

A List of Negroes the property of James E Bourne who were taken by the British Enemy and carried on board their Fleet while laying in the Patuxent River in August 1814

Names	ages	Sex	Value
Negro Bill	23 years	Male	\$300
" David	12 "	"	250 "
" Doreay	30 "	Female	200 "
" Charlotte	47 "	do	300 "
" Maria	14 "	do	275 "
			<u>\$1525</u>

State of Maryland Calvert County Court
 On this Fourteenth day of August 1822 personally appeared James E Bourne before me of the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for this County of said and made Oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that some time in the month of August 1814 while the British Enemy lay in the Patuxent River about five miles from his house they took and carried away the above named Negroes and that he hath not seen the said Negroes since and that they would have sold at that time for the prices above stated

Young Parran

State of Maryland Calvert County Court
 On this Fourteenth Day of August 1822 personally appeared George Ireland before me the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of said and solemnly and sincerely affirmed that in the year 1814 in some time in the month of August while the British lay in the mouth of Patuxent River he saw the above named Negroes Bill and Doreay the property of the said James E Bourne in the possession of the British Enemy Bill was armed with a sword and Doreay was washing their clothing and he the said George Ireland was informed by Bill and Doreay that the other three Negroes above mentioned were on board of the said British fleet and that he the said George Ireland lies at that time at Drum Point near the mouth of Patuxent River where the British fleet then were and that the above named Negroes would have sold for the above stated prices

Young Parran

1 - 500
 1 - 300
 1 - 275
 1 - 250
 1 - 200
 20 ✓

5 slaves - \$1525

Bourne, James E. - Calvert Co. Md.
 14 Aug 1822
 12326

James E

John

Sh of No Calvert County Jc

on this 7th day of Feby 1828

Personally appears Jane Smith before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the state & County aforesaid and made oath on the holy Evangel of almighty God that to her knowledge David & Clarice Watts was the Children of Dorcas Watts and Charlotte Young & Bill Patterson and that all of the said negroes was the property of J. E. Bouvier and that they went off in the summer of 1814 and that the W. Fleet was at that time in Bay and river and that she further saith that she saw the above mentioned negroes sail going from the landing to a British Brig which laid off against J. E. Bouvier landing on the Chesapeake Bay and to her knowledge that the said negroes has never returned.

I sworn to before

Thos. King

Sh of No Calvert County Jc

On this 7th day of Feby 1828 Personally appears John C Johnson before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the state & County aforesaid and made oath on the holy Evangel of almighty God that to his knowledge the following negroes named that is to say Bill Patterson Charlotte Young Dorcas Watts and that David & Clarice Watts was the Children of the above mentioned Dorcas Watts and the said negroes was the property of James E. Bouvier and that they went off to the British in the summer of 1814 and he further saith that he saw the above mentioned negroes sail on his way to a British Brig which laid off against the said Bouvier landing on the Chesapeake Bay and he believed that he went on board of the said Brig & afterwards that they have never returned, sworn before

Thos. King

The affidavits filed in this case, it is supposed sufficiently prove, that the five negroes, whose value the claimant seeks to recover, absconded, were received & taken off by the British & have been totally lost to their owner. The claimant is without direct proof of the time when they were removed - negro Bill, who was at the time 23 years of age, is proved by Ireland, to have been seen by him in arms, on the shore of the Patuxent - from which it may be presumed he had been enlisted among the marines, or soldiers of the line, & consequently employed on the American coast until after the close of the war - negro Dorcas, is proved by the same witness to have been engaged as a domestic servant, washing the cloths of the English, & unless proof to the contrary be produced, may be fairly presumed to have been retained in that employment - at least the burthen of proof is shifted to the English to show that having been so employed, she was subsequently before the close of the war discharged - Upon a careful examination of the list of claims, & of the British list, it will be found - that this negro is the only one named Dorcas for whom a claim is made, & that one & only one of the same name, is on the British list - it is true their ages do not agree, (see Halifax list - page 85 - & list of claims page 10) but the coincidence of name & number is more imposing than the difference in ages, which may be owing to mistake - Dorcas was the mother of David & Clarissa - if the presumptions are strong enough, to fix her stay, on the American coast until after the war, & so to entitle the claimant to a recovery. the Board will also presume that the children were not separated from the mother, & that they also were within ^{the} states & must be paid for - if it be admitted, that the burthen of proof is on the claimant to shew when the negroes were removed, the difficulty of proving that, which from the very nature of existing circumstances, must be out of the knowledge of the claimant, will justify the admission of the slightest circumstances tending to make out the fact - and ^{so} evidence ~~which~~ (if direct proof, or even strong circumstantial evidence, could be reasonably required of the party) would not be entitled to much regard, becomes entitled to much

consideration, the best evidence the nature of the case will admit of, is
all that can be acquired - true it should ^{be} strong enough, to produce a
presumption in favour of the party seeking to recover - & this the
claimant thinks must be the effect of the testimony in relation to Bill
Dorcas & her two children David & Clarissa -

Maulbury
for the Claimant

James E. Moore
Agent & Amarty