

## The Prior/Pryor Family of Staunton and Augusta County

The first Prior registered as a Free Black in Augusta County was Sarah, born 1757. She had two sons, Peter and Postus. A George Prior later registered and is assumed to be the husband of Sarah and probable father of her children. The name "George" was used thereafter in every generation of family.

While Peter and Postus moved on to Rockbridge County, it is believed that George remained in Augusta County where he died, leaving several other children and grandchildren in the area. After the Civil War, other Prior/Pryor families came to Staunton from Nelson County to find work. The name was spelled both ways, even in the same family. Most Free Blacks were denied education and could not read or write their names. The census takers and tax collectors determined the spelling.