

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

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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.

Miller
to
Slave James -

} Deed of
Em.

Know all men by these presents that I David Miller of York County do hereby manumit emancipate and set free a Negro man named and called Gavin Pamphel, and I do for myself my Heirs executors and Administrators hereby declare the said Negro man Gavin Pamphel exonerated of and from all services whatsoever and do hereby declare him to be a free man, and I do renounce all Right title Interest claim and demand whatsoever to the said Slave In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and affixed my seal this twenty fifth day of September 1793

Scaled & Delivered
In presence of
Philip Moody
William Sted

David Miller

At a Court held for York County the 16th day of December 1793
This deed of Emancipation was acknowledged by David Miller Party
thereto and ordered to be recorded

Ex³

Wm

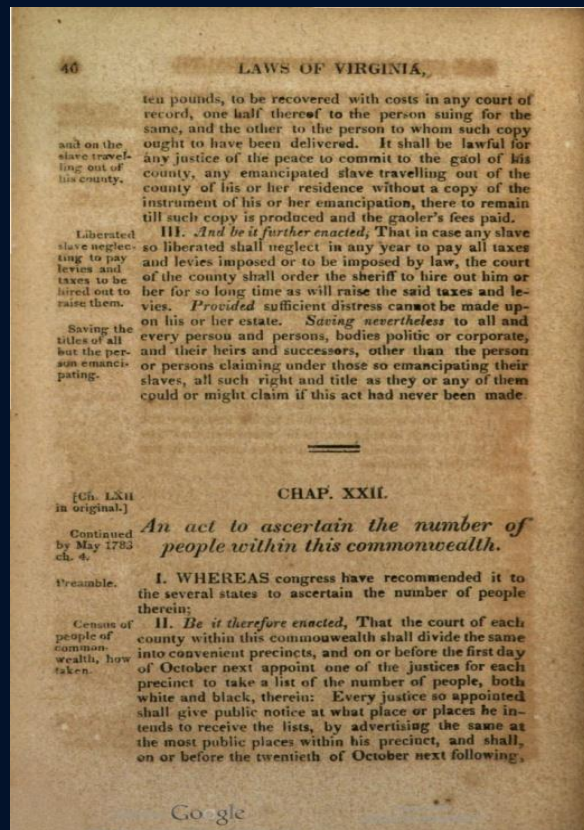
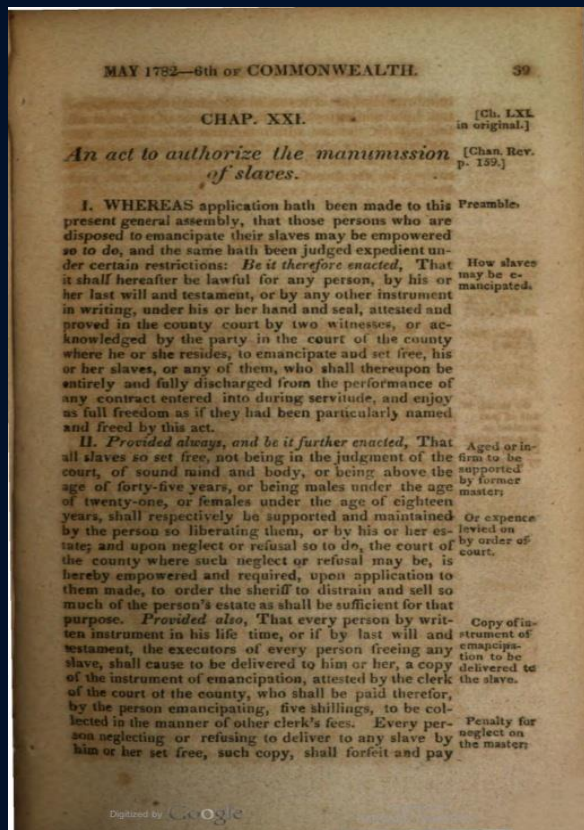
Ro. H. Walter to Curd.

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



Different Types of Manumission

Manumission by Deed

Manumission by Last Will and Testament

Know all men by these presents that *David Miller of York County do*
herby manumit emancipate and set free a Negro man named and called Jovin
Pamphel, and do for myself my Heirs executors and administrators herby declare
the said Negro man Jovin Pamphel conceived of and from all & every whatsoever
and do herby declare him to be a free man and do renounce all Right title
Interest claim and demand whatsoever to the said Slave In Writings whereof
I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this twentieth fifth day of
September 1793
Shaled & Delivered
 In presence of }
Philip Moody
William Scott
 At a Court held for York County the 10th day of December 1793
This deed of Emancipation was acknowledged by David Miller Party
Herby and entered to be recorded
 E: }
 Re H. Walter to Cur.

Know all men by these presents that I Robert C
 Lee executor of the last will and testament of George
 W. P. Crooks deceased acting by and under the author-
 ity and sanction of the provisions of the said will
 do hereby manumit emancipate and set free
 from Slavery the following named Slaves belonging to
 the Estate of the said George W. P. Crooks to wit
 the following to wit
 Charles Griffiths, Adeline Gray
 and Marklar Gray and their two children Emma
 Sarah Mary Anne, Betsy and Phoebe Margaret Taylor
 and the four children Handyly, John, Betty and
 Denny; Lawrence Park and his nine children
 Polly, George, Annanda, Martha, Lawrence, James Ray
 William, Ross and William; John Lane Clark and
 his three children Catherine, Susie and Abby and an
 infant of the said William; Sally News and three
 more named John, Elizabeth and Mary to wit
 Old Hannah Clark, Benjamin Pugham and Susie Pugh-
 am and their two little children Ann and Susan; Paul
 Avery Elwood, Madam, Lewis, Susannah, Anne, Catharine,
 You and an infant, Charlotte, Polly Ann, Susan, Catharine,
 Michael, Elizabeth, Catherine, Paul and the child,
 Marianne Buckle and Cassie Cooke with the following
 Slaves belonging to the White House estate of Robert
 Carter and Sarah his wife to wit
 Jack Young and the
 children Eliza, Priscilla, and child Peter I must be
 and Abby for husband and their three children
 son Mary and Carter, Levery, Child, Old Daniel, lat-
 son and Elizabeth, Catherine, Johnson, Mary and John
 Stewart, Abraham, Jeff, Paul and Dorothy, Brock, Joe, Re-
 set, Archibald, Anne, Will, Camp, Agnes, Annandale, Will-
 iams and Gray her wife, David and his two children David
 and his five children, Joseph, Elizabeth and Michael being
 Livin and his two Children Major, Will, Mills, Males and
 Sallies her wife and their four children, Levery, David,
 Sarah, Elizabeth, Betty, Old Henry and his husband, Perry
 Little, Sarah and his wife, James Henry, Molly, Henry and his two
 children, Abraham, Phillip, Elizabeth and Mary, his wife
 Henry, James John, John, Betty, Betty and her child, Molly, Char-
 les, John, Arthur, George, George, Henry, James, Matthew, Charles
 and his wife, the following Slaves belonging to the Remond's
 estate
 John, John, John, Joseph, and his children, Mary,
 Lawrence and his wife, Henry, Betty, John, Lawrence, Thomas
 and Louise his wife, John, Henry, Peter, Henry, John, Charles,
 and his child, John, Anne, Elizabeth, George and the child, Peter
 Mary, John, Jane, Johnson, William, and Sarah, Johnson
 and their children, Henry, Lewis, Molly and George, James
 Henry and Andrew, Campbell, Mary, East and his wife,
 Carter, Nelson, Meredith and Phoebe his wife, and their
 children, Robert, Charles, Nat, Peter and Betty, the Slaves
 Maria and her children, George, William, Phillip, Frederick,
 Peter and his wife, Elizabeth, William, Thomas, Thomas and
 Johnson, Margaret, Pugham and a young child,
 and I do hereby release the aforesaid Slaves from all
 and every claim which they have upon the services
 as Masters or as Apprentices
 Witness my hand and seal this 29th day of November
 in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and ninety two
 R. C. Lee (Sd)
 ex. J. R. Crooks
 State of Virginia, County of Spotsylvania, I do not
 Henry S. Crooks, Justice of the Peace
 in and for said County do hereby certify that Robert C.
 Lee, executor of the last will and testament of George W.
 P. Crooks, a party to the foregoing deed of manumission, has
 by personally appeared before me and acknowledged the
 same to be his act and deed.
 Given under my hand and seal this 29th day of Nov. 1862
 Henry S. Crooks, J.P.

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

Miller
to } Deed of
Slave James - } Emancipation

Know all men by these presents that I David Miller of York County do hereby manumit emancipate and set free a Negro man named and called Gavin Pamphet, and I do for myself my Heirs executors and administrators hereby declare the said Negro man Gavin Pamphet exonerated of and from all services whatsoever and do hereby declare him to be a free man and I do renounce all Right title Interest claim and demand whatsoever to the said Slave In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and affixed my seal this twenty fifth day of September 1793

Sealed & Delivered }
In presence of }
Philip Moody }
William Scott }

David Miller

At a Court held for York County the 16th day of December 1793
This deed of Emancipation was acknowledged by David Miller Truly
thereto and ordered to be recorded

Ex²

Walter Earl

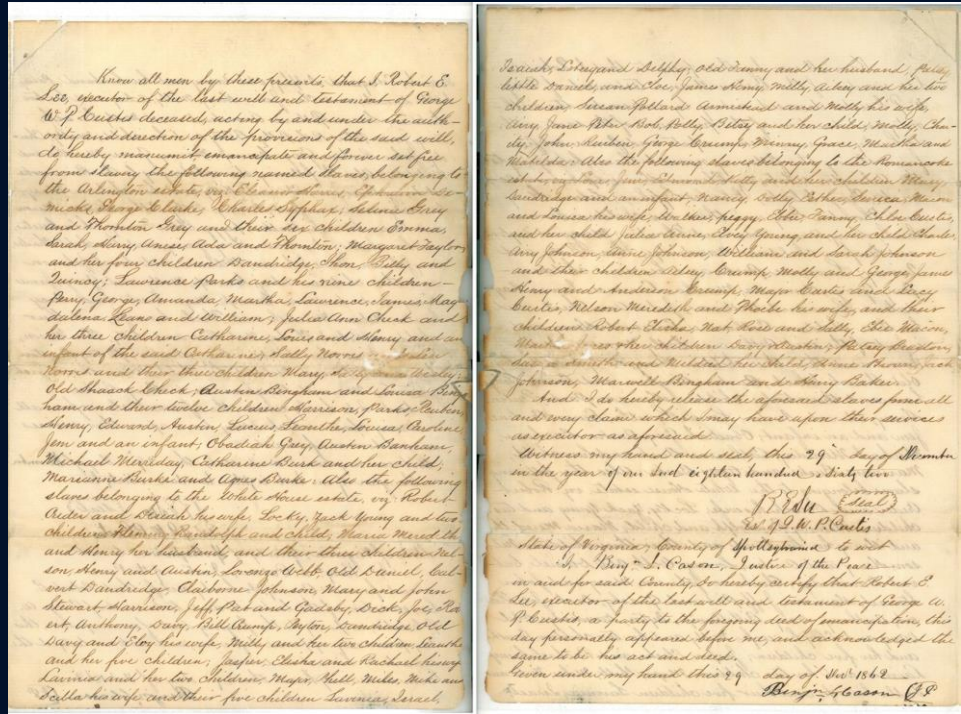
Manumission By Last Will and Testament

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, 1862.

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



Slaves Manumitted By Robert E. Lee

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

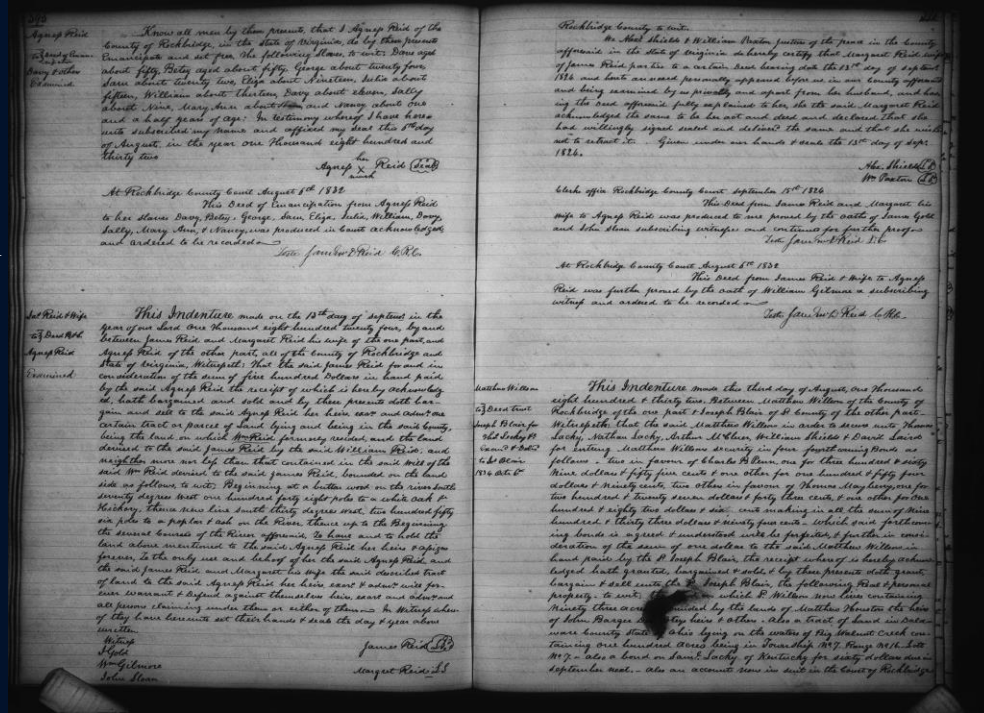
Manumission by Purchase of Freedom

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

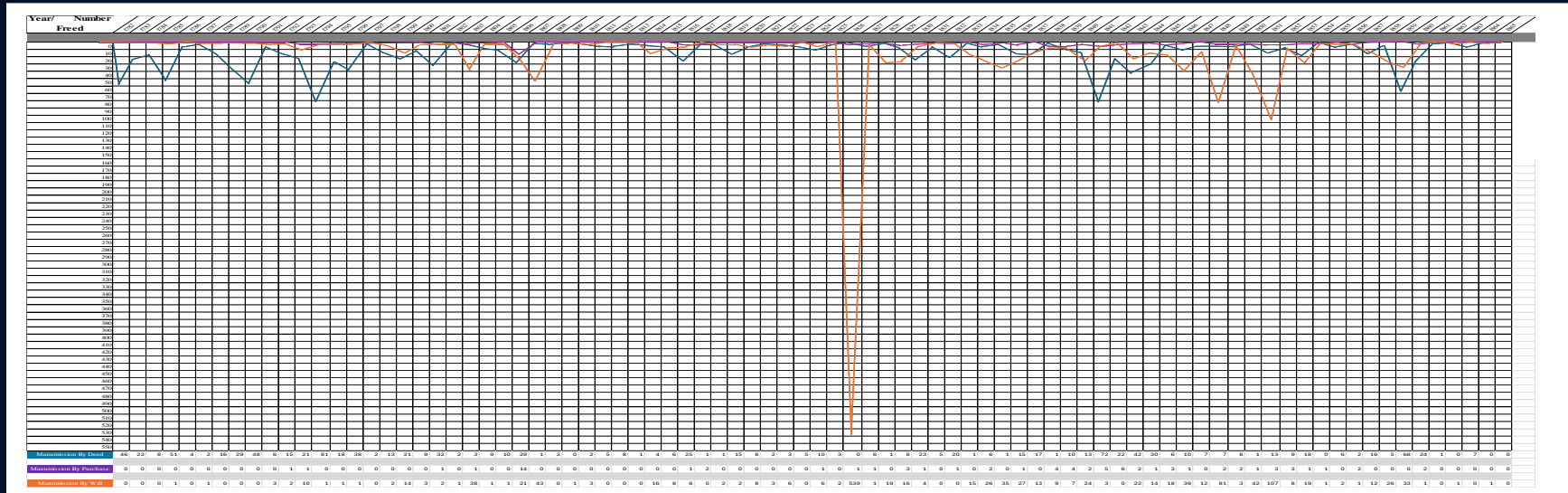
Master's thesis on the manumission of slaves in five counties and what used to be called Lynchburg City.

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

Project expanded to include the whole state of Virginia.



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 here 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.”