

VIRGINIA:

In the High Court of Chancery,

MARCH 16, 1798.

BETWEEN

ROBERT PLEASANTS, son and heir of John Pleasants, dec'd. *Plf.*

AND

MARY LOGAN, widow and administratrix of Charles Logan, and devisee of John Pleasants and Jonathan Pleasants, deceased, Elizabeth Pleasants, administratrix of Joseph Pleasants, deceased, Isaac Pleasants and Jane his wife, Samuel Pleasants, junior, Thomas Pleasants, junior, and Margaret his wife, Robert Langley and Elizabeth his wife, Daniel Teasdale and Margaret his wife, late Margaret Langley, Elizabeth Langley the younger, and Anne May, *Defendants.*

ON the motion of the *PLAINTIFF* by his counsel, the court doth order that the *Defendants*, who are in possession of any of the slaves, that are the subject of controversy between the parties in this suit, do not carry or remove them, or cause them, or any of them, to be carried or removed out of this commonwealth during the pendency of this suit, or until the further order of the court.

June 7, 1798.

On the motion of Daniel Teasdale by his counsel, leave is given him to amend his answer, whereupon he filed the same.

September the 12th, 1798.

Between

Robert Pleasants, son and heir of John Pleasants, *Pltf.*

And

Carv Pleasants and Mary Pleasants his wife, late Mary Logan, administratrix of Charles Logan, and devisee of John Pleasants and Jonathan Pleasants, dec'd. and others, *Defns.*

And between

Ned, a pauper, *Plf.*

And

Elizabeth Pleasants, *Defn.*

IN these causes, which came on last term to be heard on the bills, demurrers and answers, and on the testaments of John Pleasants,

vants and Jonathan Pleasants, and the Journal of the House of Delegates, exhibited and read, and were argued by counsel, the court on this twelfth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety eight, overruled the demurrers, because the right to freedom proposed to be asserted by the plaintiff on behalf of certain men, women and children detained in slavery, which freedom the former owner of some of them and of the progenitors of others could not bestow, although solicitous to bestow it, during his life time, was preserved, if it could be preserved, until enjoyment of the blessing would be permitted by temporary and conditional bequests of the slaves, with a confidence that in an event which might remove the legal obstacle to deliverance from thralldom, the legataries would fulfil the testator's desire, so that the intermediate possession of the legataries, if that desire were not isane was fiduciary, & in such a case, the elements, from which juridical arrangements commence, prove the question which hath occurred to be peculiarly proper for praetorian animadversion for decision before a tribunal erected especially to foster and effectuate conscientious fideicommissa: and upon that question which is the capital subject of disceptation and some others, in consequence thereof the court declared its opinion in these terms, the condition which the testator, John Pleasants, enjoined the legataries, and which, if it were lawful, excepting the bequests they were obliged implicitly to perform, was not contrary to law. Such a provision for emancipation was not prohibited literally by the statute in 1748, the only instituted law then extant, which can be quoted for that purpose, enacting "that no slave shall be set free, upon any pretence, except for services to be adjudged by the governor and council to be meritorious," the statute operated only upon emancipations efficacious immediately, not those of which the efficacy was fortuitous; and ampliation of the statute giving it energy in cases of which similar predicaments might seem to require similar policy, is reprobated in this instance, where the defendants, in a court of equity, are invoking its aid to hinder the restitution of a right, of which they, on whose behalf it is claimed, and their progenitors, could not have been deprived without violation of equitable constitutional principles. An objection urged by one of the counsel for the defendants, if it were not misunderstood, namely, that John Pleasants, who dying before the statute permitting manumission of slaves, enacted in the year 1782, was never authorised to manumit his slaves, could not enjoin manumission of them in any circumstances, is founded upon a position conceived not to be true, unless the act required by the condition to be performed were a malum in se; that a condition requiring performance of an act, not whilst the performance would be unlawful,

but when it would, if ever it should be lawful, that such a condition to be performed, not after an intolerable length of time, is unlawful seems an absurd position; upon the doctrine of perpetuities, if applicable to any cases, in which human liberty is challenged, can not be found an objection against the slaves existing at the death of the testator, John Pleasants, or aginst the slaves born after, of mothers existing before his death; for their cases are examples of the legitimate periods, during which emergence or lapse of contingent dispositions may be suspended, namely, where events before the termination of a life or lives existent, or of a life or lives immediately succeeding the existent, must fix the destiny. Here the slaves for whose benefit the testator intended the bequests are first, those of whom he was POSSESSED at the time of his death, and secondly, those of whose MOTHERS he was so possessed. The period of time during ability of the slaves to enjoy when the legislature should permit them to enjoy, this benefit was suspended, did not *exceed* the tolerated period. I was during the lives of them, who survived the testator, and of them who were born after his death, of mothers surviving him, so that, in equity, of the slaves, on whose behalf this prosecution was instituted, they who were thirty years old or older, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty two, when the statute authorising manumission was enacted, were, at that time entitled, they, who born before his death are not yet thirty years old, will be when they shall attain that age, intitled to freedom, they who were born between the times of the said testator's death and of enacting the said statute will be when they shall attain the same age intitled to freedom, and they who have been born since the said statute was enacted, were at their birth intitled to freedom; and the plaintiff not only the heir but the surviving executor of the said John Pleasants, is the proper party to vindicate that freedom, and require fulfilment of his desire repeatedly declared in his testament, and the court doth direct one of the commissioners thereof to report a catalogue of the slaves aforesaid, distinguishing the times when, according to the foregoing opinion, any of them ought heretofore to have been and hereafter to be liberated from servitude, and stating accounts of profits, to which they who have been wrongfully detained are intitled.

September 26th, 1798.

The Defendants Cary Pleasants and Mary his wife, late Mary Logan, administratrix of Charles Logan, and devisee of John Pleasants and Jonathan Pleasants, deceased, Elizabeth Pleasants, administratrix of Joseph Pleasants, deceased, Isaac Pleasants and Jane his wife, Samuel Pleasants, jun. and Thomas Pleasants, junior, and Margaret his wife, in the first suit, and the defendant

in the other suit prayed an appeal from the decree pronounced in these causes, on the twelfth day of the present month, which is allowed them on their giving bond and security in each suit in the penalty of twenty pounds, with such condition as the law requires.

June 5th, 1793.

In these causes, in order that the decree of the Court of Appeals, which is certified by the clerk thereof in the following words.—“ At a Court of Appeals, hold at the Capitol in the City of Richmond, the sixth day of May, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine, Cary Pleasants & Mary Pleasants his wife, late Mary Logan, administratrix of Charles Logan, and devisee of John Pleasants and Jonathan Pleasants, deceased, Elizabeth Pleasants, administratrix of Joseph Pleasants, Isaac Pleasants and Jane his wife, Samuel Pleasants, jun. and Margaret his wife, appellants against Robert Pleasants, son and heir of John Pleasants, appellee, and Elizabeth Pleasants appellant against Ned, a pauper, appellee, upon appeals from a decree of the High Court of Chancery, pronounced the twelfth day of September, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight. “ This day came the parties by their counsel, and the court having maturely considered the transcript of the record, and the argument of the counsel, is of opinion that there is no error in so much of the decree of the said High Court of Chancery, as overruleth the demurrers of the appellants Mary Pleasants, Isaac Pleasants and Samuel Pleasants, jun. for want of jurisdiction in the said court; but that there is error in some of the principles, on which the decree upon the merits is founded, and part of the reasoning thereupon is not approved by this court, therefore it is decreed and ordered, that so much of the said decree as overruleth the said demurrers be affirmed, and that the residue of the said decree be reversed, and this court proceeding to make such decree as the said High Court of Chancery should have pronounced, is of opinion, that although the testators at the time of making their respective wills had not power to manumit, and if they had devised them upon conditions that the devisees should emancipate them immediately, the condition being unlawful would have been void, and the property vested, yet the condition that they should become free when the law would permit it, was not of that sort. That to apply the rule respecting the limitation of the remainder of a chattel upon too remote a contingency, with all its consequences, to the present case, would be too rigid, but that a reasonable principle ought to be adopted to suit its peculiar circumstances, which is this, that if the event happens whilst the slaves remain in the possession of the family without change by the intervention of credit-

"ors or purchasers since the contending parties would be those
 "whose interest had been contemplated by the testators, the be-
 "quest ought to take place, but that the case of such intervening
 "claims not being in the view of the testators it ought to be con-
 "sidered how far they should in equity prevent the devise of the
 "manumission from taking effect. So far therefore as concerns the
 "family, the court would have had no difficulty in decreeing in
 "favor of the paupers, if the wills had directed a general emanci-
 "pation, when permitted by law, and the legislature had permitted
 "it without any condition annexed; but a difficulty arises from the
 "testators' not having directed a general manumission, when al-
 "lowed by law, but a limited one, directing that all future gene-
 "rations of these people born whilst their mothers were under
 "thirty should serve to that age, founded no doubt, upon consi-
 "derations of the interest of his family, and that of the slaves on
 "which middle state the legislature have not declared their will,
 "and on the other hand the legislature have permitted an unlimit-
 "ted emancipation, but annexed a condition imposing upon the
 "person liberating certain terms for the sake of the community,
 "of which the persons making voluntary manumissions might
 "judge, whether they would do the act upon these terms and use
 "their pleasure: and on these terms the testators have not declared
 "their minds whether they would or would not have compelled the
 "devisees against their inclination to emancipate subject to them.
 "Under this difficulty, the court endeavored to model a decree to
 "effect the purpose of the paupers without essentially violating
 "the wills, and is of opinion that the limited manumission, ac-
 "cording to the modifications, in the wills of the testators, can
 "alone take place and be decreed, and that the terms for securing
 "the public against the maintenance of the aged or infirmed, cannot
 "be equitably imposed upon the devisees. It is therefore further
 "decreed and ordered, that all the slaves of which the testators
 "were possessed as their property, at the time of their respective
 "deaths, not subject to the claims of the creditors or purchasers,
 "before stated, and who are now above the age of forty five years,
 "and their increase, born after their respective mothers had at-
 "tained the age of thirty years (so soon as Robert Pleasants the
 "executor, the several trustees, or any other person, shall in the
 "courts of the several counties in which the said slaves respective-
 "ly reside, enter into bonds, with approved security, payable to
 "the justices then sitting in each court, and their successors, with
 "condition that the said slaves shall not become chargeable to the
 "public, or enter into one such bond for the whole in the General
 "Court,) and all such as are now above thirty and under the age
 "of forty-five years immediately shall be emancipated and set

" free to all intents and purposes, in like manner as if they had been
 " born free; and that all who are now under the age of thirty, and
 " whose mothers had not attained that age at the time of their birth,
 " and all their future descendants, born whilst their mothers are
 " in such service, do serve their several owners, until they shall
 " respectively attain the age of thirty years, and then be in
 " like manner free, and when their freedom shall severally take
 " effect according to this decree, there shall be delivered to each of
 " them, by their respective masters or mistresses, a certificate,
 " written or printed, attesting their freedom, in such form as shall
 " be directed by the said High Court of Chancery. That no ac-
 " count ought to be taken of profits, it being unusual in such cases
 " and less reasonable in this very difficult one. And the cause is
 " remanded to the said High Court of Chancery for a state to be
 " taken of the present condition of the several persons, and their
 " rights ascertained, according to the principles of this decree, al-
 " so for further proceedings to be had respecting the claims of Eli-
 " zabeth Pleasants and Daniel Teasdale to part of the slaves, un-
 " der titles paramount to the will of John Pleasants, and the claims
 " of the creditors of Charles Logan, upon proper statements of the
 " facts and exhibits relative thereto, which they are to be at liber-
 " ty to introduce in the said court, which is ordered to be certified
 " to the said High Court of Chancery. A copy, J. Brown, C. C.,"
 if it be not misunderstood by him, whom the law requireth to en-
 ter it as his own, may be executed; this court doth direct that a
 commissioner thereof do report, first the names and sexes of the
 slaves of which the testators intended by the said decree, were
 possessed, as their property at the time of their respective deaths,
 not subject to the claims of the creditors or purchasers in the de-
 cree stated, and who were, when the decree was pronounced, above
 the age of forty five years, and their increase, born after their
 respective mothers had attained the age of thirty years (so soon
 as Robert Pleasants, the executor, the several trustees or any
 other person, shall in the courts of the several counties, in which
 the said slaves respectively reside, enter into bonds, with approved
 securities, payable to the justices then sitting in each court, and
 their successors, with condition that the said slaves shall not be-
 come chargeable to the public, or enter into one such bond for the
 whole in the General Court) and all such as were, when the decree
 was pronounced, above thirty and under the age of forty five
 years, and secondly, the names and sexes of the slaves of which
 the testators were possessed as their property at the time of their
 respective deaths, and who were, when the decree was pronounced,
 under the age of thirty, and whose mothers had not attained that
 age at their birth: and this court doth order, that when the free-

dom of the slaves shall severally take effect, according to the decree of the Court of Appeals, there shall be delivered to each of them, by their respective masters or mistresses, a certificate, written or printed, attesting their freedom in this form:— is emancipated and set free according to the decree of the Court of Appeals, in May, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine.

June 7th, 1799.

Thomas Pleasants of Beaverdam, James Pleasants of Goochland, William Moseley, Frederick Woodson and William Bentley, or any three of them, are appointed commissioners for performing the order made in these causes on Wednesday last, in place of a commissioner of the court.

September 10th, 1799.

On the motion of the plaintiff in the first suit by his counsel, Benjamin Goode, George Williamson, Abell Janney, James Denson Ladd, Robert Evans, John Nicholas and John Pensonby are added to the commissioners heretofore appointed to perform the order made in these causes on the fifth day of June last, who, or any two of whom are empowered to execute the same.

VIRGINIA, — *In the High Court of Chancery, May 22nd, 1797.*

Between

Ned,	.	.	.	.	.	Plaintiff,
			and			}
Elizabeth Pleasants,	.	.	.	.	Defendant.	

On the motion of Ned, who is detained in slavery by the defendant, he is allowed to sue his said mistress in this court, in forma pauperis, and John Warden is assigned his counsel to prosecute the said suit; and it is ordered, that his said mistress do not presume to beat or misuse him upon this account, and that she suffer him to come to the clerk's office for commissions to take the depositions of his witnesses and to attend their examinations and the trial, and commissions are awarded the parties to examine and take the depositions of their witnesses.

LIST of NEGROES in the possession of Samuel Pleasants, held under the wills of John & Jonathan Pleasants; whose ages were ascertained by Thomas Pleasants, James Pleasants, William Moseley and Frederick Woodson, on the 19th day of August, 1759.

Persons above the age of 45 years.

David, Saunders, Centar, York, London, Nanny, Charlotte, Sall, Arthur, Wall, Maria, Judy, Phillis Powder.—In all 13.

Persons between 30 & 45 years old.

Sterling 1, Frederick 2, Joe 3, Phil 4, Tom 5, Harry 6, Jacob Powder 7, George 8, Jacob 9, Doll 10, Ben 11, Pender 12, John Powder 13, Silvia 14, Frank Cozens 15, Chloe Cozens 16, Peter 17, Aggy 18, Bob 19, Nanny 20, Nelly 21, Betty 22, James 23, Patty 24, Lucy Gloster 25, Cully 26, Sukey 27, Sukey 28, Amy 29.

Persons born of mothers after they were 30 years old.

Jack 1, George 2, Pender 3, York 4, Amy 5, Eve 6, Joe 7, Nelly 8, David 9, Molly 10, Rose 11, Kate 12, Jacob 13, Phebe 14, Lucy 15, Delphia 16, Lily 17, Mourning 18, Tabb 19, Cæsar 20, Sally 21, Mourning 22, Hampton 23, Jerry 24, Aggy 25, Mary Ann 26, Alice 27, Amy 28, Rachel 29.

Persons judged to be infirm and unable to earn a support, entitled to freedom when 30 years old.

Nancy, 25 years old; Isabel, born February 1782; John, born July 1783.—In all 3.

*Persons born of mothers under 30 years old, and entitled to freedom
at a certain age.*

<i>Names.</i>	<i>When born.</i>		<i>When to be discharged.</i>	
Solomon,	May	1772	May	1802
Dereass,	February	1782	February	1812
Haannah,	October	1786	October	1814
Lucy,	April	1787	April	1817
Stealing,	April 6th,	1789	April	1819
Peter,	January	1792	January	1822
Joe,	September	1794	September	1824
Charlotte,	April	1784	April	1814
Biddy,	April 17th,	1786	April 17th,	1816
Mourning,	Decem. 25,	1787	Decem. 25,	1817
Winter,	October	1789	October	1819
Gabriel,	March	1792	March	1822
Lewis,	May	1794	May	1824
Rainey,	September	1796	September	1826
Ben,	February	1799	February	1829
Frank,	May	1777	May	1807
Hannah,	May	1779	May	1809
Thornton,	July	1781	July	1811
Henry,	December	1786	December	1816
Milly,	February	1789	February	1819
Rialley,	September	1791	September	1821
Frederick,	October	1793	October	1823
Frank,	April	1795	April	1825
Ben,	May 15th,	1782	May 15th,	1812
Luke,	July	1784	July	1814
Nat,	March	1789	March	1819
Isaac,	March	1788	March	1818
Alace,	April	1790	April	1820
Betty,	August	1775	August	1805
Beek,	June	1795	June	1825
Phil,	May	1797	May	1827
Ned Abrey,	August 9th,	1799	August 9th,	1829
Critty,	March	1777	March	1807
Sail,	October	1778	October	1808
Janey,	February	1784	April	1814
Hester,	November	1786	November	1816
Patience,	March	1783	March	1813
Milton,	April	1785	April	1815
Anderson,	May	1787	May	1817
Clarissa,	June	1789	June	1819
Caroline,	July	1792	July	1822

<i>Names.</i>	<i>When born.</i>	<i>When to be discharged.</i>
Rubin,	August 1793	August 1823
Arthur,	August 1795	August 1825
Mary,	Decem. 23, 1775	Decem. 23, 1805
Fanny,	January 1792	January 1822
Bob,	May 28th, 1795	May 28, 1825
Celia,	May 28th, 1798	May 28, 1828
Toney,	May 1776	May 1806
Janey,	December 1775	December 1805
Phoebe,	January 15, 1797	January 15, 1827
Judy,	January 31, 1799	January 31, 1829
Doll.	November 1774	November 1804
Ursula,	May 1789	May 1819
Peyton,	August 1791	August 1821
Julia,	August 1793	August 1823
Grace,	October 1795	October 1825
Jim,	January 1798	January 1828
Charles,	August 1774	August 1804
Will,	December 1776	December 1806
Bridget,	November 1783	November 1813
Watt,	August 1770	August 1800
Rachel,	May 1778	May 1808
Maria,	August 1795	August 1825
Aggy,	March 1798	March 1828
Lydia,	September 1780	September 1810
Moses,	March 1797	March 1827
Charles,	Novemb. 3 1798	Novemb. 3, 1828
James,	October 5, 1788	October 5, 1818
Anthony,	April 23, 1791	April 23, 1821
Myrtilla,	Novem. 29, 1792	Novem. 29, 1822
Lucy,	August 28, 1794	August 28, 1824
Isaac,	Novem. 18, 1796	Novem. 18, 1826
Judy,	Novemb. 5, 1798	Novem. 5, 1828
Judith,	August 1793	August 1803
Duncan,	August 1793	August 1823
Hall,	March 1780	March 1810
Cæsar,	August 1788	August 1818
Gloster,	August 1793	August 1823
Nancy,	August 1790	August 1820
Cæsar,	May 1774	May 1804
Aggy,	August 1777	August 1807
Celia,	August 1795	August 1825
Milly,	August 1790	August 1800
Stephen,	November 1777	November 1807
Phillis,	August 1772	August 1802

<i>Names.</i>	<i>When born.</i>	<i>When to be discharged.</i>
Jacob,	September 1790	September 1820
Abby,	February 1782	February 1812
Mingo,	October 1797	October 1827
Jim,	December 1777	December 1807
Eve.	June 1779	June 1809
Phillis,	December 1781	December 1811
Lavinia,	June 1783	June 1813
Gloster,	December 1784	December 1814
Tom,	June 1786	June 1816
Frank,	December 1787	December 1817
Lucy,	December 1789	December 1819
Mike,	June 1791	June 1821
Abraham,	June 1793	June 1823
Jessee,	December 1778	December 1808
Tabb,	December 1780	December 1810
Cuffy.	December 1782	December 1812
London,	December 1786	December 1816
Biddy,	December 1788	December 1818
Nelly,	December 1785	December 1815
Sall,	September 1787	September 1817
Nanny,	May 1791	May 1821
Poll,	May 1795	May 1825
Judy,	January 1781	January 1811
Ad line	May 1799	May 1829
Amy,	August 1778	August 1803
Joe,	June 1781	June 1811
Corey,	December 1782	December 1812
Moses,	December 1784	December 1814
Molly,	May 1786	May 1816
Patty,	October 1789	October 1819

In all 115.

LIST of NEGROES in the possession of Isaac W. Pleasants, held under the Will of John & Jonathan Pleasants; whose ages were ascertained by Thomas Pleasants, James Pleasants, William Mosely and Frederick Woodson, on the 19th day of Aug. 1799.

Persons above the age of 45 years.

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Persons between 30 and 45 years old.

Janey 1, Phillis 2, Hannah 3, invalids, Peter 4.

Persons born of mothers under 30 years old and entitled to freedom at that age.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>When born.</i>	<i>When to be discharged.</i>
Billy,	November 1778	November 1808
John,	January 1781	January 1811
Sally,	June 1782	June 1812
Gaby,	December 1783	December 1813
Charles,	December 1784	December 1814
Sally,	June 1773	June 1803

The above lists was taken agreeable to a decree of the High Court of Chancery. Given under our hands the day and year above written.
William Moseley, Frederick Woodson,
James Pleasants, Thomas Pleasants.

LIST of NEGROES in possession of Robert Cary Pleasants, and formerly in possession of Charles & Mary Logan, held under the wills of John & Jonathan Pleasants, whose ages were ascertained by William Moseley, William Bentley & Frederick Woodson, commissioners appointed by the High Court of Chancery for that purpose, August 23rd, 1799.

Persons above 45 years old.

Tom 1, Pompey 2, Will 3, Cato 4, Ned 5, Doll 6, Rachel 7, Amy 8, Jacob 9, Ned Gwin 10, Billy 11, Sarah 12, Richard Sharp 13, Nat 14.

Persons between 30 and 45 years old.

Nelly 1, Fanny 2, John Grey 3, Rachel Grey 4, David 5, Jesse 6, Mirtilla 7, Easter 8, Grace 9, Bob (son of Judy) 10, Sam Binns 11, Mirtilla 12, Mary 13, Mourning 14, Cesar 15.

Persons born after their mothers were 30 years old.

Anthony 1, Arthur 2, Louisa 3, Emmily 4, Ned 5, Daniel 6, Bob Grey 7, Paul Grey 8, Tarlton 9, Bartlet 10, Critty 11, Sukekey (a cripple) 12, Charlotte 13, Milly 14, Billy 15, Sally 16, Jack 17, Tom 18, Ursula 19, Moses 20, Jack 21, Mirtilla 22, Jesse 23, Kesiah 24, Frederick 25, Tom 26, Doctor 27, John 28, Rachel 29, Sally 30, Gaby 31, Winny 32, Dicy 33, El-jah 34, Cesar 35, Mourning Woodson 36, Fanny Woodson 37, Sam Woodson 38, Joseph Woodson 39, Lewis Moseley 40, Latty Moseley 41, Sterling 42, Peter 43, Frank 44.

Persons born of Mothers under 30 years old, and entitled to freedom at that age.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>When born.</i>	<i>When to be discharged.</i>
Hampton,	December 1782	December 1812
Mournieg,	August 1789	August 1819
Polly Copland,	March 1783	March 1813
Fanny Copland,	December 1785	December 1815
Dick Copland,	August 1787	August 1817
John Copland,	August 1789	August 1819
Sam Randolph,	August 1770	August 1800
Edith,	March 1779	March 1809
Lucy,	August 1770	August 1800
Lydia,	March 1780	March 1810
Tabitha,	August 1778	August 1808
Effee,	February 1793	February 1823
Isham,	February 1791	February 1821
Lavinia,	February 1795	February 1825
Polly,	December 1797	December 1827
Charles,	March 1798	March 1828
Henrietta,	August 1794	August 1824
Phillis,	August 1781	August 1811
Molly,	March 1783	March 1813
Stephen,	August 1784	August 1814
Ben,	March 1786	March 1816
Nancy (a cripple)	August 1787	August 1817
Sam Binns, jun.	August 1789	August 1819
Dick Baugh,	March 1798	March 1828
Beck,	May 1771	May 1801
Kate,	November 1782	November 1802
Jacob,	May 1774	May 1804
Ned,	May 1777	May 1807
Judy,	August 1784	August 1814
David,	November 1778	November 1808
Nancy,	March 1795	March 1825
Shasteen,	August 1796	August 1826
Betty Ampy,	August 1773	August 1803
James,	April 1790	April 1820
Thruston,	August 1795	August 1825
Bentley,	April 1794	April 1824
Addison,	May 1799	May 1829
Frank,	February 1784	February 1824
Haskins,	May 1795	May 1825
Henry,	August 1796	August 1826
Peyton,	July 1798	July 1828
Lewis,	August 1776	August 1806

<i>Names.</i>	<i>When born.</i>		<i>When to be discharged.</i>	
George,	August	1787	August	1817
Harrison,	September	1791	September	1821
Peter,	August	1780	August	1810
Biddy,	March	1782	March	1812
Kitty,	August	1790	August	1820
Abraham,	January	1780	January	1810
Fleming,	August	1781	August	1811
Saunders,	March	1782	March	1812
Little Billy,	August	1785	August	1815
Judy } twins,	August	1787	August	1817
James }	August	1787	August	1817
Emanuel,	August	1795	August	1825
Janey,	August	1797	August	1827
Lucy,	August	1772	August	1802
Sam,	August	1775	August	1805
Lewis,	April	1777	April	1807
Ned,	August	1779	August	1809
Sarah,	August	1781	August	1811
Aby	April	1783	April	1813
Reubin,	December	1784	December	1814
Hannah,	March	1792	March	1822
Peggy.	March	1794	March	1824
William,	August	1796	August	1826
Johnson,	July	1798	July	1828
Matilda,	January	1796	January	1826
Sukey,	November	1797	November	1827
Joe,	August	1775	August	1805
Milly,	March	1777	March	1807
July,	August	1779	August	1809
Aaron,	March	181	March	1811
Davy,	August	1783	August	1813
Sukey,	August	1785	August	1815
Billy,	April	1783	April	1813
Phillis,	April	1778	April	1808
Simeon,	August	1779	August	1809
John,	April	1781	April	1811
Sylvia,	August	1782	August	1812
Watt,	April	1784	April	1814
Mourning,	March	1798	March	1828
Robin Cuffy,	March	1777	March	1807
Alexander,	August	1778	August	1808
Pero,	April	1786	April	1816
Billy Woodson,	August	1782	August	1812
Davy Woodson,	April	1781	April	1811
Joseph Moseley,	August	1779	August	1809

The foregoing lists were made in pursuance of a decree of the High Court of Chancery. Given under hands the day and year above written.

Wm Mosely,
W. Bentley,
Frederick Woodson,

List of Negroes, formerly the estate of John Pleasants, deceased, and by his Will given to his grand daughter Margaret, wife of Thomas Pleasants, jun. under certain conditions, and now held as part of the estate of the said Thomas Pleasants.

No. 1	Pender,	born in 1742,	57	years of age,	} all free.
2	Tom, her son,	1759,	40	do.	
3	Biddy, of do.	1761,	38	do.	
4	Oliff, of do.	1765,	34	do.	
5	Obra, of do.	1762,	31	do.	
6	Lewis, of do.	1774,	25	do.	

born after his mother was 30 years of age. }

List of Negroes, held under the wills of John & Jonathan Pleasants, as part of the estate of Charles & Mary Logan, dec. in Henrico county.

7	Lucy,	born in 1746,	53	years of age.
8	Sylvia Gray, her daughter,	1769,	30	do.
9	Charles Gray, son of do. Jun.	1791,	to be free in 1821	
10	Peter Gray, of do. June	1793,	do.	1823
11	Patty Gray, of do. Sept.	1798,	do.	1828
12	Sylvia, daughter of Phillis,	1755,	do.	44 years old.
13	Billy, son of do. Jan.	1787,	born free.	
14	Tom, son of do. Oct.	1788,	do.	
their mother being 30 years old at their birth.				
15	Mary Loudon,	born in 1753,	46 year old.	
16	Beck, daughter of Sucky, Sep.	1775,	to be free in 1805	
17	David, } son of do. March	1797,	do.	1827
18	Anna. } of do. May	1799,	do.	1829
19	Sally, daughter of Sukey, Sep.	1784,	born after her } born	
			mother was 30 years of age. } free.	

Henrico county, September 21st, 1799.

Pursuant to a commission to us directed, from the High Court of Chancery, We have examined into the ages and sexes of several Negroes in a decree of the said court mentioned, and agreeable to the above statement, which we hereby certify to be just, to the best of our knowlege and belief.

Benjamin Goodc.
Geo. Williamson.
Abel Janney.

BETWEEN

ROBERT PLEASANTS, son and heir of John Pleasants, *Plaintiff*,
and

Cary Pleasants and Mary Pleasants his wife, late Mary Logan, administratrix of Charles Logan, and devisee of John Pleasants & Jonathan Pleasants, deceased. Elizabeth Pleasants, administratrix of Joseph Pleasants, deceased, Isaac Pleasants and Jane his wife, Samuel Pleasants, junior, Thomas Pleasants, junior, and Margaret his wife, Robert Langley and Elizabeth his wife, Daniel Teasdale and Margaret his wife, late Margaret Langley, Elizabeth Langley the younger, and Anne May, *Defendants*.

And between

Ned, a pauper,

Plaintiff,

and

Elizabeth Pleasants,

Defendant.

THE Court, this twenty-fourth day of September, in the year of our lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine, taking into consideration the report of William Moseley, William Bentley and Frederick Woodson; and also the report of Benjamin Goode, George Williamson and Abel Janny, pursuant to the decretal order made in this cause on the fifth day of June last, to which reports were no exceptions, doth approve and confirm the same: in consequence whereof the slaves in the said reports mentioned to be above thirty and under the age of forty five years, are immediately entitled to certifies attesting their freedom, in the form prescribed by the said decretal order.

A LIST of NEGROES found in the possession of Daniel Teasdale and others, which appear to be derived from the wills of John Pleasants and Jonathan his son.

In the possession of Daniel Teasdale the following Negroes, the issue of Suky, now dead, who was devised by the said Jonathan Pleasants to Margaret the wife of the said Teasdale.

Suky dec'd at the time of her last child's birth, was aged 41 years.

1. Isabel, her daughter, aged 21, free in 9 years.
2. Hampton, her son 20, do. 10.
3. Molly, 14, do. 16.
4. Frank, 13, do. 17.
- 5 6. 7. Jack, 11 years; Suqy, 8 years, and Peter, 4 years; all born free, as their mother was then 30 years of age.
8. Numa, aged 21, son of Fanny, free in 9 years.

In the possession of the estate of the late John May.
Sally, now 42 years of age.

9. Charles, her son, born in December, 1783, now 16.
10. Chloe, October, 1785, now 14.
11. Tom, September, 1787, now 12.
12. Jack, April, 1789, now 10.
- Of course Charles is free in 14 years, Chloe in 16 years, and Tom and Jack born free, their mother then 30 years.
13. Jenny, aged 35, in the possession of Robert Pleasants, jun.
14. Cis, her daughter, born Sept. 1783, 16 years, free in 14.
15. Betty, aged 14, 16.
16. Sally, 12, 18.
17. Jenny, 11, 19.
18. Sharper, her son, 7, 23.
19. Fanny, April, 1794, 5, } Born free,
20. Charles, Decemb. 1796, 3, } their mother
21. Jack, March, 1799, 6 Mo. } then 30 years.
22. Will, aged 56 years }
23. Cesar, 61, } In the possession of Robert Lang-
24. Benjamin, 76, and } ley's estate.
25. Lucy, his wife, 61, }
26. Sharper, 38, of Hannah, now free.

In consequence of a commission to us directed, from the High Court of Chancery, we have examined into the ages and sexes of several Negroes which appears to us to be comprised in a decree of the said court ordering the said commission, and having placed the same against the name of each Negro, according to the list upon the first page of this paper, and also the list upon page the third, continued to page the fourth, and do hereby certify the same, to the best of our knowledge, in Dinwiddie county, this eighteenth day of September, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine.

Abel Janney.
John Ponsonby.

A List of Negroes that are part of those, or the descendants of those Negroes, appraised as the estate of John Pleasants, of Curles (deceased, in the month of August, 1773, said to have been sold to him the said Pleasants, by Robert Langley, now deceased, and which appears to have been made previously liable by an instrument of writing now on record in the county of Dinwiddie, for the payment of £ 300 currency, due Roger Atkinson, now dec'd, dated October the 21, 1765, and which are now in the possession of the different persons placed opposite to their names, or at the head of each list

In the possession of Daniel Teasdale, held in right of his wife
Margaret, daughter of Robert Langley.

1. Amy, a Negro woman, 49 years old.
- 2 Sampson, man, 33 do. of Hannah.
3. Chloe, woman, 30 do. of do.
4. Jacob, son of Amy, 20 do.
5. Dick, of Pendar, 28 do.
6. Letty, of do. 26 do.
7. Ned, of do. 24 do.
8. Billy, of Chloe, 12 do.
9. King, of do. 7 do.
10. Patty, of do. 5 do.
11. Eve, of do. 4 do.
12. Chloe, of do. 2 do.
13. Joe, of Letty, 4 do.
14. Pendar, of do. 2 do.

In the possession of Thos. Lewis, in right of his wife Ann,
daughter of Robert Langley.

15. Jack, of Hannah, aged 35.
16. Hannah, of Amy 16.
17. Fanny, of do. 14.
18. Lucy, of do. 12.
19. Hannah, of do. 12.
20. Davy, of do. 29.

In the possession of Robt. Pleasants, jun. in right of his
wife Elizabeth, daughter of Robt. Langley

21. Pendar, aged 46 years.
22. Peter, 42.
23. Israel, of Amy, 10.
24. Betty, of Pendar, 18.
25. Jack, of do. 17.
26. Beck, of do. 14.

VIRGINIA,

In the High Court of Chancery, March the 19th. 1800.

The Court, this nineteenth day of March, in the eighteen hundredth year of the Christian era, taking into consideration the report of Abel Janney, and John Ponsonby, bearing date the eighteenth day of September in the last year, to which report was no exception, doth approve and confirm so much thereof as relates to the descendants of the Negro slave Suky, said to have been devised by Jonathan Pleasants to Margaret, the wife of Daniel Teasdale; in consequence whereof such of the descendants of the said Suky, mentioned in the said report to be above thirty and under the age of forty five years, are immediately intitled to certificates attesting their freedom in the form prescribed by the decretal order made in this cause on the fifth day of June last.

The foregoing Orders, Decrees and Reports, are true copies from the originals, in the suits of *Pleasants &c. v. Logan, et al,* and *Ned, a pauper, v. Pleasants.*

Teste,

Amos T. ...