

Transcription

North Carolina ss

To the Hon[ourable] John Montgomery Esq[ui]r[e] Chief Justice of the said province and his Assistants.

The humble petition and Complaint of Samuel Scollay.

Sheweth

That a Negroe man slave called Scipio belonging to your pet[itio]n[r] on the first day

of October in the year of Our Lord One thousand seven hundred and forty one, at Bertie

County in the province a[foresai]d ranaway and deserted and absented himself from the service

and Employment of your pet[itio]n[r] his Master, and continued runaway and absent from your

petitioner from the said first day of October one thousand seven hundred and forty one

untill the first day of October one thousand seven hundred and forty two:

That Benjamin Hill of Bertie County in the province a[foresai]d Gentleman during

the whole time a[foresai]d harboured and entertained the said Negroe slave Scipio

knowing the said Negroe man slave to be the property of your pet[itio]n[r] and to have ranaway

and ^wilfully^ deserted and absented himself from the Service and

Employment of your pet[itio]n[r] his

said Master; whereby the said Benjamin by force of the Act of Assembly of

Reflect & Discuss

Scipio, when he “ranaway and deserted and absented himself,” was taking back power from his enslaver. Consider other forms of resistance to enslavement.

Where did Scipio go after his escape? Where might other enslaved people escape to during this time period?

the said pro-
:vince in that case made and provided hath not only incurr'd the penalty of
forty shillings
proclamation money but also five shillings of Like money for every [torn]
hours of [torn]
[torn] af[oresai]d the said Negroe Man slave was absent from your
pet[ititione]r as af[oresai]d; amounting
in the whole to One hundred and eighty four pounds Ten shillings
proclamation money.

Your pet[ititione]r therefore prays that the said Benjamin Hill
may be compelled by the Order, Decree or Judgment of this
Court to pay to your pet[ititione]r the said One hundred & eighty
four pounds Ten shillings proclamation Money according
to the form force and effect of the Act of Assembly in that
case made and provided And that your pet[etitione]r may be
otherwise relieved in the premisses as to your Honours
shall seem meet, and your pet[ititione]r shall ever pray, &c.

Jos: Anderson for pet[ititione]r

For what reasons would the colonial government want to punish white people who helped enslaved people who had run away?

While this document outlines what punishment Benjamin Hill would receive for harboring Scipio (a fine), consider what punishment Scipio might have received when he was returned to Scollay.

It's unclear why Scipio might have run from Scollay to Benjamin Hill, but it's worth noting that [Hill's 1758 will](#) mentions "Scipio & his wife Dinah and their two children Scipio & Nancy." Could this be the same Scipio? Could this help explain why he might escape to another planter?