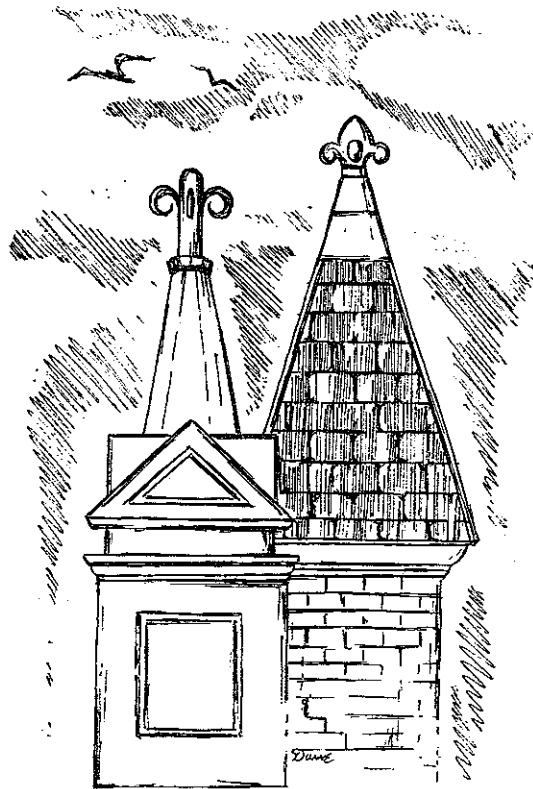


A Compendium of Early African Americans in Alexandria, Virginia

Volume III

Transcriptions of Deeds Relating to Early Alexandria African American Churches



compiled by
Anna Lynch

edited by
Elizabeth Foxwell

Front Cover

Alfred Street Baptist Church and Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church steeples. Illustration
by Adele Dunne

**A COMPENDIUM OF EARLY AFRICAN AMERICANS
IN ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

**Volume III:
Transcriptions of Deeds Relating to African American Churches**

compiled by
Anna M. Lynch

edited by
Jennifer Dell,
Elizabeth Foxwell
and
Jennifer Barker



**Alexandria Archaeology Publications
Number 46**

Alexandria Archaeology
Office of Historic Alexandria
City of Alexandria, Virginia
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Printed 20034

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Foreword

I am very happy that Alexandria Archaeology can bring Anna Lynch's research to the public. This is the last of three volumes of information which Anna has amassed from years of research on early African Americans. Working with Alexandria Archaeology and the Alexandria Black History Research Museum, Anna has brought her considerable research talents to the task of identifying, and in some cases tracing, the town's very earliest free Blacks. This third volume provides primary documentary information which mostly comes from deeds about the first African American congregations in Alexandria. The Alfred Street Baptist Church and Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church continue to the present day, although their names have changed from their earliest years. It is hoped that this publication will assist other researchers interested in Alexandria's vibrant African American community, which faced adversity with hard work, persistence, a sense of identity and great faith.

Pamela J. Cressey, Ph.D., RPA
City Archaeologist
2003

Preface

The primary goal of my research for Alexandria Archaeology has been to trace the development of the earliest free African American neighborhoods. Since the churches became focal points in these neighborhoods, this volume provides a tool for researchers and historians by bringing together primary sources relating to this development.

The goal of this particular project was to trace the inception of African American churches as institutions and landowners by transcribing all pertinent deeds. It also has been to trace, as far as possible, free black membership rolls in the early Alexandria churches, the growth of black congregations and the establishment of African American churches in Alexandria.

None of this effort to resurrect and bring together scattered pieces of information would have been possible without the extremely useful source of records microcopied by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (kept at the Latter Days Family History Center in Salt Lake City and reproduced in the 1992 M.S. in History thesis for Utah State University by Jennifer Jacquelyn Ione Fasy). I wish to especially acknowledge the help of many people: Dr. Pamela Cressey of Alexandria Archaeology; T. Michael Miller, Alexandria Historian; Eugene Thompson, Audrey Davis and Louis Hicks of the Black History Resource Center, Alexandria; the staff of Barrett Local History Library in Alexandria, especially Joyce McMullin; and Wilson R. Gaines, historian of the First Baptist Church in Alexandria. To all of them, and especially to Jennifer Dell, Elizabeth Foxwell, and Jennifer Barker, for their patience and perseverance in editing this volume, go my most heartfelt thanks.

Anna Lynch



**ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
(KNOWN EARLIER AS THE COLOURED BAPTIST SOCIETY,
AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH, FIRST COLORED BAPTIST CHURCH)
313 South Alfred Street**

Oldest African American congregation in Alexandria (ca. 1803)

Introduction

While looking for land deeds of the earliest free African American families on what is now the west side of the 300 block of South Alfred Street, my search extended to the first documented free space located on that block, now called Alfred Street Baptist Church. This church was the first formal African American institution in Alexandria.

In the process of this research, I went back to the deeds related to the parent church (now First Baptist Church of Alexandria) and to deeds pertaining to the African American Church by the Coloured Baptist Society.

To these deeds is added a list of African American members of the parent church from Lynch (1993), supplemented by additional primary source material from the microcopy of the Record Book of the Alexandria Baptist Church by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and the M.S. in History thesis of Jennifer Fasy of Utah State University based on these records.

Anna Lynch



Time Line

1803: Baptist Congregation formed; services are held in homes of members and along the banks of the Potomac.

1818: Trustees of the Coloured Baptist Society Jesse Henderson, Evan Williams, and Daniel Taylor rent lot, on South Alfred Street, from James Lawrason, a wealthy Alexandria shipping merchant, for \$32 per year.

(The exact date of construction of the first church on this property is unknown, but it is assumed a small wooden structure was built soon after the land was obtained by the Coloured Baptist Society.)

1818-1820: Church's educational branch is organized, offering religious and secular opportunities for African American adults and children.

1824: Will of James Lawrason bequeaths lot where church is located to his daughter, Mary (Mercy) Ann Riggs.

1833-ca.1836: Mr. Nuthall, a teacher from the District of Columbia, establishes a school in the church. School operates for 2-3 years before fears arising from the Nat Turner Rebellion force its closure.

1842: Name of church changed to African Baptist Church.

Church trustee William Evans buys lot from Mary (Mercy) Ann Riggs and husband Romulus for \$650.

1846: William Evans transfers title to lot to church trustees Beverly Yeates, William Weaver, and James Webster for \$5.

1855: Current church building is erected.

Civil War: Church is used as hospital.

Post Civil War: Church continues to operate a Sunday School.

1863: Rev. Samuel Madden become first African American leader of church.

1896: Rev. Alexander Truatt becomes pastor and increases church size and services to community. He serves until 1913.

1919: Transfer of property from Thomas Chauncey and his wife Frances to church trustees W.A. Prince, Walter Butler, John McKenney, Milton Franklin, Frederick H. Rich, and William Lee (additional lot?)

*Deed Associated with the Alexandria Baptist Society Church Property
200 Block South Washington Street, East Side*

Deed Book L Corporation Court 1805-1806, p. 151 (Abridged by Anna Lynch)

Indenture of Nov. 4th 1805 Between Alexander Smith and Rachel his wife of the town and County of Alexandria in the District of Columbia of the one part and William Simms and Walker Turner members of the Baptist Society in the Town of Alex. of the other part. Whereas Wm. Thornton Alexander and Lucy his wife by their indenture bearing date the 7th day of March 1803 sell and convey unto him the said Alexander Smith a piece of ground situate upon the East Side of Washington St. and to the southward of Prince Street in said town of Alexandria bounded as follows— Beginning on Wash. St. 150 feet to the South of Prince Street and running south with Washington St. 76 feet 7 inches to the centre of the square formed by Prince and Duke and then eastwardly with a line parallel to those streets 123 feet 5 inches then North with a line parallel to Washington St. the length of the first line, then with a straight line to the beginning and whereas Alex. Smith and Rachel his wife have by an indenture of Nov. 1- 1804 sold to Joshua Doing all that part of the said piece of ground contained within the following boundaries Beginning on Wash. St. 100 feet to South of Prince, then East with a line parallel to Prince Street 123 feet five inches then South with a line parallel to Wash. St. 76 feet 7 inches then West with a line parallel to Prince St. 47 feet 5 inches, then North with a line parallel to Washington St. 68 feet then west with a line parallel to Prince St. 76 feet to Wash. Street then with that street and binding therewith 9 feet to the Beginning. Now this Indenture witnesseth that Alexander Smith and wife Rachel in consideration of the trusts contained and expressed on behalf of William Simms and Walker Turner and their Heirs and Executors fulfilled and performed as to one dollar to him. Alexander Smith in hand paid by the said William Simms and Walker Turner do give, grant bargain and sell unto William Simms and Walker Turner the land sold and conveyed by Alexander Smith and his wife Rachel to Joshua Doing and all houses, buildings, streets, lanes, alleys, profits, commodities to have and to hold in trust and for the use and behoof of the Baptist Society of the Town of Alexandria, believing the Doctrines of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and practising [*sic*] the ordinances of the same as they are now expressed in the Philadelphia Baptist Confession of faith and as the same have lately been revised by the Baptist Convention in the Commonwealth of Virginia and approved by the Ketockton Baptist Association at their session held in August 1803 to erect thereupon a place or places of worship or any other building or buildings found and judged necessary by the society for the advancement of Religious Worship or the edification or convenience of the society in any manner or way and for the Interment of the departed members of the society.

And the said William Simms and Walker Turner and their heirs do for themselves and their heirs covenant, grant and agree that they will well and truly execute, fulfill and perform the Several Trusts hereby vested in them the said William Simms and Walker Turner and their heirs

In Witness whereof the said Parties have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year herein before mentioned

Jas. R. M. Lowe
Wm. Lanphier
Horace Field
James Smith

Alexn. Smith {seal}
Rachel Smith {seal}
W. Sims [*sic*] {seal}
Walker Turner {seal}

Deed acknowledged at a United States Circuit Court of the District of Columbia continued and held for the County of Alexandria the 13th day of December 1805

*Coloured Baptist Society/African Baptist/Alfred Street Baptist Church Property Records
300 South Alfred Street, West Side*

September 14, 1795

Deed Book G Circuit and Hustings Court, p. 349 (Crowell *et al.* 1992)

This indenture made between William T. Alexander and Lucy, his wife, of the County of King George in Virginia and James Lawrason (J.L.) of Alexandria in the County of Fairfax. Witnesseth that William T. Alexander and Lucy for and in consideration of the rents and covenants herein after contained and expressed on the part and behalf of him the said J.L., his heirs and assigns to be paid, kept and performed. Have given, granted, bargained, and sold to J.L. two lots or half acres of ground contiguous to the town of Alexandria situated and being upon the south side of Duke extended and upon the west side of Alfred and the north side of Wolfe St. and bounded as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of Duke and Alfred and running thence westwardly with Duke and binding thereupon half the length of the square lying between Alfred and Patrick St., 123.5 ft. thence with a line parallel to Alfred St. southwardly 353.2 ft. to Wolfe St., thence eastwardly with Wolfe and binding thereupon 123.5 ft. to Alfred, thence northwardly to the beginning.

J.L. paying to Wm. T. Alexander on the 13th of Sept of each year the rent of 20 pounds.

Delivered to Jesse Henderson July 20, 1819

Deed Book H2 Corporation Court, p. 327

This indenture made the first day of November in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eighteen between James Lawrason and Alice, his wife, of the town of Alexandria in the District of Columbia of the first part, and Jesse Henderson, Evan Williams, and Daniel Taylor of the same place of the other part.

Witnesseth that the said James Lawrason and Alice his wife, in consideration of the sum of one dollar to him in hand paid by the said Jesse Henderson, Evan Williams, and Daniel Taylor and in consideration of the rents and covenants hereinafter contained and expressed on the part of the said Jesse Henderson, Evan Williams and Daniel Taylor their heirs and assigns to be paid, kept and performed do give, grant bargain and sell alien and confirm unto the said Jesse Henderson, Evan Williams and Daniel Taylor and heirs and assigns forever a parcel of ground lying and being on the west side of Alfred Street and to the southward of Duke Street bounded as follows:

Beginning at the distance of 201 feet from the North West corner of the intersection of Wolfe and Alfred St, then North with Alfred Street and binding thereon 26 feet to an alley 13 feet 5 inches wide, then West with the line of said alley and parallel to Duke St. 110 feet to another alley 13 feet 5 inches wide, then South with the line of said alley and parallel to Alfred St. 26 feet then Eastwardly parallel to Wolfe Street. 110 feet to the beginning, being part of a parcel of land purchased by Benjamin Shreve and James Lawrason from William Thornton Alexander, to have and to hold all and singular the premises by the said Jesse Henderson, Evan Williams and Daniel Taylor, survivors of them and the heirs of such survivors forever in Trust however for the use of the Coloured Baptist Society of the town of Alexandria to be managed, governed, disposed of, used and conveyed for such

purpose and in such manner only forever here after as the said Society shall from time to time order and appoint.

(Rent to be paid 1st of November and yearly 32 dollars and 50 cents lawful money of the U.S. provided also that if the said Jesse Henderson, Evan Williams and Daniel Taylor heirs or survivors shall at any time hereafter pay to James Lawrason his heirs or assigns all arrears of the rent aforesaid with a rateable dividend thereof for the time which may have elapsed between the last first day of November next preceding and the day of such payment and also the sum of 542 dollars lawful money of the U.S. then the said annuity or rent hereby granted shall cease and the said James Lawrason his heirs and assigns will execute all deeds necessary for the extinguishment thereof.)

No Witnesses

Signed, James Lawrason
Alice Lawrason
Jesse Henderson
Evan Williams
Daniel X Taylor
(his mark)

Recorded December 9, 1818, in
U.S. Circuit Court District of Columbia
James Lawrason's Will (Originally written Oct. 23, 1820)

Alexandria Orphans' Court Will Book 3, p. 133

In the name of God, Amen, I James Lawrason of the town and county of Alexandria in the District of Columbia do make my last Will and Testament as follows revoking all others by me heretofore made.

I give the ground with whatever improvements may be thereon, belonging to me, agreeable to the specification in the annexed Platt. No 1. containing one half acre. No 2. and No 2. continued containing one acre. No 3. containing one acre, only one half of the last mentioned lot is mine, and No. 5. containing to the several persons therein named as therefrom, the grounds designated in Platt No 2. continued, must not be taken possession of or any benefit derived therefrom, by the grantees until after the death of my Wife, but there must be portioned to my Executors, for and during the period of her life annually and every year the sum of Two hundred and nine Dollars thirty three Cents as a maintenance in part, that being the amount for which the Ground Platt No 2. continued is rented at per annum. The lotts with James Lawrason Junior's name written therein must be equally divided among the rest of my Children, or their issue, my Grand Children receiving no more of said division than is their part. I have apportioned to their parents by an equal distribution of the same amongst my own children, my son, Thomas Lawrason dec^d. [deceased], and his Widow, Elizabeth Lawrason and my daughter Elizabeth Paradise and all the heirs and issue of them, that is of my late son, Thomas Lawrason, dec^d his Widow Elizabeth Lawrason or of Elizabeth Paradise must be and are intended to be, together with their issue, forever excluded from the benefit of this or from any other property or part of my estate, for no other reason but my having already given unto my said son and Daughter an equal proportion of the same in value which his and her brothers and sisters will not receive until my death and the death of their mother.

I give the property contained and mentioned in Platt No.1 fronting on St. Asaph Street thirty four feet three and an half inches running back one hundred and twenty feet, to and having the privilege [*sic*] of an alley, six feet 11/12 wide and the appurtenances, my present Brick dwelling House, together with all my personal property to my Wife, to hold, possess or occupy all and singular the aforesaid premises with their appurtenances thereon for and during the period of her life and after her death to be sold and the Proceeds thereof to be equally divided, subject in every respect to the same restrictions and agreeable to my Will as before mentioned in relation to a division of that part of my estate, contained & mentioned in the annexed plats No.1, 2, 2 continued, 3 and 5.

My lott fronting on Prince Street 23 feet running back 44 feet 6 in. contained in the annexed Platt No.6 with the Brick Warehouse thereon must be sold to pay all just debts I may owe, the remaining ballance [*sic*] to be equally divided subject in every respect to the same restrictions and agreeable to my Will as aforesaid in relations to a division of that part of my estate contained and mentioned in the annexed Platt No. 1, 2, 2 continued 3, 4 & 5. My Wharf and Brick warehouse laid down in Platt No. 7 must be sold, subject to an annuity to continue for and during the life of my Wife and no longer, of two hundred and ninety dollars 68/100 which said Annuity must be paid by my Executors to my wife yearly and every year, during her life (as a maintenance in part) the remaining

ballance [*sic*] of the money arising from the sale after paying Elisha Riggs \$7150. for which he has a deed of Trust on the Wharf property with whatever interest may be due him on the same, to be equally divided subject in every respect to the same restrictions and agreeable to my Will as aforesaid in relation to a division of that part of my estate contained and mentioned in the said annexed Platt No.1, 2, 2 continued 3, 5, & 4.

Lastly I appoint Elisha Riggs Aaron Levering Romulus Riggs Samuel McClean and Aaron Levering Executors of this my last Will and Testament.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Twenty third day of October 1820.

J. Lawrason (seal)

Signed sealed published
and pronounced by the Testator
to be his last Will and Testament
in Presence of us

A. Moore
Rich^a H. Claggett
R^a Veitch
Saml Dean

Codicil made this 14th day of November 1821, I James Lawrason make this a Codicil to the foregoing Will. That all my right title and interest to certain Lands in the State of Kentucky and any other claim or right that I may have to any other Lands I now leave and bequeath to the Children of Aaron Levering (by my daughter Mary) and to Aaron R. Levering Elisha Riggs Romulus Riggs and Saml. Mc Claen [*sic*] to each equal proportions of that land.

J. Lawrason (seal)

Witness

A. R. Levering
James Carson
Ursilla Carson
Ann Levering

I have erased from the above Will, the name of James H. Earle and in place thereof have substituted Samuel Mc Clean as one of my executors. July 12, 1823

J. Lawrason

Witness

A. R. Levering

Codicil. All the lots I intended from my son James Lawrason, Deceased, in the different Platts signed by me I now give to my daughter Mary Ann Riggs, Viz. as may be seen on reference to the Plat attached to my last Will and Testament dated the Twenty third day of October, Eighteen hundred and twenty which are as follows:

See Platt	No. 1	Lot No.3	Valued 156
"	2	" 5	" 336
"	2	" 10	" 208
"	5	" 3	" 312
"	5	" 4	" <u>306</u>
			\$1318

*Plat [sic] No. 2 Lot No. 10 Rented to Pompey Purer [sic] forever at \$20.83 pr. annum.
Alexandria May 19th 1823.

J. Lawrason

Witness

A.R. Levering

Additional Codicil to the enclosed and annexed Wills.

See Plat [sic] No. 3	Lot No.1	I give to Septimus Levering
"	" 2	Thos. Levering
"	" 3	John Agother Paradise
"	" 4	William Paradise
"	" 5	James Thomas Lawrason
"	" 6	Mary Clement Levering
"	" 7	Ann Carlson (?) Lawrason
"	" *11	Susanna McClean,— not to be disposed of during her life

*This lot is rented forever at \$20 per annum.—

To my Daughter Ann B Levering my large folio family Bible and the Engraving of the Washington Family.

To my Grandson Jas. Thos. Lawrason my silver Watch.

To my Granddaughter Mary Clement Levering, Adam Clarks comments on the old and New Testaments.

To my Granddaughter Elizabeth Levering my share in the Alexandria Library.

To my Grandson Jas. L. Riggs, my Gold sleeves Buttons.

To my Granddaughter Amelia D Riggs, all my silver plates except two papa spoons, one to Mary Ann and the other to Mary C. Levering.

J. Lawrason

Witness

A.R. Levering

At a session of the Orphans Court for the County of Alexandria in the District of Columbia the 26th day of May 1824, this last Will and Testament of James Lawrason, deceased, was proved in due form of law by Alexander Moore, Richard H. Clagget and Richard Veitch and ordered to be recorded and the Codicil thereto dated 16 November 1821 was proved in like manner by James Carson and Ursilla Carson and is also ordered to be recorded. And on the same day Letters Testamentary on the Estate of the Testator were granted to Aaron R. Levering one of the Executors therein named, he having given Bank and Security according to law. Elisha Riggs, Romulus Riggs and Samuel Mc Clean renounced their appointment, and Aaron Levering has departed this life.

Test. A. Moore, Register.

These nine lots are 110 feet deep to an alley in Wolfe Street 66 feet wide
Common of 13.5 1/2 wide

Platt No. 2, 110 x 110

Alfred Street 66 feet wide

25 feet 1814 \$260.	for Alice Lawason St	1803 July 1. rented to Archibald Richardson at 6/ per foot is per ann: \$26.
25 feet 1813 \$208.	for Mercy Lawason;	1804. April 1. rented to Humphrey Dunby at 5/ per foot, is per ann: \$20.83.
25 feet 1812 \$208.	for Ann Leasing	1817. April 1. rented to James Johnston at 6/ per foot is per ann: \$20.83.
25 feet 1811 \$172.	for Polly Leasing.	1800. April 1. rented to Mr. Gordon at 1 1/6 per foot is \$18.75 per ann:
25 feet 1810 \$228.	for James Lawason St	1802 July 14. rented to Humphrey Dunby at 5/ per foot. is per ann: \$20.83.
25 feet 1809 \$208.	for Alice Lawason St	1802 July 1. rented to Henry Johnston at 5/ per foot is per ann: \$20.83
25 feet 1808 \$208.	for Polly Leasing	1805. April 1. rented to John Collett at 5/ per foot is per ann: \$20.83.
25 feet 1807 \$220.	for Ann Leasing	1816. August 28. rented to Mr. Dunby at 6/ per foot is per ann: \$25.
26 feet 1806 \$250.	for Mercy Lawason	1818 Oct 1. rented to John Henderson, James Johnston, and Daniel Taylor, Jun. Trust, for the Colman Baptist Society at 7/6 per foot, is per annum \$32.50

Alley in Common

say 123.5 1/2 feet
James Lawason and Benjamin Shoen
This one acre belongs to Benjamin Shoen.
This one acre on private street 35 1/2 feet

Platt No. 2 - Continued

These four lots are 114 feet deep to an alley in Common 13.5

27 feet 1811 \$386.	for James Lawason Lane & 114 feet.
27 feet 1814 \$258.	for Polly Leasing 114 feet.
27 feet 1813 \$258.	for Alice Lawason St 114 feet.
27 feet 1812 \$220.	for Ann Leasing 114 feet.
27 feet 1811 \$220.	for Mercy Lawason 114 feet.

say 123.5 1/2 feet

Duke Street 66 feet wide

Platt from James Lawason's Will - Figure 1



Moiety to D. Taylor

Indenture Jan. 1, 1819 between Jesse Henderson, Evan Williams and Daniel Taylor, Trustees of the Coloured Baptist Society of Alexandria of the one part and Daniel Taylor of the town of Alexandria D.C. for himself of the other part. Witnesseth that the said Jesse Henderson, Evan Williams and Daniel Taylor as trustees aforesaid for \$1 and the rents, conditions hereafter expressed paid and performed current money of U.S. to the said Jesse Henderson, Evan Williams and Daniel Taylor trustees aforesaid in hand paid by the said Daniel Taylor have bargained and sold alien and confirm unto said Daniel Taylor a moiety of that peice [*sic*] or parcel of ground on the West side of Alfred St. and to the North of Wolfe Street and conveyed on the 1st day of Nov. 1818 by James Lawrason and Alice his wife on certain covenant or conditions to the aforesaid Trustees which moiety is bounded as follows. Beginning at a point 200 and one feet from Wolfe St. and 55 feet West from the west side of Alfred St. then running North parallel to Alfred 26 feet to an alley 13 feet and 5 inches wide, then west on a line with the line of said alley and parallel to Duke St. 55 feet to another alley 13 feet and 5 inches wide. then South on the line of said alley 26 feet parallel with Alfred and from thence Eastwardly and parallel to the Beginning— on condition that Dan'l Taylor his heirs or assigns pay to Jesse Henderson, Evan Williams and Daniel Taylor or their successors the sum of 16 dollars and 25 cents annually on each successive 1st day of Nov. unless said Daniel Taylor his heirs or assigns do at any one time pay the sum of 271 dollars with all arrearages of rent due at the said time, then the annual rent to cease and discontinue forever, and each of the contracting parties to wit Jesse Henderson, Evan Williams and Daniel Taylor for themselves their heirs and successors and Daniel Taylor for himself and for his heirs and assigns agree that when one party is able and willing to pay off their moiety of the whole rent (542 dollars) with arrearages due, the other party engages and binds themselves likewise to pay their moiety also of the said five hundred and forty-two dollars with arrearages if any. The trustees engaging themselves and their successors to furnish the said Daniel Taylor his heirs or assigns with a Deed of fee simple for his part on his making the said payment, the said Jesse Henderson, Evan Williams and Daniel Taylor execute and acknowledge any further deeds for conveying the said piece of land to Daniel Taylor and to his heirs.

Witness John T. Brooks

Signed, Jesse Henderson

Evan Williams

Daniel X Taylor

Dec. 10, 1819

Teste Edm. J Lee

Delivered to William Evans August 9, 1827
Deed Book N No. 2, 1823-24, p. 351

Indenture May 10, 1824 between Daniel Taylor and Eliza his wife and William Waugh, William Evans and William Harris (Trustees of the Coloured Baptist Society of Alexandria). Daniel Taylor of \$1 pd. to him by William Waugh, William Evans and William Harris for sum convey a moiety of that piece of land on W. side of Alfred and north of Wolfe St. conveyed on Nov. 1, 1818 by James Lawrason and Alice on certain covenants and conditions to Jesse Henderson, Evan Williams, and Daniel Taylor, the former trustees of the aforesaid Coloured Baptist Society, which moiety was conveyed to Daniel Taylor by deed of Jan. 1, 1819 (both recorded in office of Clerk of Court D.C.) subject to certain conditions in said deed mentioned, which moiety is bounded as follows—Begin at a point 201 feet from Wolfe St. and 55 feet west from west side of Alfred St. then North in a line parallel with Alfred 26 feet to an alley 13 feet 5 inches then west with line of said alley parallel to Duke St. 55 feet to another alley 13 feet 5 inches wide then south on a line of said alley 26 feet parallel with Alfred St. and then east to beginning for use of the Coloured Baptist Society of America to be managed, governed, used and disposed by said society and that said Jesse Henderson and Evan Williams Trustees aforesaid conveyed to him, Daniel Taylor and that he will at any time hereafter at the request of William Waugh, William Evans and William Harris or survivors convey the title to them or such other persons as the Society will appoint trustees.

Witnessed by:

A. Faw

Adam Lynn

Thos. Steel

Daniel X Taylor

Eliza X Taylor

Probated May 11, 1824

September 1, 1842
Deed Book C-3, p. 230 (Crowell et al. 1992)

This indenture made between Romulus Riggs and Mercy Ann, his wife, of the city of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania and William Evans of Alexandria, State of Virginia and on behalf of the African Baptist Church of Alexandria.

That Riggs, in consideration of the sum of \$650 to Riggs hand paid by William Evans, trustee, have given, granted, sold to W. Evans an annual ground rent of \$32.50 for the lot situated in Alexandria which ground rent was created by deed of bargain and sale from J. Lawrason to Henderson *et al.* Which ground rent was devised to Mercy Ann Riggs by J Lawrason's will dated October 23, 1820.

September 1, 1862

Liber C. No. 3, vol. 230 of the land records of The County of Alexandria

This Indenture made this the 1st day of September in the year 1842 between Romulus Riggs and Mercy Ann his wife of the city of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania [*sic*] of the one part and William Evans of the town of Alexandria District of Columbia for and on behalf of the African Baptist Church of Alexandria of the other part, witnesseth that the said Romulus Riggs & Mercy Ann his wife for and in consideration of the sum of six hundred and fifty dollars, current money of the United States to the said Romulus Riggs and Mercy Ann his wife in hand paid by the said William Evans trustee as aforesaid at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have given, granted, bargained, sold, aliened [*sic*] and confirmed and by these presents do give grant bargain, sell, alien [*sic*] and confirm unto the said William Evans Trustee as aforesaid his heirs and assigns forever, an annual ground-rent of thirty two dollars and fifty cents payable and issuing out of a certain nice parcel or Lot of ground, situate lying and being in the Town of Alexandria & bounded as follows: beginning at the distance of [blank] feet from the S. E. corner of Woolf [*sic*] and Alfred streets and binding on the west side of Alfred street, & running north twenty six feet to an alley thirteen 5/12 wide, thence west with the line of said Alley and parallel to Duke street one hundred and ten feet to another alley thirteen feet 5/12 wide, thence south with the line of said alley and parallel to Alfred street twenty six feet, thence East and parallel to Wolfe street one hundred and ten feet to the beginning, which ground-rent was created by deed of bargain & sale from James Lawrason & wife to Jesse Henderson and others bearing date 1st November 1818 and the same deed recorded on the land records of Alexandria County, which ground-rent was devised by the said James Lawrason to Mercy Ann Riggs herein before named by his last will and testament of the 23rd October 1820:— To have and to hold the said hereby granted annual ground-rent and all arrearages thereof unto the said William Evans Trustee as aforesaid his heirs and assigns forever. And Lastly that the said Romulus Riggs and Mercy Ann his wife and their heirs the said annual ground-rent of thirty two dollars and fifty cents payable on the 1st November in each and every year thereafter forever as aforesaid and all arrearages thereof unto the said William Evans Trustee as aforesaid his heirs and assigns against the claims and demands of all persons shall and will warrant and forever defend by these presents.

In witness whereof the said Romulus Riggs and Mercy Ann his wife have hereunto set their hand and seals the day month and year first herein written.-

Romulus Riggs seal
Mercy Ann Riggs seal

March 17, 1846

Deed Book G3 1845-1847, p. 325

This Indenture, made this 17th day of March in the year eighteen hundred and forty six between William Evans of the first part and Beverly Yeates and William Weaver and James Webster of the second part. Witnesses, that the said William Evans, for and in consideration of five dollars to him in hand paid, does hereby grant bargain and sell, alien, release and confirm assign and transfer

to the parties hereto of the second part all the right title estate and interest in and to a certain ground rent of thirty two dollars and fifty cents, charged on and payable and issuing out of a certain lot and tenement situated in the town of Alexandria whereon is located the African [Baptist] Church of Alexandria and bounded as foll[ows. . . page torn, illegible] . . . ning on the west side of Alfred street at the [page torn, illegible] feet from the south east corner of Wolf [*sic*] and [page torn, illegible] streets, and binding on the west side of Alfred Street and running north twenty six feet to an alley thirteen feet five inches wide. Thence west with said alley and parallel to Duke street one hundred and ten feet to another alley thirteen feet five inches wide, thence south with said alley and parallel to Alfred street twenty six feet, thence east and parallel to Wolfe Street one hundred and ten feet to the beginning, which ground rent was conveyed to the said William Evans by Romulus Riggs and Mercy Ann his wife by deed dated 1st September 1842, and recorded in Liber C. No. 3, vol. 230 of the land records of The County of Alexandria. To have and to hold to the said parties of the second part their heirs and assigns, and successors as trustees for the said African Baptist Church to his and their use forever. In trust however for the use benefit and behoof of the said congregation of the African Baptist Church in Alexandria and for the more certain and distinct designation of the congregation for whose use and benefit the said trust is declared , it is hereby expressly declared that the said ground rent is conveyed and assured as aforesaid in trust for the sole and exclusive use benefit and behoof of the colored congregation which composes the African Baptist Church in the town of Alexandria, which constitutes a member of The Columbia Baptist Association, and which now maintains as its distinctive and peculiar tenets and which shall continue to maintain "The unity of God"; The existence of three equal persons in the Godhead: The just condemnation and total depravity of all mankind by the fall of our first parents; eternal, personal, and unconditional election; the proper divinity of our Lord [page torn, Jesus?] Christ; the necessity of his atonement and its [page torn, illegible] . . . tion to the sins of the elect only; justifica[tion? page torn, illegible . . .]puted righteousness of Christ alone; of-[page torn, illegible]; perseverance of the Saints; believers baptism by immersion only; the Lords Supper a privilege peculiar to baptized, believers regularly admitted to church fellowship; the resurrection of the body, and the general judgement; the final happiness of the Saints and misery of the wicked alike interminable: the obligation of every intelligent creature to love God supremely, to believe what God says and practice what God commands: and the divine inspiration of the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the complete and infallible rule of faith and practice: and for the benefit use and behoof of the said congregation and its successive members, composing the African Baptist Church of Alexandria and holding the above tenets forever.

In testimony whereof the parties hereto of the first and second parts have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals the day and year first before written.

William Evans (L.S.)
Beverly his X mark Yeates (L.S.)
William Weaver (L.S.)
James Webster (L.S.)

District of Columbia.

Alexandria County. to wit:

We Charles McKnight and John Grubb, Justices of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid do hereby certify that William Evans party to a certain deed dated the 17th day of March 1846 and hereunto annexed, personally appeared before us in our County aforesaid (he being to us personally well known to us as the person executing the said deed.) and acknowledged the same to be his act and deed . . .

Teste Cassius F. Lee
Teste Cassius F. Lee

October 1, 1919

Deed Book 69, p. 111 (Crowell *et al.* 1992)

This deed made between Thomas Chauncey and his wife Frances M. Chauncey; and W.A. Prince, Walter Butler, John McKenney, Milton Franklin, Frederick H. Rich, and William Lee, as trustees of the Alfred Street Baptist Church, grant lot on the west side of Alfred between Duke and Wolfe:

Begn. at a point on the west side of Alfred, at the southeast corner of the Coloured Baptist Church Lot, and supposed to be 201 ft. north of Wolfe St., running west with line of Church lot 110 ft. to alley 13.5 ft. wide; then southwardly parallel to Alfred 25 ft.; then eastwardly 110 ft. to Alfred, and 25 ft. north with Alfred 25 ft. to the beginning.

Being the same land conveyed to Thos. Chauncey and Wm. C. Chauncey, trading as Wm. Chauncey Sons, by Charles Seals *et al.*, heirs of Amanda Seals, 16th July 1912. Said Wm. Chauncey conveyed his undivided half interest upon dissolution of the co-partnership recorded 4th August, 1919.

September 14, 1979

Deed Book 963, p. 385 (Crowell *et al.* 1992)

Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority to Harry S. Burke, Welton A. Quander, Roger C. Anderson, Lenzy M. Robertson, Julian N Dove and Thelma R. Wair, Trustees of Alfred St. 20 sq. ft. plat attached to a "Deed of Resubdivision, Dedication and Vacation" recorded in Deed book 921:804, which parcel of ground is known as Parcel 5A in the DIP Urban Renewal R-64.

September 16, 1981

Deed Book 1034, p. 246 (Crowell et al. 1992)

Between ARHA and Alfred St. Church. Whereas the authority and the church entered into an agreement dated Jan 5, 1979, providing for the development of certain property by the church as redeveloper and for the demolition of certain improvements by the authority, all in accordance with DIP Urban Renewal Project, VA #R-64;

and whereas by Bargain and Sale Deed dated Sept 14, 1979 the Authority conveyed to the Church lot 600, as shown on plat, and whereas a legal question has arisen as to the ownership of the building formerly used by the church as its house of worship on said property; and whereas a dispute has arisen whether the said former house of worship should be demolished as originally provided for in the said redevelopment plan; and whereas the parties hereto desire to settle the legal question and to resolve these disputes to the extent they can;

Witnesseth, for \$1 party of the first releases to the second party all rights and title to the building together with all fixture and personalty affixed thereto or contained therein formerly used as a house of worship by the church and known as 313 S. Alfred and situated on lot 600.

*A Partial List of African American Members of the Alexandria Baptist Church
ca. 1803-1830s*

The data provided below comes from a variety of sources. It has been divided into two sections, Members with First Name Only and Members with Full Name. In the first section, if a surname appears in parenthesis with a possessive ('s), that surname is that of the slave's owner and the slave's own surname was not provided. Names with an asterisk (*) are from Fasy 1992, that were not included in Lynch 1993, Appendix I. Data under the section "Information" that did not appear in Lynch 1993 are identified by an asterisk. Names of church trustees are noted in italics. This data was annotated by Lynch from Fasy 1992 and is referenced by page number. All other sources are so indicated. This does not appear to be a full listing of African American Baptists.

Members with First Name Only

<u>NAME</u>	<u>INFORMATION</u>
*Betty (Marshall's)	"Agreed to receive Betty, a slave belonging to Polly Marshall." (p. 83)
*Betty (Swann's)	"Sept. 2, 1804, Betty, slave to Thomas Swann was baptized this day." (Vestry book, September 1804)
*Black Susan (Johnston's)	"admitted by Baptism, black Susan, slave of John Johnston, May 1803" (p. 57)
*Black Sucky (probably Susan above)	a slave belonging to Mr. Johnston, excluded from communion for unlawful correspondance [<i>sic</i>] with a man. (Vestry Book, October 31, 1807)
Catherine (Patori's)	"sold"
*Charles	"agreed that Charles, a black man who is free, (probably Thompson) be excluded from our fellowship. (see Thompson, Charles)"
Charles (Smith's)	
*Elinor (Taylor's)	"see Newman, Fanny." Fasy states she may be also Nelly, Robert Taylor's slave admitted in March 1814 (footnote 173, p. 106)
Hannah (possibly Wilson's)	"By letter of 'Washington'"

<u>NAME</u>	<u>INFORMATION</u>
*Hannah (Wilson's)	"Agreed that Hannah, a black woman, the property of Mrs. Wilson be excluded from our communication for stealing various articles from her mistress, which she confessed."(p. 93)
*Letless	"slave of Polly May Luff (?name unclear)"
Mary (Smith's)	"16" precedes name
*Nancy (Summers's)	"that Nancy, a slave to Mr. Summers -- be notified to our next meeting and that Black Harry of Mr. Hunter give her that notice." (p. 91)
	"Agreed that Nancy, a slave to Mr. Summers be excluded from our communion for voluntarily going into bed with a man and another woman in the same bed when the man had a wife of his own and the woman was the wife of another man." (p. 92)
*Nelley (Mason's)	1814 -dead
*Nelly (Scott's)	"Agreed to receive Nelly belonging to Richard M. Scott." (p. 83)
Patty (Swift's)	Baptized April 7
Peggy (Lyle's)	"Baptized by letter, 8-3-1816"
Philip *(Platter's) (or Patten's or Paton's)	"1804, slave belonging to Robert Platter by dismissal from the church at Piscataway in Essex county." (p. 65)
*Rachel (Smith's)	"June 1816 Smith's Rachel (colored) joined the congregation" (p. 35)
*Silvia (probably Silvia Burnet)	"slave belonging to Andrew Jimmison was baptized and received into fellowship"(p. 63)
*Silver (probably Silvia above)	"a slave belonging to Andrew Jameson" (Vestry Book, September 1804)
*Truelove (Mandeville's)	
Violet (Smith's)	"17" precedes name
*Will (Swan's or Swann's)	"helped Herry [sic] Montacue in the matter between Fanny Newman and Elinor, two black women." (p. 34)

NAMEINFORMATIONMembers with Full Name

Abner, Winney	
Addison, Polly	
Alexander, Betsy	Baptized 4-4-1818; Excl. 5-31-1827
Allen, Elizabeth	name listed: Allen, Elizabeth (Scott's)
*Augustus, Nelly	
*Black, Harry	"(probably Harry Montacue) free man, ship carpenter"
Brown, Catharine	
Burnet, Silvia	*(probably Silvia, of Jimmison, above)
*Butler, Else	"agreed that Else Butler, (listed among Black members) be excommunicated for unlawful connecting with a man who is not her husband." (p. 91)
Campbell, Hannah	baptized 5-3-1817, dismissed 1819
Carter, Letitia	
Champlin, Netty	baptized 1816 - 1834; restored 1835
Chavers, Daniel (possibly Shavers)	* "Excluded 2-28-1817 for adultery, restored 9-2-1819 and excluded again 1-9-1824 for the same thing"
	"(5)" precedes name
Chavers, Letitia	"(6)" precedes name
Clark, Ham	under heading " <u>By letter</u> [of] Washington"
Craney, Nancy	
Cready, Elizabeth *(possibly Eddy)	baptized April 7 (no year given); Died 11-29-1816

<u>NAME</u>	<u>INFORMATION</u>
Crump, Townsend	
Curtis, Isham	baptized by letter, 6-2-1816 * "June 1, 1816 Heard Isham Curtis (colored man) relate what the Lord had done for his soul and agreed to receive him as member of church, after his baptism" (p. 117) Footnote 236, p. 117 states that he does not appear in any census but he married Nancy Smith, March 1, 1816
Curtis, Millia	note to left of name: "Imm"(ersion?) 10-1-1815
*Downs, Mary	
*Eddy, Elizabeth (possibly Cready)	"(colored) received" (p. 117)
Evans, James	
* <i>Evans, William</i>	trustee 1846, Deed book G3
Ferrald, Clarissa	
Ferrel, Cleary	
Fisher, Godfrey	* "(col'd) by dismissal"
Fountain, Ann	"By letter' of Isaac Langford"
Franklin, Catherine	"May 5 (no year) by letter" * "May 6/4, 1816 Colored sisters Smith, Franklin and Saunders received by letters of dismissal from sister churches (not named) of like faith and order" (p. 116) Fasy implies Franklin is Catherine Franklin who died in 1821 (footnote 232, p. 116)
Gaddis, Hannah	May, 1815
Gaddis, Hannah	Baptism 1816; dismissed 1834
Grant, Francis	

NAME

INFORMATION

Grant, Rose	Dead 1814
Grant, Winney	* "a free woman of colour"
Hall, Phebe	Dead 1814
*Hammond, James	"James Hammond advertised the opening of his oyster house, located at his residence on the south side of King St., west of Washington St. opposite Andrew Scholfield's land, in the <i>Advertiser</i> , Sept. 28, 1805. His ad stated, 'He hopes the color of his face/Will his calling never disgrace/But that his conduct and attention/Will be a means to gain him custom.' Additionally he stated, 'As a new beginner, I hope gentlemen will not expect credit. My capital is very limited, notwithstanding which, it is my determination to go in debt to no person, I consequently cannot afford to credit.' (No black man could sue a white man in court to collect money owed him) He received tavern licenses in 1803, 1804, and 1806 and sold his property in 1815. In 1822, a James Hammond married Grace Hanson. The clerk recorded both partners as black people. Miller, <u>Artisans</u> , 181; Miller, <u>Minister Returns</u> , 19." (Footnote #29, p. 58)
Hammons, James *(possibly Hammond, Above)	"a free Co.[sic] member. Black - a man by dismission"
Hanson, Harry	"free black man" dead 1804
Harris, Betsey	
*Harris, William	Trustee 1824, Deed book N No. 2
Haynes, Nancy	admitted 5-7-1819; dismissed 1825
Healy, Nelson	Dead 1814
Henderson, Anny	1810 census shows said washerwoman on Queen St. with 4 blacks
Henderson, Jesse	Trustee 1818, Deed book H2 1819, Deed book 1-2 "(1)" precedes name in Vestry Registry "April 23, 1814 agreed to receive Jesse Henderson and Rachel, his

NAME

INFORMATION

	wife by dismissal from Buck Marsh Church" (p. 105)
	"Jesse Henderson and Charles Thompson were both given authority to preach to black members when no white member occupied the podium" (p. 37)
	-withdrew license to preach and suspended him -restored Nov. 2, 1820 after showing sorrow and his license was returned Nov. 30, 1820 (p. 106, footnote 193)
Henderson, Rachel	"(2)" precedes name in Vestry Registry
*Hill, Elizabeth	
Jones, Francis	
*Jordam, Samuel	
Jordan, Dinah	"By letter of 'Washington'"
Kellis, Catharine	
Kellis, William	
*Langford, Isaac	
Laural, Sarah	"Bailey's wife"
*Lee, Nathaniel	"agreed to exclude Nathaniel Lee, a free man of color from any further privileges in this church" (p. 98)
Leftridge, Peter	
McKenzie, Charlotte	
Mitchel, Margaret	*died 1829 (footnote 200 p. 106)
*Mitchel, Peggy	"agreed to receive sister Peggy Mitchel a colored woman by dismissal from the Back Lick Church." (p. 106)
Momas, Charles	dismissed 12-1814

NAME

INFORMATION

Montacue, Harry

“(3)” precedes name

*Received by dismissal (p. 58)

-Joined congregation in 1804 (p. 34)

-slave to John Hunter, a shipwright (p. 34)

-Harry appeared in 1810 census as ship carpenter, reported 2 free blacks and 3 slaves in his home.

-Cared for the meeting house; twice after 1814 he was paid \$5 for lighting and sweeping the meeting house building and twice asked to assist with black members.

-He and his wife were investigated in 1816 for poor behavior, found favorable.

-in 1821 they were found “guilty of intemperate conduct and abusive language towards some of the brethren” and suspended.

-restored in 1822 (p. 34)

-Died in 1829 according to second record book (footnote 32, p. 58)

Montacue, Rachel

“(4)” precedes name

*(wife of Harry) received by dismissal (p. 58, footnote 32)

-restored from suspension (see Harry) in 1824 (p. 34)

-died in May 1833 (footnote 32, p. 58)

Moore, Catharine

*slave to William Hodson by letter of admission from Nomini church in Westmoreland County (Vestry Book, September 1804)

Moseley, Harry

Nelson, Hannah

“(15)” precedes name

* “Dec. 2, 1815 Resolved that H.N. (a colored woman) be suspended from communication on account of doubtful reports against her character, till she shall prove that the reports are unfounded or make suitable confession.” (p. 112)

“Feb 3, 1816 Hannah Nelson’s brother certificates from those with whom she last lived, proving the uprightness of her conduct and was reinstated.”(p. 114)

*Newman, Fanny

“Aug. 22, 1812 Heard a little matter of difference between Fanny Newman and Taylor’s Elinor, reprove them and exhorted them to reconciliation”

NAME

INFORMATION

	Sept. 25, 1812 "agreed to suspend Fanny Newman from communion till she becomes reconciled toward Mr. Taylor's Elinor" (p. 101)
	June 25, 1814 "The difference between Fanny, a free woman of color, and Nelly being settled they are resumed to the privilege [<i>sic</i>] of the table." (p. 106) Fasy implies may be Francis Newman (footnote, 172 p. 101)
Newman, Francis	
*Paridise, John	
*Parker, George	"Sept. 2 (1804) George Parker, a man of colour [<i>sic</i>] baptized..." (p. 65)
	"complaint against George Parker, a free black man that he is in the habit of selling spirritous liquors [<i>sic</i>] on the Lord's Day with other disorders connected therewith and when examined by Elder Shay, did not deny the fact but pleaded the necessity of his circumstances as an excuse....agreed that he be suspended from our communion till he give satisfactory evidence of repentance for his disorderly conduct." (p. 76)
	A George Parker married Eleanor Botman but no record of color (footnote 68)
Peters, Harry	
*Poorer, Pompey	Established indenture with Lawrason to use land (p. 26)
Posey, Charles	
Pride, Nathaniel	
Primus, Lewis	
Randal, Margaret	
Ryley, Eleazer Buckner Barnett	
Sarias, Betty	

NAME

INFORMATION

Saunders, Nelly

By letter, May 5 [no year]

* "May 6/4, 1816 Colored sisters Smith, Franklin and Saunders received by letters of dismissal from sister churches (not named) of like faith and order" (p. 116) Fasy implies Saunders is Nelly Saunders who died in 1830. (footnote 232, p. 116)

*Seldon, Anne

Shanklin, Nelly

*Shavers, Daniel
(possibly Chavers)

"March 26, 1814, agreed to receive as far as is common with people of color, Daniel Shavers by dismissal from Massapouoz (Massponar in Spottsylvania)" (p. 105)

*Shreave, Hannah
(possibly Chavers)

"dismist" [*sic*]

*Smith, Aime

"woman of colour"

Smith, Cecily
(possibly Geily below)

By Letter, May 5 [no year]

Smith, Dolly

*Smith, Geily

* "May 6/4, 1816 Colored sisters Smith, Franklin and Saunders received by letters of dismissal from sister churches (not named) of like faith and order" (p. 116) Fasy implies Smith is Geily Smith who died in 1825. (footnote 232, p. 116)

Smith, Nancy

"8" precedes name

*Nancy Smith married Isham Curtis, March 1, 1816. (footnote 236, p. 117)

Smith, Oliver

Smith, Philip

Smith, Tabitha

Baptized by letter, June 2, 1816

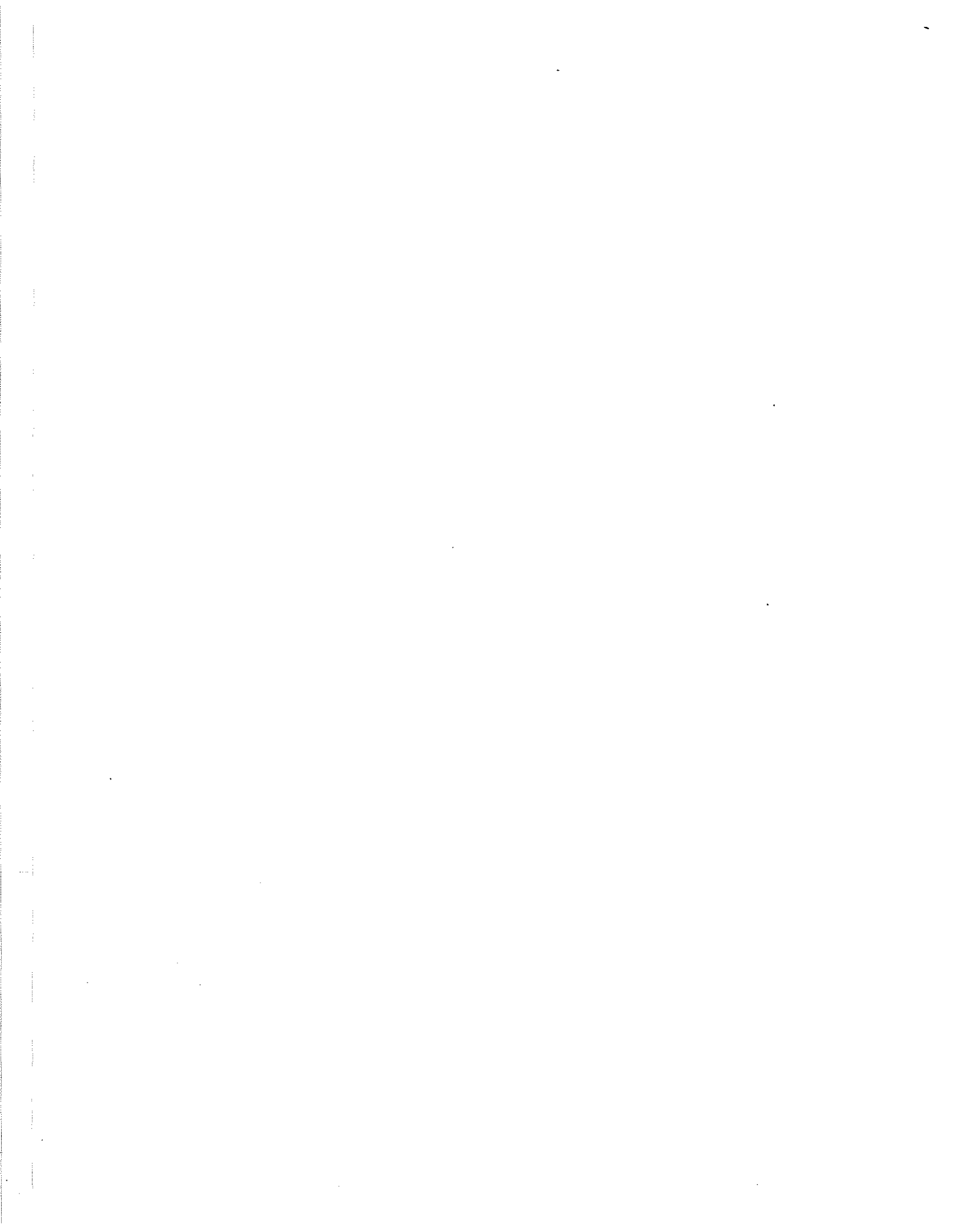
* "Tabitha Smith (colored) received by letter from Sister churches" (p. 117)

NAMEINFORMATION

Smith, Winney	“(12)” precedes name. Excommunicated 1/3/1817
Stetson, Anne	
<i>Taylor, Daniel</i> and Eliza, his wife	Trustee 1818, Deed Book H2 1819, Deed Book 1-2 1824, Deed Book 2 “(7)” precedes name. Died July 1, 1829.
Taylor, Ephraim	
Taylor, William	Died February, 1819.
*Thomas, Charles	“Excommit”
*Thomas, Charles	“At the June 25, 1814 meeting, the church having heard Charles Thomas, a man of color exercise his gift more than once and are fully to the opinion that he is not qualified to preach. But notwithstanding if amongst his colored brethren they invite him to give a word of exhortation at any time, the church will take no offense thereat” -“agreed that Charles Thomas, a free man of color, have a dismission” (p. 106)
*Thompson, Charles	-received by dismission from Back Lick -suspended for preaching without permission (p. 20) “Agreed that Charles, a black man who is free, be excluded from our fellowship who persists in public speaking contrary to a former order on the subject.” (p. 92) -was given authority to preach to black members when no white member occupied the podium
Thompson, Benjamin	*Jeremiah Moore’s slave, joined in March 1812 (p. 35)

NAMEINFORMATION

*Turner, Walker	“That Walker Turner and William Simmis be appointed trustees in behalf of the church to receive the conveyance for and in behalf of the Baptist Church in Alexandria.” (Vestry Book, November 2, 1805)
* <i>Waugh, William</i>	Trustee 1824, Deed book N #2
* <i>Weaver, William</i>	Trustee 1846, Deed Book G3
* <i>Webster, James</i>	Trustee 1846, Deed book G3
Weston, Lewis	
<i>Williams, Evan</i>	Trustee 1818, Deed book H2 1819, Deed book 1-2
Williams, Polly	
Williams, William	“(13)” precedes name
<i>Yeates, Beverly</i>	“10” precedes name Trustee 1846, Deed book G3





AFRICAN METHODIST CHURCH
300 South Pitt Street (?)

Introduction

These land deeds for an African Methodist Church were found while searching for other archival information on early free African Americans in Alexandria. There is no information in the tax rolls that the church was constructed.

Since the names of some of the Trustees of this church also appear on the tax list of 1822 as living on the nearby block, the tax lists have been added for 1821, 1822 and 1825 for the 400 block of Royal Street.

Time Line

(Although the following information is gleaned from land deeds, there is no evidence in the tax rolls that this church was actually constructed.)

1823: For use of the African Methodist Church, Walter Jones and his wife Ann Lucinda rent a lot for \$18.75 per year on the east side of Pitt St and extending to the corner of Pitt and Wolfe Streets to Wesley (Westley) Hamilton.

(Ann Lucinda Jones appears to be the daughter of Charles Lee, original owner of the property and a relative of Edmund Jennings Lee, uncle of Robert E. Lee.)

1825: Walter Jones and his wife Ann Lucinda raise the annual rent of the lot to \$37.50 to church trustees Henry Darnell, Wesley (Westley) Hamilton, William Roberts, Michael Morris, and Abel Affector.

African Methodist Church Property Deeds
300 Block South Pitt Street, East Side

May 16, 1823

Deed Book N No. 2, p. 43, 1823-1824 (Abridged by Anna Lynch)

This indenture made this sixteenth day of May 1823 between Walter Jones and Ann Lucinda, his wife, of the County of Alexandria in the District of Collumbia of the one part and Wesley Hamilton of the town of Alexandria in the District aforesaid of the other part witnesseth that for and in consideration of the rents, covenants and agreements hereinafter contained, they the said Walter Jones and Ann Lucinda his wife have leased and by these presents do lease, demise and to farm let unto the said Wesley Hamilton, his executors, administrators and assigns a part and portion of that piece and parcel of land on the East Side of Pitt street and extending to the corner of Pitt and Wolfe Streets in the town of Alexandria, Whereof Charles Lee died seized and which in the division of his real estate was allotted [*sic*] to the said Ann Lucinda his daughter and one of his heirs at law. Beginning for that part of said lot hereby intended to be demised at the intersection of the South line of a lott [*sic*] with Pitt Street, leased by said Walter Jones and Ann Lucinda his wife to Harry Darnell and others for the use of the African Methodist Church and running then Southwardly with Pitt Street, twenty five feet thence eastwardly at a right angle to Pitt Street to the East line of said first mentioned lot, thence Northwardly with the said East line to its intersection with the said South line of the lot leased as aforesaid to Henry Darnell and others and thence westwardly with that line to the beginning together with all and singular appurtenances, to have and to hold the said piece or parcel of land unto him the said Wesley Hamilton, his executors, administrators and assigns from the said sixteenth day of May in the year aforesaid for and during and unto the full end and term of ninety nine years, paying therefore yearly to the said Walter Jones and Ann Lucinda during their natural lives and the life of the longest liver of them and if they both die before the end of said term them to the heirs and assigns of the said Ann Lucinda the yearly rent sum of eighteen dollars and seventy five cents on the sixteenth of May in each and every year.

And the said Walter Jones and his wife Ann Lucinda agree with the said Wesley Hamilton upon his paying to the said Walter Jones and Ann Lucinda their heirs and assigns the full and just sum of one hundred and eighty seven dollars and fifty cents over and above the rents reserved as aforesaid convey to said Wesley Hamilton his executors, administrators and assigns a full and complete title in fee simple of the premises above described...

In witness whereof the parties to this indenture have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year herein first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of

Josiah L. Drear }

Mary Davis } as to W. Jones

Walter Jones } and A.L. Jones

W. Jones

A.L. Jones

Wesley [also Westly] Hamilton
(his mark)

Ts(W) Peyton Jr. } Samuel Wheeler } as to W. Hamilton

Issac Entwisle }

District of Columbia County of Alexandria

May 16, 1825

Deed Book P2 Corporation Court, p. 122 (Abridged by Anna Lynch)

Delivered to Henry Darnell Jan. 13th 1827 CIL

This indenture made this sixteenth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty five between Walter Jones and Ann Lucinda his wife of the County of Alexandria in the District of Columbia of the one part and Henry Darnell, Westley Hamilton, William Roberts, Michael Morris and Abel Affector; Trustees for the use of the African Methodist Church in the town of Alexandria all of the same county and city aforesaid. For and in consideration of the rents, covenants and agreements hereinafter contained which by and on the part of the said Henry Darnell, Westly Hamilton, William Roberts, Michael Morris and Abel Affector, their heirs and assigns are to be paid to said Walter Jones and Ann Lucinda his wife, have leased demised granted and to farm let unto them the said Henry Darnell, Westley Hamilton, William Roberts, Michael Morris and Abel Affector Trustees and their Executors, Administrators and assigns a part and portion of that piece and parcel of land on the east side of Pitt Street and extending to the corner of Pitt and Wolfe Street in the Town of Alexandria whereof Charles Lee died seized and which in the division of his estate was allotted to the said Ann Lucinda, his daughter, and one of his heirs at law. Beginning for that part of said lot at the intersection of the North line of said lott [*sic*] with Pitt Street, running South with Pitt Street 50 feet, then east at a right angle to Pitt to the east line of said lot then North with said east line to its intersection with the said north line and then west with that line to the beginning together with all and singular appurtenances. To have and to hold said parcel of land unto the aforesaid trustees, and their executors, administrators and assigns from the said sixteenth of May in the year aforesaid for during and unto the full term of ninety nine years, paying yearly to said Walter Jones and Ann Lucinda the yearly rent of thirty seven dollars and fifty cents on the said sixteenth day of May in each and every year...and the said Henry Darnell, Westly Hamilton, William Roberts, Michael Morris and Abel Affector, Trustees aforesaid that during the life of the said Ann Lucinda upon the request and at the proper cost and charge to them the said trustees, their executors, administrators and assigns upon their paying to the said Walter Jones and Ann Lucinda his wife, their heirs and assigns, the full and just sum of three hundred and seventy five dollars over and above the rents reserved as aforesaid, convey to the said Trustees, their executors, administrators and assigns a full and complete title in fee simple to the premises before described free from all condition right or possibility of Dower or other incumbrance whatsoever and that the said Walter Jones and Ann Lucinda his wife, their heirs and assigns will at the expiration of this lease renew the same for one other term of ninety nine years or so much longer as they the said Trustees shall at any time desire.

In testimony thereof we hereunto set our hands and affix our seals in the year and the date herein first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered
in the presence of

C.C. Lee
James Hoban Jmn (?)
Margaret C. Glassell
Fr. Peyton Jr.

as to all but Jones and Wife

W. Jones

A.L. Jones

Henry (his mark) Darnell

Westly (his mark) Hamilton

William Roberts

Abel (his mark) Affector

Memorandum,

The foregoing [*sic*] is the re-execution of a demise in the same terms duly executed on the 16th of May, 1823 and which has run out of date for recording and on which two years ground rent had accrued on the 16th of May last, of which the lessees have paid 25 dollars, leaving a balance of 50 dollars charged on the said demised premises or rent in arrear, which the said lessees covenant to pay and for which every remedy of distress and re-entry is reserved as for rent accruing specifically under this demise.

Witness our hands and seals this 16th of May, 1825.

James Hoban Jr. (?)

Margaret C. Glassell

Fr. Peyton Jr.

as to all but Jones and Wife

W. Jones

A.L. Jones

Henry (his mark) Darnell

Westly (his mark) Hamilton

William Roberts

Abel (his mark) Affector

Tax Lists

400 Block of Royal, East Side

1821, 1822, 1825 Tax List Excerpts

Names in *italics* indicate church trustees

1821

James Cadeu?	Lot Pitt and Wolfe --Estate				
Mordecai Miller	Lot Wolfe and Royal	vacant			350
Michael Morris	H & lot Royal	Self	1 story	1 tythable	500
<i>Hannah Jackson</i>	H & Lot Royal	self	1 story	1 house	300
Alexander Bryan	1 house			1 tythable	
<i>Kitty Hamilton</i>	H & Lot	Self	1 story	1 house	200
<i>Nelly Hamilton</i>					
<i>Wm. Roberts</i>	H & Lot Royal	Self		1 tythable	400
<i>Wm. Waugh</i>	H & Lot Royal	Self		3tyths	550
David Brown	Royal	Self	1 story	1tyth	
Jos. Coleman Estate	House and Lot Royal to Fairfax, tenants				1500
<i>Monaka Bell</i>	H & lot Royal	Self	1 story		250
Edw. Pleasants	H & lot Royal	Self	1 story	1tyth	450
James R. M. Lowe	H & Lot Wilkes and Royal Coleman				1100
Mrs Coleman			1 Merchant 1 story	1tyth	
Robt. L. White	H & Lot Wilkes	tenants			700
George Bell			1 shopkeeper	1tyth	

1822

Charles Lee Lot (not clear 400 or 600) Wolfe & Pitt vacant

Mordecai Miller lot Wolfe and Royal {same as 1821}

Michael Morris H & Lot Royal {same as 1821}

Hannah Jackson H & L “

Kitty Hamilton H & L “

Wester Hamilton H & L “

Wm Roberts H & L “

Wm. Waugh H & L “

1825

Records show Lot on Wolfe & Pitt Charles Lee's Estate-Vacant

Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church
(Known Earlier as Davis Chapel)
606-A South Washington Street

Oldest African American church building in Alexandria

Introduction

While searching for primary sources on the earliest African Americans in Alexandria I found that many also were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, later called Trinity Methodist Church (see appendix, Lynch 1993). I proceeded, therefore, to trace the inception of the African American Methodist Church (originally Davis Chapel) first through its parent church and later as an institution crucial to the growth of African American neighborhoods.

This information was gathered both from the county records and data available in Stukenbroecker 1976.

Time Line

1830: White church members Benjamin Waters, John Shackelford, Benoni Wheat, and Moses O.B. Cawood, and African American church members Francis Hoy, James Evans, Philip Hamilton, Moses Hepburn and Simon Turley buy a parcel of land at 400 N. Columbus Street, West Side, for the African American members of Trinity Methodist Church. Purchased from Sarah M. Griffith, the lot costs \$200.

1834: In response to the August 1831 Nat Turner Rebellion and objections of white members of Trinity Methodist Church over the N. Columbus St location of the black church, church members Waters, Shackelford, Wheat, Cawood, Hoy, Evans, Hamilton, Hepburn and Turley search for a new site for the church. They purchase a new lot in the 600 block of S. Washington Street, East Side, from Josiah H. Davis and his wife Sarah M. for \$350.

Current church building is erected and called Davis Chapel, after Rev. Charles A. Davis, the white pastor.

400 N. Columbus St. lot sold to Alexandria mayor William Veitch(?) for \$200 (see Deed Bk V2 1834).

1838: The Methodist Episcopal Church in Alexandria sends a petition to the Alexandria Common Council for the "privilege" of Davis Chapel members to worship without the presence of a white man.

- ca 1839: Church trustee Philip Hamilton and others purchase 2 acres from Robert Taylor to use as a church cemetery [*sic*]. Neighboring land owner Charles Murray files suit against Taylor, claiming that the local wells will be contaminated if corpses are buried on the lot. Although the suit is dismissed in 1844, the land is never used as a cemetery.
- 1845: Church renamed Roberts Chapel after deceased bishop Robert Richford, in response to Rev. Davis's aligning himself with the Southern Methodist Church over the slavery issue.
- 1846: Roberts Chapel school closed due to Alexandria's return to the state of Virginia and thus subject to existing laws prohibiting African Americans from attending school.
- 1862: Federal troops occupy Alexandria, and Roberts Chapel school is reopened with a school and Sunday school in the church, and a secular schoolhouse in the neighborhood. Missionaries from the north assist in the Sunday school.
- 1864: Roberts Chapel organizes the Washington Annual Conference, the first conference for African Americans in the Methodist Church.

Methodist Episcopal Church Property Deeds
(Parent Church of Davis Chapel)

Methodist Episcopal Church

Chapel Alley, South of 300 Block of Duke Street between Royal and Fairfax Streets

Taken from Stukenbroecker 1976, p. 77:

On June 16, 1789 "Bushby and his wife Mary granted to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church a piece of property described:

"Beginning at the distance of one hundred and thirty one feet one inch west of the line of Fairfax Street in the line of Chapel Alley and twenty four feet to the northward of the Presbyterian Meeting House lot or burying ground, running thence northwardly parallel to Fairfax Street, thirty three feet, then eastwardly parallel to Duke Street, forty three feet to Chapel Alley, then with the line of said alley thirty three feet to the beginning, together with the use of said alley."

Indenture of June 16, 1789

(No Deed Book quoted)

Trustees are identified as John Moss, William Adams, Samuel Adams, James Morrison, William Rhodes, William Watters and William Hickman. Moss, William Adams, Samuel Adams and Watters were residents of Fairfax. The Meeting House therefore would serve both Fairfax and Alexandria.

Ethelyn Cox notes that a frame Methodist Meeting House building was constructed on the west side of Chapel Alley, between 308 and 312 Duke Street. (1976:22)

Taken from Stukenbroecker 1976, p. 102

"In 1804 a new, larger, more commodious meeting house would be erected on Washington Street next door to the old George Mason hotel."

100 Block of S. Washington Street, East Side

June 24, 1803

Alexandria Circuit and Hustings Court Deed Book F 1803, p. 1 (Abridged by Anna Lynch)

Delivered to Isaac Robbins

This indenture made this twenty fourth day of June in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and three between William Hartshorne of the Town and County of Alexandria in the District of Columbia of the one part and Jacob Hoffman and Charles Slade, William Rhodes, Bernard Bryan, John Sloan, John Bryan and Henry Stanton Earle Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the Town of Alexandria of the other part.

Witnesseth that the said William Hartshorne for and in consideration of the sum of one thousand dollars in hand paid by the said Jacob Hoffman, Charles Slade, William Rhodes, Bernard Bryan, John Sloan, John Bryan and Henry Stanton Earle, hath granted, given, bargained, sold, aliened and confirmed unto them their heirs and successors in the Station of Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the said Town of Alexandria a piece of land situate, lying and being upon the East Side of Washington Street and to the North of Prince Street, beginning upon Washington Street one hundred and ten feet to the Northward of Prince Street and upon the North line of a ten foot alley and running thence northwardly with Washington Street and binding therewith sixty six feet seven inches more or less to the center of the square formed by Prince and King Streets, then Eastwardly with a line parallel to Prince and King Streets one hundred and twenty three feet, five inches, then Southwardly with a line parallel to Washington Street, the length of the first line of said alley and parallel to Prince and King Street Westwardly one hundred and twenty three feet to the beginning, the said premises being a part of a lott [*sic*] or half acre of ground granted by William Thornton Alexander and Lucy his wife unto the said William Hartshorne, subject to the payment of an annual rent of twenty two pounds three shillings to the said William Thornton Alexander and all Houses and Buildings, Streets, Lanes, Allies, Profits, Commodities, Hereditaments and Appurtenances whatsoever to the said premises belonging or in anywise appertaining and the reversions, remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof, to have and to hold said parcel of ground unto the said Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the said Town of Alexandria and in particular for the use of such Minister or Ministers as shall be from time to time appointed by the yearly conference held by the Ministers of the said Church at their general Conference in the United States of America to preach, expound and hear God's holy word in the building which may be erected thereupon for that purpose and no other, without the approbation of the Minister who has the charge of the church (for the time being). [Here follow the manner and procedure for appointing Ministers, filling vacancies etc.]...Provided always and it is hereby declared that in case at any future day it shall unfortunately happen any separation or division shall take place in the Methodist Episcopal Church in the said town of Alexandria in such case the premises hereby granted and every part of them and any improvements made thereupon shall continue and remain the property of that part of the said Society which shall adhere to the rules and discipline which shall from time to time be agreed upon and adopted by the Ministers of the said Church at their General Conference in the United States.

The trustees agree that they will execute and carry into effect the several trusts herein

contained, particularly that trust to supply and fill up the vacancies as they may happen in the body of trustees that a perpetual succession may be kept up in that body.

In witness thereof the several parties have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first herein before mentioned.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of

Benjamin Locke
Jms B. Paton
Jams W. Donaldson

Wm Hartshorne {seal}
Jacob Hoffman {seal}
Chas Slade {seal}
Wm Rhodes {seal}
Bernard Bryan {seal}
John Sloan {seal}
John Bryan {seal}
Henry S. Earle {seal}



Davis Chapel and Roberts Memorial Methodist Church Property Deeds

Davis Chapel Deeds

400 N. Columbus Street, West Side

July 22, 1830

Alexandria Court House Deed Book S2, p. 467 (Full Transcription. Italics indicate African American trustees)

Note on margin says:
Delivered to Isaac Robbie
by order of B. Waters Apr. 25, 1833

James Evans
et als Trustees of
Methodist Episcopal
Church, grantees
Griffith, Sarah,
grantor

Indenture of July 22 1830 between Sarah M. Griffith of Alexandria in D.C. of the first part and Benjamin Waters, John Shackelford, Benoni Wheat, Moses O. B. Cawood, *Francis Hoy, James Evans, Philip Hamilton, Moses Hepburn & Simon Turley* trustees in trust for the uses & purposes herein mentioned all of the same town & District of the second part. Witnesseth that the said Sarah Griffith for the sum of \$200 dollars to her in hand paid and upon the sealing & delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged hath given, granted bargained, sold, released confirmed and conveyed unto the said parties two lots of ground, distinguished by the No. 110 & 111 in the plat of the division of the estate of David Griffith deceased amongst his heirs, the 2 lots being on the West Side of Columbus Street between Princess and Oronoko [*sic*] Street and being both included within the following boundaries:

Beginning on Columbus St. at its intersection with the North line of Butcher and Paton's 5 acre lot, then North on Columbus Street 50 feet 3 inches, then West parallel to Princess St. 123 feet 5 inches, then South parallel to Columbus Street 50 feet 3 inches to the said Butcher & Paton's North line, then with that line East to the Beginning, To have and to hold all and singular the above mentioned lots unto them the said parties of the second part and their successors in office forever in Trust that they shall erect and build thereon a House or place of Worship for the use of the coloured members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States of America according to the rules and discipline which from time to time may be agreed upon and adopted by the Ministers and Preachers of the said Church at their general conferences in the United States of America; and in farther Trust and confidence that they shall at all times forever hereafter permit such Ministers and Preachers, belonging to the said Church, as shall from time to time be duly authorized by the general conference of the Ministers and Preachers of the said Methodist Episcopal Church or by the annual conferences authorized by the said General Conference to preach and expand God's holy word therein; and in further trust and confidence, that as often as any one or more of the trustees therein mentioned shall die or cease to be a member of the said Church, according to the rules aforesaid, in such case it shall be the duty of the stationed Minister or Preacher who shall have the pastoral charge of the members of the said Church to call a meeting of the remaining Trustees as soon as it is convenient and when the said Minister or Preacher shall proceed to nominate one or

more persons to fill the place or places of him or them whose office or offices have been vacated, provided the person or persons so nominated shall have been one year a member or members of the said Church, immediately preceding such nomination and be at least twenty one years of age, and the said Trustees so assembled shall proceed to elect and by a majority of votes appoint the person or persons so nominated to fill such vacancy or vacancies, in order to keep up the number of nine trustees forever, and in case of an equal number of votes for or against the said nomination the Minister or Preacher shall have the casting vote.

Provided nevertheless that if the said Trustees or any of them or their successors have advanced or shall advance any sum or sums of money or are or shall be responsible for any sum or sums of money on the account of the said premises and they, the said Trustees or their successors, be obliged to pay the said sums of money they or a majority of them shall be authorized to raise the said sum or sums of money by a mortgage on the said premises, after notice given to the Pastor or Preacher who has the oversight of this congregation attending divine service on the said premises, if the money due be not paid to the said Trustees or their successors within one year after such notice given, and if such sale take place the said Trustees or their successors, after paying the debt & other expenses which are due from the money arising from such sale shall deposit the remainder of the money procured by the said sale in the hands of the Steward or Stewards of the Society belonging to or attending divine service, on said premises; which surplus of the produce of such sale so deposited in the hands of said Steward or Stewards shall be at the disposal of the next annual conference authorized as aforesaid, which said annual conference shall dispose of the said money according to the best of their judgment for the use of the said Society and the said Sarah Griffith doth by these presents warrant and forever defend all and singular the before mentioned and described lots or their pieces of land with the appurtenances thereto belonging unto them the said parties of the second part and their successors, chosen and appointed as aforesaid from the claim or claims of all persons whatever. In Testimony whereof the said party of the first part has hereto set her hand & seal this day aforesaid.

Sealed & delivered in the presence of
Richard Shackelford
Joseph Smith
Thomas Williams

Sarah W. Griffith
Alex. 23rd July, 1830
Received of Benoni
Wheat the 200 dollars
for the above property

600 Block of South Washington Street, East Side

January 17, 1834

Corporation Court Book U2 1834, p. 557 (Italics indicate African American trustees)

Delivered to B. Wheat

This indenture made this seventeenth day of January in the year of our Lord 1834 between Josiah H. Davis and Sarah M. his wife of Alexandria in the District of Columbia of the first part and Benjamin Waters, John Shackleford, Benoni Wheat, Moses O. B. Cawood, *Francis Hoy, James Evans, Philip Hamilton, Moses Hepburn and Simon Turley*, Trustees in trust for the uses and purposes herein after mentioned, all of the same town and District of the second part. Witnesseth that the said Josiah H. Davis and his wife Sarah for & in consideration of the sum of three hundred and fifty dollars, to him in hand paid at and upon the sealing and delivering of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have given, granted, bargained, sold, released, confirmed and conveyed and by these presents do give, grant, bargain, sell, release, confirm and convey unto the said Benjamin Waters, John Shackleford, Benoni Wheat, Moses O. B. Cawood, Francis Hoy, James Evans, Philip Hamilton, Moses Hepburn and Simon Turley, parties of the second part, and their successors duly appointed under the provisions of the discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church Trustees in trust for the uses and purpose hereinafter mentioned and declared, all the estate, right, title, interest claim property and demand whatever either in law or equity, which they, the said Josiah H. Davis and Sarah his wife hath in and to one lot of ground in the said town of Alexandria which said lot is meted and bounded as follows. Beginning on the east side of Washington Street sixty feet from the intersection of Gibbon St. with Washington St., thence South on Washington St. 60 feet, thence East parallel with Gibbon St. 113 feet 5 inches to a 20 foot alley running through the center of the square from Gibbon to Franklin Street, which is always to be kept open for the common benefit of the property binding therein, thence on said alley and parallel with Washington Street North 60 feet, thence West parallel with Gibbon St. to the Beginning to have and to hold all and singular the above mentioned and described lot or piece of land unto them the said parties of the second part, and their successors in office forever in trust that they shall erect and build or cause to be erected and build thereon a house or place of worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America according to the rules and discipline which from time to time may be agreed upon and adopted by the ministers and preachers of the said Church at their General Conference in the United States of America and in further trust and confidence that they shall at all times thereafter permit such ministers and preachers belonging to the said Church, as shall from time to time be duly authorized by the General Conference for the ministers and preachers of the said Methodist Episcopal Church, or by the annual conference authorized by the said General Conference of the ministers and preachers of the said Methodist Episcopal Church, or by the Annual Conference authorized by the said General Conference to preach and expound God's Holy Word therein, to administer the sacraments, and to do all other things which may and of right ought to be done in order to the due and proper execution of the discipline of the said Methodist Episcopal Church, and in farther trust and confidence that as often as any one or more of the Trustees herein before mentioned shall die or cease to be a member or members of the said Church, according to the rules and discipline as aforesaid who shall have the pastoral charge of the members of the said

Church to call a meeting of the remaining Trustees as soon as conveniently may be and when so much met, the said minister or preacher shall proceed to nominate one or more persons to fill the place or places of him or them whose office or offices has or have been vacated as aforesaid: Provided, the person or persons so nominated shall have been one year a member or members of the said Church immediately preceding such nomination and be at least twenty one years of age, and the said Trustees so assembled shall proceed to elect and by a majority of votes, appoint the person or persons so nominated to fill such vacancy or vacancies in order to keep up the number of nine trustees forever, and in case of an equal number of votes for and against the said nomination, the stationed minister or preacher as aforesaid shall have the casting vote.

Provided, nevertheless, that if the said Trustees, or any of them, or their successors, have advanced or shall advance any sum or sums of money by a mortgage on the said premises, or by selling the said premises, after notice given to the said pastor or preacher, who had the oversight of the congregation attending divine services on the premises, if the money due be not paid to the said Trustees or their successors, within one year after such notice is given and if such sale take place, the said trustees or their successors, after paying the debt and other expenses which are due from the money arising from such sale, shall deposit the remainder of the money produced by the said sale, in the hands of the steward or stewards, belonging to or attending divine services on said premises, which surplus of the produce of such sale, so deposited, in the hands of the steward or stewards, shall be at the disposal of the next Annual Conference, authorized as aforesaid, which said annual conference shall dispose of the said money according to the best of their judgment for the use of the said society.

And the said Josiah H. Davis and Sarah his wife, do by these presents warrant and forever defend all and singular the before mentioned and described lot or piece of land, with the appurtenances rights and privileges thereto belonging unto them the said parties of the second part, and their successors chosen and appointed as aforesaid from the claim or demand of them, the said Josiah H. Davis and Sarah his wife their heirs and assigns, and from the claim or claims of all persons whatever.

In testimony whereof the said parties of the first part have hereto set their hands and seal, the day and year first above written

Signed, sealed & delivered
in presence of us
Rob. Monro

Josiah H. Davis
Sally N. Davis

John Creighton Thomas Davey

(Proved in Circuit Court of District of Columbia & held for the County of Alexandria May 8, 1834)

400 N. Columbus Street, West Side

May 12, 1834

Deed Book V2 1834, p. 20 (Italics indicate African American trustees)

James Evans *et als.*

Methodist Episcopal Church

Indenture of May 12, 1834 between Benjamin Waters, *Francis Hoy, James Evans, Philip Hamilton, Moses Hepburn, Simon Turley*, Trustees in trust on behalf of the Coloured members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the town of Alexandria & William Veitch of said town, in order to more certainly secure and maintain the object and design of their Trust and in consideration of the sum of 200 dollars to them in hand paid by the party of the second part do give grant & convey to him the party of second part 2 lots of ground Nos. 110 & 111 assigned to Sarah W. Griffith sold & conveyed by her as per Court Liber S No. 2 folio 467 & recorded in U.S. Circuit Court in District of Columbia on Nov. 10 - 1830, Two lots of ground lying on West side of Columbus St. between Princess and Oronoko [*sic*].

In testimony whereof the said parties of the first part have hereto set their hands & seals on this 12th day of May, 1834

Signed, sealed
and delivered in
the presence of
Wm. H. Shirley
John L. Pascoe
C. A. Davis

Benjm Waters
John Shackleford
Benoni Wheat
Moses OB. Cawood
Francis X Hoy
James Evans
Philip Hamilton
Moses Hepburn
Simon Turley



*African American Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church
(Appendix 2 from Lynch 1993)*

From early records of the Trinity United Methodist Church, Alexandria, VA.
Courtesy of Alexandria Black History Resource Center

African American Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Alse	Member, female, 4/1803.
Anderson, Henson	Class #4, 1806. Excluded 1806.
Baley, Benjamin	Member, male, 9/1805. See "Bayley, Benj."
Banks, Nancy	Member, female, 1806. Class #4, 1806.
Banks, Scinthia	Member, female, 1806. Class #4, 1806.
Barron, Jenney	Member, female, 11/1803.
Batson, Offee[sic]	Member, female, 5/1803 & 1806.
Bayley, Benjamin	Member, male, 2/20/1806. See also "Baley."
Bell, Charlotte	Member, female, 1806.
Bell, Judah	Member, female, January 30, 1803.
Bell, Judy	Member, female, 1806.
Benn, Phillis	Member, female, 1/30/1803.
Betty	Member, female, 1806.
Bland, Alsey	Member, March, 1803.
Bland, Mary	Member, female - Deceased 4/1803.
Bounere(?), Harmon	Member, male, 2/20/1806.
Brenson, Benjamin	Member, male, 1806.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Brent, Moses	Member, male, 1806.
Brogden, George	Member, male 1805.
Brooks, Judah	Member, female, 11/1803.
Brooks, Judy	Member, female, 1806.
Brooks, Molly	Member, female, 1806.
Brooks, Scinthea	Member, female, 1/30/1803.
Brown, Benjamin	Member, male, 1806.
Brown, Fanny	Member, female, 11/1803.
Brown, Jinny	Member, female, 1/30/1803.
Brown, Polley	Member, female, 1806.
Bryan, Bernard	"Black Class," probably 1802. Leader, Class #7, 1806.
Bryan, Dinah	Member, female, 1/30/1803.
Butler, Patty	Class #4, 1806.
Butter, Patty	Member, female, 1806 (see Butler, Patty).
Butter, Tabitha	Member, female - Removed 1/30/1803.
Cammell, Sally	Member, female, 1/30/1803.
Campbell, Sally	Member, female, 1806.
Careless, Caty (name not clear)	Member, female, 1806.
Carter, Nancy	Member, female, 1/30/1803.
Carter, Polly	Member, female, 1806.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Cato, negro	Member, male, 1806.
Caty	Member, female, 4/1803 & 1806.
Chapman, Jinny	Member, female, 4/1803.
Chinn, Letty	Expelled for immorality, 2/24/1806.
Chloe	Class #8, 1806.
Cleary	Member, female, 1816.
Coale, Betty	Member, female, 1806.
Cole, Tabitha	Member, female, 1/30/1803.
Coleman, George	Member, male, 1806.
Collin, Lucy	Member, female, 2/1803.
Collins, Susan	Member, female, 2/1803.
Con, Nancy	Member, female, 1806.
Cooke, Nancy	Member, female, 1806.
Cooms, Esther	Member, female, 2/1803.
Corn, Nancy	Member, female, 2/1803.
Crier, Benjamin	Member, male, 1806.
Crier, Rebeckah	Member, female, 1806. Class #3, 1806, excluded.
*Curtis, Rachel	Member, female, 5/1803.
Daley, Jinney	Member, female, 1806.
Darnold, Henry	Member, male, 1806.
Darvel, Aimy	Member, female, 1806.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Darvel, Amey	Member, female, 2/20/1803.
Darvel, James	Class #2, 1806.
Davenport, Rachel	Member, female, 1/30/1803 & 1806.
Davis, Louisa	Member, female, 1/30/1803.
Davis, Lucy	Member, female, 2/1803 & 1806.
Davis, Robert	Member, male, 9/1805 & 2/20/1805.
Dawel, James	Member, male, 1806.
Dawson, Eve	Member, female, 2/1803 & 1806.
Deneal, ?	"Black Class" Probably 1802.
Deneale, Sally	Member, female, 4/1803 & 1806.
Dennis	Member, male, 1806. Class #2, 1806.
Dinah	Class #8, 1806.
Dodsle, Walter	Member, male, 1805.
Dodson, Matt	Member, male, 2/20/1806.
Dove, Nancy	Member, female, 1806.
Dover, Samuel	Member, male, 1806.
Eddick, Caty	Member, female, 1/30/1803.
Edrick, George	Member, male, 1806.
Edrick, Judy	Class #8, 1806.
Else	Member, female, 1806.
Eucless, Caty	Class #7, 1806.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Exes, Jinny	Member, female, 4/1803.
Farmer, Milly	Member, female, 1/30/1803.
Fershields, Terra	Member, female - Deceased 4/1803.
Fields, Mima	Member, female - Removed 1803.
Fitzgerald, ?	"Black Class," Probably 1802.
Fitzgerald, Charlotte	Member, female, 4/1803, 1806.
Fitzgerald, Eleanor	Member, female, 1806.
Fitzgerald, George	Member, male, 1806.
Fitzjoils, Nelly	Member, female, 4/1803.
Flood, James	Leader, Class #5, 1806.
Forrester, Jinny	Member, female, 1806.
Frankey,	Member, female, 1806 (possibly Frankey McIntosh, Madeline Green's direct ancestor).
Gibson, Sarah	Member, female, 1/30/02, 1806.
Giles	Member, male, 1806.
Glasgow, George	Member, male, 5/1805, 1806.
Gramson, Prissa	Member, female, 4/1803.
Grant, Libby	Member, female, 1806.
Grason, George	Member, male, 1806. Class #2, 1806.
Gray, Charlotte	Member, female, 1806.
Guster	Member, male, 2/20/1806.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Hafty, Abram	Class #5, 1806.
Hafty (?), Sarah	Member, female, 1806. Class #5, 1806.
Hall, Priscilla	Class #8, 1806.
Hambleton, Betsy	Member, female, 1804.
Hammilton, Hannah [<i>sic</i>]	Class #7, 1806.
Hander, Mima	Member, female, 1/30/1803.
Handless, Elisia	Member, female, 2/1803.
Handless, Nima (?)	Member, female, 1806.
Hannah	Member, female, 1/30/1803.
Harris, Charity	Member, female, 3/1803.
Harris, Nace	Member, male, 1806.
Harris, Polley	Member, female, 1806.
Harry	Member, male, February 1806.
Henny	Member, female—Left society 1/30/1803.
Hersiford, Patty	Member, female, 4/1803.
Higman, Daniel	“Black Class.” Probably 1802. Member, male, 1806. Class #7, 1806.
Hines, Charles	Member, male, 1806.
Hines, Penny	Member, female, 1804.
Hopkins, Hannah	Member, female, 1806.
Hoy, Frances	Member, male, 1806.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Hoy, Nelly	Member, female, 1806.
Hubbard, Dyere	Member, male, 2/20/1806.
Humphreys, Mary	Member, female, 1802.
Hunt, ?	"Black Class." Torn manuscript, probably 1802
Hunt, Hannah	Member, female, 1802, 1806.
Hunt, Robert	Member, male, 1806.
Jackson, ?	"Black Class," Probably 1802.
Jackson, Dafney	Member, female, 4/1803, 1806.
Jackson, Henny	Member, female, 1/1804.
Jackson, Henry	Member, male, 1806.
Jackson, Wall	Member, male, 1806.
James, Nancy	Member, female, 1806.
Jenkins, Hannah	Member, female, 1804, 1806.
Jenney	"Black Class," 1802. "Removed," 1803.
Jinny	Member, female, 1806.
John, Ben	"Black Class." Probably 1802. Member, male, 1806.
Johns, Daniel	Member, male, 5/1805, 1806.
Johnson [<i>sic</i>]	Member, male, 5/1805.
Johnson, John	Member, male, 1806.
Johnson, Mary	Member, female, 1806.
Johnson, Sooky	Member, female, 1806.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Johnston, Jinny	Member, female, 1/30/1803.
Joseph	Member, male, 1806.
Joseph, Sarah	Member, female, 1806. Class #4, 1806 (see Joseph).
Julius, Thomas	Member, male, 1806.
Keeler, Jesse	Member, male, 1806.
Kellis, Kitty	Member, female, 4/1803.
Kitty	"Black Class." 7/18/1802 (Baptism date?).
Laboon, Hammond	Member, male, 1805.
Lee, Lucy	Member, female, 2/18/1803, 1806.
Lee, Nelly	Member, female, 4/1803.
Lee, Philip	Member, male, 5/1805, 1806.
Letty, negro	Member, female, 1806.
Lewes	Member, male, 5/1805.
Lewis	Member, male, 2/20/1806.
Lilly	Member, female, 4/1803.
Loggins, Peter	Member, male, 1806.
Loggins, Sarah	Member, female, 1806.
Lomax, Lukey	Member, female, 2/1803.
Love, Betsy	Member, female, 3/1803.
Love, Susan	Member, female, 3/1803.
Lovely, Phillis	Member, female, 4/1803.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Lucy	Class #8, 1806.
McCon, Hannah	Member, female, 1806. Class #4, 1806.
Mack(e?), Rose	Member, female, 1802.
Macke, Rosetta	Member, female, 1806.
Mandel, John G.	Leader, Class #8, 1806.
Manta, Ulsey	Member, female, 2/1803. See "Manton, Phillis"
Manta, Usa	Member, female, 1806.
Manton, Phillis	Member, female, 2/1803.
Margaret	Class #8, 1806.
Mariann	Class #5, 1806.
Mary	Member, female, 1806.
Mary Ann	Member, female, 3/1803, 1806.
Mason, Priscilla	Member, female, 1806.
Minor, James	Member, male, 5/1805, 2/20/1806.
Minor, Nancy	Member, female, 1806. Class #3, 1806.
Morris, Nicey	Member, female, 1/30/1803.
Morris, Susanna	Member, female, 1806.
Moxley, Charlotte	Member, female, 4/1803, 1806.
Mox(?)ley, ?	"Black Class." Probably 1802.
Natt	Member, male, 1806.
Nice (?), Morris	Member, female, 1806.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Neal, Lucy	Member, female, 1/30/1803, 1806.
Neal, Silby	Member, female, 1806.
Oxley, Jimney	Class #7, 1806.
Parker, Polly	Member, female, 1806.
Parris, Polly	Member, female, 4/1803.
Parsons, Looky	Member, female, 1806.
Parsons, Lukey	Member, female, 11/1803.
Peggey	Class #8, 1806.
Penelope	Member, female, 1806. Class #3, 1806.
Penny	Member, female, 1806.
Pfeffer, Edward	Member, male, 2/20/1806.
Phillips, Nancy	Member, female, 1806.
Phillis	Member, female, 1806.
Piggins, Benjamin	Member, male, 1806.
Pleasants, James	Member, male, 1806.
Plissey, Edward	Member, male, 5/1805.
Posey, Pompey	Member, male, 1806.
Posey, Richard	Member, male, 9/1805.
Primus, Pompey	Member, male, 2/20/1805.
Prince	Member, male, 1806.
Rachel	Member, female, 1806.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Randal, Sarah	Class #5, 1806.
Randal, Siro	Member, male, 1806.
Rebechah	Member, female, 1806.
Richards, Priscilla	Member, female, 1806, 1806.
Robinson, Nancy	Member, female, 3/1803, 1806.
Rose	"Black Class." 7/18/1802 (Baptism Date?)
Roundel, Sarah(?)	"Black Class," Probably 1802.
Roundless, Sarah	Member, female, 1806.
Russel, Molly(?)	Member, female, 11/1803.
Russell, Milly	Member, female, 1806.
Ruston, Solomon	Class #6, 1806, from County, August 23, 1806.
Saber, Sarah	Member, female, 4/1803.
Samuel	Class #8, 1806.
Schofield, Andrew	Member, male, 5/1805.
Scinthea	Member, female, 1804.
Self, James	Class #8, 1806.
Sellers(?), Fanny	Member, female, 1802.
Shankley, James	Class #4, 1806.
Shankley, Thomas	Member, male, 1806.
Shields, John	Member, male, 1806.
Silah	Member, female, 1806.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Simmons, Polly	Member, female, 3/1803.
Sinclair, Fanny	Member, female, 1806. Class #4, 1806.
Sinclair, Maria	Member, female, 1/30/1803, 1806.
Sinclair, Winney	Member, female, 1/30/1803.
Smith, Betty	Member, female, 1806.
Smith, Elizabeth	Member, female, 4/1803.
Smith, Liddy	Member, female, 4/1803.
Smith, Nancy	Member, female, 1806.
Snowden, Olivia	Member, female, 1806.
Solomon, Esther	Member, female, 2/1803.
Solomon, Sarah	Member, female, 1806.
Sophia	Member, female, 1806.
Spiess, Kitty	Member, female, 1806.
Spriggs, Caty	Member, female, 2/1803.
Spriggs, Kitty	Class #6, 1806.
Squire	Member, male 1805, 1806.
Steward, Onice	Member, female, 1/30/1803.
Sumby, Letty	Member, female, 1806. Class #3, 1806.
Tate, Mary	Member, female, 2/1803.
Taylor, Coburn	Member, male, 5/1805.
Thomas	Member, male, 2/20/1806.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Thomas, William	2/20/1806.
Thompson [<i>sic</i>]	Member, male, 1806.
Thompson, Abram	Member, male, 1806.
Thompson, Betsey	Member, female, 1806.
Thompson, George	Member, male, 1806.
Tobias	Member, male, 6/1805. Class #5, 1806.
Tollinson, A.	Member, male, 1806.
Townson, A. [<i>sic</i>]	Member, male, 2/20/1806. Class #8, 1806.
Triplet, Bitsey	Member, male, 1806.
Triplet, Cesar	Member, male, 1806.
Triplet, Stephen	Member, male, 1806.
Triplett, Rachel	Member, female - Removed 1/30/1803.
Tylor, James	Member, male, 1806. Class #5, 1806.
Tylor, Silvey	Member, female, 11/1803.
Tylor, Sylvia	Member, female, 1806.
Umphreys, Jinny	Member, female, 1/30/1803.
Umphreys, Lukey	Member, female, 2/1803.
Umphreys, Milly	Member, female, 1806.
Umphreys, Nance	Member, female, 2/1803.
Umphreys, Samuel	Member, male, 1806.
Umphries, Jenny	Member, female, 1806.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Umphries, Susan	Member, female, 1806.
Valluntine, Latty	Member, female, 2/1803.
Vernom, Milly	Member, female, 1806. Class #4, 1806.
Vietch, William	Leader, Class #6 (White?).
War, Mary	Member, female, 1806.
War(Wau?), Pender	Member, male, 1806. See "Waa" and "Uaa".
Ware, Nancy	Class #3, 1806.
Ware, Pinda	Member, female, 3/1803.
Watts, Adam	Member, male, 1806.
Waugh, William	Member, male, 1806.
Weston, Lewis	Member, male, 1806.
Whitten, Sarah	Member, female, 1806.
Williams, Betsy	Member, female, 1806.
Williams, Betty	Member, female, 1803.
<u>Williams,</u> (Williams?, ?)	"Black Class." Probably 1802.
Williams, Harriett	Member, female, 11/1803.
Williams, Lucy	Member, 4/1803.
Windy	Member, female, 1806.
Wise, Jesse	Member, male, 9/1805, 2/20/1806.
Wood, Lucy	Member, female, 1806. Class #6. Excluded Aug. 7, 1806.

Name

Comments

Young, Milly

Member, female, 1/30/1803.

Young, Nelly

Member, female, 1806.

Petition by the Methodist Episcopal Church to Common Council for Davis Chapel Members to Congregate Lawfully, 1838

Memorial to Request Blacks Be Permitted to Worship
Without the Presence of a White Man

For the President and Common Council of the Town of Alexandria.

Gentlemen,

The undersigned being appointed by the Quarterly Meeting Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Alexandria to memorialize your honorable body respecting the altering of a law of the Corporation relating to the religious worship of the coloured people among you, beg leave respectfully to represent that a large portion of the coloured population of your town have erected on Washington Street a commodious house for the purpose of publicly worshipping Almighty God, but are often prevented therein by the existence of the law requiring the presence of a white man duly authorized by the Church or her Ministers to Superintend at their meetings.

This house of worship is under the special charge of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the members attached to it are in Christian fellowship with those of the white Church, it is very gratifying to your memorialists to have it in their power to inform you that they give the most satisfactory evidence of their willingness and determination to be obedient to the discipline of the M. E. Church and the laws of the Corporation. From the inability of the minister in charge to get a proper person at all times to preside at their meetings as required by the Law, renders their situation exceedingly unfortunate.

The general superintendance of the Church is under a special white Minister appointed at stated periods by the Baltimore Annual Conference and all that your memorialists pray for is that this Minister may have the privilege [*sic*] of permitting them to meet for worship according to the regulations of the Methodist Episcopal Church without being compelled to appoint a white man to meet with them and are thoroughly convinced of the propriety of their course by finding slaves subject to religion decidedly more easily managed and more faithful to the discharge of their duties.

Your memorialists have the greatest confidence in the good will which characterized the religious part of your --(illegible) coloured community. The influence which religion exercises, the instruction they receive from their white brethren, which teaches them to be dutiful and obedient to their masters and subject to the laws of our country as taught by the Gospel itself, the respectability which they, as good upright Christians attain to and the zeal with which they try to promote morality among their own colour, give the strongest evidence that no fear need be entertained for the peace and happiness of our citizens.

So beneficial is the influence of religion among the slaves of our country, particularly in the Southern States, that almost daily we hear of solicitations being made to the Episcopal Church to establish Churches or classes for worship among the slaves employed upon the rice and indigo plantations. There are now in the South eight or ten Missionaries who are constantly spreading the truth of the Bible among the Blacks and we are happy to say that their masters sanction such proceeding and are thoroughly convinced of the propriety of their course by finding slaves subject to religion decidedly more easily managed and more faithful to the discharge of their duties.

Your memorialists must respectfully pray that no obstacle will be thrown in the way of the

petition, but that you will cordially respond to its cry without conflicting
[the rest is too faded to read and is illegible. It consists of three lines followed by hard-to-read
signatures, which seem to be]

Wm Vertch (possibly Wm Veitch, the mayor)
Benj Waters
John J. Pasen

*Proposed African American Graveyard in Spring Garden Farm
by "Phillip Hamilton and Others"*

Block bounded by Jefferson, Green, Fayette and Henry Streets

Circa 1839, Phillip [also Philip] Hamilton, a trustee of Davis Chapel, and others purchased land from Robert Taylor (see figure 2) to use as a cemetery. Wesley Pippenger's book, *Tombstone Inscriptions of Alexandria*, vol. 3 (1992:15-16), states that the two acres were never used as a cemetery due to complaints and legal action taken by neighboring land owner Charles Murray against Taylor. Murray claimed that local wells would be contaminated if dead were buried on the intended lot and objected to "the disagreeable nuisance of a graveyard immediately under the windows of a dwelling house."

This information originally came to the attention of Alexandria Archaeology when the *Murray vs. Taylor* map notes were transcribed. No one has located the deeds of the transaction; thus the court case is the only evidence to date.

Pippenger's account of the court records provides insight into the society of the time and the difficulties facing African Americans in establishing institutions (Fairfax County Chancery, File CFF#63N, *Charles Murry v. Robert I. Taylor*, dated October 9, 1839). Pippenger writes: "Murray claimed that Hamilton was an agent and representative of a certain unincorporated and illegal congregation or association of free negroes and slaves in the said town of Alex^a purporting to be a religious congregation of the Methodist persuasion, to use the lot as a burial place of the deceased negro members of the said association."

Many tried trading land with Hamilton, buying the land and establishing the cemetery next to Christ Church burial ground off Wilkes Street. Murray stated that he was "astonished at the obstinacy and bad faith of the said negroes."

The suit was dismissed in 1844. No records have been found certifying that Hamilton or other Davis Chapel trustees ever did establish a separate graveyard. Today this land contains the Nonnie J. Lee Center, a recreation center for the City of Alexandria.

Philip Hamilton's gravestone can be found in the Trinity United Methodist Church Cemetery, established by the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1808 (Pippenger, 1992, Vol. 1, p. 127). His stone reads: "Died April 16th 1862 in the 80th year of his age Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall

see God.” No other Davis Chapel African American trustees are represented by gravestones in the Trinity Cemetery. Their resting places are unknown at this time.

Trustee Profile: Philip Hamilton, laborer (1782?-1862)

This information is gleaned from Lynch (1993, 1995, 2000)

ca. 1782: Philip Hamilton is born.

date unknown: marries Catherine Roberts.

dates unknown: Catherine Hamilton gives birth to Ellen and Prince.

date unknown: Philip Hamilton purchases lot for house at 410 S. Royal.

1819-1841: Catherine Hamilton listed as a renter in house at 410 S. Royal; thus, Hamilton and his wife lived apart.

1820: Catherine Hamilton is emancipated by free black William Roberts, who describes her as "my slave and my sister," and lives at 412 S. Royal.

Catherine Hamilton rents lot located on East side of Royal to Mordecai Miller for \$20 per year.

1824-25: Ellen and Prince Hamilton are slaves to Mrs. Herbert.

1825: Philip Hamilton lives in the home of Monica Bell at 424 S. Royal and is listed as "a slave to Colin Auld." He also is listed in the 1825 tax records as a slave of Edward Pleasants and living in Pleasants's house on Royal St.

ca. 1826-1827: Philip Hamilton is freed by Auld.

1830: Philip Hamilton buys a cow; joins with other Davis Chapel trustees to purchase lot at 400 N. Columbus for church.

1834: Philip Hamilton purchases a lot for \$175 from Josiah H. and Sally Davis that is located on the East side of Washington St.; joins with other Davis Chapel trustees to purchase lot at 600 S. Washington as a response to objections over use of the N. Columbus site.

ca. 1839: Philip Hamilton, with other trustees of Davis Chapel, purchases a lot for use as an African American cemetery. Opposition from a neighboring landowner thwarts the plan.

April 16, 1862: Philip Hamilton dies and is buried in Trinity United Methodist Church cemetery. He leaves his house at 410 S. Royal and other real estate to his wife Catherine.

Trustee Profile: Moses Hepburn, businessman and farmer (1809-1861)

This information is gleaned from Calvit (1994) and Lynch (1993, 1995, 2000)

1809: Moses Hepburn born to William Hepburn, a wealthy white businessman who owned Hepburn and Dundass Tobacco Warehouse, and Esther, William's slave and mistress.

1816: Moses, his mother and siblings are sold to his aunt Hannah Jackson, Esther's sister and a free black washerwoman. Hannah frees them 11 days later.

1817: William Hepburn's will provides for Moses's education and bequeathes to him land, his house, and his other properties in the city of Alexandria, making Moses a wealthy man. Although William Hepburn wishes his son to be educated in Philadelphia, it is unlikely that Moses went, probably because of a law prohibiting African Americans educated outside of Virginia from returning to the state.

date unknown: Moses marries Amelia Braddock.

ca. 1834: Amelia gives birth to daughter Prudence C.

ca. 1836: Amelia gives birth to son Moses G.

1837: Moses elected the first president of the L.T. Morgan Colored Missionary Society Chapel, a group raising funds for missionary work in Africa.

ca. 1841: Amelia gives birth to son Thomas.

ca. 1844: Amelia gives birth to daughter Julia A.

1849: Amelia gives birth to son Arthur W.

1850: Moses buys lots at 206-212 N. Pitt Street for \$700 from their Quaker owner Robert Miller. In 1850 federal census, he is listed as literate.

1851: Moses buys lots between Patrick and Cameron streets from Richard and Selenia Tubman.

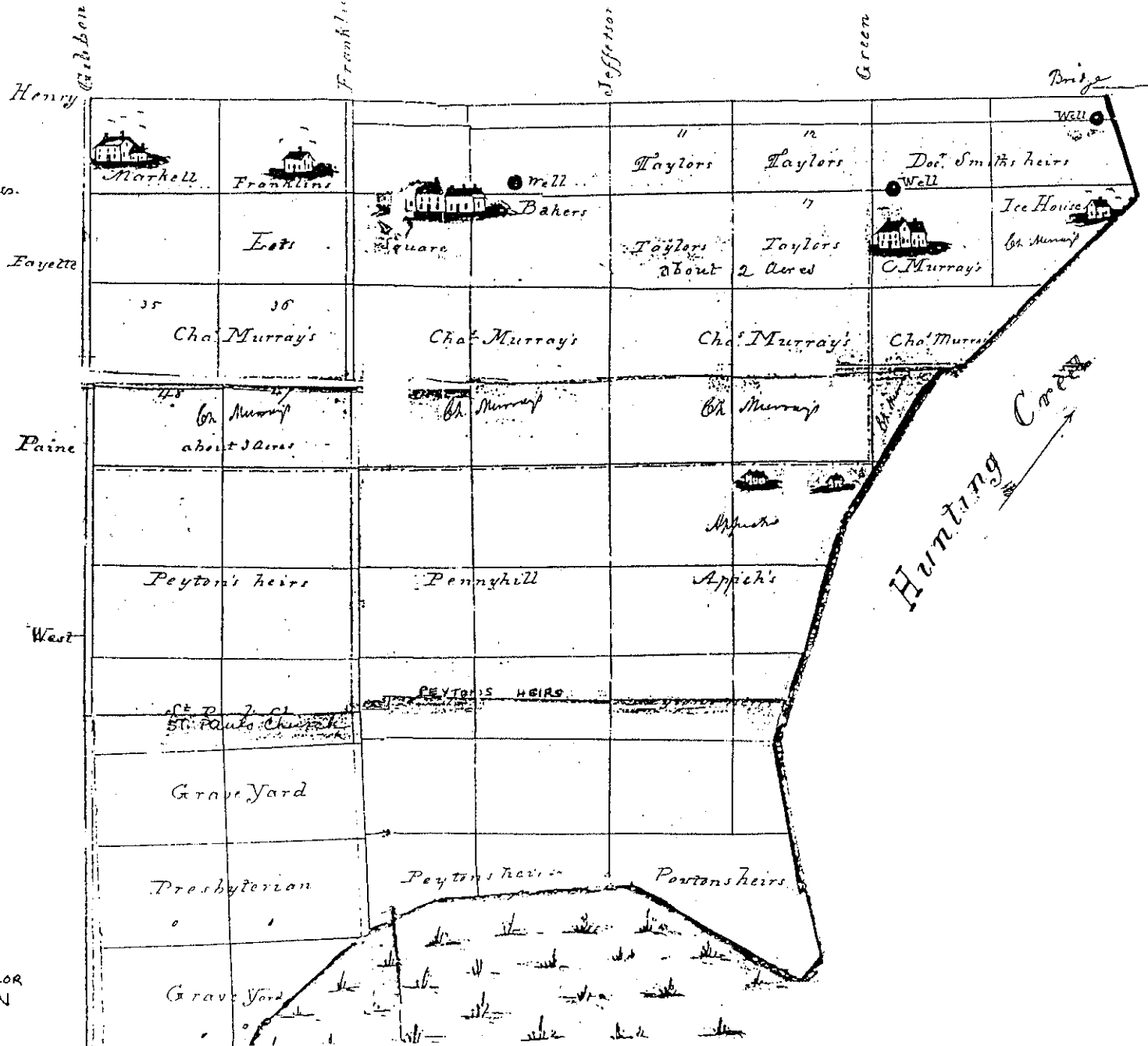
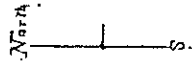
1853: Moses sells three pieces of property to his daughter Prudence for \$1.

1856: Moses buys back the three pieces of property from his daughter Prudence for \$1.

late 1850s: Moses moves to West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Dec. 1860-Jan. 1861: Moses dies. His will gives Amelia one third of his estate, the remaining portion bequeathed to his children.

A



1839 Taylor Map - Figure 2



A Transcription of the Notes on the 1839 Taylor Map

The squares are subdivided into four lots and at present belong to those whose names are thereon written. Lots 11, 12, 17, and 18 comprise the square containing about 2 acres which Robert J. Taylor has sold to Phillip Hamilton and others and which they purchased to be made use as a grave yard for people of color. Lots 35, 36, 47 and 48 is the square that Chas. Murray offered in exchange for square No. 11, 12, 17 and 18. The well noted on the square of Baker's, the well on the square of Dr. Smith's heirs (the latter down to the bank) and the well on Chas. Murray's lot are supplied by the same vein of water. These three wells are the only fountains of good water on all the squares and parts of squares represented on this plot or map. Franklin, Gibbon and Paine [*sic*] lanes are the only streets, or lanes, open among the squares represented on this map.

Beer's lot alluded to in the bill is not on this map, nor is the grave yard of Christ Church as the[y are] both laying in a northwest course from (the second square from) the Presbyterian grave yard marked here. . . .

9th October 39

C.M.

--Transcriber's notes are in square brackets. ---PKM, 6/16/89

--The map included here has been reproduced with permission from Pippenger.

Responses to Edmund Jennings Lee's Inquiry to Local Churches, 1831

Introduction

I have included information in this volume from a microfilm at the Lloyd House Library in Alexandria (number 005801) consisting of Alexandria City Council Records.

This microfilm has provided some additional information on African Americans worshipping in Alexandria churches in 1831 and regulations pertaining to African Americans assembling for religious purposes and worshipping without a white man present.

It is important to know the context in which Edmund Jennings Lee wrote to the Alexandria churches concerning the number of African American members. In August 1831 the Nat Turner Rebellion electrified Virginia. Although a part of the District of Columbia, white Alexandrians were affected by the event and pervasive fears of slave revolts. Similarly, Alexandria's black population feared white reactions.

The 1831 petition to Common Council attests to white concerns and their desire to enforce and make more laws to reduce the congregation of blacks in town for religious purposes.

Responses to Edmund Jennings Lee's Inquiry to Local Churches (No evidence of Lee's inquiry has yet come to light)

p. 5

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Oct. 7 1831

Dear ---,

In answer to the first inquiry in your communication, I have to reply that we have excellent accommodations reserved in St. Paul's Church for many more people of colour than at present attend our worship wereto [*sic*] necessary one entire gallery could be for their use.

To the second we have only four communicants to the third we had until within two weeks past a very excellent and well managed Sunday school of blacks where reading and religious instruction were imparted

Very (Respectfully)

Your -----

(Mr.) Johnson (?)

To. E. J. Lee Esqr.

Alex a (?) Oct. 7th. 1831

(Dear Sir)

I send this note in answer to your communication of the 5th inst.

- 1st There are no coloured persons belonging to our church in this town.
- 2nd In our house of public worship, there are free seats for the use of such coloured persons as may be disposed to worship with us.
- 3rd There are no schools of any kind, attached to our society, for the instruction of slaves, free negroes or mulattoes.

Yours Very respectfully,

Alexandria 10th Mo 6th 1831

The Elders of Alexandria Monthly meeting of Friends, direct me to inform the Committee of Council that we have a meeting house large enough to accommodate double the number of members who belong to the Society of this place. That we admit (sober) people of any denomination or colour to come and set with us in our meetings for worship.

We have no Coloured persons who are members of the Society nor are there any Coloured persons who regularly attend meetings. We have no Schools, or school for the instruction of any description of Coloured persons

Geo. Drinker

Alexandria October 7th 1831

My Dear Sir,

To comply with your request I respectfully submit the following / your three interrogations of the 5th (instant)

1. There are seats in the Catholic Church for all people of colour, that belong to it.
2. In my opinion, there are not more than twenty coloured persons belonging to the Congregation, with the (exception) of Maryland.
3. There are no Schools attached to the Congregation for either Slaves, free negroes, or

mulattoes, but they are taught their prayers and Catechism publicly in the Church every Sunday.

I remain with my compliments of respect and esteem

Your --- ----

John Smith

p. 9

First Presbyterian Church

Alexa. Oct-7th-1831

Dear Sir

You ask me 1st Whether there are seats in the house appropriated for public worship by the congregation of which you are the Pastor, for the use of such people of color as profess to belong to your denomination of Christians who may attend there?

Answered - there are

2. How many people of color do in your opinion profess to be attached to your Society?

Answer - Not more than ten or twelve.

3. Are there attached to your Society, schools of any kind for either slaves or free negroes or mulattoes - and what kinds of instruction is given at such schools?

Answer - There are no colored schools of any kind attached to our society.

Very Respectfully Yours,

Elias Harri(sen)

E.J.Lee Esq.

P. 10

Episcopal Methodist Church

Alexa. October 7th [1831]

Dear Sir

In reply to your inquiries I beg leave to state

1st There are seats in our house of worship exclusively appropriated to the use of such people of colour as are attached to our church or wish to attend under our ministry.

2nd There are about two hundred and twenty three people of colour attached to our church - the seats assigned them will contain from three hundred to three hundred and fifty.

3rd There are no schools attached to our society that I am apprised of for the instruction either of slaves or free people of colour.

Your respectfully,

-- Wilson

Alexandria Octr. 8th 1831

Dear Sir

In reply to your first inquiry I have to say that there are seats in our house of worship appropriated to the use of the coloured people—many more than they occupy. In reply to your second inquiry, -that there are about twelve of this description of people connected with our church.

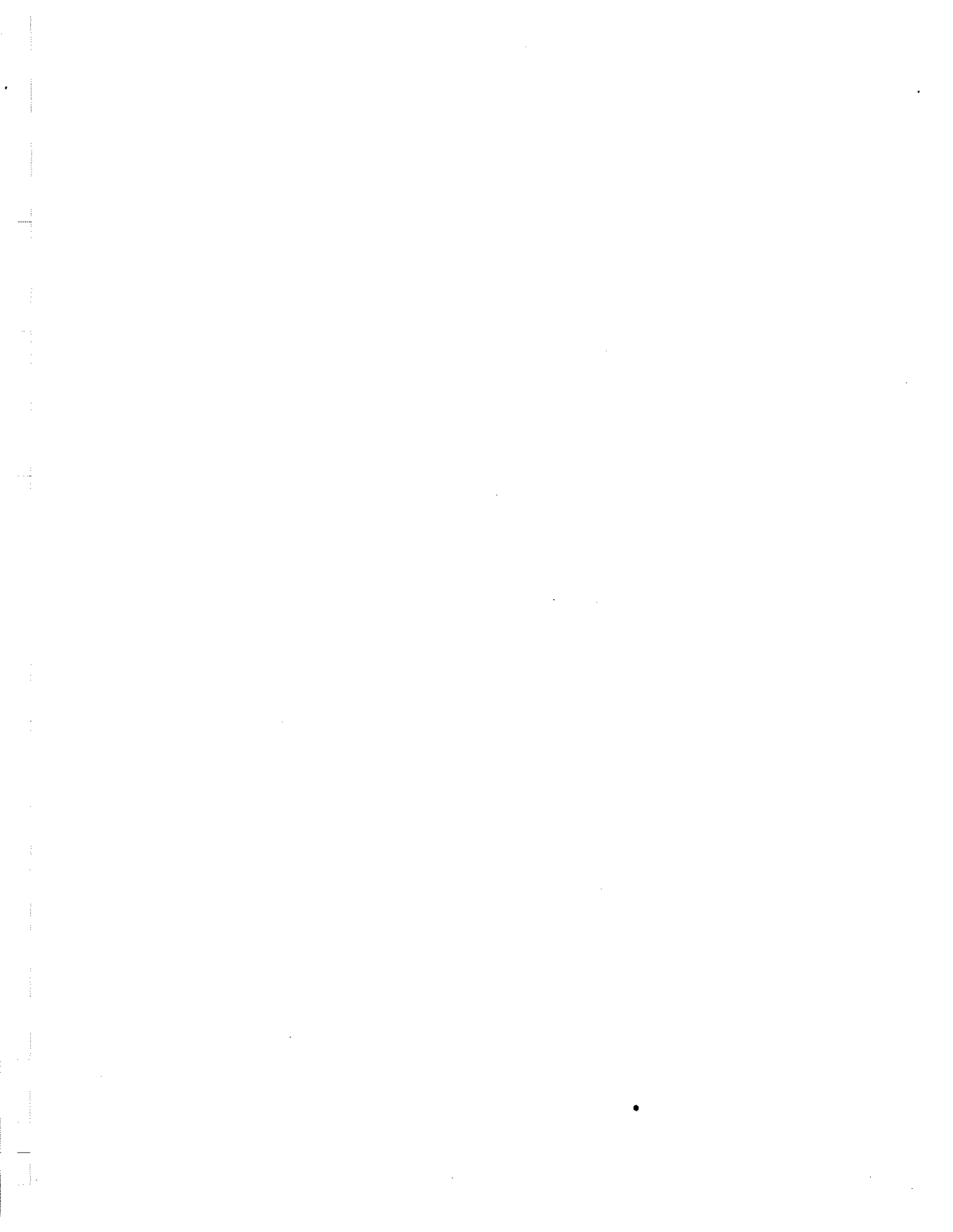
To your third inquiry, that there are no schools among us at this time for slaves or free people of color.

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

---. (Matton)

to. Edm. J. Lee Esq.





Letter to the Common Council of Alexandria, 1831

(no complete date listed, but probably after the Nat Turner Rebellion, August 1831)

To the Common Council of Alexandria

The Memorial of the undersigned citizens of the Corporation of Alexandria respectfully shows....

That the practices and conduct of the people of color within the limits of the Corporation added to the increase in their number by migration into the town from adjoining states and cities of the District, have engaged their services and anxious thoughts. They have beheld with concern their frequent nightly meetings ostensibly for various purposes—some for amusement and some for religious worship as they say—your Memorialists are far from wishing the people of color to be deprived of any reasonable indulgence, either for recreation or religious worship yet such is (as sad experience elsewhere has proved) the unfortunate state of society as to persons of this description, that it is the bounden duty of the people of this place to have some guard attached to the habits and practices of these people. They particularly refer to the defect in either the existing laws, or in the administration of them. It is too notorious that there is not a night in which there are not assemblies of coloured persons, some of which are professedly for religious purposes. Your Memorialists respectfully solicit that the Common Council would cause a particular inquiry to be made into the existing laws relating to unlawful assemblies of people of color, and also into the habit of holding these meetings, and that they would pass such laws touching the subject as shall seem to them consistent with the power vested in them by the Charter, and as may have the effect of preventing in future all improper meetings of the colored people within the limits of the Corporation.

All which is respectfully Submitted,

N. Heene

Wm. B. Toilson

James Lindsay

Robt. Blachlock

John H. (Aus.)

John Lloyd

Alex Moore

Joseph Manderville

Geo. Johnson

James McGuire

R. I Mileny (? Maloney?)

James (Jmv)

Geo Bron (C)

William Page

(Three more pages of signatures, most of which are illegible but there is a note stating,...

Memorial Respecting the people of Color. Committee, Mr. (Mason), Mr. Taylor, Mr. Lee, Mr. Smoot, 1831_ see below)

1831

Ordered that the memorial of (sundry citizens) upon the subject of the laws relating to free Negroes and slaves, be referred to Mr. Mason, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Lee or Mr. (Smoot)- who are hereby instructed to inquire whether any defect exist in the laws now in force within this Corporation. relating to the colored population of this town, and, if any such do exist, to report such amendments of the same as shall appear to the committee to be expedient, and also, that the said committee do inquire into, and report upon such other matters touching the subject of the memorial as shall seem to them

proper....

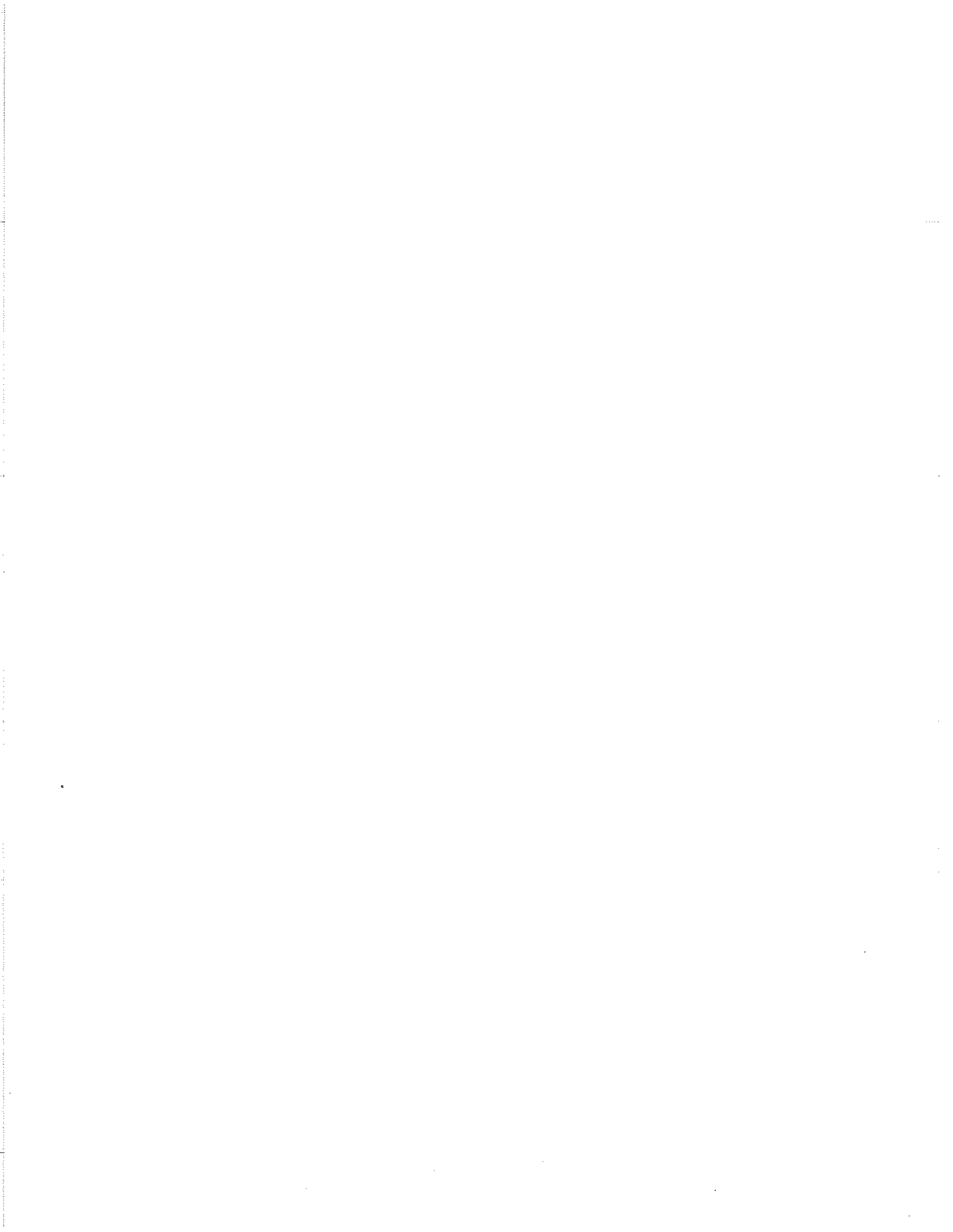
If there were any doubt as to the power under the fifth section of the charter of 1804, to pass this law, that doubt is completely removed by the further amendment of the charter, passed by Congress in 1826, which, in its third section, respectfully grants to the Corporation the "power to restrain and prohibit the nightly and other disorderly meetings of slaves, free negroes, and mulattoes." The question may be asked What meetings are disorderly? All meetings are disorderly which are opposed to the public policy and safety of the community and which have been or may be used as a cloak for objects in themselves illegal. The law of Virginia respecting slaves, free negroes, and mulattoes, and which in the law of the County of Alexandria, declares that no master, mistress, merchant, tavern keeper, or other person, shall permit or allow any slave, not belonging to him or her or in his or her employment, to be and remain longer, at any one time than four hours, without the leave of the owner or employer of such slave, on his or her plantation;

The committee to whom was referred the memorial of sundry citizens upon the subject of the laws of the corporation relating to free Negroes and slaves, have had the -janc- (unclear) under consideration, and beg leave to submit the following

Report

The committee have attentively examined the amended charter of 1804, and are of opinion that the power granted to the Common Council by the fifth section of it to "make all laws which they shall conceive requisite for the regulation of the morals and police of the said town, and to enforce the observance of their said laws," is ample enough to authorize the passage of the law which the committee have prepared.

If there were any doubt as to the power, under the fifth section of the charter of 1804 to pass this law, that doubt is completely (incomplete document on microfilm)



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Date Unknown	Book #2
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1803	Circuit and Hustings Court, Book F
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Ca. 1818-1819	Corporation Court, Book H2
1819	Circuit and Hustings, Book I-2
1823-1824	Book N No. 2
Ca. 1825-1827	Corporation Court, Book P2
Ca. 1830	Corporation Court, Book S2
1834	Corporation Court, Book U2
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1845-1847	Book G3
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