



Runaway Slave Notices (Examples)

Letter of Alexander Semple to McFernan, December 16, 1786

[East Florida Papers, Correspondence to and from the United States, 1784-1821]

Description of four negroes that eloped from the possession of Lieutenant Colonel Jacob Weed on the morning of Sunday the 3rd at Point Peter [Georgia].

Prince: a negro fellow about 6 feet high, strong built and brawny, a carpenter by trade, 30 years of age and upwards, has a large mouth and is talkative. He ran away from Colonel Young, the commander of the late Governor Tonym's Troop of Horse, in June or July 1785. He was plundered from his proprietor, Mr. Witten of South Carolina, during the late war by the British.

Judy: his wife, about the same age, country-born, about 5 feet and 8 inches high, a smart active wench, formerly the property of Mr. Kenly of South Carolina. She ran away from Colonel Young with her husband as above being under the same predicament.

Glasgow: her son, about 8 years of age, a well-looking boy of an open countenance and obliging disposition.

Polly: her daughter, about 6 years old, lively eyes and gently pitted with the smallpox.

James Cashen [Magistrate, Amelia Island, East Florida]

Sir:

Colonel Weed having gone to Augusta a few days ago to attend the Assembly of this State makes me trouble you with the annexed description of the negroes that lately ran away from him. He always conjectured them having gone for South Carolina but from late intelligence I am given to understand that they have been seen on the St. Johns River. Will you be so obliging as to interest yourself in their recovery. I am sorry his absence prevents him from making a personal application in this matter, but am confident at the same time it will not retard your application in his favor, so far as the nature of this business will permit or your friendship direct.

Mr. Witten, the owner of Prince, had lately sent a power [of attorney] to have him sent to South Carolina, and Colonel Weed is on terms with Mr. Kenly for the wench and children and has made him such offers as he is convinced will be agreeable.

It is supposed that Prince has carried them off with him to Florida to avoid a separation from his family, to which he is very much attached.

I am, sir, with respect, your obedient servant,

Alexander Semple,
Point Peter, 16 Dec. 1786"



Runaway Slave Notices (*Examples*)



From the *Georgia Gazette*, Savannah, Georgia, November 6, 1788

“Ran away from the subscriber last Sunday night a short and remarkable well made NEGRO FELLOW named WILKES, of a black complexion, about 25 years old, speaks quick and stammers a little when frightened. Born in Africa but being bought when a boy speaks as well as the country born usually do; he is very artful, and may change his name and endeavor to go to the upper counties or St. Augustine; he took all his clothes with him, consisting of one old blue coat, one white negro cloth coat faced with brown, also old, one pair of white negro cloth breeches, blanket, and sundry other things.

“Also RAN AWAY last January, a stoat likely young NEGRO WENCH named GRACE, country born, of a yellowish complexion, about 22 years old, is supposed to be harbored about Mr. Elliott’s plantation on Great Ogechee, as she was taken up there last summer by the overseer, and made her escape by the connivance of the negro that was ordered to bring her home.

“Twenty dollars specie will be paid for the delivery of either of the above to the Warden of the Workhouse in Savannah. James Cochran.”






From the *Georgia Gazette*, Savannah, Georgia, September 23, 1790

Slaves did not only run away into Florida but also out of it. Here, a slave from the New Switzerland Plantation on the St. Johns River in northern Florida has been captured in Georgia.

“Came to my plantation, about the 1st of April last, a NEGRO FELLOW, about 40 years old, of a black complexion, about five feet six or seven inches high, has a halt in his walk, says he is of the Guinea country, that his name is JOHN, and that he belongs to Mr. Fatio, on St. Johns. The owner may have him by applying to the subscriber, six miles west of Waynesborough, and paying charges. John Morrison”

September 1, 1790.



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JOHN MORRISON.






From the *Georgia Gazette*, Savannah, Georgia, June 23, 1793

“Twenty Dollars Reward. Ran away on the 15th of last month, a NEGRO CARPENTER, named SAMPSON, about 5 feet 10 or 11 inches high, young, likely, and well made, stutters a little sometimes in speaking; he has for some time past been working at his trade in this city; he can dress hair and shave, waited on the subscriber in St. Augustine, Philadelphia, and Charleston, some years ago, but was then not grown up; he ran away from Charleston in 1786 and was taken up and lodged in the gaol of Georgetown; he may attempt to go to one of those places. Masters of vessels are cautioned not to take him off. Whoever will apprehend and deliver the said Negro man to the subscriber, or secure him in the gaol of Charleston in South Carolina, shall receive the above reward. Savannah, May 8, 1793. N.W. Jones.

N.B. If he returns of himself soon he shall be forgiven.”

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