

Transcription

[torn] By His Excellency

Whereas Complaint being made to me by pet[itioner]:

[torn: Ed]mund Jening, of Bruton Parrish in York County that

[torn] the 18th of Sept. last David Ross Servant to the Said

[torn] Jening by Trade of Carpenter being a Lusty Scots-

[torn]man has his Native Tongue in Speaking between Thirty

& fourty years of age Pale faced having been lately Sick

Short brown Hair, a Scar on one Side of his head near

the Temple Run away from his Said master & took with

him a Seed Coloured Frieze Coat & Breeches a Red Cloth w[torn]

coat a pair of worsted Stocking, a yellow-Coloured Velvett cap[torn]

a pair of very large plain Shoes being made for him his

feet being lately Swolled a Dark Couloured Perriwig & a Rugg

& Blankett, Since which he has been taken & examined in

York County & pretends his Name John Hunter, A [seaman?]

or carpenter belonging to the Dublin mercht at H[???

in Rappahanock River & put on shore sick in [torn]

of James River & in probability may have since a [torn]

his cloathe & name & that the said Collo Jening do [torn]

-mise [promise] to give fifty shillings to him or them that sha[torn]

up & bring the said David Ross to him over & above [torn]

Law directs.

These are therefore in his ma[jes]ties Name to will & require you [torn]

Dilligent Search, by way of Hue & Cry after the said Runaway Dav[id torn]

Ross & him having found to Convey from Constable to Constable unt[il

torn]

he be brought to his Said masters house observing what the Law

Reflect & Discuss

Bruton Parish is located in what is now Williamsburg, Virginia. How do you think this record came to be held in the colony of North Carolina?

We don't have a record of why David Ross escaped his indenture. What might have caused him to run?

Frieze: a variety of coarse wool, often of poor quality

What do you notice about this list of stolen items? Why do you think they are included here?

What might the punishment be for indentured servants who run away and are caught?

Hue & Cry: Any person aware of a crime was required to raise a hue and cry "with horn and voice" to create an alarm for the pursuit and capture of the criminal. The person raising the alarm was expected to describe the offender and tell

Indentured Servitude: Petition of Edmund Jening, 1699



Directs & enjoynes & all Sherriffs Constables, Headboroughs, & all persons whatsoever are to be Carefull & Dilligent herein as they sh[torn] answer Contrary at their Perrill, Given under my hand and seal [torn] ^of the Colony^ at James City this [blank] day of [blank] 1699.

ffr: Nicholson

which way he or she had gone. The constable in the adjoining precinct was to take up the chase, and so on, "till the Offender is apprehended, or pursued to the Sea Side" (source: [NCpedia](#)).