

Free Negroes in Cumberland County, 1837–1839*

Contributed by
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Three lists of free Negroes residing in Cumberland County in 1837, 1838 and 1839 were recently found among that county's Free Negro and Slave Papers located in the Library of Virginia. What appears here is a compilation of all three lists that included numerous duplications from year to year. The list for 1837 is the most extensive, while the list for 1838 gives residents' ages more often than the other two. The list for 1839 often provides additional information as to occupation or place of residence.

NAME	AGE ¹	OCCUPATION	RESIDENCE
Ampy, Gallilea ²		laborer	with Dan'l. B. Flippen
Ampy, Berry		ditto	d°
Boler, Dolly ³		spinster	with Jeffrey Mayo
Booker, German ⁴		blacksmith	Cartersville
Brown, Sally		spinster	with David Jenkins
Brown, Jeffrey ⁵		laborer	with John Kirkpatrick Meeting House
Brown, Louisa	18	d/o ⁶ Louisa	d°
Brown, Anna	25	d°	d° no papers
Brown, Wm.		son of d°	d° papers

* Free Negro and Slave lists, 1837, 1838, 1839, Free Negro and Slave papers, Court Records, Cumberland County, Archival and Information Services Division, Library of Virginia.

** Richmond, Va. Dr. Hopewell is a local records archivist with the Library of Virginia..

¹ Age calculated for 1838.

² Listed in 1837 and 1838, but not in 1839.

³ Listed only in 1838.

⁴ Listed only in 1838.

⁵ Listed only in 1837.

⁶ Daughter of

Brown, Eliza	16	spinster, d/o Louisa	d°
Brumskill, Jordan ⁷		carpenter	for Wm. A. Frayser
Cato, Nancy		spinster/weaver	near Cumberland CoHouse ⁸
Cato, William		boatman	adj. Wm. S. Armistead, Cartersville
Cato, Eliza		spinster	wife of Wm. Cato
Cato, David		ditcher	on his own land, adj. A. Cheatwood
Cato, David, Jr. ⁹		boatman	at David Cato's
Canady, Samuel ¹⁰		laborer	for Nancy Russel
Cavill, Charles		shoemaker	on John Holeman's land
Cooper, James ¹¹		boatman	Cartersville
Cousins, Sarah		spinster/washwoman	on Thomas Montague's land/Cartersville
Dungey, George ¹²		shoemaker	near Cumberland CoHouse
Edwards, Geo ¹³		planter; no papers	with Jno. T. McAshan
Ellison, Cloe		spinster/cake baker	own land on Buckingham road
Ellison, Jane		d° d/o Cloe	d°
Ellison, Princilla ¹⁴		d°	d° d°
Evans, Wm.		carpenter	with Richd. K. Raine
Evans, Thornton		ditto	with Wm. B. Hobson
Freeman, Peyton ¹⁵		blacksmith	with Tho. J. Smith, Ca Ira ¹⁶
Gough, Tom ¹⁷		boatman	for Armistead & McAshan
Gough, Billy ¹⁸		carpenter	with the Starkeys

⁷ Listed in 1837 and 1838, but not in 1839.

⁸ In 1837 and 1838; in 1839, she is recorded as living near Cartersville. In 1838, she is listed as the wife of Jesse Scruggs. In April 1837, Nancy Cato was indicted by a county Grand Jury as "owner of a negro man slave by the name of Jesse for licencing him to go at large and trade as a free man." Her case came to trial in March 1838, and the jury found the defendant, "Not guilty."

⁹ Listed only in 1839.

¹⁰ Listed only in 1838.

¹¹ Listed only in 1838.

¹² Listed only in 1837.

¹³ As listed in 1837; in 1839, he is listed as a labourer at John L. Trent's.

¹⁴ As listed in 1837; also Priscilla and Drucilla on the other lists.

¹⁵ As listed in 1837; not listed in 1838 and listed in 1839 as a boatman, working for A[rmistead] & McAshan.

¹⁶ It originally was named for the French Revolutionary song "Ca Ira" according to Calder Loth's *Virginia Landmarks Registry* (1999). *The Gazetteer of Virginia* (1835) showed it to be a thriving community with a population of 210, including 40 homes, 3 mercantile stores, a mill, a tobacco warehouse, a church, 2 taverns and a Masonic Hall. Among the trademen were 2 tailors, 2 wheelwrights, 2 blacksmiths and 2 plough manufacturers. When Loth published his *Registry*, Grace Episcopal Church was the only building remaining. (Sic transit gloria mundi).

¹⁷ As listed in 1837; in 1839, his name is spelled Goff and residence is given as Ca Ira.

¹⁸ In 1839, his name is spelled Goff.

Goff, Dick ¹⁹	boatman	Ca Ira
Gray, Peggy ²⁰	spin & knit	papers from Goochland, on H. E. Watkins' land
Gray, Rachael	15 ²¹	child of Peggy Gray
Gray, Horace	7	child of Peggy Gray
Gray, Rasmus	5	child of Peggy Gray
Hickman, Martha Ann	cook	for Wm. Barton
Hix, Cloe	5	d/o Martha ²²
Hughes, Teresa ²³	cook	for Albert Cunningham, Cartersville
Jackson, Jacob and family	ditcher &c.	from Goochland, no papers, Wm. C. Talley's land near Cartersville
Jackson, Jenny	spinster	wife of Jacob
Jackson, Lawrence	12	son of Jacob
Jackson, Lysander	10	d°
Jackson, Dandrige	7	d°
Jackson, Holeman	5	d°
Jenkins, Lewis & 2 small children	shoemaker	near Turkey Cock Church
Jenkins, Sally	weaver	wife of Lewis Jenkins
Jenkins, David	planter	near Turkey Cock Church
Jenkins, Betsy	weaver/spinster	wife of David Jenkins ²⁴
Jenkins, Sally	spinster d/o Betsy	no papers, born in Cumberland
Jenkins, Judith ²⁵	spinster	on Tho. Montague's land
Jenkins, Rachael	labourer	for Eppa Hobson
Jenkins, Stephen	planter	on David Bradley's land
Jenkins, Betsy	spinster; wife of Stephen;	cook for Geo. T. Parish
Jenkins, Moorman	labourer	son of Stephen
Jenkins, Tarlton & family	carpenter	for R. Harrison; on his own land
Jenkins, Betsy	weaver	wife of Tarlton Jenkins
Jenkins, Charlotte	d/o Tarlton Jenkins	
Jenkins, Cuynthia ²⁶	d/o Tarlton Jenkins	
Johns, Bob	shoe maker	
Johns, Jack ²⁷	shoe maker	

¹⁹ Listed only in 1839.

²⁰ In 1837 and 1839, she is listed as Peggy, but as Mary in 1838.

²¹ In 1837, she is listed as 17 years old, but only 15 in the 1838 listing.

²² Martha and Cloe are listed only in 1838.

²³ Listed only in 1837.

²⁴ In 1839, the wife of David Jenkins is listed as Salley.

²⁵ Listed only in 1837.

²⁶ Sic, clearly written and spelled this way.

²⁷ Listed only in 1837.

Johnson, Martin ²⁸	labourer	on Jno. Sanders' land
Lipscomb, Martha	seamstress/spinster	on her own land on Cartersville road
Lipscomb, James	7	child of Martha Lipscomb
Lipscomb, Pamela	5	child of Martha Lipscomb
Lipscomb, William	3	child of Martha Lipscomb
Lipscomb, Cloe ²⁹	spinster	on her own land on Cartersville road
Lipscomb, Betsy	spin & sew	on her own land on Bernard's road
Lipscomb, Rebecca	12	d/o Betsy Lipscomb
Lipscomb, Jane		d/o Betsy Lipscomb
Lipscomb, Henry	6	son of Betsy Lipscomb ³⁰
Lipscomb, Judith	6	d/o Jane Lipscomb ³¹
Lipscomb, Polley	spinster	on Betsy Lipscomb's land
Lipscomb, Margaret		d/o Polley Lipscomb
Lipscomb, Claibourn ³²	planter	on Wm. D. Austin's land
Lipscomb, Ryland ³³	labourer	Tho. H. Brackett's
Logan, Charlotte	sewer & weaver	from Powhatan; on H. E. Watkins' land
Logan, Anacah	16	d/o Charlotte Logan
Logan, Suckey	6	d/o Charlotte Logan
Logan, Esther ³⁴	very old	from Powhatan
Logan, Billy	farmer/planter	on Leon Daniels' land
Logan, Casteen ³⁵	labourer	near Cartersville
Logan, Judy	spinster	wife of Chasteen [sic]
Loving, Louisa	spinster	with Charles Cavell
Lynch, Salley ³⁶	weaver	from Goochland, no papers
Martin, Hutson ³⁷	ditcher	from Goochland
Matthews, Mary ³⁸	cook	for Vincent C. Ryals; no papers
Mayo, Bob ³⁹	boatman	for John T. McAshan ⁴⁰

²⁸ Listed only in 1838.

²⁹ Listed in 1837 and 1838, but not in 1839.

³⁰ In 1837, Henry is listed as a son of Jane Lipscomb, but in 1838 and 1839, he is listed as a son of Betsy Lipscomb, along with Judith, Jane and Rebecca.

³¹ In 1837 and 1839, Judith is listed as a child of Betsy Lipscomb, but in 1838, she is listed as a daughter of Jane.

³² Listed only in 1837.

³³ Listed only in 1839.

³⁴ Listed only in 1837.

³⁵ Casteen/Chasteen and his wife Judy appear only in 1838.

³⁶ Listed only in 1837.

³⁷ Listed only in 1837.

³⁸ Listed only in 1837.

³⁹ Members of the extensive Mayo family trace their name and freedom to Joseph Mayo of Henrico County who freed his slaves by his will probated in 1785. After confirmation of the will by a chancery suit in the General Court, the Virginia General Assembly implemented their freedom by special legislation in 1787. Between 1800 and 1815, many of these freed persons migrated to Cumberland where they duly registered with the Court Clerk according to the law of 1793. Turning in their Certificates of

Mayo, Henry		boatman	ditto
Mayo, Eliza		seamstress	Stephen Jenkins; papers lost
Mayo, Joe		shoe maker	on Benj. Carrington's land
Mayo, Susan		spinster	wife of Joe
Mayo, Albert	3	son of Joe Mayo	
Mayo, Sarah	18	spinster	sister of Joe Mayo
Mayo, John Maurice	2	ploughboy	brother of Joe
Mayo, Nancy	4	d/o Joe	
Mayo, Jane		spinster	sister of Joe
Mayo, John		pinster	on Henry Hatcher's land ⁴¹
Mayo, Moses		labourer ⁴²	hire by Rhoderick Frayser
Mayo, Billey		boatman	adj. Ro. Stratton ⁴³
Mayo, Cloe		weaver	wife of Billey Mayo
Mayo, Wilson		boatman	son of Billey Mayo
Mayo, William		boatman	son of Billey Mayo
Mayo, Mary Jane	13	spinster	with Billey Mayo
Mayo, James Cato		black smith ⁴⁴	on Jesse Criddle's land
Mayo, Sally & 4 Small Children			wife of James Cato Mayo
Mayo, Robert ⁴⁵		black smith	with James Cato Mayo
Mayo, Washington ⁴⁶		boatman	with Armistead & McAshan
Mayo, Gracey		spin & weave	near Turkey Cock Church
Mayo, Richard	18	son of Gracey Mayo	Hired to Jno. T. McAshan
Mayo, Ann Jane	13	grandchild of Gracey Mayo &	with her
Mayo, Wilson	8	grandchild of Gracey Mayo &	with her
Mayo, Billey		boatman,	no papers, on Betsy Ligon's land
		son of Gracey Mayo	
Mayo, Eliza		spinster	wife of Billey Mayo
Mayo, Meredith ⁴⁷		labourer	for Wm. W. Montague, no papers
		son of Gracey Mayo	
Mayo, Jeffrey ⁴⁸		boatman	near Turkey Cock Church

Emancipation: that Mayo's Executors had printed on vellum, they received personal passes describing their physical characteristics. The passes then could be shown to the county patrols that nightly roamed the community checking on the movements of free Negroes and slaves. The vellum certificates and many expired passes are also located in the Free Negro and Slave Papers of Cumberland County Court Records at the Library of Virginia.

⁴⁰ Near Wm. Ransom's/Turkey Cock Church.

⁴¹ As listed in 1837; in 1838 and 1839, John Mayo is shown living near Turkey Cock Church.

⁴² As listed in 1837; in 1839, he is listed as a boatman for Armistead & McAshan.

⁴³ As listed in 1837 and 1839; in 1838, he is listed as living "near Codr. Carrington."

⁴⁴ As listed in 1837; in 1839, James Cato Mayo is listed as a boatman working for R. C. Austin.

⁴⁵ Listed only in 1837.

⁴⁶ Listed only in 1837.

⁴⁷ In 1839, he is listed as a boatman.

⁴⁸ In 1839, he is listed as a "Labourer on J. A. Thomas' Land."

Mayo, Betsy ⁴⁹	cake baker	wife of Jeffrey Mayo
Mayo, Suckey ⁵⁰	spinster	near Turkey Cock Church
Mayo, Albert 20	son of Suckey	hired to Robert Deane
Mayo, Sam 17	ditto	hired by the day or month
Mayo, John William ⁵¹	ditto	ditto
Mayo, Robert 13	ditto	
Mayo, George 6	ditto	
Mayo, Arpatia Jane 2	d/o ditto	
Mayo, Patience	spin & weave	on David Merryman's land, near Turkey Cock Church
Mayo, Amanda	spin & knit	with Patience Mayo
Mayo, Amy 5	d/o Amanda Mayo	no papers
Mayo, Scipio ⁵¹	labourer	for James Evans Cartersville
Mayo, Alexander 10	son of Scipio Mayo	
Mayo, Eliza Jane 8	d/o Scipio Mayo	
Mayo, Peter	planter	on Wm. C. Talley's land
Mayo, Albert ⁵²	labourer	for Joseph N. Carrington
Mayo, Peter	ditto	ditto
Mayo, Eliza ⁵³	waiter	for A. Cheatwood
Mayo, Susan	spinster	near Wm. Ransom's
Mayo, John William ⁵⁴	labourer	with Susan Mayo
Patteson, Richard	shoe maker	at Brown's Church
Patteson, Keziah ⁵⁵	spin & weave	adj. Wm. S. Armistead; from New Kent, no papers
Reynolds, Lewis	labourer/boatman	for J. T. McAshan; emancipated by John Reynolds
Richardson, John	ditcher	on Capt. John Miller's land; wife at John Miller's
Scott, Billey ⁵⁶	boatman	with John T. McAshan
Smith, Martha & 3 smallchildren	washer	in Ca Ira
Smith, Ambrose ⁵⁷	ditcher	with Peter B. Stratton

⁴⁹ She is listed in 1837 and 1838, but not in 1839.

⁵⁰ In 1839, this woman's name was spelled "Sukey."

⁵¹ In 1839, he is listed as a boatman working for Hatcher Smith & Co.

⁵² In 1839, he is listed as a boatman working for McAshan & Trent.

⁵³ This Eliza Mayo, her work and residence appear only in 1838.

⁵⁴ Susan and John William Mayo appear together in 1838 and may, in fact, be the same Suckey/Sukey Mayo and son John William of 1837 (above), but the other members of the household are not listed in 1838.

⁵⁵ Listed only in 1837.

⁵⁶ Listed in 1837 and 1838, but not in 1839.

⁵⁷ Listed only in 1837.

Smith, Miller	shoe maker	at Cumberland Meeting House
Smith, Julia	spinster	wife of Miller Smith
Smith, Frank about 13	child of Miller & Julia Smith	
Smith, Maria Lousa [sic] 11	child of Miller & Julia Smith	
Smith, Arabella B. 9	child of Miller & Julia Smith	
Smith, Elisha 7	child of Miller & Julia Smith	
Smith, Miller 5	child of Miller & Julia Smith	
Smothers, Wm., Sr. ⁵⁸	old Revolutionary soldier	
Smothers, Wm., Jr.	shoe maker	near Turkey Cock Church
Trotter, Ned	ditcher	on Judge Wm. Daniel's land
Tyler, John	planter ⁵⁹	on own land on Cartersville road; from Goochland
Tyler, Polly ⁶⁰	spin & weave	wife of John Tyler
Tyler, Byrd 21	labourer	subject to fits; no papers
Tyler, Betsy about 17		child of John & Polly Tyler
Tyler, Martin 15	labourer	child of John & Polly Tyler
Tyler, Carrington 16	labourer	child of John & Polly Tyler
Ware, Pamela ⁶¹	labourer	for Rhoderickick [sic] Foster; from Fluvanna; no papers
Wright, Saml. ⁶²	gardener	for James Evans; papers from the Richmond Office

[At the end of each list is a statement attesting to its correctness "taken from the best information I could obtain" signed by Geo. C. Walton, Commissioner of Revenue for Cumberland County.]

⁵⁸ William Smothers Sr./Jr. appear only in 1837.

⁵⁹ In 1837, he is listed as residing "on the land of Wm. D. Austin," but in 1839 he is listed as living on his own land.

⁶⁰ In 1837 and 1839, Polly is listed as the wife of John Tyler, but in 1838, she is listed as a daughter while daughter Betsy (1837 and 1839) is listed as his wife.

⁶¹ Listed only in 1837.

⁶² Listed in 1837 and 1838, but not in 1839.