

# Fugitives

Fugitive slaves in Maryland often fled without knowing whom they could trust. Runaways sometimes received help from relatives and friends, and sought shelter in cities like Washington, D.C. and Baltimore. They could be captured by slave catchers for large rewards.

Three Sisters  
Plantation

## CASE STUDY

Slaves occasionally made multiple escapes and, at times, chose to return to their owners. **Ben Orme** escaped from Three Sisters Plantation of Prince George's County at least three times. In his first attempt in 1812, Ben was caught. He escaped again with Peter and Andrew Ridout during the British invasion of Maryland in 1814. Perhaps fearing that recapture would bring harsher consequences than voluntarily returning, Ben left the Ridout brothers to go back to his master, Tilghman Hilleary. When he returned, Orme testified that it was the Ridouts who persuaded him to escape and that he last saw them riding off with the British. Ben Orme fled again in 1815, but records show he was returned to slavery by 1835.

**FIFTY DOLLARS REWARD.**  
RANAWAY from the subscriber living in Prince Georges county, six miles below Bladensburg, on the 2d inst a well grown Mulatto Boy named BEN, about 18 years of age and a little upwards of 5 feet high, with dark eyes, and when spoken to his countenance changes very much, which will no doubt be more easily discovered since he absconded—it is unnecessary to attempt to describe his dress as it will probably be changed. Whoever will apprehend said Boy and secure him in jail so that I get him again shall receive the above reward.  
TILGHMAN HILLEARY.  
July 16—3t

**Fifty Dollars Reward.**  
RANAWAY from the subscriber, living in Prince George's county, six miles below Bladensburg, on the 2d inst a well grown mulatto boy named BEN, about 18 years of age, little upwards of five feet high, dark eyes, and when spoken to his countenance changes very much, which will no doubt be more easily discovered, now he has absconded. It is unnecessary to attempt to describe his dress as it will probably be changed. Whoever will apprehend said Boy and secure him in jail so that I get him again shall receive the above reward.  
July 18. TILGHMAN HILLEARY.

**100 DOLLARS REWARD.**  
RANAWAY from the subscriber, living in Prince Georges county, Maryland, six miles below Bladensburg, on the mulatto and landing an American man named BEN, about five feet six or seven inches high, trimly built; had on when he went away striped pantaloons, new osabugh shirt, and an old fur hat. It is possible he may change his name and clothes. He has generally gone by the name of BEN ORME, a white man by the name of William Orme being his father. A little examination will discover any deception he may attempt to practise. All masters of vessels, and others, are forbid from having anything to do with said fellow. Whoever will apprehend said fellow and secure him in some jail so that I get him again, shall receive, if taken five miles from home, 20 dollars; if taken 15 miles from home, 30 dollars; if taken 30 miles from home 50 dollars; and if taken out of the state and the district of Columbia, one hundred dollars, with reasonable expences.  
TILGHMAN HILLEARY.  
October 27—10t

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By the Honorable Sir ALEXANDER COCHRANE, K. B.  
Vice Admiral of the Red, and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels, upon the North American Station, &c. &c.

**A PROCLAMATION.**

WHEREAS it has been represented to me, that many Persons now resident in the UNITED STATES, have expressed a desire to withdraw therefrom, with a view of entering into His Majesty's Service, or of being received as Free Settlers into some of His Majesty's Colonies.

*This is therefore to Give Notice,*

That all those who may be disposed to emigrate from the UNITED STATES with their Families, be received on board of His Majesty's Ships or Vessels of War, or at the Military Posts that may be established, upon or near the Coast of the UNITED STATES, when they will have their choice of either entering into His Majesty's Sea or Land Forces, or of being sent as FREE Settlers to the British Possessions in North America or the West Indies, where they will meet with all due encouragement.

*GIVEN under my Hand at Bermuda, this 2nd day of April, 1814.*

ALEXANDER COCHRANE.  
By Command of the Vice Admiral,  
WILLIAM BALLETCHET.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

## CASE STUDY

Fugitives frequently fled during holidays and periods when their absences were more likely to go unnoticed. **Henry H. Smith** and **William Little**, indentured apprentices, escaped from Fells Point in Baltimore on a Sunday in 1832, during a cholera epidemic. The following day their master, William Williams, placed runaway advertisements in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston newspapers. Smith and Little's escape is a rare example of blacks and whites fleeing together. While their fate remains unclear, running away as a pair increased the risk of capture.



View of Broadway South  
to Market



Child Workers, Baltimore, Maryland

British proclamation offering immediate emancipation for military service during the War of 1812.

## TWENTY DOLLARS REWARD.

RANAWAY from the subscriber, on Sunday the 16th day of September, two indented apprentices, WILLIAM LITTLE, white boy, and HENRY H. SMITH, a bright mulatto. The said William Little is about seventeen years of age, fair complexion, dark brown hair, dark eyes; had on when he left light blue striped summer pantaloons, a grey cloth roundabout, a straw hat and a pair of light shoes; has a bald place in the fore part of his head.

The said Henry H. Smith is a bright mulatto, about 21 years of age, 5 feet 8 or 10 inches high, wore away, when he left, a pair of linen or drilling pantaloons, striped waistcoat, and a blue cloth roundabout and black fur hat. The said Smith is quick in answers, very artful, and, from the information received, he has decoyed the said William Little away.

If taken in the city, I will give five dollars for each, and, if taken out of the State, I will give ten dollars for each, or twenty for the two, with all reasonable charges.

WM. WILLIAMS,  
Confectioner and Baker, Lancaster street,  
near the Market, Fell's Point.

Baltimore, Sept 17—20—3t