

Free Negro Delinquent Tax Lists, Princess Anne County*

Transcribed by

Leslie Anderson, MLS**

In 1691, Princess Anne County was formed from the eastern third of Lower Norfolk County with the remaining two-thirds becoming Norfolk County. About 2,000 people were scattered across 326 acres. Since its earliest days African Americans had made up about forty percent of the county's population. This included a large number of free blacks. Neither their father's color (black or white) nor his status (free, enslaved, or indentured) affected their status; in order to be free they had to be born of a free woman.

Threats of pirate raids were followed in later years by the trauma of the Revolutionary War. Economic development near the North Carolina border stalled and larger landowners in the northern part of the county controlled local politics. With the agricultural depression of the 1830s, every county in the state lost population. In the first decades of the eighteenth century, the average farmer could sustain his family but had little left to turn into cash. And cash was needed to pay taxes.

A List of Free Negroes that I Cant Collect
the tax & Levies from in 1812–13 & 14 Richd Davis Col^r

Anderson, Jack		Harrison Owen & or son Moses
Cuffee Jesse Wills & George		Harrison Edward
Fuller Affrica		Harrison James
Harrison L	Dead	Morse Malachi

* Free Negro Delinquent Tax Lists, 1812–1814, 1849–1861, Princess Anne Co./City of Virginia Beach, BC 1120074, Folder 4, Local Government Records Collection, Archives and Manuscripts, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

** Ms. Anderson, a former VGS board member, is a reference librarian in the Alexandria Library's Special Collections Branch, 717 Queen St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

Weaver Carter
Weaver Jack
Wilson Lemuel

Wilson Timothy
Whitehurst [illegible]
Whitehurst Joseph

[Endorsement:] List of free Negroes

At a Court held for Princess Anne County the fourth day of May 1818

Ordered that the Sheriff give notice to Jack Anderson, Jesse Cuffee, Willoughby Cuffee, George Cuffee, Africa Fuller, Jim Harrison, Moses Harrison, James Harrison, Malaci Morse, Carter Weaver, Joel Weaver, Samuel Wilson, Timothy Wilson and Joseph Whitehurst Free Blacks to appear here at next June Court to show cause if any they [illegible] why they should not be hired out for the payment of their taxes & levies in the years 1812, 1813 & 1814 are Richard Davis as Collector. Copy Teste W^mF Nimmo CC

[Endorsement:] Order of Court agt Jack Anderson &c / Copy

Executed on

Jesse Cuffee
Willoughby Cuffee
Geo Cuffee
Affrica Fuller
Dora Harrison

James Harrison
Joel Weaver
Carter Weaver
Samuel Wilson
Timothy Wilson

[illegible] Shff

List of Free Negroes in Lower District of Princess Anne County, who have not paid their taxes for the year 1858 and 1857

	\$ Cts		\$ Cts
Wilson Cuffee	3 20	Horatio Cuffee	2 92
John Cuffee	3 20	Dora Cuffee	4 49
Jim Cuffee	3 20	Jim Cuffee	2 92
George Cuffee	3 20	George Cuffee	2 92
Frank Owens Sr	3 20	Frank Owens	1 24
Jim Owens	3 20	George Owens	2 92
America Owens	3 20	John Owens	2 92
Jack Owens	3 47	Alfred Smith	2 92

John Owens	3 20	James Sparrow	2 92
Frank Owens Jnr	3 20	Anthony Sparrow	<u>2 92</u>
Alfred Smith	3 20	For 1857	29 09
James Sparrow	3 20	Timothy Wilson	<u>3 21</u>
Anthony Sparrow	<u>3 20</u>	For 1857	32 30
for 1858	41 87		
Timothy Wilson	<u>3 29</u>		
for 1858	45 16		
	32 30		
	\$ 77 46		

[There's no endorsement]

A List of Free Negroes who have not paid their taxes for the years 1859 & 1860

		1859	1860	
Owens Peter	fb	\$ 3 51	\$ 4 85	Pungo Ridge
Owens Edwards	fb	3 00	4 35	H B Styron
Owens Frank Jr	fb	3 00	4 35	Tho C Handy
Owens Jim	fb	3 00	4 35	Jas McLanan
Owens George P	fb	3 00	4 35	Edward Foster
Owens America	fb	3 00	4 35	EW Dudley
Owens Bill	fb	3 00	4 35	Prs Anne CH
Owens Frank Sr	fb	3 00	4 35	EW Dudley
Owens Johnston	fb	3 00	4 35	Wm McLanan
Smith Alfred	fb	3 00	4 35	
Wilson Jordan	fb	3 00	4 35	J Whitehurst [illegible]
Fuller William	fb	3 00	4 35	
Cuffee Neverson	fb		4 82	Black Water
Cuffee Jim	fb		4 35	“
Cotton Jim	fb		4 35	On the Canal
Cotton Noah	fb		4 35	Thos C Henley
Owens Jack	fb		4 35	EW Dudley
Smith William	fb		4 35	Blackwater
Smith Peter	fb		3 03	Blackwater
Wilson Timothy	fb		4 35	Pungo
Wilson Jonathan	fb		4 35	Pungo
		\$ 39.51	\$ 91 00	

[There's no endorsement]

The following pages were published in
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volume 57, issue no. 1, February 2019, p. 51–54.

A list of free negro^s delinquent for the nonpayment of taxes for the years 1857 – 1858 – 1859 & 1860

Name of free Negro Charged with taxes	Amt of taxes for 1857	Amt of taxes for 1858	Amt of taxes for 1859	Amt of taxes for 1860	Whole Amount of taxes due
Cuffee A George	\$ 2.92		\$ 3.00	\$ 4.35	\$ 7.35
Fuller William	2.92	2.97	3.00	4.35	13.24
Fuller George	2.92	2.97	3.00	4.35	13.24
Fuller Jesse	2.92		3.00	4.35	10.27
Hatton John	2.92	2.97	3.00	4.35	13.24
Owens George	4.35				4.35
Owens David	2.97			4.35	7.32
Owens William				4.35	4.35
Sparrow Henry	2.92				
Sparrow David	2.92				2.92
Smith James	2.92		3.00	4.35	10.27
Smith W ^m of [illegible]	2.92		3.00	4.35	10.27
Sparrow George			3.00	4.35	7.35
Sparrow Adam & son		5.10	5.09	6.01	16.29
Sparrow Robert			3.00	4.35	7.35
Smith (at Geo Smith on bayside)			3.00	4.35	7.35
Sparrow Robert			3.00		3.
Sparrow Tho ^s				4.35	4.35
Sparrow John				4.67	4.67
Smith Tho ^s				4.54	4.54
Sparrow Daniel				5.08	5.08
Smith Cornelius				4.35	4.35
Sparrow Geo				4.35	4.35
Turner Dempsey	<u>2.92</u>			4.35	7.27
	<u>\$26.28</u>				<u>4.35</u>
Williams W ^m				4.35	4.35
Weldon Henry				<u>4.35</u>	<u>4.35</u>
	\$26.28		\$38.09	\$102.95	\$181.47

[Endorsement] Lists of Free negroes returned to be hired out for Taxes &c 1860 October

(To be continued.)

Princess Anne County
Free Negro Delinquent Tax Lists, 1812–1814, 1849–1861*
(Continued from Volume 59, No. 1)

Transcribed by

Leslie Anderson, MLS**

List of Free Negroes directed to be hired out by an order of court; of the county of Princess Anne, County on the 1st day of Octo 1860 for the non-payment of taxes for the year 1860, [free negro] which were offered for hire as the law directs, on the [blank space] day of Nov 1860 in front of the Courthouse door of said county, and for the want of bidders are returned delinquent for said taxes.

Name of Person	Amount of Taxes	
	Reserve tax	Tax for County Purpose
Fuller Jesse (fb)	\$ 1 Ct 80	\$ 2 Ct. 55
Fuller Geo "	1 80	2 55
Smith James "	1 80	2 55
Smith William "	1 80	2 55
Sparrow Geo "	1 80	2 55
Sparrow Thos "	1 93	2 61

I Wilbur M. Bonney late Sheriff of the County of Princess Anne, do swear that the foregoing list is, I verily believe, correct and just; that I have receiv / -ed no

* Free Negro Delinquent Tax Lists, 1812–1814, 1849–1861, Princess Anne Co./City of Virginia Beach, BC 1120074, Folders 4, 5, Local Government Records Collection, Archives and Manuscripts, Library of Virginia, Richmond..

** Ms. Anderson, a former VGS board member, is a reference librarian in the Alexandria Library's Special Collections Branch, 717 Queen St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

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PRINCESS ANNE CO. FREE NEGRO DELINQUENT TAX LISTS, 1812–1814, 1849–1861 97

part of the taxes returned delinquent; and that I have used due diligence to find property within my County liable to distress for the said taxes, but have / found none - and that at the time the above mentioned free negro's were / offered for hire, there was no bid offered for anyone of them W.M.Bonney late Shff

Sworn to before me, a Justice of the Peace in and for the County /
of Princess Anne this 1st day of April 1861 H.B. Styron JP

I James E Dey do certify that I am commissioner of the revenue for the County of Princess Anne, That the annexed list of delinquents has been submitted to me for my opinion in writing / on oath, as to the property of such list and it appearing to relate to my district, and having carefully / examined the same and each case, therein Contained , do hereby accompany the said list / with my opinion, that the officer who returned the same, did not find, or by using due diligence / could not have found, Sufficient property within his bailiwick, liable to distress for the said / taxes. Signed James E Dey CR

Sworn to before me, a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Princess Anne This 1st day of April 1861 H.B. Styron JP

[Endorsement]

List of Free negroes Delinquent for nonpayment of Taxes [illegible] of 1860
1861 April 1 ret'd ord & filed &c

Wilson Cuffee	fb	tax	\$2,42?	Sparrow Henry	fb	\$2,42?
Cuffee Miles	fb		2,42?	Sparrow Anthony	fb	\$2,42?
Cuffee Do[illeg]	fb		2,42?	Sparrow Jim	fb	\$2,42?
Cuffee Horatio	fb		2,42?	Sparrow Daniel	fb	\$2,42?
Harrison Johnny	fb		2,42?	Sparrow Adam	fb	\$2,42?
Harrison Henry	fb		2,42?	Sparrow John	fb	\$2,42?
Owens Ned	fb		2,42?	Turner Dempsey	fb	\$2,42?
Owens Frank	fb		2,42?	Weldon Jeremiah	fb	\$2,42?
Owens Peter	fb		2,42?	Wilson Jeremiah	fb	\$2,42?
Owens America	fb		2,42?			
Smith William	fb		2,42?			
Turner Wm	fb		2,42?			
Wilson Willis	fb		2,42?			
Wilson Jonathan	fb		2,42?			
Wilson Jordan	fb		2,42?			
Fuller Jim	fb		2,474			
Fuller Jesse	fb		2,42?			

[Endorsement]

List of Free Negroes / returned who failed to / pay taxes / 1849 / Apl 2d returned
& ordered / to hire out

List of free negroes	Dempsey Turner	
Horatio Cuffy	Jeremiah Wilson	
Miles Cuffy	Jeremiah Wilson	
Matthias Cuffy	Albert Fentress	3 00
Nevison Cuffy	Jordan Wilson	3 00
Henry Harrison		
Fulton Harrison		
George F. Hodges		
Amerca Owens		
Tom Smith		
Johnathan Wilson		
Willis Wilson		
Henry E. Weldon		
George Fuller		
Henry Sparrow		
Jesse Fuller		
Robert Sparrow		
America Sparrow		
Brister Sparrow		
Jim Sparrow		
Daniel Sparrow		
John Sparrow		
Adam Sparrow		
George Sparrow		
Peter Smith		

[Endorsement]

List of Free Negroes / to be hired out & for / Taxes &c / 1850 / Apl 1 order
granted [illegible]

(To be continued.)

Princess Anne County
Free Negro Delinquent Tax Lists, 1812–1814, 1849–1861*
(Continued from Volume 59, No. 2)

Transcribed by

Leslie Anderson, MLS**

List of Free Negroes Not Paid Taxes

Matthias Cuffee

Horatio Cuffee

Simon Collins

Caleb Cuffee

Africa Fuller

Charles Fuller - property

Fulton Harrison

Tom Fuller FB

George F Hodges

Jesse Fuller FB

America Owens

George Sparrow FB

Tom Smith

Henry Sparrow FB

Peter Smith

Robert Sparrow FB

Sampson Turner

Dempsey Turner FB

Jorden Wilson

Willis Wilson

[Endorsement]

Lists of Free Negroes / to be hired out / 1851 / May Ct ordered

* Free Negro Delinquent Tax Lists, 1812–1814, 1849–1861, Princess Anne Co./City of Virginia Beach, BC 1120074, Folder 5, 1851–1857, Local Government Records Collection, Archives and Manuscripts, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

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List of Free Negroes Delinquent in Paying Taxes for 1851

Cuffee Horatio	Sparrow Geo
Cuffee Caleb	Sparrow Anthony [illegible]
Miles Cuffee	Sparrow Danl
Cuffee Dora	Sparrow Henry
Fentress Albert	Sparrow Jim
Fuller Charles	Smith Peter
Fuller Geo	Turner Dempsey
Fuller Jesse	Cuffee Wilson
Hodges Geo F	Cuffee Nevison
Harrison Henry	Wilson Jorden
Owens Ned	Wilson Jona
Owens Jacob	Wilson Willis
Owens America	
Owens	
Owens Geo Jr	
Owens Wm	
Owens Johnsey	
Smith Wm	
Smith Henry	
Smith Alfred	
Smith Isaac	
Sparrow Adam	

[Endorsement]

Lists of Free Negroes / returned Delinquent for / Taxes &c order for their / Sale /
1852 / April 5th

List of Free Negroes returned Insolvent for 1852

Fuller George	Owens George
Fuller Jesse	Owens America
Sparrow John	Owens Roger
Sparrow Adam	Owens Frank Jr
Sparrow Daniel	Wilson Jorden
Sparrow Henry	Wilson Willis
Sparrow James	
Sparrow Anthony	
Sparrow David	

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Turner Dempsey
Turner John
Wilson Jeremiah
Weldon E Henry

Cuffee Nevison
Cuffee Horatio (see Wm Connaway)
Cuffee Wilson
Cuffee James
Hodges F George

[Endorsement]

List of Free Negroes / to be hired out for taxes / leves [sic] &c / 1853 / Apl 4

List of Free Negroes returned delinquent in the County / of Princess Anne for
the year 1853

Cuffee James Jr
Cuffee Johnny
Owens Jack & Son
Owens Frank Jr
Owens George [illegible]
Smith Alfred
Wilson Timothy
Boush Jacob
Fuller George
Fuller Jesse
Fuller Jas
Fuller Wm
Sparow Danl
Sparrow Henry
Sparrow Anthony
Sparrow David
Wilson Jeremiah

[Endorsement]

Lists of Free Negroes / ret'd by the Sheriff / 1854 / June 5th ordered to / be hired
out &c

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Free Negroes delinquent for the nonpayment of taxes &c for
the year 1854

Cuffee Nevison	Cuffee A George	
Cuffee Weldon	Fuller William	
Cuffee Horatio	Fuller John	
Cuffee Dora	Fuller Jesse	
Cuffee Miles	Hatton John	
Collins William	Owens George	
Cuffee Darin	Sparrow George	
Collins Sarah & Son	Sparrow Henry	
Owens Edward	Sparrow Adam	
Owens Johnsy	Sparrow John	
Owens Wm	Sparrow Daniel	
Owens Jim	Sparrow David	
Owens America	Turner Dempsey	
Owens Jack & Son	Weldon Jeremiah	
Owens Frank Jr	Weldon E Henry	
Sparrow Anthony	Watts Noah	
Smith Wm		Wm Lamb Shff
Smith Alfred		
Sparrow Jas		
Wilson Timothy		
Woodard Robin		
Wilson, Jordan		
Wilson Jordan Jr		
Wilson Jonathan		

Endorsement:

List of Free Negroes / to be hired out for / Taxes &c / 1855 / Mar 6

List of Free Negroes returned delinquent for the
nonpayment of Taxes [illegible] for the year 1856 to the Court
to be Advertised and Sold according to law

Brickhouse George	fb	\$ 1 00
Cuffee A George	fb	1 00
Fuller William	"	1 00
Fuller John	"	1 00
Fuller George	"	1 00
Fuller Jesse	"	1 00

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Hattton John	"	1 00	
Sparrow Thomas	"	1 00	
Sparrow George	" paid		1 00
Sparrow Adam	"	1 00	
Sparrow Daniel	"	1 00	
Sparrow Henry	"	1 00	
Sparrow Daniel	"	1 00	
Sparrow Henry	"	1 00	
Sparrow David	"	1 00	
Smith James	"	1 00	
Smith Cornelius	"	1 00	
Sparrow William	" of Adam		1 00
Turner Dempsey	"	1 00	
Jeremiah Weldon	"	1 00	
Cuffee Neveson			
Cuffee Dora	{ Woodard Robin		
Cuffee Miles	{ Wilson Jordan Jr		
Cuffee Jno	{ Wilson Jonathan		
Cuffee Jim	{ [illegible] above Free negroes is hereby		
Cuffee George	{ returned having no visible effects		
Owens Peter	{ to levy on for taxes		
Owens Edward			
Owens Jim			
Owens America			
Owens Jack & Son			
Smith Alfred			
Sparrow Jas			
Sparrow Anthony			
Wilson Timothy			
Smith Wm			

[Endorsement]

List of Free Negroes / Delinquent for nonpayment / of Taxes 1857 / Mar Ct
ordered to be / Sold &c

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A list of Free Negroes returned delinquent for the nonpayment of revenue tax in the county of Princess [sic] for the year 1856. Advertised according to law place at public auction but had no purchasers

		Amt brt forward	\$7.00		
Cuffee A George	fb	\$1.00	Cuffee George	fb	\$ 1.00
Fuller George	"	1.00	Sparrow James	"	1.00
Hatton John	"	1.00	Sparrow Anthony	"	1.00
Sparrow Henry	"	1.00			\$10.00
Sparrow David	"	1.00	We Wm N Land & J Hunter do		
Turner Dempsey	"	1.00	swear that the foregoing list		
Weldon Jeremiah	"	1.00	Just & correct		
			Wm N Land late Shff		
			Jona Hunter for Dy Shff		

I have examined the above list of
Wm N Land late Shff and believe it
to be Just and correct

Thos J. Cornick CR

Sworn to before me this 6th day of
Apr 1857

Walter S. Way

At a Court held for Princess Anne County the 6th day of April 1857
William N Land late Sheriff of this County and Jonathan Hunter Jr
his deputy, this day returned a list of Free Negroes delinquent for the
nonpayment of state and revenue tax for the year 1856 and who
had been advertised [sic] according to law and offered at public auction
for the taxes due by them for the year 1856 and for whom there were no
bids amounting to Ten Dollars, which was examined by the court
received and ordered to be certified to the Auditor of Public Ac
counts for payment.

A Copy Teste
J.J. Burroughs Clk

[The other document included an Endorsement]
List of Free Negroes retd for nonpayt of Taxes for 1856
Apl 6 1857 returned & ordered to be certified to
Auditor etc

[The other document included an Endorsement]
List of Free Negroes retd for nonpayt of Taxes for 1856
Apl 6 1857 returned & ordered to be certified to
Auditor etc