**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*

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*