

Hettie Boulden's Obituary – Cecil Democrat 1873

Note: Only her first name was used in the obituary
The term "instant" refers to the current month
Almshouse - a place built by charitable people or organization for poor people to live

Death of an Aged Woman. - Died, on the 22nd instant, Hetty, an old colored woman, supposed to be between 90 and 100 years old. She belonged to Captain Henderson, of Frenchtown, when that place was burned by the English Army in 1812, and was compelled by the commander to act as guide to Elkton. She has been living for 23 years with Dr. R.C. Carter, and was a faithful servant till within the last few years, when she became so crippled and helpless as to be of no use to them whatever; but still they kept her, when almost anyone else would have sent her to the almshouse. Mrs. Carter has been kindly caring for her during her illness, and will see that she has a decent burial.

Sheild.

The census documents reflect a disparaging difference in Hettie's age and spelling of her name, due to the fact she was a slave:

1850 Census:

Property of Dr. Robert Carter:
Hester Bolden, Age 55, Female, Black

1860 Census:

Property of Dr. Robert Carter:
Hestty Boulden, Age 70, Female, Black

1870 Census:

Assuming Property of Dr. Robert Carter:
Hetty Boulden, Age 90, Female, Black

Hettie's obituary placed her age as between 90 and 100. She may have been much younger though as she appeared to have aged 35 years in a span of 20 years according to the census documents.