

SLAVERY ON G STREET:  
THE BURNES FAMILY'S LEGACY OF  
SLAVERY IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

Researched and Compiled by  
Antonio Austin

Ph.D. Student, Howard University



## Researcher's Introduction

During the Fall of 2022, Dr. Renee K. Harrison, a professor at Howard University's School of Divinity, approached me about a project involving the First Congregational United Church of Christ located at 10<sup>th</sup> and G St., NW in Washington, D.C. She had been working with the church over several years on how to pay homage to the individuals who had been enslaved on the site.

As a History Ph.D. student and avid genealogist, the opportunity to reclaim the identities of enslaved people whose names had been lost was a challenge that I wanted to undertake. Though my research is mainly focused on the 19<sup>th</sup> century, this project would have me sifting through documents that predated our country's founding. Additionally, these enslaved people, some born as early as the 1730s, could have potentially been born in Africa or elsewhere in the Diaspora, as the Transatlantic Slave Trade was still legal until 1808. It could have also been that these individuals were descended from Africans trafficked to the colonies during their infancy – this may be something we may never know. However they arrived, we now know the names of many people enslaved by a prominent Washington family for 200 years.

As a historian and descendant of enslaved people, I have been delighted working with First Congregational UCC. They have been extremely interested in everything that I have been able to find and have been genuine in their interest in paying homage to enslaved people. I think their attention to this project could truly impact descendants who may be searching for information about their ancestors that were once enslaved. I hope that at some point, research on the enslaved people and more connections are made with the descendants of those who worked the farm on which the Church now stands. It is my hope that this research will uncover additional information on the lives of those named here.

W. Antonio Austin

## INTRODUCTION

To celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of First Congregational United Church of Christ (FCC), we invited Dr. Renee K. Haarrison to deliver the keynote address on March 7, 2015. Her presentation, *Hidden Histories: Honoring Those Who Helped in Building a Just and Loving Community*, challenged us to look at the history of our land and its people before the founding of the church in 1865:

“The land that the church sits on today was purchased from former slave owners, and that reality is a part of FCC’s story, of the larger human story. This story too is a part of the community memory and is interwoven in all the stories of the first building of the church. General Oliver Otis Howard spearheaded the purchase of the land and Henry Robinson Searle designed it. Often omitted and overlooked are the hands that built the church, brick by brick.”

Who were the enslaved people who lived and were forced to work on this land at the heart of our nation’s capital? What were their names? What can we learn of their lives? And how can we pay homage to them today?

In this report, *Slavery on G Street*, W. Antonio Austin, a Ph.D. student at Howard University, has begun the work of uncovering our hidden history. We are grateful to the Ruth Shinn Memorial Fund which is dedicated to anti-racism for supporting this research. And we are grateful to Dr. Renee Harrison for her stirring reminder that, by naming the enslaved people who came before us, we can find redemption and guidance for our own time.

“With Ferguson, New York, Baltimore, South Carolina and many other social realities before us, we honestly could use their help. Every time we enter a room where people gather on lands they were never meant to own we create a moment for memory, hope, and truth-seeking. The earth is calling us to see, do, and be different; to respond with a story, with words, with gestures, with intentions that awaken, heal, and liberate. . . . We have to honor them and their labors; we have to call their names in our hearts because history did not always record them or language them well. But they were here and they built this country, this city, this church. They are still here calling us not to miss the moment of being loving and just.

Reverend Amanda Hendler-Voss, Senior Minister  
Meg Maguire, Chair of 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

## Land Owners and the People They Enslaved

### David Burnes I (1685?-1762) & Ann Fleming Burnes (1685?-1764)

The family of David Burnes II once owned the land on which First Congregational United Church of Christ stands. His family was of Scottish heritage and owned land in Prince George's County, Maryland, part of which ended up being redesignated as the District of Columbia. There has been quite a bit of research done on this family, but not exactly on their relationship with their enslaved laborers.

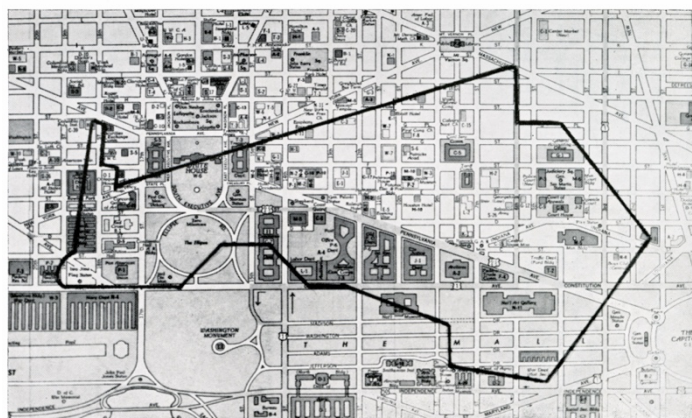


Figure 1: This map of downtown Washington, D.C. shows the former Burnes property. General Photograph Collection. Courtesy of the DC History Center.

As far back as David Burnes II's grandfather, David Burnes I (1685?-1762), there has been a relationship with enslavement. In the will of David Burnes I, dated October 5, 1737, he bequeaths his plantation to his wife, Ann, for the remainder of her life and land to his stepson, John Fleming, and his left to Ann Burnes (1685?-1764), and death. However, there would still be

several years before Ann or James would inherit the land. Recorded in the deeds of Prince George's County, Maryland, in 1750 is a document to his step-grandson, James Fleming, the son of John Fleming. David I dictates that "for his love and affection, and for various

*If I do hereby Acknowledge and for sundry other valuable Considerations me herein to moving have given granted and confirmed And confirmed And for ever give Grant bargain & Confirm unto the said James Flemming, him and the Heirs of his Body Lawfully Begotten for ever all my Right Title or Claim to that Negroe Girl now in my Possession known by the Name of Sal, in or about the Ninth year of her Age To have and to Hold the said Negroe Girl her and her Increase after my Decease to the only proper use & Benefit of James Flemming him and the Heirs of his Body Lawfully begotten and in Case it should Please God that the said James Flemming should Die without Heirs of his Body Lawfully begotten that then the said Negroe Girl her & her Increase to belong unto his Two Sisters Ann & Catherine*

Figure 2: David Burnes I conveys an enslaved girl, Sal to his step-grandson, James Fleming, 1750. Maryland Land Records.

services that John has provided for David I (with the addition of twenty shillings), he purposed a nine-year-old enslaved girl named **Sal** (maybe short for Sally) to be the property of James Fleming after the step-grandfather's death. As typical during slavery, Sal's increase was to be the property of James Fleming and his heirs, and if he produced no heirs, then Sal would be transferred to his sisters Ann and Catherine Fleming. This deed is an example of how enslaved people, mainly enslaved women's bodies, were commodified and used to perpetuate the institution known as chattel slavery.

David Burnes, I died in the Fall of 1762.

Ann Fleming Burnes also mentioned only two sons, John Fleming, and James Burnes, within her 1764 will. Though this will is relatively short, she leaves to James two enslaved people, a man named **Hercules** and a woman named **Diana**, along with her other goods and chattel. Ann Fleming died in the Spring of 1764.

In addition to owning enslaved people, the Burnes family-owned hundreds of acres of land which they passed along to the younger generations, setting them up for the future.

James Burnes (1720-1772) & Jemima Brown Burnes (1725-1783)

Negro London	50	0	0
Ditto Hannibal	50	0	0
Ditto Hercules 33 years old	55	0	0
Ditto Bartholamew 32 Ditto	55	0	0
Ditto Harry 18 Ditto	40	0	0
Ditto Tom 15 Ditto	40	0	0
Ditto Bepo old	2	0	0
Ditto Diana Ditto	2	0	0
Ditto Sarah 31 years old	10	0	0
Ditto Darky 30 Ditto	40	0	0
Ditto Grace 8 Ditto	20	0	0
Ditto Leahy 5 Ditto	16	0	0
Ditto Heavon 1 Ditto	12	0	0
Ditto George 3 Ditto	10	0	0
Ditto Anthony 2 Ditto	8	0	0

Figure 3: Enslaved people listed in the inventory of James Burnes, 1773. Courtesy of Maryland State Archives.

The next generation of the Burnes family who were enslavers is James Burnes (1720-1772), the son of David I & Ann Fleming Burnes. James Burnes died without a will; therefore, a group of citizens in Prince George's County listed and appraised all his possessions in February 1773. Among the livestock and household furniture were listed 15 individuals: **London, Hannibal, Hercules, Bartholomew, Harry, Tom, Bess, Dinah, Sarah, Darky, Grace, Leathy, Reason, George, and Anthony.** This document gives essential information, such as the ages of most of these individuals. It also provides the value of each in pounds, shillings, and pence, as this document predates the formation of the United States of America. This document also shows the two individuals that he inherited from his mother, Hercules and Diana (listed as Dinah here), among other enslaved people. However, it cannot be ascertained if these two were partnered or shared other familial relationships.

Negro Ball	46 y <sup>rs</sup> old	£	80	0	0
D <sup>o</sup> Darky	43 ditto		70	0	0
D <sup>o</sup> Leatha	15 ditto		85	0	0
D <sup>o</sup> Mary	8 ditto		40	0	0
D <sup>o</sup> Rachel	6 ditto		30	0	0
D <sup>o</sup> Jam	10 ditto		50	0	0

Figure 4: Enslaved people a part of Jemima Brown Burnes's inventory, 1783. Courtesy of Maryland State Archives.

Though there has not been a distribution list found naming where all of James Burnes' property went, his children likely received property, including enslaved people, from his estate. This can be assumed because when James's widow, Jemima Brown Burnes (1725-1783), died in 1783, there was a significantly smaller list of enslaved people in her inventory. She owns a total of 6

enslaved people: **Ball** – 46 years, **Darky** - 43 years, **Leatha** – 15 years, **Mary** – 8 years, **Rachel** – 6 years, and **Jane** – 10 years. There is a possibility that this could be a family group; however, that did not always happen during enslavement. We notice that the first individual mentioned, Ball, listed as 46 years old, could have been the person listed ten years prior as Hannibal. There is also a slight possibility that it could have been the man listed as Bartholomew. The woman named Darky (often a nickname for Dorcas) is listed in the previous inventory, along with the teenage girl Leatha (or Leathy). Jane was likely born after the 1773 inventory, along with Mary and Rachel, who were born around 1775 and 1777, respectively.

Historically, family has been a central and integral part of the history of Black people. The black family has often been seen as not only blood relationships but fictive kinship networks, with the enslaved women being “enmeshed in networks of extended family and friends.”<sup>1</sup> These families were not always brought together because of love but were sometimes placed together by their enslaver. Due to slavery being inherited through the mother, slaveholders

<sup>1</sup> Stephanie M. H. Camp, *Closer to Freedom: Enslaved Women & Everyday Resistance in the Plantation South* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004), 37.

would not benefit financially from their enslaved men marrying women from another plantation.<sup>2</sup>

### David Burnes II (1745-1800) & Ann Wight Burnes (-1807)

In 1790, seven years after the inventory was taken for the estate of Jemima Brown Burnes, the United States of America conducted its first decennial census. In this same year, the District of Columbia was formally established; however, for the next decade, some records and locations reflect Prince George's County, Maryland, instead of Washington, D.C. The 1790 Census is very bare boned, only listing the head of household, number of white males over 16, number of white males under 16, number of white females, number of enslaved persons, and the total household. For this census, David Burnes II's (1745-1800) household is listed as having four free white people (one male under 16, one male over 16, and two females), which would be David Burnes II, his wife, Ann Wight Burnes (-1807), and children, John and Marcia (1782-1832). He was reported to have enslaved 12 individuals at that time.

Name	Age	Value (Dollars)
Eleanor	60 years	60
Dorcas	57	60
Ben	40	150
John	37	250
Harry	27	200
Flora	30	30
Sethe	28	80
Mary	26	80
Rachel	24	80
Minta	16	80
Let	14	80
Simon	11	50
Bet	10	30
Harry	9	30
Sally	18	30
Sophia	5	20
Ben	5	20
William	3	20
Charles	2	20
Fanny	2	10
Richard	9 months	10
Jane	9 months	10

Figure 5: Enslaved people listed on David Burnes II's inventory, 1800. Courtesy of Maryland State Archives.

In 1800, David Burnes II, also dubbed by George Washington as the “Obstinate” David Burnes, died. Washington, D.C. did not start keeping will and estate records until 1801; therefore, information about David Burnes II's estate was among Prince George's County, Maryland records, where he had lived his entire life. His estate was quite valued at over \$2,700 with a total debt owed to the estate of \$57,306.66. His inventory listed 22 enslaved people ranging in age from 9 months to 60 years old.

These individuals were **Eleanor** – 60 years old, **Dorcas** – 57, **Ben** – 40, **John** – 37, **Harry** – 27, **Flora** – 30, **Sethe** – 28, **Mary** – 26, **Rachel** – 24, **Minta** – 16, **Let/Lit** – 14, **Simon** –

<sup>2</sup> Brenda A. Stevenson, *Life in Black & White: Family and Community in the Slave South* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997, 232.

11, **Bet** – 10, **Harry** – 9, **Sall** – 8, **Sophia** – 5, **Peg** – 5, **William** – 3, **Charles** – 2, **Fanny** – 2, **Richard** – 9 months, **Jane** (possibly James) – 9 months. Some of these individuals were enslaved by several generations of this family. Dorcas, referred to in previous records as Darky, has been recorded since 1773, meaning that the Burnes enslaved her for at least 27 years in 1800. There's also Mary and Rachel, who were listed in the 1783 inventory as children but are now shown as 26 and 24 years old. Like other inventories from this family, this record does not tell us the relationships among individuals.

Also, in 1800, the second census of the United States was conducted, and Ann Wight Burnes is enumerated as head of household living in the Georgetown community of Washington, D.C. Within her household are two white males between the ages of 16 and 25, a white male over 45, a white female between 16 and 25, and a white female 26 through 44. She is also reported to have 22 or 26 slaves (there's a smudge on the second digit recorded).

Ann Wight Burnes died on January 28, 1807.<sup>3</sup>

### **Marcia Burnes Van Ness (1782-1832) & John Peter Van Ness (1770-1846)**

Stephanie Jones Rogers highlights the journey of white women, like Marcia Burnes Van Ness, in her book *They Were Her Property* and argues how many white women were slave masters. Many of these women started life under the care of a young enslaved “playmate” who would eventually grow into being their personal servants. For women (and men) of status, their intimate relationship with slavery often started at the breast of wet nurses and progressed to their sovereignty over the enslaved as adults.

Marcia Burnes, the only surviving child of David(I) & Ann Wight Burnes, is known to be the heiress of Washington City. Her father's investments in selling parts of their family's land profited Marcia greatly. By 1802, she married John Peter Van Ness of New York., who came from a wealthy family as well. At the time of their marriage he was serving as a congressman from New York, and decades later, he became the mayor of Washington, D.C.

Records confirm that the Burnes family were farmers. Most of the deeds located for this project, particularly those recorded during colonial times, list them as planters. However, the argument can be made that until David Burnes II, they had a *farm versus a plantation*. David Burnes was the first of his direct Burnes lineage to enslave so many people and therefore, it was more characteristic of a plantation. However, he was the last of this line to actually be a full-time farmer. Upon her father's death, Marcia, and her husband, became a prominent fixture of Washington, D.C.'s burgeoning elite. John Peter Van Ness's occupation was as the President of the Bank of the Metropolis on which he served for almost 32 years until his death.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> “Died on Wednesday—Mrs. Anne Burnes.” *The National Intelligencer and Washington Advertiser* (Washington, D.C.), Feb. 2, 1807.

<sup>4</sup> “Resolution for John Peter Van Ness,” *The Washington Union* (Washington, D.C.), Mar. 9, 1846.



John P. Van Ness in Washington., D.C. does not appear on the 1810 Census; however, in 1820 he is recorded as living in Ward 1. In his household are four free white persons: a male over 45, a female 10-15, a female 16-25, and a female 26-44. He is also listed as enslaving 12 individuals. This census shows a breakdown by age and sex of the individuals he enslaved: 5 males under 14, 2 males 14-25, 1 male 26-44, 1 male over 45, 1 female 14-25, and 2 females 26-44.

In 1821, John P. & Marcia Van Ness's only child, Ann Elbertina, married Arthur Middleton. She soon became pregnant; however, she (and her daughter, Marcia Helen) died in November 1822 at the age of 19. This profoundly impacted Marcia Van Ness, as she and her daughter were said to be extremely close.

In 1830, John P. Van Ness was still enumerated in Ward 1; however, his household had gotten quite a bit smaller. This year he had 3 white people: a male 20-29, a male 50-59, and a female 40-49. He had seven enslaved people: a male under 10, 2 males 10-23, 2 males 36-54, and 2 males 36-54.

In 1832, Marcia Burnes Van Ness died after a lengthy illness. Years before her death, she transferred all her property to her husband.

## **Post 1846**

Upon the death of John Peter Van Ness in 1846, all direct descendants (and in-laws) of David Burnes II were completely extinct. This means that his estate would be left to his heirs, including his siblings and deceased siblings' children. From a letter dated August 15, 1847, Cornelius P. Van Ness, the brother of John Peter Van Ness, mentions the issues that he has been having managing his brother's estate such as having to purchase a watchdog to protect his brother's property, for which he did not have a receipt. He also had to consult with enslaved people who witnessed him paying for the dog, which lets us know that the enslaved people are still around.

He also mentions an enslaved woman he calls "Old sick Betty," whom John Peter Van Ness's estate was supposed to support. She would often come to Cornelius for money for various things, such as food and shoes. He would sometimes send "the black man" George with money for her. I believe that this "Old sick Betty" that Cornelius refers to could be the child listed as 10 year-old "Bet" on David Burnes II's inventory from 1800. She would have been around 56 years old when he wrote the letter.

Because John Peter & Marcia Van Ness had no living descendants, the heirs of his estate were composed of his siblings and several nieces and nephews. Since he died intestate and had so many heirs, there are meticulous ledgers regarding the money received and spent by the estate. As Cornelius mentioned, the estate/heirs were responsible for all the estate's affairs including collecting rent and payments for land purchases, paying for the care of

enslaved people, and anything else that would have been necessary for the upkeep of the estate. In the ledgers regarding the estate settlement dated from 1846 to 1856, there are various entries where two particular women, Sally Bell and Betsey Fletcher, are being paid for the care of the enslaved people. Additionally, there are several charges to the estate for purchases such as wood and even a new stove for the “old servants.” Depending on the health of these enslaved people, they were likely still performing small tasks or taking care of children that may have been enslaved by the estate. However, we know that individuals like Betty were persistent—to the point of seemingly frustrating Cornelius P. Van Ness—in handling matters pertinent to their needs. Some of the later ledgers include bills for medicine and for nursing individuals, likely those elderly enslaved people.

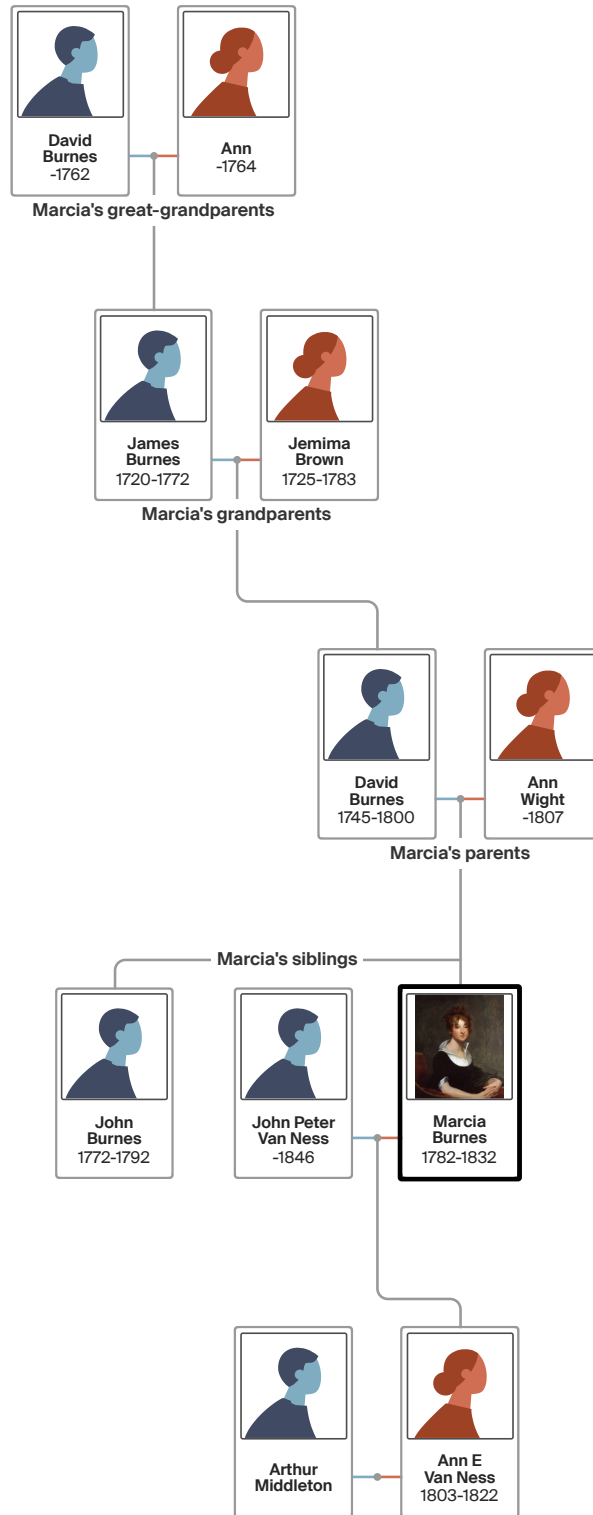
One interesting piece of information is that a man, noted as Simon Bell, was ordered to be paid on June 21, 1856, by order of W. H. Philip. It does not list any type of service that this individual had done. However, additional research located a black man named Simon Bell in Washington, D.C., listed on the Federal Mortality Schedule for 1860. It mentioned that he died in July 1859 at 70 after being sick for around 60 days. In this record, he is also listed as married and free, with his occupation being a servant. Due to the ledger entry not mentioning any services that he provided, it is possible that he was one of the enslaved people that were to be cared for by the estate. Moreover, was he emancipated, or did he purchase his freedom from Van Ness’s estate? Referencing back the inventory from David Burnes II dated 1800, there is an enslaved boy named *Simon*, who is listed as 11 years old. These individuals could be the same.

## Suggestions/Next Steps for Future Research

The limited research undertaken for this project has led to many questions that could be researched in other sources. Below is a list of recommended next steps in the quest to uncover the hidden history of the land now occupied by First Congregational UCC:

- Locate the entire estate file for John Peter Van Ness (1770-1846). I believe there may be more information regarding the estate, including an inventory or appraisal of his property, since he died without a will. Being intestate would require the court to appraise and list all of his property and its value to settle any debts, along with splitting all of the property among his heirs.
- Request a will or estate file for Ann Wight Burnes, who died in 1807. I put in a request for a will; however, there was not one found. Interestingly, the number of enslaved people dropped drastically from 1800 to 1820. Because they were not farming for a living, it is possible that they could have sold or rented out enslaved people.
- Search the records from Washington, D.C.'s emancipation because the enslavers were compensated for releasing their enslaved people. There is a database available on Ancestry.com; however, some of those listed could likely be a generation or two removed from the Burnes/Van Ness families. Additionally, they would have their last owner listed, meaning whoever held them in bondage from the death of John P. Van Ness in 1846 to 1862.
- Obtain more records from the New York Historical Society. There are several boxes and folders relating to the Burnes and Van Ness families. Because they are not digitized, I received only a scan of a folder from a librarian. However, it could be beneficial if someone could go in person. These may be some of the only records with information regarding the enslaved people outside of government documents such as wills, estates, and census records.
- Visit the Washington, D.C. Archives. This part could be tedious as you're only allowed to pull five records each visit. Due to the Burnes and especially the Van Ness families owning and selling a great amount of property this research could be fruitful if there were any records of the sale of enslaved people.
- Further research the property and holdings records. There was mention of David Burnes II's brother, James Burnes Jr., living on his brother's property at one point at around the time of the 1790 census. It was noted in an article that he enslaved five individuals. They possibly lived in an old family home on the property but it is unclear how long they resided there.

- Determine if enslaved people were brought from NY to Washington, DC. Slavery was still legal in New York when John Peter Van Ness moved to Washington, D.C. It is known that his father left each of his children a decent inheritance, possibly including enslaved people. Were enslaved people brought to Washington, D.C. upon John Peter Van Ness's marriage to Marcia Burnes?
- Research Simon Bell. Was he the same individual mentioned in the 1800 Inventory of David Burnes II? If so, how did he obtain his freedom? Were the older servants ultimately freed? Did this happen because of meritorious service or to release the heirs from taking care of them?
- Further research what was grown on the estate to better understand the conditions under which enslaved people were forced to work. This researcher found a mention of David Burnes II growing corn and tobacco on his farm in one article and the source of this information is not clear. Reviewing the inventories of the tools could prove useful in this case.



**Tracking Sheet of Individuals Enslaved by the Burnes/Van Ness Families**

Name	Birth	First Documented On	Passed to	Descriptor	Documents	Notes
Anthony	1771	James Burnes			Inventory of James Burnes, Feb 1773	
Bartholomew	1841	James Burnes			Inventory of James Burnes, Feb 1773	
Bess		James Burnes		maybe either a child or c	Inventory of James Burnes, Feb 1773	
Darky (Dorcas?)	1740/174	James Burnes	Jemima Burnes --> David Burnes II		Inventory of James Burnes, Feb 1773; Inventory of Jemima Brown Burnes, Dec 1783	
Diana	unknown	Ann Fleming Burnes	James Burnes	negro woman	Will of Ann Fleming Burnes, 1764	I believe this is the same person listed as Dinah on James Burnes' inventory in 1773.
George	1770	James Burnes			Inventory of James Burnes, Feb 1773	
Grace	1765	James Burnes			Inventory of James Burnes, Feb 1773	
Hannibal		James Burnes				
Harry	1759	James Burnes			Inventory of James Burnes, Feb 1773	
Hercules	1740	Ann Fleming Burnes	James Burnes	negro man	Will of Ann Fleming Burnes, 1764; Inventory of James Burnes Feb 1773	
Leatha	1768	James Burnes	Jemima Burnes -->		Inventory of James Burnes, Feb 1773	
London		James Burnes			Inventory of James Burnes, Feb 1773	
Reason	1769	James Burnes			Inventory of James Burnes, Feb 1773	
Sal (short for Sally?)	1741	James Burnes	James Fleming (step-grads)	girl	Deed: James Burnes to James Fleming, 1750	
Sarah	1742	James Burnes			Inventory of James Burnes, Feb 1773	Could this be the same person sold from David Burnes I to James Fleming?
Tom	1758	James Burnes			Inventory of James Burnes, Feb 1773	
Ball	1737	Jemima Burnes			Inventory of Jemima Brown Burnes, Dec 1783	
Mary	1775	Jemima Burnes			Inventory of Jemima Brown Burnes, Dec 1783	
Rachel	1777	Jemima Burnes			Inventory of Jemima Brown Burnes, Dec 1783	
Jan?	1773	Jemima Burnes			Inventory of Jemima Brown Burnes, Dec 1783	

Inventory of David Burnes II

Name	Birth	Price	Passed to	Descriptor	Documents
Elenor	1740	0		old aged blind	Inventory of David Burnes II, 1800
Dorcas	1743	60			
Ben	1760	150			
John	1763	200			
Harry	1773	200			
Flora	1770	80			
Sethe	1772	80			
Mary	1774	80			
Rachel	1776	80			
Minta	1784	80			
Lit (?)	1786	80			
Simon	1789	50			
Bet	1790	30			
Harry	1791	30			
Sall	1792	30			
Sophia	1795	20			
Peg	1795	20			
William	1797	20			
Charles	1798	20			
Fanny	1798	10			
Richard	1800	10		9 months	
Jane	1800	10		9 months	
		1340			

## Bibliography

- Ancestry.com. *1790 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. Original data: First Census of the United States, 1790 (NARA microfilm publication M637, 12 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.
- Ancestry.com. *1800 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. Original data: Second Census of the United States, 1800. NARA microfilm publication M32 (52 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C. Second Census of the United States, 1800: Population Schedules, Washington County, Territory Northwest of the River Ohio; and Population Census, 1803: Washington County, Ohio. NARA microfilm publication M1804 (1 roll).
- Ancestry.com. *1820 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. Original data: Fourth Census of the United States, 1820. (NARA microfilm publication M33, 142 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.
- Ancestry.com. *1830 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. Original data: Fifth Census of the United States, 1830. (NARA microfilm publication M19, 201 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.
- Ancestry.com. *1840 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. Original data: Sixth Census of the United States, 1840. (NARA microfilm publication M704, 580 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.
- Ancestry.com. *Maryland, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1635-1777* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015. Original data: Maryland County, District and Probate Courts.
- CHS 15495.05, General Photograph Collection, DC History Center.
- “Died on Wednesday—Mrs. Anne Burnes.” *The National Intelligencer and Washington Advertiser* (Washington, D.C.), Feb. 2, 1807.



Huntington, Frances Carpenter. "The Heiress of Washington City: Marcia Burnes Van Ness, 1782-1832." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Washington, D.C.* 69/70 (1969): 80–101. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40067706>.

Morganston, Ethel M. B. "Davy Burnes, His Ancestors and Their Descendants." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Washington, D.C.* 50 (1948): 102–35. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40067319>.

PREROGATIVE COURT (Wills), David Burnes, 1737, Liber TD, page 778, MSA S538-32, MdHR 1299-2.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY REGISTER OF WILLS (Inventories) David Burnes, 1800, Liber ST 3, page 300, MSA CM809-13, CR 34691-1.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY REGISTER OF WILLS (Inventories) Jemima Burnes, 1783, Liber ST 2, page 212, MSA CM809-9, CR 34690-4.

"Resolution for John Peter Van Ness," *The Washington Union* (Washington, D.C.), Mar. 9, 1846.

*The heirs of the late John P. Van Ness account current with Richard Smith.* Ledger. From the New York Historical Society, Van Ness-Philip Family Papers 1711-1963.

Van Ness, Cornelius P. *Cornelius P. Van Ness to Richard Smith, August 15, 1847.* Letter. From The New York Historical Society, Van Ness-Philip Family Papers 1711-1963.

Wills, Estates, & Inventories

Jemima Burnes, Inventory, Prince George's County, Maryland State Archives, 1783.

## Reading List

- Berlin, Ira. *Many Thousands Gone: the First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1998).
- Clark-Lewis, Elizabeth. *First Freed: Washington D.C. in the Emancipation Era* (Washington, D.C.: Howard University Press, 2002).
- Jewett, Clayton E. and John O. Allen. *Slavery in the South: A State-by-State History* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004).
- Millward, Jessica. *Finding Charity's Folk: Enslaved and Free Black Women in Maryland* (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2015).
- Nunley, Tamika. *At the Threshold of Liberty: Women, Slavery, and Shifting Identities in Washington, D.C.* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2021).
- Rogers, Stephanie Jones. *They Were Her Property: White Women as Slave Owners in the American South* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2019).
- Stevenson, Brenda E. *Life in Black & White: Family and Community in the Slave South* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997).
- White, Deborah Gray. *Ar'n't I a Woman?: Female Slaves in the Plantation South* (New York: Norton & company, 1999).

\*\*\*\*\*