

Hollingsworth Owned Slaves and Indentured Servants

From the findings of Scott, in 1800 Cecil County, Maryland was home to 9,018 persons, 2,103 of which were slaves. Among the slave owners in Cecil County were the Hollingsworths: the number of slaves they owned was gleaned from federal census data and inventories taken after a person's decease (see [Figure 4](#) in the Appendix). For example, federal census data from 1810, two years before the death of Zebulon Hollingsworth, Jr., indicated he owned 14 slaves. However, his inventory lists ownership of five slaves.

Upon his death, Zebulon Hollingsworth, Sr. left his slaves Jen and Pegg to his wife, Mary Hollingsworth. While his will makes no other mention of slaves, he ordains that his "movable estate be equally divided amongst [his] children" which would have included the remainder of his slaves. After his death, Colonel Henry Hollingsworth: "bequeath[ed] unto [his] dear daughter Mary Hollingsworth her choice of [his] negro girls Rachel or Phillis" and the remainder of his slaves were divided amongst his children as was the personal property of Zebulon Hollingsworth, Sr. Jacob Hollingsworth, in his will, left a slave named Rachel to his niece Ruth Tobin; his wife, Ruth Hollingsworth was given "two of the Negroes of her own choice"; he bequeathed the remainder of his estate to Ruth Hollingsworth and his brother Stephen Hollingsworth. In the last will and testament of Zebulon Hollingsworth, Jr. two slaves, Jacob and Maria, were left to Mary Hollingsworth and the remainder of his property divided amongst his children. Zebulon Hollingsworth Jr.'s son, William Hollingsworth, manumitted his slaves upon his death.

During the perusal of land records, all manumissions were photocopied and transcribed; while other examples of manumission may exist, four were found. The first two, dated September 6, 1803 and February 8, 1806 respectively, freed two of Zebulon Hollingsworth Jr.'s adolescent slaves, Dick and Jane, when they reached the ages of 25 and 28. Each of them was required to complete a period of servitude prior to their freedom. On the 1st of July, 1813 Jane Hollingsworth, wife of Colonel Henry Hollingsworth, manumitted her servant named Joseph Clarkson. At the time, Clarkson was under 45 year of age and "of a healthy constitution, and sound in mind and body"; other details about the man were undisclosed by the indenture. The final indenture involves the manumission of Rachel Clark and her children by Ann B. Hollingsworth (genealogical relationship unknown) on August 1, 1828. Rachel Clark was the wife of Jacob Clark, who paid one dollar for her manumission; her children were Jacob, Doreas, and Margaret.

The previous evidence highlighted the arbitrary fate of enslaved individuals; they were freed, sold, or transferred according to the whims of their owners. Perhaps in an effort to regain autonomy, some slaves chose to flee captivity. Resultantly, their owners advertised in local papers in an effort to retrieve them. One such advertisement, dated October 19, 1774 in *The Pennsylvania Gazette* offered eight dollars as a reward for the young man's capture and return. Additionally, three advertisements from *The Pennsylvania Gazette* were secured asking for the return of indentured servants. Colonel Henry Hollingsworth advertised on June 13, 1765 and August 7, 1766 for two separate individuals. On the 6th

of February, 1766 Jesse Hollingsworth advertised to reclaim his "Servant Man"; all three men ran from the Head of Elk. An example is as follows: "Made his escape last night from Way Tavern...an Irish Servant Man, named Charles Farran, a thick well set fellow, about 20 years of age, 5 feet 6 inches high...a great snuffer, and very quarrelsome." Evidently, the Hollingsworths employed indentured servants from the British Isles to supplement their work

force. As confirmation, the Federal Census included a category "all other free persons." For example, in 1800, Zebulon Hollingsworth had 2 "other free persons" residing with him besides his family, possibly indentured servants.

Slaves Hollingsworths Owned

Figure 4 Date of Inventory	Name of slave owner	Names and ages of slaves	Their value
September 1, 1763	(Captain) Zebulon Hollingsworth, Sr.	Jen 24 Pegg 9 Janet 36 Ned 10 Terry 12 Will 15 Cisso[?] 30 (unfirm)	Approx. 301 pounds
April 4, 1803	Jacob Hollingsworth	Jeremy 50 Will 48 Bob 30 Caleb 25 Bill [?] 23 Isaac 14 Ben 10 Jim 2 Rachel 14 Dinah 16 Rachel 6	\$1110
October 7, 1803	(Colonel) Henry Hollingsworth	Frank 70 [?] 60 Will 55 Jane 45 Tom 30 Sam 21 Cyrus 19 Ned 19 Cook 14 Sam 10 Hannah 35 Nelly 21 Clara 15 Rachel 14	\$1870.50

The preceding chart was based on the inventories taken by Cecil County officials after the death of the named individual. Source:

The Hollingsworths of Cecil County Maryland

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