



Prince William Reliquary

RELIC, Bull Run Regional Library, Manassas, Virginia

REL-I-QUAR-Y: (*noun*) A receptacle for keeping or displaying relics.

Crummett's Store

By Marlyn V. McClure
(Granddaughter of Addison Crummett, Founder)



Section of the Eugene Scheel Map of Prince William County, 1992, depicting the locations of Belleville, Woodlawn School and Crummett's Store.
Courtesy of Eugene M. Scheel

A store is wood, masonry, metal, glass and merchandise. A country store of yesteryear was much, much more. It was a lifeline for isolated rural areas. It served as a communication nucleus and a social gathering place as well as a trading center. One such enterprise was Crummett's Store established in 1914.

The original store, opened by Addison Crummett in 1914, operated in one room of a four-room frame house (two rooms down, two rooms up). The house was located on 14 7/8 acres of a tract once a part of the Belleville estate and now located on Vint Hill Road. This estate was owned and occupied by the Ewell family throughout the

18th and 19th centuries. In 1914, the store vicinity was known as Woodlawn.¹

Addison Crummett displayed several hundred dollars worth of merchandise in one of the downstairs rooms of the frame house. He later related that the purchase of the merchandise used up his resources to the extent he only had about \$2.50 left to stock the cash register. However, the first customers soon remedied that problem² and they were off on a venture that would last seventy years.

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¹ Phillip J. Hill, PhD., Michael P. Roller, and Alan F. Greene, *A Phase I Archeological Survey of the Albrite Property: a 15.26 acre parcel located on Vint Hill Road in Prince William County, Virginia* (Silver Spring, Md.: Archeological Testing and Consulting, Inc., 21 June 2002), 3-14.

² D'Anne Evans, "Crummett's Store a Local Landmark," *Manassas Journal Messenger*, 17 August 1993, p. A3.



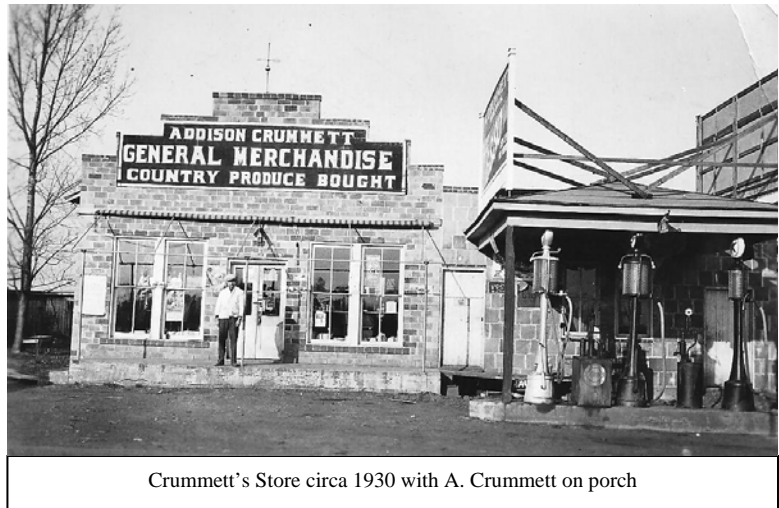
Back: Addison, Mary, Berkley, Herbert Crummett;
Front: Samuel and Virginia Crummett at the corner
of the 1917 house/store, circa 1928.

Photos from author's collection.

As both his inventory and family grew, more space was needed and four more rooms were added to the residence/business in 1917. Now the store occupied two rooms (one for warehousing). A customer could buy clothing, shoes, groceries, pots and pans (and also kits to repair the holes in the pans), sewing materials, kerosene for lamps and much more. As a child, Herbert Crummett, son of Addison recalls his father taking the horse and wagon and driving to Nokesville or Bristow to meet the train and bring back fresh bread transported from city bakeries. Most general stores were near a rail stop because most of their merchandise arrived that way.

The "new" store building was built next to the house in 1924. The outer walls were constructed with terra-cotta blocks, with a metal roof. The interior

utilized the block walls with oiled wooden floors. The ceiling was white embossed tin. The porch sported a green and white awning. This building became a landmark in the area and was used to give directions and even appeared in some deeds. When cars and trucks became more prevalent, the hitching posts gave way to a larger parking lot and gasoline was added to the products provided.. At first, customers had to fill cans from a tank kept on the house porch and transfer it to their vehicles. Later standing pumps made it more convenient.³



Crummett's Store circa 1930 with A. Crummett on porch



Side of Crummett's, 1944, with granddaughters Jane Crummett Penrod and Marlyn Yankey McClure.

Inside at the rear of the store was an area utilized for several repair services. Tires and inner tubes were patched by removing the slick surface on a grinding wheel and applying rubber cement to the tube. Next the patch was placed on the inner tube and a pan containing fuel was clamped over it. The fuel was then ignited and allowed to burn causing a vulcanizing effect. After that the tube was allowed to cool and cure and then placed in the tire ready for use. A few feet away stood stands containing various sizes of shoe lasts. Shoes were placed sole side up and new heels or half soles were nailed on with special tacks. Both of these procedures required trimming away excess materials to complete the job. A good polish and they were ready for another year or two.

³ Evans, "Crummett's Store a Local Landmark," p. A3.



Interior of Crummett's Store c. 1930 – L to R: Samuel A. Crummett, Addison Crummett, W. Herbert Crummett.

Prior to the widespread use of electric refrigeration, products requiring cold storage were kept in the “ice house” in an adjacent building. Large blocks of ice transported from Manassas in heavy blankets provided the cooling effect when placed in the room with thick insulated walls and sawdust floors.

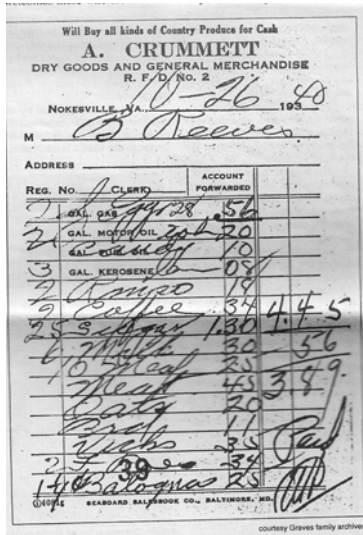
Besides “Cash and Carry,” the Crummetts offered a barter system. Farmers exchanged live chickens, eggs and dressed rabbits for staples such as feed, canned goods, tobacco, etc. Chickens were placed in coops. Robert Beahm, local historian of the Nokesville area, remembers bringing a chicken or

two to trade for merchandise when he came to store with his parents as a little boy. He stated that the front porch of the store would be loaded with coops full of chickens. Eggs went through a process called candling to determine the freshness and grade. (A cigar box with two holes cut in the top on which the eggs were placed and one hole on side through which a light bulb was inserted served this purpose.) The rabbits were placed on ice. These products were transported to Washington, DC once a week and sold to various restaurants for their use. The monies received were used to purchase fresh produce at the open market on Maine Street. This was a practice carried on through to the 1950's (less the rabbits which were discontinued during the 1940's). Neighborhood youngsters and grandchildren had the honor of riding along from time to time. (It meant being ready to leave at 5:00 a.m. and not returning until about 5:00 p.m.)



Addison Crummett with Star converted truck used to transport produce to and from Washington, D.C., circa 1930.

Soft drinks were dispensed from large tanks filled with circulating ice-cold water. Those were the days before disposable plastic bottles and aluminum cans. If the drinks were taken from the store, a 2¢ deposit was required. The customer was then reimbursed when bottles were returned. Some members of the community collected discarded bottles and brought them to the store to cash in for other products. Ice cream was dipped by hand from large containers into cones at a nickel for a single dip. (This author was fortunate enough to be able to clean out the containers when they became too empty to dip from). There was always candy for sale in containers on the counter and later in candy bar form for any one who had a sweet tooth. Monies received for these “goodies” and other merchandise were deposited in an ornate brass cash register. Evidently most items cost a nickel or a multiple of five since that key was worn away and indented. Like other equipment in time, it was replaced with more modern models.



Although the 1940 sales ticket at the left indicates that it was paid, there were many more filed in a drawer and kept on account until the customer was able to pay. Many times, more items were charged than payments made, thus the term “cash and carry” held a double meaning. Following the death of Herbert Crummett, several of these “account books” were found in his belongings. Even after almost fifteen years they had not been paid. And it was a safe bet that the customers had never been refused credit for additional food. This would never happen in today’s chain stores.

Note that the customer had brought in two dozen eggs (at twenty-eight cents a dozen) to pay for a portion of the items purchased and the fifty-six cents for the eggs was deducted from the total sale. Also take note of the prices for bread at 11¢, one and a fourth pound of bologna for 25¢ and 25 lbs. of sugar for only

\$1.30.

In the 1940’s Crummett’s began another venture. With the help of son, Herbert who returned from Europe following World War II, a fuel oil delivery business was created. Orders for the fuel were made through the store and delivered on a special oil truck by Herbert. Following the forced retirement of Addison due to poor health, Herbert covered the counter in the store. This meant hiring additional drivers for the ever expanding oil routes. Among these drivers were Arthur and Oliver Corbin & Owen Heflin. In the 1970’s the oil portion of the business was sold to Anderson Oil Company of Fredericksburg which maintained storage tanks at the site for many years.



Standing: Arthur Corbin, Unknown, Owen Heflin. Front: Herbert Crummett, circa 1970.

Addison Crummett passed away in November 1963 and W. Herbert Crummett became the sole proprietor of Crummett’s Store and Oil Delivery. Following the death of Addison’s widow Mary A. Sampson Crummett in February, 1970, the tract containing the house, store, and oil storage tanks was conveyed to Herbert by his brothers, A. Berkley Crummett and Samuel A. Crummett, his sister, M. Virginia Yankey and their spouses.⁴

In addition to business aspect of the store, it served as a center for local residents (mostly farmers [men]) to relax and compare their day’s activities and just “chew the fat”.

Because the store remained open until 9:00 p.m., there was plenty of time following evening chores and supper to accomplish this. The “King heater” that remained a store fixture until its sale served as the center piece of this pastime. Many a can of soup was heated and chestnuts roasted on those stoves (they were good stoves, but even the best ones couldn’t have lasted all

⁴Hill, *A Phase I Archeological Survey of the Albrite Property*, p. 3-14.

those years). Like the replacement stoves, the clientele around it changed as new generations grew up.

The complexion of the “country store” began to change with better transportation and arrival of large chain groceries. To keep up with the changing demand and to remain solvent, storekeepers remodeled their offering from general to food convenience stores.⁵ Crummett’s Store opened about 6:00 a.m. and stayed open until around 9:00 p.m. That was a long day for just one person. Although from time to time he employed part-time help, Herbert was there from opening to closing.

Although the store and nearby residence of Herbert Crummett were located very close to the road front, it was an isolated area after dark. This isolation led to several robberies and bodily harm to the owner.

One of these incidents was a break in when no one was in the store. Some merchandise was taken along with the cast iron safe kept in the office area at the rear of the store. The bandits were able to get the safe open and abandoned it a short distance from the store. After that Herbert Crummett carried monies from the cash register to the house with him most every night. This was probably the cause of two later incidents. The first happened when an unidentified assailant fired a gun through the kitchen window and wounded Mr. Crummett in the shoulder. After an investigation, no arrests were made. There was speculation that it may not have been a robbery attempt, but an assassination attempt, but there was not enough evidence to make an arrest. Several years later, Mr. Crummett was ambushed upon reaching the house with receipts, cash, etc. and he was severely beaten with a crow bar.

The changing role of the store, the long hours, and the more dangerous environment led Herbert Crummett to sell the property and store to Wallace S. Covington and Margaret G. Covington in 1985.⁶ They remodeled the house and store and Mrs. Covington continued to operate the store even for a short time after Mr. Covington’s death in 1986.

The building was used over the next decade as a thrift shop, seafood outlet, and finally as “Olde Crummett Station”, an attempt to restore it to a “place where the community would like to gather and shop.”⁷ But those are other stories

The final chapter in the history of Crummett’s Store came in November 2004 when it was demolished to make way for houses being constructed by Brookfield Washington, LLC. Although it is gone physically, it will live on in the memories of those who passed through its doors during the 70-plus years of its operation.



Seated: Gary Carrico, Paul and Wade House; Standing: Unknown



⁵ Evans, “Crummett’s Store a Local Landmark,” p. A3.

⁶ Hill, *A Phase I Archeological Survey of the Albrite property*, p. 3-14.

⁷ “Old fashioned country store returns to Nokesville—at Olde Crummett Station”, *Bull Run Observer*, 12 January 2000, p. 3.

A CLARKE-GOSSOM FAMILY REGISTER

[The following is a transcript of a typed pamphlet found by staff of the Prince William County Historical Commission in the old Gossom home known as Mount Atlas, in the area of Waterfall on Bull Run Mountain. A photocopy of the item was given to RELIC in the fall of 2005. It was retyped by Beverly Veness, RELIC staff.]

GOSSOM FAMILY

exact copy / as written by
J. C. GOSSOM, Sr. ¹

copied

A.M. Clarke was / borned Sept 2nd 1796
Ann Bullock his wife borned Feb 28th 1798
Wm F Clarke was borned / May 21st 1829 1829 [sic]
Katherine Ann Clarke / borned Jan 31st 1831
Alpheus M Clarke Borned / May 16th 1833
so it was written / Mother Departed this life Feb. 1st 1836 1836 [sic] ²
A M Clarke & Ann Bullock / was married Nov [blank] 1817
Ann Clark [sic] the wife of A M Clarke / Died Feb 15th 1876

A. M. Clarke Died / Nov 18th AD 1858
the mother of J C Gossom / Ruth Gossom [*nee Davis*] was borned May 1st 1812
Ruth Gossom Died July 5th 1876
Wm. Henry Gossom & Ruth Davis / was married AD 1837 1837 [sic]
Susan Davis the wife of Job Davis / & the mother of Ruth Died June 1866
Thomas Coulter the / The [sic] Father of Susan Davis
Thomas Davis the / Father of Job Davis

Thompson Gossom
the father of Wm Henry Gossom &
the Grand Father of John C Gossom Sr
the Great G " " John C " Jr

December 15th 1867
Marriages

John C Gossom and / Mary F Clarke was / married Jan 31st 1867
his age 29 years 2nd Nov same year
her age 29 years 9th June same year

Births

John C. Gossom was / borned Nov 2nd 1838
Mary F Clarke the wife / of J C Gossom was borned / June 9th 1838
W^m T. Gossom was / borned Nov 8th 1867
James R Gossom was borned / Feb 16th 1869

¹ John C. Gossom (2 Nov 1838-17 May 1899). The booklet was typed no earlier than 1956.

² Not clear who this "Mother" is. Perhaps the mother of A.M. Clarke or Ann (Bullock) Clarke.

Ruth Ann Gossom the daughter / of John C & Mary F Gossom / was borned October 12th 1870
Richard Benoni Gossom was / borned Jan 27th AD 1873

John C Gossom Jr / the son of John C & / Mary F Gossom / was borned July 8th 1874
Mary. E. Gossom / the daughter of John. C & / Mary F Gossom was borned / April 29th 1876
George. Alton Gossom / son of John. C. & Mary his / wife was borned August / 20th 1878
Francis. Ish. Gossom / he was borned June 28th / AD 1880

excerpt from the Manassas Journal / written by Miss Ruth Davis of Baltimore

In Remembrance

In loving remembrance of my uncle, John / C. Gossom, who died at his home near Water- / fall, Prince William County, May 17, 1899, / in his 61st year.

The home will miss him, the vacant chair / will long be a source of sadness. All who / knew him loved him as one can only love the / good. He was a loving husband, a kind and / devoted father. He leaves a widow and six / children, one daughter and five sons.

In his later days he was a consistent mem- / ber of the Old School church, and breathed / his last with those assurances that all was / well.

Why do we mourn for dying friends,
Or shake at death's alarms?
Tis but the voice that Jesus sends
To call them to his arms.

His toils are past, his work is done,
And they are fully blest,
He fought the fight the victory won,
And entered into rest.

Then let our sorrows cease to flow;
God has recalled His own.
But let our hearts in every woe,
Still say, Thy will be done.

A niece

Deaths

Ruth Ann Gossom / The Daughter of John C & / Mary F Gossom Departed / this life October 14th 1872 / Aged 2 years & two days

added by Ella Gossom Clarke³

James R. Gossom / Died June 5 – 1896 / age 27 years

John C Gossom Sr / died May 17 – 1899 / age 60

Mary F Gossom / Died Aug 17 – 1925 / Age 87

J. C. Gossom Jr / Died Aug. 15, 1915

Added by Nellie Gossom Sinclair

Ella Gossom Clarke / died June 15, 1955

her husband / Sidney R. Clarke / died Aug. 4, 1956

³ Same as Mary E. Gossom, born 1876. As Ella Gossom married Sidney R. Clark, 7 Dec. 1904. Ronald Ray Turner, *Prince William County Virginia Marriages 1854-1938* (Manassas, Va.: R. R. Turner, 2002), 143.

**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY
DEEDS OF EMANCIPATION,
1800-1850**

Compiled and Transcribed by Charlotte Cain, RELIC Volunteer
Notes prepared by Donald L. Wilson

*[These emancipation transcriptions were compiled using the Deed Book Index for Prince William County, Virginia. The earliest emancipation is dated January 1800; the latest, June 1850. Please note that several deed books are lost or mutilated during this period. Manumissions before 1800 were abstracted by Ruth and Sam Sparacio.¹ The earliest found was dated 3 March 1793 when Francis Galvan DeBernoux and wife Elizabeth promised to free **Sall alias Sally** after the death of Elizabeth.²]*

●Deed Book 1, p. 2 – To all persons to whom these presents shall come I Hector ROSS of the town of Dumfries County of Prince William and Commonwealth of Virginia send greeting. Whereas William TEMPLEMAN Esquire now deceased did in and by his last will and testament of record in the General Court of Virginia³ dated in or about the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy three did devise unto me a negro boy named **Dick** who hath now arrived at the age of about forty years , Now know ye that for and in consideration of the faithful services which the said negro Dick hath rendered me and in pursuance of the intention of the said testator as expressed in the said will I do hereby emancipate and set free the said Negro named Dick for ever . And I the said Hector ROSS do for myself my heirs Exors and administrators do hereby covenant and grant to and with the said negro man Dick that he shall forever hereafter remain free and emancipated from my claim and from all and every other person and persons claiming or to claim by from or under me which Emancipation is made by me in pursuance and by virtue of an act of assembly in force and in such cases made and provided In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this sixth day of January 1800.

Sealed and delivered in presence of

H ROSS {seal}

At a court held for Prince William County the 6th day of January 1800 This deed of Emancipation from Hector ROSS to negro Dick was acknowledged by said ROSS and admitted to record.

Teste: John WILLIAMS Clk Cur.

●Deed Book 1, p. 173 – Know all men by these presence that I James ROSE of Prince William County and State of Virginia: (In pursuance with an Act passed by the Assembly the 17th December 1792 concerning the Emancipation of slaves, Article 36) do hereby free and emancipate the following negroes Vizt, **Cate** about 25 years of age to have a direct discharge from my service, and all other claims of Right, title or interest of me or any other person or persons whatsoever, also **Silvey her daughter** born Oct 30th 1797 to be free at 25 years of age, as also **Jess (her) (the said Cates) son** born September 29th 1799 to be free at 25 years of age, Both to be discharged from my service or my heirs Executors or Administrators as herein directed as witness my hand and seal this 31 day of January 1801.

¹ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Prince William County, Virginia, Deed Abstracts* [4 v., 1791-1799] (McLean, Va.: Antient Press, 1993). See indexes under “Negroes.”

² Sparacio, *PWC Deed Abstracts, 1791-1794*, 100, citing PWC Deed Book Y: 288-289.

³ Will not now extant. Records of the General Court were destroyed in the burning of Richmond, April 1865. Cf. William Templeman of Spotsylvania County who owned land in Fredericksburg in 1772. [William A. Crozier, *Virginia County Records: Spotsylvania County, 1721-1800* (New York: 1905), 291.]

James ROSS {seal}

At a court held for P Wm County the 2nd day of February 1801. this deed of emancipation from James ROSE to negroe Cate and children was acknowledged by said ROSE to be his act and deed and ordered to be recorded.

Teste: John WILLIAMS Clk Cur

●Deed Book 1, p. 198 – Virginia Westmoreland County Sct.

I James BLAND Clerk of the said County duly qualified according to Law do hereby certify that Robert CARTER by his attorney Francis BROOKE produced to the court a Deed of Emancipation and a schedule thereunto annexed bearing date the first day of August 1791. Emancipating sundry slaves therein named duly acknowledged in the District Court by a certificate in the said deed in the following words to wit “At a District Court Continued and held for the District of Richmond, Westmoreland, Lancaster and Northumberland at Northumberland court house Monday the 5th day of September 1791. This deed of emancipation and the schedule thereto annexed were this day acknowledged in open court and were ordered to be Recorded” Teste Thomas Edwards Clk. And I do further certify that **Judith PATTERSON** a female of the age of thirtyone years is one of the slaves mentioned in the said Deed of Schedule of Emancipation. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand as Clerk aforesaid this sixth Day of February 1797.

Jas BLAND Cl C

At a court held for Prince Wm County the 4th day of May 1801. This Certificate of Emancipation from Robt. CARTER to Judith PATTERSON was presented to the Court & admitted to record.

Teste: John WILLIAMS Clk Cur

[*Note in margin*] Examined & delivered **Judith PATTERSON alias HARRIS**⁴ on the 1st day of June 1801 – J WILLIAMS Clk Cur. Returned and filed at the request of Judith PATTERSON.

J. WILLIAMS.

●Deed Book 1, p. 290 – Know all men by these presents that I Richard BRENT for and in consideration of five shillings to me in hand paid the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, have manumitted emancipated & freed & do hereby emancipate free and liberate a certain mulatto man slave commonly called and known by the name of **John WHARTON** In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal this 7th day of July 1801.

Rich’d BRENT {seal}

Teste: Geo Graham

At a court continued and held for Prince William County the 4th day of August 1801.

This deed of Emancipation from Rich’d BRENT to John WHARTON was proved by the oath of Geo. GRAHAM and ordered to be recorded.

Teste: John WILLIAMS Clk Cur

[*Note in margin*] Ex’d & Del’d to John WHARTON the 8th day of Nov. 1802. P DANIEL

●Deed Book 1, p. 388 – I do by these presents emancipate and set free from service for ever my negro woman **Rachel** formerly the property of Col. Peter WAGONER and neither myself nor heirs shall have any right or claim to her the said Rachel’s services from the date of these presents. Signed with my hand and sealed with my seal at Dumfries this 6th day of October 1801.

N. ELLICOTT {seal}

Teste: James MUSCHETT, M. HARRISON

At a court continued and held for Prince William County the 6th day of October 1801. This deed of emancipation from N. ELLICOTT to negro Rachel was acknowledged by the said Ellicott to be his act and deed and ordered to be recorded.

Teste: John WILLIAMS Clk Cur

⁴ It appears that Judith Patterson married a man surnamed Harris between 1797 and 1801. [DLW]

Examined & delivered to negro Rachel the 19th day of May 1802. P DANIEL

●Deed Book 1, p. 388 – Know all men by these presents that I Thomas JACOB of the town of Dumfries County Prince William and Commonwealth of Virginia pursuant to the thirty sixth section of the act of the general Assembly passed on the 17th day of December 1792 intituled “An act to reduce into one the several acts concerning slaves, free negroes and mulattoes” Do manumit emancipate liberate and set free to all intents and purposes the following slaves vizt. One mulatto woman slave named **Kitty and her child named George** together with the future increase of the said Kitty.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this thirty first day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine.

Thomas JACOB {seal}

Sealed & delivered in presence of } John WILLIAMS, Edw’d DENEALE, T’s A SMITH

At a court cont’d and held for Prince William the 5th day of August 1801.

This deed of Emancipation from Thomas JACOB to negroes Kitty and George was proved by the oath of John WILLIAMS and ordered to be certified and At a court cont’d & held for the said county the 6th day of October 1801. This said deed was fully proved by the oath of Thomas A SMITH and admitted to record.

Teste: John WILLIAMS Clk Cur

●Deed Book 2, p. 57 – Know all men by these presents that I William SELECTMAN of the county of Prince William and the commonwealth of Virginia for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and ten dollars to me in hand paid by Coats RIDGEWAY of the same county and commonwealth the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge have manumitted and set free and by these presents manumit and set free of and from all manner of slavery and servitude whatever from and after the thirty first day of December one thousand eight hundred and six, a negro man slave named **James FAUNTLEROY** about thirty two years of age my property and now in my possession and so that neither I nor my heirs executors or administrators or any person claiming ot to claim from or under me shall have any power or authority over the said slave after the time aforesaid but that he shall absolutely free to all intents and purposes after the said 31st day of December 1806. In witness whereof I have here to set my hand and affixed my seal this thirteenth day of January in the year of our lord 1802.

William SELECMAN {seal}

Sealed and delivered in the presents [*presence*] of Benniah WILLETT, N. ELLICOTT, Timothy CLEARY, Jas FULTON.

At a court held for Prince William County the 6th day of Sept 1802.

This deed of emancipation was acknowledged by the said SELECMAN to be his Act and Deed and ordered to be recorded.

Teste: John WILLIAMS Cl Cur

●Deed Book 2, p. 68 – Know all men by these presents that I Benjamin BURROUGHS of the county of Prince William State of Virginia have and do by these presents liberate emancipate and set free a negro woman by the name of **Molly** she being at the time of the execution of this writing my property. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 15th of June in the year of our lord eighteen hundred and two.

Benjamin BURROUGHS {seal}

Signed sealed acknowledged & delivered in presence of } Thomas PURCELL, Robert RANDOLPH, Chs PURCELL.

At a court held for Prince William County on the 4th day of October 1802. This deed of emancipation from Benj’n BURROUGHS to negro Molly was proved by the oaths of Thos PURCELL and Robert RANDOLPH and ordered to be recorded.

Teste: John WILLIAMS Cl Cur.

●Deed Book 2, p. 126 – Know All men by these presents that I Fanny WEBSTER of the town of Dumfries and county of Prince William for and in consideration of the sum of one dollar to me in hand paid the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge have manumitted emancipated and set free & do hereby emancipate set free and liberate a certain mulatto girl named **Polly** who was devised to me by the last will and testament of Thomas MONTGOMERIE deceased the said girl Polly is at this time about twenty one years of age. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this Twentyeth day of October 1802.

Fanny (her X mark) WEBSTER {seal}

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of } Philip DAWE Jr, J LAWSON, John WILLIAMS.

At a court held for Prince William County the 2nd day of May 1803. This deed of emancipation from Fanny WEBSTER to Polly was proved by the oaths of John WILLIAMS, John LAWSON, & Philip DAWE Jr. and ordered to be recorded.

Teste: John WILLIAMS Cl Cur.

●Deed Book 2, p. 266 – Know All men by these presents that I Hanson RENNO of the county of Fairfax & town of Alexandria have & do by these presents liberate emancipate & set free a negroe woman named **Lucy NIGHT** she being at the time of the execution of this writing my property. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this 22nd day of Nov. in the year of our lord 1799.

Hanson RENO {seal}

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of } John HAIFMOND, Richard BROOKE, Chs PURCELL, George NORMAN.

At a court held for Prince William County November 9th 1803. This deed of emancipation from Hanson RENO to Negroe Lucy NIGHT was proved by the oaths of Charles PURCELL & Geo NORMAN and ordered to be recorded.

Teste: John WILLIAMS Cl Cur.

●Deed Book 2, p. 359 – Know All men by these presents that we Benjamin BURROUGHS, James GRIGSBY & Robert HEDGES on this day for the consideration of one hundred dollars to us in hand the receipt whereof we doth hereby acknowledge have liberated, emancipated, manumitted and set at liberty Negro **Jesse** & by these presents do liberate emancipate manumit & grant freedom to said slave which said negro man Slave Jesse became our joint property by the last will and testament of Moses Jeffries dec'd⁵ and we do hereby covenant and bind ourselves our heirs Exrs. & Admis. To defend of any & each of our heirs or representatives or any other person whatsoever. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands & seals this 9th day of May 1804.

Benjamin BURROUGHS {seal}

James GRIGSBY {seal}

Robert HEDGES {seal}

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of }

James C. DENEALE Junr. As to R H

Jos BUTLER Jur. As to R H & BB & J G

Thomas MADDOX as to R H & BB & J G

John LINTON as to B BURROUGHS

At a court held for Prince William County July 2nd 1804. This deed of emancipation from Benjmn. BURROUGHS and others to negro Jesse was acknowledged by s'd BURROUGHS to be his act and deed and ordered to be recorded.

Teste: J WILLIAMS Cl Cur.

⁵ Will of Moses Jeffery [sic], recorded 1804 in Prince William County, Will Book I: 12, cited in Wesley E. Pippenger, *Index to Virginia Estates, 1800-1865*, v. 1 (Richmond: Virginia Genealogical Society, 2001): 277.

●Deed Book 2, p. 363 – Know All men by these presents that I Robert GARRETT of the county of Prince William in the state of Virginia do by these presents & in consideration of one dollar in hand paid me the receipt of which I do hereby acknowledge give and grant unto **Enoch**, my servant who at present lives with Messrs. LEONARD & Thomas COOK in Alex[andri]a his freedom on the second January in the year of our lord Eighteen hundred & six when his term will be expired with said Cooks and do by these presents bind myself to defend him the said Enoch from all claims whatever. In witness whereof I have this twenty second day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and three set my hand & seal,

Robt GARRETT {seal}
 Teste: Thomas A SMITH
 Teste: John JEWELL
 John BEAGLE

At a court Cont'd and held for Prince William County Augst. 8th 1804. This deed of emancipation from Robert GARRETT to Negro Enoch was proved by the oaths of Thomas A SMITH & John JEWELL & ordered to be recorded.

Teste: J WILLIAMS Cl Cur.

●Deed Book 2, p. 372 – Know All men by these presents that I John WILLIAMS of the town of Dumfries County of Prince William and commonwealth of Virginia pursuant to the 36th Section of the act of the General Assembly passed on the 17th day of December 1792 intituled “an act to reduce into one the several acts concerning slaves free negroes & mulattoes” do manumit emancipate liberate & set free to all intents and purposes the following slave Vizt: one negro man named **Patrick** by birth an African. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this 3rd day of Sept 1804.

John WILLIAMS {seal}

Sealed and delivered in presence of }

Phil Devr'x DAWE
 Colin CAMPBELL Jr.

At a court held for Prince William County September 3rd 1804. This deed of emancipation from Jno WILLIAM to negro Patrick was acknowledged by s'd WILLIAMS to be his act & deed & ordered to be recorded.

Teste: J WILLIAMS Cl Cur.

●Deed Book 3, p. 125 – Know all men by these presents that we Obed CALVERT and James PEAKE Executors of the last will and testament of Obed CALVERT Senr. deceased, in pursuance of a clause in the said last will⁶ and of the faithful services of a certain negro man slave named **Frank**, of the property of the said Obed CALVERT dec'd who is about forty three years of age at this time, and also in pursuance of the 36 section of the act of General Assembly intituled “an act to reduce into one, the several acts concerning slaves, free negroes, and mulattoes” passed on the 17th day of December 1792 have emancipated and set free the said negro man Frank to all intents & purposes as if he was born free. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands & seals this second day of April one thousand eight hundred & six.

Obed CALVERT {seal}
 James PEAKE {seal}

Sealed and delivered in presence of }

John WILLIAMS, John M MUSCHETT, A HENDERSON.

At a court held for Prince William County April 7th 1806

⁶ Will of Obed Calvert Sr. recorded 1805 in Prince William County, Will Book I: 53, cited in Pippenger, *Index to Virginia Estates*, 1: 71.

This deed of Emancipation from Obed CALVERT and James PEAKE Exors. of Obed CALVERT Sr. dec'd to negro Frank was acknowledged by said CALVERT & PEAKE to be their act and deed and ordered to be recorded.

Teste: J WILLIAMS Cl Cur

●Deed Book 3, p. 126 – Know all men by these presents that I Matthew HARRISON for a good & valuable consideration do manumit Emancipate Set free, at large & liberty a certain mulatto man slave by name of Henson (commonly called **Henson HEDGES**)⁷ being a yellow man whom I purchased of the executors of the estate of the late John HEDGES at the sale made by them of said estate. In testimony whereof I have here unto subscribed my name and affixed my seal this 7th April 1806.

M HARRISON {seal}

At a court held for Prince William County the 7th day of April 1806. This deed of Emancipation from Matthew HARRISON to Henson, commonly called Henson HEDGES, was acknowledged by the said HARRISON and ordered to be recorded, it appearing to the court he the said Henson is about thirty five years of age.

Teste: J WILLIAMS Cl Cur

●Deed Book 3, p. 141 – Know all men by these presents that I John GALLOWAY of the county of Prince William and Commonwealth of Virginia for a good & valuable Consideration do manumit emancipate set free, at large and liberty a certain Mulatto woman slave by name of Rose, commonly called **Rose DUNCAN**, she being the same woman I purchased of ALEXANDER HENDERSON Gent. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 14th day of April 1806

John GALLOWAY {seal}

Witness: Philip Devr'x DAWE, Colin CAMPBELL, James TRIPLETT

At a court held for Prince William County May 5th 1806. This deed of Emancipation from John GALLOWAY to negro Rose was proved by the oaths of Philip Devr'x DAWE and James TRIPLETT and ordered to be recorded.

Teste: J WILLIAMS Cl Cur

●Deed Book 3, p. 210 – Memorandum of an agreement between William MATHEWS of Prince William county and **Adam MUNROW** of the County of Fairfax are as follows, That whereas the said Adam MUNROW was by the custom of the state of Maryland a servant to the said William MATHEWS as heir at law to Wm MATHEWS and for the consideration of the sum of twenty five pounds in hand paid by the said Adam Munroe the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged do hereby by these presents set the said Adam MUNROW free from all service to himself his heirs Extors. Admins or assigns and also from all persons whatsoever laying claim to the said Adam MUNROW In witness whereof the said Wm MATHEWS hath set his hand and seal this 31st October 1796

William MATTHIS {seal}

Witness present: Wm GLASCOCK

1796 October 31st Then received of Adam MUNROW the sum of twenty five pounds being the consideration above mentioned of me.

William MATTHIS

Witness : Wm GLASCOCK, Mark NORRIS

N. B. The within Instrument must be acknowledged in Court by the master, or proved by two witnesses, whose names ought to be subscribed thereto, before the Court of Prince William County, and there Recorded, a Certificate from the Clerk thereof will be the evidence of your manumission .

⁷ Cf. 1820 U.S. census, City of Baltimore, Maryland, Ward 12, p. 497 (122 printed), line 12, entry for Hanson Hedges; free colored persons: 1 male under 14, 1 male 14-26, 1 male 45+, 1 female 14-26; digital image, *Ancestry Library Edition*.

District of Columbia
Alexandria County Sct.

Personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for said county Mark NORRIS who made oath that he saw William MATHEWS sign seal and acknowledge the within Instrument of writing and that at his request he subscribed his name as a witness thereto. Given under my hand this 30th day of April 1806.

A FAW

At a court of Quarterly sessions held for Prince William County November 3rd 1806. This deed of Emancipation from William MATHEWS to Adam MUNROW was proved by the oath of Mark NORRIS who also proved the hand writing of Wm GLASCOCK another witness thereto who is dead and ordered to be recorded.

Teste: J WILLIAMS Cl Cur

●Deed Book 3, p. 305 – Whereas Joseph HALE of Prince William County in the State of Virginia being legally possessed of three slaves, named **Dorcas[,] Jacob & Dorcas** Slaves for life – for divers good causes and considerations me thereunto moving as well for the sum of six hundred and one dollars lawful money of the United States to me in hand paid the receipt whereof is acknowledged do hereby fully clearly and absolutely emancipate liberate and set free the said negro slaves from slavery forever and I do hereby for my self my heirs Exors. and Admors. remise release and forever quit claim unto the said slaves all my right title and interest as well to their persons as services & estates hereby declaring them absolutely free from and against me and my heirs and against all and every person & persons claiming by from or under me . In witness I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 18th day of July one thousand and eight hundred & seven.

Jos HALE {seal}

Sealed and delivered in presence of } Jere. W BRONOUGH
John BRONOUGH
James C BRONOUGH

At a court held for Prince William County October 5th 1807. This deed of Emancipation from Joseph HALE to Dorcas, Jacob and Dorcas was acknowledged by said HALE to be his act and Deed and Ordered to be recorded.

Teste: J WILLIAMS Cl Cur

●Deed Book 4, p. 18 – Know all men by these presents that I Samuel DAVIS of the town of Dumfries in the county of Prince William and Commonwealth of Virginia for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and fifty six dollars to me in hand paid by **Thomas BOWLES** before ensealing and delivery of these presents of which I acknowledge the receipt, and thereof release the said Thomas, have emancipated liberated and set free and by these presents do emancipate liberate and set free the aforesaid Thomas BOWLES who is a black man now in my possession and of my property and I do hereby acquit release and discharge the said Thomas of all service or obligation of service, which by the laws of the land, he may owe to me – hereby declaring the said Thomas to be a free man. In witness I have hereto set my hand and seal this twenty sixth day of August in the year one thousand eight hundred and nine and in the thirty fourth year of the Commonwealth.

Sam'l DAVIS {seal}

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of } Colin CAMPBELL, John MERCHANT
At a court held for Prince William County September the 4th 1809.

This deed of emancipation from Samuel DAVIS to Thomas BOWLES was acknowledged by the said DAVIS to be his act and deed and ordered to be recorded.

Teste: John WILLIAMS Cl Cur

●Deed book 4, p. 259 – Know all men by these presents that I Philip HARRISON of the town of Dumfries in the county of Prince William and Commonwealth of Virginia for and in consideration of the

service of **Sarah MONTGOMERY** my lawfull slave have released emancipated and set free and by these presents do Emancipate release and set free the aforesaid Sarah MONTGOMERY who is a black woman and I do hereby acquit her of all services which by the law of the land she may owe to me and do hereby declare the aforesaid Sarah MONTGOMERY to be to all intents and purposes an emancipated Enfranchised and Free woman. In witness whereof I have hereunto affixed my hand and seal this 24th day of November AD 1810.

Signed Sealed and delivered in the presence of }

Philip HARRISON {seal}

At a court held for Prince William County February 4th 1811.

This deed of emancipation from Philip HARRISON to Sarah MONTGOMERY was acknowledged by the said HARRISON and ordered to be recorded.

Teste: J WILLIAMS Cl Cur

●Deed Book 4, p. 276 - Know all men by these presents that I Thomas A. SMITH of the town of Dumfries in the county of Prince William and State of Virginia for and in consideration of the sum one dollar to me in hand paid by **Fanny als. Fanny WEST** (the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge) as for divers other good causes and considerations me thereunto moving have this day emancipated set free at liberty and quit all claim that I might have had on her the said Fanny in consequence of the purchase made of her at the sale of the estate of the late James MURRAY deceased.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this twenty second day of October in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred & nine.

Thomas A SMITH {seal}

Sealed & del'd in Presence of } William SMITH, Hector ALEXANDER, William COCKE

At a court of Quarterly sessions continued and held for Prince William County March 5th 1811. This deed of emancipation from Thos. A SMITH to Fanny WEST was proved by the oaths of William SMITH, Hector ALEXANDER and William COOKE and ordered to be recorded.

Teste: J WILLIAMS Cl Cur

●Deed Book 10, p. 429 – Know all men by these presents that I Nathaniel C. MACRAE, now of the county of Prince William and State of Virginia, do hereby emancipate my slave **Matilda**, a mulatto whom I derived from my father's estate & declare that she shall be forever hereafter, be free from any right of property I may have in her. – Given under my hand & seal this 4th day of November 1826.

Nathe'l MACRAE {seal}

Witnesses- J MACRAE, Wm Washington

At a court held for Prince William County the 5th Feby 1827.

This deed of emancipation from Nath'l C. MACRAE to Matilda was proved by the oath of John MACRAE one of the witnesses thereto and the hand writing of Wm WASHINGTON the other subscribing thereto, and the absence of the said witness from this Commonwealth was proved by Jas W WASHINGTON and thereupon the said deed is admitted to record.

Teste: P D DAWE Cl Cur

●Deed Book 11, p. 86 – In consequence of the faithful services of **Moses** (a mulatto man now my slave) rendered to his late master Bernard HOOE Senr. dec'd and also for his good conduct towards me since his masters death I have determined to emancipate him at my death, I do therefore hereby declare and determine that he the said Moses shall be free at my death aforesaid nor shall my heirs or any person or persons claiming a right to him in through of by me have power to retain him the said Moses in their service as a slave, but that the clerk of the County Court of Prince William (where this instrument is to be recorded) shall be hereby authorized at my death aforesaid to give him a certificate of freedom and that he the said Moses shall then be at full liberty to go free wherever he may think proper. Given under my hand and seal in the county of Prince William this 19th day of June in the year 1827.

Margaret HOOE {seal}

Witness – Rob HAMILTON, Allen HOWISON

At a court held for Prince William County July 2nd 1827.

This instrument of writing from Margaret HOOE to Moses was proved by the oaths of Robt HAMILTON & Allen HOWISON & admitted to record.

Teste: P D DAWE Cl Cur

●Deed Book 11, p. 149 – Know all men by these presents that I Nathaniel HARRIS of Prince William County do hereby emancipate & set free from slavery forever, the within named **Peggy & Natt, my children** to be known hereafter by the names of **Nathaniel HARRIS⁸ & Peggy HARRIS**. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this eighth day of March in the year of our lord eighteen hundred & twenty three.

Nathaniel Harris X his mark {seal}

Signed and sealed in our presence } Benj'm DAWSON, Thomas X JOHNSON, Sally X Allen

At a court held for Prince William County October 2nd 1827. This deed of emancipation from Nathaniel HARRIS to Peggy & Nat HARRIS was acknowledged by the said Nathaniel HARRIS to be his act & deed & admitted to record.

Teste: P D DAWE Cl Cur

●Deed Book 11, p. 341 – This Indenture of manumission made this 6th day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty eight, between Charles CURTIS of the county of Prince William and State of Virginia of the one part, **Henry CURTIS** a Mulatto man aged twenty five years, **Nancy** a mulatto woman aged twenty two years, **Charles** a mulatto boy aged fifteen years, **John** a mulatto boy aged thirteen years, **Betsy** a mulatto girl aged eleven years, **James** a mulatto boy aged eight years, **Lizzy** the daughter of the aforesaid Nancy a tawny coloured girl aged five years, **Judith** a child of the said Nancy a tawny coloured girl aged three years all of the aforesaid Mulattoes and and tawny coloured persons being the slaves of the said Charles CURTIS of the other part, Witnesseth that the said Charles CURTIS for and in consideration of the natural love and affection which he bears for and towards the said **Henry CURTIS, Nancy, Charles, John, Betsy, James,⁹ Lizzy and Judith they all being his children (that is the said Henry, Curtis, Nancy, Charles, John, Betsy and James) as he has reason to believe and the Lizzy and Judith children of the said Nancy being his granddaughters** and for and of the sum of five dollars to him in hand paid by the said Henry CURTIS five dollars to him in hand paid by the said Nancy five dollars to him in hand paid by the said Charles, five dollars to him in hand paid by the said John, five dollars to him in hand paid by the said Betsy, five dollars to him in hand paid by the said James and for and in consideration of the sum of ten dollars to him in hand paid by the said Nancy for and on account of the said Lizzy and Judith her children the receipt of all which said several sums of money paid as afs'd by the several parties before mentioned he the said Charles CURTIS doth hereby acknowledge hath manumitted, freed and forever set at liberty and by this indenture doth manumit free and forever set at liberty the before mentioned Charles CURTIS, Nancy, Charles, John, Betsy, James, Lizzy and Judith the whole of the before named persons being the slaves of the said Charles CURTIS, and he the said Charles CURTIS doth for himself and his heirs & henceforth and forever discharge and set at liberty the slaves Henry CURTIS, Nancy, Charles, John, Betsy, James, Lizzy and Judith free from all and every claim which he the said Charles CURTIS now has or hereafter may have to them as his slaves

⁸ Nathl. Harris was registered in Prince William County Court, 4 Dec. 1838, minute book 1836-1839, p. 269; cited in Joan W. Peters, *Slave and Free Negro Records from the Prince William County Court Minute and Order Books ...* (Broad Run, Va.: J. W. Peters, 1996), 28. Nathaniel Harriss [sic], was registered as a free man of color in Fairfax County, Virginia, ca. 1846 [entry not dated], at about 47 years of age. His deed of emancipation from Nathaniel Harriss is mentioned. *Registrations of Free Negroes Commencing September Court 1822...* (Fairfax, Va.: Office of Comprehensive Planning, 1977), 155.

⁹ *James Curtis*, a pamphlet, was published by his family while James Curtis (born ca. 1820) still lived, in Fairfax County, Virginia, in his 92nd year (ca. 1912). Photocopy in RELIC's Family File, under "Curtis."

aforsaid. In witness whereof the said Charles CURTIS hath this day set his hand and affixed his seal this day and year before written.

Charles CURTIS {SS}

Signed Sealed and delivered in the presence of } [*sic, no names*]

At a court held for Prince William County October 6th 1828

This deed of emancipation from Charles CURTIS to Henry CURTIS & others was acknowledged by the said Charles CURTIS to be his act and deed and ordered to be recorded.

Teste: P. D. DAWE Cl Cur

●Deed Book 12, p. 33 – Be it known, to all persons, that the bearer of this, a colored man commonly called **Moses BARNARD**, having served me faithfully and honestly, for the term of five years ending the 13th day of June instant is honorably discharged from my service, as a free man of these United States.

Given at Michilimackinac Michigan Territory this 20th day of June 1825.

George BOYD
US Indian Agent

Washington 11 August 1829

I hereby certify that I am acquainted with the hand writing of George BOYD, the subscriber to the above certificate and have no doubt that said signature is the hand writing of said BOYD.

Louisa CATHERINE
City of Washington July the 25th 1829

Moses, the within named man, who is now here and as he states on a short visit, has applied to me for something to strengthen the within as it has been mentioned to him in Prince William County Virginia, where he and his family live, that BOYD's certificate is not witnessed, and that it may not be genuine; I therefore very readily certify that the hand writing of Col. BOYD is well known to me and that I have not the least doubt of the perfect originality of the within certificate. I would also add that it would be extremely hard upon Moses if from his ignorance of the necessity of recording the said certificate, or of any other proceedings in relation thereto, he should be subjected to further difficulties in relation to his freedom, of which there ought not, in my opinion, to be in doubt.

To whom it may concern,

District of Columbia County of Washington to wit:

On the thirteenth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty nine personally appears before me William STEWART Esquire and makes oath that to the best of his knowledge and belief the within certificate signed George BOYD US Indian agent and dated at Michilimackinac in the territory of Michigan on the 20th day of June 1825 is throughout in his the said BOYD's own particular hand writing and signature, that he the said STUART is and long has been, well acquainted with the said BOYD's hand writing. Witness my hand.

Jno N. MOULDER
Justice of the Peace

United States of America, Department of State.

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

I certify that John N MOULDER, whose name is subscribed to the paper hereunto annexed, is now, and was at the time of subscribing the same, a Justice of the peace in and for the county of Washington, in the District of Columbia, duly commissioned and qualified, and that full faith and confidence are due to his acts as such.

{LS} In testimony whereof I Martin Van BUREN, Secretary of State, of the United States, have hereunto subscribed my name, and caused the seal of the Department of State, to be affixed. Done at the City of Washington this thirteenth day of August AD 1829 and of the Independence of the United States of America the fifty fourth,

M. VAN BUREN

At a court of Quarterly Sessions held for Prince William County the 2nd day of November 1824. This deed of emancipation from George BOYD to Moses BARNARD with certificates annexed was presented to the Court and admitted to record.

Teste: P. D. DAWE Cl Cur

●Deed Book 12, p. 376 – Know all men by these presents that I Jesse E. WEEMS of Prince William County do hereby emancipate & set free from slavery forever **Hector FRANCIS**. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 7th day of November in the year of our lord eighteen hundred and thirty one.

J. E. WEEMS {seal}

Signed & sealed in the presence of
The Court

At a court of Quarterly Sessions held for Prince William County the 7th day of November 1831. This deed of emancipation from Jesse E. WEEMS to Hector FRANCIS was acknowledged by said WEEMS and ordered to be recorded.

Teste: P. D. DAWE Cl Cur

●Deed Book 19, p. 77 – Know all men by these presents that I Jno TOWLES, of the County of Prince William, State of Virginia, have manumitted, emancipated and set free and by these presents do manumit, emancipate and set free **Sylvia JACKSON** and I do hereby declare her the said Sylvia JACKSON, to be entirely liberated from slavery and entitled to all rights privileges of a free person, with which it is in my power to invest her, she the said Sylvia JACKSON, hereby emancipated, is a woman of dark complexion, five feet high. and is between the age of fifty five and sixty. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this the 28th day of October in the year of Our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and forty five.

John TOWLES { seal }

In the Clerks office of Prince William County Court October 39, 1845

This deed of Emancipation from TOWLES to Sylvia JACKSON was acknowledged by John TOWLES to be his act & deed and admitted to record.

Teste: J. WILLIAMS CC

●Deed Book 19, p. 172 - Know all men by these presents that I Lucien DADE of the County of Prince William , State of Virginia, have manumitted, emancipated and set free, **Sarah PHILLIPS**, and I do hereby declare his the said Sarah PHILLIPS, to be entirely liberated from slavery and entitled to all the rights and privileges of a free person with which it is in my power to invest her, she the said Sarah PHILLIPS hereby emancipated is a woman of dark brown complexion, five feet 3 ½ ins high and is about sixty two years of age. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 23rd day of May 1846.

Lucien DADE {seal}

In the Clerks Office of Prince William County Court, May 23rd 18[46]

This deed of Emancipation from Lucien DADE to Sarah PHILLIPS was acknowledged by said DADE to be his act and deed and admitted to record.

Teste: J WILLIAMS CC

●Deed Book 21, p. 67 - Know all men by these presents that I Robert ALEXANDER of the County of Prince William, State of Virginia have manumitted, emancipated and set free **James HAYES**, and I hereby do declare him the said James HAYES to be entirely liberated from slavery and entitled to all the rights & privileges of a free person with which it is in my power to invest him, he the said James HAYES hereby emancipated is a man of light brown or mulatto complexion, five feet nine inches and a half high and is about thirty two years of age. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this 29th day of June 1850.

Robert ALEXANDER {seal}

In the Clerks Office of Prince William County Court, June 29th 1850

This deed of Emancipation from Robert ALEXANDER to James HAYES was acknowledged by the said ALEXANDER to be his act & deed and admitted to record.

Teste: J WILLIAMS Clk

●Land Records 1835-43, p. 124 – Know all men by these presents that I Diana SPILLER widow of the late Philip SPILLER of the County of Prince William, in the State of Virginia do hereby manumit, emancipate and set free, the said emancipation not however to take effect until my decease, the following slaves to wit, **Jane a negro woman and her two children Mahala** aged about 16 years **and Henry** aged about three years – also a negro boy named **Armistead** aged about five years – said ages being so considered at the time of executing this instrument – which said slaves were bequeathed to me by my late deceased husband the said Philip SPILLER. And this instrument shall at my decease effectually manumit and set free the said negro slaves for which purpose for myself and my heirs all right and title to them is after that period relinquished. Given under my hand and seal this seventh day of December in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred & thirty two.

Diana SPILLER X her mark {seal}

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of }

Sam'l M JANNEY, Jos JANNEY Jr

Clerks Office of Prince William County Court, April 9th 1834

This deed of Emancipation from Diana SPILLER to Negro Jane etc. was proved in the clerks office aforesaid by the affirmation of Joseph JANNEY Jr in witness thereto & certified. And in the 14th day of September 1835. This said deed was proved in the clerks office afs'd by the affirmation of Samuel M JANNEY and admitted to record.

Teste: Jno WILLIAMS CC

●Land Records 1835-43, p. 383 – Know all men by these presents that I Diana SPILLER widow of the late Philip SPILLER of the County of Prince William, in the State of Virginia do hereby manumit, emancipate and set free, the said emancipation not however to take effect until my decease, the following slaves to wit, **Jane a negro woman and her two children Mahala** aged about 16 years **and Henry** aged about three years – also a negro boy named **Armistead** aged about five years – said ages being so considered at the time of executing this instrument – which said slaves were bequeathed to me by my late deceased husband the said Philip SPILLER. And this instrument shall at my decease effectually manumit and set free the said negro slaves for which purpose for myself and my heirs all right and title to them is after that period relinquished. Given under my hand and seal this seventh day of December in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred & thirty two.

Diana SPILLER X her mark {seal}

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of }

Sam'l M JANNEY, Jos JANNEY Jr

At a court held for Prince William County the 6th day of February 1837.

This deed of Emancipation from Diana SPILLER to Negro Jane etc. was proved by the affirmation of Samuel M JANNEY and Joseph JANNEY Jr witnesses thereto, and ordered to be recorded.

Teste: Jno WILLIAMS CC

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We wish to thank the following individuals for their contributions to this issue:
William Balderson, Charlotte Cain, Marilyn V. McClure, Eugene M. Scheel, and
RELIC Staff Beverly Veness and Donald L. Wilson.

**DUMFRIES DISTRICT COURT
LAND CAUSES 1793-1811**

*Transcribed by William M. Balderson, Jr.
Edited by Beverly Veness and Donald L. Wilson*

(Continued from vol. 7, no. 2)

[Continuation of *HOOMES vs. RENOE*]

[Page 181 continued] [*Marginalia*] William FRENCH's Will¹

In the Name of God Amen the fifteenth day of November in the year 1790 I William FRENCH of Stafford County in the State of Virginia being of perfect mind and Memory do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament that to Say as touching such worldly Estate wherewith I possess I give devise and dispose of in manner and form as follows that is to Say, In the first place I give and bequeath to my Son James FRENCH One Negro Man Natt to him and his heirs. Item I also give and bequeath to my daughter Mary BEATY One Negro Woman Cate to her and her heirs.

Item I also give and bequeath to my daughter Margaritt FARROW One Negro boy Frank to her and heirs. Item I also give to my daughter Kezia STONE forty pounds Curr^t Money to be paid her and her heirs by my Executors out of my Estate. Item I also give to my daughter Elizabeth FRENCH One Negro Girl Nell one bed and furniture one horse and Cow & Calf one Ewe & Lamb to her & heirs, also three pounds Curr^t Money to be paid Yearly to her by my Executors out of my Estate also house and board found her till she marries and no longer, but the payment of the three pounds and board to Cease. Item I also give

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give [*sic*] and bequeath to my daughter Susannah FRENCH One Negro Girl Dinah one bed and furniture one Marr [*mare*] one Cow & Calf one ew[e] & Lamb to her and her heirs, also three pounds Curr^t Money to be paid Yearly to her by Executors out of my Estate, also house & board found her untill She marries and no longer, but the payment of the three pounds And board to cease. Item I also give and bequeath to my son Stephen FRENCH & his heirs all the remainder of my Estate not mentioned in this my last Will, Consisting of Negroes furniture of all sorts Stock of all kinds and every other Article or articles of any kind that is my property further my will and desire is that my Estate be neither appraised nor sold as the legatees are all of age to receive their legacies & act for themselves[.] I likewise Constitute make and ordain my Son Stephen FRENCH my only and Sole Executor of this my last will and Testament. I hereby utterly disallow revoke ^&^ disannull all and every other former Will by me made ratyfying and Confirming this & no other to be my last will and Testament In Witness Whereof I hereunto Set my hand & Seal the day and year above Written.

W^m FRENCH {seal}

¹ The will of William FRENCH is now missing from Stafford County records. Its probate is referred to in Stafford County "Scheme Book" Court Orders, 1790-1793, p. 254, 14 May 1792; cited in Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Deed and Will Abstracts of Stafford County, Virginia, 1780-1786, [and] Selected Entries from Scheme Book Court Orders, 1790-1793...* (McLean, Va.: R. & S. Sparacio, 1988), 135.

Signed Sealed published pronounced and declared
by the Said William FRENCH as his last will and
Testament in the presence of us Teste
David JAMESON Ju^r[,] James JAMESON, Zephaniah RATLIFF

At a Court held for Stafford the 14th day of May 1792.

The foregoing last will and Testament of William FRENCH dec^d was proven by the
oaths of two ^of the^ Witnesses thereto Subscribed and ordered to

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to [*sic*] be Recorded. And on Motion of Stephen FRENCH the only Executor there named in the
Will of W^m FRENCH dec^d who took the oath of an Executor and together with Fielding COMBS
his Security entered into and acknowledged their bond in the Penalty of £1.000 Conditioned as
the Law directs Certificate is Granted him for Obtaining a probate thereof in due form.

Teste Jn^o FOX D Cl Cur

A Copy Teste V. PEYTON Cl Cur.

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[*Marginalia*] Enoch RENOES Patent for 183 acres 3 rood & 25 poles

Henry LEE Esq^f Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia to all to whom these presents shall
come Greeting Know Ye that by Virtue of a Land Office Treasury Warrant number fifteen
thousand four hundred and Eighty Two Issued the eleventh Day of April one Thousand Seven
hundred and Eighty three there is granted by the said Commonwealth unto Enoch RENOE a
Certain tract or or [*sic*] parcel of Land Containing one hundred and Eighty three Acres three
roods and Twenty five poles by survey bearing date the fourteenth day of December one
Thousand Seven hundred and ninety one lying and being in the County of Prince William on the
long branch of Occaquan and head Springs of Quantico run and bounded as follows (to wit)
Beginning at a marked white oak Corner to NORMAN and & [*sic*] HATTAWAY thence with
HATTAWAYs line N^o 86^o E 270 poles to intersect with RIDDLEs line thence N^o 26 poles to a
Red ^oak^ Corner to Charles CORNWELL thence with CORNWELLs line N^o 43^o 45' E 33
poles to a box oak Corner to the said CORNWELL and William LYNN thence with one of
LYNNs lines N^o 42^o W 91 Poles to two marked white oaks another

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Another [*sic*] Corner to LYNNs land thence with LYNNs next line N 84½^o E 40 poles to a small
marked black Jack [*sic*] now down another Corner to LYNNs land thence N^o 21½ E Still with
LYNNs line 80 poles to a mark'd Spanish Oak another Corner to LYNNs Land and Land
belonging to John MURRYs Estate South 77½ West with said MURRY's line 88 poles to a
place shewn as a corner to said MURRY N^o 81^o W 44 poles with another of the said lines to
intersect with LUTTRELLs line close on the side of the road leading from BUTLERS ford to
Dumfries South one and a half degrees E crossing the said Road and running with said
LUTTRELLs line 60 poles to a mark'd white Oak Corner to the said LUTTRELLs Land thence
with another of said LUTTRELLs lines S 52^o W 226 Poles to the Beginning with its

appurtenances to have and to hold the said tract or parcel of Land with its appurtenances to the said Enoch RENOE & his heirs forever[.] In Witness whereof the said Henry LEE Esq^r Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia hath hereunto set his hand and caused the lesser Seal of the Commonwealth to be affixed at Richmond on the 3rd day of Oct^r 1792, and of the Commonwealth the Seventeenth.

Hen^ry LEE

A Copy

Teste W PRICE Re[gistrar]. L[and]. Off[ice].

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[*Marginalia*] HOOMES Tho^s Disposition

The Deposition of Thomas HOMES Sen^r taken on behalf of Thomas HOMES Jun^r Plf. in a suit pending in the County Court of Prince William between the said Thomas HOMES Jun^r & Enoch RENOE Def^t in Obedience to an Order of the s^d County Court of Prince William dated the 9th day of March

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March [*sic*] 1798 Deposeth and saith. That he married a daughter of old M^r Thomas RENOEs in the Year 1751 or 2 and that he s^d Thomas RENOE gave the land in dispute between the s^d Plainff. & Defend^t to this Deponent. That he took a View of it with a friend or two with him, & thought it so poor that he could not live upon, That he this deponent talked it a little about and that it offended the Old Man (to wit his Father in law Tho^s RENOE) and he gave the said Land to his Son Lewis RENOE, and that he the said Lewis enjoyed it in quiet possession & lived upon it for several Years untill his brother William died & then he moved to his s^d Brothers place giving for Reason that his Brothers children were Bastards & that the place belonged to him and shortly after he died himself. This Deponent then administered upon his Estate (to wit the s^d Lewis's)[.] This Deponent then went up to the proprietors Office to see how the Land was situated and that the Clerk of s^d Office told this deponent that the s^d Land was forfeited, that there was a plat in the office of it that this deponent asked him the Clerk what he was to do with it and that he (the Clerk to wit) told the Deponent, as he had administered on the s^d RENOEs Estate he must pay up the fees for the Benefit of the s^d RENOEs Heirs which he did and obtained a plat of the Land and that after he gave on the said Land to the Commissioners of the County for the said RENOEs heirs and that he paid the Taxes of it but for how many years he cannot tell[.] That some time since this deponent took down to Richmond a Plat of the s^d Land. The Clerks of the land Office looked at & enquired of this depo

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-nent whether Thomas RENOE had any heirs. This Deponent answered No, none that he knew of, he had two sons but they were both dec^d & left not lawful children. They then asked this Deponent if He the said RENOE (Viz) had left no daughters[.] This Deponent s[ai]^d Three, Caty, Molly and Margaret[.] had they no heirs[?] Yes several[.] they asked which was the eldest of the Sisters, this Deponent s[ai]^d Caty[.] The Clerks [*sic*] replied they were Coheirs & told this deponent that if any of them wo[u]ld come & prove themselves Heirs within a Certain time and pay the legal charges that they might Obtain deeds[.] That he this Deponent then told his son Thomas the Plaintf. that he was one & that if [he] would apply within the Time which the Clerks of the Land Office at Richmond had told him the Deponent he might get deeds for the said Land & that he the said Plaintiff did go down & got the papers which are mentioned in M^r

FRENCHs Deposition & which M^r FRENCH signed. Ques^m by Defnd^l[:] Was it ever proved that William RENOE's Children were bastards? Ans^r[:] He the Depn^t understood that it was proved that he never was married to the woman who he had Children by and that he Saw a Certificate to that Effect from under the hand of the Magistrate before whom it was proven. Questⁿ[:] did not William RENOEs Children sell the sd Land in Dispute? Ans^r by Deponent, Yes he understood they did[.] Questⁿ by Defⁿ[:] Has the Plaintiff ever obtained Deeds from the proprietors Office or from the

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Office of the State? Ans^r by Deponent he does not know and further saith not[.] This Deponent Sworn to before us this 17th day March 1798.

Tho^s HARRISON {seal}

W GRANT {seal}

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[*Marginalia*] FRENCH Stephens Deposition
The Deposition of Stephen FRENCH taken in presence of the the parties in Obedience to an order of the County Court of Prince W^m dated the 9th Day of March 1798 in a suit depending in the said County Court between Thomas HOMES J^r Plaintiff and Enoch RENOE Def^d Stateth &^c that his Father William FRENCH always told him that the Land in dispute between the said HOMES & RENOE was taken up by his Grandfather² (the Deponent[']s to wit) entered[,] surveyed & returned to the office, That old M^r Thomas RENOE always claimed the Land after the death of his s^d Grandfather, that he never had any thing to shew that he had any legal right to the s^d Land[.] That his Father (to wit W^m FRENCH) always Supposed that the Right of the s^d Land was in himself. That Lewis RENOE son of Thomas RENOE once applied to him to give from under [his] hand that he was done with his Claim. That then he would reenter it (RENOE to wit) and save the Charge of Back rents That his Father refused (to wit W^m FRENCH)[.] That sometime after his fathers death Old M^r Thomas HOMES & his son Thomas came to his the Deponents house & told him that they came to ask a Fav^r of him, that was to sign an Instrument of writing, that they had with them which they had brought from the

Clerk of the Land Office by which means they could obtain a deed in the name of Thomas RENOEs heirs for s^d Land[.] That he the s^d Deponent refused to sign giving for Reason that if by his signing that paper it

² James French (died testate 1743). See *Prince William Reliquary*, v. 7, no. 2 (April 2008): 50.

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it [*sic*] would Convey a write [*right*] to them, the write [*right*] must be best^d [*vested*] in himself & immediately upon this he the deponent proceeded to get a Copy of the Will of father & Grandfather & by which wills he the Deponent thought himself heir to s^d Land & soon after he had Obtained the Coppys [*sic*] of s^d Wills he saw M^r Enoch RENO & he the said RENOE asked him this deponent to come to his house that he would shew him Col^o SYMMSES Opinion on that dispute respecting the land and when he the said Deponent went M^r RENOE was not at home and his Wife M^{rs} RENOE informed him that her father in Law M^r Francis RENOE s^d to his knowledge M^r James FRENCH had actu[al]ly made sale of that tract of land to his brother Thomas RENOE and that if he the s^d Deponant Obtain'd the Land and did not make over the rite [*right*] of said land to M^r Thomas RENOEs heirs he could not be an honest Man and he the s^d Deponant con[c]luded that if he could not possess it the land (Viz) & be an honest [man] he could not refuse to sign the paper offered to him by the s^d HOMES the heir of s^d RENOE & be an honest Man, by which means they were to obtain Deeds[.] The next day after being at the M^r RENOE the Def^d he this Deponent went up to the s^d Tho^s HOMES Plaintiff & told him that if he would pay him for his trouble & Expence in geting his Grandfathers & Fathers Wills one dollar for the Two Wills which were necessary for him, & one Dollar for his two days trouble in obtaining them that he would sign his Papers. Questⁿ by Defend^t[:] Did not M^r Tho^s HOMES Sen^r purchase the the [*sic*] Land of you or were not M^r Tho^s HOMES Sen^r and M^r Tho^s HOMES Jun^r in Pardnership [*sic*] in the Purchase[?]

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Ans^r by Deponent[:] If they were in Partnership I never knew it, and they never purchased it of me[.] Questⁿ[:] did your father ever hold the said Land in possession? ans^r[:] Never that I know of. questⁿ[:] did your Father in his life Time ever tell you that he thought you ought to possess the s^d Land? Ans^r[:] I don't remember he ever did.

Further this Deponent saith not.

Sworn to before us this 17th Day of March 1798[.]

Tho^s HARRISON {seal}

W GRANT {seal}

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[*Marginalia*] E. FRENCH's Deposⁿ

The Deposition of Elizabeth FRENCH taken on behalf of Enoch RENOE Def^d in a suit now pending in the County Court of Prince William between the said RENOE and Thomas HOMES J^r Plaintiff this 21st Day of April 1798 in obedience to an order of Court of s^d County of Prince William to us directed bearing date the 3^d of April 1798.

This Deponent deposeth & saith. Questⁿ by def^t[:] Is not James FRENCH the oldest son of your Father, William FRENCH? Yes he was the oldest son[.] Questⁿ by D^o[:] did you ever hear your father say that he had a Claim to the Land in dispute[?] Ans^r[:] She has heard him Say that he thought he had a Right if he would look into it. And further this Deponent saith not.

Sworn to before us this 21st Day of April 1798.

Tho^s HARRISON

W GRANT

[*To be continued.*]