

## Mary Jones

### *People of London Town, Maryland\**

Mary Jones, like many of Maryland's convict servants, is only fleetingly found in the records because of her misdeeds. The records indicate that she was part of William Brown's household for at least two years prior to 1762. As part of his household, and as a female convict servant, Jones most likely worked in William Brown's tavern. Because the 1776 census for the Brown household only lists one white female (most likely Brown's wife), it can be deduced that sometime between November 1762 and 1776 Jones left the Brown household.

The reason we know about Mary Jones is because at that November 1762 court session, William Brown brought her to court for having two bastard children and wanted her to serve extra time to make up for the care of the children as well as the service time lost while Jones was pregnant. As the court case states (see below), Jones does not say who the eldest child's father was. However, the father of the second child was William Logan, a convict servant for Andrew Buchanan. Because of the costs involved with the children and their care, Mary Jones is ordered to serve Brown for an additional three extra years. If she could somehow pay Brown six pounds (most likely current money of Maryland), then she would only have to serve two of those years. The court case also infers that by the time it was brought to trial, Andrew Buchanan had started caring for the younger (unnamed) child.

As for the elder child, a court case during the same session, just one page earlier, indicates that this was a girl named Elizabeth. For some reason, John Rousby had agreed to take care of the child so that the county would not have to worry about it. To hold him to that agreement, the government (under Lord Baltimore's name) held Rousby to a bond whereby he agreed to pay the government 40 "pounds current money" if he did not take care of the child. There is no reason given as to why Rousby decided to care for Elizabeth.

#### "Lord Proprietor against John Rousby

John Rousby here in Court in his Proper person acknowledges himself indebted unto... the Lord Proprietor in the sum of Forty pounds current money to be levied of his body, lands, and chattels to the use of his said Lordship... in case the said John Rousby shall not save the County of Ann Arundel harmless and keep it indemnified from the maintenance of Elizabeth Jones, the bastard child of Mary Jones."<sup>1</sup>

"William Brown produces to the court Mary Jones accusing her of having had two Bastard children, the court thereupon adjudges her to be fined 4.10 [4 shillings & 10 pence] & three pounds [current money?] for one child whose Father can't be proved (she being a convict) & 1.10 for the other she having sworn it to William Logan a convict servant man belonging to Andrew Buchanan & the same is thereupon paid the sheriff of Ann Arundel County the said Brown therefore prays judgment of his servant for loss of time of his House's expenses attending

---

<sup>1</sup> Maryland State Archives, *Anne Arundel County Court Judgment Record*, November Court 1762, Liber IMB1, Folio 603.

her delivery of said Children. The Court therefore further adjudges her to serve two years for the same, also prays judgment against her for the maintenance of the oldest bastard child while security was given to indemnify the county from its maintenance. The Court still further adjudges her to pay six pounds [current money?] or serve twelve months for the time he kept it before the Father took charge of it.

Test. Jn. Brice, Clrk.”<sup>2</sup>

---

\* 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.

---

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Folio 604.