

Clerk's Loose Papers
Prince William County Virginia

Know all men by these presents that we Quinton Ratcliffe and Rowland Gaines of Prince William County in the State of Virginia are held and firmly bound unto James Ewell of Lancaster County and state aforesaid in the full and just sum of thirty pounds current money to be paid unto the said James Ewell his heirs executors administrators or assigns the which payment to be made and done we bind ourselves our heirs executors and administrators firmly by these presents sealed with our seals and dated this thirteenth day of January anno domini one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven.

Whereas the above bound Quinton Ratcliffe hath this day hired of the said James Ewell a negro woman with one child for eight pounds current money and a negro boy named Elijah the son of the aforesaid woman for four pounds like money until next Christmas with the reserve that the said Ewell is to have the privilege of taking the said negroes any time he may choose by deducting at the aforesaid prices each shall fail to serve.

Now the condition of the above obligation is such that if the above bound Quinton Ratcliffe or Rowland Gaines shall we and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said James Ewell his heirs executors administrators or assigns the full and just sum of twelve pounds like money or such part thereof as shall be due in case the negroes shall be withdrawn as aforesaid on or before the twenty fifth day of December ensuing and then return the said negroes well cloathed however as negroes generally are but the said Ratcliffe doth not oblige himself to give either of the negroes cloaths if they are taken out of his possession before this bond becomes due these conditions being punctually complied with the above obligation to be void else to remain in full force and power and virtue in law.

Quinton Ratcliffe (SEAL)

Rowland Gaines (SEAL)

Signed Sealed & Delivered in the presence of
Catherine Ratcliffe

Reverse of document

The said Ratcliffe is to find the negro woman one linen shift & petticoat in the summer & one shift in the fall together with a jacket & petticoat of good & sufficient cloak or cotton & a pair of shoes & stockings sufficient for the winter, the boy to be cloathed in the same manner & the child to have a frock but it is understood that if the negroes are taken away before the proper time for receiving their said cloaths the said Ratcliffe is not to be answerable for a proportion thereof

Witness

Ja Ewell