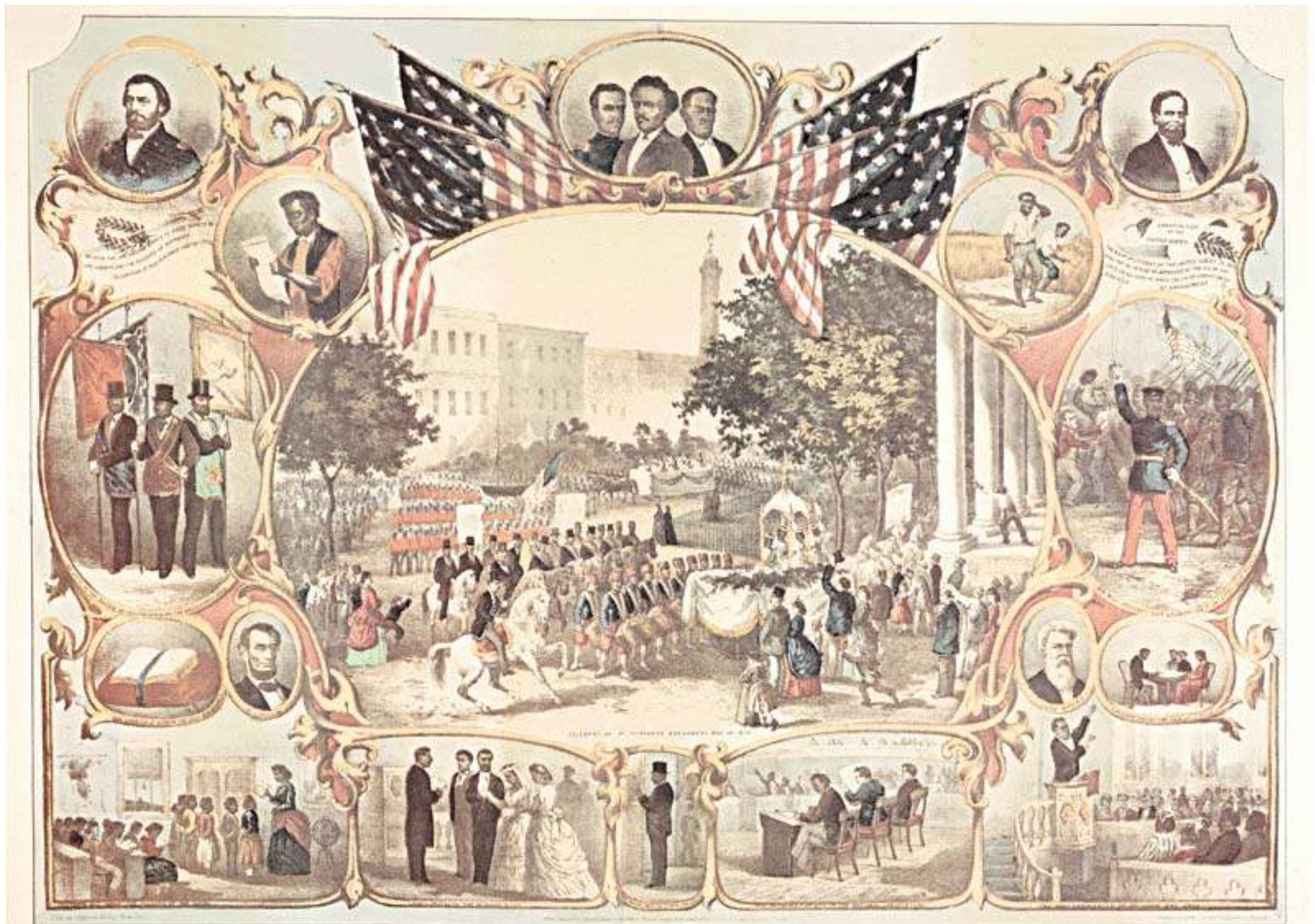


Life after Freedom



The Reconstruction of Maryland's African American Communities

Krystal Appiah
Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland
Maryland State Archives
Laurel Historical Society
March 8, 2012



THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT.

CELEBRATED MAY 9TH 1870.

Printed by James C.
Beard New York

Overview

- Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland
 - Reconstruction in Maryland
 - African American Experience of Reconstruction
-

Legacy of Slavery Projects

- **2001:** Research began
 - **2002:** First grant: Prince George's, Frederick, and Baltimore counties.
 - **2007-2008:** *Blacks in Annapolis* project
 - **2008-2009:** *Belair at Bowie* project
 - **2008-2010:** Montgomery County
-

Legacy of Slavery Projects, cont.

- **2010-2013:** Three-year grant from U.S. Dept. of Education to study slavery in 5 counties of the Eastern Shore.
 - **Beneath the Underground Railroad**
 - Documents unknown participants of UGRR
 - **300+** case studies of runaway slaves, accomplices, slaveholders
 - **1000s** of individuals documented in database
 - Interactive mapping
-

Archival Records

- Runaway advertisements
 - Certificates of Freedom
 - U.S. Census Records/Slave Schedules
 - Slave Assessments
 - Slave Statistics
 - Land Records
 - Military Records
-

Runaway Advertisements



\$150 REWARD.—Run away from the subscriber's plantation, in Prince George's County, on Monday, 17th November, A NEGRO MAN named **THOMAS**. He is about 8 feet high; 26 years of age; intelligent countenance, not very black, and I think a little pigeon-toed; no scars recollected. When spoken to, has a downcast look. I will give \$50 if taken in Prince George's County—\$100 if taken out of the County, or the above reward if taken in any free State. Thomas has relatives at Doctor Jenkins', near the Laurel Factory.

n 13-31*

CHARLES C. HILL,
Buena Vista P. O., P. G's Co., Md.

Baltimore Sun
November 11, 1851

Maryland in the late 19th Century

- Post-War Reconstruction in Maryland
 - Reconstruction for African Americans
 - Families
 - Political Rights
 - Education
 - Institutions
-

Federal Reconstruction in Maryland?

- Federal Reconstruction not applicable to Md
 - Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (the Freedmen's Bureau) did operate in Md 1866-1872.
 - Period of transition
 - Reconstructing the old and build the new
 - Families
 - Livelihoods
 - Institutions
-

Legal Landmarks to Freedom - State

- Maryland Constitution of 1864
- *In re Turner* (U.S. Circuit Court, 1867)
- Maryland Constitution of 1867



Legal Landmarks to Freedom - Federal

■ Amendments to U.S. Constitution

- 13th (1865) – Abolished slavery
- 14th (1868) – Defined citizenship and equal protection under the law
- 15th (1870) – Extended franchise regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude



Families



Freedom unites the family circle.



Liberty protects the mariage alter [sic].

Reconstructing Families: Perry Wilmer

Purchased:

- Wife, Mary

I, Perry Wilmer, free negro, of Talbot County, in the State of Maryland, having purchased of one Hannah Backett formerly of the said County, some wife Mary Wilmer a slave of the said Hannah, as will appear by the Bill of Sale of the said Hannah Backett duly recorded among the records of Talbot County; and being advised that the said Instrument of Sale is not as I then understood and intended it should confer freedom upon the said Mary Wilmer, my wife, and her issue; and being now desirous to manumit and set free the said Mary Wilmer and her issue by the present Instrument of Writing, with the exception of my son John whom I have been obliged to sell for a term of years to a certain William A. Hall of Queen Anne's County in order to raise money to release the others

not as I then understood and intended it should confer freedom upon the said Mary Wilmer, my wife, and her issue; and being now desirous to manumit and set free the said Mary Wilmer and her issue by the present Instrument of Writing, with the exception of my son John whom I have been obliged to sell for a term of years to a certain William A. Hall of Queen Anne's County in order to raise money to release the others

- John

- William

- Thomas

- Wesley

- John

Talbot County, Md.; To Wm. A. Hall, in the year Eighteen hundred and fifty eight before the Subscribes a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland in and for Talbot County, personally appeared Perry Wilmer, free negro, and acknowledged the foregoing Instrument of Writing to be his debt and deed.

State of Maryland Talbot County to wit: I, Charles C. Hall, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Maryland is hereby taken and called upon the Original filed for record and now remaining in my office

In Testimony Whereof I have Subscribed my name and affix the Seal of the Circuit Court for Talbot County this 23rd day of March Anno Domini 1858

Sam'l D. Hopkins, Clk
Circuit Court Talbot County

~~and~~ Inquiries numbered 7, 16, and 17 are not to be asked in respect to infants. Inquiries numbered 11, 12, 15, 18, 17, 19, and 20 are to be answered (if at all) merely by an affirmative mark, as /.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in District N^o 4, in the County of Talbot, State
of Maryland, enumerated by me on the 8th day of September, 1870. 180

Post Office: Easton

A.C. Mulliken, Ass't Marshal.

[illegible]

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

B

State Maryland
County Talbot

SCHED

Township or other division of county

Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division

Enumerated by me on the

*Voted at city

Sheet No. _____

[illegible]

Political Participation



The ballot box is open to us

15th Amendment to U.S. Constitution

- 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.
 - 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
-

Md GA Response to 15th Amendment

Section 2. That Congress shall have power to enforce this Article by appropriate legislation. Therefore, be it Resolved By the Senate, and House of Delegates of Maryland that the Legislature of this State hereby rejects the said 15th Article proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and on behalf of the State of Maryland, refuses to ratify the same.

African American Response



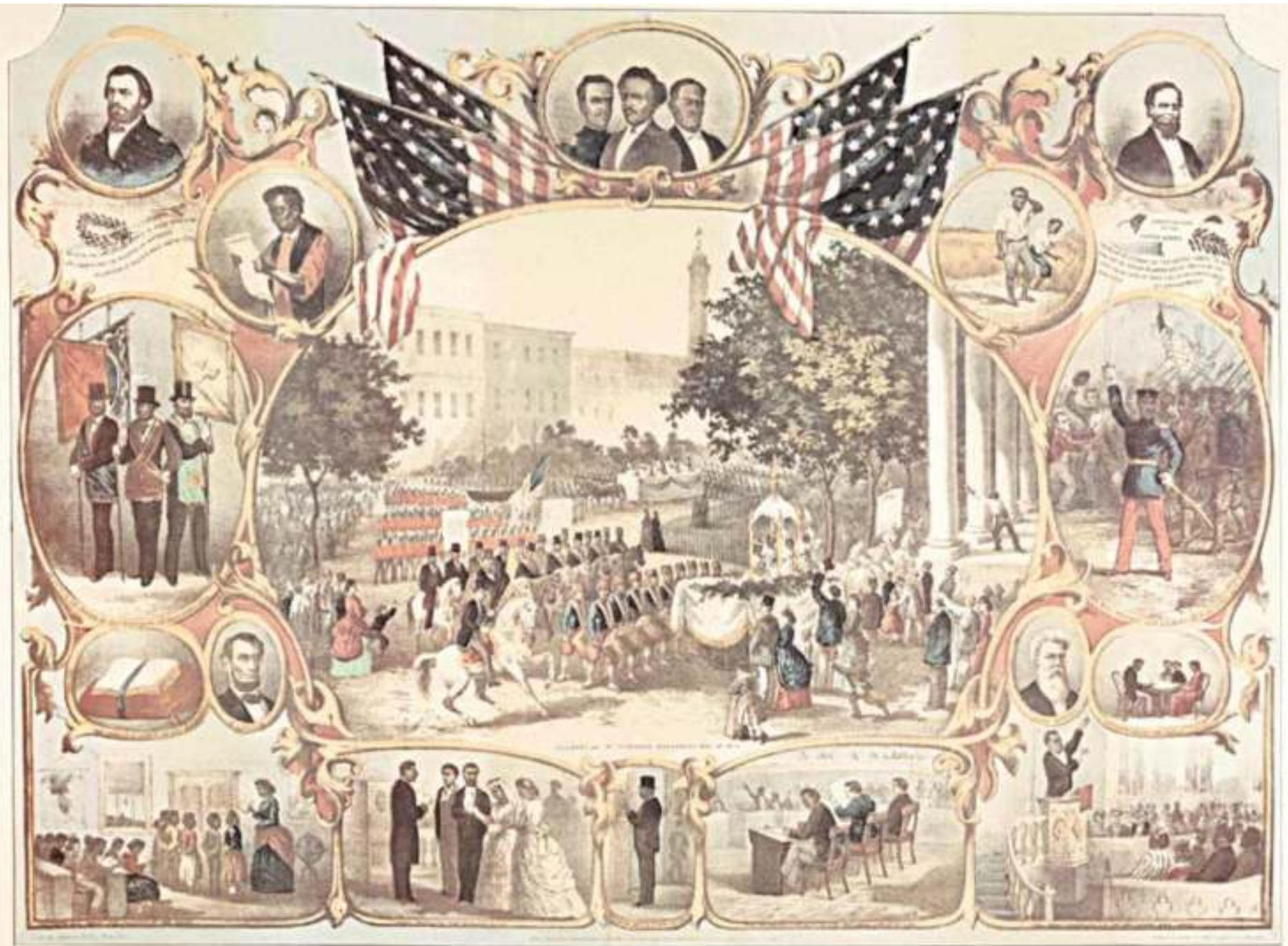
Maryland State Archives S455-D011968Y.TIF



THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT AND ITS RESULTS.

Respectfully dedicated to the colored Citizens of the U.S. of America A.D. 1870. by Schneider & Fuchs 184 N. Eolaw St. Baltimore Md.

Lithograph by E. Sachse & Co., Baltimore



THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT.

The Ratification Meeting.

The colored citizens held their Fifteenth Amendment ratification meeting on the plantation of Clement Hill, Esq., near this village, on Monday last, which was numerously attended by their own people, of either sex, and many gentlemen of the vicinity. The officers and speakers comprised about an equal number of white and colored, and the utmost decorum and good order was preserved throughout the day, both in our town and upon the grounds. Some of the speakers were decidedly temperate in their remarks, & Mr. Hawkins, colored, of Baltimore, especially devoting himself to the task of encouraging his race to habits of industry, honesty and temperance, which, if adopted, can but render them useful and prosperous citizens. After the speeches and the reading of letters of declaration from prominent Republicans who had been invited to be present, the meeting adopted a series of congratulatory resolutions, and adjourned. The line was then formed and the procession marched back to town, where, about 7 o'clock, they dispersed and returned to their homes. Hays' Brass Band from Washington discoursed fine music during the afternoon, and serenaded some of our citizens at night.

A similar meeting was held in Nottingham on Tuesday, which passed off very quietly and harmoniously, we understand.

BALTIMORE MARKETS.

CATTLE.—The following prices negotiated on Monday, June 13th, 1870.

Beef.—Prime, 10¢; Good, 9¢; Fair, 8¢; Inferior, 7¢. **Pork.**—Prime, 10¢; Good, 9¢; Fair, 8¢; Inferior, 7¢. **Lard.**—Prime, 10¢; Good, 9¢; Fair, 8¢; Inferior, 7¢.

Wool.—Prime, 10¢; Good, 9¢; Fair, 8¢; Inferior, 7¢. **Flax.**—Prime, 10¢; Good, 9¢; Fair, 8¢; Inferior, 7¢. **Hay.**—Prime, 10¢; Good, 9¢; Fair, 8¢; Inferior, 7¢.

Grain.—Wheat, 10¢; Corn, 9¢; Oats, 8¢; Rye, 7¢. **Produce.**—Butter, 10¢; Eggs, 9¢; Cheese, 8¢; Lard, 7¢. **Meat.**—Beef, 10¢; Pork, 9¢; Mutton, 8¢; Lamb, 7¢.

Stocks.—Railroad, 10¢; Bank, 9¢; Insurance, 8¢; Manufacturing, 7¢. **Real Estate.**—Prime, 10¢; Good, 9¢; Fair, 8¢; Inferior, 7¢. **Commodities.**—Sugar, 10¢; Coffee, 9¢; Tea, 8¢; Spices, 7¢.

Exchange.—London, 10¢; Paris, 9¢; New York, 8¢; San Francisco, 7¢. **Gold.**—Prime, 10¢; Good, 9¢; Fair, 8¢; Inferior, 7¢. **Silver.**—Prime, 10¢; Good, 9¢; Fair, 8¢; Inferior, 7¢.

Prince Georgian
June 17, 1870

Voter Registration

- 1882-1912:
black Maryland voter registration rate:
88.9%
- 1882-1912:
white Maryland voter registration rate:
92.3%

From *The Negro in Maryland Politics, 1870-1912*, Margaret Law Callcott.

Black Politicians



Our representative sits in the national legislature.

Early Office Holders

- 1873: William H. Butler, elected alderman on Annapolis City Council



1890: Harry Cummings, elected to Baltimore City Council

- 1893: William H. Butler, Jr. elected alderman on Annapolis City Council
-

Elected Office

The Ratification Meeting.

The colored citizens held their Fifteenth Amendment ratification meeting on the plantation of Clement Hill, Esq., near this village, on Monday last, which was numerously attended by their own people, of either sex, and many gentlemen of the vicinity. The officers and speakers comprised about an equal number of white and colored, and the utmost decorum and good order was preserved throughout the day, both in our town and upon the grounds. Some of the speakers were decidedly temperate in their remarks, a Mr. Hawkins, colored, of Baltimore, especially devoting himself to the task of encouraging his race to habits of industry, honesty and temperance, which, if adopted, can but render them useful and prosperous citizens. After the speeches and the reading of letters of declension from prominent Republicans who had been invited to be present, the meeting adopted a series of congratulatory resolutions, and adjourned. The line was then formed and the procession marched back to town, where, about 7 o'clock, they dispersed and returned to their homes. Hays' Brass Band from Washington discoursed fine music during the afternoon, and serenaded some of our citizens at night.

A similar meeting was held in Nottingham on Tuesday, which passed off very quietly and harmoniously, we understand.

by a legal charter, and in the hands of men of the most undoubted integrity. We are ready to aid any of our friends who may command us, in securing tickets or information about this matter.

Bladensburg Election.

An election for Town Commissioners in Bladensburg took place on Monday last, the 6th instant, and resulted in the choice of the Citizens' Ticket. The following is the vote received by the respective candidates:

CITIZENS' TICKET:

Harrison Wells.....57	Geo. W. Goldenstreth...52
Charles A. Wells.....54	Charles Parker.....45
Charles O. Lewis.....53	

REPUBLICAN TICKET, (continued.)

E. P. Goldman.....39	Andrew Lowe.....07
Andrew Foulke.....34	Wm. Becket, colored...31
C. H. Lawrence.....22	

The Citizens' Ticket was composed of four Democrats and one Republican, and the Republican Ticket of four white and one colored man. Twenty-five colored men voted.

Koskoo.

This medicine is rapidly gaining the confidence of the people, and the numerous testimonials of its virtues, given by practitioners of medicine, leaves no doubt that it is a safe and reliable remedy for IMPURITY OF THE BLOOD, LIVER DISEASE, &c.

The last *Medical Journal* contains an article from Prof. R. S. NEWTON, M. D., President of the Eastern Medical College, City of New York

Prince Georgian
June 17, 1870

Elected Office

Governor for his execution.

The Ratification Meeting.

The colored people of Bladensburg took place on Monday last, the 6th instant, and resulted in the choice of the Citizens' Ticket. The following is the vote received by the respective candidates:

CITIZENS' TICKET:

Harrison Wallis.....	57
Charles A. Wells.....	54
Charles O. Lewis.....	53

REPUBLICAN TICKET, (nominated.)

E. P. Godman	39
Andrew Foulke.....	34
C. H. Lawrence.....	32

The Citizens' Ticket was composed of four Democrats and one Republican, and the Republican Ticket of four white and one colored man. **Twenty-five colored men voted.**

Konkoo.

This medicine is rapidly gaining the confidence of the people, and the numerous testimonials of its virtues given by prominent physicians and the *Journal* contains an article from Prof. R. S. NEWTON, M. D., President of the Eastern Medical College, City of New York, that speaks in high terms of its curative properties, and gives a special recommendation of Konkoo.

Sale of Fine Stock, &c.

S. T. Salt, Esq., of this county, lately

Education



Education will prove the equality of the races.

Black Education Prior to Emancipation

- Schools in churches, usu. on Sunday or evenings
 - Private schools
 - Since c. 1854, Baltimore private school established from \$7,000 bequest of Nelson Wells
-

Black Education – Legal Steps

- 1864: Md Constitution created public school system
 - State educational funds distributed to each county based on # of children
 - 1865: state law allocated portion of education tax paid by blacks to construct separate schools (not compulsory)
-

Black Education – Post-Emancipation

- Freedmen's Schools
 - Baltimore Association for the Moral and Educational Improvement of the Colored People
 - Northern relief societies
-

Schools established in the Counties by Baltimore Association

Location	Pupils	Date
Cambridge (Dorchester)	143	Nov 1, 1865
Centreville (Queen Anne's)	33	Nov 1, 1865
Uniontown (Carroll)	46	Dec 1, 1865
Royal Oak (Talbot)	69	Dec 1, 1865
Middletown (Frederick)	19	Dec 11, 1865
Perrymansville (Harford)	49	Dec 14, 1865
Chesapeake City (Cecil)	34	Jan 1, 1866
Westminster (Carroll)	59	Jan 1, 1866
Fallston (Harford)	36	Jan 1, 1866
Salisbury (Somerset)	59	Jan 1, 1866
Hagerstown (Washington)	64	Jan 1, 1866
Preston (Caroline)	34	Jan 2, 1866
Burkettsville (Frederick)	39	Jan 15, 1866
Gravel Hill (Harford)	27	Jan 18, 1866
Princess Ann (Somerset)	149	Feb 12, 1866
Mount Pleasant (Frederick)	86	Mar 1, 1866
Little Gunpowder (Baltimore)	19	Mar 1, 1866
Salem (Dorchester)	141	Mar 20, 1866
Cornersville (Dorchester)	56	Mar 20, 1866
Airey's (Dorchester)	81	Mar 20, 1866
Drawbridge (Dorchester)	68	Mar 20, 1866
Liberty (Frederick)	46	Apr 1, 1866
I. U. (Kent)	27	Apr 1, 1866
Newtown (Somerset)	96	Apr 3, 1866
Muirkirk (Prince George's)	70	Apr 12, 1866
Snow Hill (Worcester)	35	Apr 15, 1866
Elkton (Cecil)	118	Apr 15, 1866
Federalsburg (Caroline)	127	May 1, 1866
Little Union (Worcester)	56	May 2, 1866

The “colored pupils manifest a good degree of interest in the school and all feel proud of the beautiful new school house.”

- Phineas Waterhouse, teacher, Muirkirk, Prince George's County, 1867

Prince George's County

	Black Total Population	Black Enrolled in School	White Total Population	Whites Enrolled in School
1870	9,780	148	11,358	1,491

*Census data was accessed from the
University of Virginia Historical Censor Browser*

Opposition

- Arson
 - Refusal of landowners to sell land for schools
 - Threats against teachers
 - A few cases of assaults against teachers
-

African American Contributions

- Land & teacher housing
 - Labor & construction supplies
 - Teacher salaries
 - Political leverage for equitable tax distribution
 - 1872: State assumes responsibility for black schools
-

zens of Charles county, for the protection of wild turkeys in said county.

Which was read and referred to a Select Committee on that subject, consisting of Messrs. Chapman, Stone and Dunbar.

Mr. Butler presented the petition of W. G. G. Wilson, and seventy other citizens of Talbot county, praying the passage of a law, providing for the weighing of grain sold in the City of Baltimore.

Which was read and referred to the Committee on Inspections.

Mr. Wilmer presented the petition of W. S. Walker, and others, for relief of the Home of the Friendless, of the Eastern Shore.

Which was read and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Scott presented a petition from Charles H. Parker, and ninety other citizens of Prince George's county, praying that some provisions be made by law for the education of colored children, and that a portion of the educational fund of the State and county be appropriated for that purpose.

Which was read and referred to the Committee on Education.

Thirst for Knowledge

It is interesting to look into our school; every nook and cranny is occupied, with all sizes and all ages. I think we have a fair representation of the four stages in life, for they rank from five years to sixty. Here and there a listless scholar, but mostly eager, anxious faces to greet you.

A Colored Teacher, Darlington, Harford County
American Missionary, 1868

Beckets of Bladensburg

[illegible]

1870 Federal Census

[illegible]

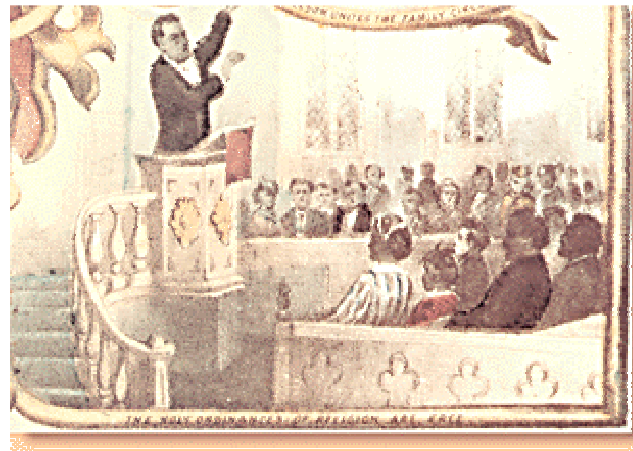
1880 Federal Census

Institutions



We unite in the bonds of fellowship with the whole human race.

- Churches
- Benevolent societies
- Fraternal orders



The holy ordinances of religion are now free.

Sec. 7. *And be it enacted,* That it shall not be lawful for any free negro or negroes, slave or slaves, to assemble or attend any meetings for religious purposes, unless conducted by a white licensed or ordained preacher or some respectable white person or persons of the neighborhood, as may be duly authorised by such licensed or ordained preacher, during the continuance of such meeting; and if any such meeting shall be held without being conducted as aforesaid, they shall be considered as unlawful and tumultuous meetings, and it shall be the duty of the nearest constable, or any other civil officer knowing of such meetings, either from his own knowledge or the information of others, to repair to such meeting, and disperse the said negroes or slaves; and if any such constable shall fail to comply with the provisions of this act, he shall be subject to a fine of not less than five nor more than twenty dollars, at the discretion of a justice of the peace of the county in which he resides, whose duty it shall be to impose the fine, on information being given of such neglect; and return the proceed-

Laws of
Maryland, 1831

Abraham Hall



Photo credit: R. Chidester Maryland Historic Trust

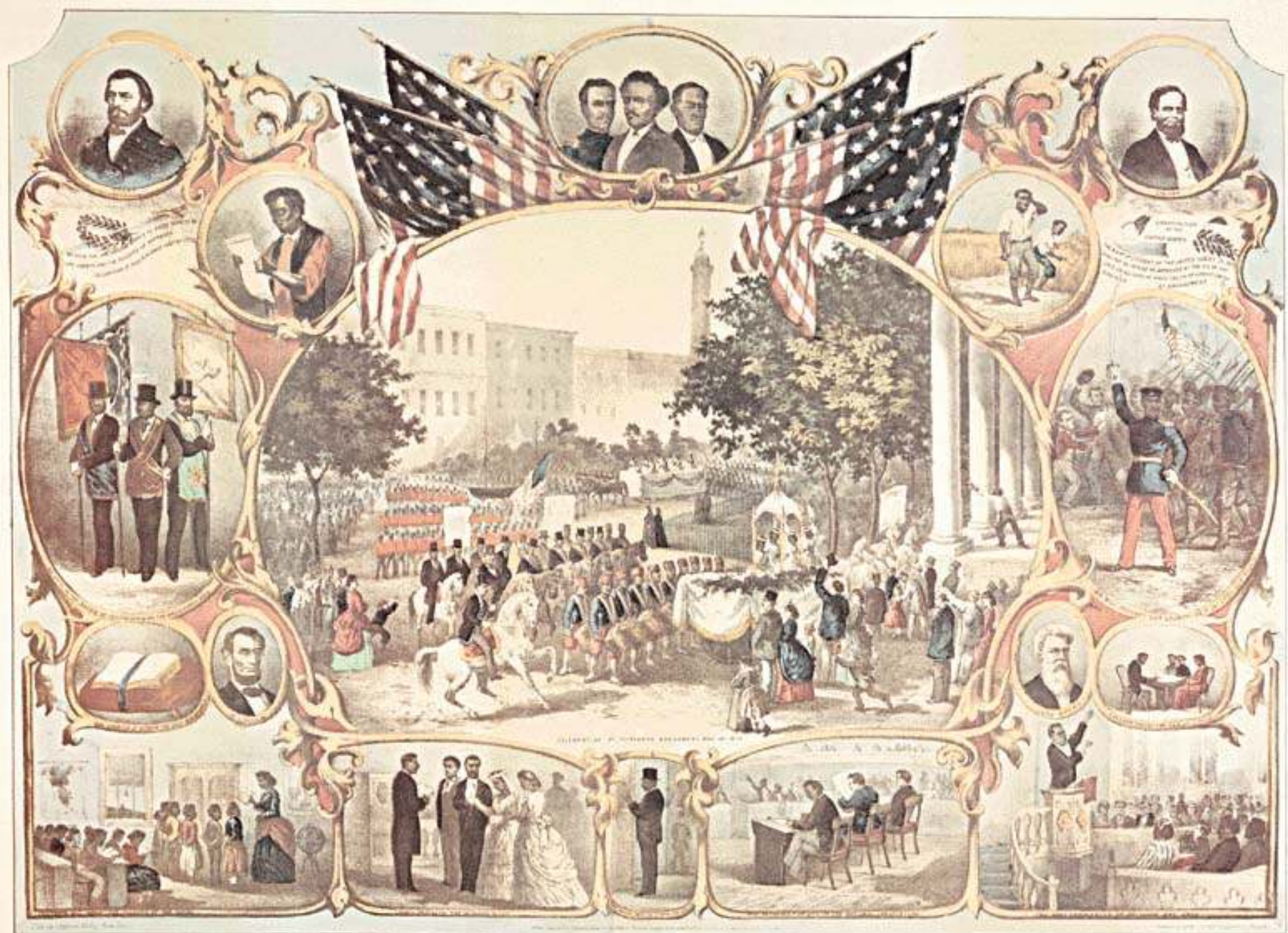
- Constructed in 1889 in Rossville, black community centered around Queen's Chapel (established in 1868)
 - Community center, church, school, mutual aid society
 - Many nearby residents worked at Muirkirk Iron Furnace
-

St. Mary's Beneficial Society Hall

- Society founded in 1880
- Social and community center of black Catholics in Upper Marlboro
- Construction of present building dates to 1892



Photo credit:: Library of Congress



THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT.

CELEBRATED MAY 9TH 1870.

Questions?

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