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## 22. Advertisements for Runaway Slaves and Servants (1738)

*Source: Pennsylvania Gazette, July 1738.*

As advertisements in colonial newspapers demonstrated, slaves and indentured servants frequently expressed their desire for freedom by running away. Sometimes they escaped together, despite racial differences between them and the fact that slaves served for life while servants would gain their liberty after a number of years. Pennsylvania was a frequent refuge for fugitives from neighboring Maryland, where slavery and servitude were more deeply entrenched.

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RUN AWAY ON the 23d of March last, from the Subscribers, in St. Mary's County, Maryland, the following Servants, and a Negroe, viz.

George Humphrey, an Englishman, aged about 19 Years, fair complexion'd, talks slow, with light brown Hair: Had on a light Cotton Jacket lined with yellow Linnen, a homespun Jacket and Breeches, coarse Shirt and an old Felt Hat.

Barnaby Higgins, an Irishman, aged about 25 Years, Low of Stature, much pockfretten, by Trade a Joyner or Carpenter: Had on a yellow Jacket and Breeches.

Michael Mara, an Irishman, aged about 25 Years, Low of Stature, swarthy Complexion, by Trade a Turner: Had on a yellow Kersey Jacket and grey Breeches. Both the Irishmen had the two first Letters of their Name marked on the Arm.

John Maine, an Englishman, bred to the Sea, middle aged, well set, much disfigured on the Face and Throat from the King's Evil.

John More, an Irishman, had a Blemish on one Eye, middle aged, high Stature, well set, a Labourer and very dextrous at the Spade: Had on a Cinnamon colored Cloth Coat, a good Jacket and Breeches.

And a Negroe Man named Peter, about 25 Years old, Country born, of a middle Stature, well set, talks notably: Had on a brownish Cloth Coat, a Country Cloth Jacket and Breeches, and a Felt Hat pretty much worn.

They all made off in a Boat on Potomack River, 15 Feet in the Keel, with two Masts and rigged after the Bermudian Manner.

Whoever secures the said Servants and Negroe, so that their Masters may have them again, shall have Thirty Pounds Reward. Maryland Currency; and a proportionable Sum for any one or more of them, and all necessary Charges paid by

Philad. July John Heard, Abraham Barns.  
10. 1738 Thomas Brook, Robert Ford.

Run away this Morning from Edward Farmer of Whitemarsh, a stout lusty Mollatto, known in Philadelphia by the Name of Mollatto Memm alias James Earl, has a Scar on his Temple, a wide Mouth and thick Lips, speaks good English. He was Cloathed when he went away, with a new Duroy Jacket of a dirty colour, lined with a dark blue-grey clour'd Shalloon, trim'd with dark collour'd Mohair and Buttons, a fine Shirt, a new fine Hat, a Silk Handkerchief, a speckled Pair of Trowsers, worsted Stockings, and new Shoes and Buckles in them.

Whoever takes up and secures the said Mollatto, or brings him home to his Master, or puts him in the Workhouse of Philadelphia, shall have Five Pounds Reward, paid by

Edward Farmer

Run away on Sunday last, from Henry Sparks, of Gloucester Township, West-New-Jersey, an Irish Servant Man, named James Mordox, about 60 Years of Age, of a dark Complexion, grey Hair but cut off, by Trade a Smith. Had on a Suit of brown Cloaths, new Shoes and new Stockings.