner's Inquisition, Arlington County

Not Started



Tilbury: Coroner's Inquisition, Arlington County

Not Started



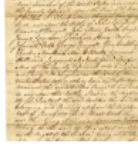
George: Coroner's Inquisition, Arlington County

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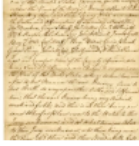
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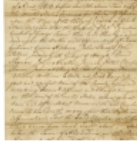
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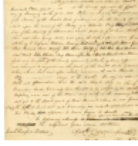
Darcus: Coroner's Inquisition, Arlington County

Not Started



Charles: Coroner's Inquisition, Arlington County

Not Started



Unidentified: Coroner's Inquisition, Arlington County

Not Started



Arthur: Freedom Suit,
Louisa County (Part 2
of 2)

Needs Review



Agga: Freedom Suit,
Middlesex County
(Part 1 of 2)

Needs Review



Agga: Freedom Suit,
Middlesex County
(Part 2 of 2)

Needs Review



Hord, Betsy: Freedom
Suit, Middlesex
County (Part 1 of 2)

Needs Review



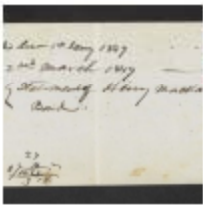
Hord, Betsy: Freedom
Suit, Middlesex
County (Part 2 of 2)

Needs Review



Wood, Judy: Freedom
Suit, Middlesex
County (Part 2 of 4)

Needs Review



Wood, Judy: Freedom
Suit, Middlesex
County (Part 3 of 4)

Needs Review



Wood, Judy: Freedom
Suit, Middlesex
County (Part 4 of 4)

Needs Review



Viney, Rachel:
Freedom Suit,
Montgomery County
(Part 1 of 5)

Needs Review



Viney, Rachel:
Freedom Suit,
Montgomery County
(Part 2 of 5)

Needs Review



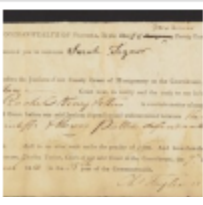
Viney, Rachel:
Freedom Suit,
Montgomery County
(Part 3 of 5)

Needs Review



Viney, Rachel:
Freedom Suit,
Montgomery County
(Part 4 of 5)

Needs Review



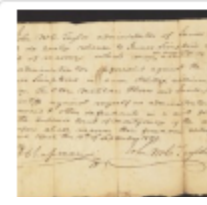
Viney, Rachel:
Freedom Suit,
Montgomery County
(Part 5 of 5)

Needs Review



Ruth: Freedom Suit,
Montgomery County
(Part 5 of 5)

Needs Review



Phillis: Freedom Suit,
Montgomery County
(Part 2 of 20)

Needs Review

Rachel Veney/Viney narrative

(4)
offered in evidence a certain John Smith to prove that he heard
a certain Thomas Hammond a very old man born as the said Thomas
Hammond said in the year 1701/2 or 1702 the said Smith could not
recollect which day The said Smith declared the said Thomas Hammond
who is now dead, seriously informed him that when he was a lad
of between ten and twelve years old, the women above mentioned
were brought in a ship and that they were called Indians had
the appearance of Indians and had long straight black hair
hanging down to their waists that Mary was an old woman
and Pess a girl of abt 12. or 13 years of age said to be the
granddaughter of Mary, to the admission of which evidence
to prove what he heard the said Thomas Hammond say -
when not on oath, the defendant by his counsel objected
but he was overruled by the Court, who admitted such
testimony to go to the jury to which Opinion of the Court
the defendant by his counsel excepted and offered this Bill
of exception praying that the Court would seal the same

Rachel Veney/Viney narrative

At a Superior Court held for District of Richmond,
Westmoreland, Lancaster & Northumberland on the 23rd Tuesday
the 7th September 1771

Sarah, Anndrew, Mrs. Lam Hannah, Milley,
Judy, Sarah Rachel, Molly, Rachel, Tom,
Subby Judy, Maddues, Winney, Charlotte Dorcas
and George Indians.

Against

John Davis adm^r of Tho^s Smith Dec^d & Co^s left.

This day came the parties by their attorneys, and there
upon came a jury to wit James O'Call Tho^s Self, Richard
B. Bancroft, William Self John Blutton, Richard Pope
Joseph Pope Tho^s Butler, John Rowand William Tattis

At

In breach
of assault
battery
and false
imprison-
ment

Rachel Veney/Viney narrative

The petition of Rachel Viney
a woman of colour humbly represents
that by the order of Montgomery county
court at the March term 1807 your
petitioner instituted a suit for her freedom
against a certain Henry Patton of said
county your petitioner claimed her
freedom as being the descendant of
an Indian woman on the female line
and has been emancipated by a judg-
ment of the district court of Warthenber-
land & that she was about the time of
the rendition of the judgment aforesaid
or before by taken from the eastern
part of this State and sold to the
said Henry Patton then living on New
river which has been a habit since the
four or five years past your
petitioner has been for many years ready
& anxious for a trial in said county court
but the said court has unnecessarily
& unneccessarily delayed the determina-
tion thereof to the as she is informed
the law requires the most speedy determina-
tion of her suit your petitioner is

Rachel Veney/Viney narrative

from my this state and sold to the
Said Henry Patton then living on new
river which has been about twenty
four or five years past your
petitioner has been for many years ready
& anxious for a trial in said county court
but the said court has unreasonably
& unnecessarily delayed the determina-
= tion thereof altho as she is informed
the law requires the most speedy determi-
= nation of her suit your petitioner is
the mother of many children whose liberty
depends upon the decision of this suit
and should your petitioner die their chance
for success would be greatly lessened she is
now very old and the probability of being
much longer is greatly against her
petitioner would for the State that
she has been informed & believes

Rachel Veney/Viney narrative

The Deposition of Elizabeth Daniel aged forty seven years taken before me in the said jurisdiction in the County Court of Montgomery. between Rachel Viney and her children who sue in forma pauperis plaintiffs & Henry Patton defendant taken in pursuance of a commission from the said Court to us directed and at the time & place stated in the Notice hereto annexed -

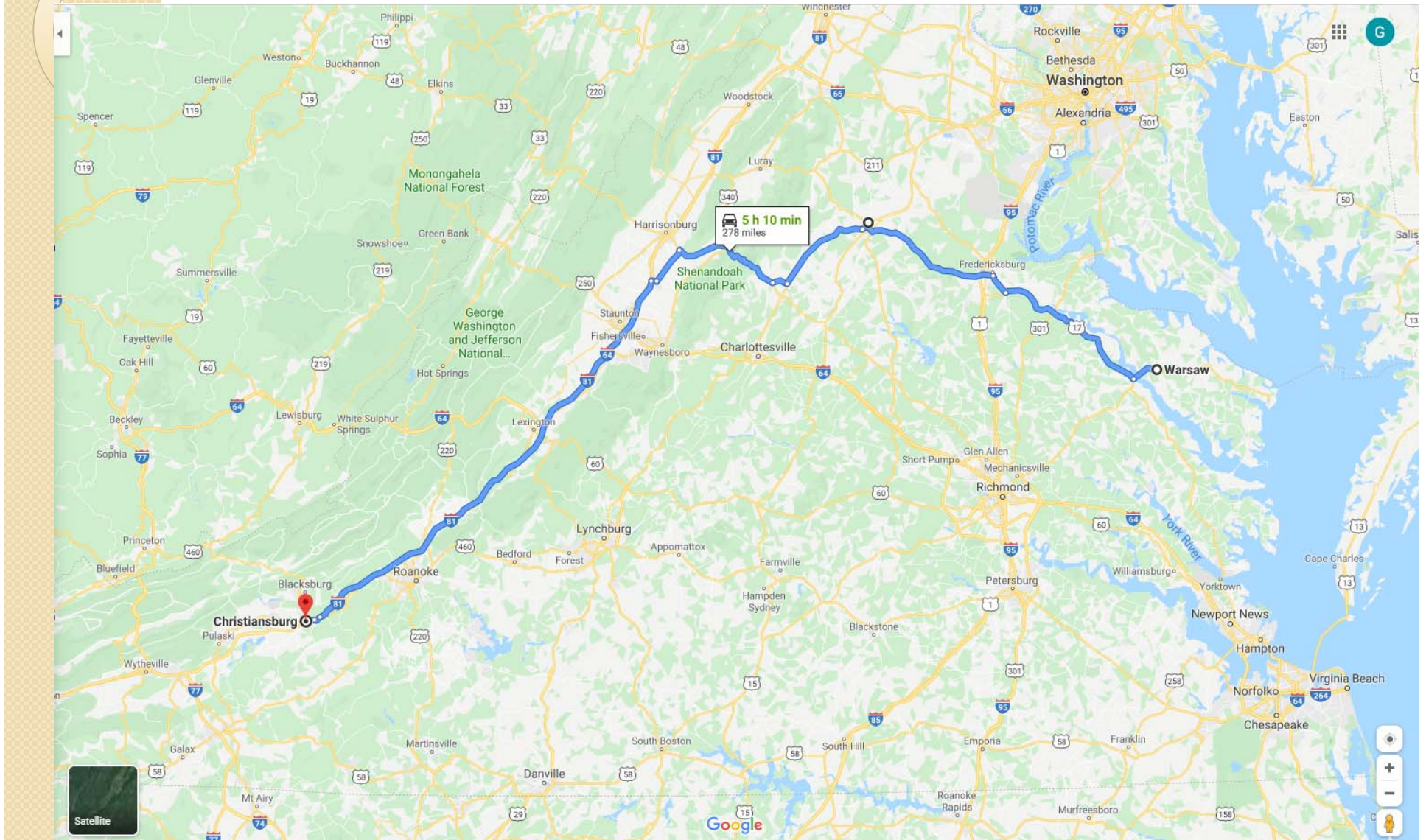
This deponent being first sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God Depoeth and saith that she lived in the Family of Thomas Smith in the County of Richmond when the plaintiff Rachel was born which is forty two or fifty years that she well knew Sarah Veney the mother of Rachel who was then owned by several persons who also knew several

Rachel Veney/Viney narrative

Rachel Viney de
 her Declaration
 By Pollan
 We of the Navy find for
 the ~~the~~ ~~entitled~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~
 and a ~~part~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~
 at 1 Cent. ~~allowing~~ ~~to~~
 be entitled to our freedom
 Mrs J Bond

We of the Navy find
 for the ~~the~~ ~~entitled~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~
 they are free and a ~~part~~
 the same as to me ~~cent~~
 Mrs J Bond

Rachel Veney/Viney narrative



Rachel Veney/Viney narrative

Thaddy Veney	"	"
James Rich	Minor	"
Mary Rich	Spinster	"
Wm. Veney	Farmer	Wm. Smith
Sally Veney	Spinster	"
Thad. Veney	Minor	"
Geo Veney	"	"
Hannah Veney	"	"
Indy Veney	"	"
Darcas Veney	Spinster	Geo. Blust
Humphrey Veney	Minor	"
Sally Veney	Spinster	Wm. Hays
Joe Veney	Farmer	"
Lydia Veney	Minor	"
Thomas Veney	"	"
John Veney	Farmer	John Harrison
Indy Veney	Spinster	"
Wm. Maiden	Farmer	Wm. B. Mitchell
Whison Veney	"	Wm. Smith
Sally Veney	Spinster	"
George Veney	Minor	"
...	"	"



Rachel Veney/Viney narrative

Rachel's story can be read in a freedom suit heard in Montgomery County.

Montgomery County Chancery Cause
1815-006: Rachel Viney, etc. vs. Henry
Patton



Arthur: Freedom Suit,
Louisa County (Part 2
of 2)

Needs Review



Agga: Freedom Suit,
Middlesex County
(Part 1 of 2)

Needs Review



Agga: Freedom Suit,
Middlesex County
(Part 2 of 2)

Needs Review



Hord, Betsy: Freedom
Suit, Middlesex
County (Part 1 of 2)

Needs Review



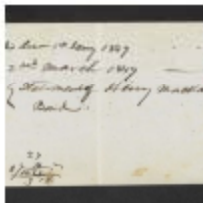
Hord, Betsy: Freedom
Suit, Middlesex
County (Part 2 of 2)

Needs Review



Wood, Judy: Freedom
Suit, Middlesex
County (Part 2 of 4)

Needs Review



Wood, Judy: Freedom
Suit, Middlesex
County (Part 3 of 4)

Needs Review



Wood, Judy: Freedom
Suit, Middlesex
County (Part 4 of 4)

Needs Review



Viney, Rachel:
Freedom Suit,
Montgomery County
(Part 1 of 5)

Needs Review



Viney, Rachel:
Freedom Suit,
Montgomery County
(Part 2 of 5)

Needs Review



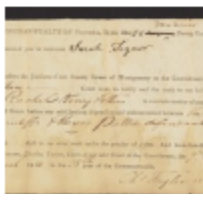
Viney, Rachel:
Freedom Suit,
Montgomery County
(Part 3 of 5)

Needs Review



Viney, Rachel:
Freedom Suit,
Montgomery County
(Part 4 of 5)

Needs Review



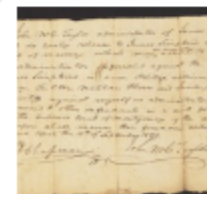
Viney, Rachel:
Freedom Suit,
Montgomery County
(Part 5 of 5)

Needs Review



Ruth: Freedom Suit,
Montgomery County
(Part 5 of 5)

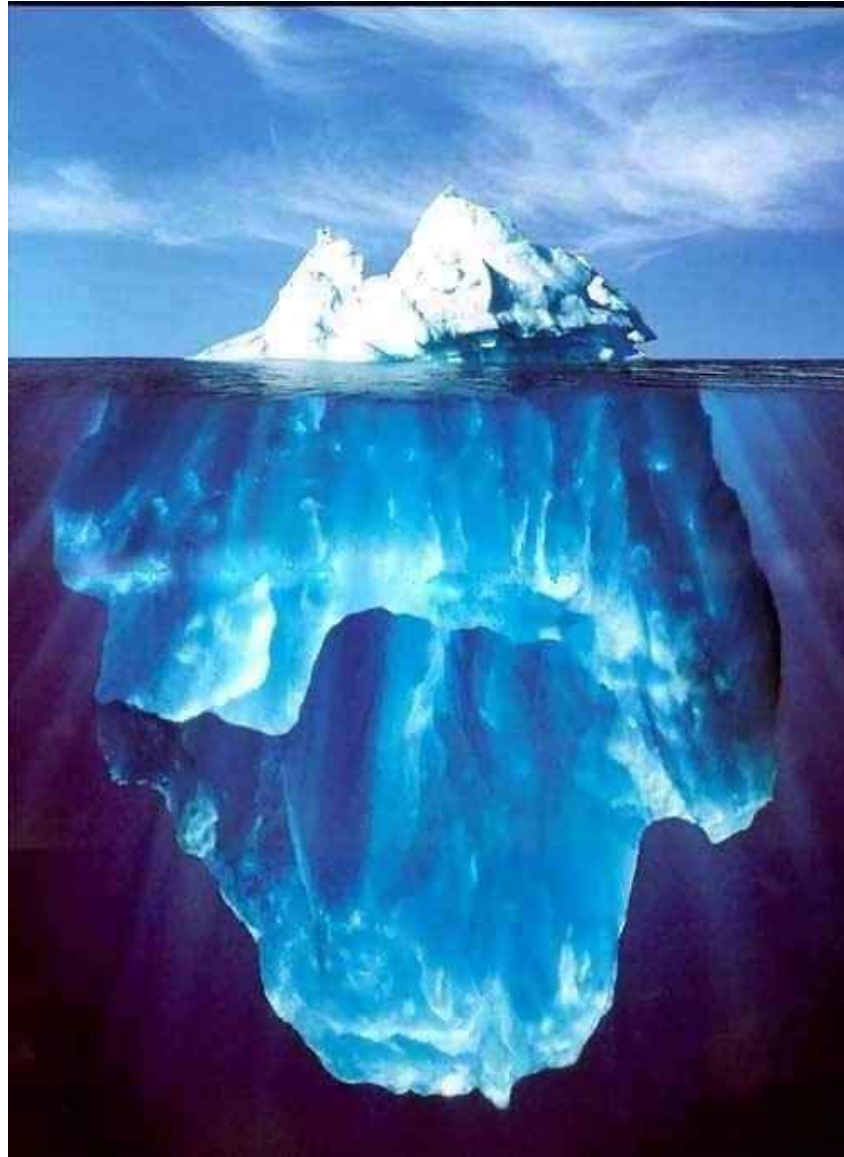
Needs Review



Phillis: Freedom Suit,
Montgomery County
(Part 2 of 20)

Needs Review

Tip of the Iceberg



Archives

From Lancaster To Lunenburg: Betty Chapman's Story In Virginia Untold



In 1788, the Virginia General Assembly reformed the state judicial courts in order to alleviate congestion in the General Court, which had caused unreasonable delays in the adjudication of common law cases such as repayment of debts, slander, land disputes, and fraud. They divided the Commonwealth into eighteen **district courts**, each composed of several counties, plus the district of Kentucky. The Brunswick County District Court heard cases originating in the counties of Brunswick, Greenville,

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