Manumission, Willed, or Buying Their Freedom From the May 6, 1782, to December 18, 1865

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Grad Student – Department of History



What is Manumission

Manumission is the act of freeing slaves by their owners.

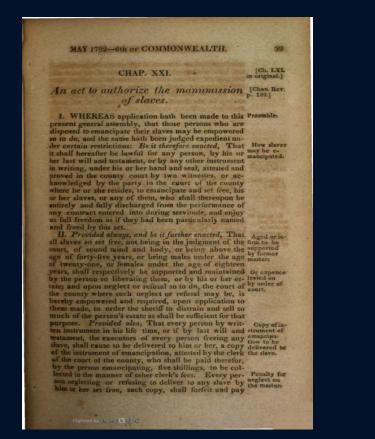
Different approaches to manumission were developed, each specific to the time and place of a particular society.

Know all men by these presents that I David Miller of Worklounty do Meller hereby manumil emancipale and set fee a Megio man named and called fower Sweet of Samphel, and Ido for myself my Hais executors and administrators hereby declare Have yawen . the said Negro man Gonin Samphel exonerated of and from all services whatsoever and do hereby dulare him to be a fee man, and I do renounce all Right hille Interest claim and domand whatsower to the said Have In Hitrefs whereof Shave hereunte set my Hand and affixed my real this twenty fifth day of September 1793 David olletter 23 Qualed & Delivered In presence of Thelip ellowdy William Stoff Ha Court held for York bounty the 16day of December 1793
This deed of Emancepation was acknowledged by David Miller Suly thereto and ordered to be recorded Ro H. Waller & Cur.

Commonwealth of Virginia General Assembly May 6, 1782

May 6, 1782 – General Assembly of Virginia enacted a law that allowed slaveholders to manumit their slaves at will, without government approval. (Virginia 1821)

Transcript Records of the Commonwealth 1782



LAWS OF VIRGINIA, ten pounds, to be recovered with costs in any court of record, one half thereof to the person suing for the same, and the other to the person to whom such copy ought to have been delivered. It shall be lawful for any justice of the peace to commit to the gaol of his line out of county, any emancipated slave travelling out of the his county. county of his or her residence without a copy of the instrument of his or her emancipation, there to remain till such copy is produced and the gaoler's fees paid. III. And be it further enacted, That in case any slave slave neglec- so liberated shall neglect in any year to pay all taxes ting to pay and levies imposed or to be imposed by law, the court levies and of the county shall order the sheriff to hire out him or hired out to her for so long time as will raise the said taxes and levies. Provided sufficient distress cannot be made upon his or her estate. Saving nevertheless to all and every person and persons, bodies politic or corporate, but the per- and their heirs and successors, other than the person sun emanci- or persons claiming under those so emancipating their slaves, all such right and title as they or any of them could or might claim if this act had never been made. CHAP. XXII. [Ch. LXII in original.] An act to ascertain the number of people within this commonwealth. I. WHEREAS congress have recommended it to the several states to ascertain the number of people Census of II. Be it therefore enacted, That the court of each county within this commonwealth shall divide the same into convenient precincts, and on or before the first day of October next appoint one of the justices for each precinct to take a list of the number of people, both white and black, therein: Every justice so appointed shall give public notice at what place or places he intends to receive the lists, by advertising the same at the most public places within his precinct, and shall, on or before the twentieth of October next following,

Different Types of Manumission

Manumission by Deed

Know all men by these presents that I David Miller of Youk bounty do hereby manumit emancepate and set fee a Megio man named and called Gowin Short Pamphel, and Ide for myself my Hair executors and administrators herby dellere the said Migro man Gonin Samphel excurated of and from all services whatsoers and do hereby dular him to be a fee man, and I do renounce all Right helle Interest claim and demand whatsour to the said Have In Willy whence I have hereunte at my Hand and affixed my real this twenty fifth day of September 1793 David olleller [3] Qualed 1Delivered, In presence of Thelip ellowdy Ala Court held for york bounty the 16 day of December 1743 This deed of Emancepation was acknowledged by Davis Miller Strity thereto and ordered to be recorded Ro H. Waller & Cur.

Manumission by Last Will and Testament

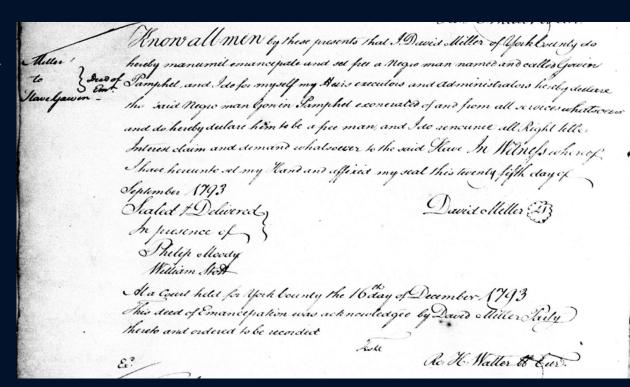
Joursky Estregand Delphy; old Fenny and her hisband, Pall Know all men by these presents, that I Robert & Able Daniel, and Cloe, James Hony, Willy, ackey and her two Lie, executor of the last well and testament of George helden, Swam Pollard armerhad and Molly his well, Wif buther deceased, acting by and under the authmy Jane Peter Bob, Polly, Billy and her child, molly, Chaordy and derection of the provisions of the said will, ty John Ruben George Crump, minny, Grace, Macha and do hereby manumit emanafule and former set free Mabel da villes the following slaves belonging to the Romanorks from slavny the following named thans, belonging to bandredge and an infant, Mancy, Bothy, Bether, Gerica, Mice micke Thorge Clarke, Charles Syphax; Seline Grey and Louise his wife, Walker, peggy, Abir Fanny, Chlor bust and Thornton Grey and their day children Emma, and her shild feder terms, clock spring and his child than any Johnson wine Johnson, William and Sarah Johnson darah, Surry, anese, ada and Thornton; Margaret Jaylo and her four children Dandridge, Thon, Billy and and their children aley, brump, molly and George for Quinoy; Lawrence parks and his nine children. Henry and Anderson brump, major Custes and lines Peny, George, amanda, Martha, Lawrence, James, Mag builtis, Welson Meredith and Phoebe his wife, and their dalena Leans and William; Julea ann Chesk and children Robert Elisha, nat Row and Sally, Elie Main her three children Catharine, Louis and Sloney and Mach free the chitchen Davy Musten; Paley Beach whom and the the children Mary de good to have a dmith and Milded her Hold, thome thouse ohnson, Warwell Bingham and Awy Baker. Old Shaack Check; Austen Binghum and Sousa Bo And I do hereby relieve the aforesand slaves from have and their tivelve children Marrison, Parks Peus and very claim which I may have upon their survices Menry, Edward, Austin, Lucius, Leouthe, Louisa, Carolis m and an infant; Obadiah Grey, Austen Banhans Witness my hand and seel, this 29 day of Swember Michael Mereday, Catharine Burk and her child, in the year of our said eighten hundred stirty two Marianna Burke and agree Burke . also the follo slaves belonging to the White House estate, on Robers arder and Direch her wife, Locky, Jack young and her children Henric Burnstopp and child, Maria Mered the Est J. D. W. P. Cuetis State of Virginia, County of Spolleyhound to wit and thenry her historied, and their three children he J. Beng L. Cason, Justice of the Peace son Henry and austin, Lovenzo Webb Old Dunel, but in and for said County, So hereby artify that Robert & vert Dandredge, Claiborne Johnson, Mary and John Lee, executor of the last will and testament of George Stewart, Harrison, Jeff, Pat and Gadsby, Dick, Joe, Re I bushes, a party to the foregoing deed of smarcifation, the ert, anthony, Davy, Bell Gump, Byton, Gundridge, Old day personally appeared before me, and acknowledged the Davy and Eloy his wife, Willy and her two children least same to be his act and deed. and her five children; Jasper Elisha and Rachael him Given under my hand this 29 day of De 1862 Cavinia and her two children, Maper, Hell, Miles, Miche as Benja Glason (18 Salla his wife and their five children Lavinea Leval

Manumission By Deed

Manumission of Gavin Pamphet by David Miller of York County on September 25, 1793

Witnessed by Philip Moody

Approved and registered with the courts by Judge Walter Earl on December 16, 1793



Manumission By Last Will and Testament

Manumission by Robert E. Lee serving as executor of the Last Will and Testament of George W.P. Custis.

Signed on December 29, 1862

Justice of the Peace of Spotsylvania County Benjamin S. Cason certified Robert E. Lee's executorship and act of Manumission on December 29, 1962.

Certified by Judge Hustings in the City of Richmond on January 2, 1863.

Jeauch, Lotregand Delphy; Old Fenny and her hisband, Pale Know all men by these presents, that I Robert & little sand, and clos, James Hony, milly, ackey and her live Lee, executor of the last will and testament of George children, Sicean Pollard armshad and Molly his well, Wif buthes deceased, acting by and under the withvery Jane Peter Bob, Ally, Betsey and her child, molly, Chaordy and derection of the provisions of the said will, dy John Reuben George Crump, minny, Grace, Macha and do hereby manumit, emanapate and forever set free Middlede : ales the following slaves belonging to the Romanocks from slavery the following named thans, belonging to Sandridge and an infait, Marry, Dolly, Bether, Gerica, Main micke Storge & links, Charles Syphax; Seline Grey and Louisa his wife, Walker, peggy, Ebber Fanny, Chlo Custi and Thornton Trey and their sex children omma. and her sheld Julia linne, doing young, and her sheld that Sarah, Aluny, Unese, ada and Thomlon; Margaret Jaylor any Johnson, thene Johnson, William and Sarah Johnson and her four children Dandridge, Thon, Billy and and their children weley, Orump, Molly and George fam Quinoy; Lawrence Parks and his nine children -Seny and Anderson brump, Major Castes and Lacy Perry, George, amanda, Martha, Lawrence, James, Mag builtis, Relson Meredith and Phoebe his wife, and their dulina Leans and William; Julia ann Check and helden Robert Elicha, Hat Rose and Sally, Elic Macon her three children Catharine, Louis and Sloney and as Wach free the chitchen bary Musten; Paley Sudon infant of the said Cutharner Sally Norres in Julia due to douth wood Milded her sheld, thouse thours, not Horres and their the children Mary dally one these Johnson, Marwell Bingham and Sury Baker. Old Shaack Check; Questin Bingham and Louisa Bis And I do hereby relieve the aforesand slaves from all have and their twelve children Harrison, Parks Reub and every claim which I may have upon their surveres Menry, Edward, Austin, Lucius, Leouthe, Louisa, Caroline as executor as aforesued Jem and an infant; Obadiah Grey, austen Banhans Wetness my hand and seel, this 29 day of Dumber Michael Mereday, Catharine Burk and her child, in the year of our And eighten hundred . Tirty tive Marianne Burke and agnes Burke : also the follows slaves belonging to the White House estate, in Robert Order and Derent his wife, Locky, Jack young and two Children Hemony Kandolph and child; Maria Mered the State of Vergenia, County of Spolleyhound to wet and Henry for histand, and their three children rel J. Buy . S. Cason, Justice of the Peace son, Henry and austin, Lovengo Webb, Old Dunel, Calin and for said County, So hereby certify that Robert & vert Dandredge, Claiborne Johnson, Mary and John See, executor of the last will and testament of George a Stewart, Sarrison, Jeff, Pat and Gadsby, Dick, Joe, Ra I bushes, a party to the foregoing deed of emancipation, the est, anthony, Davy, Bell Crump, Payton, Gundridge, Old day personally appeared before me, and acknowledged the Davy and Eloy his wife, Willy and her two children Seauth same to be his act and deed. and her five children; Jaspier, Elisha and Rachael hiswy Seven under my hand this 99 day of New 1869 Lavinion and her two children, Maper, Hell, Miles, Miche and Benja Glason OS Scilla his wife and their five children Lavinea, Irrael

Slaves Manumitted By Robert E. Lee

Eleanor Harris	Leano	•	Jem		Claiborne	Lavinia		Minny	Charles	
Ephraim Demicks		•	and an infant		Johnson	Israel		Grace	Amy Johnson	
George Clarke	Julia Ann Check	•	Obadiah Grey		Mary and John	Isaiah		Martha	Anne Johnson	
Charles Syphax	and three children	•	Austin Banham		Stewart Harrison	Lobsey		Matilda	William and	
Selena Grey	Catharine	•	Michael Merriday		Jeff	Delphy			Sarah Johnson	
Thornton Grey	infant of	•	Catharine Burk		Pat	old Fanny and her			and their children	
and their six	Catharine		and her child		Gadsby	husband,	belongi	ng to Romancoke	Ailsey	
children	Louis	•	Marianne Burke		Dick	Patsey		estate.	Molly	
Emma	Henry	•	Agnes Burke	:	Joe	little Daniel		Loui	George	
Sarah	Sally Norris			:	Robert	Cloe		Jem	James	
Harry	Len Norris		e following slaves			James		Edmond	Henry	
Anise	and their three		elonging the	:	Anthony	Henry		Kitty	Anderson Crump	
Ada	children	Whit	te House estate	•	Davy	Milly		and her children	Major Custis	
Thornton	141411	•	Robert Crider	•	Bill Crump	Ailsey	•	Mary	Lucy Custis	
Margaret Taylor	Duity	•	Desiah his wife	•	Peyton	and her two children		Dandridge	Nelson	
and her four	Wesley		Locky		Dandridge	Susan Pollard	•	and an infant	Meredith	
children	Old Shaack Check	•	Zack Young		Old Davy	Armistead and	•	Nancy	and Phoebe his	
Dandridge	Austin Bingham	•	and two children	:	and Eloy his wife	Molly his wife	•	Dolly	wife	
Jhon	Louisa Bingham	•	Fleming	:	Milly and her two children	Airy		Esther	and their children	
Billy	and their tweive	•	Randolph		Leanth	Jane		Seneca	Robert	
Quincy	Cilifai Cii	•	and child		and her five children	Peter		Macon and	Elisha	
Lawrence Parks	Harrison	•	Maria Meredith		Jasper Elijah and	Bob		Louisa his wife	Nat	
and his nine	1 diks	•	Henry her		Rachel, his wife	Polly		Walker	Rose	
children	Reuben		husband		Lavinia	Beetsy		Peggy	Sally	
Perry	Henry	•	and their three		and her two children	and her child		Ebbee	Ebee Macon	
George	Edward		Nelson.		Major	Molly		Fanny	Martha Jones and	
Amanda	Austin		Henry		Phill	Charity		Chloe Custis	her children	
Martha	Lucius		Austin	•	Miles	John		and her child	Davy	
Lawrence	Leantche		Lorenzo Webb		Mike	Reuben		Julia Anne	Austin	
James	Louisa		Old Daniel		Scilla his wife	George		Elvey Young	Patsey	
Magdalena	Caroline		Calvert Dandridge		and their five children	Crump		and her child	Braxton	
			Carvert Dandridge		ommaton.					

Susan Smith Mildred Anne Brown Jack Johnson Maxwell Bingham Henry Baker

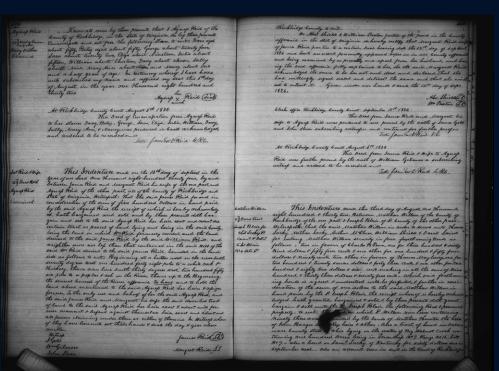
Manumission by Purchase of Freedom

Manumission by purchase of freedom was possible but not usually done.

One person is known to Liberty
University and did purchase his freedom
was Andrew Holt of New London,
Virginia.

Was a baker by trade, sold extra bread on the side to earn a wage, used this money to purchase his freedom and the freedom of his family.

Remained in New London and very well respected by the community.



Liberty University Manumission Project

Liberty University Helm School of Government

Stephen Andrew Langland

Master's thesis on the manumission of slaves in five counties and what used to be called Lynchburg City.

Currently working on his Doctorate and made a Research Fellow with the Helm School.

Project expanded to include the whole state of Virginia.



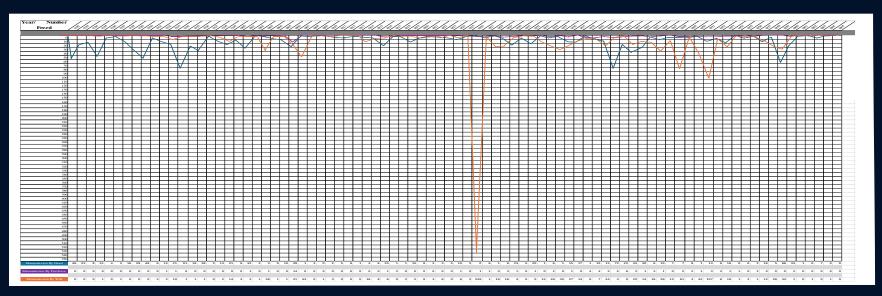
Currently Have Sixteen Counties Completed

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Current questions being studied after crunching raw data are:

- Will there be a concentration of freedoms by year and a correlation to things going on in history at that time?
- Were slaves given their freedom more through wills, by manumission by the owner of the slave(s), or by purchases of freedom?

Deed, Willed, or Buying Their Freedom



- There ultimately was no found correlation between Manumissions and historical events.
- The two largest Manumissions within these years were both from wills.
- The number of freedoms from Manumissions verses the number from Wills was close to even. (Only 216 more freedoms from Wills were registered then from regular Manumissions)
- Total Purchase of Their Freedom was 78, which was expected to be lower. While some Purchase of Freedoms were small amounts i.e., \$1, \$5, there were also a range from \$100 to \$1200, with the largest being \$4000 in Lynchburg City, as it was called then.

What Now?

- The Manumission project is an ongoing project that is many years from completion.
- Using students looking for CSER hours, internships through Helm School of Government and the History Department her at Liberty University, and all volunteer work that come in freely will help bring this project to its conclusion.
- It is also the hope of the project that the information gathered can help us understand the thinking and desires of the individuals during this timeframe.
- With a continuation of the project there is the hope that the completion of the state of Virginia will bring about a better understanding of the mindset of the individuals that owned slaves.
- Further questions can also then be looked at such as "was there a religious, political, personal, or maybe even a moral motivation or obligation with each release."