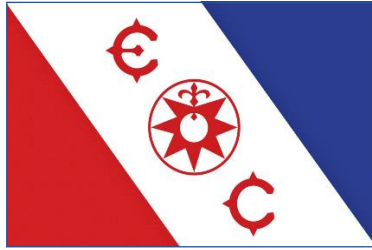


THE EXPLORERS CLUB



**EXCAVATING MONTPELIER EXPEDITION
FLAG # 212 REPORT**



by

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Silver Spring, Montgomery County, Maryland
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Introduction

The Excavating Montpelier Flag Expedition took place in September/October 2021 at President James Madison's Montpelier plantation in central Virginia. This Flag Report has the following sections:

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Flag Photos



Author Lew Toulmin with Flag # 212 in front of the restored Montpelier mansion of President James Madison and his wife Dolley Payne Madison, site of this archaeological expedition.



Author Lew Toulmin holding an archaeological trowel and Flag # 212, and the logo of the Excavating Montpelier Expedition



Author Lew Toulmin with Flag #212 and the Madison Home Farm area in the background. The Overseer's Cabin excavation site is under the tall bare tree in the center left distance, and the Burn Site is just out of frame to the right. The red flags mark hits from a metal detecting survey, showing a possible barn or other building, likely from the late 1700s, to be investigated.



Author Lew Toulmin (right) and Mark Dorfman, another volunteer, excavating a “unit” at the Burn Site. Note the crisp vertical sides and flat floor of the unit – excellent work!



Author Lew Toulmin with Flag # 212, President Madison, and Dolley Madison. President Madison is reading one of the 1,450 books he studied in preparation for presenting his ideas at the First Constitutional Convention – this earned him the title of “Father of the Constitution.”



Constitutional scholar Lew Toulmin whispers in the ear of President Madison, explicating one of the finer points of constitutional drafting. Dolley Madison looks on approvingly.

Background

The site of Montpelier plantation is on rolling land in Orange County, Virginia, about 40 miles northwest of central Richmond. Geologically, the site is in the Taylorsville Basin, which formed in the Upper Triassic period, between 230 and 201 million years ago. The fertile soil in this area averages about 100 feet deep, and hence is one of the most productive agricultural areas in the East.

Montpelier is the lifelong home of James Madison, the "Father of the Constitution" and fourth President of the United States. The 5000-acre property (now reduced to 2700 acres) belonged to five generations of the Madison family for over 120 years, from 1723 to 1844. In most of those years the plantation was worked by up to 100 or more enslaved persons, supervised by a series of overseers, mostly free whites but a few enslaved black men.

It was those overseers, especially the black men and their families, and their living and working conditions, that were an important focus of the 2021 archaeological and historical effort. There is hardly any documentation on this topic, so the archaeological remains under the ground are a key source of information. The other focus was the "Home Farm" area of the plantation, specifically the mysterious "Burn Site" near the Visitors Center, where three depressions and the surrounding area were excavated during the Expedition.

The Madison family received a land patent for the plantation in 1723, and nine years later the family constructed and occupied Mt. Pleasant, a compound about a half mile from the current main Montpelier mansion. There is no surface trace left of Mt. Pleasant, only archaeological remnants below the surface, which have been partially excavated; and there are no surface remains of the tobacco and blacksmithing operations that were the economic foundation of the Madison family and their plantation.

The current large mansion (see photos in the Annexes below) began when its core was built by President James Madison's father in about 1760. President Madison, born in 1751, married Dolley Payne Todd in 1794, and began a substantial, additional phase of building which eventually resulted in the beautiful large mansion that exists today. After President Madison's second presidential term, the couple returned to Montpelier in 1817, where their legendary hospitality kept them in touch with world affairs. After President Madison died in 1836, Dolley sold the plantation in 1844 to help pay her substantial debts, and moved to a townhouse on Lafayette Square near the White House in Washington, DC.

After 1844, Montpelier passed through seven different hands, until it was sold to the DuPont family in 1901, who in 1983 passed it on to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the present owners. The Trust has issued a long-term management lease to The Montpelier Foundation, a non-profit organization.

President James Madison is one of our most important yet least recognized early Presidents. His drafting of the US Constitution laid the foundation for our democracy, which endures to this day partly because of his genius in creating three branches of government which provide checks and balances on each other. As such, his background, family life, income, sources of wealth and living conditions are of great historical interest.

One of the major sources of the Madison family's income and wealth was a group of enslaved African-Americans, estimated to number up to 100 at various times. These people worked in two major enterprises, first, agriculture, mainly tobacco farming, and second, industrial-scale blacksmithing and iron-working.

The tobacco farming and other agricultural operations were largely under the management of President Madison's grandmother during much of her lifetime. She supervised the overseer(s) of the plantation, who in turn controlled the day-to-day activities of the agricultural slaves. President Madison eventually inherited and controlled both the tobacco and blacksmithing operations.

Unfortunately, President Madison's descendants intentionally burned or sold all letters, documents, maps, journals, account books and other items relating to him and his family and ancestors that remained at Montpelier, to preserve the "privacy" of the President. According to Dr. Matthew Reeves of the Montpelier Foundation, it is quite possible that the two rooms-full of plantation papers were burned because the later owners were worried about the impending Civil War, the possible abolition of slavery, and the talk that reparations might be demanded for enslaved peoples. If there were no records of how much work was done or who did it, then reparations would be difficult if not impossible. Thus the only major remaining source of information on President and Dolley Madison's family (and his mother) and plantation life, and (very importantly) the life and circumstances of the Montpelier enslaved population, is the archaeology of the site.

While work has been done previously by the Montpelier Archaeology Department on the tobacco farming, and previously unknown tobacco structures have been located, only partial work has been done in the suspected overseer's area. Metal detecting and some shovel test pits (STPs) and limited excavations have taken place in a Phase 1 archaeological investigation, but more work had to be done to truly understand the lives, living conditions, cultural artifacts, diets, and working conditions of the overseers and their families. Montpelier is especially interesting because it appears from very limited records that about two of seven overseers during President Madison's lifetime were enslaved black men. Very little research at Montpelier or anywhere in America has been done on enslaved black overseers, and hence very little is known about their lived experience.

Similarly, very little concrete is known about the life and conditions of white overseers on ante-bellum Southern plantations, except from references to them in letters and journals. Only one book, by Laura R. Sandy (cited below), attempts to tackle this topic, and it is limited by a lack of concrete detailed examples.

Hence the overseer's area of Montpelier, which is now just a field with no above-ground trace of human activity, provides a location for studying a little-known part of plantation life.

Another major area of interest is the large, 50-acre Home Farm area. Through recent metal detecting it has become clear that this area near the Visitor's Center parking lot is of great archaeological interest for several reasons:

- The "Home Farm" is called this because it was closest to the main owner's living area and overseer's cabin at the time; and it was thus the most important farm of the many "farms" (or districts) within the large 5000-acre plantation. It is only in the last 24 months that metal detecting has shown the surprising extent of structures within the previously unknown Home Farm.
- By understanding the history, economics and sequencing of the Home Farm, a good picture of the overall plantation and its products and inventories can be built up – a major goal of the Montpelier Archaeology Department.
- It is in a field that has been largely untouched, with little or no plowing, since the 1850s, and hence is archaeologically pristine.
- It had a number of structures all related to the work being done on the plantation, and while there is much literature now on slave quarters and enslaved peoples living conditions across the South, there is much less information on their working conditions and economic contributions.
- While some structures have been tentatively identified, such as barns, a farrier's shop and a blacksmithing area, there are three odd depressions and a burned area which have not yet been identified and which need investigation.

The area is also of interest since, if reconstructed, it may serve as a "gateway" to the entirely new, rebuilt Home Farm, if a Williamsburg-style reconstruction and visitors area is ever created.

Montpelier as a Leader in Recognizing the Role of Enslaved Peoples

Montpelier has been a leader in recognizing the key role played by slaves in building and maintaining the plantation, its structures and economy. Montpelier was the site of the first National Summit on Teaching Slavery, and resulted in the first, historic 2018 Rubric for Engaging Descendant Communities,

sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Montpelier Foundation has been following through on this Rubric, which lays out guidelines for engaging descendant enslaved communities, teaching of slavery, and designing of historic sites to ensure that the difficult presentation of material about slavery is accurate and comprehensive. The Rubric also contains a 0-4 rating scheme for assessing the quality of research, collaboration, transparency and accessibility of a historic presentation or program.

The Foundation is further pursuing this engagement approach by transitioning its Board of Directors to include fifty percent representation by enslaved descendants – a first among relevant historic sites and museums in the US. This process was recently finalized, in June 2021. Gene Hickok, board chair of The Montpelier Foundation, said changing how the site is run caps “a 28-plus years engagement with the Montpelier descendants community, and more recently, a deliberate, year-long process by the board to achieve organizational and structural parity, which reflects the complete history of this specific place and America as a whole.” Hailed by Hickok as a historic decision, it is a first for U.S. museums and historic sites that are former places of enslavement, Montpelier said in a statement.

Furthermore, the Foundation is in the process of signing a Memorandum of Agreement with the Montpelier Descendants Committee (MDC, who represent the descendants of the enslaved persons on the plantation and in the area) to ensure consultation and cooperation in all aspects of running the Foundation. The Committee has just received a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to establish a master plan for an Arc of Enslaved Communities Project, focused on research, archaeology, interpretation and promotion of enslaved sites in Virginia.

Turning to biography and genealogy of the enslaved, the Montpelier Foundation has created The Naming Project, an innovative effort to name and find biographical and historical information on the enslaved persons who worked on the plantation. This project has identified the names of over 250 enslaved persons, and developed short biographies for 40+ persons. However, this effort has not published proofs to high genealogical standards of a descent from a Montpelier slave(s) down to the present.

Relevant Previous Work

Surprisingly, a substantial amount has already been learned about Montpelier plantation life largely through archaeological investigations, supplemented by some genealogical and historical analysis and courthouse and other legal records. Major findings to date include:

- Frances Taylor Madison, the grandmother of James Madison, Jr. (the President) lived at Mt. Pleasant her entire life, even when her small house there became unsafe and almost uninhabitable. When she died, that house was intentionally burned and destroyed, as revealed by archaeology showing that the house had been stripped of all possessions before being burned and pushed down. The grandmother dominated the plantation for many years, after her husband died rather young under mysterious circumstances. Courthouse records show that three slaves were convicted of murdering her husband (the grandfather of the President) by “poysoning,” but it now seems possible that this was not murder, but a natural poison (“white snakeroot” or a similar plant) ingested by cows on the plantation, leading to “milk sickness.” (This natural poison also killed Abraham Lincoln’s mother.)

One of the three slaves, Pompey, was hung and the other two received 29 lashes each. All three may well have been innocent.

- President Madison almost certainly did not grow up at Mount Pleasant, as was previously thought. Archaeological dating evidence shows that he likely grew up at a small plantation house near the site of the current Montpelier mansion (which was built later) with his parents. That small house was later transformed into an outdoor kitchen when the main, current Montpelier mansion was built.
- President Madison's parents lived on the same plantation with the President's grandmother (Frances Taylor Madison), but kept a separate household, ran a separate business (she focused for many years on tobacco growing after her husband died of poisoning, while they focused on blacksmithing on an industrial scale), and even kept separate books (a few of which luckily survived the intentional burning, in an archive in another state). It appears that sometimes these two households competed and sometimes supported each other, and they certainly did survive and co-exist for many years. Thus Madison, a principal author of the Constitution, may have been influenced in devising his separate branches of the Federal government by his unique early family and plantation life.
- According to Montpelier staff, "The first physical clue to the overseer's house being near the Madison Family Cemetery came in the late 1970s, when a well settled, opening a hole in the ground. Workers on the estate filled it, and later informed archaeologists about its presence. In the late 1980s, archaeologists opened a few units in the area of the well, and located a concentration of artifacts dating between the 1790s-1840s, indicating the presence of the site and the potential of the overseers' house site."
- Historical research into land records held at the county courthouse revealed the presence of an 1844 plat attached to sales records, when Dolley Madison sold Montpelier to the Moncure family, thus ending 120 years of Madison ownership. This plat showed an "Overseer's House" structure near a junction of two trails, on the Montpelier property.
- As described above, the Home Farm area has been surveyed via 20-meter metal detector gridding and some shovel test pits and other limited excavations, in a Phase 1 approach. However, the entire area needs considerably more work before a full picture of the working lives of the President Madison-era enslaved persons can be built up.
- The major remaining area of the Home Farm for which there was no information at all is the "Burned Area" where three mysterious pits with some evidence of continuous burning was present.

Relevant previous publications and analyses on Montpelier and enslaved plantation life include the following:

- Terry Brock, "The Archaeology of Enslaved Labor: Identifying Work and Domestic Spaces in the South Yard of Montpelier," presented at the Society for Historical Archaeology Conference, January 2016, Washington, D.C.
- Terry Brock, "LEARNING with the Archaeology at James Madison's Montpelier: Engaging with the Public and Descendants through Immersive Archaeological Programs," presented with Meredith P. Luze and Matthew B. Reeves at the Society for Historical Archaeology Conference, January 2016, Washington, D.C.
- Douglas B. Chambers, *Murder at Montpelier: Igbo Africans in Virginia* (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2005).

- C. Copperstone, *Labor, Status and Power: Slave Foodways at James Madison's Montpelier AD 1810-1836*. (Master's Thesis, University of Arizona, 2014).
- Maria Franklin, "Enslaved Household Variability and Plantation Life and Labor in Colonial Virginia," *International Journal of Historical Archaeology*, Published on-line, 6 July 2019.
- Matthew C. Greer, "Contextual Canines, a Dog Burial, and Enslaved Life on a Virginia Plantation" [Montpelier], *Journal of the African Diaspora Archaeology and Heritage*, Vol. 5, No. 3, Nov. 2016.
- Hilarie M. Hicks, "'Every Fever Gives Alarm,'" the 1820-21 Typhus Epidemic at Montpelier" (Montpelier, VA: The Montpelier Foundation, Digital Doorway Project, 2021, online).
- Hilarie M. Hicks, The Naming Project (short biographies and some genealogies of over 40 enslaved persons at Montpelier), (Montpelier, VA: The Montpelier Foundation, Digital Doorway Project, 2021, online).
- Hilarie M. Hicks, "The Making of James Madison's Montpelier's 'Mere Distinction of Colour,'" (National Council on Public History, online), February 2019.
- Hilarie M. Hicks, "Putting People in the Picture," (Montpelier, VA: The Montpelier Foundation, Digital Doorway Project, April 2020, online).
- Hilarie M. Hicks, "Montpelier's Edible Alphabet," (Montpelier, VA: The Montpelier Foundation, Digital Doorway Project, December 2019, online).
- Hilarie M. Hicks, "Christmas Confections: Sweet Treats from Tryon Palace," (North Carolina Digital Collections, online) 1992.
- Matthew G. Hyland, *Montpelier: The History of a House* (Williamsburg, VA: PhD dissertation, College of William and Mary) 2004.
- John D. Metz, "Architecture, Race and Social Control, Slave Housing in Virginia, 1790-1860," Academia.com, 2013.
- Matthew B. Reeves, *A Brief History of the Montpelier Landscape-revised*, (Montpelier Station, VA: Manuscript, The Montpelier Foundation, Montpelier Archaeology Department, 2013).
- Matthew B. Reeves, "Asking the 'Right' Questions: Archaeologists and Descendent Communities," *Places in Mind*, edited by Erve Chambers and Paul Shackel (Routledge Press, 2004).
- Matthew B. Reeves and James Barton, "Excavations at the Madison Field Slave Complex (Tobacco Barn Quarter44OR333): Excavation Seasons 2004-2005. Report on File, Montpelier Archaeology Department, 2005.
- Patricia Samford, "The Archaeology of African-American Slavery and Material Culture," *The William and Mary Quarterly* (3rd Series, Vol. LIII, No. 1, January 1996).
- Laura R. Sandy, *The Overseers of Early American Slavery: Supervisors, Enslaved Labourers, and the Plantation Enterprise* (New York: Routledge, 2020).
- M. A. Trickett, *Archaeology Sites at James Madison's Montpelier* (Montpelier Station, VA: Manuscript, The Montpelier Foundation, Montpelier Archaeology Department, 2017).
- M. A. Trickett, *By the Harvest Moon's Light: Excavations of the Field Slave Quarters at the home of James Madison, 2012-2013* (Montpelier Station, VA: Manuscript, The Montpelier Foundation, Montpelier Archaeology Department, 2014).

Re genealogy as previously mentioned, the Montpelier Foundation has on board a historian, Hilarie M. Hicks (see the citations above), who has worked on the substantial Naming Project, which has researched the enslaved persons at Montpelier, discovered and published their names, and attempted to develop biographical and family information. This effort has identified over 250 names and

biographical information on 40+ slaves, but has not published any genealogical descents down to the present for the identified enslaved persons.

Goals of the Expedition

The goals of the Montpelier Expedition and the related 2021 efforts were as follows:

1. Undertake an archaeological investigation of the area of the Montpelier plantation suspected of being the location of the overseers of the plantation, mostly free whites but including some black enslaved men.
2. Investigate the archaeological remains of the overseers' dwellings; and determine their living and working conditions and the living conditions of their families.
3. Continue investigation of the Home Farm area, with a particular focus on the "Burned Area" with three depressions of unknown origin. (This was not a focus in the original spring 2021 conception of the effort, but was added when it became clear that this was a major "unknown unknown" and that some resources needed to be delayed in deploying to the overseer's area.)
4. Undertake genealogical research to a high standard, to attempt to establish a descent(s) to the present or near present from a known enslaved person(s) at Montpelier.

Accomplishments of the Expedition

The main archaeological findings of the expedition, other related 2021 efforts, and the Montpelier historian re the overseers were as follows:

- The 1844 plat locating the Overseer's House (OH) location appears to be generally correct
- Ground penetrating radar and a detailed metal detector survey gave additional evidence for the location and size of the OH
- Nails found at the OH gave an indication of the history of the structure
- A brick floor found at the OH likely indicated that the structure was of higher status than the typical slave quarters, which just had beaten earth floors
- Other indicators found of higher status were pieces of 1830s transfer ware and six paste gems
- A slate pencil and tablet found were likely indicators of literacy and resident by a white (and possibly a black) overseer's family
- Through historical research, it was established that there were at least seven overseers at Montpelier, of which two were black. These were Sawney, who oversaw a tract of over 500 acres, and Ralph or "Old Ralph." Also, Moses acted as a senior blacksmith and in effect was an overseer of this aspect of plantation work life, according to Dr. Matthew Reeves.

"Dashboards" of detailed results from the effort were created or are under construction as of this writing. The completed one can be accessed at the following location:

https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/8ac6a04bc3e54cf78146eafbd4b3f8b9/page/page_12/?views=view_38

All of the dot-pointed tentative findings above need to be confirmed and expanded with considerable additional lab work and analysis. For photos of the major findings in the overseer's site, see the Annex below on images of the expedition.

Not all of the planned detailed investigation of the overseer's site was able to be undertaken, since a delay occurred while the Montpelier Descendants Committee was consulted on some of the detailed investigation plans. Thus, further investigation of the overseer's site will likely be undertaken in 2022.

Since some resources were diverted away from the detailed overseer's investigation, test units were opened in the other areas, specifically the "Burned Site." This area was the location of the very first small excavation on the property, in 1987, which found a layer of a white substance with bricklike clay below. From this one small "unit" – a hole about 3 x 3 feet -- it was speculated that the white layer was mortar, and the clay was a brick wall. This would perhaps indicate a substantial structure, perhaps a mansion.

The 2021 Expedition undertook a "Phase 2" excavation, meaning that a substantial number of 5 x 5-foot pits ("units") were dug down to subsoil. This effort yielded the following results:

- Three sloped-sided, rounded out trenches were found in a line, with a layer of ash below. The ash layer had been mistaken for mortar in 1987.
- Below the ash layer was not brick, but rather clay that had turned brick-like because of long-term burning, which had "fired" the clay in the way that a kiln would.
- Bits of burnt wood were scattered across the units. A number of large nails were also found, likely from about the 1840s. A very few domestic items were found.
- It was thought at first that this area might be a brick clamp (a free-standing brick kiln in which a pile of raw bricks was built with layers of wood, then the wood was fired to harden the bricks). But no evidence of broken or exploded bricks was found. So, this theory was discarded.
- Another theory was the area was a lime kiln, and hence continuous burning and firing was undertaken. But again no evidence of lime was found, so this possibility was also discarded.
- Other possibilities were contemplated, including: a laundry, charcoal-making facility, air-curing tobacco barn, cattle barn, hay storage barn, large wooden house, blacksmith's shop, tanning site, etc. However, none of these possibilities were supported by the evidence.
- One of the few remaining possibilities was a smoke-curing tobacco barn. In building such a structure, clay is needed to chink the log walls and make them fairly air (smoke) tight. This would explain the three pits, which were likely "borrow pits" to harvest clay for the chinking. The pits would then be used to build smoky fires in, to cure the tobacco with smoke and some heat.
- The few domestic items could be explained by the theory that enslaved persons about to be sold South, or displaced by the Madison's selling off property to pay debts, might have been moved to this barn structure to live in during the winter, since it would hold the heat and keep out the cold.

All of this is somewhat speculative at this point, and likely will need to be verified by continued Phase 2 investigations or perhaps a full-scale Phase 3 approach, in which the entire area of the structure is excavated.

These findings are generally in line with previous research and conclusions about the viability of the plantation during President Madison's active administration of Montpelier, after he retired from the Presidency, as follows:

- Madison believed in "scientific farming" – including contour plowing, using crop rotation to avoid destroying the soil fertility, and using clover planting to help regenerate the soil.
- However, despite these laudable aspirations, Madison's major error or problem was in switching to grain production instead of continuing the much more profitable tobacco farming. Through his scientific farming of grain he was likely able to increase grain production somewhat, but his high expenses required substantial loans. These loans were secured by his major asset – his 100+ slaves.
- Madison tried to make money by transcribing his shorthand notes taken during the deliberations of the Constitutional Convention. He was able to sell these historically important notes to the US Congress, but this sale did not nearly pay off his debts.
- As debts began to pile up, Madison began to rely on "breeding" more slaves and profitably selling them South (especially Louisiana) in the internal US slave trade, especially after slave importation from Africa was prohibited in 1808.
- Thus we have the specter of the Father of the Constitution treating his enslaved people like cattle, breeding them, breaking up families, and selling many "down the river" to even worse conditions in the South. Of course this was a terrifying period for the enslaved people on the plantation, who doubtless knew of the financial troubles, and their impending fate.
- All this came to a head when Madison died, with massive debts, and Dolley had to sell almost all the slaves and the entire plantation, and move to Washington, DC. There her debts continued to haunt her, and late in life her friends were lending her money just to buy food.

For images relating to the plantation activities and findings, see the Annex below.

Turning to genealogy, a major accomplishment of the effort was researching, asserting and proving a line from an enslaved couple at Montpelier, John Freeman and his wife Melinda Colbert, down to very distinguished present-day educators and writers. John and Melinda worked at the White House, and they saved the only piece of furniture (a feather bed) when the mansion was burned by the British during the War of 1812. This same line also extends back in time to Monticello and a parent and grandparents of Sally Hemings, the famous mistress of President Thomas Jefferson. Thus the line extends for eleven generations, from Africa to the present, a very unusual and substantial descent.

The draft genealogical report on this line is presented below, in an Annex to this Flag Report. This will be published on Academia.edu in the near future, and provided to appropriate libraries and genealogical repositories.

A rough calculation of the economic value provided to the Madison family over the period of their ownership was developed; see the next section.

An Economic Calculation of the Value of Enslaved Labor Contributed

As an economist and former labor organizer and negotiator, I was interested in trying to quantify the effort and value of work put in by the many Madison slaves. I developed the following simple calculations:

100 enslaved people in a typical year on the Montpelier plantation, x

10 hours per day worked = 1,000 hours per day contributed, x

300 days per year worked (assumes no work on Sunday and a few sick days) = 300,000 hours per year contributed by the enslaved workforce, x

120 years of Madison ownership = 36,000,000 hours of work contributed by the enslaved workforce over the course of the Madison ownership, x

\$15 per hour living wage in modern terms = **\$540,000,000 (more than half a billion dollars) in value in modern terms, delivered for free by enslaved people, to the Madison family.**

Note that the 36,000,000 hours of work shown above, if reduced to modern work years of about 2080 hours per year, would yield 17,308 person-years of work contributed by slaves to the Madison family.

These figures are substantial, but are generally in line with the findings of one of the few rigorous attempts to calculate the value of slave contributions to the US economy. This was recently done by Mark Stelzner and Sven Beckert, *The Contribution of Enslaved Workers to Output and Growth in the Antebellum United States* (Washington, DC: Washington Center for Equitable Growth, 2021, Working Paper Series). This can be found at: <https://equitablegrowth.org/working-papers/the-contribution-of-enslaved-workers-to-output-and-growth-in-the-antebellum-united-states/>

These authors found (p. 19) that in the South Atlantic region (including Virginia), in 1839, slaves constituted 39.8 percent of the population but contributed a massive 50 to 55 percent of the total commodity output of the region.

The figures above do not account for the fact that a number of slaves were very skilled, such as blacksmiths, carpenters and farriers. These individuals, if working today, would command much more than \$15 per hour. On the other hand, it is possible that the number of enslaved persons dropped below 100 for some time before the final sale of the plantation in 1844.

Note that the figures above are gross, not net, and do not account for the room and board supplied to the slaves, and other overhead expenses. Of course, the “room” was substandard cabins and the “board” consisted of flour, corn meal and salt and some other very basic foodstuffs. Slaves had to obtain fresh vegetables and fruits by growing them in small gardens, and by hunting and trapping small game. Enslaved people were also able sometimes to earn a little money by selling vegetables, lace, and other home-made goods.

The gross figures developed above were reviewed by Dr. Matt Reeves of Montpelier and Carole White of the Madison Museum, and deemed as reasonable estimates.

Members of the Effort

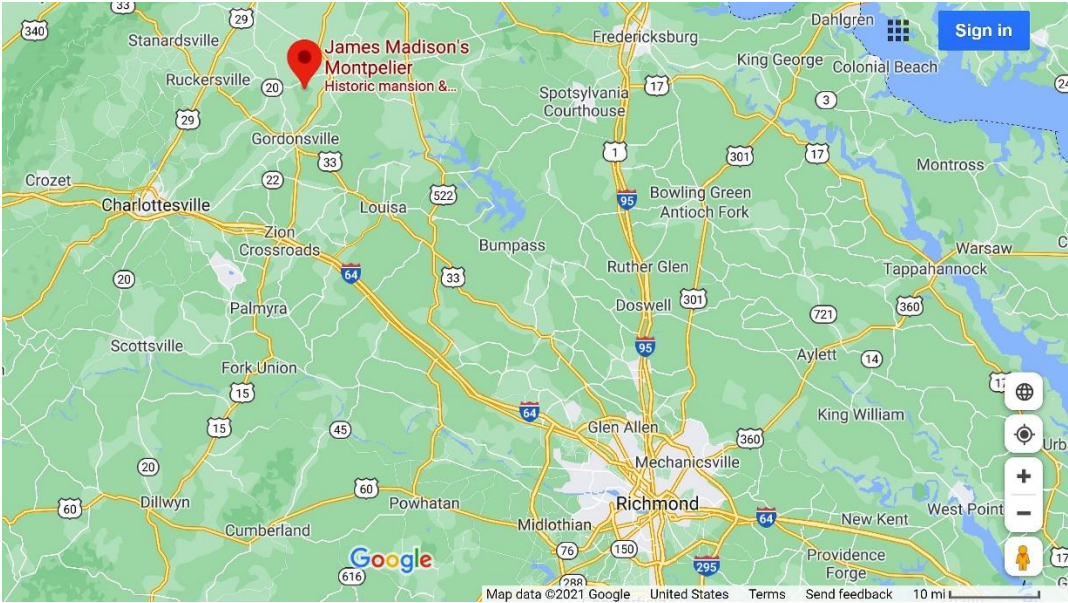
The effort was led Matthew Reeves, PhD, the head of the Montpelier Archaeology Department. Terry Brock, PhD, who had been slated to lead the effort, took another position shortly before the expedition began. Hillarie M. Hicks was the Montpelier historian who created the Naming Project that was a partial basis for the genealogical research undertaken as part of the project.

The only Explorers Club member of the Expedition was the author, Lew Toulmin, PhD, FRGS, FN '04.

Eight other volunteers from the US, four Montpelier staff, and four Montpelier interns were part of the effort.

Annex 1

Maps of Montpelier's Location



Map showing Montpelier, with Richmond to the SE and Charlottesville to the SW



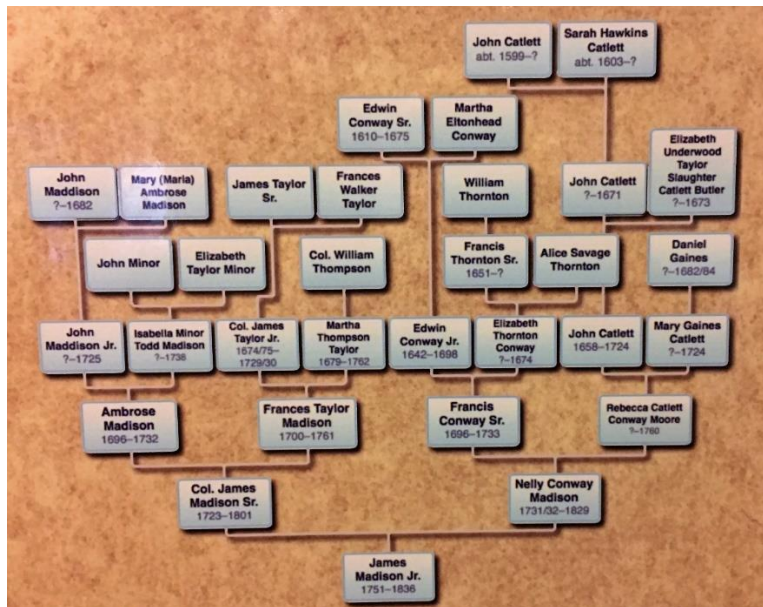
Local area of Montpelier, showing the current Mansion (the red dot), the Visitor's Center and President Madison's gravesite

Annex 2

Images of Montpelier and the Expedition



The main Presidential mansion at Montpelier (left) and the reconstructed house slave quarters (right), in Orange County, Virginia.



President Madison's family tree, showing him at the bottom. Madison was 5'3" tall, averaged 98 pounds in weight, was a terrible public speaker, was sickly and in pain all his life, but was a brilliant researcher and writer. He persuaded Dolley to marry him based on his letters where he said that "his heart burned for her with the heat of a thousand suns." After they married he would bet dinner guests that Dolley could carry him piggyback around the dinner table; which she would do, four times!



James and Dolley Madison, “America’s First Power Couple” – portraits hanging at Montpelier. After he retired from the Presidency, they entertained an average of 20 guests (mostly powerful politicians) every night for 20 years! Thus they kept their hand in national politics.



A restored interior room in Montpelier.



Excavations in the south lawn of the main mansion at Montpelier, with sites shown of cabins for enslaved persons.



The "Temple of Liberty" is the symbol of Montpelier; Madison recognized the evils of slavery but did not fight hard to abolish it, and owned slaves all his life. Underneath the Temple is an icehouse, that the enslaved labored mightily in the late winter to fill with ice cut from a local pond.



A traditional “dirt archaeology” excavation team at Montpelier



Staff and volunteers at the Burn Site examine a “unit.” Note the flat floor and crisp walls.



Volunteers sift excavated dirt through a quarter-inch screen to obtain artifacts.



Local descendants receive a tour of a dig on the plantation.



Inside a reconstructed slave hut at Montpelier near the main mansion; the image is of an enslaved boy. The image is made from excavated brick bits found on the site, and the fingerprints of some of the enslaved brickmakers are preserved on the bricks. It appears that slave cabins near the main house were much nicer than cabins distant from the mansion, likely because the nearby ones were within sight of the mansion, the Madison family, and their guests.



Jennifer Glass, an archaeologist at Montpelier, stands beside the plantation's slave quarters, reconstructed in 2017 from earlier archaeological studies. The main plantation house is in the distance.



Photo of an original slave quarters cabin at Montpelier, distant from the main mansion. The photo's date is not clear, but is likely from soon after the Civil War. This cabin did not survive to the present.



Objects found at the Montpelier slave quarters excavations near the main mansion, including belt buckles, pipes, keys, buttons and a Jew's harp.

TWENTY DOLLARS REWARD.

RUN AWAY the 14th of June last, from the Subscriber in Orange County, a Mulatto Slave, named ANTHONY, about 17 years old, low, but well made, has very light hair and grey eyes; he carried with him a Great Coat, made of white plains, with small red Cape; a jacket of red plains, and another of white linen, each without sleeves; an Oznaburg coat, two pair of breeches, and a pair of striped overalls, felt hat, shoes, and metal buckles; he has been used to house business, and as a waiting servant. **TEN DOLLARS** Reward will be given, if he be secured so that I get him again, or the above, brought home to me.

N. B. It is probable he has procured a Pass, or a Certificate of his Freedom; and has changed his name and loaths.

JAMES MADISON.
Nov 3, 1786.

Virginia Gazette, 1786
Ad for a runaway slave, Anthony.

Anthony was returned twice to Madison. When he ran away a third time, Madison did not attempt to have him returned.

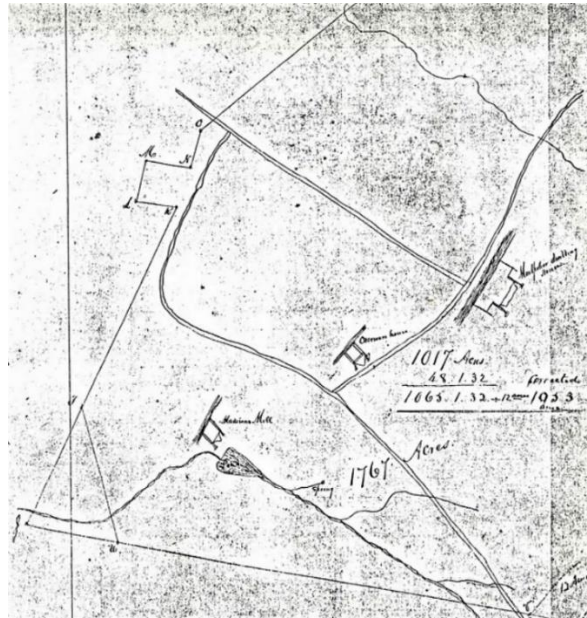
Excavation Methodology

Multiple Phases of Site Identification

- Identify Site Components
 - liDAR
 - Historical documents
 - 20 meter Metal Detector Survey
- Identify Archaeological Sites
 - 10' Metal Detector Survey
 - Shovel Test Pit Survey
 - Geophysical Survey
- Identify Function and Date
 - 5'x5' Test Units



Multi-phased approach to the Overseer's site



The 1844 plat attached to the deed transferring Montpelier from Dolley Madison to the Moncure family, thus ending 120 years of Madison ownership. In that same year she sold all the remaining Montpelier slaves. In the center near the junction of two trails is the barely readable "Overseers House." See the detail below.



The same Overseer's House from the 1844 plat, rotated to show the structure, apparently placed upon a drawing of the ground, with a recognizable triangular roof and possibly two chimneys, and the difficult-to-read legend "Overseer's House."



Ground penetrating radar survey of the Overseer's site



The detailed 10 foot square metal detector survey of the overseer's house site shows numerous detector hits (in the red squares), thus helping to pinpoint the likely location of the structure.



A metal detectorist and recorder at the Overseer's site



Metal detector and nail hits on a 10-foot grid, at the Overseer's site



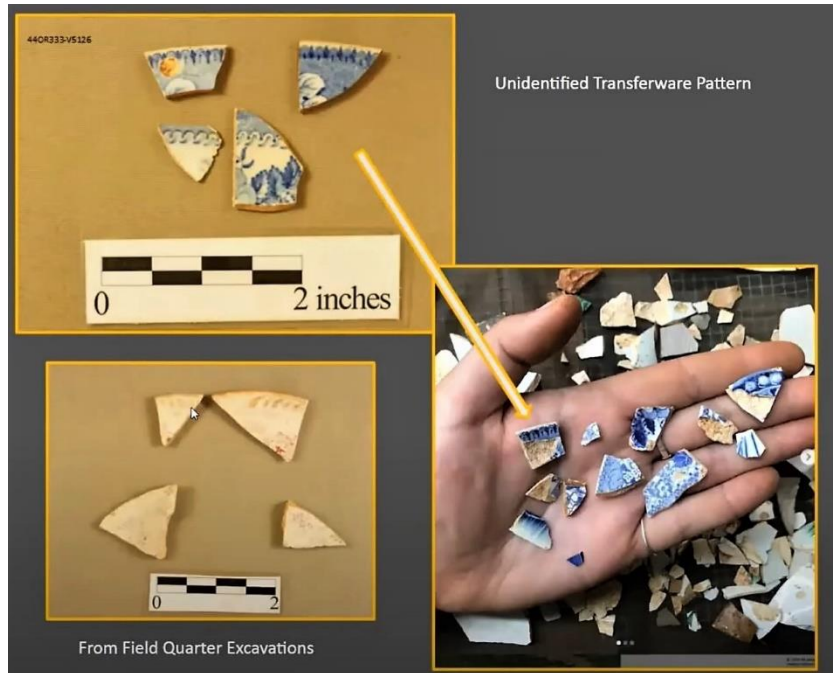
A volunteer shows a nail found via a survey via shovel test pits at the overseer's house site.



Nails found in a test divot from a shovel test taken at the overseer's house site. Nails are very useful because they are recognizably different depending on their period of manufacture.



Excavations at the Overseer's house



1830s transferware found at the Overseer's site



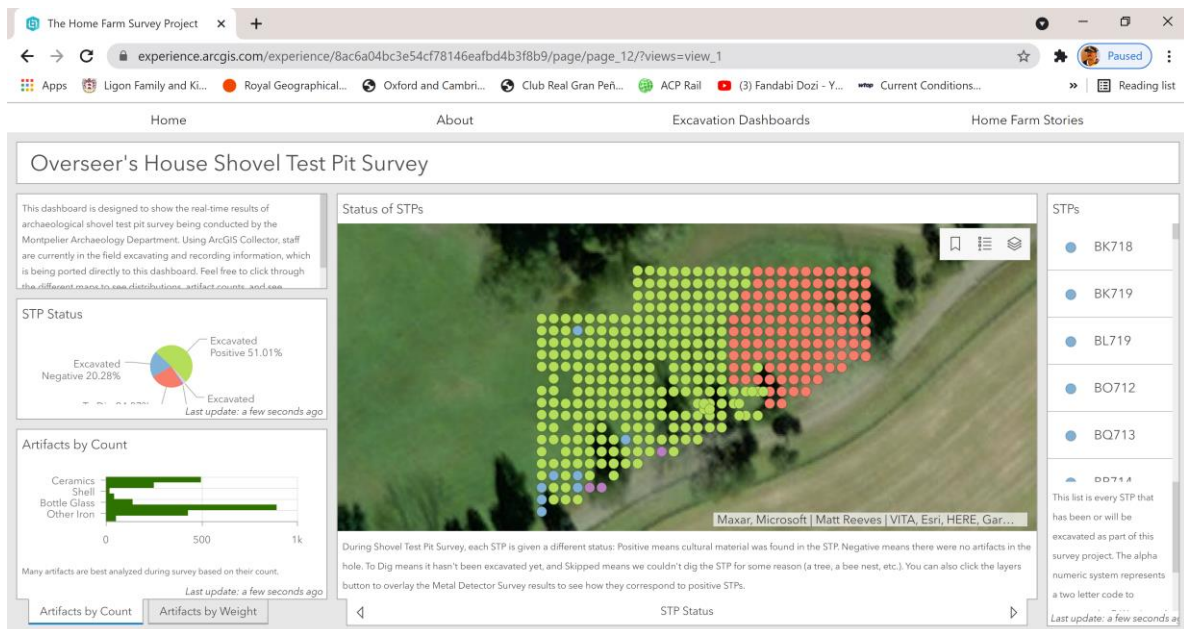
Artifacts found at the Overseer's site



Six paste gems found at the Overseer's house



Slate pencil and writing tablet from the Overseer's house



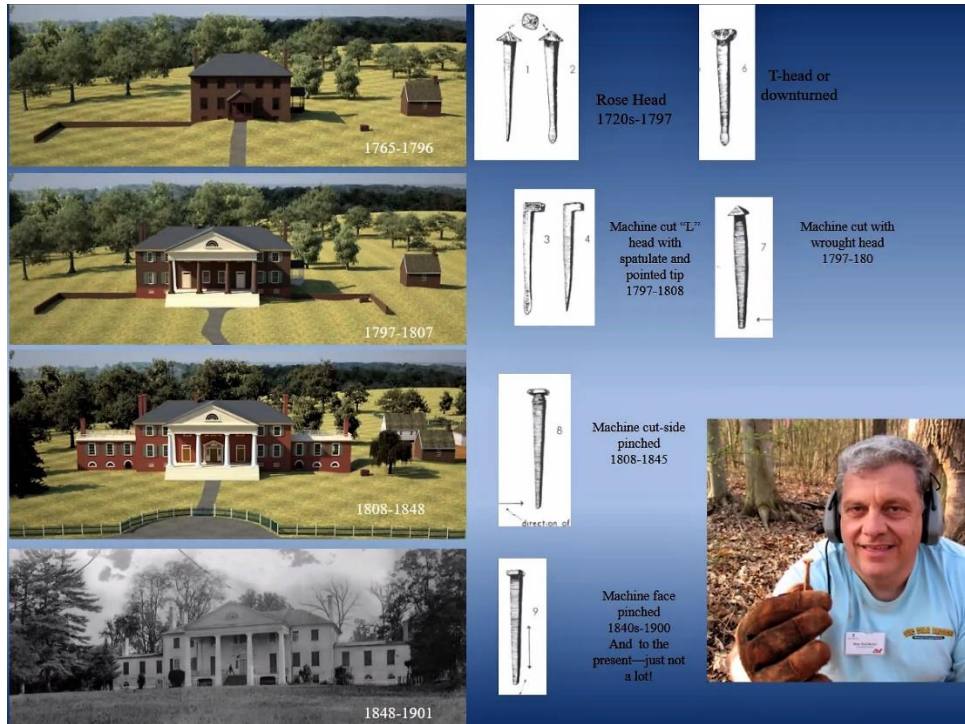
The "dashboard" which keeps track in real time of the shovel test pit (STP) results from the Overseer's House site



View from the location of the Overseer's House shows that it was on a high point where it could literally "oversee" the entire Home Farm area, from which the Overseer could keep a watchful eye on all the activities of the enslaved workers below.



Ceramics found at Overseer's cabin site



Structure images and dates on the left, and the corresponding nails shown on the right. Thus nails alone can often tell the tale of when a structure (barn, cabin, home, etc.) was built.



Closeup of the “Burned Site” portion (upper rectangle of square) of the Home Farm where trenches were opened in 2021 to solve the mystery of the three depressions and indications of continuous burning



The Home Farm area, with the mysterious Burn Site in the upper left and the Overseer's Site (with open archaeological trenches) in the lower center. The Visitor's Center and parking lot is in the upper left center.



Author Lew Toulmin and Flag # 212, at his unit at the Burn Site. Note the Japanese-style pull trowel, quite different from the usual smaller diamond-shaped Western trowel. But much more effective!



Author Lew Toulmin at the Burn Site, troweling a unit with a standard Western-style small trowel.



A unit at the Burn Site, showing the white layer mis-identified in 1987 as “mortar” (in fact it is ash) and the red layer below it mis-identified as “brick” when in fact it is clay at the bottom of a borrow pit, fired by a long, slow burning process. The string is left over from the 1987 small excavation.



Author Lew Toulmin and Flag # 212 in the Field Lab at the dig site. Here finds are cleaned, dried, tagged and prepared to be sent to the main Montpelier Archaeology Laboratory.



Cow's teeth found at Burn Site



Nails found at Burn Site, likely from about 1840

Annex 3
Report on a Genealogical Line from Montpelier

**An Eleven-Generation African-American
Line of Descent from Sally Hemings' Grandparents
down through the
White House, Monticello, Montpelier
and Service in the Civil War and WW II
to the Present**

by

Llewellyn M. Toulmin, PhD, FRGS, FN '04

Silver Spring, Maryland

November 2021

DRAFT

This report has the following sections:

- Introduction
- Methodology
- Summary chart
- Potential memberships
- Assertions and proofs
- Information on the author.

Introduction

This report traces and largely proves an eleven-generation genealogical African-American descent from Africa to the present. This line of descent includes the following remarkable persons:

- The half-sister of Sally Hemings, President Jefferson's mistress. "Brown" Hemings was likely the grand-daughter of an enslaved African woman, grandmother of both Sally and "Brown."
- John Freeman, an amazing enslaved man who served in the White House, at Monticello, Montpelier, and in the White House. He fled the burning of the White House by the British with his wife, child and the only piece of furniture saved from the blaze. He gained his freedom in 1815.
- John's wife Melinda, who also served in Monticello and the White House, and gained her freedom in about 1807.
- Two black brothers who served in the Civil War in the Union Army: Lt. John Freeman Shorter and Sergeant Charles Henry Shorter. Both fought in battles against the Confederate States Army and were wounded but survived.
- Distinguished modern descendants and family members with degrees from Howard, Princeton, Yale and Stanford universities, who served in positions such as Associate Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer at the University of Maryland, Executive Director of a public charter school, and program director at the Family Institute of Northwestern University.

Methodology

This genealogical report relies heavily for the first six generations on work done previously by historians at Monticello in the Getting Word Project, and at James Madison's Montpelier by Hillarie M. Hicks in The Naming Project. The seventh through eleventh generations below reflect new research.

In the analyses below, the most important items are the proven linkages between one generation and another, and the proven marriage/liaison linkage between the asserted parents of a child. Dates and locations of birth, death and marriage are also important, but it is understandable that in difficult circumstances and early periods not all dates and locations may be exact or even available.

If a key linkage is deemed to be weak in terms of proof, then a **NOTE** (in bold type) will be inserted. Such a note does not necessarily mean that the link did not exist, it may just mean that at present, insufficient proof (paper trail, testimony, affidavit, DNA, etc.) has been amassed to make a confident assertion. If no **NOTE** is inserted, then the linkage and assertions are deemed to be at least reasonably proven, and if numerous overlapping and confirming proofs are present, then the assertion can be judged by the reader to be confirmed to a high standard of proof. The most important linkage points in each bullet point set of evidentiary items are underlined.

Similarly, in the chart below, if a question mark [?] is inserted, this means that the link or person is not adequately proven.

Most genealogical articles and report only cite sources briefly, and do not list all the information provided by each source. Here, since the tracing of the links, dates, places, etc. is challenging, all the relevant information provided by each source is shown, so that the reader can see and evaluate the quality of the information and does not have to obtain the original sources. Biographical information (e.g., occupation, income, religion) obtained from the sources is presented here, for interest but also because such items can also help establish proof of linkages. (For example, if John Smith is, say, a carpenter and a Wesleyan Methodist in Record A and also in Record B, then the chances that the two Records point to the same John Smith are markedly increased.)

The site for obtaining the original sources in this report is Ancestry.com, unless otherwise specified. This source has dramatically improved in scope and depth over the last decade, but of course is not truly comprehensive. This research effort was somewhat hampered by the closure of libraries, courthouses, Family Research Centers and various repositories during the Covid-19 pandemic.

This report focuses on tracing one blood line down to the present, and does not pursue or document the descendants of all the many siblings of the main line persons. These siblings are often mentioned in the proof items, especially US Census records, but are not further discussed except if they are of special interest. Further research to fill out those lines is encouraged.

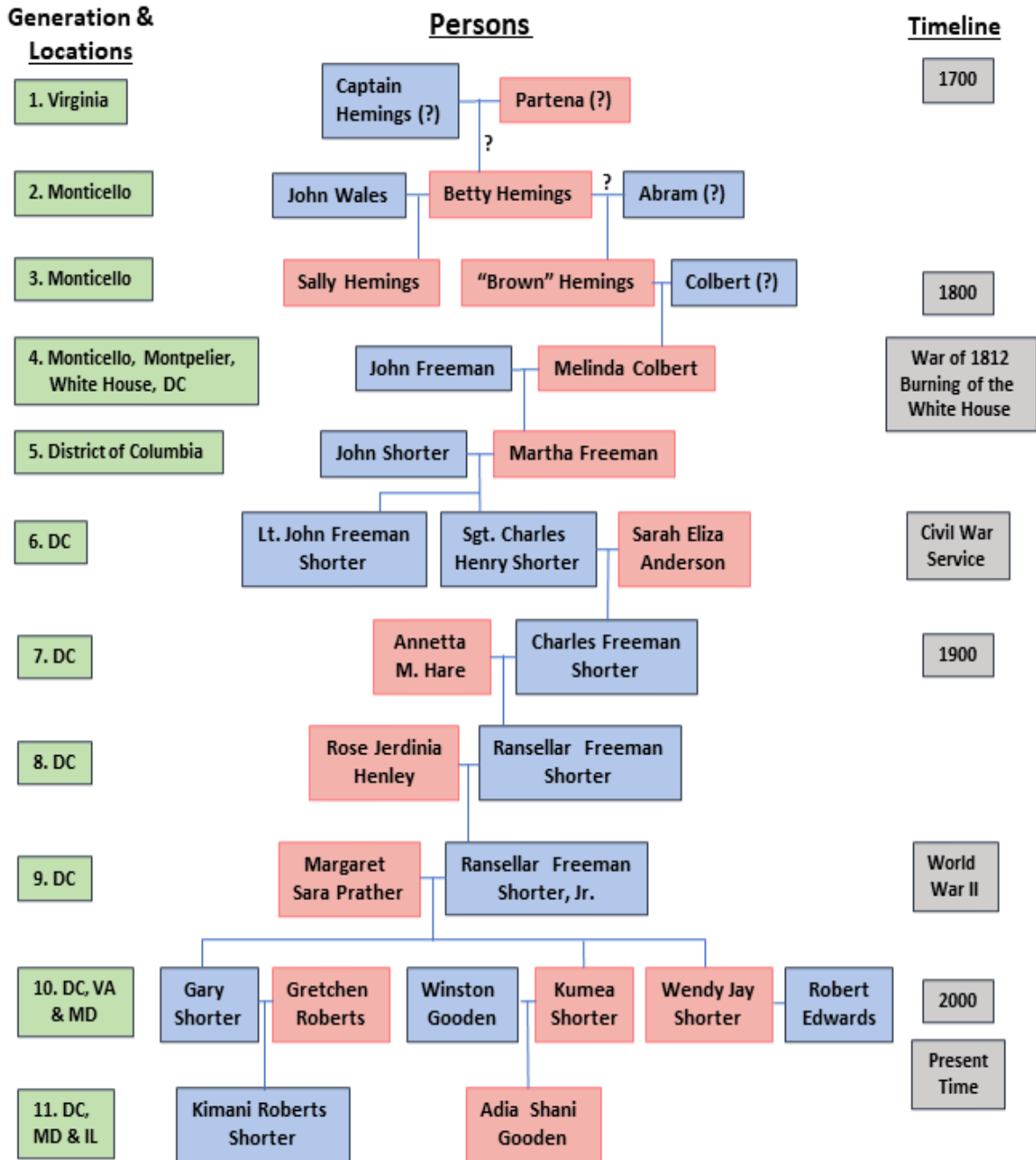
Abbreviations used in this report include the following:

abt.	about	aft.	after
b.	born	bef.	before
c.	circa	d.	died
d.c.	died circa		

Summary Chart

The chart below summarizes the assertions and proofs in the subsequent section.

MONTICELLO TO MONTPELIER TO THE WHITE HOUSE TO THE PRESENT, IN ELEVEN BLACK GENERATIONS



Potential Memberships

Based on the chart above and the detailed assertions and proofs below, the living descendants of this genealogical line should qualify for the following organizations:

- The Getting Word Project of Monticello: This project was founded in 1993 and traces descendants of enslaved persons who worked at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. See: <https://www.monticello.org/getting-word/about/about-getting-word>. Contact: Getting_Word@Monticello.org.
- Montpelier Descendants Committee: This organization is composed of descendants of enslaved persons who worked on President James Madison's Montpelier plantation or in the surrounding area. It is obtaining 501(c)(3) certification and is currently negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding for input into The Montpelier Foundation, the organization that runs President Madison's Montpelier. See: <https://montpelierdescendants.org/>
- Sons and Daughters of the United States Middle Passage: This society is open to men and women 18 or older whose African-American ancestors were enslaved or held in indentured servitude in colonial and ante-bellum years, up through December 1865. See: <https://sdusmp.org/join/>.
- Society of the First African Families of English America. This organization is open to men and women descended from a person of African descent who lived in English America before 5 March 1770, the date of the Boston Massacre and the death of Crispus Attucks, the first Patriot casualty of the American Revolution. See: https://sofafea.org/?page_id=270.
- Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War: This organization is open to men 14 years or older who are descended from veterans of the Civil War who fought on the Union side. See: http://www.suvcw.org/?page_id=129
- Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic: This organization is open to women 10 years or older who are descended from honorably discharged veterans of the Union Army or from Civil War nurses. See: <http://suvcw.org/LGAR/Membership.html>
- Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War: This organization is open to female descendants of honorably discharged soldiers or sailors who served in the Union Army. See: <https://www.duvcw.org/>
- National Society Daughters of the Union: This organization is open to female descendants of honorably discharged soldiers or sailors who served in the Union Army. See: <https://www.nsdu.org/>
- National Order of the Blue and Gray: This organization is open to descendants of persons who served the Union or the Confederacy in a military or civil capacity. See: <http://nobg.org/>

- Sons and Daughters of World War II Veterans: This society is open to descendants of persons who served in WW II through 31 December 1946 (hence Ransellar F. Shorter, Jr., below, qualifies). See: <https://www.pacificwarmuseum.org/join-give/society-sons-daughters>
- Guild of Colonial Artisans and Tradesmen, 1607-1783: As discussed below, there is a possible but currently unproven propositi (qualifying ancestor) in this line, in the person of Benjamin Colvert/Colvard, who may have been in this line, and was a white man and a carpenter working on the Monticello plantation in 1778-9. For membership information, see: <https://guildcolonialartsandtrades.weebly.com/membership.html>

Assertions and Proofs

Generation #1

Assertion: A Captain Hemings and an enslaved woman possibly named Parthena or Parthenia (dates and places of birth of both uncertain or unknown) had a liaison and an enslaved daughter, c. 1735, named Elizabeth (Betty) Hemings.

Proofs:

- <https://www.monticello.org/getting-word/families/colbert-hemings-family> has a detailed, multi-generational biographical description of this family. This description from Monticello.org states that, “according to Elizabeth (Betty) Hemings grandson, Madison Hemings, she [Betty] was descended from an English sea-trading captain named Hemings and an enslaved woman.” The captain “sailed between England and Williamsburg, VA and the enslaved woman was a full-blooded African.” The captain tried to purchase the child Elizabeth (Betty) Hemings, offering an extraordinary price, but her owner refused to sell, whereupon the captain sailed off and never returned. In adulthood “Betty was taken as a concubine by her owner John Wales, by whom she had six children...” (and had twelve children in total). John Wales (or Wayles) was the father-in-law of President Thomas Jefferson, and when Wales died Betty was inherited by Jefferson. This website also shows Betty Hemings listed in a 1774 register of slaves at Monticello. The Madison Hemings statement comes from his statement in the *Pike County Republican*, 13 March 1873, of Waverly, OH.
- “Captain” Hemings may have been John Hemings or William Hemings, father and son, both asserted to be whaling captains. See: <https://www.moremarymatters.com/Betty%20Hemings'%20Father.htm#2-1-7-5-6> The dates for John Hemings (or Hemmings) are reported as b. 3 November 1672 in Bassingbourne, Cambridgeshire, son of John Martha Hemmings (Ancestry.com, England Selected Births and Christenings), d. late in 1738 or early 1739, buried 6 January 1739, St. Giles, London, England (Ancestry.com, London Registry of Church of England Births and Marriages). William Heming (Hemings?) was baptized 29 October 1699 in Haselor, Warwickshire, England, with father John Heming and mother Elizabeth Heming (from Ancestry.com, Warwickshire, England, Church of England Baptisms...).

- Annette Gordon-Reed, *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy* (Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 1997) speculates that Parthena or Parthenia was the enslaved mother of Elizabeth (Betty) Hemings.

NOTE: The asserted links and identifications require more proofs to meet high genealogical standards. Also, the “whaling captains” assertion seems questionable, since the peak of whaling under sail was in the 1830s and later, although there were whalers during the 1700s and the American Revolution. The assertions may well be true, but additional proofs and research are desirable.

Generation #2

Assertion: Elizabeth (“Betty” or “Betsey”) Hemings, b. 1735 likely in VA, d. 22 August 1807 at Monticello, VA, and another slave Abram (01) (or an unknown man) were married or had a liaison c. 1759 in VA, and had a daughter Betty “Brown” Hemings.

Proofs:

- Monticello Farm Journal 1773-1826: Entries for pages 5 and 15 of the 1774 section show that Betty Hemings is the mother of Bett “Brown” Hemings and Abram (01) is the father, that “Brown” was b. in 1759, that her owner was Thomas Jefferson, and that “Brown” was located at Monticello in Albemarle County, VA in 1774. See the following website: <https://www.moremarymatters.com/Table%201,%20Farm%20Book.htm>
- See the Monticello.org multi-generational site, *ibid*.
- Find-a-Grave: Betsey Hemings, b. 1735 in VA, d. 22 August 1807, Albemarle Co., VA; large marker in the Monticello African American Graveyard; photo of the marker on the Ancestry.com/Find-a-Grave website.

Biographical Information: One of the daughters of Elizabeth (Betty) Hemings by John Wales (or Wayles) was Sally Hemings, the famous enslaved long-term concubine of President Thomas Jefferson. Sally Hemings was thus the half-sister of Betty “Brown” Hemings. (She is not the full sister because the father of Betty was Abram and the father of Sally was John Wales.) Sally Hemings was b. 9 February 1773 in Charles Co. VA and d. 1835 in Charlottesville, VA. Sadly, her burial location is unknown. See: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/8463/sally-hemings>

NOTE: It is not clear if the name “Brown” is a nickname, or a name acquired by marrying or liaising with a man with the surname of Brown. Further proof items are desirable. Also, the partner/husband of Elizabeth (likely Abram) is not well established.

Generation #3

Assertion: Betty “Brown” Hemings, b. 1759 in VA, d. aft. 1831, and an unknown man, likely surnamed Colbert, were married or had a liaison c. 1787 in VA, and had a daughter, Melinda (or Malinda) Colbert, and seven other children.



Left: a reconstructed slave cabin at Monticello; right: the Monticello mansion

Proofs:

- <https://www.monticello.org/getting-word/families/colbert-hemings-family> has a detailed, multi-generational biographical description of this family. See also the family tree showing dates and descents for three generations related to line analyzed here.
- This related site has a short biography of Betty Brown and gives her dates as 1759 to after 1831: <https://www.monticello.org/getting-word/people/betty-brown>
- *Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 30, No. 2: citing Charlottesville District Court, Deed Book 1, states that on p. 59 it states that “24 December 1794. Thomas Jefferson emancipated Robert Hemings, son of Betty Hemings.”

Biographical Information: Two of Betty’s sons became runaways after being told that they would be sold away from Monticello, and a daughter and a different son sought freedom in the colony of Liberia. A mini-biography of Betty “Brown” Hemings on Ancestry.com by Julius69 states that by the age of twenty-three Betty had witnessed the battle of Richmond, the battle of Yorktown, General Cornwallis’ surrender, and Martha Jefferson’s death.

NOTE: An on-line tree by jaisfamily67 and various other trees on Ancestry.com assert that the unknown Colbert was actually Benjamin Colvard, 1762-1800, a white man who served in the Revolution and lived in Albemarle County. Unfortunately, no convincing proof that Colvard was Colbert is presented. This same assertion, and the related assertion that “Benjamin Colvard Jr. was the father of four of Betty Brown’s children,” and that she was his concubine while his white wife was still alive, is also made on this site: <http://calvertfamilygenealogy.blogspot.com/2020/06/benjamin-colvard-jr-of-albemarle-county.html>. The Calvert Family DNA Project at the following site asserts that 45 of the 300+ members of the project are named “Colbert,” the biggest grouping outside of “Calvert.” And there are five members of the project named “Colvard,” another asserted variation of “Calvert.” See: <https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/calvert-genealogy-dna-repository/surnames>. The following site asserts that Benjamin Colvard, Jr. fathered four children by Betty Brown, and that “was employed by Joseph Neilson, Thomas Jefferson's contractor, as an apprentice carpenter/cabinet maker/joiner at Monticello between 1778-1779” and that, “During this time Benjamin Colvard, Jr. lived with his parents on land that was down the mountain and adjacent to Monticello.” Evidence cited is the Fee Book of the Neilson Account, Monticello Research Center, Albemarle County, VA. See:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Colvard-65>. However, the Monticello “Getting Word” African American Oral History Project states that “the father has not been identified” of the six children bearing the surname of Colbert, who were children of Betty Brown. See: <https://www.monticello.org/getting-word/families/colbert-hemings-family>. Hence despite assertions and some evidence, the case is not yet convincingly proven. More research, and especially investigation of the DNA evidence from the Calvert project, is warranted. If carpenter Benjamin Colvard/Colbert could be established as the father of Melinda Colbert, then her descendants could qualify for membership in the Guild of Colonial Artisans and Tradesmen, 1607-1783.

Generation #4

Assertion: Melinda (or Malinda) Colbert (?), b.c. 1787 in VA, d. September 1859 in DC; on 24 March 1818 in DC married John Freeman, b. c. 1781 in VA, d. bef. 29 November 1839, and they had a daughter Martha (or “Mary”) A. Freeman.

Proofs:

- Compiled Marriages in Washington, DC: John Freeman and Malinda Colbert, married 24 March 1818 in DC.
- Monticello website on Colbert/Hemings, *ibid*.
- Certificate of Freedom: 1831 DC document states that Malinda Freeman is a free woman and the mother of Martha Freeman, abt. 16, John Freeman, abt. 14, and four other children. See Appendix 1.
- Washington, DC Wills and Probate Records: John Freeman, will probated 10 August 1839 in DC, d.c. 1839. Image of will presented; gives “to my beloved wife ... Malinda” all his worldly possessions including a house, and mentions his “son John Shorter, Jr.”
- US 1840 Census for DC: Melinda Freeman, shown as “free person of color” (and listed beside Benjamin Freeman, also a free person of color).
- US 1850 Census for DC: Malinda Freeman, 63, mulatto female, b.c. 1787 in VA, resident of Washington Ward 1, DC, value of owned real estate: \$800, cannot read and write; in household with: Martha Shorts (should be Shorter), 34, mulatto female, b. in DC; John Shorts (Shorter), 35, mulatto male, b. in DC; Mary Shorts (Shorter), 10, black female; John Shorts (Shorter), 8, black male; Charles Shorts (Shorter), 6, black male; Ann Shorts (Shorter), 4, black female; Martha Shorts (Shorter), 11/12, black female; and Ellen Freeman, 21, black female; all of the children b. in DC.
- Federal Census Mortality Schedules: Malinda Freeman, black female, widowed, b.c. 1787 in VA, d. September 1859 in Ward 1, Washington, DC of inflammation of the bowels, after 26 days of illness, at age 72.

Biographical Information: As described in the Montpelier Naming Project (see <https://digitaldoorway.montpelier.org/2021/03/23/the-naming-project-john-freeman/> for details), John Freeman had a remarkable life. This included working while enslaved in the White House and at Monticello for President Thomas Jefferson; being sold to President James Madison and working for him at the White House and Montpelier; having to flee the White House with his wife, child and the only furniture item (a feather bed) that was saved from burning by the British; and being freed in the District of Columbia in 1815 at age 34. His wife Melinda also worked at Monticello and in the White House and was freed in

about 1807. This biographical information is also supported by Elizabeth Dowling Taylor, *A Slave in the White House: Paul Jennings and the Madisons* (New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2012), who states that "after July 1815 John Freeman was a free man, working for pay in the President's household and preparing to set up a household of his own. In 1816 he and an associate, John Shorter, purchased a remarkable assortment of goods....(John Shorter had been a stable hand in the Jefferson White House who stayed on for occasional employment under Madison.)" As seen here in Generations 4 and 5, John Shorter was much more than "an associate" of John Freeman – he became Freeman's son-in-law. Taylor publishes an account by Paul Jennings of the burning of the White House, which says in part, "People were running in every direction. John Freeman (the colored butler) drove off in the cochee with his wife, child, and servant, also a feather bed lashed on behind the cochee, which was all the furniture saved, except part of the silver and the portrait of Washington..."



Left: a slave cabin at Montpelier; right: the mansion at Montpelier



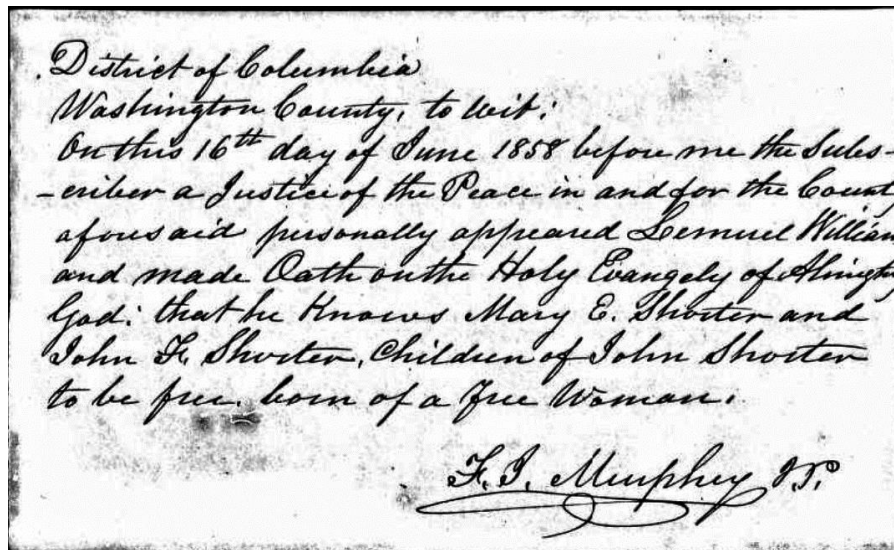
The burning of the White House

Generation #5

Assertion: Martha ("Mary") A. Freeman, b.c. 1816 in DC, d. aft. 1920 in DC, married John Shorter, b.c. 1815 in DC, d. bef. 1887, likely in DC, and had sons John Freeman Shorter and Charles Henry Shorter.

Proofs:

- Certificate of Freedom, *ibid.*
- US 1850 Census for the Melinda Freeman household, *ibid.*
- Oath taken before a Justice of the Peace, 16 June 1858: John Shorter has children Mary E. Shorter and John F. Shorter, and all are free. (See image below these bullets.)
- US 1860 Census for Ward 1, DC: John Shorter, 40, black male, b. in DC, waiter; Mary Shorter, 36, black female, b. in VA; Martha Shorter, 2, black female, b. in DC.
- US Civil War Draft Registrations, June/July 1863: John Shorter, 40, b. in DC, colored laborer
- US 1870 Census for Washington, DC: Charles H. Shorter, 27, black male, b.c. 1847 in DC, Patent Officer laborer; in household with John Shorter, 55 (owner of \$2000 in real estate, cannot read and write) and Mary A. (Martha?) Shorter, 45.
- US 1880 Census for Washington, DC: John Shorter, 60, black male b. in DC, waiter; with wife Martha A. Shorter, 50, black female, b. in VA; both residing at 1626 RI Ave., DC.
- City Directory for 1887 for DC: Mary A. Shorter, widow of John Shorter, living at 1804 T St. NW.
- City Directory for 1903 for DC: Mary Shorter, doing washing, living at 771 Sheridan, NW.
- US 1920 Census for Washington, DC: Martha A. Shorter, 102 (!), widowed black female, b. 1818 in DC, cannot read and write, shown as residing in the Home for the Aged and Infirm.



District of Columbia
Washington County, to wit:
On this 16th day of June 1858 before me the Sub-
-euler a Justice of the Peace in and for the County
aforesaid personally appeared Samuel William
and made Oath on the Holy Evangel of Almighty
God: that he knows Mary E. Shorter and
John F. Shorter, Children of John Shorter
to be free born of a free Woman.

L. J. Murphy J.P.

Biographical information:

Lt. John Freeman Shorter, b. 1842 in DC, d. 1865 in Delaware Co., OH, enlisted as a private, rose to lieutenant, and fought for the Union Army in the Civil War as one of only three black commissioned officers in the 55th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry (sister regiment of the more famous 54th Massachusetts, featured in the film *Glory*). He was wounded at the Battle of Honey Hill near Charleston, SC in November 1864. See: <https://www.monticello.org/getting-word/people/john-freeman-shorter>. The battle was the third in Sherman's March to the Sea, and although the Union failed to cut the target

Confederate rail line, four Medals of Honor were awarded for gallantry during the battle. Lt. Shorter's diary is on file and cataloged with biographical information at the National Museum of African-American History & Culture. (Note that the line below continues with Lt. Shorter's brother, Sgt. Charles Henry Shorter, since Lt. Shorter died young, apparently without issue.)



Lt. John Freeman Shorter

Generation #6

Assertion: Charles Henry Shorter was b. April 1846 in Washington, DC and d. 23 February 1916 in Washington, DC. On 20 December 1870 in Delaware Co., OH, he married Sarah Eliza Anderson, b. November 1849 in Zanesville, OH and d. c. 16 November 1932 in DC. They had a son, Charles Freeman Shorter.

Proofs:

- US Civil War Draft Registration Records: Charles H. Shorter, b.c. 1843, 20 years old in July 1863, black, unmarried, resident of DC.
- Ohio Marriage Records: Charles H. Shorter married Sarah E. Anderson in Delaware Co., OH on 20 December 1870.
- US Freedman's Bank Records: Charles H. Shorter, 27; date of record 15 September 1871; b. in DC; residence at 1626 RI Ave., NW, DC; laborer for the government; m. to Sarah E. A. Shorter, no children; father John Shorter; sisters Ann M. Bailey and Mary E. Carter.
- DC Birth Records: 15 February 1875 birth of child Shorter, with father Charles Shorter, b. in DC and mother Sarah Anderson Shorter, b. in Zanesville, OH.
- US Census for 1880: Charles H. Shorter, 35, b. c. 1845 in MD (?); black male, waiter, resident of 1645 RI Ave. NW, DC; father b. in DC, mother b. in VA; married to Sarah Shorter, 24, b. in Ohio; with children Ellen Shorter, 7, Cornelia, 5, and Charles, 2, all b. in DC.
- US Census for 1900: Charles H. Shorter, 54, b. April 1846 in DC; black male, government clerk, resident of 1804 T St. NW, DC; father b. in DC, mother b. in DC (?); married for 30 years (with 5 children, all still alive) to Sarah Shorter, 50, b. November 1849 in Ohio, black female; with

children Annie J., b. February 1876, Sadie E., b. October 1880, and John E., b. September 1883, all b. in DC.

- US Census for 1910: Charles H. Shorter, 56, b. 1854 (?) in DC; mulatto male, clerk in pension office, resident of 1804 T Street (I St.?) DC, NW; both parents b. in DC; can read and write, attended school, military veteran; with wife of 39 years Sarah E. Shorter, 55, mulatto female, can read and write; with children Sadie E., 28, b. in DC, single; Ransellaer, 8, b. in MA, single; and Ellen Orme, 37, b. in DC, married for the second time but zero years of marriage in this marriage (?). All the children are listed as mulatto. (NOTE: Ransellaer is listed as the son of Charles and Sarah, but this listing should be as the grandchild – an apparent error by the Census taker.)
- Civil War Pension Index: Charles H. Shorter, invalid's pension from 23 February 1907 in DC, deceased 23 February 1916 in DC; Unit B 22 US Colored Infantry, Widow Sarah E. A. Shorter.
- US City Directory for Washington, DC: Sarah E. Shorter, widow of Charles H. Shorter, living at 1804 T St. NW, DC.
- Newspapers.com Obituary Index: obituary of Sarah A. Shorter on 16 November 1932, of 117 U St., NW DC; burial 16 November 1932, widow of Charles Shorter, with (surviving) children Ellen Smith, A.O. Brown and Sadie Crump.

Biographical information:

US Colored Troops Military Records: Charles H. Shorter, black male, drafted 4 October 1864 as a private and laborer in DC; black hair and black eyes, 5'8" tall; wounded in action at Fair Oaks, VA on 27 October 1864 (part of the Richmond-Petersburg campaign); promoted to Corporal in January 1865; promoted to Sergeant on 1 July 1865; mustered out of Co. B, 22nd Regiment of Colored Infantry (part of the US Colored Troops, USCT) in Brownsville, TX on 16 October 1865.



Images above are of the front (left) and rear of the regimental flag of the 22nd USCT. Note the graphic imagery on the left panel.

On-line source with useful information: Philip Hughes Family Tree, compiled by “Julius69” on Ancestry.com. Note that this Tree provides other lines of descent (with various proof documents) which may go down to the present, but these were not pursued in this report.

Generation #7

Assertion: Charles Freeman Shorter was b. 1878 in Washington, DC and d. in February/March 1924 in Washington, DC. He married Annetta M. Hare on 28 November 1900 in Boston, MA; she was b. in December 1883 in Charlottesville, VA, d. likely bef. 1906 in DC. They had a son, Ransellear Freeman Shorter.

Proofs:

- US Census for 1880, *ibid.*, re Charles H. Shorter and son Charles Shorter, b. c. 1878.
- DC, Selected Births and Christenings: child Shorter, b. 18 January 1878 in DC, with father Charles Shorter and mother Sarah Anderson Shorter.
- US Census for 1900 for Boston, MA (conducted 7 June 1900): “Anita” Hare, 16, single black female, b. December 1883 in VA with both parents b. in VA; doing housework, can read and write; in household with brother John E. Hare.
- MA Marriage Records: Charles F. Shorter, 22, b. 1878 in DC, with father Charles H. Shorter and mother Sarah F. Anderson, marrying Annetta M. Hare, 18, b. in Charlottesville, VA, with parents Moses Hare and Marie Carr; married in Boston, MA, on 28 November 1900; both listed as “Col.” (colored).
- MA Birth Records: Ransellear Freeman Shorter b. 27 August 1901 at 60 Sawyer St. in Boston, MA, male, colored, with father Charles F. Shorter, clerk in DC and mother Annetta M. Hare, b. in Charlottesville, VA.
- Washington, DC Compiled Marriage Records: Charles F. Shorter, 28, single black male, marrying on 4 December 1906 to Jessie S. Addison, 21, single black female. (Hence Charles’ first wife Annetta likely died bef. 1906.)
- World War I Draft Registration Card: Charles Freeman Shorter, b. 18 January 1878 in DC, messenger at the War Dept., mother Sarah Shorter of 1804 T St., NW DC, tall, medium build, black hair and black eyes.
- US Newspapers.com Obituaries of 3 March 1924: Charles F. Shorter, d. 1924 at 419 Oakdale Pl., DC, with father Charles Shorter and mother Sarah E. A. Shorter; spouse Jessie A. Shorter; children Hansel, John, Evelyn, Jessie and Geneva; and siblings Ellen Smith, Geneva Brown, Sadie Crump.
- DC City Directory for 1930: Jessie Shorter, widow of Charles Shorter, seamstress, living at 714 Fairmont NW, DC.



Gen. Butler's unofficial bravery medal for USCT; 200 were awarded late in the war.

Generation #8

Assertion: Ransellear Freeman Shorter was b. 27 August 1901 in Boston, MA and d. January 1972 in Washington, DC. He married Rose (or Rosa) Jerdenia Henley (later Jones) on 24 December 1924 in Washington, DC; she was b. 20 September 1904 in Washington, DC, d. 21 September 1999, likely in DC. They had a son, Ransellear Freeman Shorter, Jr.

Proofs:

- MA Birth Records: Ransellear Freeman Shorter b. 27 August 1901, *ibid.*
- US Census for 1910 for DC: *ibid.*, showing Ransellear Shorter.
- Washington, DC Marriage Records: Ransellear F. Shorter, 23, b. c. 1901 married on 24 December 1924 in Washington, DC to Rose Jerdenia Henley, 20, b.c. 1904.
- DC City Directory for 1927: Ransellear F. Shorter, messenger for the Navy, res. at 1818 13th NW, DC.
- US Census for 1930 for DC: Ransellear Shorter, 28, black male, b. in MA, home value \$7000, with wife Rosa H. Shorter, 25, and son Ransellear Shorter, 2.
- 1940 US Census for Washington, DC: Rosa H. Shorter, (mis-transcribed as “Sharter”), 35, b. c. 1905 in Washington, DC, black female, divorced, daughter of Benjamin J. Henley, 56; with son in the household Ransellear Shorter, 13. Rosa was a grammar school teacher who had completed 4 years of college and her income for 52 weeks of work was \$2450. She lived at 4236 SD Ave. in DC.
- Virginia Marriage Records: Rosa Henley Shorter, 35, b.c. 1905, black female, with father Benjamin J. Henley and mother Daisy B. Crawford, married on 29 June 1940 in Manassas, VA to Albert Taylor Jones.
- World War II Draft Registration Card: Ransellear Freeman Shorter of 1714 U St. NW, DC; b. 27 August 1901 in Boston MA; employed by Naval Air Station DC; Negro, 5’6”, 130 pounds, brown eyes, black hair, light brown complexion.
- Social Security Index: Ransellear Shorter, b. 27 August 1901, d. January 1972.
- Social Security Index: Rosa Henley Jones, b. 20 September 1904 in Washington, DC, black female, d. 21 September 1999 (likely in DC); her father was Benjamin J. Henley and mother Daisy B. Crawford.

Generation #9

Assertion: Ransellear Freeman Shorter, Jr. was b. 26 April 1927 in Washington, DC and d. 21 February 1983 in Harrisonburg, VA. He married Margaret Sara Prather in 1949, and they were divorced in 1978. She was b. 20 September 1926 in DC and d. 19 April 2017 in DC. Her later partner was Loyd Newman. Margaret’s parents were William E. Prather and Ella Glascoe Prather.

Proofs:

- US Census for 1930 for DC: Ransellear Shorter, Jr., 2 and 11/12 years old, b. c. 1928 in DC, with father Ransellear Shorter, Sr., b. in MA, US govt. messenger, owns a home worth \$7000, and mother Rosa H. Shorter, b. in DC, teacher in the DC Public Schools.
- US Census for 1940 for DC: Ransellear Shorter, 13, b. in DC, Negro, with mother Rosa H. Shorter, 35, b. in DC, Negro, living on SD Ave. in DC.

- US Census for 1940 for DC: Margaret S. Prather, 13, b. in DC, Negro, with mother Ella M. Prather, 34, and father William E. Prather, 40.
- World War II Enlistment Records: Ransellar F. Shorter, Jr., Negro, single, b. 1927 in DC, 2 years of college, enlisted 13 May 1946 at Baltimore, MD as a private.
- Dept. of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Index: R. F. Shorter, b. 26 April 1927, d. 21 February 1983, US Army enlistment 13 May 1946 and discharged 1 June 1947.
- Social Security Index: Ransellar Freeman Shorter, Jr. was b. 26 April 1927 in Washington, DC and d. February 1983; he was a black male with father Ransellar F. Shorter and mother Rosa Henley.
- Virginia Death Records: Ransellar F. Shorter was b. 26 April 1927 in Washington, DC, was a resident of Washington, DC, and d. 21 February 1983 in Harrisonburg, VA of a myocardial infarction. He was buried in Harmony Memorial Park in Prince Georges County, MD. His parents were Ransellar Shorter and Rosa Henley. He was a black male and had served in the US military, and was divorced.
- US Find-a-Grave Index: Ransellar Freeman Shorter, Jr. was b. 26 April 1927 in Washington, DC and d. 21 February 1983, buried in National Harmony Memorial Cemetery, Hyattsville, MD.
- Public Records Index: Margaret Shorter, b. 20 September 1926, living in 1995 and 1996-2002 at 1425 4th St. SW, Apt. A104 in DC.

Generation #10

Assertion: Ransellar Freeman Shorter, Jr. and Margaret Sara Prather had the following children: Gary Shorter, b.c. 1951; Kumea (Dori) Shorter (later Shorter-Gooden); and Wendy Jay Shorter.

Proofs:

- Obituary of Margaret Sara Prather Shorter, *The Washington Post*, 5 May 2017, located at: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?n=margaret-shorter&pid=185286533> States that she d. 19 April 2017, was b. 20 September 1926 in DC to William E. Prather Sr. and Ella Glascoe Prather. States she is survived by her children, Gary Shorter, Kumea Shorter-Gooden and Wendy Edwards; daughter-in-law, Gretchen Roberts-Shorter; sons-in-law, Winston Gooden and Robert Edwards; grandchildren, Kimani Shorter and Adia Gooden. States that she married Ransellar Freeman Shorter Jr. in 1949, she had the three children listed above, and this marriage ended in divorce in 1978. She later had a partner Loyd Newman who pre-deceased her. This obituary includes extensive other biographical information.



Margaret Prather Shorter

Generation #11

Assertion: Gary Shorter married on 12 August 1978 to Gretchen Roberts, who d. 6 October 2017 in Washington, DC. They had a son, Kimani Roberts Shorter, b. in DC and living in 2021. Kumea Shorter married Winston Gooden and took the name Shorter-Gooden; they had a daughter Adia Shani Gooden. Wendy Jay Shorter was b. in DC and married Robert Theodore Edwards in Arlington, VA; he was b. in NY, son of Robert McLeod Edwards and Annie P. Pollack. (All these persons except Gretchen Roberts-Shorter are apparently alive as of October 2021.)

Proofs:

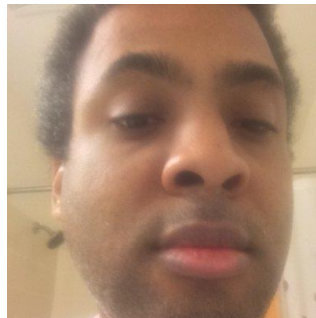
- *Washington Post* obituary for Margaret Sara Prather Shorter, *ibid*.
- Obituary of Gretchen Roberts-Shorter, *The Washington Post*, 19 October 2017, located at: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?n=gretchen-roberts-shorter&pid=186978671>. States that d. 6 October 2017 in DC; she married Gary Shorter on 12 August 1978, and was the mother of Kimani Shorter, b. in 1980.
- Virginia Marriage Records: Wendy Jay Shorter, daughter of Ransellear Freeman Shorter and Margaret Sarah Prather, was b. in 1956 in DC, and in 1990 in Arlington VA married Robert Theodore Edwards, b. 1951 in NY, son of Robert McLeod Edwards and Annie P. Pollack.
- Ancestry.com Index to Public Records: Kimani R. Shorter, b. 1980, residing in DC 2002-2016.



Gretchen Roberts-Shorter



Kumea Shorter-Gooden



Kimani Shorter



Dr. Adia Shani Gooden

Biographical information:

Kumea Shorter-Gooden received a B.A. in Psychology from Princeton University and a Ph.D. in Clinical and Community Psychology. She served as Associate Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer at the University of Maryland from the University of Maryland. She co-authored the book *Shifting: The Double Lives of Black Women in America*.

Winston Gooden holds a PhD from Yale in psychology and was the Dean of Fuller Theological Seminary.

Wendy Shorter Edwards was the Executive Director of the Early Childhood Academy Public Charter School in Washington, DC.

Gretchen Roberts-Shorter was the oldest child of Aneita and Bertrand Roberts. She earned a BA from Howard University and MEd from George Washington University. For 30 years was an art and special education teacher in the DC Public Schools. She was a prize-winning photographer and author of the award-winning novel *Can't Remember Playing* (available on Amazon), about a mixed-race slave who fought in the Revolution. She was active in genealogy and history, and she published an on-line database of the 3100 enslaved District of Columbia residents who were emancipated on April 16, 1862.

Kimani Roberts Shorter is the developer of the “Shorter Typology, a personality typology system that borrows ideas from Carl Jung and applies them to DSM disorders.”

Dr. Adia Shani Gooden received her bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Stanford University and earned her PhD in Clinical Community Psychology from DePaul University. She served as a Staff Psychologist and the Coordinator for Multicultural Outreach and Support at The University of Chicago Student Counseling Service for four years. She also served as the Director of the Clinic and Community Programs at the Family Institute at Northwestern University.

Information on the Author

Llewellyn “Lew” Toulmin holds a PhD in public administration and economics from American University in Washington, DC, an MPA from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University, and a BA in sociology, anthropology and political science from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida. He worked for over 40 years in 30 developing countries and the US in public administration reform, telecommunications policy, disaster response and management analysis. For three of those years he served as a senior policy advisor in e-government in the Prime Minister’s Office of the Republic of Vanuatu, sponsored by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs.

Lew has over twenty years of experience in genealogy, is a member of over 40 genealogical and lineage societies, and was the President of the Hereditary Order of the Families of the Presidents and First Ladies of America, and Governor-General of the Hereditary Order of the Descendants of the Loyalists and Patriots of the American Revolution. He has published in various professional and academic journals in the areas of history, genealogy, exploration, emergency management and public administration, and is the author of the non-fiction book *The Most Traveled Man on Earth*. He is the author of the first major genealogical study of the Henson clan, focused on Reverend Josiah Henson, the heroic inspiration for *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, and on explorer Matthew Alexander Henson, co-discoverer of the North Pole and the first black member of The Explorers Club.

Lew is a Fellow of The Explorers Club and has led seven Explorers Club Flag Expeditions in archaeology and anthropology to Vanuatu, England, Alabama, Maryland and South Carolina, and led or participated in other anthropological and archaeological expeditions to Thailand, Malaysia, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Honduras and various US states. Most of his expeditions have involved extensive genealogical and historical research. He is the research director of the private Missing Aircraft Search Team, a Knight of the Sovereign and Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (the modern Knights Templar), a Fellow of

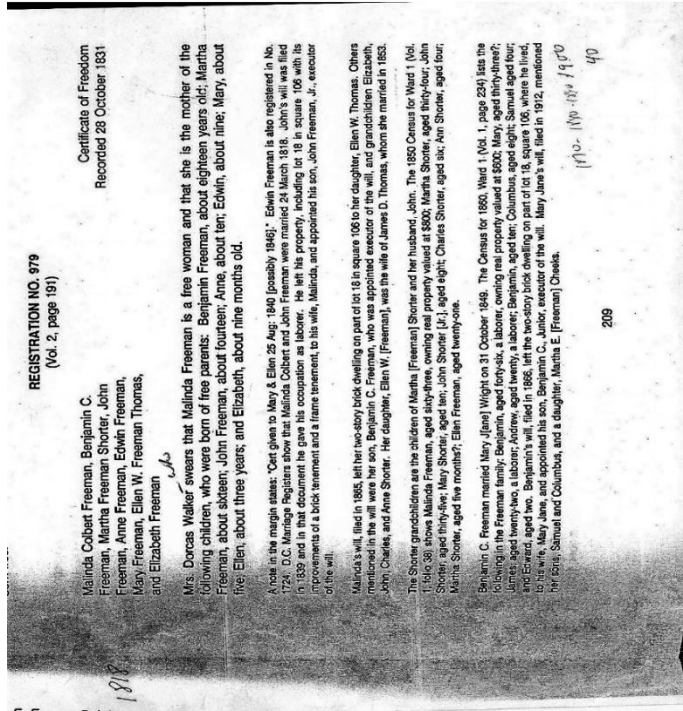
the Royal Society of Arts, and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. He volunteers at the University of South Alabama Archaeology Lab and at the Montgomery Parks Archaeology Division.

Lew's website is www.themosttraveled.com, and the page on that site "Adventures in Genealogy" provides popular and academic articles he has written about that topic. His "Travel Tales" columns regularly appear in Montgomery Community Media at: <https://www.mymcmedia.org/category/access-voices/local-blogs/travel-tales/>.

Corrections or comments on this report are welcome and can be submitted to LewToulmin@aol.com.

Appendix

Certificate of Freedom for Members of the Freeman/Shorter Family



Date: 28 Oct 1831

Place: Washington, District of Columbia

Description: (Cropped & Adjusted from Original) 1831 Freedman's Registration for John Freeman and family, 001 - 1831 Registered in the District of Columbia - Julius69 originally shared this on 30 Dec 2011

Transcription: Registration No. 979 - (Vol. 2, page 191)

#end of genealogy report#

Annex 4

An Unproven Side Line

The article below shows a descent which clearly ties in to the Freeman-Shorter line described in the genealogical report above, in another Annex. The line below has not been further proven, but is obviously ripe for further research.

From: <https://www.afro.com/jessie-s-thomas-100/>

Obituary: Jessie S. Thomas, 100

By: AFRO Staff

Date: April 26, 2011

Jessie Shorter Thomas was a proud and witty fourth-generation Washingtonian. On Sept. 16, 2010, she was blessed to celebrate her 100th birthday. Jessie's life journey began Sept. 16, 1910. She was the fourth of five children born to Charles and Jessie Freeman Shorter. She was educated in the District of Columbia public schools. After attending Lucretia Mott Elementary School, Jessie graduated from Armstrong Senior High School. (She remarked that there was no middle or junior high school at that time.) Following high school, she completed one year at Howard University, interrupting her education to begin her career at the United States Government Printing Office.

Jessie married LeRoy Samuels in 1930. She and LeRoy had one daughter, her beloved BettyJane. This union ended in divorce. In 1956, she married Charles W. Thomas. Together they traveled the world, collecting animals in conjunction with Charles' position as "unofficial ambassador" for the National Zoo. Their travels were often covered in *Life* and *Ebony* magazines. Jessie and Charles were inseparable until he departed this life in 1991.

Jessie was an active member of the Berean Baptist Church since her childhood. Her father enrolled her in Sunday school when she was 5. She was a devoted member of the Berean family until her passing. At Berean Baptist Church, she was a member of the Missionary Society and the Gideon Club. She also filled the position of financial clerk for the continued to serve as a Deaconess at its successor, the Historic Berean Baptist Church located at 14th Street and Montana Avenue, Northeast. At the age of 90, she was honored as the first mother of the Church. She remained a dutiful deaconess, serving communication and caring for the sick and shut-in until her passing.

Jessie felt helping others was part of the rent we pay our creator. She often shared, "When the Lord blesses you, he looks for you to share the blessing." She helped

feed and clothe many in need by assisting at the Crisis Center at Berean Baptist Church. Her dedication to serving others continued until her death. She was an active member of Wings for Joy, Inc., where she regularly participated in the campaigns to bring food and clothing to women and children in need.

Jessie retired from government service after more than 36 years. She then began to devote her time to many worthy causes, and became an avid volunteer. As a member of the Women's Auxiliary for Howard University Hospital, she worked in the gift shop for over 20 years. She also volunteered at Arena Stage, and the Joint Center for Political Studies, where she contributed for more than 10 years. She was also a dedicated poll worker. She worked on numerous political campaigns in the District and Montgomery County, Md. She would proudly share that she participated in every march in Washington for Equal Rights until she turned 90.

Jessie's service and contributions to the community did not go unnoticed. She received numerous expressions of appreciation and awards over the years. She was most recently honored with a feature article in the *Washington AFRO* and recognized as an outstanding senior citizen of Ward 5 by Councilman Harry Thomas Jr.

Jessie loved to swim. She would often share how she and her sister learned to swim when city built a pool in the community. Her love her swimming continued throughout her life. At the age of 90, she participated in the DC Senior Olympics at Howard University and was awarded a trophy for being the most senior lady swimmer.

No one was more devoted to her family than Jessie. She could always be counted on for love and support. She cherished the time she spent with her daughter Betty, and considered Betty's husband Albert, her son. Her granddaughter Tracy and later great grandson Justin were truly the apples of her eye. She was also delighted to have a loving grandson in Tracy's husband Larry. She loved family gatherings, celebrations and quiet time shared with the people she loved.

The life of the party — that was Jessie. She was known for her outgoing personality, quick wit and sense of humor. She was a great dancer and sparkling conversationalist.

Always ready with a compliment, pat on the back and a wink of an eye, she would make one feel comfortable and at ease. Affectionately known as "Tots" and "GG," Jessie was a must-have on anyone's guest list. Her motto for a long life: Pray, give thanks, help somebody each day and eat chocolate."

Her parents, Charles and Jessie; siblings, Ransellar, John, Evenly and Geneva, and daughter, Bettyjane, preceded her in death. She leaves to cherish her memory, her granddaughter, Tracy DuPree Davis (Larry D. Davis); great grandson, Justin Davis;

niece, Dolores Kiah (Donald A. Kiah); stepdaughter, Harriet Dodson, and a host of great nephews, nieces other loving relatives, her church family and friends.

Find-a-Grave at <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/73943544/jessie-thomas> provides more information on Jessie Shorter Thomas and her line:

DEATH	3 Apr 2011 Maryland, USA
BURIAL	<u>National Harmony Memorial Park Cemetery</u> Hyattsville, Prince George's County, Maryland, USA
MEMORIAL ID	73943544

Jessie Shorter Thomas, age 100, of Silver Spring, MD, at Holy Cross Hospital. A proud Washingtonian and a former employee of the US Government Printing Office, she lived in the District for over 90 years before relocating to Maryland. A Celebration of Life on April 11 at Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ, and funeral. Interment at Harmony Memorial Park.

Preceded in death by
Husband: Charles W. Thomas
Daughter: Bettyjane S. DuPree
Siblings:
Ransellear Shorter
John Shorter Sr.
Evelyn Johnson
Geneva Howard

Surviving,
Granddaughter:
Tracy DuPree Davis (Larry D.)
G-Grandson: Justin K. Davis
Niece: Dolores Kiah
Step-daughter: Harriet Dodson

Annex 5

A Song Celebrating the Hemings/Freeman/Shorter Family

This song is based on the traditional classic “Follow the Drinking Gourd,” but is adapted to celebrate the astounding history of the Hemings/Freeman/Shorter family, described in the genealogical annex of this report. The first version below has no chords; see the next version for the chords.

Follow the Drinking Gourd: Song of the Hemings/Freeman/Shorter Clan

Trad., new verses by Lew Toulmin, 2021;

strum: DUDU or waltz

From the African coast we did sail;
Follow the drinking gourd
A cruel slave ship it was our jail,
Follow the drinking gourd

Chorus:

Follow the drinking gourd; follow the drinking gourd;
For the Hemings are a’waitin’ for to carry you to freedom
Follow the drinking gourd!

When the sun comes up, and the first quail calls
Follow the drinking gourd
We’ll escape to freedom’s halls
Follow the drinking gourd

Follow the drinking gourd; follow the drinking gourd;
For the Hemings are a’waitin’ for to carry you to freedom
Follow the drinking gourd!

Well at Monticello we did stay
Follow the drinking gourd
But four of us done got away
Follow the drinking gourd

Follow the drinking gourd; follow the drinking gourd;
For the Hemings are a’waitin’ for to carry you to freedom
Follow the drinking gourd!

We were enslaved at the big White House
Follow the drinking gourd
And those British flames we could not douse
Follow the drinking gourd

Follow the drinking gourd; follow the drinking gourd;
For the Freemans are a'waitin' for to carry you to freedom
Follow the drinking gourd!

The Potomac River is a mighty good goal
Follow the drinking gourd
We'll take back all of what was stole
Follow the drinking gourd

Follow the drinking gourd; follow the drinking gourd;
For the Freemans are a'waitin' for to carry you to freedom
Follow the drinking gourd!

We hammered and planted at Montpelee
Follow the drinking gourd
In the year '15 we seized our free
Follow the drinking gourd

Follow the drinking gourd; follow the drinking gourd;
For the Freemans are a'waitin' for to carry you to freedom
Follow the drinking gourd!

We fought for the Union at Honey Hill
Follow the drinking gourd
Those boys in gray soon had their fill
Follow the drinking gourd

Follow the drinking gourd; follow the drinking gourd;
For the Shorters are a'waitin' for to carry you to freedom
Follow the drinking gourd!

We were wounded at Fair Oaks
Follow the drinking gourd
But we soon destroyed slavery's yokes!
Follow the drinking gourd

Follow the drinking gourd; follow the drinking gourd;
For the Shorters are a'waitin' for to carry you to freedom
Follow the drinking gourd!

More generations are yet to be
Follow the drinking gourd
And all will fight for a free family!
Follow the drinking gourd

Follow the drinking gourd; follow the drinking gourd;
A free clan is a'waitin' for to carry you to freedom
Follow the drinking gourd!

**Follow the Drinking Gourd:
Song of the Hemings/Freeman/Shorter Clan**

Trad., new verses by Lew Toulmin, 2021; chords for guitar and bari uke
strum: DUDU or waltz

Intro: Em A G Em

[Em] From the African coast we did sail;
[Em] Follow the [G] drinking gourd
[Em] A cruel slave ship it was our [G] jail,
[Em] Follow the [A] drinking [Em] gourd

Chorus:

[Em] Follow the [G] drinking gourd; [Em] follow the [G] drinking gourd;
[Em] For the Hemings are [A] a'waitin' for to [G] carry you to [Em] freedom
[G] Follow the drinking [Em] gourd!

[Em] When the sun comes up, and the first quail calls
[Em] the [G] drinking gourd
[Em] We'll escape to freedom's [G] halls
[Em] Follow the [A] drinking [Em] gourd

[Em] Follow the [G] drinking gourd; [Em] follow the [G] drinking gourd;
[Em] For the Hemings are [A] a'waitin' for to [G] carry you to [Em] freedom
[G] Follow the drinking [Em] gourd!

[Em] Well at Monticello we did stay
[Em] Follow the [G] drinking gourd
[Em] But four of us done got [G] away
[Em] Follow the [A] drinking [Em] gourd

[Em] Follow the [G] drinking gourd; [Em] follow the [G] drinking gourd;
[Em] For the Hemings are [A] a'waitin' for to [G] carry you to [Em] freedom
[G] Follow the drinking [Em] gourd!

[Em] We were enslaved at the big White House
[Em] Follow the [G] drinking gourd
[Em] And those British flames we could not [G] douse
[Em] Follow the [A] drinking [Em] gourd

[Em] Follow the [G] drinking gourd; [Em] follow the [G] drinking gourd;
[Em] For the Freemans are [A] a'waitin' for to [G] carry you to [Em] freedom
[G] Follow the drinking [Em] gourd!

[Em] The Potomac River is a mighty good goal
[Em] Follow the [G] drinking gourd
[Em] We'll take back all of what was [G] stole
[Em] Follow the [A] drinking [Em] gourd

[Em] Follow the [G] drinking gourd; [Em] follow the [G] drinking gourd;
[Em] For the Freemans are [A] a'waitin' for to [G] carry you to [Em] freedom
[G] Follow the drinking [Em] gourd!

[Em] We hammered and planted at Montpelee
[Em] Follow the [G] drinking gourd
[Em] In the year '15 we seized our [G] free
[Em] Follow the [A] drinking [Em] gourd

[Em] Follow the [G] drinking gourd; [Em] follow the [G] drinking gourd;
[Em] For the Freemans are [A] a'waitin' for to [G] carry you to [Em] freedom
[G] Follow the drinking [Em] gourd!

[Em] We fought for the Union at Honey Hill
[Em] Follow the [G] drinking gourd
[Em] Those boys in gray soon had their [G] fill
[Em] Follow the [A] drinking [Em] gourd

[Em] Follow the [G] drinking gourd; [Em] follow the [G] drinking gourd;
[Em] For the Shorters are [A] a'waitin' for to [G] carry you to [Em] freedom
[G] Follow the drinking [Em] gourd!

[Em] We were wounded at Fair Oaks
[Em] Follow the [G] drinking gourd
[Em] But we soon destroyed slavery's [G] yokes!
[Em] Follow the [A] drinking [Em] gourd

[Em] Follow the [G] drinking gourd; [Em] follow the [G] drinking gourd;
[Em] For the Shorters are [A] a'waitin' for to [G] carry you to [Em] freedom
[G] Follow the drinking [Em] gourd!

[Em] More generations are yet to be
[Em] Follow the [G] drinking gourd
[Em] And all will fight for a free [G] family!
[Em] Follow the [A] drinking [Em] gourd

[Em] Follow the [G] drinking gourd; [Em] follow the [G] drinking gourd;
[Em] A free clan is [A] a'waitin' for to [G] carry you to [Em] freedom
[G] Follow the drinking [Em] gourd!

Annex 6
Flag #212 Award Letter
(received via email 9/30/2021)

THE EXPLORERS CLUB



Dear Dr. Toulmin,

On behalf of Vice President Martin Nweeia and the Flag and Honors Committee, I am pleased to inform you that The Explorers Club Flag has been awarded to you and your expeditions. We will notify the Board of Directors at its next meeting.

The Flag represents an impressive history of courage and accomplishment. It has been carried by our members to the Moon, to the depths of the ocean, and around the globe. It is both an honor and a privilege to receive this special recognition. Congratulations!

Please confirm in writing the address where we may send the flag. Should you have any special instructions, please notify us as soon as possible.

Both Miguel Vasquez, at headquarters, and I stand ready to answer any questions you may have regarding the flag award and subsequent flag expedition report.

We wish you every success on your expedition and look forward to learning more about your accomplishments upon your return.

Best regards,
Miguel

Miguel Vasquez
Membership Manager
THE EXPLORERS CLUB
46 East 70th Street, New York, NY 10021
+1 (212) 628-8383 x23 | www.explorers.org

Annex 7
History of Flag # 212

Award of Flag 212
Llewellyn M. Toulmin, Ph.D., FN '04
Excavating Montpelier Expedition
September 2021

The Explorers Club Flag is a symbol of courage and fidelity. The award of the flag is a significant accomplishment. Since 1918, the flag has been carried to all of the Earth's continents, as well as under the sea and into the stars. To date, 850 explorers have carried the flag on over 1450 expeditions. A select handful of the 222 Explorers Club flags have been framed and now decorate the Club house in New York. These include flags carried by Roy Chapman Andrews, Bob Bartlett, Thor Heyerdahl, Naomi Uemura, and miniature flags carried aboard the Apollo 8 and Apollo 15.

Your expedition will now become part of the rich history attached to this flag. Earlier expeditions include:

G. Chris Fischer	2015	Expedition Australia: Queensland
G. Chris Fischer	2015	Expedition Western Australia
G. Chris Fischer	2015	Expedition Gulf of Mexico
G. Chris Fischer	2016	Expedition Jacksonville
P. Wytykowski & R. Zajder	2016	L-72 A Forgotten Tragedy - Part II
G. Chris Fischer	2017	Expedition New York
Charles Rawlings	2018	Photo Survey of Living Slit Shells, Philippines
Denea Buckingham	2018	Fourni Underwater Archaeological Expedition
Ben M. King	2019	Ko70 Whales, Toothfish, & Marine Protection
Fabien Schultz	2019	Exploring self-medication in wild chimpanzees

You can take pride in joining this great tradition of carrying The Explorers Club Flag and in your broader membership and participation in exploration.

Annex 8
Lifetime List of Toulmin Expeditions

**List of Projects & Expeditions
in Archaeology/Anthropology/History
of Llewellyn M. Toulmin, PhD, FRGS, FRSA, KTJ, FN '04**

Expedition/Project & Organization; Date; Supervisor

1. Expedition through the jungles of eastern Haiti and north to The Citadel of Henri Christophe at Cap Haitien; Toulmin family exped.; 1959; Harry Toulmin
2. Expedition to the outlying temples of Angkor Wat, Cambodia; Toulmin family exped.; 1964; Harry Toulmin
3. Expedition to Philmont Scout Ranch, 50 mile hike; BSA; 1966; Scoutmaster
4. Circumnavigation of Lake Victoria, east Africa; self; 1969; L. M. Toulmin
5. Exploration of Lake Tana and the Source of the Blue Nile, Ethiopia; Toulmin family exped.; 1969; Harry Toulmin
6. Expedition to the North Cape and the land of the Saami; University of N. Wales; 1970; L. M. Toulmin
7. Sailing exped. to St. Vincent and the Grenadines; *Canadian Chartering* magazine; 1976; CC editor
8. Evaluation of emergency preparedness of nine Caribbean islands; US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance; 1985; OFDA Director
9. Investigation into the real story of "The Bridge on the River Kwai," Kanchanaburi, Thailand; *Army-Navy-Air Force Times*; 1992; Editor
10. Lessons learned from Hurricane Andrew, Miami-Dade County, FL; American Society for Public Administration; 1993; ASPA and Booz-Allen-Hamilton
11. Tomb of Nefertari, Valley of the Queens, Egypt; *International Travel News*; 1995; ITN Editor
12. The real story of "Out of Africa" and Isak Dinesen, Kenya; *International Travel News*; 1997; ITN Editor
13. The world's newest country – Timor Leste – and its first Lady; *ITN*; 1999; ITN Editor
14. The lady leg-rowers of Lake Inle, Myanmar, the temples of Bagan, and the falsification of millions of Burmese genealogical records; *ITN* and *Paddler Magazine*; 2000; Editors
15. Brigantine *Soren Larsen*, Fiji to Vanuatu; *ITN*; 2001; ITN Editor
16. Japanese Sgt. Yokoi fights World War II for 28 years in a hole on Guam; *ITN*; 2002, ITN Editor
17. Voyage before the mast on the liberated slave ship *Amistad*, St. Petersburg, FL to Mobile, AL; *ITN*; 2002; ITN Editor
18. Irish National Tall Ship *Jeannie Johnston*, Charleston, SC to Baltimore, MD; *ITN* and *The Montgomery Sentinel*; 2003; Editors
19. History, scandals and genealogy of Pitcairn Island; *ITN* and *The Providence Journal*; 2003; Editors
20. The real story of *Robinson Crusoe*; *ITN*; 2003; ITN Editor
21. Tracing sites and locations of Brian Boru, High King of All Ireland in the year 1000; *ITN*; 2005; ITN Editor
22. Investigation of the dog tag lost on Kiriwina Island, Papua New Guinea, by Sgt. Raymond Brett; *Military* magazine; 2006; Editor
23. Search for/find/documentation of the missing town of Washington Court House, AL; Univ. of S. Alabama Archaeology Dept. (USAAD); 2007; Bonnie Gums; **(TEC (The Explorers Club) Flag #24)**
24. Search for the grave of Judge Harry Toulmin, near Milry, AL; USAAD; 2008; Bonnie Gums

25. Aviation Archaeology Search and research (AAS) for missing TEC Medalist Steve Fossett and his Bellanca; SW Nevada; Ad hoc group of members of The Explorers Club; 2008; Robert E. Hyman
26. AAS for P-51-D of WW II WASP Gertrude Tompkins in Santa Monica Bay, CA; Missing Aircraft Search Team (MAST); 2009; Robert E. Hyman, L. M. Toulmin (USAF jet found)
27. AAS (successful) for N2700Q near Sedona, AZ; MAST; 2009; Chris Killian
28. AAS for F9F USMC Cougar in Flathead Lake, MT; MAST; 2010; L. M. Toulmin
29. AAS for N222TB in Oregon; MAST and Portland Police Bureau; 2010; Sheriff Tim Evinger
30. AAS for N650RV in Grand Canyon, Arizona; MAST, National Park Service and Coconino Sheriff's Office; 2011; Chris Killian
31. Search for missing Canadians Albert & Rita Chretien in NV, OR and WA; MAST & Royal Canadian Mounted Police; 2011; Sheriff Tim Evinger
32. AAS for N174BH near Lake Superior, MN; MAST and St. Louis MN SAR team; 2012; L. M. Toulmin
33. Search for Revolutionary Plantation & Battlefield of Gen. Andrew Williamson and writing his first biography; SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) & Royal Geographical Society; 2012; Dr. Jonathan Leader, SC State Archaeologist **(TEC Flag #132)**
34. AAS for the 1958 MK-15 H-bomb of B-47 USAF Stratojet near Tybee Island, GA; MAST; 2012; L. M. Toulmin
35. AAS for N26837 (successful) in Mt. Antelope Refuge, OR; MAST and Oregon State Police; 2012; Sheriff Tim Evinger
36. Search for the Site of the 1813 Battle of the Burnt Corn, AL; USAAD; 2012; Dr. Greg Waselkov
37. Search for the Creek Indian War Site of Fort Claiborne, AL; USAAD; 2012; Dr. Greg Waselkov
38. Successful documentation of crashed F41-U Corsair of Lt. John E. Date, Jr., USMC on N. Ambae, New Hebrides (now the Republic of Vanuatu), and Pig-killing on E. Ambae; 2013; L. M. Toulmin **(TEC Flag #101)**
39. Interviewing the youngest land divers in Vanuatu, on Pentecost island; *Island Life*; 2013; L. M. Toulmin
40. Wala Island, Vanuatu – a secondary inspiration for “Bali Hai”?; *Island Life*; 2013; L. M. Toulmin
41. Documenting the tribe that worships Prince Philip as a god, on Tanna island, Vanuatu; *Montgomery Sentinel*; 2014; L. M. Toulmin
42. Search for Jim Thompson, the “Silk King of Thailand,” in the Cameron Highlands of N. Central Malaysia; *Montgomery Sentinel*; 2014; L. M. Toulmin
43. Documenting the John Frum cargo cult, Tanna island, Vanuatu; *Montgomery Sentinel*; 2014; L. M. Toulmin
44. AAS for N222TB, Oregon coast (part 2); MAST and the BBC; 2015; L. M. Toulmin
45. Discovery and documentation of the Female Chiefs of Vanuatu; *Asia-Pacific Journal of Research*; 2016; L. M. Toulmin; **(TEC Flag #101)**
46. Successful geo-location of Buddha Cave of Jim Thompson; N. Central Thailand; *Journal of Spelean History*; 2016; L. M. Toulmin
47. Search for missing biologist “Forest” Gan in the high jungle of the Cameron Highlands, Malaysia; Family request; 2016; L. M. Toulmin
48. Excavating Old Colonial Mobile (1702-1712), AL; USAAD; 2016; Dr. Greg Waselkov
49. Archaeological excavations of sites possibly related to the disappearance of Amelia Earhart, Nikumaroro island, Republic of Kiribati; MAST, National Geographic Society, TIGHAR; 2017; Dr. Tom King

50. Archaeological excavation of pre-historic Native American canal, Orange Beach, AL; USAAD; 2018; Dr. Greg Waselkov
51. Excavation, archaeological lab work, historical & genealogical analysis of Old St. Stephens, AL (former Territorial Capital 1817-19); USAAD; 2018-9; George Shorter **(TEC Flag #25)**
52. AAS for missing aircraft C-FESN, NE of Revelstoke, BC; 2018; MAST; L. M. Toulmin
53. Research in 1944 WW II case of UC-64 Norseman with band leader Glenn Miller on board, in the English Channel; TIGHAR; 2018; Ric Gillespie
54. Search (part 2) for Revolutionary Plantation, Battlefield and POW Camp of Gen. Andrew Williamson; 2019; ad hoc group of archaeologists and historians; L. M. Toulmin
55. Archaeological lab work re the real *Uncle Tom's Cabin* of Rev. Josiah Henson (the biography and "book that sparked the Civil War"), Montgomery County, MD; Montgomery County Parks Archaeology Division; 2019; Heather Bouslog
56. Excavation, search and genealogical analysis re the missing monastery of King St. Oswald and St. Aidan on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, Northumberland, England; DigVentures & Durham University Archaeology Dept.; 2019; Johanna Ungemach & Dr. David Petts **(TEC Flag #50)**
57. Excavation and genealogical analysis re Rev. Josiah Henson (the heroic inspiration for *Uncle Tom's Cabin*), his possible relative, explorer Matthew Alexander Henson (co-discoverer of the North Pole), and the Henson clan; Montgomery County, MD; Montgomery County Parks Archaeology Division; 2019/20; Lew Toulmin **(TEC Flag #50)**
58. Excavations at and African-American genealogical research re James Madison's Montpelier plantation, central Virginia; September-October 2021; Lew Toulmin **(TEC Flag #212)**.
59. Genealogical research on the descendants of the *Clotilda*, the last slave ship to arrive in the US, and the founders of Africatown, Alabama; in preparation for possible future archaeological/genealogical expeditions to Africatown; September/October 2021; Lew Toulmin.

#End as of October 2021#

#END OF FLAG REPORT#