

## Sall

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

Sall was one of the many enslaved Africans in the colonial Chesapeake. Records indicate that Sall lived in the South River/London Town area from at least December 1760 through at least the 1776 census as part of William Brown's household. During that time she most likely assisted with the operation of the inn and tavern owned by Brown. Sall also saw the construction of Brown's large brick house and if Sall was the main cook for the household and tavern, then she probably slept in the corner room with a fireplace next to the kitchen in the building's cellar.

As to when Sall specifically joined the Brown household, there is a transaction recorded on 11 December 1760, in the land records indicating that William Brown purchased Sall from Thomas Tilley for "fifteen pounds current money [of Maryland]...." The transaction also indicates that Sall was a daughter of one of Tilley's other slaves, Sue.<sup>1</sup> This piece of information seems to show that Sall was what the colonial Marylanders called a "Country-born slave" (one born in the Chesapeake). If so, Sall was considered a relatively safe investment by Brown because she was already habituated to the local environment and as such would probably not get sick as much.

The large, brick (expensive) house that Brown built seemed to have diminished his financial resources and so he turned to a local merchant, James Dick, in 1764 for assistance. In return for over £500 from Dick, Brown offered as mortgage security his town lands, the buildings on them, as well as a variety of household items. Sall, along with three other enslaved Africans, Osborn, Sampson, and Harry, are listed some of those household goods.<sup>2</sup>

If Sall was fifteen by the time the 1765 local levies (taxables) were taken in All Hallows Parish by the sheriff, then she is one of the 7 "livies" (levies) recorded for the Brown household. As such, Brown owed 80 pounds of tobacco to the government for her.<sup>3</sup>

When the 1776 Maryland census occurred, the Brown household still had 7 taxables with only one of them being a black female.<sup>4</sup> As long as Brown had not sold Sall or she had died, then this sole black female should be her.

In 1785, to further help him with his ongoing financial troubles, William Brown lined up another creditor, Allen Quynn. As security for this arrangement Brown also offered a variety of household goods to Quynn in case Brown did not (or could not) pay back the money lent to him. In this list of items, there are no enslaved Africans. This seems to indicate that Brown, by this point, could no longer afford slaves.<sup>5</sup> There is no good record telling us when Sall left the Brown household.

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\* 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> Maryland State Archives (MSA), *Anne Arundel County Land Records*, Liber BB2, Folio 405, 11 December 1760

<sup>2</sup> MSA, *Chancery Court Records*, 29 September 1764, Liber 16, Folio 233

<sup>3</sup> MSA, *Galloway, Maxcy, and Markoe Papers, St. Ann's Parish Tax List*, Library of Congress Manuscript Division, Vol. II, page 71, 1765; also located on microfilm M 1171

<sup>4</sup> Bettie Stirling Carothers, *1776 Census of Maryland*, 1970

<sup>5</sup> MSA, *General Court of the Western Shore, Land Records 1786-1788*, Liber TBH2, Folio 645