

Connecticut Runaway Sale Advertisements

Advertisements offering rewards for runaway slaves were a common feature in colonial Connecticut newspapers. Beyond documenting African Americans' attempts to gain freedom, these ads offer intriguing clues to the everyday life and characteristics of enslaved people during this time period. The detailed descriptions of the slaves' clothing and physical features (included by the slave holder so his readers could easily identify the escaped slaves) evoke powerful although incomplete images of these early black residents of Connecticut colony.

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Run-away from the Subscriber,
about a Month ago, a Melatto Man-Servant, named Ishmael Mux, about 28 years old, white Complexion, of a middle Stature, broad Shoulder'd, and very round back, and stoops much as he walks, wears his own Hair, and can Read, Write and Cypher well; naturally good Temper'd, but Cross and Scurly when strong Liquor has enter'd him, (which he has a great Inclination to). He had on when he went away a speckled Flanel Shirt, and a white gaiter over it, light colour'd kersey Jacket, and Breeches new, and handsome white-mottled Buttons (with holes in the middle of the Buttons) a red duffel Great Coat, grey yarn Stockings and brass Buckles in his Shoes. He is supposed to be gone to Lebanon or Stonington. Whoever will take up said Servant, and convey him to the Subscriber, shall be paid TEN DOLLARS Reward, and all necessary Charges, by
PYGAN ADAMS:
New London, 6th Jan. 1761.

Ishmael Runaway Advertisement

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New-London, 23 July, 1761.

Ran-away on Tuesday Morning

the 21st Instant. a Negro Man called JORDEN, about 2 Years of Age, born at LYME, in CONNECTICUT, about 5 Feet 9 Inches high, a well built fellow and remarkably Strong, good at all Manner of Labour, and is a prime Sailor, has a kind of Scar about his Mouth like the Small-pox, has a small Mouth, a flat Nose, inclining to one Side; took with him a grey Coat, one white and one strip'd Jacket, two pair Trowsers, one pair blue cloath Breeches, white Thread and grey worsted Stockings, speaks good English, and is very talkative, speaks much of his being a Free man, and will endeavour to pass for such, having got a false Pass. — Whoever takes up the said Negro and brings him to ROGER GIBSON, in New-London, or secures him in any of his Majesty's Goals, so that his said Master may have him again, shall have FIVE POUNDS Lawful Money Reward. N. B. 'Tis almost certain, that he intends to go off in some Vessel, therefore all Masters of Vessels are hereby forwarned not to Harbour him as they will be prosecuted to the utmost rigour of the Law.

Jorden Runaway Advertisement


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RAN-away from me the
 Subscriber, the 14th Instant, a
 Molatto Woman named **BIL-**
HAN, aged 30 Years, a tall,
 thick built, well proportioned
 Wench; had on a brown short
 camblet Cloak, a light colour'd
 stuff Gown, barr'd with Yellow, a blue cam-
 blet Quilt, and check'd linnen Apron, black
 silk Bonnet, a large pair flower'd silver Shoe-
 Buckles; may possibly pretend to be a Free
 Woman, or may Change her Apparel for
 Men's Cloathing. All Masters of Vessels are
 cautioned from carrying off said Molatto.—
 Any Person who shall secure said Molatto
 Wench in any of His Majesty's Goals, shall
 have **FOUR DOLLARS** Reward, and neces-
 sary Charges paid by **JARED ELIOT.**
Killingworth, Mar. 21, 1764.

Bilhah Runaway Advertisement

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New-Haven, March 13, 1764.
R^U Naway last Night,
from *Ralph Isaacs*, a lusty
Negro Man: He had on
when he went away, a
Coat trim'd with Green,
and white Lace, brown Cloth Breeches,
Check'd Woolen Shirts, took with
him a blue Cloth Coat, with a red
Cape, a white Shirt, with a wide
Collar and Ristbands, talks bad
English, and broken *French*. Who-
ever will take up said *Negro*, and
send him, or secure him so that his
Master may have him again, shall be
well rewarded.

Ralph Isaacs Runaway Advertisement

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October 9th 1764.
RAN AWAY from Groton in
Connecticut, a Spanish Molatto
Slave, named **PHAROAH**,
about 5 Feet 10 Inches high,
well set; wore short Hair (but
may have cut it off) consider-
ably Talkative to appearance,

artful and pleasant in his Manners and Beha-
viour, plays on a Violin, & had one with him;
when he went away had on a stone grey
Bearskin Coat, a strip'd Flannel Waistcoat
without Sleeves, cloth colour'd Breeches,
Stockings uncertain, as he carried a Variety
with him in a Bag with other Cloathing, Brass
Buckles in his Shoes. Whoever takes and
secures said Slave so that the Owner may have
him again, shall receive **FIVE DOLLARS**
Reward with necessary Charges paid,

by **JOHN MUMFORD**, of Colchester.

N. B. All Masters of Vessels and Others,
are forbid harbouring or carrying off said
Slave, as they shall answer it at their Peril.

Pharaoh Runaway Advertisement

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