

# Proving Slave Ancestry

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# Genealogy Based on Evidence

- Prove identity
- Prove relationship



# Trace Ancestry to Slavery



# Can't Assume Enslaver



**SCHEDULE 2.—Slave Inhabitants in**  
of *Florida*, enumerated by me, on the

| NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS. | Number of Slaves. | DESCRIPTION. |      |        | Fugitives from the State. | Number manumitted. |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|------|--------|---------------------------|--------------------|
|                        |                   | Age.         | Sex. | Color. |                           |                    |
| 1                      | 2                 | 3            | 4    | 5      | 6                         | 7                  |

|    |                           |   |    |   |   |  |
|----|---------------------------|---|----|---|---|--|
| 29 | <i>Jefferson Sharpton</i> | 1 | 29 | F | B |  |
| 30 |                           | 1 | 30 | M | M |  |
| 31 |                           | 1 | 28 | M | B |  |
| 32 |                           | 1 | 27 | M | B |  |
| 33 |                           | 1 | 21 | M | B |  |
| 34 |                           | 1 | 25 | F | B |  |
| 35 |                           | 1 | 22 | F | B |  |
| 36 |                           | 1 | 25 | F | B |  |
| 37 |                           | 1 | 26 | F | B |  |
| 38 |                           | 1 | 24 | F | B |  |
| 39 |                           | 1 | 14 | F | B |  |
| 40 |                           | 7 | 13 | M | B |  |

No. of owners \_\_\_\_\_ No. of male slaves, 38

State of Florida Jackson County,

31<sup>st</sup> day of Jan'y A. D. 1861. (Eighteen hundred, and sixty one).

Sharpton Sen<sup>r</sup> of Edgefield District State

This Indenture made and entered into this

Between Alexander

Sharpton Sen<sup>r</sup> of Edgefield District State of South Carolina of the first part,  
and Joseph B. Talley of the second part of Liberty County and State...

Witnesseth that whereas it is the disinterested intention of the said Alexander Sharpton Sen<sup>r</sup>, in consideration of the natural love and affection which he has and bears to his grand children Viz. Alexander Sharpton Jun<sup>r</sup>, Preston Sharpton, Benjamin S. Sharpton and George W. Sharpton, minor heirs of Jefferson M. Sharpton dead late of Liberty County Florida, to settle upon them and their heirs the property herein after mentioned and devised (under the restrictions and Appointments herein after named) &c. the said Alexander Sharpton Sen<sup>r</sup> in consideration of the sum of one thousand dollars of the sum of one thousand dollars so him in hand paid by the said Joseph B. Talley the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged hath given and conveyed and by these presents do give grant and convey unto the said Joseph B. Talley the following described negroes to wit, Coleman aged 20 years widely 23 years old Harrison aged about 4 years, and Buchers aged about 3 years together with the future increase of the said female slaves. To have and to hold the said negro slaves &c unto the said party of the second part... Upon the Trust and subject to the covenants and agreements herein after mentioned ~~and~~ to say, that the said Justice is to receive all his of the said slaves until the debts of the estate of their father Jefferson M. Sharpton, are paid and discharged and in the event of the death of said Alexander, Preston, Ben<sup>r</sup> J. and Geo W. Sharpton, leaving no lawful

# Evidence of Slavery



Project #1655  
W. W. Dixon  
Winnsboro, S. C.

ALECK WOODWARD,  
EX-SLAVE - 83 YEARS.

" You knows de Simonton place; Mr. Wood? Well, dats just where I was born back yonder befo' de war, a slave of old Marster Johnnie Simonton. Five miles sorter south sunset side of Woodward Station where you was born, ain't it so? My pappy was Ike Woodward, but him just call 'Ike' time of slavery, and my mammy was name Dinah. My brother Charlie up north, if he ain't dead, Ike lives in Asheville, North Carolina. Two sisters: Ollie, her marry an Aiken, last counts, and she and her family in Charlotte, North Carolina; sister Mattie marry a Wilson nigger, but I don't know where they is.



State of Tennessee

} SS

Giles County

Personally came before me, R.E. Dotson, a Notary Public in and for the said State and County, Wash Whitfield, personally known to me and who being duly sworn according to law doth state: That he is 80 years of age and was in the army in the war between the States, in Co. D. 111th Reg. Col. Infantry. That he personally knew Thomas Upshaw of Co. K 110th Reg U.S. Colored Infantry. That he is first cousin to Thomas Upshaw. In slave time Thomas Upshaw's mother belonged to Lewis Upshaw and his father belonged to Nelson, and when he joined the U.S. Army he took the name of Upshaw and when he came out of the army he went back to his father's name and took and carried the name

Spartanburg District South  
Carolina January 1<sup>st</sup> 1866

This is to certify  
that Samuel Littlejohn have  
this day highered William  
Wilson and Randolph Freedmen  
formerly slaves of mine

To work for me the present  
year or untill January 1867  
For one half the proceeds

Record for Thomas Armstrong <sup>1217</sup>

Date, and No. of Application, Nov. 29, 1868

Name of Master, Wm Mackintosh

Name of Mistress,

Plantation,

Height and Complexion,

~~Father or Mother?~~ Married? Gracey Armstrong

Name of Children,

Regiment and Company, B. 117<sup>th</sup> U. S. C. I

# Negro's "Manumission"

| rd. | Item Number.            | GRANTORS.            | Place of Record. |       | LOCATION. |
|-----|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------|-----------|
|     |                         |                      | Book.            | Page. |           |
|     | <del>1886</del><br>1882 | Samuel. Carr.        | 20               | 82    |           |
|     | 1887                    | Am. pulp.            | 2                | 357   |           |
|     | 1888                    | J. Kennedy Sumner    | 4                | 454   |           |
| 3   | 1889                    | Ephraim Sumner       | 4                | 463.  |           |
|     | 1890                    | " "                  | "                | 463   |           |
| 3   | 1891                    | " "                  | "                | 463   |           |
|     | 1892                    | " "                  | "                | 463   |           |
| 3   | 1893                    | " "                  | "                | 463.  |           |
|     | 1894                    | James Boyle "Sur. N" | "                | 29    |           |
| 3   | 1895                    | " " "                | "                | 29    |           |
|     | 1896                    | " " "                | "                | 440   |           |
| 4   | 1898                    | Solomon Parsons      | P                | 257   |           |
|     | 1899                    | William Griffy       | O                | 376.  |           |
| 4   | 1900                    | Robert Negro         | "                | 249   |           |
|     | 1901                    | Dennis Spruiger      | "                | 58    |           |
|     |                         | John... ..           | m.               | 214.  |           |

# Challenges

- Faulty oral history
- Most records are not online
- Ancestor names often different than enslaver's
- Some people changed their name
- Names were spelled many different ways
- Some records did not survive
- Not quick and easy research
- Easy to start but difficult to prove slave ancestry
- Most people don't have skills to prove slavery



# Thank You

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