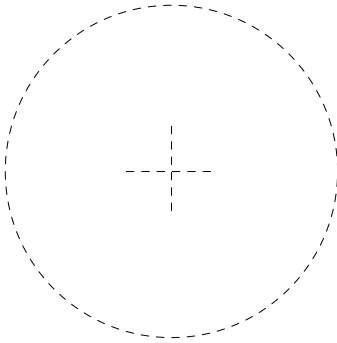


*African Americans In Harford County, Maryland, 1774-1864*

by

**Henry C. Peden, Jr.**

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The HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HARFORD COUNTY, Inc.

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***AFRICAN AMERICANS  
IN HARFORD COUNTY,  
MARYLAND, 1774-1864***

A Compendium and Genealogical Guide  
to 10,000 Surnamed African Americans  
Who Lived in Antebellum Harford County

by

Henry C. Peden, Jr.  
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## INTRODUCTION

This compendium and guide to genealogical records was compiled to assist African Americans in researching their ancestors in early Harford County, MD. The records herein begin in 1774 when the county separated from Baltimore County and end when the State of Maryland finally freed its slaves in late 1864 near the end of the Civil War. Information relates to surnamed African Americans (i.e., those with last names) who were born and lived in antebellum Harford County. For many who died after that time, their dates of death have also been noted. Individuals, and family groups, have been arranged alphabetically from A to Z, thus precluding the need for a separate index. For information on early African Americans who were given only first names, consult my *Early Harford Countians* which contains 50 pages about those who lived here from 1774 to 1790.

Material for the manuscript at hand was gleaned from county court records, court dockets, indentures, wills, administration accounts, general entries, manumissions, certificates of freedom, censuses, pass book, newspapers, obituaries, tombstone inscriptions, church records, marriage records, death certificates, military records, land records, tax records, criminal court records, inquisitions, and family histories. All of the approximately 10,000 entries herein have been documented as to the primary and secondary sources for the information, including the holdings of The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc. (shown as HSHC in the text) and *Harford Historical Bulletin*, the Society's quarterly publication.

African American researchers should also consult the following:

*Hunter Sunderland's Slave Manumissions and Sales in Harford County, Maryland, 1775-1865*, by Carolyn Greenfield Adams (1999).

*Harford County Colored Troops in the Civil War*, by James E. Chrismer (2001), available at The Historical Society of Harford County.

"African Americans in the U. S. Navy from Harford County in the Civil War" (researched by James E. Chrismer) can be found on-line at [www.itd.npa.gov/cwss](http://www.itd.npa.gov/cwss) (part of the Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System).

Hunter Sutherland's article entitled "Slavery in Harford County" was published in *Harford Historical Bulletin No. 35* (1988) and contains some very interesting information about slave sales and manumissions.

The Maryland State Archives also has material on its website at [www.mdsa.net](http://www.mdsa.net) with regards to some of the Harford Countians who were involved in the Underground Railroad.

Abbreviations have been used as follows:

b. – born  
bapt. – baptized  
bur. – buried  
c. – circa (“about”)  
cert. – certificate  
cem. – cemetery  
d. – died  
dau. – daughter  
Gen. – General  
lic. – license  
m. – married  
n. p. – no page number  
*q.v.* – quod vide [“which see”]  
*sic* – “thus” [indicating a possible error]  
HSHC – Historical Society of Harford County

I wish to acknowledge the research and contributions to African American history made available in Harford County over the years by Carolyn Greenfield Adams, Doris Rehmeyer Barben, Patricia Barnes-McConnell, Constance R. Beims, Michael Cain, James E. Chrismer, Agnes Kane Cullum, James R. Dorsey, Dinah Faber, Phebe R. Jacobsen, Margaret D. Pagan, Russell Stansbury, Hunter Sutherland, Christine P. Tolbert, and Gladys Williams. A special thanks goes to Jack L. Shagena, Jr. for formatting the CD, to Douglas M. Washburn for imaging the cover and to Melissa Grafe for documents discovered during the course of her doctoral research. I hope this manuscript will be a beneficial research tool for African Americans who are seeking their roots in Harford County.

Henry C. Peden, Jr., M.A.  
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Historical Society of Harford County  
January 1, 2008

**AFRICAN-AMERICANS  
IN HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND, 1774-1864**

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Acres, Henry, a free boy of colour, was involved in a legal matter in 1852 (age not given) and by 1853 he was an apprentice of William W. Dorney (HSHC Court Record Files 105.03.2, 114.25.2, and 119.08.11)

Adams, Andrew, age 5 in 1850 and Andy Adams, age 19 in 1860, b. MD, enumerated in the household of Isabella Adams in both years (Censuses)

Adams, Aquila, age 9 in 1832 (A List of Free People of Colour taken in 1832 by Joshua Guyton, Sheriff)

Adams, Augusta, age 16 in 1860, b. MD, enumerated in the household of Isabella Adams (Census)

Adams, Bash, was involved in a legal matter in 1823 (HSHC Court Records File 85.20.09)

Adams, Catherine, age 2 in 1850 and age 12 in 1860, b. MD, enumerated in the household of Samuel Adams in both years (Censuses)

Adams, Elizabeth, free colored person, head of household, 1840 (Census)

Adams, Enoch, age 3 in 1850, and Enich Adams, age 15 in 1860, b. MD, enumerated in the household of Samuel Adams in both years (Censuses)

Adams, Fanny, age 8 in 1860, b. MD, enumerated in the household of Samuel Adams (Census)

Adams, Hannah V. (b. 16 May 1859), daughter of Hannah G. McCann (Indentures Book WSB No. 1)

Adams, Henry, age 11 in 1850, b. MD, enumerated in the household of Isabella Adams (Census)

Young, W. (male), age 21 in 1850, b. MD, enumerated in the household of Samuel Cowan (Census)

Zack, Ann, was involved in a legal matter in 1833 (HSHC Court Records File 94.16.5)