

“Woman” *People of London Town, Maryland*¹

The slave ship *Margaret* arrived in London Town from Annapolis after a voyage to Sierra Leone in 1718. The wealthy planter James Carroll, who funded the slaving expedition, paid enough for every man, woman, and child present for the sale to drink six ounces of rum.² Anticipating that the crowd could get rowdy, Carroll also paid for the constable Neale Clark, brother to the pirate Richard Clark,³ to act as muscle to keep the customers under control.

Frightened enslaved people were likely lined up in chains, open for all to inspect. As the potential customers showed interest in an African captive, Charles M. Flanagan argues, Mungo Roy would step up and pitch each human being as an object worth their money. Then he would seal the deal and collect the fee.⁴

As Sean M. Kelley illustrated in *Voyage of the Slave Ship Hare*, American Africans could be used to comfort recently arrived enslaved Africans. Speaking their language and familiar with their customs, these Americanized Africans could reassure the new arrivals that they would not be killed, and that they were destined for labor, rather than death. They could also prepare them for the terrifying slave sales that were soon to come. Such relationships could reduce suicide among the new arrivals.⁵ This may have been the role of [Mungo Roy](#).

Roy could not control all the recently enslaved Africans. Those sold in London Town off the *Margaret* were “refuse slaves” who were not sold in Annapolis. Among these undesirables was an unnamed “woman” whose condition was only listed as “Maugre.” She was “ill willed” or “spiteful.”⁶ Perhaps this woman was particularly vehement in her resistance. Or maybe she was a dangerous organizer, as it was known in the slave trade that women were often the instigators of bloody shipboard revolts.⁷

She was sold into slavery on September 8, 1718 for £20 to a William Ford.⁸ It is unknown what became of her after that.

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.

² Charles M. Flanagan, *The Sweets of Independence: A Reading of the James Carroll Daybook, 1714-1721*, page 236.

³ Colonial Families of Anne Arundel County, MD, The Conant Family, Page 95
<<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=lanaclark&id=I775>>

⁴ Flanagan, *Sweets of Independence*, pages 238-249.

⁵ Sean M. Kelley, *Voyage of the Slave Ship Hare*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016.

⁶ Flanagan, *Sweets of Independence*, page 243.

⁷ Marcus Rediker, *The Slave Ship: A Human History*, New York: Viking, 2007, pages 19-20.

⁸ Flanagan, *Sweets of Independence*, page 243.