

Exploring Diversity in Pennsylvania History

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

Thanksgiving Day Nov. 22/55

Arrived. Ann Maria Whims now Ellen Capson arrived this day from Washington, through the aid of Dr. H.Y. She is about 15 yrs of age, bright molato¹, well grown, smart and good looking. For the last 3 yrs or about that length of time she had been owned by Chas. M. Price, negro trader, of Rockville Md. Mr. P is given considerably to intemperance and great profanity. Buys & sells many slaves in the course of the year. His wife is a cross, peevish² & fretful woman. One little boy, slave, she used to take great pleasure in tourturing³. He was the son of his master, and was owned by him. This was the cause of the Mistress' spite.

Ann Marie had always desired her freedom from childhood, and though not 13, when she was first advised to escape, she received the suggestion with approval and ever after than waited almost daily to hail the chance to flee. Her fr'ds⁴ of course were to aid and make arrangements. For a long time, that she might have no chance to escape, she was kept sleeping in the chamber with her master-mistress indeed was so keep until about 3 weeks before she left.

She left her parents in Washington also 1 Bro. & two sisters. Three of her bros. were sold from their parents, South. Her mother was purchased for \$1000 and one of her sisters for \$1700- for freedom. Before Anna Maria was 13 yrs of age \$700 was offered for her by a fr'd who desired to procure her freedom but the offer was promptly refused as were succeeding ones repeatedly. Consequently the only chance of procuring her freedom depended upon getting her away on the Underground R.R. She was neatly attired in male habiliments⁵, and in that way came all the way from Washington.

¹ mulatto

² irritable

³ torturing

⁴ friends

⁵ clothes

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