**Document A**

1741 Captain’s Orders to Richard Derby

Original transcription

Richard Derby of Salem was captain of Volant, a ship owned by Salem merchant Benjamin Gerrish. This is an excerpt of a letter (or captain’s orders) Gerrish wrote to Derby in 1741. Gerrish gave Derby instructions for where and how to trade Volant's cargo in the West Indies, and included a request that Derby purchase an enslaved child.

Capt Richard Derby

Our schooner Volant whereof you are

Master being fully laden if you having all things on board

necessary for your Voyage, Our Orders are that you embrace the

first fair wind and weather and come to Sail and proceed for the Is-

land of Barbadoes, where when you arrive (if you think proper

to go in) apply to Mr. Gedney Clark Mercht there, to see if he

according to our Letters to him thh Capt: Orne, has procured a

permitt in Order to your going to any one of the French Islands

to trade, but if he has not affected it, and it is not in his power

to procure a permitt, then make application to any person upon

the Island you may be advised to either for a permitt or Letters

of Recommendation to some person of Distinction at any one of the

French Islands, insuring our Interests there ~~whilst amongst~~

either the whole or in part, whilst among the French, if you can

do it at what you judge a reasonable Rate; but if after

all you can gett neither a permitt not Letter without selling

your Cargo at a very low rate, and no French war, or in Case

you think it not proper to truck at Barbadoes, then proceed di-

rectly for Martinico or Guadalupe and use the Most prudent

methods you can to Trade; and don’t let your people trade

for any trifle which may bring you under any Difficulty;

and before you leave the Islands, secure a permitt for coming again

and also bring a Memorandum of what will better suit the Markett

than what we now send: but if so unlucky at last as not to

trade with the French, then proceed for the English Islands, and use

your best Endeavors both in the Sale of your Cargo, and Security

of your Vessel against the Hurricanes; unless you can get se-

curity at St. Eustatia or St. Martin’s to go up among the French

or to Cape Francios: Wherever you trade lay out the produce

of your Cargo in such things as you judge will be most to our

Advantage; if you are obliged to trade among the English, we imagine…

*Note written on the side:*

Capt. Derby If you Trade at Barbadoes

buy me a Negroe boy about Seventeen years

old which if you do advise Mr. G Clarke of it he may

not send one also\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Benj Gerrish jr

**Document A**

## A letter written in cursive with ink on yellowed paper.

## **Source**

Derby Family Papers, MSS 37, Box 6, Folder 6  
Courtesy of The Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Mass.

**Document B**

Account of Sales of Schooner *Pembroke*

# Original transcription

Pembroke was a trading vessel (ship) owned by Richard Derby of Salem. In 1764 Pembroke traveled to the island of Dominica in the West Indies. This is a record of items from New England (listed on the left) sold or exchanged in Dominica. Pembroke returned to Salem with items from Dominica (listed on the right).

#### ***Left side***

Account of Sales of the Schooner

Pembrock Cargo at Dominico

February thru ag 1764

£ ſ d

By 348 2x & 1/2 of fish at 18/??? 313 .. 13 .. 0

By 9 feat of Boards at 80/?? 36 .. 00 .. 0

By 11 Barrels of Elvives at 24/pr B 13 .. 14 .. 0

By one Barrel of Cod fish at 24/ 1 .. 4 .. 0

By 11 horsses at 20 pound Each 220 .. 0 .. 0

ſ d

By 7 frames at £8 .. 11 .. 5 pr frame 60 .. 0 .. 0

By one thousand of hoops at 60/pr 3 .. 0 .. 0

By 24 Tearses of Rice at 80/pr Pair 96 .. 00 .. 0

By 3 Empty Tearces at 12/pr Pair 1 .. 16 .. 0

By 2 Small Spares at 6/pr Spar .. .. 12 .. 0

£ 745 .. 19 .. .. 0

Errors Excepted

Henry Elkins

**Document B**

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#### ***Left side***

Account of the Schooner Pembrock

Cargo from Dominico April 27 – 1764

Errors Excepted

Henry Elkins

~~cwt~~ £ ſ d

To 4 h-d of Sugar Neat 4726 at 33/9pr 79 .. 16 .. 0

To 90 h-d & ½ of molasses at 96/pr h-d 472 .. 16 .. 0

or 96 h-d And 11 Tearses which is 10/14

~~cwt~~

To one h-d of Coffey Neat 614 at 9d pr 24 .. 7 .. 0

To Comn on Saales at 5 persent 37 .. 4 .. 0

To Comn of Returnes at 21/2 percent 17 .. 13 .. 0

To the Bill of Disburst ments 114 .. 2 .. 10

£ 745 .. 18 .. .. 10

To 1 h h-d [illegible] at 30/pr h-d

Errors Excepted

Henry Elkins

**Document B**



## **Source**

Derby Family Papers, MSS 37, Box 6, Folder 6  
Courtesy of The Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Mass

**Supplemental Primary Source Documents**

**Document C**

A Negro Man Named Jack, Born in Martinique

Original

This “runaway” advertisement was printed in the September 25, 1770 issue of “The Essex Gazette,” a Salem newspaper owned by colonist, Samuel Hall. Advertisements for “runaway” enslaved people and people “for sale” were common and an important source of revenue for newspaper printers.

Runaway from the

Subscriber, on the 17th Inst.

at Night, a Negro Man, nam-

ed Jack, about 6 Feet high,

near 50 Years of Age, speaks

bad English, and born in Mar-

tinico; had on when he went

away, a blue Coat with Mohair Buttons,

a black Jacket with black Glass Buttons,

blue Breeches with white metal Buttons,

and a red ?????? Cap, but may have

changed his Cloaths, as he had more at Be-

verly. – Whoever shall take up said Ne

-gro, and deliver him to Mr. Brown, De-

puty-Sheriff, in Salem, shall have Two

Dollars Reward, and all necessary Charges

paid them.

All Masters of Vessels, and others, are

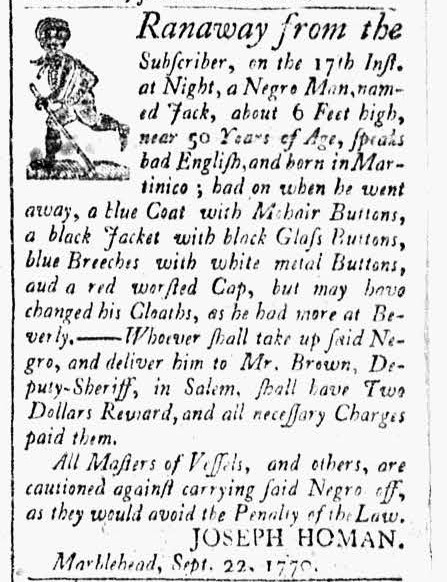
cautioned against carrying said Negro off,

as they would avoid the Penalty of the Law.

JOSEPH HOMAN.

Marblehead, Sept. 22, 1770.

**Document C**



## **Image Source**

“The Essex Gazette”, September 25, 1770. Vol. II, No. 113. Courtesy of Readex: America’s Historical Newspapers. Early American Newspapers, Series 1: From Colonies to Nation.

**Document C**



## **Image Source**

“The Essex Gazette”, September 25, 1770. Vol. II, No. 113. Courtesy of Readex: America’s Historical Newspapers. Early American Newspapers, Series 1: From Colonies to Nation.

**Document D**

Choice Jamaica Sugar & Rum

Original Transcription

Richard Derby Jr. was the son of Salem merchant and ship captain Richard Derby. Like his father, he was a merchant who bought, sold, and traded goods produced on slave plantations in the West Indies. He placed this advertisement in the Salem newspaper, “The Essex Gazette” on October 17, 1769. Underneath appeared a “for sale” advertisement for a teenage boy. He appears to have been trained in woodwork (making barrels) and experienced in field and garden labor.

Just imported, and to be SOLD, by

Richard Derby, jun.

Choice Jamaica SUGAR, RUM,

ALSPICE, GINGER, and Coffee.

To be SOLD,

A Likely Negro LAD, about

eighteen or nineteen Years of Age, works

well at the Cooper’s Trade, and understands work-

ing in the Field or Garden. ---Enquire of the

Printer.

## Clipping of two advertisements from an 18th century newspaper. Black typed text on yellowed paper.

## **Image Source:**

“The Essex Gazette”, October 17, 1769. Vol. II, No. 64. Museum of Printing, Haverhill, MA. NPS Photo.

**Document D**



## **Image Source**

“The Essex Gazette”, October 17, 1769. Vol. II, No. 64. Museum of Printing, Haverhill, MA. NPS Photo.

**Document E**

Map of the West Indies

This 1715 map of the West Indies identifies French, Dutch, Spanish, and English colonies.

**Image Source**

Moll, Herman, 1732, and Thomas Bowles. A map of the West-Indies or the islands of America in the North Sea; with ye adjacent countries; explaining sic what belongs to Spain, England, France, Holland, &c. also ye trade winds, and ye several tracts made by ye galeons and flota from place to place. [London Printed for Tho. Bowles, 1715] Map. <https://www.loc.gov/item/gm71005442/>

**Document E**



**Document F**

Cutting Sugarcane

This image is from the 1823 book, “Ten Views in the island of Antigua : in which are represented the process of sugar making, and the employment of the Negroes, in the field, boiling-house and distillery.” This image shows enslaved people (adults, children, and elderly people) cutting and binding sugarcane. Sugarcane, about 9 feet tall, was harvested with sharp, curved knives. Even young children work to bind sugarcane during harvest time. The hierarchy of the plantation is illustrated by the white man looking down from his horse to speak with a Black man, possibly an enslaved overseer, who has removed his hat.

Important note: the purpose of the “Ten Views in the island of Antigua” book and its images was to gain support for slave plantations in the West Indies. Enslaved people were likely not clothed as well as the appear in this image.

**Image Source**

Clark, W. A. V. (William A. V.), Ten views in the island of Antigua : in which are represented the process of sugar making, and the employment of the Negroes, in the field, boiling-house and distillery/ Ten Views in the Island of Antigua, [London], Thomas Clay, 1823, hand-colored aquatint, Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection, [London] : Published by Thomas Clay, Ludgate-Hill, London, 1823.

**Document F**

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