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
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
$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 6 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.

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 marriage altar [sic].
Reconstructing Families: Perry Wilmer

Purchased:
- Wife, Mary
- Perry
- William
- Thomas
- Wesley
- John
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Parentage</th>
<th>Birthplace</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Constitutional Relation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Keeping House</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Farm Labor</td>
<td>Md</td>
<td></td>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>House Keeper</td>
<td>Md</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>At Home</td>
<td>Md</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>William</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Farm Labor</td>
<td>Md</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perry</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td>Md</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOCATION</td>
<td>PERSONAL DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>OCCUPATION</td>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>MOBILITY</td>
<td>SCHEDULE</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dudley</td>
<td>Son</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ida</td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Russ</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stephen</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Warner Williams</td>
<td>Head</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ira</td>
<td>Father</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>James L.</td>
<td>Daughter</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sarah</td>
<td>Daughter</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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.
Maryland General Assembly Joint Resolution
Rejecting 15th Amendment to U.S. Constitution, April 4, 1870
MSA SC2221-18-2
African American Response
THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT AND ITS RESULTS.

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

Lithograph by E. Sachse & Co., Baltimore
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.
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
The Ratification Meeting.

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

Bladensburg Election.

An election for Town Commissioners in Bladensburg took place on Monday last, the 29th instant, and resulted in the choice of the Citizens' Ticket. The following is the vote received by the respective candidates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citizens' Ticket</th>
<th>Harrison, W.</th>
<th>52</th>
<th>Geo. W. Goldensteth</th>
<th>34</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charles A. Wells</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>Charles Parker</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charles D. Lewis</td>
<td>34</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Republican Ticket, contested.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E. P. Godwin, Jr.</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Andrew Laws</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W. W. Decker, colored</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>C. H. Lawrence</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
Elected Office

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 Wallis.......57 Geo. W. Goldenstroth...52
Charles A. Wells......54 Charles Parker.........45
Charles O. Lewis.......53

Republican Ticket (nominated):
E. P. Godman..........38 Andrew Lowery.........39
Andrew Fouke.........36 G. 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.

Koskoo.

This medicine is rapidly gaining the confidence of the people, and the numerous testimonials of its virtues given by eminent physicians, speaks in high terms of its curative properties, and gives a special recommendation of Koskoo.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Pupils</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge (Dorchester)</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>Nov 1, 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centreville (Queen Anne’s)</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Nov 1, 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniontown (Carroll)</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>Dec 1, 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Oak (Talbot)</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>Dec 1, 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middletown (Frederick)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Dec 11, 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perrymansville (Harford)</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>Dec 14, 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesapeake City (Cecil)</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Jan 1, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westminster (Carroll)</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>Jan 1, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fallston (Harford)</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Jan 1, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salisbury (Somerset)</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>Jan 1, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hagerstown (Washington)</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>Jan 1, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preston (Caroline)</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Jan 2, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkettsville (Frederick)</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Jan 15, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gravel Hill (Harford)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Jan 18, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Princess Ann (Somerset)</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>Feb 12, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Pleasant (Frederick)</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>Mar 1, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Gunpowder (Baltimore)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Mar 1, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem (Dorchester)</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>Mar 20, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornersville (Dorchester)</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>Mar 20, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airey’s (Dorchester)</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>Mar 20, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drawbridge (Dorchester)</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>Mar 20, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty (Frederick)</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>Apr 1, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. U. (Kent)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Apr 1, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newtown (Somerset)</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>Apr 8, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muirkirk (Prince George’s)</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>Apr 12, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow Hill (Worcester)</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Apr 15, 1866</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elkton (Cecil)</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>Apr 15, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federalsburg (Caroline)</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>May 1, 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Union (Worcester)</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>May 2, 1866</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Black Total Population</th>
<th>Black Enrolled in School</th>
<th>White Total Population</th>
<th>Whites Enrolled in School</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>9,780</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>11,358</td>
<td>1,491</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Census data was accessed from the University of Virginia Historical Census 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
Institutions

- Churches
- Benevolent societies
- Fraternal orders

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

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-
Abraham Hall

- 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

Photo credit: R. Chidester   Maryland Historic Trust
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
Questions?

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