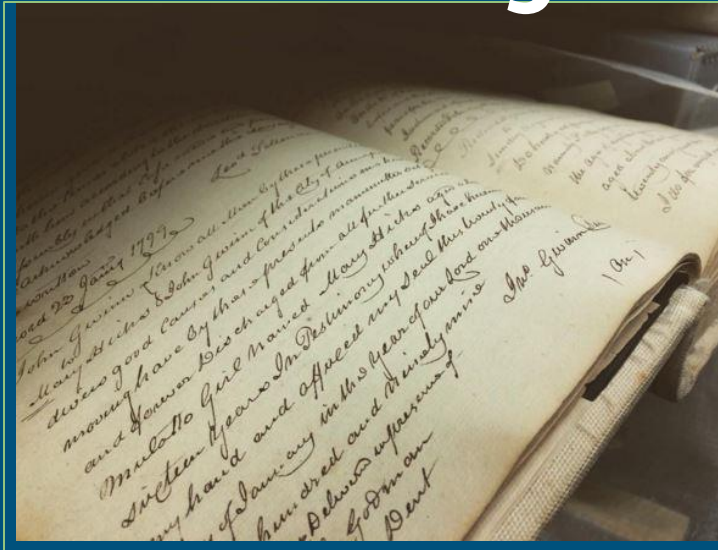


# NHPRC Documenting Democracy: Finding Freedom



Maryland, Anne Arundel County to wit Shereby  
I hereby certify to all whom it shall concern that at a Court  
held at the County Court house in the County aforesaid  
I the undersigned to my satisfaction did the hear and see of  
negro man named Abraham Progeed of a dark  
complexion about five feet six inches high aged  
about thirty four years, and has a large scar upon  
the back of the head, occasioned by a burn near  
the horn; and that the said Abraham Progeed  
was raised in the County aforesaid  
Given the 27 day of April 1815

Ryan Cox  
Research Archivist  
Study of the Legacy of Slavery in  
Maryland



The Maryland State Archives Presents:

# LEGACY OF SLAVERY IN MARYLAND

An Archives of Maryland Electronic Publication

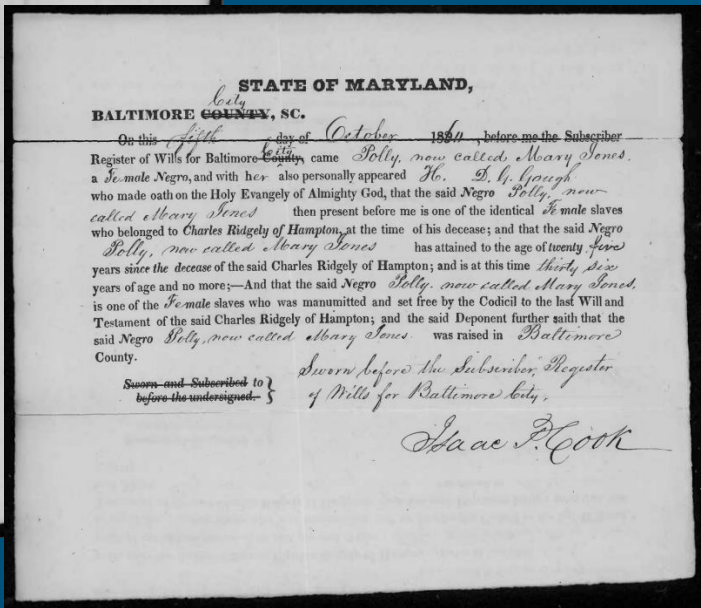
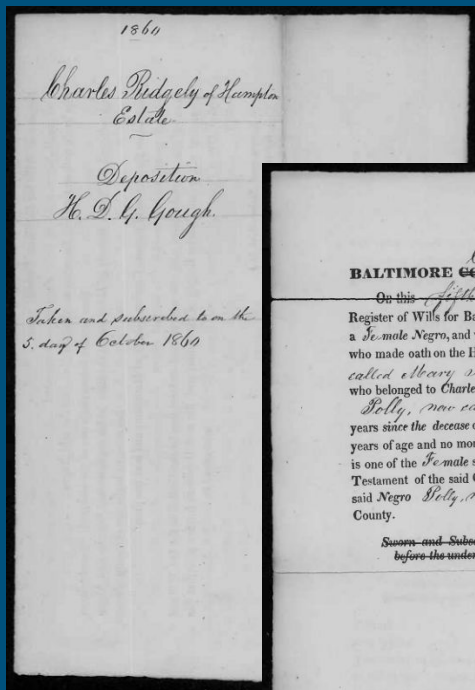


Digitize and make accessible a total of  
111 Manumission and Certificate of  
Freedom record series

These date from 1774-1864 and come  
from 17 different counties

- Inventory
- Public outreach

What are these records and why are they  
important?




# Manumissions

| County      | Date Manumitted | Date Recorded | Slave First Name | Slave Last Name | Alias | Gender | Age | Owner First Name | Owner Last Name | Notes   |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|-------|--------|-----|------------------|-----------------|---|
| Queen Annes | 17870130        | 17870306      | Negro Dark       |                 |       | Female |     | Rizdon           | Plummer         | witnessed by V. Downes & Thos. Seigar. Entered in Liber CD #2, folio 209-10, 6 Mar 1787       |
| Queen Annes | 17880122        | 17880124      | James            | Damell          |       | Male   | 44  | Richard          | Sudler          | witnessed by Art. Emory & Richard Simmonds. Entered in Liber CD #2, folio 427-28, 24 Jan 1788 |
| Queen Annes | 17880122        | 17880124      | Benjamin         |                 |       | Male   | 44  | Susanah          | Sudler          | witnessed by Art. Emory & Robert Warich. Entered in Liber CD #2, folio 428, 24 Jan 1788       |
| Queen Annes | 17880122        | 17880124      | Ellender         |                 |       | Female | 44  | Susanah          | Sudler          | witnessed by Art. Emory & Robert Warich. Entered in Liber CD #2, folio 428, 24 Jan 1788       |

Know all men by these presents that I Rizdon Plummer of Queen Annes County having a negro Woman named Dark, in my possession as a slave, and being desirous to give and grant unto the said Dark her liberty and freedom, do therefore hereby manumit and discharge the said Dark from my service, renouncing hereby all my right title and property of in and to the said neg<sup>r</sup> Dark, both for myself my Heirs Executors and Administrators. In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand & seal the 30<sup>th</sup> Day of January Anno Domini 1787

Sealed & Delivered  
In the presence of  
A. Downes  
Tho<sup>s</sup> Seigar

Rizdon Plummer 

MARYLAND, ff.


To ALL whom these PRESENTS shall come, GREETING:

I Richard Sudler of Queen Annes County, in the STATE of MARYLAND, for divers good Causes and Considerations me thereunto moving, do hereby DECLARE FREE, MANUMIT and ENFRANCHISE the NEGRO following, to wit: James Darnell aged Forty four years

Hereby acknowledging the said NEGRO discharged from all Claim of Service and Right of Property whatever from me, my Heirs, Executors or Administrators—As Witness my Hand and Seal, this

Twenty second Day of January in the Year of our LORD, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-eight

*signed by Art. Emory  
& Richard Simmonds  
before Richard Simmonds*

Richard Sudler 

Queen Annes COUNTY, ff.

ON the twenty second Day of January in the Year of our Lord 1788 personally appeared before me, the Subscriber, one of the Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid, Richard Sudler Party to the within Instrument of Writing, who acknowledged the said Instrument to be his ACT and DEED, and the Signature and Seal thereto annexed, to be respectively his.

before *Art. Emory*

# Certificates of Freedom

*Certificates Granted*

Former Slave

Born Free

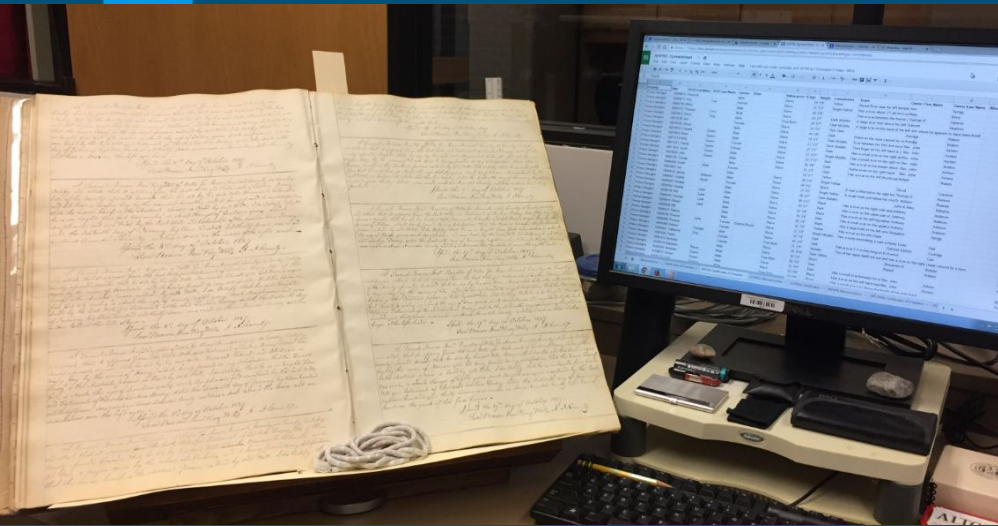
August 15. Thomas Kelly 5 feet five and one half inches high, blackish colour, well set, has a scar on the left hand, and left elbow, raised by General M'Henry's sloop, and manumitted by Joshua Cornish on the 15. day of August 1800, aged about 40 years

August 15. Jack Cornish 5 feet four and one half inches high, blackish colour, has a scar on each side of his thumbs, born free raised in Dorchester County aged 18 years. Certificate of Richard Mattison Esq.

August 17. James Kirk 5 feet five and one half inches high, Copper colour, thick lips, well set, has a scar on his forehead, received in Dorchester County and manumitted by William Harrison on the 17. day of August 1800, aged about 22 years

September 16. Peggy Amy 5 feet two and one fourth inches high, Copper colour, thick lips, flat nose, a scar above her left eye, raised by Nathaniel Manning in Dorchester County and manumitted by James Thomas on the 28. day of February 1803, to be free on the first day of November 1805, aged 26 years

# The Process



16

BE IT KNOWN, That at the Instance of my deceased Sister, Elizabeth Bordley, late of Annapolis, I her Devisee, and Executor of her last Will and Testament, have manumitted, released and set Free, and hereby do manumit, release, and for ever set Free, her late Negro, called Poll, the sister of Judah, and all her Children (who has assumed the Name of Molly Gibbs ) from the State of Slavery in which ~~they~~ have been held hitherto under the Laws of the Country; and with Wishes that by honest Industry ~~they~~ may thrive and preserve a good Name, I have hereto set my Hand and Seal, this first Day of December, 1789.

Signed, sealed and delivered, *Beale Bordley*

| B        | C                 | D               | E              | F      | G   | H      | I                 | J                                 | K         | L                   | M           | N        | O                                  |
|----------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------|-----|--------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| Date     | Witness/Testimony | S/FB First Name | S/FB Last Name | Gender | Age | Height | Complexion        | Scars                             | Alias     | Status prior: Slave | Owner First | Owner La | Notes                              |
| 18070808 | Nicholas Harwood  | Elizabeth       | Reynolds       | Female | 24  | 5'2"   | Mulatto, nearly v | Scar on right side of h           | Elizabeth | Slave               | William     | Reynolds | William Reynolds manumitted E      |
| 18070733 |                   | Jason           |                | Male   | 18  | 5'6"   | Black             | Scar on left arm, from a burn     |           | Free born           |             |          | Raised in Annapolis, Anne Arun     |
| 18070724 |                   | James           | Brogden        | Male   | 23  | 5'8"   | Black             | Scar on back part of his head bel |           | Free born           |             |          | Raised in Anne Arundel County.     |
| 18070728 |                   | Hannah          |                | Female | 40  | 5'4"   | Dark              |                                   |           | Free born           |             |          | Born in Prince George's County.    |
| 18070803 |                   | Ann             | Toogood        | Female | 53  | 5'2"   | Yellowish         |                                   |           |                     |             |          | Raised in the city of Annapolis.   |
| 18070804 |                   | Thomas          | Queen          | Male   | 34  | 5'8"   | Yellowish         |                                   |           | Free born           |             |          | Fore finger on the right hand is c |
| 18070806 |                   | Rachel          | Allan          | Female | 19  | 5'3.5" | Yellowish         |                                   |           | Free born           |             |          | Has one tooth out of the right si  |
| 18070807 |                   | Sail            |                | Female | 52  | 5'     | Yellowish         |                                   | Sarah Phi | Free born           |             |          | Raised in Anne Arundel County.     |

# mdslavery.exe datatool

The screenshot displays the MDslavery 2.0.0.7 application interface. The main window is titled "MDslavery 2.0.0.7 RSCH" and features a menu bar with "File" and "View" options. On the left, a file explorer shows a tree structure with categories: Original, All, and Test. A "Login" dialog box is overlaid on the main window, containing a logo and fields for "User name" and "Password", with "OK" and "Cancel" buttons and "Version 2.0.0.7" text. The main content area is divided into two panes. The left pane shows a tree view of categories: Original, Newspapers Ads, Pardon Records, Census Records, Jail Records, Certificates of Freedom and Manumissions (with sub-items Manumissions and Certificates of Freedom), Assessment, Chattle and Inventories, Colonization Society, Other, All, and Test. The right pane is titled "Certificates of Freedom (Working)" and contains a data entry form with fields for County (AA), Owner\_FirstName (Margaretta), Owner\_LastName (Jones), Witness, Date (18120525), Freed\_FirstName (Samuel), Freed\_LastName (Johnson), Alias, Sex (Male), Prior Status (Slave), Age (45.00), Complexion (Dark), Scars (small scar on the left che), Series (c45), Item, Folder, Document, Page (122), Entry (1), DataSetName (NHPRC), Notes (Freed by last will and tes), and Height (5'10.5"). The form also includes a search bar at the top right and a "URL" field at the bottom. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the system tray with the time 9:45 AM and date 5/15/2017.

# Database

Increased access to records  
by the public

Availability off site

Future statistical analysis

micro, macro level

The Maryland State Archives Presents:  
**LEGACY OF SLAVERY IN MARYLAND**  
An Archives of Maryland Electronic Publication

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SEARCH COLLECTIONS

The Beneath the Underground database features entries of over 300,000 individuals including, white and black, slave owners, enslaved and free individuals from primarily the years of 1830 through 1880 to review. Listed below are the record series currently searchable on-line. Click on the record series name to view the titles available in that record series. Click on the record title for more detailed information on the record series or the individual titles. To search title names and title level description fields, enter your search term(s) in the text box below. Click Clear to start a new search.

| Basic  | Advanced   | Browse Collections  | Dynamic Search  | Index Search  |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="text"/>                                       | <input type="button" value="Search"/> <input type="button" value="Clear"/> |   |   |   |
| <input type="button" value="Unselect All"/>                |  |   |   |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Census 1830-1840       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Census 1776-1820                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pardon Record               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fed Cases Fugitives         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manumissions        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Census 1850-1860       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Census Ward Totals                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Slave Jails                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prisoner Records            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business Associates |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Census 1870-1880       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Real Property 1819-1880                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accommodations Docket       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assessment Records (slaves) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business Persons    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Census Slave Schedules | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absconding Seaman                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assessment Records (owners) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chattels                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manufacturers       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Domestic Traffic       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maryland Penitentiary Records          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Directory 1875         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deserters                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mortality           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Runaway Ads            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pardon Docket                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colonization Society        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inventories                 |   |

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[slavery.msa.maryland.gov](http://slavery.msa.maryland.gov)

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[Home](#) > C3085

Jump By Series ID:

## Information on C3085 - (Certificates of Freedom)

### Series Information

BALTIMORE CITY  
REGISTER OF WILLS  
(Certificates of Freedom)  
1820-1864  
C3085

### Series Description

Certificate showing that a slave was freed by a will. These records include the names of the slave and of the owner. Click on "Details" for a detailed inventory.

### Related Series

[REGISTER OF WILLS \(Certificates of Freedom and Miscellaneous Papers\) T629, 1829-1864](#)

### Similar Series

[By Series Name](#)

[By Agency](#)

[By Jurisdiction](#)

### Filter Items

Column to Filter On

Date

Filter Criteria

Please provide your date in the mm/dd/yyyy format. If you provide a list of dates (i.e. "1991, 1993") you will only be matched when that can be matched exactly. Date ranges are not supported.

Found 5 total items for this series.

NOTE: These results have been prefiltered through an advanced search.

[Click here to return to search results.](#)

|                         | Date      | Description             | Location     | MSA Citation |
|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <a href="#">Details</a> | 1820-1829 | Certificates of Freedom | 01/15/04/057 | C3085-1      |
| <a href="#">Details</a> | 1830-1833 | Certificates of Freedom | 01/15/04/058 | C3085-2      |
| <a href="#">Details</a> | 1834-1843 | Certificates of Freedom | 01/15/04/059 | C3085-3      |
| <a href="#">Details</a> | 1844-1849 | Certificates of Freedom | 01/15/04/060 | C3085-4      |
| <a href="#">Details</a> | 1850-1864 | Certificates of Freedom | 01/15/04/061 | C3085-5      |

Display per page 100

Display per page 100





# Guide to Government Records

Home > C2511

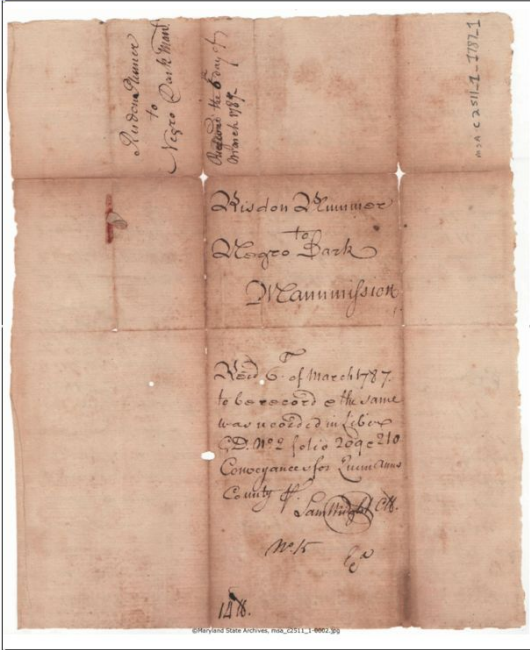
**Information on C2511 - (Manumissions)**

**Series Information**  
QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY COURT  
(Manumissions)  
1787-1850  
C2511

**Series Description**  
Original deeds of manumissions granting freedom to slaves set free by their owners. Documents show the names and signatures of the owners; names, ages and recording; terms of slavery; and citation to the recorded copies in (Land Records) in series [C1426](#) and [C1427](#). In addition, manumissions can be found ar actually occurred at a later time, such as after a period of years or when a slave reached a specific age. For a modern index to the recorded (Land Records) ebook of this series, click [here](#). Note that the first box in the series has yet to be scanned and added to the ebook. [ecp 8/21/2007] C2511-4 consists of a si units.

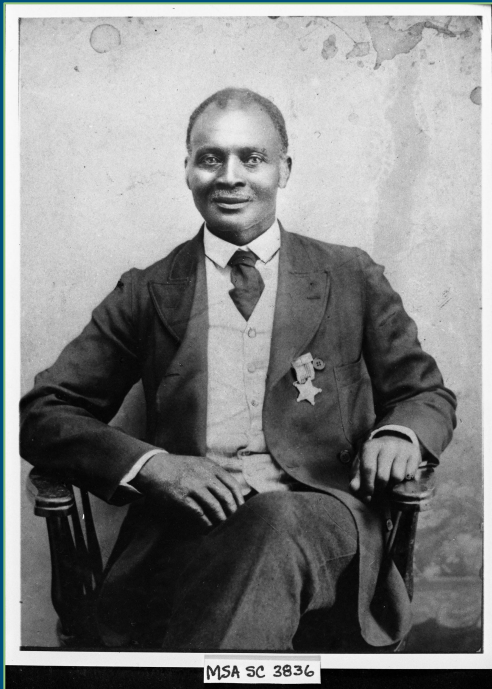
|  | Date      | Description        | Links   | Location     | S |
|--|-----------|--------------------|---|--------------|---|
|  <a href="#">Details</a> | 1787-1809 | Manumission Papers | <a href="#">Additional Links</a>  | 02/01/04/046 |   |
|  |           |                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Ebook</a></li><li><a href="#">Scanned (Grayscale)</a></li></ul> |              |   |
|  <a href="#">Details</a> | 1810-1825 | Manumission Papers | <a href="#">Additional Links</a>  | 02/01/04/047 |   |
|  |           |                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Ebook</a></li></ul>   |              |   |

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Maryland State Archives msa\_c2511\_1\_0002\_00

# Trends and Outliers



Photograph of Robert Riley, USCT  
Veteran, MSA SC 3836.



1904 Unknown Black Family Sitting On Porch, MSA SC 1477-1-5812.

# Images

Title Slide - 1. Manumission, John Gwinn to Mary Hicks, ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT (Manumission Record), 1797-1807, C109-1, page 34, January 24, 1799. 2. Certificate of Freedom for Abraham Brogden. ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT (Certificate of Freedom) 1806-1851, MSA C46-3, page 54, entry 1, April 27, 1815.

Introduction –Charles Ridgely of Hampton to Mary Jones, alias “Polly”. BALTIMORE CITY REGISTER OF WILLS (Certificates of Freedom) 1850-1894, MSA C3085-5-74.

Manumissions - 1. Negro Dark Manumission. QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY COURT (Manumissions) 1787-1809, MSA C2511-1-1-1. 2. James Darnell Manumission. QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY COURT (Manumissions) 1787-1809, MSA C2511-1-2-1.

Certificates of Freedom - Thomas Jolly & Jack Cornish Certificates of Freedom. DORCHESTER COUNTY COURT (Certificates of Freedom), 1806-1851, C689-1, pg. 1.

Process - 1. Beale Bordley to Poll, Judah and her children, Manumission, 1789, ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURT, (Manumissions), 1785-1844, C111-1-0027. 2. Photograph, desk of Ryan Cox, research archivist, May 2017.

Guide to Government Records - Risdon Plummer Manumission of Negro Dark. QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY COURT (Manumissions) 1787-1809, MSA C2511-1-1-1.

Trends and Outliers - Photograph of Robert Riley, USCT Veteran, MSA SC 3836. 1904 Unknown Black Family Sitting On Porch, MSA SC 1477-1-5812.