

Journal C of Station No. 2

William Still

1852-1857

Vigilance Committee of Philadelphia, PAS Papers, HSP

June 29th 1855

Arrived- (2) Richd Green (new name Wm Smith) & his Bro. Geo. arrived from Baltimore where they had been owned by Geo Chambers. Richd is about 25, his Bro. Geo. 23- both are well made, rather tall, dark chestnut color, intelligent. They were caused to escape because they had been denied the privilege of going to visit their Parents any more.

The master, about 30 yrs ago when living in Cabot Co. released Dina ~~to her husband~~ (the mother of these boys) of all claim, and gave her writings signed & witnessed by his wife's mother, Mary Ann Meed. The masters motives in releasing her was merely to get out of M. of her; Dina being in miserable health with no signs of recovery was a fit subject in the Master's opinion to set free. He was particular to give the paper of release So in case the law should require him to look after her he would be prepared for his defense.

Dinna was then the wife of a Slave by the name of Jacob Green, then owned by Nathan Childs for a term of years only- after the father's time expired, he moved with his wife, Dinna to Baltimore- where her health, in the course of a few yrs. improved, and She become the Mother of another child, boy. The boy grew finely in the hands of its parents, unmolested, until a little over a year ago when her old master got wind of the existence of the child (having himself moved to Baltimore with his slaves) and very slyly to approach the house taking Geo. with him. He was no sooner in before he wished to know of Dinna whose child was this, pointing to the little boy- ask Jacob was the reply of the Mother, the question was then put to the Father, to which he replied: I did not think that you would request any thing like that of him. He had the privilege¹ of any one he pleased in his house- "Where is he from" inquired the master "I have a right to have who I please in my house ~~He is mine~~ replied the Father I am my own man" replied the slave master, "I found out whose it is presently I am going to take it home with me seizing the little fellow, at the same time ordering Dinna to put his clothes on, the father by this time had also seized his son, and told the slave holder to take notice that he was not in the country pulling an hauling people about &c. "I will have him or leave my heart's blood in the house, was the savage answer of the monster- he also threatened to shoot the father. In the midst of the excitement Geo. called in two officers to settle the difficulty. The officers inquired of the slaveholder to know what he was doing there. "I am after my rights, this boy" ans'd² the master. Have you ever seen it inquired the officers. No, said the master. How do you know he belongs to you then? I believe he is mine" said the savage. All were then taken before Alderman³. ~~Before the Alder~~ The father owned the child but the mother did not- the child was then given to its father- the master then thought he would gain some satisfaction at least, then claimed the mother, proceedings being thrown in court nearly 1 year transpired before the trial was concluded. Happily, however, by the mother's having carefully preserved her the release given her, the court pronounced her free, about two mos. since.

¹ answered

² a member of a city legislative body

June 29th 1855

Arrived (2) Rich^d Green & his Bro. ^{new name Wm Smith}
Geo. arrived from Baltimore where
they had been owned by Geo. Chambers.
Rich^d is about 25 - his Bro. Geo. 23 - both
are well made, rather tall, dark Chestnut
Color, intelligent. They were caused
to escape because they had been denied
the privilege of going to visit their Parents
any more.

The Master, about 30 yrs ago
when living in Cabot Co. released Dina ^{the look of her hand} (the
Mother of those boys) of all claim and gave
her writings signed, & attested by his Wife's
Mother, Mary Ann Wood. The Master's
Motives in releasing her however for was
merely to get out of his hands of her; Dina
being in miserable health with no signs of re-
covery was a fit subject in the Master's opinion
to set free. He was particular to give the paper
of release ~~to~~ so in case the Law should require

187
man to look after her but would be prepared
for his defence.

Dinna was then the wife of a slave
by the name of Jacob Green, then owned
by Nathan Childs for a term of years only -
after the Father's term expired, he moved
with his wife, Dinna, to Baltimore -
where her health, in the course of a few
yrs improved, and she became the Mother
of another Child, boy. The boy grew finely
in the hands of its parents, unmolested, until
a little over a year ago when her old Master
got wind of the existence of the Child, knowing
himself moved to Baltimore with his slaves,
and very slyly to approach the house taking
Gov. with him. He was no sooner in before
he wished to know of Dinna whose Child
was this, ~~he~~ pointing to the little boy - ask
Jacob was the reply of the Mother, the
question was then put to the Father,
to which he replied: I did not think
that you would request any thing like
that of him. He had the privilege of

any one be pleased in his house -
"Where is the farm" inquired the Master
"I have a right to have who I please, in my house I
know of ~~no one~~ ~~refused~~ the father -
I am my own man &c: "U replied the
Slave Hunter, I found out whose it is
presently I am going to take it home with
me seizing the little fellow, at the same
time ordering Dinna to put ~~the~~ ^{his} clothes on,
The father by this time had also seized the boy
his son, and told the Slave holder to take
Notice that he was not in the Country
pulling an hauling people about for
"I will have him or leave my heart
blood in the house, was the savage
answer of the Monster - He also threatened
to shoot the father - In the midst of the
excitement you called in two officers
to settle the difficulty - The officers
inquired of the Slaveholder, ^{to know} what he
was doing there - "I am after my rights,
and the he answered this way" and the
Master - Have you ever seen it inquired
the Officer - No said the the Master - How

do you know he belongs to you, then?
I believe he is mine" since the passage.
All thought were then taken before the Alder-
=man. ~~Before the Alder~~ The Father owned
The Child but the Mother did not - The
Child was then given to its Father - The
Master then thought he would gain some
satisfaction at least, then claimed the
Mother; proceedings being thrown in court
nearly 1 year transpired before the trial
was concluded. Happily, however, by
the Mother's financing. Carefully preserved
~~through~~ the release given her, the Court
pronounced her free, about two mos.
since