

## Philip Williams

### *People of London Town, Maryland<sup>i</sup>*

Only two references to the indentured servant Philips Williams are known to exist. The first is a newspaper advertisement taken out by William Brown. A joiner by trade, William Brown owned the brick tavern that is now the only surviving building of London Town: The William Brown House. He also operated a carpenter's shop in London Town, manned primarily by convict and indentured servants, based on the runaway advertisements he posted regularly.

*London Town, June 14, 1753.*

**R**AN away from the Subscribers, on Tuesday Morning last, the two following Servant Men, viz.

*Philip Williams, an Indented Servant, a Cabinet and Chaismaker by Trade; about 5 Feet 5 Inches high, much pitted with the Small Pox, very dark Complexion, black Eyes, his under Lip on the left Side of his Mouth very thick, which somewhat hinders his Speech: He had on an old Hat and grey Wig, a German Serge Coat much spotted with Tar, a brown Linnen Jacket and Breeches, new Pumps, new Thread Stockings, and a very good white Shirt.*

*Henry Gibbons, a Carpenter, about the same Height with Williams, floops much forward in his Walking, looks mild, and seldom speaks without smiling; one Toe of his left Foot lies over the others: He had on a new Osabrige Jacket, Shirt, and Trowsers (the Jacket without Buttons), a new Felt Hat, an old Silk Cap, and old Shoes.*

Whoever takes up the said Runaways, or either of them, and secures them so as their Masters may have them again, shall have a PISTOLE Reward for each, besides what the Law allows.

*William Brown,  
James Disney.*

*N. B. It is supposed they are gone towards the Eastern Shore, having taken a Schooner Boat, belongg to William Chiffen.*

*Maryland Gazette, June 14, 1753 page 3*

Philip Williams, a furniture maker, escaped with Henry Gibbons by stealing a schooner from the nearby shipwright Willam Chiffen on the morning of June 12, 1753. While Brown “supposed they are gone towards the Eastern Shore,” it is unknown what their precise route of escape was. We do know that they were captured.

The August Court of 1756 heard “William Brown sworn to his account against his servant Philip Williams.” As punishment for his absence, Williams was ordered to serve an additional fifty seven weeks and six days past the previous end of his indenture.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>i</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.

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<sup>1</sup> Anne Arundel County Court Judgement Record, August Court 1756, Folio 705-06.