

Mumma Families & Slaves

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It has been suggested that the Mumma families never owned slaves because they followed the Mennonite or Brethren religions. While it is true some of the Mumma families were Mennonite or Brethren, the predominant religion of the Mumma families was Lutheran or Reformed which did not have strict rules against slavery. Out of curiosity, I examined a variety of records and found ample evidence that some Mumma families had slaves. A factor as to whether or not they owned slaves primarily depended on where they lived. I can find no evidence of any Mumma families living north of the Mason-Dixon Line owning slaves, but some who lived in the South did own slaves as was an accepted custom of that time period. The information that follows is found in various documents including the US Census, the US Census Slave Schedules of 1850 and 1860, estate papers and newspaper articles. For this discussion I have grouped various families by the particular areas in which they lived. The term “Mumma families” refers to all surname spelling variations which are genetically connected as verified through DNA testing¹. From this investigation and data, I conclude that while the Mumma families did own slaves, none had extensive slave holding. Typically only one or two slaves were held because their land holdings were modest in size and they typically utilized family members, hired local laborers or “free slaves”.

MUMMA FAMILIES OF WASHINGTON CO., MARYLAND

Jacob Mumma, b. 1766, is the Mumma who originally purchased the farm on which the battle of Antietam was fought in September of 1862 near Sharpsburg, Maryland. Jacob was the youngest son of George Anthony Mumma, the eldest son of immigrant Leonard Mumma. He and his family migrated to Sharpsburg Maryland around 1796 from Lancaster County, PA. Around 1798, his brother Henry and sister, Barbara, also moved to Sharpsburg. In the 1800 census², Jacob is listed as having 2 slaves. The next appearance is in the *1804 Tax Assessment* of Sharpsburg³. This rare original tax document lists Jacob as owning 1 male and 1 female slave between the ages of 14-45. On June 13, 1806, Jacob Mumma posted a notice in the Maryland Herald, the local newspaper,⁴ of an \$8 reward for the return of Negro man named George Amos, 26 years old, who ran away. On April 3, 1807 another advertisement appeared in which a \$10 reward was offered for a runaway slave named Perry, age 26. On August 7, 1807, a \$10 reward was offered – “*absconded 1 mile from Sharpsburg on the main road leading to Baltimore – Sarah, a negro wench 25-30, speaks English & German.*” In the 1810 census⁵ Jacob is listed as having 5 slaves. While searching Internet for additional documentation, I discovered a 2007 doctoral thesis⁶ written by Max Grivno in which he provides additional information about Jacob’s interactions with slavery. In his thesis, Max suggests that Jacob had difficulty with his slaves running away and that it was recorded in a 1822 newspaper that his slaves attempted to burn down his barn. I have a copy of that newspaper article⁷, but there is no mention of Jacob’s slaves burning the barn – only “*that it is supposed the fire was intentionally communicated to the barn*”. From my own reading of the newspapers, I didn’t sense that Jacob had any more difficulty with his slaves than did his neighbors. Although hard to read, the 1820⁸ census appears to list Jacob as having at least 3 slaves. The 1830 census⁹ does not record Jacob as having any slaves. The 1840 census lists Jacob, who is now 72 years old, as having 2 female slaves. In Jacob’s Will¹⁰, written on 11 November 1844, he identifies his two female slaves as Harriet and Pat and gives them to his wife for her life time. Upon her death, Pat is to be set free and Harriet to “*chose her own master and the sum for which she may sell to form part of my estate*”.

In addition to Jacob, his brother, nephews and several of his sons and grandsons also had slaves.

John Mumma, b. 1787, was Jacob’s eldest son. A John Mumma appears in the 1810 census of Washington county, but this is a different John who is discussed later. In the 1820 census¹¹, John Mumma, b. 1787, had at least 5 slaves. This census is difficult to interpret. The 1830 census¹² lists John as having 1 male slave and 4 female slaves. John died in 1835, but his wife, **Mary Mumma**, continued to hold slaves. Mary appears in the US 1850 Census¹³ of Boonsboro, along with her daughter who is also named Mary. It is interesting that Mary, the mother, is listed as being “idiotic”. She also appears in the 1850 Slave Schedule¹⁴ as owning 4 female slaves,

ages 35, 6,4 & 2. In the 1860 Slave Schedule¹⁵, Mary has 9 slaves, all females ranging in age 14 to 26. Only having female slaves was unusual as most slave holders had a mix of males and females. It is not clear whether she was using them in a slave capacity or in some humanitarian manner. I doubt that she was using them in prostitution. She is living with her son, Nathaniel, who is a farmer and also has several slaves as noted below.

Nathaniel Mumma, b. 1833, Mary's son, is also reported in the 1860 Slave Schedule¹⁶ of the Funktown district of Washington County as having one male slave, age 15 and one female slave, age 19. Perhaps they were living and working on the farm property Nathaniel owned in the Funktown area of Washington County.

Samuel Mumma, b. 1801, was the youngest son of Jacob Mumma. On January 8, 1831, Jacob Mumma turned over the operation of the Antietam farm property to his son, Samuel¹⁷. By 1850, Samuel had 9 children and is listed in the 1850 Slave Schedule¹⁸ as having 2 slaves, a female age 26 and a 2 year old male. In the 1860 Slave Schedule¹⁹, only an 11 year old male appears. It is likely it is the same male child that was listed in the 1850 Schedule. His family had grown from 9 children in 1850 with the addition of 3 more children by 1860. In the 1850 census²⁰, his nephew, Jacob Mumma, listed below, is identified next to him on the census and is likely living on the Mumma "Antietam" farm. The fact that Samuel Mumma had slaves is of particular interest since he was an active member of the "Dunker Church". He donated the land for the building of the church and allowed members of the church to be buried in the nearby "Mumma Cemetery."

Jacob R. Mumma, b. 1823, is a grandson son of Jacob Mumma and descends from Jacob's son named Jacob. He is listed in the 1850 Slave Schedule²¹ of Washington County, Subdivision 2 as owning 1 slave, a 13 year old female. Jacob is only 26 years old and is married with one child. By the 1860 census, Jacob R. Mumma has migrated to Springfield, Ohio and has no slaves listed at this time.

Henry Mumma, b. 1755. Henry is older brother of Jacob Mumma, b. 1766. Henry is my ancestor who died intestate on October 20, 1809 and was buried in Sharpsburg on October 22, 1809. The only evidence that Henry owned slaves is found in his estate proceedings. His estate was inventoried²² on the December 19, 1809 and the first entry in the inventory was for "1 black" valued at \$40.00. The total value of his estate was appraised at \$555.48. His property was disposed of at public vendeu²³ on December 20 & 21, 1809. The "black" was sold to a John Rudy for \$43. The total amount received from the vendeu sale was \$548.41. The Rudy family lived in the Lower Antietam Hundred district. Since Henry was recorded in the 1804 tax records without any slaves, this slave was acquired between 1804 and 1809.

John Mumma, b. 1782, was the eldest son of Henry Mumma, b. 1755. John is listed in the 1810 census²⁴ as owning one slave. In 1815, John and his family migrated to Belmont County, Ohio and he likely disposed of his slave prior to his move or shortly thereafter. No evidence of a slave sale or manumit has been found.

Joseph Mumma, b. abt. 1786, was another son of Henry Mumma, b. 1755. In the 1820 census²⁵, it is unclear how many slaves Joseph owned as the legibility of that census is very poor. It is hard to distinguish between a "0" and a "1" that the census taker wrote in the columns. To me it appears that 2 males and 1 female may have been recorded. Nothing is known about Joseph Mumma after 1830. All of his brothers and sisters had migrated to Ohio by 1828.

Jacob Mumma, b. 1794, was the youngest son of Henry Mumma, b. 1755. Jacob was only 15 when his father died in 1809. His older brother, Henry Mumma was appointed as Jacob's guardian on March 6, 1810. His uncle Jacob Mumma and Joseph Shank posted surety. It is also recorded in 1910 that Jacob was apprenticed to become a weaver by action of the Washington County Orphan's Court. Jacob does not appear in the 1820 census as owning slaves. A family story²⁶ about the families migration from Maryland to Dayton, Ohio in 1827, however identifies a slave named "Topsy" who travelled with them. There is no evidence of Topsy living in Dayton that I have been able to discover. No evidence of a slave sale or manumit has been found.

MUMAW/MUMMAW FAMILIES OF FREDERICK CO, VIRGINIA

Jacob M. Mumaw/Mummaw, b. 1814. Jacob descends from Johan George Mumma, b. 1786; the son of Jacob Mumma, b. 1762; the son of John Jacob Mumma, b. 1735; the son of immigrant Leonard Mumma. Most of the children of Jacob Mumma, b. 1762 migrated into Frederick County, Virginia from Maryland around 1800, about the time of the father's death. Most of this branch remained in Frederick, Warren and Shenandoah Counties. Jacob's father, Johan George Mumma. Jacob Mumaw appears in the 1860²⁷ census of Frederick County, Virginia. His occupation is that of a miller and he has 5 children. He also appears on the 1860 Slave Schedule²⁸ as having one female slave, age 60. Jacob owns no land, but has a personal estate worth \$400.

MOOMAW FAMILIES OF BOTETOURT & ROANOKE COUNTIES, VIRGINIA

John Christian Moomaw, b. 1774. Christian was the son of John Conrad Mumma, b. 1750; the son of John Christian Mumma, b. 1725; the son of immigrant Leonard Mumma. In the 1810 census²⁹ of Botetourt County, Virginia, he is listed as having one "other free person". The 1820 Census does not list any slaves for Christian, however the 1830 census³⁰ shows he had 1 male slave, age 36 to 55 and 3 female slaves. One female was under age 10, one between 10 to 24 and the other was between 24 to 36 years of age. By the 1840 Census³¹ Christian's slave holdings had increased to 5, 2 males and 3 females. Christian died in 1847 in Botetourt County, Virginia. His son, Benjamin Franklin Moomaw joined the Brethren religion and served as an ordained minister. He was very much opposed to slavery and donated his inheritance from his slave owning father to the African Colonization Society³². Many members of this family became members of the Brethren religion and against slavery.

Mark Bigler Moomaw, b. 1820. Mark Moomaw was the son of Philip Moomaw, b. 1781; the son of John Conrad Mumma, b. 1750; the son of John Christian Mumma, b. 1725; the son of immigrant Leonard Mumma. Mark is enumerated in the 1850 US Census³³ in District 55, Roanoke Co., Virginia. He is age 30 and has a wife and 5 children along with his 77 year old mother. He also appears in the 1850 Slave Schedule³⁴ as having one female slave, age 9. Mark does not appear in the 1860 Slave Schedule as owning any slaves.

MOOMAUGH FAMILIES OF TERRELL COUNTY, GEORGIA

Jonathan W. Moomaugh, b. 1835. Jonathan "John" Moomaugh is the son of Emanuel Moomaugh, b. abt. 1805 who was the son of George Mummer, b: abt. 1786 who lived around Augusta County, Virginia. There is a J.W. Moomaugh listed in the 1860 Slave Schedule³⁵ of Terrell County, Georgia as holding 3 slaves, a 55 year old female, a 45 year old male and an 11 year old boy. John Moomaugh is 25 years old and was recently married. There is an adjacent entry to his for 2 additional slaves, a 40 year old male and 35 year old female. The entry says "J.W. Moomaugh for J. E. Davis". Since Jonathan Moomaugh and James Davis are not living next to each other, Jonathan is probably using James Davis' 2 slaves. James E. Davis who is most likely George's step-uncle. Jonathan Moomaugh died during the Civil War. This area of Georgia must have had large plantations as it is not uncommon to find slave holdings of 30 or more by a single owner.

MOOMAU/MUMAW FAMILIES OF HARDY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

George Washington Moomau/Mumaw, b: 1829. George Moomau is the son of Frederick Moomau, b: 1796; who was a son of George Mummer, b: abt. 1768. George is listed in the 1860 US census³⁶ of Hardy County, Virginia (West Virginia) as George W. Mumaw, age 30. He and his wife have 2 children. His occupation is that of a "hatter". George also appears in the 1860 Slave Schedule Census³⁷ as having 3 slaves. A female, age 19 and her 2 children ages 4 and 1. As required, George dutifully had the births of these two children recorded in the Hardy County, Virginia birth records³⁸. This requirement was for all births, whether white, free or slave. The oldest boy was named William Solomon Moomau (indexed as Mooman), born 10 Apr 1858 and the mother's name was listed as Caroline. The younger boy was Hiram Moomau, born 10 Jan 1860 and George W. Moomau is listed as the slave owner. George's own daughter, May, born 10 May 1860, is also listed in these records.

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- ¹ The Mumma Surname DNA Project. <http://www.mumma.org/DNA.htm>
- ² 1800 Census, Maryland, Washington Co., Sharpsburg Hundreds, page 584 (Ancestry image 6 of 6, indexed as Jacob Muma)
- ³ 1804 Tax Assessment of the Sharpsburg 100 Election District. The original document is located in the Western Maryland Room, Washington County Free Library, Hagerstown, MD.
- ⁴ Maryland Herald and Hagerstown Weekly Advertiser, 13 June 1806. Available on microfilm in the Washington County Free Library, Hagerstown, MD
- ⁵ 1810 Census, Maryland, Washington Co., Sharpsburg Hundred, page 504 (Ancestry image 1 of 7, indexed as Jacob Muma)
- ⁶ "There Slavery Cannot Dwell": Agriculture and Labor in Northern Maryland, 1790-1860, thesis by Max L. Grivno, Doctor of Philosophy, 2007, University of Maryland, College Park, MD. pp 3-5.
<https://drum.umd.edu/dspace/bitstream/1903/7259/1/umi-umd-4659.pdf>
- ⁷ Torchlight Newspaper, 8 January 1822. Available on microfilm in the Washington County Free Library, Hagerstown, MD
- ⁸ 1820 Census, Maryland, Washington Co., District 1, p. 157 (Ancestry image 20 of 36, indexed as Jacob Muma)
- ⁹ 1830 Census, Maryland, Washington Co., District 1, (Ancestry image 5 of 34, indexed as Jacob Mumma)
- ¹⁰ Will of Jacob Mumma, written 1844, filed 1848, Washington County, MD, Volume D, pages 830-832
- ¹¹ 1820 Census, Maryland, Washington Co., District 1, p. 156 (Ancestry image 20 of 36, indexed as John Mura)
- ¹² 1830 Census, Maryland, Washington Co., District 1, (Ancestry image 5 of 34, indexed as John Mumma)
- ¹³ 1850 Census, Maryland, Washington Co., District 1, p. 201 (Ancestry image 33 of 214, indexed as Mary Mumma)
- ¹⁴ 1850 Census Slave Schedule, Maryland, Washington Co., District 1, p. 509 (Ancestry image 2 of 7, indexed as Mary Mumma)
- ¹⁵ 1860 Census Slave Schedule, Maryland, Washington Co., Boonsboro, p. 580 (Ancestry image 1 of 2, indexed as May Mumma)
- ¹⁶ 1860 Census Slave Schedule, Maryland, Washington Co., Funktown, (Ancestry image 2 of 2, indexed as Nathaniel Mumma)
- ¹⁷ US Department of the Interior, Historic Structures Report, Mumma Farm – "Spring House", by Francis F. Wilshin, 28 Aug 1969.
- ¹⁸ 1850 Census Slave Schedule, Maryland, Washington Co., Subdivision 2 (Ancestry image 5 of 15, indexed as Samuel Mumma)
- ¹⁹ 1860 Census Slave Schedule, Maryland, Washington Co., Sharpsburg (Ancestry image 2 of 2, indexed as Samuel Mummea)
- ²⁰ 1850 Census, Maryland, Washington Co., Subdivision 2 (Ancestry image 59 of 169, indexed as Saml Mamma)
- ²¹ 1850 Census Slave Schedule, Maryland, Washington Co., Subdivision 2, (Ancestry image 5 of 15, indexed as Jacob Mumma)
- ²² Inventory of the Henry Mumma estate, 19 December 1809, Washington County Wills, Vol. D, pp. 129-131
- ²³ Inventory Sale of the Henry Mumma estate, Washington County Estate Administration, Volume C, pp. 327-332
- ²⁴ 1810 Census, Maryland, Washington Co., Sharpsburg Hundred, p. 506 (Ancestry image 2 of 7, indexed as John Muma)
- ²⁵ 1820 Census, Maryland, Washington Co., District 1, p. 145 (Ancestry image 8 of 36, indexed as Joseph Muma)
- ²⁶ "Mumma History" by Aaron Klepinger Mumma - December 24, 1892. <http://www.mumma.org/archives/aaron.html>
- ²⁷ 1860 Census of Virginia, Frederick Co., District 8, Cedar Creek P.O. (Ancestry image 7 of 42, indexed as Jacob Mumaw)
- ²⁸ 1860 US Slave Schedule, Virginia, Frederick County, District 8, page 14 (Ancestry image 2 of 8, indexed as Jacob Mumaw)
- ²⁹ 1810 Census, Virginia, Botetourt County, page 643 (Ancestry image 42 of 66, indexed as Christa Moomau)
- ³⁰ 1830 Census, Virginia, Botetourt County, page 299 (Ancestry image 87 of 146, indexed as Christian Moomau)
- ³¹ 1840 Census, Virginia, Botetourt County, page 286 (Ancestry image 64 of 96, indexed as Christian Mewman)
- ³² The Brethren Encyclopedia, Vol. 2, 1983, pages 873-4, The Brethren Encyclopedia Inc., Elgin, IL
- ³³ 1850 Census, Virginia, Roanoke County, District 55 (Ancestry image 20 of 52, indexed as Mack B Moomaw)
- ³⁴ 1850 US Slave Schedule, Virginia, Roanoke County, District 55 (Ancestry image 2 of 15, indexed as Mack B Moomaw)
- ³⁵ 1860 US Slave Schedule, Georgia, Terrell County, District 1150, page 20 (Ancestry image 5 of 5, indexed as J.W. Moomawgh)
- ³⁶ 1860 Census, Virginia, Hardy County, District 2, (Ancestry image 55 of 145, indexed as George W. Mumaw)
- ³⁷ 1860 US Slave Schedule, Virginia, Hardy County, District 2, (Ancestry image 8 of 12, indexed as George W. Mumaw)
- ³⁸ West Virginia Division of Culture and History, http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_bcsearch.aspx