

Michael Connoway/Conaway
People of London Town, Maryland¹

Michael Connoway first appears in the historical record as “an Irish Convict Lad” when William Brown announces in the *Maryland Gazette* that Michael ran away on June 9, 1767. Brown said nothing about the crime that got him transported to America, nor about his personality in this advertisement.

June 11, 1767.

RAN away, on the 9th Instant, from the Subscriber, living at London Town, an Irish Convict Lad, named Michael Connoway, wears his own Hair, which is short, has a little Out-breaking on one of his Lips, occasioned by the Fever and Ague: Had on, and took with him, when he went away, an old Bearskin Upper Jacket, with a stripp'd Flannel Under one, a Pair of old Bearskin Breeches, and brown Thread Stockings, a new Pair of English made Pumps, one Check, and one Osnabrig Shirt, and an Osnabrig Wallet.

Whoever takes up or secures the said Servant, so as his Master may have him again, shall have TWENTY SHILLINGS Reward, besides what the Law allows, paid by

3 X WILLIAM BROWN.

Maryland Gazette, June 22, 1767

The next year, Connoway ran again, and Brown recycled the past year's advertisement, but with an additional warning.

London-Town, June 22, 1768.

RAN away last Night, from the Subscriber, a Convict Servant Man, named MICHAEL CONAWAY, an Irishman, and speaks much in that Dialect: He is a little short Fellow, about 5 Feet high, has black curled Hair, and had on, when he went away, a white Fearnought Jacket, with broad white Metal Buttons, a Cotton Under-Jacket, a Pair of Cotton Breeches, much wore and tattered, tho' mended in several Places, an old slouch'd Felt Hat, Osnabrig Shirt, and a Pair of tolerable good Negro Shoes.

Whoever takes up and secures said Servant, shall receive a Reward of TWENTY SHILLINGS; and, if brought home, reasonable Charges, paid by

WILLIAM BROWN.

* * He has with him an old rusty Bayonet, which he pulled out of his Bosom, when a Negro Fellow attempted to bring him home.

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When “a Negro Fellow” (probably an enslaved man) attempted to retrieve Connoway, the Irish convict threatened him with “an old rusty Bayonet.” Whether he escaped to freedom or was recaptured is unknown.

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.