

Peter Tonger
*People of London Town, Maryland**

Peter Tonger's relationship to London Town is due to his servitude to Edward Rumney between at least August 1712 and March 1715. There are only two known references to Tonger at this time. His fate after March 1715 is currently unknown.

Peter Tonger first appears in the records during the August 1712 session of the Anne Arundel County Court. He appeared before the court because he had come "into the county without indenture" and as a minor his age needed to be determined by the court so that a proper term of service in the Rumney household could be set.¹ The court "adjudged [him] to be sixteen years of age."² As an indentured servant in the Rumney household at that time, Tonger most likely helped with the ferry service and ordinary operated by Edward Rumney.

The second (and last known) time Peter Tonger appears in the records is during the March 1715 session of the county court. In this instance, an accounting of Tonger's various times that he ran away is entered into the court record. As the record makes clear, Tonger had ran away for a total of 72 days during the years 1712, 1713, and 1714 (see below). The common practice in Maryland at that time was to make the runaway serve 10 extra days for every day absent. In this particular instance though, Tonger is ordered to only serve an extra 72 days. The matter is further complicated by the fact that by March 1715, Rumney had sold Tonger's term of service to Elizabeth [Eillicott?]. This meant that though Tonger had run away while in Rumney's service, Tonger's extra service would occur during Elizabeth's ownership [at this time, it is unclear as to where Elizabeth lived].

"An a Count of Peter Tonger, Runaway	
In the year 1712, 17 days at 10 for one is - - - -	070
In the year 1713, 29 days at ditto - - - -	290
In the year 1714, <u>36</u> days at ditto - - - -	<u>360</u>
72	720" ³

* 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.

¹ Maryland State Archives (MSA), *Anne Arundel County Court Judgment Record (AACCCR)*, August Court 1712, Liber TB3, Folio 1.

² *Ibid.*

³ MSA, AACCCR, March Court 1715, Liber VD1, Folio 32.