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Iron store by lot on Smith's wharf  
Negroes

Bill Johnson Senr  
John Johnson  
Tom Washington  
Bill Johnson Jr  
Lucy Johnson

# Slaveholders

Slaveholders in Maryland used slaves to cultivate wheat and tobacco, or to perform domestic work and skilled labor. Slave owners saw their slaves as property, sources of revenue, status symbols and important investments. They also saw them as dangerous threats who needed to be controlled and kept at bay. Owners feared runaways would encourage other slaves to escape—or rebel. When slaves escaped, masters might punish those who remained.



### CASE STUDY

**Rev. John Ashton**, a Jesuit priest at the White Marsh Church in Prince George's County, lost many slaves who not only ran away, but who also challenged him in court. Two groups of slaves escaped from Ashton at the end of the eighteenth century. The Queen family, a group of twelve, fled in 1795. Three years later, brothers Charles and Patrick Mahoney also ran away. Both groups unsuccessfully sued Ashton for their freedom. Ashton manumitted the Mahoney brothers in 1804, but the Queen family remained in slavery.

**Sixteen Dollars Reward.**  
RAN away from the falsifier, living in Prince-George's county, two mutiaro fellows called CHARLES and PATRICK MAHONEY; they have been away about three weeks; they pretend that they are set free by the verdict of a jury in the last general court, but were ordered by the court to return home till a point of law should be settled relative to their case; this they refuse to do. As they are well known in and about Annapolis and the forest of Prince-George's, where I surmise they must be, I do hereby forewarn all persons harbouring or employing them, and will give any person FIGHT DOLLARS reward for securing either of them in goal.  
JOHN ASHTON.  
January 8, 1798.

**Twelve Pounds Reward.**  
Prince-George's county, May 3, 1795. ABSENTED themselves from my service since twenty years, the following twelve NEGROES, calling themselves QUEENS; Simon, Billy, Jack, Lewis, Hea, Paul, Matthew, and Tom, very black negroes, and Tom, Billy, Nick, and Enoch, of a brown complexion; they are all young, hearty, and well made negroes, and quitted me for no other reason but because they were not set free at the last court. As I have recognized for the said negroes I conceive that I do not forfeit their services, nor lose any share of my authority over them, before trial. I do therefore proffer the above reward to any person who will inform me where the aforesaid negroes may be found, and be actually seized (such person as labourer or employ I likewise forewarn all persons from harbouring or employing the said negroes at their peril, as I am determined to prosecute every such person agreeably to law.  
JOHN ASHTON.

**\$5 Reward,**  
Will be given for the apprehension and delivery in Easton Jail, of negro boy ALFRED, who escaped from my farm in Caroline county on Wednesday the 24th inst. The above reward will be given if he is taken in Talbot or Caroline counties, or \$10 if taken in Dorchester.  
He formerly belonged to Dr. Absalon Thompson—is about 5 feet high, tolerably black—had on when he left a low-crow white hat, white kersey over jacket, pants blue & red, vest not recollected, shoes, cap & hall-pants blue & red, and is believed to be concealed in the neighborhood of Cambridge by his mother, belonging to Dr. Thompson. 31  
RICKSOM WEBB.  
April 27, 1844.



Ashton and Webb challenge the traditional portrait of slave owners. As a clergyman and a free black, respectively, they illustrate that slavery was an institution which sometimes outweighed moral and racial conventions.

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Accum Webb negro 450 acre of land	C48	1800.00
3 beds & furniture		30.00
1 chaise horse		5.00
		5.00
		20.00
		715.00
		160.00
		30.00
		165.00
1 boy & harness		50.00
Notes & judgement		2500.00
1 negro girl Harriet to serve 10y		120.00
Notes & judgement		\$759.00

Smith & Miller  
to 2 Miles of Smith's wharf

Discover more at [www.mdslavery.net](http://www.mdslavery.net)

Sam Anderson	30000
Lewis Martin	30000
Jim Batty	25000
Ephraim Batty	25000
Henry Heath	25000
Bob Williams	12500
Jake Johnson	15000
Sam Batty	15000
Peter Anderson	15000
Bill Williams	15000
Jim Anderson	7500
Matthew Coats	7500
Jim Coats	2000
Peg Fisher	3000
Mary Ashburn	12500
Hett Batty	12000
Lloyd Anderson	10000
Kiz Anderson	10000
Lyd Coats	15000
Beck Spencer	15000
Poll Batty	20000
Maria Batty	5000
Louisa Batty	2000
Susan Anderson	2000
Bett Spencer	2000
Austin	1000