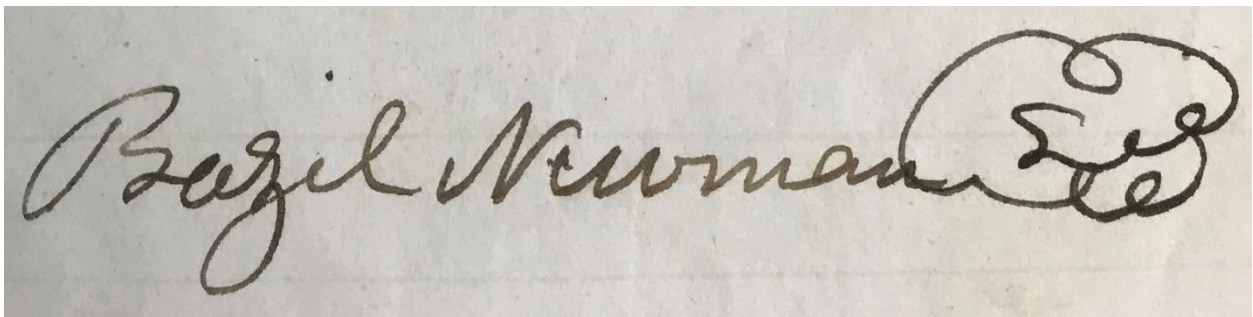


## Bazil Newman, Ferry Operator and Businessman

Despite laws that limited their rights, African-Americans who were not enslaved, such as Bazil Newman, owned land, operated businesses, and were successful in their endeavors. Newman operated a ferry at Goose Creek and the Potomac River, transporting people and goods between Virginia and Maryland. He owned a warehouse near the ferry and was part owner of Elizabeth Mills on Goose Creek. Some historians believe he was a conductor on the Underground Railroad.

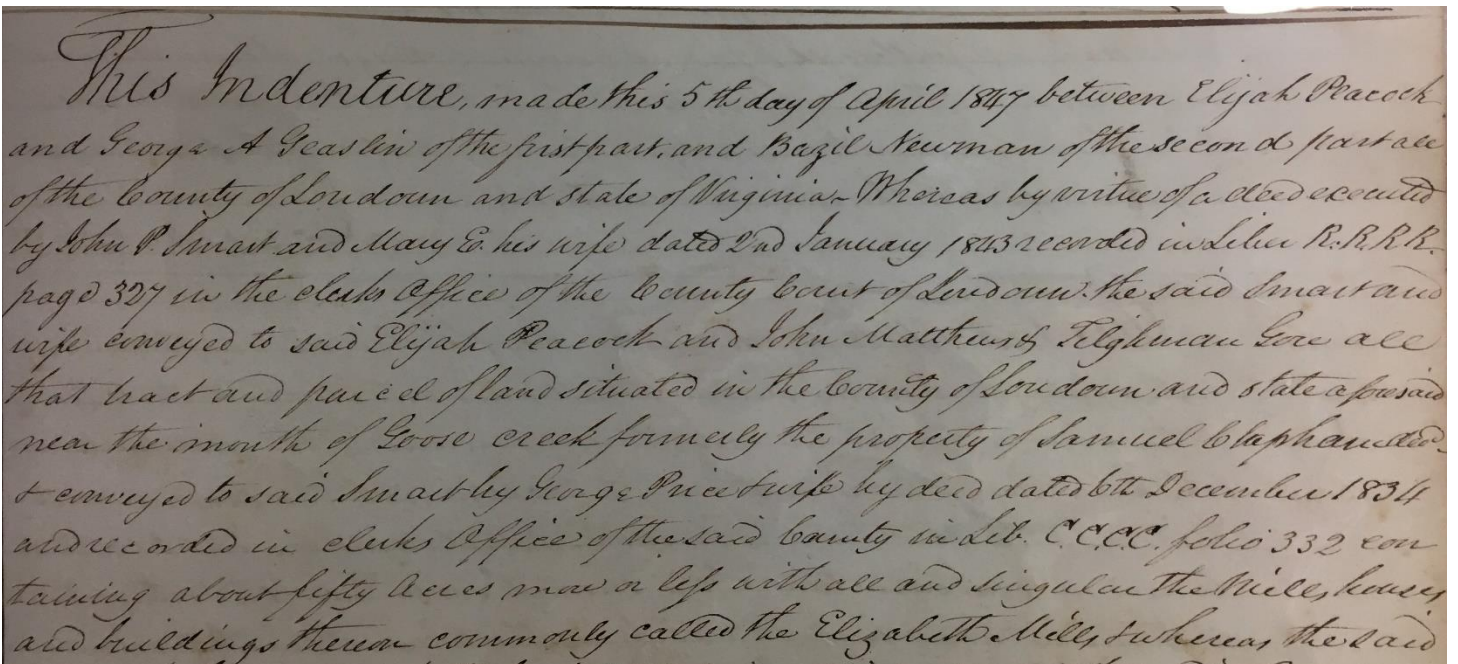
Newman's will was written in 1852, and he signed his name, as shown below. By comparison, many people could not write during that time period and "signed" their name on correspondence and legal documents by making an "X".

*Bazil Newman's signature, Will Book 2G page 145*

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The name "Bazil Newman" is written in a fluid, connected hand. The final part of the signature is a large, decorative flourish that loops back and ends in a small, circular mark.

This deed from 1847 gave Bazil Newman 1/3 ownership in the grist mill on Goose Creek, not far from where the Creek entered the Potomac River. The mill's remains are on the present-day Lansdowne property.

*Deed Book 4Y Page 130*

A photograph of a handwritten deed document. The text is written in cursive and describes a land conveyance. It mentions the date of the deed as the 5th day of April 1847, the parties as Elijah Peacock and George A. Geaslin, and Bazil Newman. It references a previous deed from 1813 and another from 1834. The property is located near the mouth of Goose Creek and includes a grist mill, house, and buildings. The deed is recorded in the Clerk's Office of the County Court of Loudoun, Virginia.