

H[enry] R[ead] McIlwaine (1864-1934), ed, *Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia, 1622-1632, 1670-1676, with Notes and Excerpts from Original Council and General Court Records, into 1683, Now Lost* (Richmond : The Colonial Press, Everett Waddy Co., 1924).

June 4, 1640. Upon the petition of *Hugh Gwyn* gen^t wherein he complained to this board of three of his servants that are run away to *Maryland* to his much loss and prejudice and wherein he hath humbly requested the board that he may have liberty to make [10] the sale or benefit of the said servants in the said *Maryland* which the Court taking into Consideration and weighing the dangerous consequences of such pernicious precedent *do order* that a letter be written unto the said Governour to the intent the said servants may be returned hither to receive such exemplary and condign punishment as the nature of their offence shall justly deserve and then to be returned to their said master

9th Of *July*, 1640

Whereas Hugh Gwyn hath by order from this Board Brought back from *Maryland* three servants formerly run away from the said *Gwyn*, *the court doth therefore order* that the said three servants shall receive the punishment of whipping and to have thirty stripes apiece one called *Victor*, a *dutchman*, the other a *Scotchman* called *James Gregory*, shall first serve out their times with their master according to their Indentures, and one whole year apiece after the time of their service is Expired. By their said Indentures in recompense of his Loss sustained by their absence and after that service to their said master is Expired to serve the colony for three whole years apiece, and that the third being a negro named *John Punch* shall serve his said master or his assigns for the time of his natural Life here or elsewhere.

These cases can be used for students who need more information on runaway cases during this time period.

.[11] *July 22, 1640.*

Whereas complaint has been made to this Board by Cap^t *W^m Pierce Esq^r* that six of his servants and a negro of M^r *Reginolds* has plotted to run away unto the *Dutch* plantation from their said masters and did assay to put the same in Execution upon *Saturday* night being the 18th day *July* 1640 as appeared to the Board by the Examinations of *Andres Noxe, Rich^d Hill, Rich^d Cookeson* and *John Williams* and likewise by the consession of *Christopher Miller, Peter Wilcocke,* and *Emanuel* the foresaid Negro who had at the fore said time, taken the skiff of the said Cap^t *W^m Pierce* their master, and corn powder and shot and guns, to accomplish their said purposes, which said persons sailed down in the said skiff to *Elizabeth* river where they were taken and brought back again, the Court taking the same into consideration, as a dangerous precedent for the future time (if unpunished) did order that *Christopher Miller* a *dutchman* (a prince agent in the business) should receive the punishment of whipping and to have thirty stripes, and to be burnt in the cheek with the letter R and to work with a shakle on his legg for one whole year, and longer if said master shall see cause and after his full time of service is Expired with his said master to serve the colony for seven whole years, and the said *Peter Wilcocke* to receive thirty stripes and to be Burnt in the cheek with the letter R and, after his term of service is Expired with his said [12] master to serve the colony for three years and the said *Rich^d Cookson* after his full time expired with his master to serve the colony for two years and a half, and the said *Rich^d Hill* to remain upon his good behaviour until the next offence and the said *Andrew Noxe* to receive thirty stripes, and the said *John Williams* a *dutchman* and a Chirurgeon after his full time of service is Expired with his master to serve the colony for seven years, and *Emanuel* the Negro to receive thirty stripes and to be burnt in the cheek with the letter R. and to work in shakle one year or more as his master shall see cause, and all those who are condemned to serve the colony after their times are expired with their masters, then their said masters are required hereby to present to this board their said servants so condemned to the colony

Brassure

13th of *Oct.*, 1640.

The Court hath ordered that *W^m Wootton* and *John Bradye* as principall actors and contrivers in a most dangerous conspiracy by attempting to run out of the country and Inticing divers others to be actors in the said conspiracy to be whip^t from the gallows to the Court door and that the said *Bradye* shall be

Branded with an Iron in the shoulder, and *Wotton* in the forehead each of them to serve the Colony seven years, the service due from the [13] said *Wotton* to the said *M Sanderson* being first performed, each of them to work in Irons during the time of the said censure for the rest of these that are freemen (*viz*) *John Tomkinson* and *Ric^t West* for consenting and concealing the said plott that they shall be whipt and serve the colony two years and those that are servants (*viz*) *John Winchester*, *W^m Drummer* *Rob^t Rouse* and *Rob^t Mosely* to be whipt only as also *Margarett Beard*, and that the masters of the said servants shall pay the fees due from the servants to the sheriffs and the servants shall make good the same, at the Expiration of their time by a years service apiece to their said masters and that none of them shall be released from their Irons without order from this Board.

******Oct. 17, 1640.*

Wheras we are daily given to understand of divers servants that run away from their masters whereby much loss and prejudice doth ensue to the masters of such servants, the court therefore conceiving it to be the most necessary and speedy course to apprehend the said servants *doth order* that upon complaint thereof made unto the sheriffs of the counties where any such servant or servants doth run away that the sheriff thereof or hisdeputies shall hereby have power to hire boat and hands to persue the said runaways and that the charge thereof shall be borne and defrayed by the said county. EO