

Edward Marriott (Merritt)

People of London Town, Maryland¹

Edward Marriott was one of the many thousands of convict servants who came to Maryland, Virginia, and other parts of America during the colonial period. Like many of those convict servants his historical record is brief. And like many of those who shared his fate, he ran away.

It is from two advertisements placed in the *Maryland Gazette*, the first one in the 4 November 1756 edition and the second one in the 10 March 1757 edition, that we know of his existence (each advertisement was repeated a few more times after these initial dates). As can be seen in the advertisements below, Marriott had training as a joiner (a carpenter who focuses on doors, window sashes, and other permanent house woodwork). This makes sense because William Brown, Marriott's master, was a carpenter involved with joinery work, house building, and furniture making.

As the existence of the second advertisement indicates, Marriott was captured the first time he ran away. But it is unclear if he was captured the second time he ran away. There seems to be no record of when he joined the Brown household, whether or not he was to serve 7 or 14 years, or for what his crime was.

Expences. *W. Brown*
November 3, 1756.
RAN away on the second Instant, from the Subscriber, living at *London-Town*, an English Convict Servant Man, named *Edward Merritt*, by Trade a Joiner, about 45 Years of Age, and Five Feet 2 or 3 Inches high, has a big Belly and talks as if he was Hoarse, is much pitted with the Small Pox with very large Marks. He had on an old brown Coat with a Cape and several Patches to it, a Cloth Jacket with Silver bound Button Holes much worn, or a white *Ruffia* Drab Jacket without Sleeves, a pair of old blue Breeches, coarse Yarn Stockings newly Footed, or a pair of black ditto much worn, old Shoes, and a Felt Hat.
Whoever takes up the said Runaway, and secures him, so that he may be had again, shall have a Pistole Reward, beside what the Law allows; or if brought home, the same Reward and reasonable Charges, paid by **WILLIAM BROWN.**

Maryland Gazette, 4 November 1756, page 3.

RAN away on the 6th of this Instant *March*, from the Subscriber, living at *London-Town*, a Convict Servant Man, named *Edward Merritt*, by Trade a Joyner, he is about 5 Feet 4 Inches high, much pitted with the Small-Pox, has a hoarse Way of Speaking, he is a well-set Fellow, has a very full red Face, like one that drinks hard, he is about 50 Years of Age, and has short black curl'd Hair. Had on when he went away, a blue Fearnought Jacket, much worn, another light colour'd Jacket lined with red, a Pair of grey Half-thick Breeches, light Yarn ribb'd Stockings, much darned, Country-made Shoes, an Osnabrigs Shirt, and an old Worsted Cap.
Whoever takes up the said Servant, and delivers him to the Subscriber, shall receive Twenty Shillings Reward, beside what the Law allows, and reasonable Charges. **WILLIAM BROWN.**

Maryland Gazette, 10 March 1757, page 3.

¹ As the research into colonial London Town's inhabitants is an ongoing process, the caveat is offered that additional information may be found at any time and that a correction of information might also occur at any time.