

Robert Pleasants's Letter to Benedict Arnold (Transcription)

January 30, 1781

*Robert Pleasants Letterbook, Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library,
College of William and Mary*

General Arnold

Curles 1 month 30. 1781.

On the 6th Instant while the Army under thy Command were encamped Near 4 mile Creek two of thy Men took a Horse from me which by his gentle good qualities was to a person of my age Very Valuable. I applied personally to Colonel Robinson on that & other Occasions of the like nature, and did propose to have waited on thee, but was told that as Horses were at that time very necessary in the movement of the troops it would answer no purpose to apply before they arrived at the place of embarkation where he might be had; Accordingly the day after that event took place I went to Westover, but could get no tiding of my Horse except from two or three Negroes, who informed me that they Saw him taken onboard one of the Ships, Occasioned perhaps through inadvertency or for want of a Claimant. I had also two Negroes who went away at the same time, the one a Man— called Carter Jack between thirty & forty years of age, and the Other a Boy of about 14 or 15 named London. As to the man, he has behaved in such a Manner as that I care little about him, but the Boy who I have been told was Over persuaded or forced away (perhaps by the said Jack his uncle), I am very desirous to reclaim - If therefore thou will be kind enough to give direction for the said Boy and Horse to be restored to me, it will very much Oblige.

R Pleasants.

PS. Both of my Negroes know the Horse. I expect he is also well known to the Negro man Dick belonging to My Neighbor Ryland Randolph which may render a full description unnecessary he is however a pretty Stout Bay with his two hand feet white, and has a white Spot on the left side of the pole of his neck a little below where the heads [unknown word] of the bridle passes over.

[Both spelling and formatting have been corrected in this transcription to make the document easier to read.]