

## The Fight for Freedom

Over 200 African-American men from Loudoun County served their country during the Civil War, primarily in the U.S. Colored Troops. Veterans returned home to marry, buy land, raise a family, and become leaders in their community.

Henry Harris served in the U.S. Navy before and during the Civil War. According to Kevin Grigsby's book, *From Loudoun to Glory: The Role of African-Americans from Loudoun county in the Civil War*, Harris was 35 years-old when he enlisted in Baltimore on May 30, 1860. Harris had been freed before the war, as shown in this Deed of Emancipation from 1857.

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328  
Catharine B Gaspaway of the town of Seeburg in the County of Loudoun and  
State of Virginia, do by these presents emancipate and forever  
Emancipation set free from servitude my negro man slave Henry Harris now  
aged about thirty years  
In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this  
13<sup>th</sup> day of January 1857  
Witness  
Chas Wildman  
A H Rogers  
Catharine B Gaspaway

As required by law, Harris registered his freedom status at the courthouse. His personal information was entered into the *Record of Free Negroes* and his certificate was #2394.

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registered in my office  
2394  
Virginia to wit  
I Presly Saunders Clerk of the County Court  
of Loudoun County certify that Henry Harris  
emancipated by deed from Catharine B. Gaspaway, admitted to negro in Ct. Feb. 9: 1857  
a free man of colour, as proved by the oath of  
Chas B Wildman said Henry is of black. has  
a scar on the right side of the nose near the  
eye about 30 years of age 5 feet 6 inches  
high was this day registered in my office  
10 July 1857  
Examined  
February 10. 1857  
Sealed and  
delivered signed  
Presly Saunders