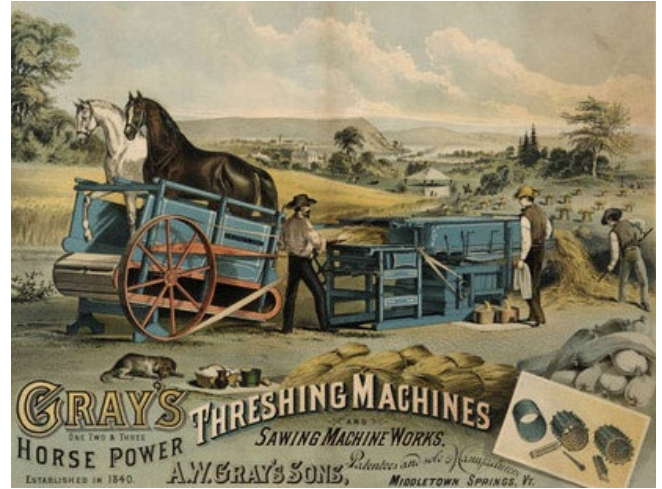


Elisha Lomax – A Free Black Property Owner

Handwritten ledger page from the Eusebius R Barnard farm. The page lists transactions with Elisha Lomax. The entries include:

- 3 days Cash 85
- 6 days Cash 5 00
- 5 1/2 days 3 00

Elisha Lomax shows up in the Eusebius R Barnard farm ledger many times. In 1866 one page lists a Barnard and Lomax (misspelled Lomac) business to thresh grains for neighboring farms .



In the “dates of various things” there is mention of buying a second-hand threshing machine. This would not have been a common piece of equipment on a farm back then.

On the 1873 and 1883 Pocopson Township maps Elisha Lomax resides on a small farm along present day Wawaset Road (now part of the prison property). Lomax was a free black man who owned property, something quite rare in the 1800s. The five-acre farm was originally purchased by Elisha’s father James who in 1845 purchased four acres from Samuel Martin in West Bradford for \$300. The next year James purchased additional ½ acre for \$40 with the Enos Painter property identified as one of the borders. Since Pocopson Twp didn’t exist yet, the original West Bradford is listed on the deed. The 1850 Census (image 04) shows parents James (65) & Tobra (55) living on the property with son Elisha (19). In the 1860 Census only Elisha and his family are on the property.



SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in Pocopson Township, in the County of Chester, State of Pennsylvania, enumerated by us, on the 1st day of July, 1860.

Dist.	No.	Name	Sex	Age	Color	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate, or other property, or charge.	Value of Personal Estate, or other property, or charge.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, idiotic, insane, pauper, or convict.
1	1	George Scott	M	40	W	Farmer	200	100	
1	2	John Scott	M	14	W				
1	3	Richard Scott	M	12	W				
1	4	Martha Scott	F	38	W				
1	5	William Scott	M	10	W				
1	6	Robert Scott	M	8	W				
1	7	John Scott	M	6	W				
1	8	Elizabeth Scott	F	35	W				
1	9	George Scott	M	3	W				
1	10	John Scott	M	2	W				
1	11	John Scott	M	1	W				
1	12	Elizabeth Scott	F	32	W				
1	13	George Scott	M	10	W				
1	14	John Scott	M	8	W				
1	15	Elizabeth Scott	F	6	W				
1	16	John Scott	M	4	W				
1	17	Elizabeth Scott	F	2	W				
1	18	John Scott	M	1	W				
1	19	Elizabeth Scott	F	1	W				
1	20	John Scott	M	1	W				
1	21	Elizabeth Scott	F	1	W				
1	22	John Scott	M	1	W				
1	23	Elizabeth Scott	F	1	W				
1	24	John Scott	M	1	W				
1	25	Elizabeth Scott	F	1	W				
1	26	John Scott	M	1	W				
1	27	Elizabeth Scott	F	1	W				
1	28	John Scott	M	1	W				
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1	30	John Scott	M	1	W				
1	31	Elizabeth Scott	F	1	W				
1	32	John Scott	M	1	W				
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1	89	Elizabeth Scott	F	1	W				
1	90	John Scott	M	1	W				
1	91	Elizabeth Scott	F	1	W				
1	92	John Scott	M	1	W				
1	93	Elizabeth Scott	F	1	W				
1	94	John Scott	M	1	W				
1	95	Elizabeth Scott	F	1	W				
1	96	John Scott	M	1	W				
1	97	Elizabeth Scott	F	1	W				
1	98	John Scott	M	1	W				
1	99	Elizabeth Scott	F	1	W				
1	100	John Scott	M	1	W				

Elisha's children show up in the attendance records at Locust Grove School. During the Civil War, Elisha served in the 6th Regiment of the US Colored Troops.

In the 1880s, Elisha's name appeared in local newspapers several times:

- 1880 lightning bolt destroys cupboard killing young daughter
- 1882 gashes hand with ax while pointing rails
- 1883 accepts gauntlet and outdoes neighbor in hewing posts.

A small child of Elisha Lomax, colored, of Pocopson township, Chester county, was killed during the prevalence of the storm on Thursday. To all appearances the electric bolt passed through the sash where there was a pane of glass missing, struck a cupboard and split it down on both sides, shattering all the dishes it contained, and killing the little child, who was standing with its back against the cupboard, burning the hair from the back of its head. Mrs. Lomax and the remainder of the children were stunned.

Hand Badly Cut.—On Saturday last while Elisha Lomax, of Pocopson township, was engaged at pointing rails on the property of John P. Seeds, East Bradford, he accidentally struck one of his hands with the sharp edge of a broad axe between the third and fourth fingers, and inflicted a terrible gash in it. The flow of blood was so profuse that a physician who was sent for to dress the wound had some difficulty in checking it. The hand was split open for a considerable distance, and several arteries were cut.

Taken up the Gauntlet.—We published a day or two ago that Purcell Harvey, of Northbrook had hewn 50 posts in ten hours and invited competitors. Elisha Lomax, colored, of Pocopson, has, since reading the account of Harvey's exploits in that line, taken off his coat, taken up the gauntlet and gone to work and hewed in a good and workman-like manner, 55 posts in 9½ hours. He thinks Purcell must do better or "take water."

Elisha's 1888 Will left the property to his son James along with \$1 to several named children. Elisha died in 1891 and was buried in the "Old Kennett Burial Ground", today known as the Old Kennett Quaker Meeting Cemetery. Unfortunately, he died in debt. According to Chester County Archives "A look at our probate records shows that an Elisha Lomax (wife, Deborah) filed a will in 1891 and left his Pocopson property to his son, James. However, Elisha's Orphans' Court file #2713 indicates that a 5-acre, 22-perch property was ordered to be sold in order to settle outstanding debts. A James Lomax subsequently purchased the property from Elisha's executor, E.G. Martin, for \$400, as recorded in Deed Book A-11, page 148". The property was listed for sale in the Village Record in 1892 indicating a two-story frame house, new stable and carriage house. James had to purchase the property from the court to keep it in the family.

Public Sale of Real Estate
OF ELISHA LOMAX, DEC'D.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1892.
BY order of the Orphans' Court of Chester County will be sold TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1892, at 10 o'clock a. m., on the premises in POCOPSON TOWNSHIP, containing 5 ACRES and 26 Perches of land. The improvements consist of a Two-story FRAME HOUSE, containing five rooms; a FRAME STABLE, new, with stabling for 4 head of stock, and a Carriage House. This is a desirable little property and should be examined by those wishing such a place before purchasing.
E. G. MARTIN, Executor.
D. M. Golder, auctioneer. 1-27