

### **Exploring Diversity in Pennsylvania History**

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania

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INSTITUTE FOR INS

## Fugitive Slaves and the Underground Railroad in Pennsylvania

**Primary Source** 

# Journal C of Station No. 2 William Still 1852-1857

### Vigilance Committee of Philadelphia, PAS Papers, HSP

#### Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> 1856

Arrived. Robert Brown, new name Thos. Jones, arrived safely from Martinsburg, Va. Robert is about 38 yrs of age, Molato<sup>1</sup>, medium Size, prepossessing in appearance & intelligent. In making his flight he took a horse and sadle<sup>2</sup> with him, and swam the Potomac River on the horse after riding all night. The weather exceedingly inclement and stormy, he left the horse near Messussburg, Pa, and afterwards walked to Harrisburg wearing his feet very sore.

Some time previous to his escape the master of Robert's wife through lust wished to cohabit with Robert w her but not succeeding in his sensuial<sup>3</sup> designs became angry with her; and for spite sold her and her children. They had 4 children the oldest 11 & the youngest 8 mos weeks old.

Robt. escape is attributed to the grief he suffered from the Sale of his family. Robert was the slave of Col. John J. Hautrance of Martinsburg. He was intemperate, and his tempered very passionate. His wife was named Sarah- "She was cruel to all her servants" they could not look live with her. She had to hire servants. A lock of hair of each member of his family he brought with him.

Samuel Garrett, old name Alexander Munson, left Chestertown, Md. He's 18yrs of age Chestnut color, well grown, well formed, intelligent, &c. According to the will of his (owner) he was entitled to his freedom, but the man who had him in hand made a practice of selling those entitled there before they came in to possession of it. Those who were entitled to they free(dom) had been sold to Alabama, without hope of freedom.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> mulatto

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> saddle

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> sensual