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EARLY WASHINGTON, DC LAW & FAMILY PROJECT

The Shorter Family

The Shorter family from Charles and Prince George's Counties, Maryland, and Washington, DC, sued for their freedom between 1795-1823, claiming they were descended from a free woman named Elizabeth Shorter. These cases and the families who brought them were important in American history.

- ◆ *Teresa Shorter v. Joseph Boarman* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *James Shorter v. Eleanor Bradford* (Prince George's County, 1790)
- ◆ *Charity Shorter v. Ignatius Matthews* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Mary Shorter v. Ignatius Matthews* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Henrietta Shorter v. Henry Barnes* (Charles County, 1790)
- ◆ *Stephen Shorter v. John Boarman* (Charles County, 1791)
- ◆ *Basil Shorter v. Henry Rozier* (Prince George's County, 1791)
- ◆ *Phillis Shorter, Letty Shorter v. Mary Boarman* (Charles County, 1792)
- ◆ *Letty Shorter v. Mary Boarman* (Charles County, 1792)
- ◆ *Joseph Shorter v. Thomas Brewer* (St. Mary's County, 1792)
- ◆ *Eleanor Shorter v. Hanson Briscoe* (Washington County, 1792)
- ◆ *Gerard Shorter v. Mary Boarman* (Charles County, 1792)
- ◆ *Leonard Shorter v. Richard Edelen* (Charles County, 1792)
- ◆ *Priscilla & Charity Shorter v. John Smith* (St. Mary's County, 1792)
- ◆ *Baptiste Shorter v. John Smith* (St. Mary's County, 1792)
- ◆ *Jenny Shorter v. Eleanor Bradford* (Prince George's County, 1792)
- ◆ *Ignatius Shorter v. John Fenwick* (St. Mary's County, 1792)
- ◆ *Monica Shorter v. Edward Hazle* (St. Mary's County, 1792)
- ◆ *Lucy, Charles, Will, Gerrard, Abby, & Henny Shorter v. Henry Neale* (St. Mary's County, 1792)
- ◆ *Patty, Clement, Charles, Ned, Bett, Joseph, & James Shorter v. Thomas Stone* (Charles County, 1792)
- ◆ *William Shorter v. William Tyer* (Charles County, 1792)
- ◆ *Charles Shorter v. John & Francis Digges, administrators of Henry Digges* (Charles County, 1792)
- ◆ *Basil Shorter v. Charles Carroll* (Washington County, 1792)
- ◆ *Teresa Shorter v. Anne Chunn* (Charles County, 1792)
- ◆ *Abraham Shorter v. Mary Anne Boarman* (unknown, 1792 ?)
- ◆ *Jane Shorter v. Henry Neale* (unknown, 1792 ?)
- ◆ *Babtist Shorter v. Daniel Carroll of Duddington* (Prince George's County, 1796)
- ◆ *Peter Shorter v. Henry Rozer* (Prince George's County, 1795)
- ◆ *Kitty & William Shorter v. Daniel Rapine* (Washington, DC, 1808)
- ◆ *Sally Shorter v. Thomas Corcoran* (Washington, DC, 1808)
- ◆ *Michael Shorter v. George Fenwick* (Washington, DC, 1808)
- ◆ *Kitty, Nancy, & William Shorter v. Daniel Rapine* (Washington, DC, 1822)



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The Shorter family tree is based on court records from the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis.

- Elizabeth "Betty Short" Shorter
 - + Robin
 - Mary "Moll Short" Shorter
 - Linda Shorter
 - Basil Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1791 against Henry Rozier
 - Jane "Jenny Short" Shorter
 - Lucy Shorter
 - Teresa "Terry" Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Joseph Boarman
 - Charity Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Ignatius Matthews
 - Henrietta Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Henry Barnes
 - Basil Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Charles Carroll
 - Robert "Bob" Shorter
 - James "Jim" Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1790 against Eleanor Bradford
 - Jenny Shorter
 - Monica Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Edward Hazle
 - Appy Shorter – d. abt 1776
 - George Shorter – d. bef 1795
 - Priscilla "Prissy" Shorter – b. abt 1750 – filed freedom suit in 1792 against John Smith
 - Leonard Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Richard Edelen
 - Baptist Shorter – b. abt 1771 – filed freedom suit in 1792 against John Smith
 - Charity Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against John Smith
 - Henry Shorter – d. bef 1795
 - Joshua Shorter – d. bef 1795
 - Anthony Shorter
 - Jenny Shorter – d. bef 1795
 - Shadrack Shorter – d. bef 1795
 - Nelly Shorter – d. bef 1795
 - Peter Shorter
 - Lucy Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Henry Neale
 - Charles Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Henry Neale
 - Will Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Henry Neale
 - Gerrard Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Henry Neale
 - Abby Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Henry Neale
 - Henny Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Henry Neale
 - Gerrard Shorter – d. bef 1795



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- Elizabeth "Betty" Shorter
- Edward "Ned" Shorter
- Charles Shorter
- James "Jim" Shorter
- Pat "Patty" Shorter – d. abt 1744
 - Nell "Nelly" Shorter
 - Jane "Jenny" Shorter – b. abt 1734 – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Eleanor Bradford
 - Stephen Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1791 against John Boarman
 - Anne Shorter
 - Phillis Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Mary Boarman
 - Letty Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Mary Boarman
 - Gerard Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Mary Boarman
 - Minta Shorter
 - Nell Shorter
 - Clem Shorter
 - Teresa "Terry" Shorter – b. abt 1737 – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Anne Chunn
 - Phillis Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Anne Chunn
 - John Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Anne Chunn
 - Moses Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Anne Chunn
 - Charity Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Anne Chunn
 - Henny Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Anne Chunn
 - Ignatius Shorter
 - Betty Shorter
 - Thomas Shorter
 - Clem Shorter
 - Nanny Shorter – b. abt 1742
 - Ignatius Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against John Fenwick
 - Betty Shorter
 - Patty Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Thomas Stone
 - Clement Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Thomas Stone
 - Charles Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Thomas Stone
 - Ned Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Thomas Stone
 - Bett Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Thomas Stone
 - Joseph Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Thomas Stone
 - James Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1792 against Thomas Stone

If you have any information to contribute to the project about this family, please let us know.

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