

James Hutchins
*People of London Town, Maryland**

James Hutchins was an indentured servant in the Rumney household from at least 14 October 1703 through August 1706 when he was released from service by the Anne Arundel County Court. During his time with Edward Rumney, Hutchins practiced woodworking and ship carpentry skills. Since the references to Hutchins do not seem to indicate that he was an orphan or minor in need of guardianship, it seems likely that Hutchins was born in England and came to Maryland as an indentured servant. It is unknown when Hutchins arrived in Anne Arundel County or what happened to him after his time with Rumney ended.

Hutchins first appears in the records during the January 1704 court session when the Anne Arundel County justices reference an October 1703 agreement between Anne Jeffries and Edward Rumney concerning Hutchins' term of service as an indenture. The record indicates that Hutchins had been a servant to William Jeffries before becoming Rumney's servant. Rumney acquired Hutchins' service because William had died and Ann most likely could not provide for Hutchin's wellbeing. As part of the agreement, Anne delivered "to the said James Hutchins one cloth coat and plus his breeches" and Hutchins was supposed to work with Matthew Mordecai, another ship carpenter, until his term of service ended.¹

When Hutchins next appears in the records, it is because Rumney has kept him past his agreed-upon term of service and so Hutchins had to go before the county court to receive his freedom. This petition occurred at the August 1706 session. Though Rumney argued that the extra time was because Hutchins had ran away and thus needed to serve extra time to make up for his absence, the court sided with Hutchins. As part of Hutchins' freedom dues, Rumney promised to give Hutchins "some wearing apparel" as well as the carpenters tools promised as part of the 1703 agreement.²

Though Hutchins, while with the Rumney household from 1703 - 1706, did not technically live in London Town proper, Rumney's plantation on the north side of the South River, coupled with Rumney's later interest in London Town, means that Hutchins was most definitely in the area and could have visited London Town from time to time.

* 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)*, January Court 1704, Liber G, Folio 281-2.

² MSA, *AACCCR*, August Court 1706, Liber TB1, Folio 355.