

Charts on
Imported Convicts and Runaways
in
Eighteenth-Century Maryland

Introduction

The charts that are included here, like those that are linked to the manuscript on *Seven Hangmen of Colonial Maryland*, I started in the mid-1960s when I was doing a long manuscript on crimes and punishments in eighteenth-century Maryland. For that manuscript I wanted to know when the defendant in a criminal case was a free person, a servant, or a convict servant, which was not always clear in the record. When a defendant was a slave the record made it obvious.

Since apparently not all of the lists of imported convicts have survived, those charts are incomplete. They are incomplete also because I no doubt missed some of the ads for runaways in the *Maryland Gazette*, *Dunlop's Maryland Gazette*, and the *Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser*. While I was still able to get regularly to the State Archives I did not get to one of the lists of imported convicts, the Anne Arundel County Record of Convicts, 1771-1775, and we thank Dr. Jean Russo, Research Archivist and Associate General Editor of the Archives of Maryland Online, for copying those names onto charts that Beverly could integrate into hers.

Because I did these charts for a specific purpose, not all of the information in the advertisements for runaways and “runaways committed” in the three newspapers was relevant to my purpose, and therefore I did not record it. People who are interested in runaways should also check the chart titled “Runaways Committed” and “Runaways in Irons.”

Sometimes it is difficult to determine whether successive advertisements for the same person refer to one instance of running away or more than one. Even if the wording of successive advertisements is identical the advertisements could refer to two or more instances close together. If a name appears more than once with separate references that are close in time, we have assumed that they are for the same incident and usually have included only the first one. If the advertisements are separated by some time we have assumed that they refer to two separate instances. Of course these decisions are quite arbitrary.

As in the case of our other charts, all of the credit for creating these charts on the computer belongs to Beverly Ann. Since my original charts, in pencil on graph-paper, could not be properly scanned, she has spent many hours formatting them on her computer and typing in the hundreds of entries. She has also spent many hours proof-reading the charts with me, looking up entries in the *Maryland Gazette*, and making corrections.

C. Ashley Ellefson,
with Beverly B. Ellefson
Cortland, NY
11 June 2010