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# PLUMMER OUTLINE

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## GUIDE

- I. Expand knowledge of the institution of slavery in PG County
  - A. MD was settled in 1634 with no tradition of slavery
  - B. 1664 slaves and their children became servants for life
  - C. Tobacco was a big source of income in MD and PG County
  - D. As prices for Tobacco increased large planters bought more slaves
  - E. Various fugitive slave acts were passed
  - F. As tobacco prices declined so did the number of slaves and free black
  - G. In MD all blacks were considered slaves unless they could prove they were free or contracted laborers
  - H. The slave marketplace was in Upper Marlboro. Slaves were bought and sold there
  - I. In the 1730 40% of artisans in PG ironworkers, shoe makers, etc. were slaves they were hired out by their owners
  - J. After 1783 the importation of slaves was prohibited in MD. Slaves already living in the U.S. could be bought and sold
  - K. As the need for slaves declined some were granted freedom (manumitted) if they agreed to return to Africa
  - L. 1803 no migration of free blacks into MD could visit for 2 weeks or get a license to sell goods they produced their children had to work or be apprenticed
  - M. By 1820 there were 1,096 free blacks by 1860 there were 1,198
  - N. PGC voted against the emancipation during the general assemble session 1864
  - O. Freedmen's Bureau provided education, training, housing; help with voter registration and contracts.



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- II. Increase knowledge of the conditions of the AA family, freed and enslaved, in PG County during the Slave Era.
  - A. AFP was given special permission to visit Emily at Three Sisters on weekends
  - B. Slaves were considered personal property so they were bought and sold just as a car would be today
  - C. Slave families were separated when family members were sold to other owners
  - D. PG county slaves were free if born free, manumitted by will or as a reward, sold to a free spouse or parent
  
- III. Identify key personalities and locations related to slavery in PG County
  - A. Goodwood Plantation owned by Lord Baltimore, George H Calvert
  - B. Calvert owned almost 10,000 acres of land
  - C. His parents, Benedict and Elisabeth owned 228 slaves at Mt. Airy in Rosaryville
  - D. B. Riversdale Plantation GHC
  - E. Three Sisters Plantation in Lanham Sarah Ogle Hilleary
  - F. Frederick Douglass
  - G. Thomas Spriggs Jr., Northampton Plantation in Lake Arbor/ Largo 1810 = 62 Slaves
  - H. Fairview Plantation Gov Oden Bowie (in Collington which is in Bowie)
  - I. Harriet Tubman lead slaves on the Underground Railroad that ran through western MD



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- IV. Contextualize the Plummer family and descendants geographically and socio-economically
- A. Cupid Plummer ca 1720 fought in the Revolutionary war in the stead of his master with the promise of gaining freedom after the war. He was freed on May 27 1781
  - B. John Bowser an ex-slave taught Adam Plummer to read. Adam taught his family
  - C. May 30 1841 AFP married Emily Saunders at the NY ave. Presbyterian Church
  - D. Recognized as a legal marriage and they were granted a marriage license
  - E. AFP was given special permission to visit Emily at Three Sisters on weekends
  - F. AFP was given land at Riversdale. He farmed it in his free time and was able to keep the profits
  - G. AFP was an artisan
  - H. After the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment freed the slaves Adam Plummer reunited his family he had his daughter brought back from New Orleans
  - I. AFP purchased 10 acres of land in 1868 near Riversdale for \$100 and built a house
  - J. His youngest Nellie went to school and became a teacher in Forestville MD and later in Wash. DC
  - K. The family was literate and exchanged letters when they were separated

