

A List of the Free Negroes Rockingham County, Virginia: [1815]

Transcribed by
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The original list is written on the last, unnumbered pages of a book maintained by George Huston and others in Rockingham County, Virginia, for the recording of taxes in 1815 and 1816. While the list of free Negroes itself is not dated, internal evidence within the tax lists themselves indicates that it was compiled in 1815 rather than in 1816. It has not been microfilmed; the original is at the Rockingham County Courthouse in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Peter Armstrong ¹	
1 Levy 2 horses	\$2.86
John Armstrong ²	
1 Levy	\$2.50
Martin Airington ³	
1 Levy	\$2.50
Willoughbys Buck ⁴	
1 Levy 1 horse	\$2.68

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¹ As required by law, Peter Armstrong registered as a free Negro in Rockingham County in 1818. He was then 37 years of age. Dorothy A. Boyd-Rush, *Register of Free Blacks, Rockingham County, Virginia, 1807-1859* (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, Inc., 1992), 19.

² Despite the law, John Armstrong did not register in Rockingham County. In rural areas, enforcement of the law was often lax and inconsistent.

³ Martin Airington did not register in Rockingham County.

⁴ Buck may have registered in Rockingham County in 1813 or 1816. Boyd-Rush, *Register of Free Blacks*, 8 and 13.

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Johnathan Gowans ⁵	
1 Levy	\$2.50
John Gowans ⁶	
1 Levy 1 horse	\$2.68
William Hackly ⁷	
1 Levy 4 horses	\$3.22
Henry Hurley ⁸	
1 Levy 2 horses	\$2.80
Dick Jackson ⁹	
1 Levy	\$2.50
Tarak Magill ¹⁰	
1 Levy	\$2.50
Emanuel Redman ¹¹	
1 Levy	\$2.50
Simon Smith ¹²	
1 Levy	\$2.50
David Young ¹³	
1 Levy	\$2.50

⁵ Johnathan Gowans did not register in Rockingham County.

⁶ John Gowans did not register in Rockingham County.

⁷ Billy Hackley was emancipated by the last will of John Hackley in Culpeper County in 1804. In 1809, 1825 and 1836, he registered in Rockingham County. Boyd-Rush, *Register of Free Blacks*, 3, 36 and 105.

⁸ Henry Hurley did not register in Rockingham County.

⁹ A Richard Jackson registered in Rockingham County in 1825. Boyd-Rush, *Register of Free Blacks*, 34.

¹⁰ Tarak Magill did not register in Rockingham County.

¹¹ A Mary Redman, originally from Culpeper County, registered in Rockingham County in 1818. Boyd-Rush, *Register of Free Blacks*, 17. However, no Emanuel Redman registered there.

¹² Simon Smith did not register in Rockingham County.

¹³ David Young did not register in Rockingham County. After his entry, the lower quarter of the second page of the 1816 list is missing.