

# Slavery and Enslaved Persons: Petition of Thomas Pollock, Undated



## Last paragraph only

### Transcription

...

May itt please your Honors

The reasons aboves[ai]d would be no hinderance to my appearing

now before you Butt having foure slaves newly run away and

I believe are joyned to a moletto belonging to Capt[ai]n Goodine

of Virginy who I understand hath lyen aboutt Salmond

[Creek] ther severall month. I most use my indeavors

to have them catched iff possible least they should

gether to a greater head and doe mischiefe on this

shore w[hi]ch I have greatt reasons to suspect: wherefor

my own interest and safty of my family and the peace

of the ~~shore~~ ^place^ being concerned: I hope your honors will

Excuse me att this tyme: For iff I should leave home

att this tyme I doubt more of my negroes might run away

and indanger also his family who is y[ou]r Honors most Humb[le]

Thomas Pollock

### Reflect & Discuss

Pollock's petition displays his anxiety about five escaped enslaved persons, and how they may treat his family. Reflect on this change in the power dynamic.

Salmon Creek: located in present-day Bertie County

The myth of the contented slave was essential to the preservation of chattel slavery. How does this document illustrate a different reality? Do you think Thomas Pollock fears a violent rebellion from the people he enslaves?

Thomas Pollock was a lawyer, planter, and acting governor of North Carolina, 1712-1714. He enslaved 100 people. How might his position affect the court's treatment?

Where might enslaved people escape to during the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, given that slavery was still legal in the northern English colonies?