

Plato
People of London Town, Maryland¹

Enslavers often gave classical names to the people they enslaved. Gassaway Rawlings enslaved Plato, named for the ancient philosopher. Plato was a woodworker and ran away on Christmas Eve in 1782.

RAN away from the subscriber, living in Anne-
Arundel county, near South river ferry, on the
24th of December 1782, a likely dark mulatto negro
man named **PLATO**, 24 years of age, about 5 feet
8 or 10 inches high, he is a good carpenter, cooper,
and sawyer by trade, he is a little near kneed; had on
when he went away, a crocus shirt, white country cloth
jacket and breeches, coarse yarn stockings, a coarse pair
of shoes, with four soles to each, and a straw hat, he
carried with him several other cloaths, it is supposed
that he will try to pass for a freeman. Whoever takes
up said negro, dead or alive, and brings him home, or se-
cures him so that I may get him again, shall be entitled
to receive twenty Spanish dollars for their trouble.
2 6 w **GASSAWAY RAWLINGS.**

Maryland Gazette, January 30, 1782, page 2

It is unknown if Gassaway Rawlings recaptured Plato. The Revolutionary War was still on, and so Plato may have been trying to escape to the British, who promised freedom to any enslaved person who took up arms on their behalf.

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.