

**Claim of William A. Somerville**

**Page 1 of 9**

A

Depositions in support  
of the claim of William  
Somerville referred [sic] to  
by agent. in his statement  
to the commissioners

State of Maryland Calvert County to wit  
On this 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 1827 personally ap=  
=peared John Benyon before me the Subscriber a  
Justice of the peace in and for said County and  
made oath on the holy Evangely of Almighty God  
that he was well acquainted with negroes. Peg or Marg=  
=aret – Sewell. Jack or John Sewell. Peter Sewell  
and Suck or Susan the daughter of Margaret  
Sewell. Hezekiah Smith & Nathaniel Smith – all  
of the above named Negroes he knew to be the  
property of Dr William Somervill (Dec'd) and that  
went or were taken away by the British during  
the late war  
Sworn before Young Parran

I hereby certify that the above  
Testimony was sworn to by  
Parslow Benyon before  
me the above date  
Young Parran

State of Maryland Calvert County to wit-  
On this 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 1827 personally appeared  
Emanuel Smith before me the Subscriber a Justice  
of the peace in and for the county aforesaid and made  
oath on the holy Evangely of Almighty God that he  
well knew the following named Negroes the property  
of William Somervill of Calvert County who absconded

**Claim of William A. Somerville, Calvert County, Case No. 146, Case Files. Ca. 1814-28, entry 190,  
Record Group 76, National Archives, College Park. MSA SC 5496-050791**

**Claim of William A. Somerville**  
**Page 1 of 9 – continued**

to the British during the late war viz – Rachel Sewell,  
Clarisy Sewell, Bill or William Sewell and Fanny Sewell,  
Clarisy aged 5 or 6 years. Bill 3 or 4 years and Fanny one  
or two. Bet or Elizabeth who sometimes went by the sur-  
-name of Brooks and her children Charles Frisby  
Anna. Minty (Charles and Frisby sometimes bore the name  
of Watts, Basil Butler, and Farmer. Surname [illegible] unk-  
-nown to the best of his knowledge  
Sworn before Young Parran

**Claim of William A. Somerville**  
**Page 2 of 9**

State of Maryland Calvert County Sc

I hereby certify that Young Parran Esquire before whom  
the within depositions were made and taken and who hath thereto subscribed his name was  
at the time of so doing one of the Justices of the peace of the said State in and for the  
County aforesaid duly Commissioned and Sworn –

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed  
my name and affixed the Seal of Calvert County

Court this seventeenth day of December in the year of  
our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty seven  
William S Morsell Clk of Calvert  
County Court

**Claim of William A. Somerville**

**Page 3 of 9**

Allowed to the duly authorized representatives of William Somerville dec'd – one of the claimants in No. 501 on this docket for four slaves to wit Rachel, Clarisa, Bill & Fanny taken from Virginia \$1,120 – and for four other slaves to wit Nate, John, Peter & Hezekiah taken from Georgia \$1,560 making in the whole \$2,680 – and allowed to Wm A Somerville the other Claimant for one slave Basil taken from Georgia \$390 – Taking of all proved, Peg found on Halifax list – the residue of the claim & interest reserved

**Claim of William A. Somerville**

**Page 4 of 9**

Slaves	Dep'ns	
{Somervell Wm. A.	}	Baltimore (Calvert Co. Md)
{for self & father	}	23 Nov. 1821
{Somervell, Wm dec'd	}	rec'd 24 " "

17 Slaves - \$5,020 – (Refers to J.L. Skinner's List left at Dept State)

W.A.S. – Basil – 22 - \$500  
W.L. – [illegible] 16 slaves - \$4520

146

v

FREE

To his excellency  
John Quincy Adams  
Secretary of State  
Washington D.C.

Baltimore Nov 23 – 1821

To his excellency John Q Adams  
Secretary of State  
I have been prevented by  
the absence of Capt'n Briscoe who saw several negroes  
of our family in possession of the English, from sending  
on certificates of their loss, directly after your excellency's  
note to the Governor of Maryland – The negro women and  
children who ran away to the English were never at any  
distance from the shipping, and consequently could not be  
seen by the neighboring inhabitants, but we have every right  
to believe that

**Claim of William A. Somerville, Calvert County, Case No. 146, Case Files. Ca. 1814-28, entry 190, Record Group 76, National Archives, College Park. MSA SC 5496-050791**

**Claim of William A. Somerville**

**Page 4 of 9 – continued**

as their husbands and fathers were in possession of the English, they were also. In a list of slaves on board of British vessels in the Chesapeake, after [the] treaty, taken by John L Skinner Esq, mention [illegible] made of a woman, and as well as was recollected two children the property of Dr Wm Somervell. This list was left in the state department, and to which I now refer – All of our negro men which have been seen were in arms, and as we have understood were attached to a corps of blacks which was raised, and as I understand was at New Orleans. The deponents in this case are of the most respectable inhabitants of Calvert Co Hoping that the reason I have assigned will excuse my delay, and trusting your excellency will see justice done me I conclude by signing myself. Your very humble and Ob't servant –  
Wm A Somervell

**Claim of William A. Somerville**  
**Page 5 of 9**

State of Maryland Calvert County Sc  
I hereby certify that John Willoughby Gentleman  
before whom the within Depositions were taken was at the  
time of so doing a Justice of the peace for the County and State  
aforesaid Duly Commissioned and Sworn.  
In Testimony where I have hereunto  
Subscribed my name and affixed the seal  
of Calvert County Court this 16<sup>th</sup> Day of  
October 1821  
William S Morsell Clk of Calv't County Co

Baltimore Nov. 23d 1821  
I hereby certify, sometime in the summer of  
the year eighteen hundred and fourteen  
that I saw negroes Jack and Peter the proper  
ty of Dr Wm Somervell since deceased and  
negro Basil the property of Wm A Som-  
-ervell in possession of the British, and  
armed. Philip Briscoe

Baltimore County to wit  
On this 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1821 – before me the subscriber, one of the Justices  
of the peace in and for said County, came Philip Briscoe, and made oath  
on the holy evangelly [sic] of Almighty [sic] God, the he is the same Philip Briscoe,  
that has signed the above certificate, that the facts and statements therein  
made are true as therein stated, to the best of his knowledge & belief  
Anthy Mittenberger

State of Maryland Baltimore County Sc  
I hereby certify that Anthony Mittenberger Gentleman  
before whom the annexed deposition of Philip  
Briscoe, was made and who hath thereto subscribed  
his name was at the time of so doing a Justice  
of the peace in and for the County aforesaid  
duly Commissioned and Sworn –  
In testimony whereof I have hereto  
set my hand and affixed the seal  
of my office this twenty third  
day of November Eighteen hundred  
and twenty one –  
Wm Gibson Clk Balt Co'ty Ct

**Claim of William A. Somerville**

**Page 5 of 9 – continued**

Calvert County Maryland Oct 13<sup>th</sup> 1821

Personally appeared before the subscriber a justice of the peace in, and for the county aforesaid Wm A Somervell, and made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, that in the month of July or August anno domini eighteen hundred and fourteen, when the English fleet was laying in the Patuxent river, that negroes Formen aged about fifty two years a labourer, Jack twenty seven a labourer, Peter twenty five a craftsman, Hezekiah eighteen a craftsman, Charles a Labourer eighteen years, Nat waiter fourteen years, Frisby twelve years, and Bill four; Peg about forty six years of age, Bet forty four, Rachael twenty four, Sook fourteen Anna ten, Minte eight, Clarissa seven, & Fanny fourteen months, the property of his father Dr William Somervell since deceased, eloped, and to the best of his knowledge went on board the English fleet and that negro Basil the property of the said Wm A Somervell did also elope about the same time and, and go to the British to the best of his knowledge, and that said negro Basic was aged twenty two years, and a shoe maker by occupation  
John Willoughby



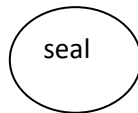


**Claim of William A. Somerville**  
**Page 6 of 9**

Maryland Calvert County Oct 13<sup>th</sup> 1821  
Then came Bennett Sollers before me  
a Justice of the Peace for the county  
aforesaid and made oath on the  
Holy Evangelist of Almighty God  
that some time in the month of  
August eighteen hundred and  
fourteen a number of Doctor Wm  
Somervell's negros [sic] eloped and  
at the time the British fleet was lay=  
=ing in the Patuxent, and about  
the same time one of the same ne=  
-gros [sic] came to his House armed  
in company with the British officers  
and by them protected.  
Sworn to before  
John Willoughby



At the same time came George  
Ireland and solely [sic] declared  
that some time in the summer of 1814  
he saw Hezekiah Peter and Nat  
the property of Doctor Wm Somervell  
in the possession of the British officers  
and at the same time under armes [sic]  
Affirm'd to before  
John Willoughby



**Claim of William A. Somerville**  
**Page 6 of 9 – continued**

Calvert County Md Oct 13<sup>th</sup> 1821


We hereby certify, that living nigh and being acquainted with the negroes of the late Dr. Wm Somervell, to the best of our knowledge believe them to be worth at that time, the following prices, Males,

Negro Formen	aged 52 years	\$150
Jack -	- 27 -	500
Peter -	- 25 -	500
Hezekiah -	- 18 -	500
Charles -	- 18 -	500
Nat -	- 14 -	450
Frisby -	- 12 -	400
Bill -	- 4 -	80
Females		
Peg -	- 46 -	130
Bet -	- 44 -	130
Rachael -	- 24 -	350
Sook -	- 14 -	300
Anna -	- 10 -	200
Minte -	- 8 -	150
Clarissa -	- 7 -	150
Fanny -	14 months	30

Also that negro Basil the property of Wm A Somervell aged twenty two years, was worth five hundred Dollars

\$500

~~Sworn to before~~

	Jn Rawlings	
Sworn to before	Bennett Sollers	
	John Willoughby	
	Slaves	Dept.

In Wm. A. Somervell's of 23 Nov. 1821.

Somervell, Wm. A.	} (Calvert Co. Md.)
For self & father	}
Somervell, Wm. Decd	} (now Baltimore)

**Claim of William A. Somerville, Calvert County, Case No. 146, Case Files. Ca. 1814-28, entry 190, Record Group 76, National Archives, College Park. MSA SC 5496-050791**

**Claim of William A. Somerville**  
**Page 7 of 9**

Prince Frederick Town Paid 12 ½

Dec'r 17

Robert P Dunlop Esqr  
Geotown  
D. Columbia

Calvert County Dec'r 17

Dr Sir

In looking over the printed documents which you furnished by the last mail I recognize as my father's slaves, in the list of colonial marines, Nath'l Smith, John Sewell and Peter Sewell. John and Peter were brothers and sons to the Margaret Sewell whose name you saw in the Halifax list & whose age corresponds with that of Peg. Rachel Sewell, and her three children returned by Mr Bayley, were the wife and children of Peter Sewell. I shall procure proof of the surnames [sic] of these negroes [sic] and forward them to you as speedily as possible. The eight negroes [sic] that I have mentioned, are

**Claim of William A. Somerville**  
**Page 8 of 9**

all that I can see of my father's  
Respectfully  
Rich'a Somervell

**Claim of William A. Somerville, Calvert County, Case No. 146, Case Files. Ca. 1814-28, entry 190,  
Record Group 76, National Archives, College Park. MSA SC 5496-050791**

**Claim of William A. Somerville**  
**Page 9 of 9**

501

William Somerville  
of Calvert County  
Maryland – claim for  
slaves –  
Statement of his agent  
shewing his right to  
compensation  
Robert P Dunlop  
Agent.  
29 Dec 1827

501

---

~~Taking of all proved –~~

---

19<sup>th</sup> May 1828 – allow'd to the  
duly authorized Representatives of  
Wm Somerville Dec'd (for 8 slaves)  
taken from Maryland at \$280  
each - \$2,040 – leaving the residue  
of his claim – Interest reserved

The claim of William Somerville dec'd of Calvert County  
Maryland, is for seventeen slaves –  
The evidence filed shews the loss – and the absconding of  
the slaves & their joining the British forces in the Chesapeake  
Bay during the war.  
Four of these slaves – viz Margaret Sewell and her three  
children Cloris Sewell; William Sewell and Fanny Sewell  
are found on the Tangier list – see printed documents, pages  
104 and 105 –  
Three other slaves, viz John Sewall – Peter Sewall &  
Nath or Nathaniel Smith are found on the list of colonial marines  
on board the Regulus the 14 March 16515 – see page – 55 of the  
documents – for the name of John Sewall – the 4 man from the bottom  
of the page in the right hand column of names. Also see page 56 the

**Claim of William A. Somerville, Calvert County, Case No. 146, Case Files. Ca. 1814-28, entry 190,  
Record Group 76, National Archives, College Park. MSA SC 5496-050791**

**Claim of William A. Somerville**

**Page 9 of 9 – continued**

names of Peter Sewell and Nath's Smith – the left hand column of names – the names of these negroes are also found on page 20 of the document –

One other slave viz Margaret Sewell – aged 60 years is found on the Halifax list – page 96 – John and Peter Sewell were brothers & sons to Margaret Sewell – Rachel Sewell & her three children on the Tangier list are the children & wife of Peter Sewell – see the depositions marked A. & the enclosed letter from R. I Somerville –

The reminder of the claim I presume will be reserved as I have no evidence at this time to shew any difference ~~between~~ from the Maryland claims generally.

Robert P Dunlop.

agent.

29 Dec'r 1827.