Seaton

Trinity Methodist Cemetery · George and Lucinda Seaton, a free Black family, and their eleven children

Trinity Methodist Cemetery · Buried elsewhere · Context, or burial not confirmed

Family tree by Gravestone Stories · gravestonestories.com

Born free, or freed? Two 20th-century writers say Lucinda was born enslaved to George Washington and freed as an infant by Martha Washington. Her own 1841 Free Negro Register entry says she was born free.

George Seaton
(c. 1791 – Dec 10, 1844)
Free Black carpenter; tenant at Burgundy Farm, 1820; by 1850 his estate held five houses at Franklin & Washington streets
Burial: *Trinity Methodist, H:7*, beneath a sycamore tree

m.

Lucinda Seaton
(c. 1799 – Mar 15, 1865)
Registered free, 1841: “dark mulatto woman, about 42 years old”; lived on in the two-story house at Franklin & Washington
Burial: *Trinity Methodist, H:7*, next to her husband

Eleven children, four sons and seven daughters, all listed in the Free Negro Registers of July 30, 1841. Their birth years here come from the ages given there, so most are approximate.

Mary Ann Seaton Rodgers
(c. 1816 – ?)
Already married by 1841

Catherine Seaton Williams
(c. 1818 – ?)
Already married by 1841

George Lewis Seaton
(1822 – 1881)
Carpenter and builder; Virginia House of Delegates, 1869–1871; grand jury in the Jefferson Davis treason case
Burial: *not confirmed*
→ see George Lewis Seaton’s tree

Adolphus Seaton
(c. 1824 – Mar 19, 1865)
“in his 41st year”; died four days after his mother
Burial: *Trinity Methodist*

Lucinda Seaton
(c. 1826 – 1869)
Died at 43
Burial: *Trinity Methodist, H:7*

Sarah Ellen Seaton
(c. 1829 – Oct 5, 1847)
“aged 18 years & 8 months”
Burial: *Trinity Methodist*

Hannah Seaton Hamilton
(Dec 24, 1830 – Jan 2, 1861)
m. Alfred Hamilton (1807–1887), Mar 15, 1846, at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church; he also rests at Trinity
Burial: *Trinity Methodist*

Martha Ann Seaton
(c. 1830 – ?)

Laura Virginia Seaton
(c. 1832 – ?)
The youngest daughter

John Andrew Seaton
(c. 1834 – ?)
Alexandria alderman, 1870s
m. Virginia J. (c. 1843 – Sept. 11, 1872)
Her burial: *Washington Street Methodist, SW Lot 36*

Thomas Seaton
(c. 1836 – ?)

son

George B. Seaton
(c. Dec. 1860 – May 1861)
“aged 5 months”
Burial: *Trinity, H:7, on Adolphus’s stone*

The will. George signed his will with an “X” on September 13, 1843. He named George Lewis, his oldest son, executor, and left him a house and lot on Washington Street, rent free once he married. After Lucinda’s death or remarriage, his personal property was to be divided among all the children.

Ages that don’t agree. Adolphus’s stone (“in his 41st year”) and his 1841 registration agree on a birth around 1824; Find a Grave’s 1821 is wrong. Hannah was registered as 32 in 1841 and about 20 in 1847; her 1830 birth date fits the later entry.

John Andrew’s family. His son George B. is named on the same stone as his uncle Adolphus, as “son of John A. & V. J. Seaton.” Virginia J. lies beside her nephew George L. Seaton; her stone reads “wife of John J. Seaton.” Find a Grave’s 1800–1829 dates for her misread 1872.

Sources: Bernstein et al., The Life and Times of George Lewis Seaton (Alexandria Archaeology Publications No. 121, 2001); Provine, Free Negro Registers (1990); Pippenger, Tombstone Inscriptions of Alexandria, Vol. 1; Find a Grave memorials. Lucinda’s death date is from Find a Grave; the Bernstein study gives only the year.