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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 Rozer
      - Caty Shorter
        - Charles Shorter – filed freedom suit in 1791 against Henry Rozer
      - John Shorter
    - 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
        - Chloe Shorter
        - Mary Shorter
      - Appy (Abby) Shorter – d. abt 1776
        - George Shorter – d. bef 1795 – filed freedom suit against Henry Neale
        - 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
        - Henny 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



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- 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
- Elizabeth "Betty" Shorter
  - Eleanor "Nelly" Shorter
  - James Shorter
- Edward "Ned" Shorter
- Charles Shorter
- James "Jim" Shorter
- Bridget Shorter
- Lodge Shorter
- Martha "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 "Nanny" Shorter – filed freedom suit against Raphael Boarman
      - 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 "Nase" Shorter
    - Betty Shorter
      - Thomas "Tom" Shorter
      - Clem Shorter
      - Nelly Shorter
      - Ned Shorter
    - Jem Shorter
  - Nanny Shorter – b. abt 1742
    - Ignatius "Nase" 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



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- 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
- Ned Shorter
- Clem Shorter
- Jack Shorter
- Peggy Shorter
  - Fanny Shorter

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

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