

Professor J. Giesberg
AIHE Woodbury, NJ
December 9-10, 2011

From, "Pretends to Be Free:" Runaway Slave Advertisements from Colonial and Revolutionary New York and New Jersey, Graham Russell Hodges and Alan Edward Brown, eds., New York, 1994.

**20. *The New-York Gazette*, #452,
June 24, 1734.**

Runaway last Wednesday from Judith Vincent in Monmouth County in New Jersey an Indian Man, named Stoffels, speaks good English, about Forty years of age, he is a House Carpenter, a Cooper, a Wheelwright and is a good Butcher also. There is also two others gone along with him, one being half Indian and half Negro and the other a Mulatto about 30 years of age & plays upon the violin and has it with him. Whoever takes up & secures said Fellow so that he may be had again shall have forty shillings as a reward and all reasonable charges paid by the said Judith Vincent.

N.B. It is supposed'd they are all going together in a Canow towards Connecticut or Rhode Island.

154. *The New-York Gazette: or, The Weekly Post-Boy*, #762, August 29, 1757.

Middletown, Monmouth County, East-New-Jersey, August 1, 1757. Runaway from the subscriber the first of January, twelve months past, a Negroe Man, named Cato, who has since his elopement changed his name several times: Had on when he went away a Pair of Buckskin breeches, fine brown linen shirt, a plain made whitish Camblet Coat, dark Yarn stockings, new shoes, and a wool hat. He is a short well-set Fellow, understands Husbandry in all its parts, an excellent hand with a scythe in grass or grain, speaks English as if country born, and pretends to be free. Underneath his right-shoulder blade he was branded in Jamaica when a Boy with the letters BC, which are plain to be seen. He plays poorly on the fiddle and pretends to tell fortunes. It is supposed he has a forged pass. Whoever secures the said Negroe so that his Master may have him again, shall receive a reward of Five Pounds and reasonable charges paid by Richard Stillwell.

104. *The Pennsylvania Gazette* (Philadelphia), #1271, May 3, 1753.

Run away on the 28th ult. from the subscriber, living Amwell, A Molatto man, named Boot, about 25 years of age, about 5 feet ten inches high, and has had the small pox: Had on when he went away, a light colour'd jacket, pretty ragged, and a mouse colour'd jacket under it, the skirts has been cut short, good buckskin breeches, with brass buttons, some of the tops of them are off, blue grey yarn stockings, good shoes, and felt hat, torn in the brim. Whoever takes up said slave, and secures him, so that his master may have him again, shall have Forty Shillings reward, and if above 20 miles from home, Three Pounds, and all reasonable charges, paid by

Thomas Hunt.

176. *Parker's New-York Gazette; or, The Weekly Post-Boy*, #860, June 21, 1759.

Forty-Five Pounds, Proclamation Money, Reward. Runaway last night from the subscribers living in Hopewell, In New Jersey, one Mulatto, and three Negroe Men, viz. The Mulatto named Bood and a Negroe named Bristol, the property of William Hunt, is about five feet ten inches high and pretty well set; they each had a dark colour'd coat, several Shirts and Pairs of Shoes, Stockings and Breeches: for taking up and bringing back to his Master, Twenty Pounds Reward for Bood and Ten Pounds for Bristol.

A Negroe Man named Jack, thick and well set, the property of John Hart, took with him a Cloth Coloured Kersey Coat, several Shirts and Pairs of Breeches, Shoes and Stockings: Ten Pounds will be given for taking him up and bringing him back to his Master.

Also a Negro man named Tom, short and well set, the property of Joseph Calder, took with him a dark coloured coat, several shirts, Pairs of Breeches, Shoes and Stockings. Five Pounds reward will be given for taking him up and returning him to his Master.

It is supposed they all went away and will travel together, and that they are gone to some of the Indian Towns upon Sasquehannah, the Mollatto Bood, having been entertained by the Indians there several months, some years ago; they took two Guns, two or three Hatchets and several Blankets with them. William Hunt, John Hart, Joseph Calder.

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197. *Pennsylvania Journal, and the Weekly Advertiser*, (Philadelphia), #976, August 20, 1761.

Run-away from the Subscriber a Negro Man named Quaco about five feet eight inches high, marked in the Face with sundry short strokes: Had on when he went away an old Light coloured Coat, old torn shirt, a white Pair of Trowsers, a pair of new shoes, with a Pair of brass Buckles in it, and a Pair of light coloured yarn Stockings: The said Negro had an iron Collar with two Hooks to it, round his neck, a pair of Hand-cuffs with a chain to them, six Feet long. Whosoever takes up said Negro and confines him to any Gaol, or conveys him to his Master shall have Forty Shillings Reward and all Necessary charges paid by me Joseph Carver.

N.B. It is supposed that he will make for Philadelphia, for he was taken from thence the 11th Instant. The Negro talks broken English. He is a of a black complexion, and a lusty fellow. All persons are forbid harbouring said Negro, if they do, they must expect penalty of the Law.

Please to enquire for the Owner at Daniel Cooper's Ferry.

263. *The New-York Gazette: or The Weekly Post-Boy*, #1132, September 13, 1764.

Run-away on Monday the 27th of last Month, August, from Gilbert Smith, of Upper Freehold, in Monmouth County, East-New-Jersey, a Slave, named Jacob, but has several Times changed his Name, calling himself James Start, and James Pratt, &c. his Mother was a Negro and his Father an Indian, but he passes himself for an Indian, and is like one, of a yellowish Tawney colour, is about 23 years of age, 5 feet 4 or 5 inches high; his Hair cut short on his Crown, but curls around his neck; has a remarkable Scar on one of his Cheekbones, occasioned by a Scald or a Burn, and speaks good English. He is much addicted to Smoaking and Drinking. He went from his Work at the Plough and was without shoe or stocking, and had no other clothes but an Oznabrig Shirt and Trowsers, an old ragged Waistcoat and an old Hat. He came to New York on Wednesday Morning last, with one Aaron Buck, on a sloop from Barnegat or Tom's River and has since been seen in Town. Any person that will bring the said Run-away to Mr. John Falman in New York, Butcher, or Mr. Francis Field, on Golden Hill, or commit him to any public gaol will receive from either of them, Forty Shillings reward, and all reasonable charges. Gilbert Smith.

N.B. All Masters of Vessels are forbid to harbour conceal or carry him off as they will answer it at their peril.

222. *The New-York Gazette; or, The Weekly Post-Boy*, #1064, May 26, 1763.

Run away from Wilson Hunt, in Maidenhead, near Trenton, a Negro man named Bood, about 30 years of age, five Feet nine Inches high, pretty well set, of a yellowish Complexion; had on a Felt Hat, a dark brown tweil'd Kersey Jacket, a white Flannel Shirt, Leather Breeches, yarn Stockings, and good Shoes. Whoever takes up and secures the said Negro Man in any of his Majesty's Gaols, or brings him to his said Master shall have, if taken up in the Province of New Jersey, six Pounds, if out of that province, Ten Pounds Reward paid by

May 2, 1763.

Wilson Hunt.

N.B. He is a smooth Tongued Fellow and will endeavour to make his Escape if not well secured.

290. *The Pennsylvania Gazette (Philadelphia)*, #1926, November 21, 1765.

Taken up by the subscriber, two Negro Men, about five feet eight inches high, both new Negroes from the River Gambia. Upon examining of them they say, they belonged to John Gardner of North-Carolina, the Name of the Particular Place they won't tell; one of them speaks a little English, the other not. They call themselves Pompey and Nero. Pompey is the largest of them and Nero slender. They say they travelled through the Mountains from North-Carolina. The Master upon applying to the subscriber living in the Town of Shrewsbury and paying the charge he has been at, may have them. John Morris. Shrewsbury, New Jersey, November 8, 1765.

299. *The New York Gazette; or, The Weekly Post-Boy*, #1222, June 5, 1766.

Six Pounds Reward Ran Away from the subscriber in Shrewsbury the two following Negroes, viz, Pompey, a lusty fellow, about 35 Years of age, 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high.—Had on red Duffel Trowsers, and Waistcoat, speaks pretty good English. Nero, a slender young fellow, about 25 Years of age, speaks very bad English; had on a red duffle Waistcoat, and brown Broadcloth Breeches. They went away in a small boat, 16 feet keel, a black bottom and her wales painted with Spanish-brown, had 4 Oars on Board. Whoever brings the said Negroes to any of his Majesty's Gaols, so that he may have them again, shall receive the above reward besides all reasonable charges from John Morris.

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306. *The New York Gazette; or, The Weekly Post-Boy*, #1235, September 4, 1766.

Run away on Saturday the 23rd of August last, from Nathaniel Richards at Newark, a Negro Man named Ben, about 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, aged 28, slim made, thin visage, yellow Complexion, and can speak good Dutch. He formerly belonged to Thomas Budde, at Morris-town in New Jersey, who several months ago sold him to the Widow Mrs. Elizabeth Finn at Prakenas in the County of Bergen, from whom he run away soon after, and being advertised, was taken and brought home to his Mistress, by whom he was sold soon after to the Subscriber. When he went away he pretended that he was going to swim, and as he never returned, and next day his Clothes were found near the Shore, he was supposed to be drown'd, till his Character was known, which gives Reason to suppose he took that Method to deceive his Master and prevent a Search. It is not known whether he had any Clothes with him or not. Whoever returns him to his Master or secures him in any gaol, shall receive Eight Dollars Reward and all reasonable charges. Nathaniel Richards.

510. *The Royal Gazette* (New York), #411, September 6, 1780.

EIGHT DOLLARS Reward, RUN AWAY on Sunday night last, a Negro Girl named JENNY, about 14 years of age, a native of Georgia, from whence she came in the last fleet with her owners; she is of a very black complexion, much marked with the small pox which she had not long since; has remarkable red eyes, short curl'd eye lashes and has lost one of her fore teeth of her underjaw: She had on when she went away a black callimanco coat, a white linen wrapper and cap, and carried all her other clothes with her. The above reward will be given to any person on delivering her to Mr. Dole, No. 128, Great Dock street, or give such information so as she may be taken; She was seen yesterday with some sailors on one of the docks. Captains of vessels and others are cautioned against harbouring her.—She is a remarkable thief and liar.

308. *The New-York Gazette; or, The Weekly Post-Boy*, #1251, December 25, 1766.

THIRTY DOLLARS REWARD: RUN-AWAY from the subscriber, the 16th of September last, a Negro Man named BOOD, about 38 Years old, 5 Feet 10 Inches high, yellow Complexion, thin Visage, has had the Small Pox; his great Toes have been froze, and have only little Pieces of Nails on them: He is much addicted to strong Liquor, and when drunk very noisy and troublesome. Whoever takes up said Slave, and brings him home, or secures him in Gaol, so that his Master may get him again, shall be intitled to the above Reward of THIRTY DOLLARS, paid by WILSON HUNT. Any Person who takes up said Negro, is cautioned to be particularly careful that he does not make his Escape. as he is a remarkable stout, cunning, artful Fellow. Hunterdon-County, Maidenhead, December 20, 1766.

521. *The New Jersey Gazette* (Trenton), #160, January 17, 1781.

Philadelphia December 25, 1780. Two Thousand Dollars Reward. Ran Away this evening from the subscriber, a Negro wench named Maria alias Amoritta, she is about thirty-four years of age, tall and well-made, her face long and features more regular than are common with her colour. She had on or took with her a pale blue and white fine short linsey gown and petticoat almost new, a petticoat of tow linen, a pair of men's shoes and good shifts of brown homespun linen and aprons of the same. It is supposed she will endeavour to get into the jersey as she came from thence and once lived with Mr. Thomas Lowrey of Flemington, but it is suspected that she is now lurking in this city or concealed by some free negroes. She also took with her her female child named Jane, about four years old, well made, fat, round faced and lively had on or took with her a blue and white linsey frock. Whoever will deliver the said wench and child to the subscriber in Philadelphia, shall have the above reward. John Duffield. N.B. All persons are forbid to harbour her at their peril.

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519. *The New Jersey Gazette* (Trenton), #157,
December 27, 1780.

Two Thousand Dollars Reward. Ran Away on Sunday last from the Subscriber in Mendham township, Morris County. A Negro man named Joe, about 30 years of age, five feet eight inches high, one leg a little shorter than the other, part of one of his great toes cut off, lost some foreteeth and his back is much scarrified and in lumps by whipping. Also a handsome Negro wench, 28 years of age with her child about six weeks old, which from some of its clothes being found, she is supposed to have killed. The Negroes went off with one Slight, a soldier belonging to the 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment and they stole and took with them a variety of clothes and two horses, the one a bay, four years old the other a grey, seven years old and have switch tails. The soldier stole a written discharge in the name of William Nelson whom he will probably personate. Whoever takes up the said Negroes and horses so that the owner may get them again, shall have the above reward or Twelve Hundred Dollars of the Negroes only or eight hundred dollars for the horses or inproportion for any or either of them and reasonable charges paid by Ebenezar Blackly, Jr. December 22, 1780.

658. *The Political Intelligencer and New-Jersey Advertiser* (Trenton), #7,
November 25, 1783.

Five Pounds Reward. RUN-AWAY from the subscriber at Delaware-Mills, Bucks County, and State of Pennsylvania, two NEGROES, the one named JIM, about five feet six or seven inches high, thirty years of age, well made, a smart active fellow, of a yellowish complexion, had on when he went away a light coloured coat with a red cape, brown jacket and overalls—The other a WENCH, wife to Jim, about thirty years of age, small in stature, slow in motion and speech, some scars in her face, had on when she went away a striped linsey petticoat and short-gown; they both have changes of cloaths.—Whoever takes up and secures said Negroes shall have the above reward and reasonable charges paid by MARK BIRD.
November 10, 1783.

573. *The Royal Gazette* (New York), #561,
February 13, 1782.

Two Guineas Reward. RUN AWAY, on the 28th instant, a Negro Wench named LISSA, the property of John Carow, had on when she went away, a brown short gown, and brown serge petticoat, a blue short cloak unbound with a cap to it, and took off with her two striped callico long gowns, with some other cloathing. she has a mark on her breast, occasioned by being burnt. She speaks good English, and is rather more yellow than black, aged about 24 years old. Whoever takes up said Wench, and brings her to her master, living in Fair-street, No. 3, shall receive the above reward. All persons are forbid harbouring the said Wench.

JOHN CAROW.

N. B. The above Wench formerly belonged to Parson Burnet, on Long Island.