

CLSS 141 - Documents from the Georgetown Slavery Archive
 (for comparison with documents on Roman slavery)

1) Isaac.

THIRTY DOLLARS
REWARD.

Runaway from Georgetown College, on Saturday night the 29th inst a Negro Man named ISAAC, about 23 years old, quite black complexion, about 5 feet 8 inches high; had on when he went away a short coat of drab cloth, pantaloons of the same kind, fur hat & great coat made of thick drab coating and bound with ferretting—he carried with him a pair of blue cloth trowsers, two Russia linen shirts, an old hat and other articles of clothing not recollected, it is probable he may change his clothing—he has learned to read tolerably well, and it is likely he may have procured a written pass. It is supposed that he is gone to Pennsylvania; he was raised at Mrs. Johnson's near Bryantown, Charles County. The above reward will be paid if secured in any Jail more than 50 miles from this District, and reasonable expenses paid if brought home, or twenty dollars if a shorter distance, by the subscriber Clerk of Georgetown College, District of Columbia.

JOHN McELROY.

February 1—d1m

The ad was published in the Daily National Intelligencer on February 1, 1814. John McElroy, who posted the ad, was a Jesuit priest and Clerk of Georgetown. [later caught in Baltimore and promptly sold.]

2) Jane Smith.

Benedict Fenwick Recorded May 4th, 1818
 Manumission to Negro Jane Smith

To all whom these presents may concern, let it know that I Benedict Fenwick, President of George Town College of the County of Washington and District of Columbia for divers good causes and considerations and thereunto moving have released from slavery, liberated manumitted and set free and by these presents do hereby release from slavery, liberate and manumit and set free the following slave namely Jane Smith a black woman between five and six feet high, middle aged and formerly of the state of Virginia. I do declare the said black woman Jane Smith above mentioned free manumitted and discharged from all manner of servitude or service to me, my executors, and administrators and assigns forever. In testimony where I have hereunto set my hand and said this twenty seventh day of April one thousand eight hundred and eighteen. Benedict Fenwick, president of Georgetown College.

Washington County
 District of Columbia.

{On the left margin of the handwritten liber the following is written: "Examined and delivered to Negro Jane July 27 1818 Paid."}

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 hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty six
 with day of April one thousand eight hundred
 and eighty two. Benedict Humeich President of George
 Washington County
 District of Columbia Howard College

3) Becca.

21st March- The little letter which I had prepared has been delayed until this, because Brother O'Connor did not call to take leave from me & ask my commands. Since that I have met with a good old woman who has begged me and to whom I have promised to write to your Reverence on her account. Her name is Becca (I suppose Rebecca) was sold 1st by Mr. Ralph Ford to Joseph Mattingly and then by this one widow to Morris near the poor's house, from whom she has runned away under the pretense that he is very hard & has no religion at all nor his whole family. She says Mr. Bennet Semmes knows her well, (for I believe she has lived in the Neck) and has once promised her either to buy her or to procure her a good master. However she might easily get one here: she cannot be worth much, for she is 50 odd years old, perhaps 54 or 5. She has been at St. Thomas's Church & made her troubles known to your Reverence who told her he would pray for her. I suppose she took it as an advice to run away or at least a wish for good luck. In fact she has been quiet since her arrival in this neighborhood. Nevertheless as she appears to be conscientious woman, she is disposed to do whatever is just & right. Wherefore your reverence will do a great act of charity by having either Mr. B Semmes or other to resort to Mr. Morris, and sound his dispositions, whether he cares not about the woman on account of her old age, or if he is willing to sell her & at what price. But the affair is delicate & ought to be managed in such a manner as not to compromise anyone, & especially your Reverence or myself. I will certainly refrain from suggesting anyone. A good old experienced head is always fertile enough in finding out plenty & proper means. I will only observe that as the woman can not with propriety receive the benefit of the Sacrt of Confess & holy Commun, until this affair is settled, the sooner it will be, the better, especially on account of the Paschal duty, ad. Maj. D. G.

4) Little Boy Jerry.

1832 Jan'y 23 Sould the little boy Jerry to Alfred B. Thomas for ----- 150

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5) Inheritance.

... herein acting as the lawful attorney of Samuel Baty, Robert Baty, Martha Baty and Margaret A. Young of the Said Union District and State of South Carolina, the brothers and sisters and only heirs of the late Jesse Baty late of the Parish of Terre Bonne in this State, deceased. As appears by a power of attorney to him the said Robert Macbeth, and to Robert Baty Junr, granted by the said Heirs, under date of the 19th day of December A.D. 1851, duly acknowledged before the proper authorities in the Said District and State of South Carolina, which power of attorney is duly recorded in my office for reference. And the said attorney Robert Macbeth, in the name of Said Constituents, declared that for the Consideration hereinafter mentioned and expressed; He does by these presents, grant, bargain, sell, convey, transfer assign and set over, with a full guarantee against all troubles, debts, mortgages, claims, evictions, donations, alienations or other incumbrances whatsoever, and with Substitution and Subrogation to all the rights and actions of Warranty which the Said Heirs of Said Jesse Baty have or may have against his vendors, or against all former owners. Unto Washington Barrow, of the City of Nashville in the State of Tennessee, and his son John S. Barrow a resident of the Parish of East Baton Rouge in this State both here present, accepting and purchasing for themselves their heirs and assigns, Each for an undivided half moiety, share, interest and portion; and acknowledging delivery and possession thereof, The following described Landed property, Slaves, and Moveables, to wit: First, a certain plantation, lying and situated in the said Parish of Iberville, on both Side of the Bayou Maringouin, Composed of two tracts of Land, One measuring forty two arpents front on the West Side of Said Bayou Maringouin by forty arpents in depth, bounded above by Lands belonging [p. 3] 6. belonging to Governor Henry Johnson, and below by Land belonging to the Succession of Lemuel Tanner deceased.

[...]

The following and described named Slaves, One hundred and twelve in number, all living and attached to the said plantation, to wit: 1o. Tom Gray, a mulatto aged 51 years, 2o, Chloe his wife negro woman aged 51 years, 3o, Callon negro man aged 52 years, 4o. Lewis negro man aged 24 years. 5o. Harry aged 28 years, 6, Burnett aged 56 years, 7o. Henry [...] aged 30 years, 8o. Bazilaged 32 years, 9o. Christina his wife aged 32 years and their five children 10o. Agnes aged 9 years, 11o. Henry aged 7 years, 12o. Maria aged 5 years, 13o. Abraham aged 3 years, 14o. Lewis aged 3 months, 15o. Neil negro man aged 26 years 16o. Elender his wife aged 22 years, and their three children, 17o. Mathilda aged 3 years, 18o. Celia aged 2 years, 19 and Patrick aged 9 months. 20o. Mary Scott negro woman aged 45 years, 21o. John her son a griffe boy aged 9 years, 22o. Kumby negro man aged 31 years, 23o. Fanny negro woman aged 33 years, 24o. James Scott negro aged 37 years, 25o. Caroline his wife negro woman aged 32 years, and their Seven children, 26o. Lydia Ann aged 12 years, 27o. Suzan aged 10 years, 28o. Cleary aged 8 years, 29o. Louise aged 6 years, 30o. Benjamin aged 4 years, 31o. Robert aged [?].

6) Slave census.

Corporation of the Roman Catholic

Church Clergymen by Rev. I.B. Meucer-Owner

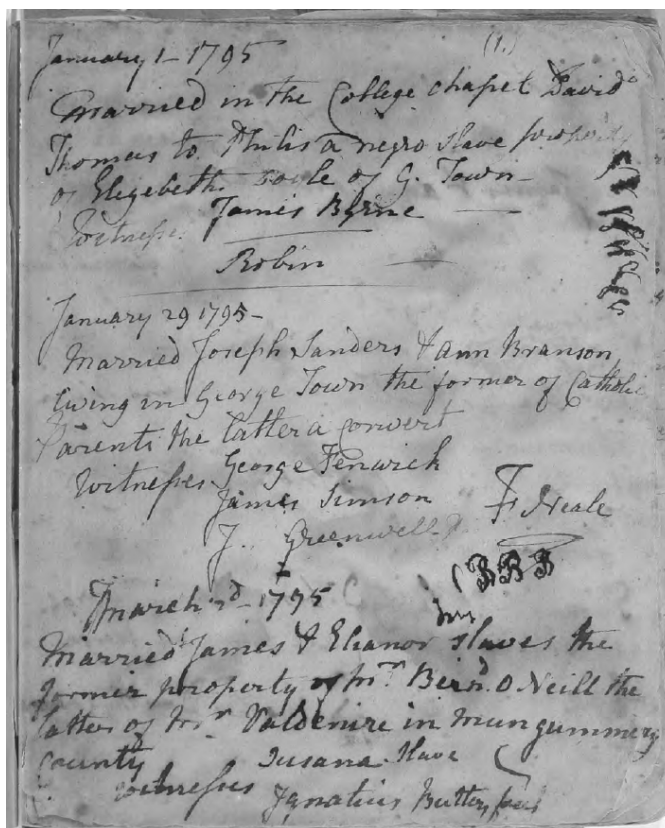
May 30, 1867

Louise Mason	F	45	Nov. 1, 1864
Daniel Mason	M	17	Nov. 1, 1864
Ann Mason	F	15	" "
Charity Mason	F	13	" "
Thomas Mason	M	11	" "
Josephine Mason	F	9	" "
Robert Mason	M	7	" "
William Holly	M	27	" "
No. of Slaves #8			

[In 1867, officials in Maryland undertook a census of all the slaves in Maryland who were emancipated in the state in 1864. The census was prepared in the hope that the ex-slaveowners would be compensated for the loss of their human property, as slaveowners in Washington, D.C. had been. The census for St. Mary's County, Maryland, lists a family owned by "Rev. I.B. Meucer" of the Corporation of Roman Catholic Clergymen of Maryland. (This was probably John B. Meurer, S.J.) The family included Louise Mason (age 45), and her children Daniel, Ann, Charity, Thomas, Josephine, and Robert Mason. A 27-year old man named William Holly is also listed.]

7) Philis.

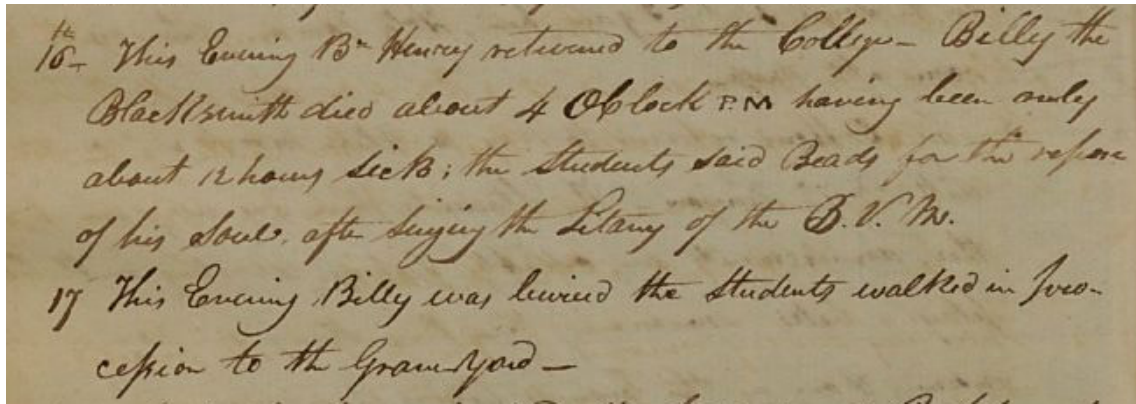
Married in the College chapel David Thomas
to Philis a negro slave property of
Elizabeth Boyle of G. Town
Witness James Byrne
Robin



8) Billy the Blacksmith.

16th - This Evening Br Henry returned to the College - Billy the Blacksmith died about 4 O'clock P.M. having been only about 12 hours sick; the Students said Beads for the repose of his Soul after saying the Litany of the B.V.M.

17th - This Evening Billy was buried the students walked in procession to the Graveyard



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9) Manumission and colonization.

Balt Oct 17th 1834 [In blue] Liberia

Revd. & Dear Sir:

Pursuant to your request and my promise, I have made such enquiries relative to the new Colony at Cape Palmas, as I supposed important to the objects you have in view. Twenty miles square were purchased by the agent of the Maryland Col. [Colonization] Soc. [Society] at that place. The tract includes their native towns and some cleared fields, which are respectively reserved to the natives. The purchase was made, in accordance with the principles laid down by our board, without the use of spirituous liquor of any kind; & the stores of rum &c [etc] which had been taken, to be used in the last resort to prevent this failure of the expedition, in case the Africans should prove obstinate in a refusal to treat without liquor, were thrown into the sea; a sufficiency for medical purposes only being reserved. The effect of this example we are assured has been so great, that a trader recently arrived on the coast who attempted the old resort to rum, was told by the natives that "the Americans said rum made a bad palaver" & found them impracticable--The colonists, as I think I informed you, are all enlisted on the principle of total abstinence from ardent spirits; and traffic in it is prohibited. The country is represented as fertile--and abounding in excellent water. In fact, this is the grain coast; and the colony at Monrovia (or Liberia) is dependent on Cape Palmas for grain. The climate is more salubrious than that of Liberia; there being none of the pestilential mango

[p. 2]

swamps which border the Messurado [Mesurado] river & the Junk, and with the exhalations from their sluggish waters poison the air at the place last named. We have accumulated testimony that whites have lived on shore at Cape Palmas for many months without being sick. The most

conclusive evidence on this point is derived from the fact that of between 50 & 60 settlers at Cape Palmas, under the auspices of our Society, but one has died; & that was a woman labouring under chronic disease. It is proper to qualify this statement, however, by the remark that but 20 of the settlers were emigrants from Maryland direct, the remainder having been taken up at Liberia, where our vessel stopped on her way out, & thus being acclimated to Africa. Our last advices were after the government house & dwellings for the settlers had been set up, their land cleared, & the cassada crop planted, & the whole party had passed through their seasoning fever, which bore a milder type than at Liberia; owing it is probable to the absence of those prolific sources of disease the mango swamps. The relations between the settlers & natives had continued thus far pacific. The latter are described as more intelligent & cunning than their neighbors, owing doubtless to their coast having been more resorted to by foreign traders than other parts. The best comment I can offer on the whole evidence disclosed by our correspondence is found in the fact that “the American Board of Foreign Missions,” one of whose preachers went out with our expedition, have, on his representations, determined to make our colony their principal establishment in Africa, and that gentleman is about to return thither. Those persons expect to extend their doctrines which they call “gospel truth” over the continent through this inlet.

[p. 3]

I have given you a brief outline of the state of the colony--as to the kind reception of a Catholic expedition I can hardly doubt. I attended at a late meeting of the board, &, without entering into particulars, stated generally that a large Catholic proprietor of slaves was making enquiries, with a view to their emancipation if their physical condition could be considered comfortable in Africa, & provision might be made without restriction for their enjoyment of the ordinances of the Religion. I merely hinted that this might prove a good lead to many Catholic slaveholders, who viewed the evils of a slave population precisely as ourselves, but could not consistently send them away from their churches. I was met by a very frank & cordial avowal by many members of the board (no one dissenting) that the Catholic Blacks were emphatically the best part of the Coloured population; & would make the best settlers &c [etc]--and that every facility would be given &c [etc]--Perhaps I have tinged this account too much “couleur de Rose” - but I have endeavored to confine myself to facts. In conclusion, I do not hesitate to reiterate my opinion often expressed that though our Society may not prove the efficacious cause of removing the blacks from America, yet that a vast deal of good will be accomplished by it, if it proves, as I think it will, the feasibility of the black man’s emigration to the land of his fathers; when the irresistible progress of events, at this side of the water, shall urge his departure on him as a measure of self preservation--

I have the honor to be

very respectfully yours

Will Erkead

10) "Not to separate man and wife"

Revd & Dr Fr

My many & I may say daily calls to the sick, & my having attended cob-neck during all Christmas have put it out of my power to write to you. I find it necessary to inform you yr Revce That this Family must loose her best Negroe hand for labor. The reason is, his wife belongs to another person & the master has ordered her & her children to be soled. I cannot buy her, too much is demanded \$500 for her & her three children - they are all girls of which we have 10 or 12 already in our family. I shall be obliged to sell our man not to separate man & wife. I have spoken to the owner of the wife he says he cannot admit her into his family at Washington he has too many &c - our carpenter Charles has not as yet returned from St. Inigo's to which place he was taken to work for the corporation. Nothing was paid by St. Inigo's in return for all my expences incurred for sending down the slaves, & loss of time by those who conveyed them down to St. Inigo's. I did ask yr Revce if the promise made by the last agent (to afford the assistance of two men to St. Thomas's Manor) could be comply'd with? I have not received any effectual answer. I am called to another sick person & must conclude. I remain Revd Fr affectionately yrs in Christ.

St. Thomas's Manor Francis Neale 10 Janry 1826 [p. 2] 13 January 1826 [upside down]

Rev. Doctr Dzerinsky George Town College Dist. Columbia

11) What happens to a witness to self-flagellation?

Paradise January 7th. 1836

Reverend and very dear Father in Christ,

I received your kind wishes and those of my dearly beloved Father Dzierozynski and his holy Band with deep and grateful feelings and reciprocate the same from my heart, and will not fail to supplicate at the Altar for obtaining the accomplishment through him who has so mercifully granted, when you prayed for me, your fervent supplications, fore I really believe, that is by the prayers of my friends that I live. Deo Gratias. I am not cured, but I have no pain being able to procure relief by the instrument sent me by Doctor Chatard of Baltimore, with the necessary directions. All I want now, is a happy Death, which I hope also to obtain, not indeed, by my merits, but through the merits of my Redeemer and the prayers of my friends.

[...] Now to some thing else.

Whilst I was with the Novices at S. Inigo's, I found there an old negro woman cook, who had served seven masters there, she was more than 100 years old, I asked her if she had never got a wipping [sic] of them? Yeas, Father, she said; when Fr Bolton lived, he give me a good wipping; why? Because I deserved it; I heard some noise in his room, I went to the windows to see what was the matter there, I saw Fr. Bolton give himself a dreadful wipping, next morning I went to him, and on my knees, I begged him not to wip [sic] himself, so what you say, said he, how you know that I wip myself? Why I saw you wip yourself last evening... Well, you say, you saw me... Yeas Fr. said I... Well come here to me after half an hour... Well I went to his room, he bid me to kneel down: I did so, and then he gave me a dreadful wipping for my curiosity....

I hear, Fr Dzierozynski is getting poor and thin, I fear he does as Fr. Bolton did, should any one see him do so, I wish he should beg of him not to do so...and wait for the consequence...

I wish Fr. Dzierozynski would send some of you on a pilgrimage here, to see how people live in Paradise, instruct the ignorant, prepare the children for their first communion, for I am a poor good for nothing being, I hope you will all pray for me.

Your devoted brother in Christ
HW Beschter

[Envelope]
Accepi 10th Jaury 1837
The Reverend P. Leavy
St. John's Church
Frederick City
Fred.K County M.d

12) The case of Sarah Brook.

St. Mary's College Balt
May 29th 1833

Revd. and Dr Sir.

I have been called upon this morning by an old negro woman who called herself Sarah Brook, and who says she was once a slave belonging to yr Father, and was set free by the will of the late Revd Mr. Griffin. This poor woman tells me she has her freedom papers on record in Washington, and begs of her Master George to obtain them and send them to her. She will want them, in order to prove that she is free; she also tells me that Mr. F. Key owes her money, which was left her by the late Master; and has asked me to by you to remind Mr. Key that she is still living and in great want. With sentiments of respect and esteem I remain Revd and Dr Sir, yr Obdt Servt. Revd G. Fenwick

13) "she will not rule me"

Newtown the 3rd of April 1848

Very Reverend Father Provincial:

It is more than two months, that I gave my account in in [sic] which I showed that we are coming on well despite of the scanty income from the farm and the mission. The farm (in all about 40 acres of land) is to be attended by an old slave and two hired boys, and the house by two old colored women. The mission stations, which are under my charge yield very little of a salary. \$65... about for 7 months is the whole amount. Nearly the whole harvest of wheat and corn and tobacco went to Baltimore for the purchase of provisions. Many repairs are to be made, and improvements to be undertaken ꝑ, without changing anything essentially good. I will never undo what others have done well, and only prevent ruin and decay as far as it can be prevented.

Rev. f. Combs knows that our expenditures exceeded hitherto our receipts without running the house into debts.

[...]

How then, shall I manage this mission. A father, a companion, who attends the two most lucrative congregations, St. Joseph's and Sacred Heart's and pays not a single cent for his boarding and wants for his attendance more than all the rest taken together, for working and mending sick calls, &.&- a old brother of 80 years, crazy and always craving for a dram like the Rev.' gentlemen- two old women, full of heat and tricks and fond of a dram- and old drunkard of above 60 years- two giddy hired boys - My goodness, such a situation will puzzle the strongest mind out of its wits.

[...]

A colored woman has ruled and partly rules this house but she will not rule me -

With profound veneration

N.. Steinbacher SJ

14) Born a slave.

[This page from the Newtown daybook records the birth of 32 slaves at Newtown from 1752 to 1770. The 11 names marked with an X identify people who were presumably sold to "Widow [?]."]

1st May Mary of Clare & Ben

1752 Monica of Nel & James

1752 Rebecca of Teresia

1754 John of Clare & Ben Sr^e

1756 Jaen of ~~Nel & James~~ - sold to Wid Che. [?]

1758 Rose of Clare & Ben x

1758 Ignatius of Suck --

1759 Abraham of Nel & James

1759 Anastasia of Judith & Clem.

1759 Moises of Teresia & Ben Jr. x

1760 Benjamin of Clare & Ben Sr.

1761 George... of Suck & Jacob [crossed out: of Teresia & Ben Jr.]

1761 Veronica of Teresia & Ben Jr. x

1761 ~~Claire~~ Mary Anne of Judith & Clem. x

1762 Agnes of Jem & Nell.

1762 ~~Dreaden~~ of Jem & Jane dead

Henry of Ben & Clare 1763

1763 Jacob... of Suck & Jacob x

1764 Philip Castes of Jenny & James xx

1764 Lucy Clem & Judy. dead

1765 ~~Sussanna~~ Peggy & c dead

1765 ~~Clare~~ Suck & Jacob. dead

1765 Prudence Jem & Nell July 28th x

1765 Henrietta Teresse & Ben. September 15th x

1765 * ~~Cecilia...~~ Betty [?] the 8th September

1766 Chedrick Judy & Clem. June 14th Jerry dead

1766 Francis James & Jenny Dec.^{ber} of 9th x

1767 ~~Isaac~~ – Suck & Jacob May 8th dead

1768 William Ben & Terese March 5th x

1769 Peg of Clem & Ruth

1769 Bernard Suck & Jacob x

1770 Jeremy Henny [?]

15) Buying Freedom.

31. Nichols Dr
1828
Negro Gabe [gave] Dr
Mar. 31 To 1 months hire _____ 8 00
NB. In the beginning of March 1828 he
obtained leave to buy himself free, on
the following terms; he has to pay \$8
every month for his hire, and has besides to
lay every month something aside un-
till he collects the sum of \$400, which
he has to pay for his freedom.