# Bucks County “Negroes” in the Pennsylvania Gazette, 1737-1789

Transcribed by Jesse Crooks

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**Introduction**

In the 18th century, the vast majority of people of African descent living in Pennsylvania were enslaved. Due to their low social status they rarely appear in the documentary record. When they do it is often as property, itemized on tax lists and estate inventories, advertised for sale, or arrested for escaping from bondage. Newspapers are one valuable source of information about these people who are otherwise rarely documented. The following excerpts were transcribed from the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, the newspaper of record for the greater Philadelphia area in the 18th century. Bucks County would not have its own newspaper until the establishment of the *Pennsylvania Correspondent and Farmers' Advertiser* in Doylestown in 1804, making the *Gazette* the primary news source for the county.

Notices for runaway slaves and advertisements for slave sales abound, but even though they treat people as property, they can provide valuable insights. Runaway advertisements can provide detailed descriptions of the fugitive’s appearance, personality, skills, and background. For example, when a man named Cuff escaped from his Hilltown Township enslaver in 1781, the runaway advertisement noted, “He has his fiddle along, and is very fond of fiddling; he is not fond of strong liquor.”[1] In 1747, the Bucks County Sheriff Amos Strickland placed a notice seeking the master of a man named John Cuffee, who he had imprisoned “on suspicion of running away.” Strickland described him as “mark’d very much with scars on each side of his face, and all over his forehead,” indicating Cuffee bore the marks of traditional West African scarification.[2] Some people of contested or free status are also featured. For example, there is a runaway advertisement for a man who was ultimately captured as a result of its publication, but successfully contested his enslavement and was freed. The advertisement provides critical context for the court records generated in his freedom suit.[3] A notice for an uncollected letter at the Philadelphia post office includes one addressed to “Adam, Negroe Man, Neshaminy,” presumably free.[4]

During his tenure as the librarian for the Bucks County Historical Society, Terry McNealy created an index of Bucks County subjects that appear in the paper between 1728 and

[1] Runaway advertisement for Peet and Cuff, enslaved by Henry Lewis of Hilltown Township, Wednesday, October 17th, 1781.
[2] Suspected runaway notice for John Cuffee by Amos Strickland, October 29, 1747.
[3] Runaway advertisement for Cuff, enslaved by George Cungle of New Britain Township, Wednesday, May 8th, 1782.
[4] Notice for letters to be collected at the Philadelphia post office, October 5, 1773.

1789, which includes "negroes" as an indexed subject, with the earliest listing dating to 1737.[5] While this was an antiquated term when the index was created, it reflects the term that is used in the newspaper to describe people of African descent. Although the *Gazette* remained in publication until 1815, McNealy created his index for a reproduction edition in the collection of the historical society that ends in 1789.[6] The following transcription was made from the same reproduction. During the transcription process I discovered one additional runaway advertisement that McNealy had missed, and there may be more.[7] This is understandable, given the monumental task of reviewing every issue of the newspaper covering sixty-one years. The full twenty-five volume reproduction is available at the Mercer Museum Library for those who wish to conduct further research.

The excerpts are arranged chronologically, with the volume and page number of the reproduction edition, the date of publication, and the issue number. Each notice is transcribed in full, with a single noted exception. An attempt was made to emulate the text as printed, but it is not an exact reproduction. For example, some notices printed entirely in italics are not italicized here, the typeface and font size were not matched, and drop caps are not reproduced. The spacing, originally laid out for narrow columns, is adapted to the width of the full page in an attempt to emulate the proportions. Printer's ornaments are included when a close match could be found, but omitted when it could not. Spelling variations and errors were left as originally printed, with notes when the spelling could lead to confusion, such as the regular misspelling of "gaol" (a contemporary spelling for "jail") as "goal." Questionable spellings and apparent errors were checked to confirm that they appear in the original, but given the large quantity there may be transcription errors that were not caught in that review. The reproduction quality (and possibly the original printing quality) varies, and some sections were difficult to decipher. Questionable transcriptions are bracketed. Because an attempt was made to emulate the original text, footnotes have been applied to the excerpt's heading, rather than in the body of the text.

The purpose of this text is to make these primary sources available to other researchers, and to encourage further inquiry on this subject. I have added additional information for a few individuals for whom I have already done extensive research, and for individuals who were not named in the newspaper but could be easily traced through court records. The reader is encouraged to pursue this matter further, and to find whatever additional information they can about the individuals named herein.

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[5] Terry A. McNealy, *Index to Bucks County References in the Pennsylvania Gazette, 1728 - 1789* (Doylestown, PA: Bucks County Genealogical Society, 1990).

[6] *The Pennsylvania Gazette, 1728-1789*, reprint edition (Philadelphia: Rhistoric Publications, [n.d.]), 25 vols.

[7] Runaway advertisement for Lilly, enslaved by John Gilleylen of Southampton Township, published May 31, 1750.

**Excerpts from the *Pennsylvania Gazette***

v.4, p.100 - April 20, 1738 - No. 488

RUN away on the 18th Inst. from *Amos Strickland*, of *Newtown* in *Bucks* County, a Negro Man, named *Charles*, aged about 24 Years, of middle Stature, well set, does not talk good *English*, on one of this Ancles is a large Scar, and his Feet having been frozen he walks a little crippling: Had on an old Castor Hat, a linen Cap with a Calico Border, a dirty-colour'd Kersey Jacket, Leather Breeches stich'd with 3 Seams along the Knees, a homespun Shirt, yarn Stockings footed, strong Shoes with Hobnails in them. He pretends to be a Tanner.

Whoever takes up and secures the said Negro, so that he may be had again, shall have *Forty shillings* Reward and reasonable Charges paid by *Amos Strickland*.

v.4, p.523 - April 24, 1740 - No. 593[8]

*PHILADELPHIA*

On *Sunday* last the Reverend Mr. WHITEFIELD preached two Sermons on Society Hill, and collected for the Orphans in *Georgia*, in the Morning 150 *l.* 10 *s.* And in the Evening, when it's computed there were 15,000 Auditors, 83 *l*. In all 233 *l.* 10 *s*. Currency, which is about 150 *l*. Sterling; besides sundry Benefactions sent in since. On *Monday* he preached at *Greenwich* and *Gloucester*; on *Tuesday* twice in this City, when the Congregations were much melted: Yesterday he set out for *New York*, and was to preach at *Neshaminy*; this day at *Skippack* and *Frederick Township*; To morrow Evening at *Amwell*; *Saturday* Evening at *New Brunswick*, and on *Sunday* at the same place, Morning and Evening; when Collections are to be made for the Orphan House in *Georgia*. On *Monday* he is to preach at *Elizabeth Town*, and on *Tuesday* at *New York*, where he proposes to stay till the *Monday* after; and then set out for this City, where he designs, God willing, to be on *Wednesday* Se'ennight the *7th* of *May*, in order to load his Sloop with Provisions for the OrphanHouse; so that Persons who please to contribute either Money or Provisions, may send the same to Mr. *Stephen Benezet* in Second Street. We hear he has actually taken up 5000 Acres of Land on the Forks of the *Delaware*, in order to Erect a Negroe School, and settle several of his English Friends, who he intends to bring over at his next Return from *England*.

*N. B.* Mr. *Whitefield* returns to *Georgia* before he goes for *Boston*, where he designs (God willing) to be in *July* or *August*.

[8] The Forks of the Delaware is now the city of Easton in Northampton County. Prior to the establishment of Northampton County in 1752, it was part of Bucks.

v.5, p.99 - November 27, 1740 - No. 624

THE Rev. Mr. Whitefield having taken up 5000 Acres of Land on the Forks of the Delaware, in the Province of Pennsylvania, in order to erect a Negroe School there, and to settle a Town thereon with his Friends; all Persons who please to contribute to the said School, may pay their Contributions to Mr. Benezet, Merchant, in Philadelphia, Mr. Noble at New-York, Mr. Gilbert Tennent, in New-Brunswick, New-Jersey, or to the Printer of this paper.

v.7 p.242 - August 14, 1746 - Numb. 922

*To be SOLD,*

A Likely Negro W O M A N, fit for Town or Country Business, with, or without, a likely Negro B O Y, The Woman is between Thirty and Forty years old, and the Boy about Twelve. Enquire of LAWRENCE GROWDEN, at Trevose, in Bucks County.

v.7, p.450 - June 25, 1747 - No. 967[9]

Philadelphia, June 25, 1747

Run away from Jonathan Ingham, of Salisbury, Bucks county, on the 23d instant, a Negroe man, named Caesar, middle stature, well set, between 20 and 30 years of age, has much hair, long beard, and speaks good English: Had on when he went ***away*** , a brown cloth jacket, dark coloured kersey jacket. homespun shirt, tow trowsers, no shoes, and felt hat. Whoever takes up said Negroe, and brings him to his said master, or secures him, so that he may be had again, shall have *Thirty Shillings* reward, and reasonable charges, paid by

 *Jonathan Ingham*.

v.7, p.537 - October 29, 1747 - No. 985

Philadelphia, October 29, 1747

Taken up and committed to Newtown-goal in Bucks county, on suspicion of running away, a Negroe man nam'd John Cuffee, aged about Twenty-six years, has a blemish in the right eye, mark'd very much with scars on each side of his face, and all over his forehead, has a light colour'd broadcloth surtout coat, with mohair buttons. He says he did belong to one John Harding, master of a ship from Madeira to Patapsco in Maryland, and that his master was shot in the voyage by a Spanish Privateer. Any person that can claim a property on the said Negroe, is hereby desire'd to come and pay the charges, and take him away.

[9] "Salisbury" is a misspelling of "Solebury."

AMOS STRICKLAND, sheriff.

v.8, p.11 - February 16, 1747/8 - No. 1001

*Philadelphia, February 16. 1747-8.*

To be SOLD,

A Plantation in Bensalem township, in Bucks county, containing about 120 acres of good land; 15 acres good meadow, banked and drained, and 40 or 50 acres more exceeding good may be made; 60 acres of up-land cleared, under good fence, and the whole well watered, with a good house and other conveniences at said plantation; there is very good conveniency for ship-building, being a very bold shore. Any person enclining to purchase, may apply to Jacob Mock, or Joseph Cannon, in Second-street, Philadelphia, or James Baldwin, living on the Premises, and be informed of the conditions of sale.

N. B. Said Baldwin has to sell a likely Negroe man, and several milch cows, as he designs to move to Philadelphia next Spring. ⊕

v. 8, p.47 - April 16th, 1748 - No. 1009

Philadelphia, April 16th, 1748

Run away the 3d instant at Night, from Pennsylvania, a Negroe man named Cesar, of middle stature, well set, speaks good English, and has much hair: Had on a brown cloth coat, with brass buttons, an old dark drab colour'd kersey waistcoat, old leather breeches, white yarn stockings, good shoes, and a good felt hat. Whoever takes up and secures the said Negroe, so as he may be had again, shall have Thirty Shillings reward, and reasonable charges, paid by *Jonathan Ingham*.

v.8, p.115 - July 21, 1748 - No. 1023

Philadelphia, July 21, 1748.

RUN away, on Sunday Night last, from David Lindsay, of Northampton, Bucks county, a Negro man, named Dave, about 30 years of age, of middle stature, pretty much pitted with the Small-pox, and talks pretty good English: Had on a whitish coloured kersey jacket, buckskin breeches, grey stockings, without the feet, old shoes, and steel buckles in them. Also run away at the same time, from said Lindsay, a Mulattoe wench, named Kate, about 16 years of age, of low stature, and can talk very good English: Had on, a linsey gown, and linsey petticoat. Whoever takes up and secures said Negro and wench, so as they may be had again, shall have Twenty-shillings reward for each, and reasonable charges paid by

DAVID LINDSAY.

N.B. The Negro took with him a Fiddle and pair of Skates.

v.8, p.178 - November 3, 1748 - No. 1038

Philadelphia, November 3, 1748.

DOctor John Denormandie, designing for Europe early in the Spring, desires all persons indebted to him to pay him immediately.

N. B. To be sold or lett, by said Denormandie, a malt and brew-house, situate in the borough of Bristol, also a likely young Negroe man, to be sold by

⊕ JOHN DENORMANDIE.

v.8, p.415 - November 30, 1749 - No. 1094

To be sold or lett, by

*John Abraham Denormandie*,

Of the borough of Bristol,

A large, commodious house, opposite to where the widow Jackson keeps tavern, a small house adjoining to it, two kitchens, two large stables, one of brick; the situation very convenient for shopkeeping, or tavern. Also a large brick bake-house, in right good order to go to work at, and a boulting-house adjoining it; all convenient to the water, and close to Bristol mills. Likewise two young Negroe men, that has been brought up to the baking business. Any person inclining to purchase or hire, may apply to the subscriber in Bristol.

The 3 m. *John Abraham Denormandie*.

v.8, p.535 - May 31, 1750 - No. 1120

RUn away, on the 26th of this inst. May, in the night, from John Gilleylen, of the township of Southampton, in Bucks county, a Negroe woman, named Lilly, 35 years of age, born in Bermuda, about 5 feet 6 inches high, a little pitted from the small pox: Had on when she went away, a good homespun striped peticoat, a new green serge ditto, a linnen ditto, 3 jackets of the same sort of cloth; she took with her several other good clothes, and some cash; she formerly belonged to Mr. Bailey of Lewistown, Pilot, and is supposed to be secreted some-where in Philadelphia. Whoever takes up said Negroe woman, and brings her to Mr. Francis Manny, Sale-maker in Chestnut-street, shall have *Thirty shillings* reward, and reasonable charges, paid by

JOHN GILLEYLEN.

N. B. As it is supposed she intends to go to Bermudas or Lewistown, all masters or vessels and others are desired not to carry her off.

v. 8., p. 509 - April 26, 1750 - No. 1115

To be sold by L A W R E N C E G R O W D O N,
At Trevose, in Bucks county,

A L I K E L Y Negroe man, about 29 years of age, a good hand at most sorts of husbandry work. He has a wife in West Jersey, about two miles from Yeardley's ferry, and is very desirous of a master in that neighborhood.

v.9, p.3 - August 2, 1750 - No. 1129

RUn away, from the subscriber, of Falls township, Bucks county, the 10th ult. a lusty young Negroe fellow, named Frank, about 5 feet 8 inches of stature, down look, speaks very slow, and seems very shy: took with him several clothes, such as strip'd jackets and breeches, white shirts, and white stockings, a light colour'd cloth frock, lined with green, white metal buttons, blue camblet breeches, good hat, new shoes, and a large pair of carv'd buckles. The said Negroe was born in Barbados, but has liv'd in New-York several years, and understands the baking business, and butchering, having lived lately with Frederick Bekers of York. Any person that secures the said fellow, so as his owner may have him again, shall have Three Pounds, reward, if taken in York government, and Thirty Shillings, if taken in this government, and all reasonable charges, paid by ISAAC SHANO.

N. B. All masters of vessels or others, are forbid to carry him off at their peril. He has a large swelling or lump on his forehead. ⊕

v.9, p.163 - May 9, 1751 - No. 1169

To be sold by ABRAHAM GRIFFITH, jun. in Northampton township, Bucks county, on the 24th of this inst. A likely team of horses, waggon and cart, and sundry other creatures: Also a Mulattoe wench, 18 years of age, has about 13 years to serve; is fit for town or country business. ¶

v.9, p.163 - May 9, 1751 - No. 1169

To be sold, by way of publick vendue, on Monday the thirteenth of May next, at the dwelling-house of John Gilleylen, in the township of Southampton, in the county of Bucks, viz. A fine commodious plantation, situate in the township of Southampton aforesaid, containing one hundred and six acres of good land, about fifty-five thereof is cleared, twelve acres of which is

fine mowable meadow, and about five or six acres more may be made, there are several fine springs of water therein, the rest of the land is exceeding well timber'd; likewise there is a fine young orchard thereon, containing one hundred and sixty fine grafted apple trees, all bearing trees, of the best sorts of fruit, and above an hundred black-heart cherry trees, all beginning to bear, with a large and commodious stone dwelling-house, three stories high, with sash lights, some of them twenty-four lights in a window, with a good cellar under the whole, a large stone kitchen adjoining the same, with sash lights likewise, and a fine well before the kitchen, containing eight, or seven feet of water in the driest times, being fine water, springing out of a rock; it has been a long accustomed tavern, and is very suitable for either a publick house or store-keeper, being situated in a fine part of the country for business; there is a large stone stable on the said premises, which will hold forty horses and upwards, with large joists and loft over head that will hold fifteen hundred bushels of grain and upwards, with other out-houses; the place is all in good fence, and the most of it ditched, most of the fencing done with new chestnut rails and stakes, which was purchas'd two miles distance. The place being purchas'd of John Eastburn, and then mortgaged for the payment of Two Hundred and Twelve Pounds. Any person inclining to purchase, may repair to said place, and view the premises, and know the terms, before the day of sale.

Note, The Place stands me in upwards of Eight Hundred Pounds, however, I don't expect to be paid nothing near for my improvements.

There is also likewise to be sold, at the same time and place aforesaid, a Negroe-boy, and a Negroe-girl, one riding horse, and three mares, likewise nails of sundry sorts, shot, and bar lead, with sundry other things, too tedious to mention. The terms of sale to be known at the time and place aforesaid, by me

¶ JOHN GILLEYLEN.

N. B. The vendue to begin at nine in the morning.

v.9, p.218 - August 1, 1751 - No. 1181

RUn away from the subscriber, living in Newtown, Bucks county, on the 30th day of last month, an Irish servant man, named James Moffon, about 23 years of age: Had on when he went away, a blue broad-cloth coat, a hat, about half-worn (Twenty Shillings price) ozenbrigs shirt and trousers, a pair of grey ridg'd stockings, a pair of shoe packs, tied with strings, has a blemish in the sight of one of his eyes, and [won?] on his forehead, just in his hair, a chunkey well-set fellow, has black curl'd hair. Whoever secures said servant, so that the subscriber may have him again, shall have thirty shillings reward, and reasonable charges, paid by

§ AMOS STRICKLAND.

N. B. The said servant is a skinner by trade. To be sold by said Strickland, A lusty Negroe woman and child.

v.9, p. 576 - February 20, 1753 - No. 1261

To be SOLD,

A Very likely Negroe man, 21 years of age, capable of any plantation business. For terms enquire of the owner, Francis McHenry, at Deep Run.

v.9, p.576 - February 20, 1753 - No. 1261

RUN away from Stephen Williams, at Milford mills, in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, His Negroe man that tended the mill, named Plymouth, about 5 feet 9 inches high, a square made fellow, stoops with his shoulders, and has uncommon large feet, and long fingers, 23 years of age, very handy, and plays on the fiddle. Any person that will secure him in the workhouse, at Philadelphia, shall have A Pistole reward, paid by

STEPHEN WILLIAMS.

N. B. All persons are forbid to harbour or entertain him at their peril.

February 5, 1753. ¶

v.10, p.307 - May 23, 1754 - No. 1326

*To be SOLD,*

A small plantation, in the township of Bensalem, where Thomas Barrow formerly lived, lying between the lands of William Duncan, and the lands of William Ridge, containing about 90 acres, about 40 whereof is cleared, and in good fence; there is a good dwelling house upon it, and a well of good water. Also a tract of about 73 acres of land in the same township, lying between William Duncan's and Patrick Duncan's, about 30 whereof is cleared, and in good fence, and will be sold together or separate. Also several Negroes, of different ages, by

LAWRENCE GROWDON.

v.10, p.359 - July 25, 1754 - No. 1335

To be SOLD, by

STEPHEN WILLIAMS,

At Milford mills, in Bucks county,

An English servant lad's time for upwards of three years, who has been used to driving a team of horses; also above two years of a cooper's time, a good and quick workman; likewise Negroe

woman, with a male child; and a Negroe boy, about eight years old. Six months credit will be given. Thetf.

v.10, p.518 - February 4, 1755 - No. 1363

To be sold separately by publick auction or vendue, upon the Court-house-green, at Newtown, in Bucks county, on Thursday the thirteenth day of March next, at Two a clock in the afternoon, the three following pieces of land, lying in the township of Bensalem, in Bucks county, viz.
1st, THE plantation where Stephen Gordon now lives, bounded by the lands of Stephen Williams, James Rue, Gilbert Hicks, and land late Samuel Hassel's, with a good dwelling-house and orchard thereon, containing 102 acres.

2d, The plantation where Thomas Stone now lives, bounded by lands of William Duncan, Nicholas Vansandt, William Ridge, and Henry Pointer, containing 90 acres, having a good dwelling-house upon it, lately finished.

3d, A piece of land, laying between the lands of William Duncan, Edmund Duncan, Patrick Duncan, and Nicholas Vansandt, containing 72 acres and an half, about 30 whereof is cleared, and the rest well timber'd.

Each purchaser shall pay down one tenth part of the purchase-money upon executing the title, which shall be in one month after sale; and shall execute a bond, and mortgage of the same lands, for payment of the remainder by yearly payments, of one tenth part yearly, with the interest at 6 per Cent. or if any purchaser shall chuse to pay more, or to pay off any of the annual payments before they become due, at any time within three years after sale, they may do so, and have the interest thereof for the time then to come deducted, by LAWRENCE GROWDEN.

Also to be sold by the said Lawrence Growden, a tract of 550 acres of woodland, in Hilltown, adjoining Thomas Joes Taylor. Any person inclining to view the same, may apply to William Williams, near the premises.

Likewise several likely Negroes to be sold by said Lawrence Growdon, at his house at Trevose,

v.11, p.160 - October 23, 1755 - No. 1400

TO be sold by JOSEPH INSLEE, at Newtown in Bucks county, a lusty healthy Negroe man, about 40 years of age. The purchaser, giving a good security, may have twelve months time to pay the money, without interest.

v.11, p.194 - December 4, 1755 - No. 1406

*Philadelphia, December 4, 1755.*

RUN away from Thomas Harvey, of Bucks county, near Newtown, on the 20th of the last month, a Negroe man, named Sharp, speaks quick, and winks with his eyes, is a short well set fellow: Had on when he went away, a greyish homespun coat, striped linsey jacket, leather breeches, a felt hat, good stockings, and good shoes, with brass buckles on them. Whoever takes up said servant, and secures him, so that his master may have him again, shall have Twenty Shillings reward, and reasonable charges, paid by me, THOMAS HARVEY. ⊕

v.11, p.242 - February 12, 1756 - No. 1416

To be sold by publick vendue, on Thursday the 11th day of March next, at Mr. Joseph Inslee's, in Newtown, in the county of Bucks, the two following plantations, situate in the township of Bensalem, in the said county, viz.

1. THE plantation where Steven Gordon now lives, about half a mile from Mr. Stephen Williams's mill, with a good house and orchard, containing 102 acres of land.
2. The plantation where Thomas Stone now lives, joining to William Duncan's land, containing about ninety acres, with a good dwelling house, &c.

The purchaser paying down one tenth part of the purchase money when the deeds are signed, and executing a mortgage of the same lands, with bond, for securing the payment of the remainder, and interest, by equal annual payments, shall have nine years to pay it in. More particular conditions of sale to be published at the vendue aforesaid, by LAWRENCE GROWDEN.

Who has to sell cheap, several likely negroes of different ages, by private sale, any time before the said vendue.

v.11, p.252 - February 26, 1756 - No. 1418

Went away from the subscriber, at Milford mills, on Neshaminy-creek, in Bucks county, a Negroe man, named Plymouth, 27 years of age, five feet nine inches high, square shoulder'd, smooth face, speaks good English, plays on the fiddle, and is well acquainted in Philadelphia; Had on, a hat whitened with meal, Germantown cap, a cloth colour'd frize waistcoat, whitened with meal, a linsey under waistcoat, with red, white and green stripes, leather breeches, grey yarn stockings, and peaked toed shoes. Whoever will take the said negroe to the Workhouse, or bring him to his master, shall have Forty Shillings reward, paid by the master of the workhouse, or STEPHEN WILLIAMS.

v.11, p.297 - May 6, 1756 - No. 1428

TO be sold by the subscriber, at Milford mills, on Neshaminy creek, in Bucks county, A very likely Negro boy; has had the small-pox, this country born; six months credit will be allowed the buyer, giving security. STEPHEN WILLIAMS.

v.11, p.376 - September 9, 1756 - No. 1446

Lancaster, August 24, 1756.

NOW in the gaol of this county, a Negroe man, who says he belongs to Mr. John Rodman, in Bucks county, he is a little short fellow, about 50 years of age. These are to desire his master to come or send for him, otherwise he will be sold for his fees in four weeks after the above date, by JOHN CLARK, gaoler.

v.11, p.543 - June 30, 1757 - No. 1466

*Chester, June* 6, 1757.

TAKEN up, and put in Chester Gaol, a Negroe, who calls himself Dick, and says he belongs to Samuel Jones, of Plumsted Township, in Bucks County, who is desired to take him away, else he will be sold in four Weeks from this Date to pay Charges, by SAMUEL SMITH, Gaol Keeper. ¶

v.12 p.40 - November 3, 1757 - No. 1506

Run away on the 23rd of October last, from George Ely, of Bucks County, in Pennsylvania, a Negroe Man, named Pomp; he is a short well set Fellow, and has a large Scar on his Breast, occasioned by a Sore he had some time ago, is by Trade a Refiner of Iron, and speaks pretty good English: Had on when he went away, a new green Jacket, Leather Breeches, one Pair Check Trowsers, and a Pair of Ozenbrigs Ditto, one white Linen Shirt, and one Ozenbrigs Ditto, grey Yarn Stockings, good shoes, with Brass Buckles. Whoever takes up said Negroe, and secures him, so that his Master may have him again, shall have Twenty Shillings Reward, and reasonable Charges, paid by said GEORGE ELY, or MOSES STANDLEY, in Philadelphia.

v.12, p.64 - December 15, 1757 - No. 1512

RUN away, on the first Day of this instant December, from Abraham Vandegrift, of Bensalem Township, Bucks County, a likely Negroe Girl, 18 Years of Age; she went off from Philadelphia Market; and had on a long blue and red striped Gown, a short Calicoe Gown, a blue Calimancoe quilted Petticoat, also a Calicoe Petticoat, and a striped one, a black bonnet, and a Leghorn Hat,

with a good Head dress. Whoever takes up and secures her in Philadelphia Goal, or brings her to her Master, shall have Forty Shillings Reward, paid by ABRAHAM VANDEGRIFT. ⊕

v.12, p.243 - September 28, 1758 - No. 1553

*Millford Mills, Bucks County, September 14. 1758.*

*To be SOLD or LETT, for a Term of Years, by the Subscriber, living on the Premises,*

THE Mills, known by the Name of Millford Mills, situate on Neshaminy Creek, in Bucks County, one Mile from Lawrence Growdon's, Esq; nineteen Miles by Land from Philadelphia, and seventeen by Water from the Landing, which is two Miles from the said Mills; on which there is a good Storehouse and Wharff, where a Vessel may come with 1000 Bushels of Wheat in her. Also a Piece of Meadow Ground, that generally produces 15 or 20 Tons of the best Hay yearly. Likewise a decked Flat, capable of taking down all the Flour, Stuff, &c. made in the said Mills, and bringing up any Quantity of Wheat, with a careful Negroe Man, that has constantly gone in her; and a Negroe Man, by Trade a Miller, who perfectly understands the Business, and something of a Cooper's and Carter's. Also another Negroe Man, by Trade a Dry Cooper, and a good Workman. A Negroe Woman, a compleat Cook, can sew, wash and iron well, and is a compleat Servant in a Family. The Remainder of a Servant's Time, who has done all my Carting Business, and is very careful. A Negroe Boy or two. The Mills are as well watered as any in the Country. There is a good Dwelling-house, Stable, Barracks, Cooper's Shop, and every other Necessary to compleat the same, and lies on the high Road, the nearest from Philadelphia to Trenton of any use, and without crossing Neshaminy Ferry, being a convenient situation for a Merchant, where any Quantity of Pork may be taken in to barrel, or any other Tradesman. For further Particulars, enquire of the Subscriber, living on the Premises.

STEPHEN WILLIAMS.

N. B. Also to be sold, a Plantation, one Mile from the said Mills, with a new House, and about 30 Acres of cleared Land, and 20 Acres of Swamp Timber Land. Thetf.

v.12, p.246 - October 5, 1758 - No. 1554

*Philadelphia, October 5*, 1758.

BROKE out of Newtown Goal, on about the 24th ult. the following Persons, viz. A stout likely Negroe Man, named Plymouth, belonging to Stephen Williams: Had on when he went away, an Ozenbrigs Shirt and Tow Trowsers, darkish coloured woolen Jacket, a Pair of Shoes, and old Hat. A likely Negroe Woman, named Sue, belonging to Chargles Edgar, formerly belonging to Joseph Hart, about 27 Years of Age: Had on when she went away, an Ozenbrigs shift, striped Linsey Jacket and petticoat, and check apron, can talk good English and Low Dutch. A white

man, named Hugh Sutherland, about 5 feet high a half high: Had on when he went away, a white garlix shirt, tow trowsers, red jacket, and old felt hat. A white girl about 18 Years of Age, lately lived with Joseph Leech, and formerly with Henry Forst, named Anne Goorey: Had on a black hair hat, linsey jacket and petticoat, a pair of calfskin shoes, is pretty much marked with the small pox. A white lad, named Peter Calloghan, about 18 years of age, well set, about 5 feet high, marked with the small pox: Had on, when he went away, an ozenbrigs shirt, white linen drawers, and old hat. For the three first mentioned runaways Thirty Shillings reward, and reasonable charges, and for the two latter Twenty Shillings for each, and reasonable charges, will be paid by JOSEPH THORNTON, GOALER.

v.12, p.362 - March 22, 1759 - No. 1578

Lower Makefield, Bucks County, March, 1759.

NOW at the Plantation of the Subscribers, two young pacing Mares, shod before, one 13 Hands three Inches high, came the first of June; the other 13 hands high, came the 12th of August, they have neither Mark nor Brand perceivable. The Owners are desired to prove their Property, pay Charges, and take them away.

WILLIAM YARDLEY, HEZEKIAH ANDERSON. ⊕

N. B. One or both supposed to be brought in the Neighborhood by a Run away Negroe Boy, formerly Capt. Child's, in Philadelphia.

v.12 p.430 - June 28, 1759 - Numb. 1592

Run away from James Anderson, living in Buckingham, Bucks County, about 5 weeks ago, A Negroe man, named Cuff, about 50 years of age, and about 5 feet 2 inches high, pretty chunkey, and grey headed: Had on when he went away An old fine hat, the brim much torn, an old wig, old tow course shirt, old buckskin breeches, patched, old blue yarn stockings and a pair of old shoes. Whoever takes up the said Negroe, and secures him in any county goal, so that his master may have him again, shall have Fifteen Shillings reward, and reasonable charges, and if brought in his master's house, shall have twenty shillings, and charges as aforesaid, paid by JAMES ANDERSON. ¶

v.12, p.433 - July 5, 1759 - No. 1593

RUN away on the 9th ult. from Richard Britton, in Middletown Township, Bucks County, A Negroe Man, named Jemmy, 6 Feet high, straight limbed, small legs, sticks forward, a Scar on

each Temple, a Hole in each Ear, and Scars cut on each Arm: Had on a pale blue homespun Cloth Coat, red Flannel Jacket and Breeches, and old Beaver Hat. He speaks broken English; he understands making of Corn Baskets, and it is supposed he will go about to sell them. Whoever takes up and secures the said Negroe, so as his Master may have him again, shall have Three Pounds Reward, and reasonable Charges, paid by me RICHARD BRITTON. ¶

v.14, p.310 - July 14, 1763 - No. 1803

July 4, 1763.

WHEREAS I the subscriber, did, in December last, purchase of Mr. Thomas Norris, of Bristol, a Negroe Wench, for whom I gave my Bill for 50 l. payable the first of this inst. and as she did not suit me, I thought myself sufficiently authorized, by my Bill of Sale, to sell her again, if I thought proper: Therefore being ignorant that said Negroe was liable to any Duty, by being purchased, and sold within the Province of Pennsylvania, offered her to Sale by Auction; and as by Means of Mr. Norris neglecting to enter said Negroe, and pay the Duty, according to Act of Assembly, to which he must know she was obnoxious, and I did not, the Negroe was forcibly seized, and taken from me, by Mr. Thomas Coombe, Collector of the Duties on Negroes.

I beg Leave to appeal to any candid and impartial Person, whether I have not a Right to complain of Mr. Norris, for vending to me, as a Property, what by Law neither he nor I had a Right to hold. In order therefore to prevent any Person from taking an Assignment of said Bill, I do declare I look upon it as null and void, and that I will not pay the same, except by Law obliged.

Edward Broadfield.

v.14, p.482 - April 26, 1764 - No. 1844

To be SOLD into the Jersey,

A Heal, strong Negroe Man, about 31 Years of Age, capable of all Kinds of Plantation Business, Butchering, Cutting, Salting, &c. by JOHN HARRIS, in Newtown, Bucks County.

v.14, p.522 - July 5, 1764 - No. 1854

RUn away from the Subscriber, living in Southampton Township, Bucks County, A Negroe Man, named Philip, about 16 or 17 Years of Age, about 5 Feet 6 Inches high, a well-set smooth faced Fellow, very black, born in Jamaica: Had on when he went away, a brown Linsey Jacket, coarse Shirt and Trowsers, and a Felt Hat. Whoever takes up the said Negroe, and brings him to me the

Subscriber, or secures him, so that I may have him again, shall have Twenty Shillings Reward, and any reasonable Charges, paid by GEORGE HOGELAND.

N. B. All Masters of Vessels and others are forbid to carry him away at their Peril. ¶

v.15, p.167 - May 16, 1765 - No. 1899

NOW in Newtown Goal, Bucks County, a certain Negroe Fellow, who calls himself Pompey, and says he belongs to Ebenezer Applegate, near Allen Town, in East New Jersey. His Master is desired to fetch him away in two Weeks from this Date hereof, or he will be sold for his Charges.

May 14, 1765. ANTHONY SIDDON, Goaler.

v. 15, p.233 - September 5, 1765 - No. 1915[10]

To be sold, by public Vendue, on Wednesday, the 25th Day of September instant, at the House of Nathaniel Ellicott, at Attleborough, in Middletown Township, Bucks County, a Plantation and Tract of about 160 Acres of land, situate in Warwick Township, in the said County, being the Place where black Joe, one of Jeremiah Langhorne's Negroes, lately dwelt. The Terms of Sale to be made known at the Vendue, by LAWRENCE GROWDEN, and LANGHORNE BILES, Executors of the said Jeremiah Langhorne. ¶

N.B. The Vendue to begin at 2 o'Clock in the Afternoon.

v. 15, p.317 - January 23, 1766 - No. 1935

Bucks, ss.

WHEREAS Gilbert Hicks, and John De Normandie, of Bucks County, Esquires, by Virtue of his Majesty's Commission to them directed for the Trial of Negroes within the said County, have appointed a Wednesday, the 29th Day of this inst. January, for the holding a Court for the Trial of Negroes, at the House of Nathaniel Ellicott, in Attleborough, in the same County: Therefore public Notice is hereby given, that all Persons who stand bound by Recognizance for the

[10] Jo was among the slaves that Langhorne manumitted in his will. The will also gave Jo and another man named Cudjo life rights to two adjoining lots in what is now Doylestown Borough. After Jo's death, his lot reverted to Langhorne's executors. Cudjo traded his life rights back to the executors for "a consideration" and likely never settled there. See: Will of Jeremiah Langhorne, May 16, 1742 (proved October 23, 1742), Bucks County Recorder of Wills, Will Books (book 2, page 19), microfilm, Mercer Museum Library, Doylestown, PA; Deed from Lawrence Growdon and Langhorne Biles, executors of Jeremiah Langhorne, to Isabel Crawford, March 1, 1752, Mercer Museum Library (MSC 619, fol. 2), Doylestown, PA.

Appearance of any Negroe or Negroes, must be with the said Negroes before the Justices aforesaid, at the Day and Place aforesaid, at Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon of the same Day. And all Persons who stand bound to prosecute, or give Evidence against any such Negroe, or otherwise have to do at the said Court, are then likewise to attend, and abide the Order of the said Court. ☋

v.16, p.34 - March 19, 1767 - No. 1995

RUN away from the subscriber, of Hilltown township, Bucks county, about the first of March instant, a certain Negroe man, named Phill, about 20 years of age, 5 feet 6 inches high, well set, speaks broken English; had on, when he went away, a lightish coloured coat, a linsey under jacket, old shoes, and new stockings; and took with him a pair of large silver buckles, two silk handkerchiefs, and a new shirt. Whoever takes up and secures the said Negroe, so that his master may have him again, shall have Three Dollars reward, and all reasonable charges, paid by me

§ THOMAS JONES, senior.

N. B. He took two other Coats with him, of a yellowish and Ash Colour, and was seen, with the yellow coloured Coat on him, between Newtown and Philadelphia.

v.16, p.63 - May 7, 1767 - No. 2001

RUN away, on the 30th of last month, from ANTHONY TEATE, of Newtown, Bucks County, a Negroe Man, named Tony, a stout Fellow, near 6 Feet high, of a very yellow Complexion, smooth faced, stoops a good deal, and speaks much in the Dutch Dialect. He is about 35 or 36 Years of Age, and had on a light coloured Coat, with white Metal Buttons, a Frize Jacket, Buckskin Breeches, grey Yarn Stockings, and Shoes without Buckles. He has remarkably long Feet. Whoever takes up said Negroe, and brings him home, or secures him, so that he may be had again, shall have FOUR DOLLARS Reward, paid by ‡ ANTHONY TEATE.

v.16, p.145 - September 10, 1767 - No. 2020

RUN away, on the First instant September, from Anthony Teate, of Newtown, Bucks County, a Negroe Man, named TONY, a stout Fellow, near 6 Feet high, of a very yellow Complexion, smooth faced, has no Beard, except a little on his upper Lip, stoops a good deal, and speaks much in the Dutch Dialect; he is about 35 or 36 Years of Age: Had on a Tow Shirt and Trowsers, an old Frize Jacket, and Shoes, without Buckles; and took with him a Linen Coat, that is too little for him. He has remarkable long Feet. Whoever takes up said Negroe, and brings him home, or

secures him, so that he may be had again, shall have FOUR DOLLARS Reward, and reasonable Charges, paid by ANTHONY TEATE. §

v.16, p.254 - February 25, 1768 — No. 2044

To be sold, at public Vendue, on Wednesday, the 16th Day of March next, between the hours of Twelve and Two o'Clock, at the house of ANTHONY SIDDON, in Newtown, Bucks County, the three following Lots of LAND, being Parts of the real Estate of JEREMIAH LANGHORNE, late of the said County, Esq; deceased, to wit.

FIRST, a Plantation of about 160 Acres, in the Township of Warwick, in the said County, being the Place where Black Joe lately lived and died; the Land is good, a Quantity of Meadow on the same, and more may be made.

Secondly, A Tract of about 150 acres, in the Township of Nockamixon, adjoining to Lands of Barker and Thatcher; it is very well timbered, and but little of it cleared; and it is supposed there is a Lead Mine upon it.

Thirdly, A Tract of about 70 Acres, at the Mouth of Gallows Run, in the said County; this Tract is mostly low Land, and lies very convenient to be watered by Gallows Run, being between the Hills and River Delaware,

These Tracts are to be struck off to the highest Bidder by the Acre, and shall be surveyed at the Charge of the Sellers; the Buyer paying One Third of the Purchase-money in two Months, and mortgaging the Premises for the Remainder, with Bond, shall have a good Title made by LAWRENCE GROWDON, and Langhorne Biles, Executors and residuary Legatees of the last Will of the said Jeremiah Langhorne, Esq; deceased. †

v.17, p.68 - April 13, 1769 - No. 2103[11]

Plumsted, in Bucks County, April 4, 1769.

By Virtue of an Order from the Honourable the Orphan's Court, for Bucks County, will be exposed by public Vendue, on Friday, the 26th day of May next, a valuable Tract of unimproved Land, containing 106 Acres, and the usual Allowance, lining with Durham and Stump Roads, extraordinary well timbered with white and black Oak, it being in a fine healthy pleasant Part of the Country, and very suitable for almost any public Business. Also will be sold, same Time, a

[11] Jane was the administratrix for her late husband Jonathan Hart. The inventory of his estate lists "one Negro wench, one Negro girl child (sickly 2 years old), & one Negro girl a child of 8 months old," with a combined value of £65. Their names are not given. See: Inventory of the estate of James Hart, May 12, 1767, Bucks County Orphans' Court,Will and Administration Papers, microfilm (roll 8, file 1,228), Mercer Museum Library. Doylestown, PA.

Negroe Woman, with 3 Children, one of which is sucking, sold for no Fault, but she breeds too fast. The Vendue to begin at 12 of the Clock, same Day, where due Attendance, and reasonable Credit, will be given by JANE HART, Administratrix. ¶

v.17, p.76 - April 27, 1769 - No. 2105

To be sold at public vendue, at the house of William Doyle, in Warwick township, Bucks county, upon the 10th day of May next, by Lawrence Growdon, one of the executors of Jeremiah Langhorne, Esq; deceased, and by John Denormandie, Gilbert Hicks, and Thomas Yeardley, Esquires, executors of Langhorne Biles, Gentleman, deceased;
A PLANTATION and TRACT of about 160 acres of LAND, adjoining to James Crawford's land, in the township of Warwick aforesaid, being the place where Black Joe lately dwelt. The vendue to begin at one of the Clock in the afternoon. The Buyer paying down one third part of the purchase money, may, upon good security, have time for payment of the remainder, upon interest. ¶

v.17, p.146 - July 27, 1769 - No. 2118

Newtown, Bucks County, July 22, 1769.
WAS committed to the goal of this county, a certain Negroe, named JEM, and says he belongs to one Daniel Hughes of Frederick county, Maryland; his master is hereby desired to come, pay his charges, and take him away.
¶ JOHN SIDDON, Goaler

v.17, p.168 - August 31, 1769 - No. 2123

Newtown, Bucks County, August 25, 1769.
FIFTEEN DOLLARS Reward.
BROKE jail, the 21st of this instant, the five following persons, viz. Joseph Lemon [?], about 25 years of age, 5 feet 8 inches high, wears his own hair, of a light colour; had on, a striped linen jacket and trowsers. William Davis, a cooper by trade, about 32 years of age, 5 feet 8 inches high, is pockmarked, and has black hair; had on, a blue jacket, check and striped linen trowsers. Patrick Stone, about 21 years of age, 5 feet 7 inches high; had on, a short cloth-coloured jacket, without sleeves, ozenbrigs shirt, and trowsers. A Negroe, named Jem, about 20 years of age, 5 feet 6 inches high; had on, an ozenbrigs shirt and trowsers. Also a Negroe, named Jack, about 30 years of age, 5 feet 6 inches high; had on a sailor's blue jacket, and canvas trowsers; he served

some time on board a man of war. Whoever secures the said prisoners, so as the Subscriber may have them, shall have the above reward or Three Dollars for each of them, paid by me

† JOHN SIDDON, Goaler.

v.17, p.257 - January 18, 1770 - No. 2143

MADE his escape from the subscriber, living in Cecil county, in the province of Maryland, at Bristol, in Bucks county, in the province of Pennsylvania, on the 24th of October last, as he was bringing him home, from Somerset county goal, in East New Jersey, a Negroe man, named Pen, but had changed his name, by a forged pass, and called his name James Pemberton, it is likely he may pass by the same name; he is about 25 years old, a chunky and well set black fellow, very talkative, and pretends to be very religious; he had on, when he made his escape, a brown jacket, with a blue cape, blue cloth trowsers, white yarn stockings, old shoes and buckles, and an old beaver hat, cocked on two sides.

Likewise run away, from the subscriber, on the 27th of December last, a Negroe lad, aged about 20 years, his name Cuff, he is a small thick lipped fellow, branded on one of his cheeks something like P R; had on, when he went away, an old great coat, a blue jacket, an old spotted jacket, three pair of trowsers, blue, white and check, a grey cloth cap, nits and lice yarn flockings, good shoes, and tolerable buckles; has had a scalded head, which has occasioned the wool on the top of his head to be white. He has run away several times, and has each time endeavored to ship himself on board vessels in Philadelphia harbour.

Whoever takes up Pen, and secures him in any goal, or brings him home, shall have Fifty shillings; and for Cuff, Forty Shillings, and reasonable charges, paid by me THOMAS SAVIN.

N. B. All masters of vessels are hereby forbid to harbour or take them on board, at their peril.

v.18, p.163 - November 28, 1771 - No. 2240

NOW in the custody of John Anderson, Goal-keeper, in Newtown, Bucks county, a likely NEGROE man, about 20 years of age, about 5 feet 10 inches high, says he belongs to George Adam Widner, living in or near Reading, upon Schuylkill; has with him a drab cloth coat, with white lining, a vest of the same, a pair of old leather breeches, with trowsers over them, one white shirt, and one coarse ditto, and has a fiddle with him. His master is desired to come and pay charges, and take him away, by JOHN ANDERSON,

*November* 21, 1771. ¶ Goal-keeper.

v.18, p.223 - March 5, 1772 - No. 2254

*Newtown, February* 28, 1772.

NOW in Custody, in Newtown Goal, a NEGROE MAN, named MOSES, belonging to Daniel Lippincott, in Evesham, West New-Jersey. His Master is desired to come, pay Charges, and take him away.

¶ JOHN ANDERSON, Goal-keeper.

v.18, p.498 - March 24, 1773 - No. 2309[12]

TO BE SOLD,

By the subscriber, in Northampton, Bucks County,

SUNDRY NEGROES, late the Property of the Reverend Jonathan Du Bois, deceased, viz. One Negroe Man, 31 Years old, acquainted with Farming, and hath some Knowledge of the Smith's trade, is healthy, active and industrious; a Negroe Woman, about 35, with one Child about a Year, and another about 3 Years old; also a Lad, between 6 and 7 Years old. For further Particulars, enquire of

HELLENA DU BOIS, Administratrix.

v.19, p.106 - September 22, 1773

Wanted, a few Negroes, who understand farming, not exceeding 26 years; whoever has such to dispose of, may apply to THOMAS BARCLAY. Sept. 6, 1773.

v.19, p.145 - October 27, 1773 - No. 2340[13]

[12] Hellena Dubois was the administratrix for her late husband, Rev. Jonathan Dubois. The inventory of his estate includes six slaves. There is one line item for Negro Henry (£70) and young Henry (£30), and a second line item for Negro Tone (£25) and Mat and her two children (£30). The older, skilled thirty-one-year-old man is presumably the older Henry. It is unclear whether the younger Henry or Tone is the "lad" listed for sale. See: Inventory of the estate of Rev. Jonathan Dubois, February 8, 1772, Bucks County Orphans' Court, Will and Administration Papers, microfilm (roll 9, file 1,398) Mercer Museum Library, Doylestown, PA.

[13] The full notice was not transcribed due to lack of relevance.

A notice of letters remaining at the post office in Philadelphia, October 5, 1773, includes “Adam, Negroe Man, Neshaminy.”

v.19, p.218 - January 26, 1774 - No. 2353

A Likely NEGROE MAN,
TO BE SOLD,

TWENTY-EIGHT Years of Age, has had the Smallpox and Measles, this Country born, has been brought up to Plantation Work all his Time, which he understands well, and is very capable of performing. Enquire of GILES KNIGHT, in Bensalem Township, Bucks County. ¶

v. 19, p.441 - October 12, 1774 - No. 2390

TO BE SOLD

A MULATTOE Slave not yet 20 years of age, had the smallpox and measles, he is a good farmer and carter; I have raised him from a child, and always found him benef[i]t, but indeed he wants a good master. For further particular, apply to Mr. Andrew Carson, or Mr. Whitehead, in Third-Street; or to the owner, living in Bedminster township, Bucks county. § ROBERT ROBINSON.

v.20, p.8 - May 3, 1775 - No. 2419

SIX DOLLARS Reward.

RUN away from the subscriber, in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, on the 22d of April, 1775, a Mulattoe Boy, named ANDREW, about 17 years of age, he is a short thick well made lad, short black curled hair, a good open countenance, and remarkable good teeth. He had on, and took with him, a superfine white broadcloth coat, the skirts lined with fine white silk; one purple, and one blue ditto, which have been turned, a new olive coloured susian waistcoat, and a bearskin under ditto, one pair white cloth, one pair blue velvet, and one pair leather breeches; 2 or 3 pair of worsted and other stockings, good shoes and large silver buckles, 3 fine shirts, and a course ditto; a beaver hat about half-worn; he also took with him two surtouts, one blue, the other a thick green cloth, much too long for him. Whoever takes up the said servant, so that his master may have him again, shall receive Six Dollars, with reasonable charges, from JOSEPH PEMBERTON, of Philadelphia, or the subscriber,

JOSEPH KIRKBRIDE

N. B. All masters of vessels, and others, are forbid to take or receive the said servant at their peril.

v.20, p.54 - July 5, 1775 - No. 2428

TO BE SOLD

A STRONG healthy NEGROE MAN, 21 Years of Age, this Country born, who has been bred to Farming, and understands it well in all its Branches. Enquire of JOHN SWIFT, of Bensalem Township, in Bucks County.

v.20, p.72 - August 2, 1775 - No. 2432

*July* 25, 1775.

RUN away from the subscriber, living at Trenton Ferry, in Bucks county, a Negroe man, named *Stanhope*, about 6 feet high, 26 years of age, a well set fellow; had on, when he went away, a black jacket, and a red ditto, without sleeves, buckskin breeches, a pair of trowsers, flax and tow shirts, a pair of good shoes, with carved buckles, and a castor hat. Whoever takes up said Negroe, and secures him in any of his Majesty's gaols, so that his master may have him again, shall have *Twenty Shillings* reward, paid by PATRICK COLVIN. ¶

v.20, p.90 - April 30th, 1775 - No. 2436[14]

SIXTEEN DOLLARS Reward.

Run away from the subscriber, living at Elk-Ferry, in Cecil county, Maryland, two NEGROE MEN, who hath rowed in the Ferry-boat at the said Ferry; one named CUFF, the 8th of May last; he is about 5 feet 3 or 4 inches high, a straight well set fellow, with thick lips and the letter R marked on one of his cheeks; he has had a scald head, which he commonly keeps covered, is artful and talks a little in the Negroe dialect; had on, when he went away, a lead coloured jacket and breeches, ozenbrigs shirt, old stockings, but no shoes. The other named PENN, the 19th of August, he is about 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high, country born, well set, very talkative, and may probably make a great shew of religion; he is a black small-eyed fellow; had on, and took with him, a country cloth light coloured upper jacket, a dark flowered flannel under ditto, a patched check shirt, an ozenbrigs ditto, one pair of tarry canvas trowsers, one pair ozenbrigs ditto, an old small brimmed tarry hat, old shoes, and carved brass buckles. Said Negroe ran away some years

[14] "Corryel's Ferry" is a misspelling of Coryell's Ferry, now New Hope.

ago, and passed himself for a freeman, by the name of James Pemberton, and got a forged pass, signed Thomas Franklin, on account of which he was employed by one Meredith, a Tanner, near Corryel's Ferry, and afterwards indented himself to another Meredith, a Currier, in Philadelphia, and as he has been at New-York with said Meredith, he may now be making that way. Both or either of them, as they have many acquaintances, may probably get forged passes. Whoever takes up and secures said negroes, so that their master may get them again, shall have the above reward, or Eight Dollars for either of them, and reasonable charges, paid by
August 20, 1775. || 7 ſ 6. THOMAS SAVIN

v.20, p. 134 - November 8th, 1775 - No. 2446

Came to Bucks county, last August, a NEGROE man, named Bront, of a small size, about 50 years of age, with a slit in one of his ears, says he was a slave to Mr. John McGobien, of Virginia, deceased, and at his death was freed, and was since employed to work for Captain Thomas Nolans; if said Negroe has a master, for information, he may apply to Captain John Coryel, in Bucks county, Pennsylvania. ¶

v.20, p.344 - October 16th, 1776 - No. 2495

To be SOLD by the subscriber, living in Bensalem township, Bucks county, about 3 miles from Neshaminy ferry,
A LIKELY, strong, healthy NEGROE MAN, about 21 years of age, this country born, has had the small-pox and measles, has been bred to farming, which he understands well, but rather inclines to take care of horses, and wait on a gentleman, or to drive a team. JOHN SWIFT.

v.20, p.354 - October 30th, 1776 - No. 2497

CAME to the house of the subscriber, in Springfield township, Bucks county, some time in September last, a NEGROE LAD, who says his name was JAMES, and that he ran away from his master in Virginia, to Dunmore, and that his master's name is Samual Morgan.---His master is desired to come, prove his property, pay charges, and take him away. WILLIAM BRYAN. ¶

v.22, p.22 - February 7th, 1781 - No. 2643

T O T H E F R I E N D S OF

# Universal Liberty,

BE IT KNOWN,

THAT the writer of this advertisement, wilhing to extend that liberty to others he claims for himself, proposes to liberate a strong healthy Negroe MAN, in the following manner; having bought him not long since on easy terms, he means to sell him a few years to recover some part of the purchase money, and to give him his liberty at the end of this term. He is a good farmer, much inclined to drive a team and very capable of the business. Enquire of the Printers, or of William Long, Miller, at the Forks of the Neshaminy, Bucks County. ¶

v.22, p.143 - Wednesday, September 5th, 1781 - No. 2637[15]

RAN AWAY from the subscriber, living at Trenton Ferry, A Negroe Boy, named Jack, between 15 and 16 years old, yellowish complexion and slim built ; late the property of General Philemon Dickenson ; Had on, an old felt hat, small in the rim, tow shirt and long pair of trowsers. Whoever secures said boy in any goal in the State, shall have SIX DOLLARS REWARD, and reasonable charges, paid by me.

Sept. 4, 1781. † PATRICK COLVIN.

v.22, p.166 - Wednesday, October 17th, 1781 - No. 2679

RUN AWAY, the night of the 14th instant, Two Negroe MEN, the one named PEET, about 24 years of age, 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, well set, with a scar on his under lip, occasioned by a blister; Had on and took with him, one old fur hat, one fine ditto, one flax and one tow shirt, linen coat with lappelle, a linen waistcoat, sheepskin breeches, had been coloured red, but had faded dirt colour, tow trowsers, one pair of blue woollen stockings and one pair linen ditto, old shoes, patched on each toe, old plated buckles, also an old light coloured coat, of homespun cloth, with metal buttons, and a slant pocket flap. He has his fiddle along, and is very fond of fiddling; he is not fond of strong liquor.

The other named CUFF, about 19 years of age, a small slim fellow, talks through his nose, about the same height of the other negroe; had on and took with him, an old fine hat, with a

[15] This may be the same Jack who brought a freedom suit against Colvin through a writ *de homine replegiando* and a writ of *habeas corpus* in 1790. Although he was initially freed, the final outcome of the case is unclear. The key documents in the case are: Writ of habeas corpus for the release of Jack, June 15, 1790, Bucks County Court of Common Pleas Original Papers, Bucks County Archives (RG 3:33, item #13390 B), Mercer Museum Library, Doylestown, PA; ibid., Writ de homine replegiando for the release of Jack, June 18, 1790 (item 13390 C); ibid., Jury verdict in Jack vs. Patrick Colvin, May Term, 1792 (item 13390 J).

patch on the top of the crown, a tow shirt, a plain made linen coat, a nankeen waistcoat, one pair striped trowsers and one pair tow ditto, a pair of wax leather pumps of old plated buckles; fond of all kind of gaming. Whoever secures said negroes, shall have TEN POUNDS REWARD, or FIVE POUNDS for either if secured in any goal [sic] in the State, or brought to their owner, living in Hilltown township, Bucks county.

Oct. 15. ¶ HENRY LEWIS.

v.22, p.302 - Wednesday, May 8th, 1782 - No. 2708[16]

FIVE POUNDS REWARD.

RAN-AWAY, the 23rd of April last, from the subscriber, living in the township of New-Britain, county of Bucks, A Negroe Man, named CUFF, 20 years of age, 5 feet 8 inches high, speaks a little through his nose. Had on, when he went away, an old hat, a lightish coloured short coat, half worn leather breeches, blue woollen stockings, one pair ditto of gray ribbed worsted, two shirts, one tow, the other flax and tow; what other clothes he may have is not recollected. Said Negroe may make specious pretences of being free, and carry some sort of certificate. He is very fond of gaming. Whoever takes up and secures him in any county goal within this State, or brings him to his master, shall be entitled to the above reward, with reasonable charges, paid by GEORGE CUNGLE.

N. B. All masters of vessels are forbid to take him off at their peril. ¶

v.22, p.318 - Wednesday, June 5th, 1782 - No. 2712

TEN DOLLARS Reward.

RUN away from the subscriber, living in Mill Creek Hundred, New-Castle county, Delaware State, on the 26th of May, 1782, a Negroe MAN, named Peter, about 25 years old, 5 feet 9 inches high, strait and slender built, thin visage, very smart and active, speaks slow and soft, very submissive, has a large scar on his left wrist, understands farming and driving team; had on, when he went away, a sheeps grey thick cloth coat, an old wool hat, tow linen shirt and trowsers,

[16] Cuff was captured by Patrick Griffin, but brought a freedom suit through a writ *de homine replegiando* and succeeded. Griffin then sued Cungle over his failure to pay the advertised reward. See: Bucks County Court of Common Pleas Original Papers, Bucks County Archives (RG 3:33, item 10,787), Mercer Museum Library, Doylestown, PA; ibid., item 10,742A-C; Bucks County Court of Common Pleas Appearance Dockets (RG 3:01, docket for 1781–1784, September Term, 1782), Mercer Museum Library, Doylestown, PA; ibid., docket for 1777-1784, page 156; Bucks County Court of Common Pleas Term Papers, Bucks County Archives (RG 3:34, items 98A-B), Mercer Museum Library, Doylestown, PA.

new shoes and copper buckles, is fond of strong liquor and very subject to lying; he was born in Bucks county, in Pennsylvania State, and lived some years with one Jonathan Meredith, a tanner in Philadelphia; it is supposed he has made to Philadelphia or Bucks county. Any person securing the above described fellow in any goal [sic], so as his master may have notice thereof, shall receive the above reward, and reasonable charges, paid by JOHN JAMES.

N. B. All masters of vessels are forbid to carry him off at their peril. § 3 m.

v.22, p.490 - Wednesday, March 12th, 1783 - No. 2752

## EIGHT DOLLARS Reward.

RUN away from the subscriber, in Plumstead township, Bucks county, on the 25th of December last, a likely young Negroe man, named CUFF, about 23 years of age, 5 feet 7 or 8 inches high; had on, when he went away, a scarlet coat, full trimmed, a lightish coloured jacket, buckskin breeches, and blue yarn stockings. Said Negroe is an active fellow with horses, has been used to driving a carriage and tending race horses; it is most likely he will incline to fall into that employ or tending a stable, as he has been seen in Philadelphia. Any person apprehending said Negroe and delivering him to the subscriber, or to John Hart, three miles from Philadelphia, on the old York road, or securing him to any goal [sic], so that the owner may have him again, shall be entitled to the above reward, and reasonable charges, paid by ¶ WILLIAM HART.

N. B. All masters of vessels are forbid to carry him off.

v.23, p.150 - Wednesday, December 31, 1783 - No. 2749

## TO BE SOLD,

THE Time of a stout, healthy Mulattoe G I R L, about 16 years of age, and has ten years to serve. Enquire of the subscriber, living in Bensalem township, Bucks county.

RICHARD GIBBS.

v.23, p.220 - Wednesday, April 14, 1784 - No. 2810

RUN AWAY, on the 31st ult. from the subscriber, living in Northampton township, Bucks county, A Negroe Man, named TOM, about 24 years of age, 5 feet 9 inches high; had on, when he went away, two pale blue linsey jackets with some patches, a bound felt hat, a pair of shoes covered and sealed, pale blue ribbed stockings and buckskin breeches, with a brown linen shirt. Whosoever takes up the said Negroe, shall receive FOUR DOLLARS, if taken in this county,

and lodged in goal [sic], or TWELVE DOLLARS, if committed to Philadelphia workhouse, and all reasonable charges paid, by

April 12, 1784. ¶ JOHN HUSTON.

v.23, p.249 - Wednesday, June 2, 1784 - No. 2817

*New Britain, Bucks county, May 27, 1784.*

RAN AWAY on the night of the 23d instant, from the subscriber, a Mulattoe servant, named WILLIAM JACKSON, between 18 and 19 years of age, about 5 feet 7 inches, high, stout built and of pleasant countenance, had on an old felt hat, coat and jacket, a homespun linen shirt, new tow trowsers, a pair of thread stockings newly footed, and calf-skin pumps. He had a sore on his left leg, and is thought to have taken a flute with him, and is suspected to harbour in and about the city. Whoever takes up and secures said servant, so that his master may have him again, shall have SIX DOLLARS reward, and if bought home reasonable charges, paid by

† JOHN DUNGAN, jun.

All masters are forewarned not to take him off at their peril.

v.24, p.101 - Wednesday, February 15, 1786 - No. 2907[17]

## TEN POUNDS Reward.
## A ROBBERY

WAS committed at the store of Beswick and Pryor, at Coryell's ferry, in Bucks county, on the night of the 15th of May last, by a certain John Pettit, Ulysses Kinsey, and a negro lad belonging to William Pettit, who stole out of the said store sundry goods and a considerable sum of money, two of whom are since apprehended, vis. John Pettit and the negro, the other has run off. Said Kinsey is a stout well set fellow, about 5 feet 7 or 8 inches high, of a ruddy complexion, wears his own light brown hair, appears to be 24 years of age, his wearing apparel unknown, is a fuller by trade, and has lately followed his business near Trenton, in Jersey. Whoever takes up said thief, and secures him in any gaol, so that he may be brought to Justice, shall have the above reward, and all reasonable charges, paid by

Coryell's ferry, Feb. 2d, 1786. BESWICK & PRYOR. ¶

[17] The criminal indictment gives his name as James. See: Indictment of John Pettit, Ulysses Kinsey, and Negro James, March Term, 1786, Bucks County Court of Quarter Sessions Criminal Papers, Bucks County Archives (RG 2:10, item 3262), Mercer Museum Library, Doylestown, PA.

v.24, p.203 - Wednesday, August 2, 1786 - No. 2931

Newtown, Bucks county, July 17, 1786.

WAS committed to the gaol of this county, a NEGRO GIRL, about 16 years old. The owner or master is hereby desired to come, prove property, pay charges and take her away, or she will be sold for her frees within three weeks from this date, by § PATRICK HUNTER, Gaoler.

N. B. She is supposed to be an apprentice, to a Mr. Burcham, of Philadelphia. §

v.24, p.433 - Wednesday, September 5th, 1787 - No. 2988

Newtown, August 28, 1787.

WAS taken up and committed to this gaol a certain man, who names himself JOHN PORTER, about 5 feet 7 inches high, dark hair, down look, brought with him one one cloth coat, metal buttons, three jackets of cloth and linen, one pair of corduroy breeches, three shirts, one check, the others linen. Likewise, a MULATTO BOY about 12 or 13 years of age, the clothes not worth mentioning. Their masters, if any they have, are desired to come within three weeks from this date, and pay their fees, otherwise they will be sold for the same, by ¶ JOSIAS FERGUSON, Gaoler.

N. B. Both supposed to be servants.

v.24, p.470 - Wednesday, October 31, 1787 - No. 2996

WAS left at the house of the subscriber, Inn-keeper, in Nockamixon township, in Bucks county, on the night of the 24th inst. by a certain Negro Woman, who called herself Phillis, a Negro Child about three years old, said wench said she belonged to a French Gentleman near Fleming-town, in New-Jersey, but had some time since purchased her time. The owner or owners of said Child, if any it has, is therefore requested to come, prove property, pay charges, and take it away.

Nockamixon, Sept. 29, 1787. † GEORGE SHAW.

v.24, p.494 - Wednesday, December 12, 1787 - No. 3002

TEN DOLLARS Reward.

RAN away from the beginning of this month, an indented Negro man, about [28?] years of age, named WILL, stout built, has good teeth, is rather thin, speaks good English and Low Dutch, swears often. He was born in Bucks county, in the family of Mr. Jacob Vandike, once a slave to Mr. Alexander Allair, in this city. He has been seen in Southampton township, and in this city since he ran away, when his eyes were sore from a cold he caught lately, he has a cough of some standing, but it is not very violent. He took with him a light coloured coat, a black ditto, a brown ditto, a black waistcoat, a striped silk plush ditto, a pair of buff silk breeches, plated buckles, and several other articles, of which he has sold some. Whoever will bring him to the subscriber shall receive the above reward and reasonable charges.

[eptt?] TENCH COXE.

Philadelphia, December 31, 1787.

v.25, p.148 - September 17, 1788 - No. 3042

Newtown, September 15, 1788.

Was taken up on suspicion, and committed to the gaol of this county, on the 8th of August last, a Negroe woman named Vina, about 45 years of age, 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high; there appears to be near the one half of the hairs of her head grey; had on a dark calico short gown, and lincey petticoat. Her master or mistress are desired to come within one month from this date, and pay her fees, otherwise she will be sold for the same, by ‡ JOSIAS FERGUSON, Gaoler.

v.25, p.212 - January 7, 1789 - No. 3058

Newtown, December 29, 1788.

WAS taken up on suspicion of being a runaway slave, names himself Daniel Gift, a smart talkative fellow, about 18 or 19 years of age, five feet nine or ten inches high, plays on the fife, says he formerly lived in the Delaware state, at Deer creek, with David McIlvaine; had on, when he came to this place, a blue cloth jacket, and brown cloth overalls. His master or owner, if any he has, is desired to come within three weeks from this day, pay his fees, and take him away, otherwise he will be sold for the same, by

JOSIAS FERGUSON, Gaoler.

v.25, p.344 - August 26, 1789 - No. 3091

RAN away from the subscriber, on the 16th of July last, in Bucks county, four miles above Trenton ferry, a shortish well set Negro man, near 40 years old, of a yellowish complexion,

yellow teeth, and marked with the small-pox, can play on the fiddle; had on a tow shift and trowsers, old felt hat, short light coloured coat, made of tow and wool, twilled and fulled. Any person who brings him to his master, or lodges him in any gaol, so as his master may have him again, shall receive *Three Dollars* reward, and reasonable charges, paid by

August 12, 1789. ‡ PETER VANSANT.