

Lunenburg County, Virginia, 1814 Free Negroes and Mulattoes

Transcribed by
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In 1793, the Virginia General Assembly enacted legislation "to restrain the practice of Negroes going at large." To correct this "problem," the statute went on to require that "free Negroes or Mulattoes ... be registered and numbered in a book" which was to be maintained by the clerk of the court in the city or county where the free blacks resided. Registration renewal was required yearly in the cities and every three years in the counties. These records were to include "age, name, colour and stature, by whom and in what court the said negro or mulatto was emancipated, or that such negro or mulatto was born free."

Although the enforcement of this requirement varies dramatically by locality, the surviving Free Negro Registers provide valuable information of a genealogical and social nature about the people therein. The same is true for lists of free negroes and mulattoes that exist as a single item or as part of a larger manuscript collection. Mr. Byrd's transcription of Lunenburg County Document #2376, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library is published here with kind permission from Michael Plunkett, Director of Special Collections and Curator of Manuscripts at the University of Virginia Alderman Library.

Joanne Lovelace Nance

List of free negroes & mulattoes in the lower district of Lunenburg for the year 1814.

	Male	Female	Place of Abode	Trade &c
Patience & Henry emancipated slaves	1	1	Baxter Ragsdales	Hirelg.
Billy Cheatham	1		Drury Gee's	Appr.

* William L. Byrd) has been involved in
genealogical research for more than twenty-five years. His primary area of interest is
Native-American and African-American families of Virginia and North Carolina.

	Male	Female	Place of Abode	Trade &c
Scot, Thomas - Salley Scott senr. Olive Scott, Salley Scott Jr., Children, Betsey, George, Anna	2	5	Thos. Callis's	poor spinners weavers Planters
Charlotte Bowen Children Suky & Dick	1	2	John Steagalls	Hirelg.
Jack Step, Harrison Valentine, Jordan Valentine, Betsy Valentine, Jane Valentine, John Valentine, Polly Valentine Emancipated slaves, Sarah & Phillis Polley Evans	4	5	Thomas Morgan's	Apprs.
Betty Chapman Charlotte, Biddy & Betty Chapmans		4	Buckner Winn's	Hirelg.
John Evans	1		Moses Calliham's	Spinners
Matthew Holmes	1		Drury Matthew's	Apprs.
Robin Pen	1		Jesse Moore's	Do.
Charlotte Chapman child Eliza Cretia Mills		2	Saml. Skinner's	Turner
Eliza Mills		1	Wm. Garret's	Appr.
Franky Mills		1	William Dicken's	Spinner & weaver
Ned Mills	1		Vincent Skinner's	Hirelg.
Buckner Valentine & Cinna his wife child Betsy	1	2	Wm. Dicken's	Spinner
	1		Do.	Do.
	1		James Garret's	Planters

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	Male	Female	Place of Abode	Trade &c
John Epes & Betsy his wife Children - Franky, Thomas, Blanchy, Martha	2	4	George Craig's	Do.
Epes Allen	1		Do.	Cooper
Thomas Evans Sally Epes	1	1	Susanna Moore's	Planter
Drury Allen & Nancy his wife children - Letty, Sam, Drury, Eliza, Sally, Eddins	4	4	George Craig's	Cooper
Edward Epes Elizabeth Epes children Mary, Betsy	1	3	Edward Chamber's	Planter
Sam (Calliham) & Lucy his wife Sam Davis & John Chapman Ned Davis	3	1	James Allen's	Do.
Hannah Davis	1	1	James Gee's John William's	Do. Spinner
Betsy Davis Children Ben, Maria, Tempy, Martha, Sarah Polly Davis	1	5	Elisha Estes's Abraham Estes's	Do. Appr.
Larkin Hazlewood Viny Hazelwood	1	1	Asa Barne's	Do.

	Male	Female	Place of Abode	Trade &c
Isham Lester, Patty richardson Jones Lester & Suky his wife Betsy, Anna, Elly, Sally Lesters Martha Richardson Betsy child of Jones	3	7	Near to Stout's old place	Planters
Moses Johnson & Delphia his wife children, John, Patty, Billy, Polly, Freeman, Betsy, Largy, Liza Thomas Evans	5	5	Zacha. Davis's	Do.
William Richardson	1		Vincent Skinner's	Appr.
Zech. Valentine Ritter Lester Dolly Cordle, Eddins Cordle	2	2	Benja: Gee's Jr. Head of Kettlestick	Hirelg. Shoemaker & Farmer
Nancy Valentine Polley, Jordan, Elizabeth, Eliza-Ann	1	4	Do.	Farming Spinning
James Chavers & Lucy his wife Gilliam Kelley Judy B. Tony Peter, Jordan, Charles, Nancy, Lucy, Delphia Kellys Becky Chavers	5	6	Zecha. Davis's	Farming Shoe-Mkg &c
Thomas Todd	1		Wm. Parrot's	Farmer
William Valentine	1		Phebe Wilke's	Do.
Thomas Dickens	1		Wm. Dicken's	Farming & Ditchg

	Male	Female	Place of Abode	Trade &c
William Dickens & Lucretia his wife	1	1	Do.	Farmg.
Joshua Evans	1		Robert Pin's	Dithg.
Anna Williams Lucy Williams children Armistead, Tom, Queen	2	3	Jonathan Booker's	Farmg.
	54	74		

John Blackwell Comr.

A remarkable instance of Longevity.

DIED]. On the 15th of March, WONDER, a negro man belonging to George Booker, of Prince Edward County. From an old register found in the family, it appears that he was born in April 1693; and the cause of his being named Wonder was, that his mother was in her 58th year when he was born. He was honest; had great strength of body; and a mind far superior to people of his color, generally, which he retained in a surprising degree; he labored without compulsion, and it is not more than 8 or 10 years ago since he was a constant laborer in the garden of his master, without being required; he was a constant attendant on religious worship; and it is believed he exchanged a long life of servitude for one of everlasting bliss.

- from the *Richmond Enquirer*, April 2, 1819; contributed by Henry Gwynne Taylor III.