

S^t. Kitts Dec^r. 16th 1822.

(Copy)

Dear Sir,

Since my last acknowledging the receipt of your letter and duplicate I have made many enquiries on the Subject of Gen^l. Jefferson's claim to the Negroes the substance of which I have no opportunity in communicating as it throws some little light on the question and as it will nearly if not quite fill my paper. By the original return in the Office of the Registrar of Slaves there are the following names with the Surnames of Jefferson. They are indiscriminately set down together with Lord Romney's as given in by the then and present attorney Mr. Gardin, as the oath which verifies the return is couched in general terms with respect to the property in the Slaves we cannot by any thing that appears in that return form any conjecture whatever Mr. Gardin's Ideas of Lord Romney's property in the Slaves in question. The oath is that the Schedule given in contains a just and true account of the Negroes in the deponents (Mr. Gardin's) possession as attorney to Lord Romney. The following is an extract from the Registrar's book.

Name	Sex	Color	Age	Country	Employment.
Gen ^l Jefferson	Male	black	35	Creole	Head Cooper
And "	"	"	21	"	Field
Potto "	Female	"	55	"	Pick ^g Nut-grass
Edo "	"	"	48	"	with the Infants
Frankley "	"	"	20	"	Field
Hannah "	"	"	38	"	Picking Nut-grass
" - " little	"	"	32	"	" basket Seed
Humay S.	"	"	10	"	Field
Lydice "	"	"	40	"	Superannuated
Minah "	"	"	33	"	Field
Pendak "	"	"	40	"	basket oil boiler
Mary "	"	"	28	"	Picking Peas
Lue "	"	"	25	"	Field
Beck "	"	"	13	"	House Serv ^t !
John "	Male	"	3	"	"
Peggy "	female	"	2	"	"
Rose "	"	"	7	"	"

In the Triennial Return made at the end of the third year from the date of the above only the following alteration by Decrease appears to have taken place -

Name	Sex	Color	Age	Country	Cause of decrease
Peter Seaferson	Female	black	55	breeds	dead
Bob "	"	"	48	"	"
David "	Male	"	35	"	Desertion.

So that it is of some Importance to General Seaferson to establish his right to them and more especially so if it be true as Mr. Spence suspects that the Sir name of Seaferson is frequently dropt in the present Generation which seems probable from the Circumstances that in the Triennial Return none of the children are of that Sir name though there was an Increase by Birth of \$ 45 on that Estate within the 3 years. There is a very considerable difficulty in tracing the genealogy of Negroes, for there is hardly any legal proof of a Negro being the child of any particular Mother but the evidence of the Manager or attorney of the Estate and ^{the} Medical Gentleman that attends the Estate. These three would of course be very backward in giving information. Nothing but the power of a court would compel them to give it unless they had quarrelled with their Employer and this evidence could not be carried back beyond three or four years except there were something peculiar to impress the fact on their recollection. I have procured the evidence of a Mr. Spence which is as follows. I took it down in his presence as he delivered it slowly and deliberately.

Robt Spence Esq^r. His Father Robt Spence lived as manager on Lord Romney's for about 30 years till he died which was in June 1802. Mr. Spence is now upwards of 40 years old. That he was living with his Father as overseer for about 2 yrs between the years 1797 and 1801 that he recollects several Negroes about males & females young & old having the Sir name of Seaferson. That there were Negro houses on the Sands rented by General Seaferson to Lord Romney in which he recollects that the Negroes named Seaferson resided. That his Father always spoke of them as being General Seafersons and he Mr. Spence Jun^r always considered them so. He thought that the reason why the Sands were rented out was because the General had too few Negroes to work them. That there is a water mill now on Gen^r Seafersons Sands and there was a boiling House which was pulled down in 1795. That the Negroes names on the Estate were. He could not recollect the names nor the number, but said he could inform me by reference to some of his Fathers papers which he promised to furnish me with. He has not yet done so. I have written to Mr. Kerie whose Grandfather and Father were attorneys to Lord Romney and he has promised to search among their papers and to give all the information in his power. There are some other Individuals to whom I have been referred whom I have not yet been able to see but I will before the sailing of the packet ^{next} procure all the information I can from them. If there should appear from the above and from what I may collect sufficient evidence to institute an enquiry thro' the Medium of a

Court of Equity I should, no doubt, have that evidence strongly corroborated by
the evidence of others at present too much interested to give voluntary testimony.

To Mr Forbes Esq

I remain Yours Truly
Signed Sidney Stephen.

Dear Sir,

The foregoing is a copy of the Letter which I received from Mr.
Stephen by the last Packet and which I mentioned to you in my Letter on
Saturday. You will observe that he has discovered on searching the Registers
Books that ^{and} several Slaves on Lord Romney's Estate which bear the name of
Leafferson and that he has procured the evidence of a Mr. Spence in the Island
who speaks as to certain Slaves being your Property. I find on referring
to the Papers that the names of several of the Slaves specified above, correspond
with some contained in the body of the List made in 1779 which Mr. Fyrom
remitted to England some time since, and altho Mr. Fyrom may
that all in that List excepting Pender were dead, it is probable that
them may belong to the same Family. I think we might substantiate a claim
to the Slaves in question, but as Mr. Stephen talks of furnishing us with some
further Information before the next Packet it would perhaps be better for us
to wait until we hear from him before we reply to his present Letter.

Yours Truly

Yours very respectful Servant

John Norton Forbes

Edy Man 7 Feb 1823

The foregoing was written on Tuesday
but circumstances having prevented my attending
to business so constantly as usual for the last
few days I have been obliged to delay sending
it - I have just had your Letter of the 4th
Inst - but am unable to write you upon them
this evening

Genl Leafferson.

W Fortes Feb 7 1823

Containing Mr Sidney Stephens
Letter with an account of the
Slaves supposed to be long with
Wingfield Estate dated

Dec 16. 1822

M119g10



Mayr Genl Jeffreys
Cullingham House
Newmarket
Cambridgeshire

