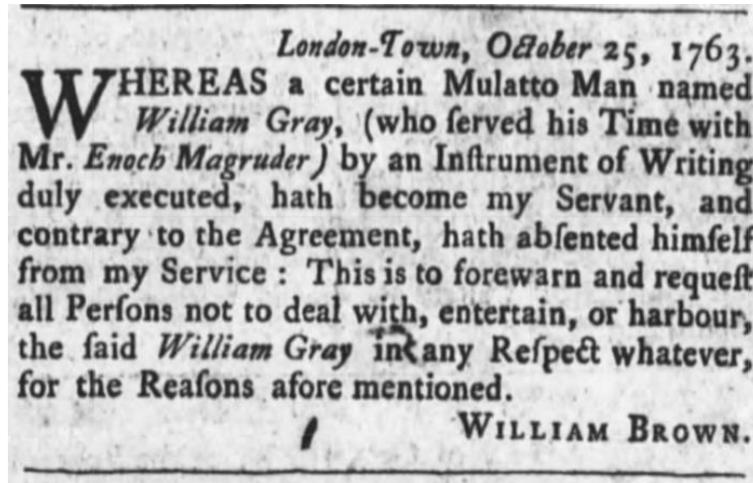


William Gray
*People of London Town, Maryland*ⁱ

Little is known about William Gray, but he is a unique character in the history of London Town.



Maryland Gazette, October 27, 1763 page 3

Described as “Mulatto,” Gray served as an indentured servant. This might make him the only non-enslaved person of color in London Town in his generation. It is unclear precisely what role Gray served in for William Brown. Brown was involved in tavern keeping, running the South River Ferry, and woodworking of all sorts. Runaway advertisements usually state the appearance and trade of the wanted person, but in this case Brown takes pains to make it clear the Gray agreed to work as his servant. It also does not offer a reward for his return, but only encourages others “not to deal with, entertain, or harbour” Gray.

We do know that Gray returned. Whether he was captured or returned of his own will is unclear. Brown brought his wayward servants to court on a regular basis. In 1756, Brown brought his runaway cabinetmaker Philip Williams to court for running away, and secured a sentence of an additional fifty-seven weeks and six days against him.¹ Convict servant Mary Jones gave birth to two children while working for William Brown, and he brought her to court where she was sentenced to serve an additional three years and pay a fine.²

Gray’s punishment, or lack thereof, is not recorded. Though Brown pursues a case against him, it appears that they settled out of court.³

ⁱ 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 Anne Arundel County Court Judgement Record, August Court 1756, Folio 705-06.

² Anne Arundel County Court Record, MSA C91-25, Liber IMB1, November Court 1762, Folio 604

³ Anne Arundel County Court Record, MSA C91-26, March Court 1764, Liber IRB 1