

Notes on Slavery in Town and State
By Samuel Roads, Jr.
Also Notes on other slaves and a Marblehead slave
(1928.802)

Transcriptions from Roads' handwritten notes taken from original sources.

Slave Trade Dip. Cor. 1823-767

The following advertisements copied from newspapers published during the slaveholding period of Massachusetts history will, perhaps, be found of interest.

The Essex Gazette (March 16, 1773)

We hear from Marblehead that the Rev. Mr. ----- of that place lately re-married his Negro Woman to a Negro Man, who were about nine or ten years ago, imperfectly joined together by the Rev. Mr. ----- the former master of the woman. That Rev. *Bauteman* deceased had made an *egregious* blunder in not obeying the Negro man by promise to maintain his wife according to the laws of [?] this Province. This defect was in the late ceremony [?] Rectified by the Rev.'s son-in-law and successor. An ? of

(From the Essex Gazette Aug. 7, 1770)

Ran Away from the Subscriber, on the 5th of Inst., a Negro Man named Phero of a very light complexion something scarred in the Face, about 5 1/2 feet in Height and 18 years of Age remarkable in the Fingers of his Right Hand (more especially his Thumb) being crooked; carried off with him a red broadcloth jacket and Breeches, and a pair of Pepper and Salt homespun ditto, with Sundry other Things. Whoever will return the said Runaway, shall have Four Dollars Reward, and all Charges Paid.

Samuel Devereux

N.B. All Masters of Vessels are hereby cautioned against concealing, harbouring, or carrying off said Runaway, as they would avoid the Penalty of the Law.

Marblehead Aug. 6, 1770

(Essex Gazette Sept.25, 1770)

(Run away from the [cut]) subscriber, on the 17th inst. At Night, a Negro Man named Jack about 6 feet high, near 50 years of age; speaks bad English, and Born in Martinico[?]; had on when he went away a blue coat with Mohair Buttons, a blue jacket with black Glafs Buttons, blue Breeckes with white metal Buttons and a red worsted Cap, but may have changed his cloaths, as he had more at Beverly.-Whoever shall take up said Negro, and deliver him to Mr. Brown, Deputy Sheriff in Salem, shall have Two Dollars Reward and all necessary Charges paid them.

All Masters of Vessels and others are cautioned against carrying said Negro off, as they would avoid the Penalty of the Law.

Joseph Homan

Marblehead, Sept. 22, 1770

(Essex Gazette)

To be Sold for want of Employ and not for any Fault.

A Likely, healthy, stout Negro Man of about 30 years of age, who understands the Tanning Business in all its Branches. Also a House Lot in Marblehead, pleasantly situated in Newtown (so called) nearly opposite the Hay Market, forty Feet front and Eighty Feet Rear.

Whoever has a mind to purchase both or either of the above, by applying to the Printer hereof may know further.

March 13, 1771

(Essex Gazette)

Run away from the Subscriber about 15 days ago, a Negro Boy of the yellow sort about 16 years old; had on a blue half thick jacket, homespun waistcoat and Breeches, and lopped Hatt; speaks bad English.

Whoever takes up said Runaway, so that his Master may have him again shall have Three Dollars Reward.

William Boden

Marblehead, Nov.11, 1771

(Essex Gazette)

Run away from Christopher Bubier, Last Monday, a Negro Man named Prince, had on a white collar shirt; gray stockings; striped homespun jacket lined with Baize, and Breeches of the same; light coloured great Jacket lined with Baize, , much worn, and Mill Cap. Whoever may take up said Negro, and deliver hime to Mr. Brown, D. Sheriff in Salem, shall have Two Dollars Reward, and all necessary charges paid by

Christopher Bubier

Marblehead, Feb.3, 1772

(Essex Gazette)

To be Sold

A Negro Man named

Cesar, 28 years old.

he well understands the shoreman's Business of making Fish, is a prime Chimney Sweeper, and can work on a Farm very well. For further particulars, enquire of

Nicholas Bartlett

of Marblehead

Feb.3, 1772

(From the Boston News Letter)

Sept. 20, 1759

Run away from Capt. John Diamond at Marblehead, on Tuesday the 11th of September, instant, a Spanish Negro Fellow named Cuffe, about 25 years old, speaks broken English, and can talk Spanish language; He is a tall slim fellow; had on a new felt Hat, striped homespun Jacket and Breeches, new shoes with Square Buckles. Whoever will bring or send the said Negro to Mr. Norwood, Inn holder at Lynn, whall have Two Dollars Reward and all necessary charges paid. All Masters of Vessels and others are cautioned not to conceal or carry off the said Negro, or they would avoid the penalty of the Law.

To be Sold, upon very reasonable Terms,

A Likely, Strong, healthy Negro Girl, about 17 years of Age - A year's credit will be allowed for Payment on security being given.

Inquire with the Printer thereof -

Essex Gazette, June 19, 1770

To Be Sold

A Likely, Negro Man judged to be about 27 years old, talks broken French, and a little English - Enquire of the Printer of Capt David Brelton

Essex Gazette, July 24, 1770

Aug 14, 1770

To Be Sold

A likely Strong , helathy Negro Boy, about 13 years of age. Enquire of the Printer

Essex Gazette, Sept 4, 1770

To Be Sold

A likely, healthy Negro Girl about 14 years old. Enquire of Mr. Thomas Bragg, Deputy Sheriff in Andover.

It is brought that a Negro names Pompey, but commonly called Pomp has taken Mr. Turner's horse, advertised above with a double Briddle, a Saddle, and green Cloth horsery [sic?] with green Fringe, all about half worn, with brass Stamps. Said Negro belongs to me the Subscriber, and was formerly Capt Kings [sic?] Mr. David Watt's both of Charlestown where he was born. Said Negro is about 23 years old hath a scar on his Forehead, and had on a dark Coat that had been ?, a cotton [missing text] and all necessary charges paid then.

All Masters of Vessels and other, are cautioned against carrying said Negro off, as they would avoid the Penalty of the Law.

Joseph Homan

Marblehead, Sept 22, 1770

Essex Gazette, Sept 25, 1770

From the Boston Gazette

Oct 30, 1750

This may serve to notify that there was taken of the 15th instant by me the subscriber, a Negro man, whose name is unknown, speaks bad English, has a scar near his right ear and also has on a blue knit Cap, striped [sic] with white, an old patch'd Jacket, a pair of old Trousers, a dark pair of Yarn stockings, and a white, woolen Shirt, and is supposed to be about 30 years old. The owner on application to me and paying all necessary Charges may have him again.

George Newmarch
Marblehead Oct. 15, 1750

From the Boston Gazette

Oct. 30, 1750

To be Sold by Jacob Fowle, Esq., and Ms. Susannah Palmer, Administrator of the estate of John Palmer, late of Marblehead, deceased; a likely Negro man about 25 years old, and a fine Negro Boy about 14.

From the Boston News Letter

Aug. 6, 1724

Ran-away from his Master Capt Richard Trevett of Marblehead, a Negro Man Named Pompey, about Twenty-Two years of age a Lusty, Tall fellow; He had on when he went away, a striped homespun Jacket, cotton & Linen Shirt, dark coloured Kersey Breeches, gray yarn stockings, round To'd [toed] Leather heel shoes and Felt Hat. Note, He deserted his Master's service in the Shallop Ann at Plymouth.

Whoever shall apprehend the said Runaway, and him safely convey to his said Master at Marblehead, or to Mr. Francis Miller in Boston near the Green Dragon, shall have fifty shillings Reward and all necessary charges paid.

From the Mass Gazette

June 07, 1770

Charlestown may 3 In the bay ? Capt M'call (arrived here the 11th past from Jamaica) 40 Negroes were imported which, agreeably is over ?, must be reshipped from its province and not by any means offered for sale. Therein another parcel of slaves arrived there last Tuesday in the ship Africa, Capt Sewell, from ? under the same circumstances, and the ship Sally of Liverpoole, Capt Evans from Africa arrived yesterday with 300 more.

It is thought that a Negro named Pompey but can be called Pomp Has taken Mr Turner's ? adventured above with a donkey bridle, a saddle, and a green cloth ? with green fringe, all about half worn, with brass stamps. Said negro belongs to the subscriber and the family Capt Kims and Mr. David Watt's both of Charlestown where he was born. Said negro is about 23

years old has a dear on his forehead, and had on a dark cloth coat what had been turned a ? and all necessary [?chasers?] paid them. All masters of vessels and others, are cautioned against carrying said Negro off as they would avoid the penalty of the Law.

Joseph Homan

Marblehead Sept. 22, 1770

Essex Gazette, Sept. 22 1770

To Be Sold

A stout, healthy Negro man. About 22 years of age who understands farming and shoe-making, after the fishing business which last - he had followed there five years past - and ? A good share.

Also a Negro woamn of 26 years of age who understands household work. Any persons that may like to purchase, for further particulars.

39 ? put upon the Sallows one hour. Suffer two years under law meant and find surely for his good behavior for the terms of seven years.

Essex Gazette, Nov. 13 1770

From the Essex Gazette

Nov. 20 1770

Enquire of ? Herrick of Beverly

To be sold

A likely strong, healthy young Negro woman, about 20 years of age, together with her child, a healthy, strong boy, about three years and a half old. For further particulars enquire of Benjamin Deland

Essex Gazette, Dec 13 1770

[Indentured Servants - Runaway notices]

From the Boston News Letter

Aug 6, 1716

Ran away on Monday the 30th of July past from his Master Azor Gall of Marblehead, a servant named Thomas Chamber, Aged about 25 years, pretty Tall and Spair, Thick Darkish coloured hair, having a cast on one Eye, had on a dark Coloured Kersey [?] Coat, pretty long, striped Jacket and Breeches, Gray Yarn Stockings, old Shoes with strings in them. Whoever shall apprehend the said Runaway, ? ? safely convey to his said Master, or give any true intelligence of him, so that his master may have him again shall be sufficiently rewarded besides necessary charges paid.

Boston News Letter

Ran away the 25 Day of January Inst. from his Master Capt. John Reed of Marblehead a Man servant named Andrew Slyfield. He had on when he went away a cloth coloured Jacket with brass Buttons, and lined with Red Beize [Baize]; an under Jacket near same colour on the ? with brass Buttons; Breeches the same as his under Jacket with white metal Buttons; a pair of black Stockings. He wears a cap or wigg: - He is about 4 feet and 1/2 high - of a fair complexion - and is about 18 years old. Whoever shall take up the said servant and carry him to his said Master, shall have one dollar reward.

John Reed

All Masters of vessels and other are forbid carrying off or concealing the said servant on Penalty of the Laws in the case provided.

Jan. 28, 1757

**More Notes on Slavery in Town and State
By Samuel Roads, Jr.
(1928.802)**

[notes on slavery, by Samuel Roads, Jr., c. 1880]

"Talk about slavery in the South!" why I have actually seen and conversed with a colored man who claimed that his great-grandfather was born a slave in Massachusetts," said a gentleman who was discussing the race problem, the other day. It was early in the "fifties," while I was prospecting for gold in California. One Sunday, for want of other amusement, I took a stroll in the vicinity of Maxwell's Creek, and coming to the opening of a mine, I saw a very tall and very black man loitering about. Going up to him, I accosted him civilly, and in the course of conversation inquired his name. "My name is Pedrick," he replied, and I was born in Marblehead, Massachusetts. My great-grandfather was a slave in the Pedrick family of that town before the revolution." My astonishment at receiving this information may be imagined, especially since I am not only a Marbleheader, but a direct descendant of the Pedrick family myself. At first I was incredulous, but as my new found acquaintance began to make inquiries for people who had long been in their graves, some of whom I had known as very aged men, and others then living, equally as well known to me, my incredulity vanished. He was indeed a veritable Marbleheader. His information as to persons, localities and local incidents was such as to preclude the possibility of doubt as to his truthfulness. Further inquiry elicited the fact that he had left Marblehead when young, had seen service in the Mexican War, and after a somewhat checkered career had drifted to California, in the hope of making a fortune in the gold diggings. On my return to Marblehead, some time afterwards, I related the incident, and found several persons who remembered the man very well."

There is nothing very remarkable about this little story, yet it created considerable surprise among a group of gentlemen to whom it was related, not one of whom was aware that

slavery formerly existed in the old 'Bay-State.' This is not to be wondered at for men of affairs have little time to devote to antiquarian research, and beyond a brief paragraph here and there, the books are strongly reticent in regard to this interesting subject.

Human slavery was almost co-existent with the earliest settlement of the colony. The Puritans apparently saw nothing wrong in condemning men to servitude, or selling offenders into slavery. They therefore unhesitatingly adopted the custom practiced by some of the savage tribes about them of enslaving Indians captured in war. The institution appears to have been clearly and regularly established at the time of the Pequot War very early in the history of the colony, when the captives were divided among the saintly whites.

Hugh Peters, then a resident of Salem, and who afterwards returned to England, where he had the distinguished honor of being hanged, drawn, and quartered as one of the regicides instrumental in the death of Charles I, wrote to Governor Winthrop in 1637:

"Mr. Endecot and myself salute you in the name of the Lord Jesus, etc. Wee have heard of a dividence of women and children in the bay, and would be glad of a share viz. A young woman or girle and a boy if you think good. I wrote to you for some boyes for the Bermudas, which he thought was considerable."

OTHER:

Essex Gazette 1769 January 17

To be SOLD

A Very Strong healthy Negro Boy for Want of Employ; he is about 10 years old. Enquire of the Printer.

Memoir and Poems of Phillis Wheatley, a native African and a slave boston, Published by George W. Light.

Gloucester July 19 1769

(cut) RAN-AWAY from master subscriber, of Gloucester, last night, a Negro Man named Titus, about 21 years of Age, of Middle Stature, flutters considerably when he speaks, and hath lost part of his great toe on one foot; had on when he went away, a striped jacket, a striped woolen shirt, and a pair of sheep skin breeches, (no hat nor cap, shoes nor stockings): It is supposed he will change his clothing if he has opportunity.-whoever will take up said Negro and him safely keep or carry him to his said Master, shall have EIGHT DOLLARS REWARD and all necessary charges paid by me the subscriber. Said Negro is the same that ran away from me the first of June

Thomas Jaques

NIB All Master of vessels and others are hereby cautioned against harboring concealing or carrying off said Negro as they would avoid the Penalty of the Law

Essex Gazette June 6, 1769

TO be Sold

A Healthy Negro Girl, about eighteen years old, fit for Town or County Service. A Negro Man about 67, and a Negro Woman about 57 years of Age to be boarded out: Any person inclining to buy Said Girl, or board Said Negro Man and woman, by enquiring of the Printer of this Paper, may know the Price of the Girl; and also what will be given for boarding the Man and Woman, which will be sufficient to pay the Person who undertakes it handsomely and generously for his Expense and Trouble.

Essex Gazette Sept. 5, 1769

Henry(?) Sanders(?) of Marblehead

Hereby informs the public that he has lately opened a House of Public Entertainment, at the sign of the Green Dragon, near the Wharf of the Hon. Robert Hooper, Esq., where all Gentlemen, Strangers and others, may depend upon meeting with good attendance and Entertainment.

Marblehead, Sept. 11, 1769

Essex Gazette, April 7, 1770

To be sold by the Subscriber, cheap for cash or good security.

A Healthy Strong Negro Boy, 20 years old last Month, very ingenious in the Farming Business and can work in the Iron Works both at Blooming and Refencing(?); And as I have done with the Iron Work I have more Help than I want on my Farm.

James Frye

Andover April 9, 1770

Essex Gazette Sept. 26, 1769

To be Sold

A LIKELY NEGRO LAD, about eighteen years or nineteen years of Age, works well at the Cooper's Trade, and understands working in the Field or Garden-Enquire after Printer

Mass. Gazette & Weekly News Letter June 7, 1770

Ran Away from his Master, Capt. Joseph Hall of Newberry, the First day of June 1770, a Negro Man named Peter, about 23 of Age, about 5 Feet 3 inches high, thick set, speaks English well,

had on when he went away a Snuff coloured Coat with Brass Buttons, a Green Ratteen Waistcoat, a pair of Brown Fustian Breeches, he carried away with him a pair of light-Blue stockings, and white ditto a linnen shirt and Brown Whig (or Whip), and a Caster(?) Hat, and he had a scar on the backside of his Neck.

Whoever will take up said Negro, and convey him to his Master at Newberry, or secure him in any of his Majesty's Gaols, should have Five Dollars Reward, and all necessary Charges paid by me the subscriber. Joseph Hale

Mass. Gazette & Weekly News Letter June 7, 1770

Ran-away from his Master Joseph Moody of Newberry, a Negro Man, named Prince, about 30 years of Age, 5 feet 9 inches high, a well set Fellow, has had his Jaw Bone broke, it is an obstruction to him in Eating, has had his right leg broke, and is a little crooked, has lost two or three toes of his left Foot, had on when he went away, a light coloured Homespun Coat, scarlet Ratteen Waistcoat, a pair of yellow Buckskin Breeches, a black wig, and Till(?) Hat, and a linnen Shirt. Whoever will take up said Negro, and convey him to his Master at Dummer School in Newberry or confine him in any of his Majesty's Gaols, so that his Master may have him again, shall have Five Dollars Reward, and all necessary charges paid by me the subscriber. Joseph Moody.

All Masters of Vessels and others are hereby cautioned against harbouring, concealing or conveying of said servant, as they would avoid the Penalty of the Law
Newberry June 4, 1770

Ran-away from her Master the 3rd instant, a Negro Girl, named Violet, Eighteen years of Age, about five feet two inches in Height, had on at the time of her going away a dark striped Homespun Jacket and a Quilted Petticoat – Whoever will convey her to the subscriber, shall be well Rewarded. Richard Jennys Boston June 6, 1770