

Bontly's account of divers Robberies committed by himself and the following Persons in the course of the last nine Years of his life.

1. Mark Powell of ~~Halifax County~~ <sup>near Major Murray</sup> ~~Halifax County~~ about 9 Years ago stole a Mare belonging to George Boyd of Boyd's Ferry Dan River and sold her afterwards to one Julius Dean ~~in Halifax County~~ <sup>in Pennsylvania</sup> — Powell then lived in Halifax County & within ab. 6 Miles of Boyd's.

\* 2. William Stegall and William Daniel (commonly call'd for distinction sake [Joints] both of Halifax County ab. 9 Years ago stole a grey Horse, Bridle and Saddle belonging to ~~in Pennsylvania~~ <sup>in Pennsylvania</sup> which I purchased of them for £53.

† 4. Robert Williamson of Mecklenburg <sup>an overseer</sup> on Butcher's Creek near Major Murray's about 6 Years ago last Summer stole a black Horse ab. 4 or 5 Yrs old the property of Mr. Francis Martin of Halifax Co. — He formerly belonged to Bedford Parrot of of same County. He sold him to me for 20/. — Williamson then lived in Halifax. { Francis Arms of Bunick Richard is a confederate with Williamson and was concern'd with the noted Bushholder.

\* 5. David Vaughan, or Vaughn and

\* 6. Abner Greenwood — The former lives in Brunswick the latter in Amelia — About 5 or 6 Yrs ago they stole a roan Mare (property unknown) about 3 or 4 Yrs old; she was neither docked nor branded.

\* 7. Moses Quarles of Brunswick County a common receiver of stolen Horses — a confederate and near Neighbour of Vaughan's.

\* 8. Peter Thompson of Mecklenburg County, near Wissers Ford <sup>an acquaintance</sup> receiv'd a Horse from William King, knowing him to be stolen — The Horse came from New River.  
This man was Evidence for Bush and was whipped in Manchester.

† 9. John Barrett of the same County receiv'd from King Brother of the above named William a sorrel Stallion the property of one Dwike in Montgomery upon Greasy Creek well knowing him to be stolen. He further charges Peter Thompson with receiv'd 3 stolen Horses from Bushholder, and one from Randolph Bush. — Bushholder and Bush were executed some time ago.



\* 9. Henry Johnson of Mecklenburg <sup>or Lunenburg a Captain in the Militia</sup> is a common receiver of stolen Horses and an old confederate with R Bush from whom he has had many Horses. He one Day took me to the mouth of Mecklenburg and Lunenburg <sup>are acquainted with the Place.</sup> a dog under which he pulled out a parcel of cloth which appeared to be partly dropped in a fulling mill - after a few Minutes told me it came from <sup>one</sup> Craig's Fulling mill in Lunenburg County and that R Bush stole it and sold it to him.

\* 10. Charles Scogg of Montgomery County stole a roan Colt which used to accompany a grey Mare of his own and said it was a May. He drove them both up to the house of one John Dispair's and swapped them for my Horse who was also stolen. John Dispair lives in Montgomery near Scogg and is a common receiver of stolen Horses and an encourager of Horse Thieves - He concealed Buckholder and 3 stolen Horses which he brought with him to his house for some time to prevent his falling into the hands of Justice.

11. William King of Prince Edward County near Burks old Store and

12 + Mordecai Rucker of Amelia inform'd me they went to Sir Peyton Shepworths and stole a sorrel Horse and a bay Mare. I saw them the next Morning with the Horse and Mare in their possession - The <sup>Mare</sup> appeared to have been used to a Wagon and was taken from his Plantation. My Father and myself rode in company with them into Goodland where King parted with the Horse to Squire Dabney (He does not know his christian name) near Anderson's Mill. Mr Rucker delivered the Mare to me, and I sold her soon after to one Elisha (or Elijah) Bigbee an Ale Housekeeper in Dumfries.

13. George Tucker of Mecklenburg and } [Tucker was a Con'ty. Soldier but deserted. He may be at his mother's who is a good liver in Mecklenburg.]  
 14 + Jose Biggs of Brunswick - } Stole a bay Horse Colt from the Plantation of one

Lambert in Brunswick - and Tucker sold it to Elisha Rucker who knew it to be stolen. Joshua Rucker who lives near Chingwispin Church in Amelia is also a receiver of stolen Horses and well acquainted with the gang.

15. \* Charles Knight of Amherst is a notorious receiver of stolen Horses.



Horses and a paper of counterfeit Money knowing it to be so and has paid it to me informing me at the same Time it was bad.

16.\* John Traxer, or Traxior of Prince Edward reced two stolen Horses one of them the property of Thomas Chapman of Dumfries; the other of Smith of Loudoun Co<sup>y</sup>. well knowing them to be stolen.

17.\* ~~Thomas~~ John Willshire of Prince Edward Co<sup>y</sup>. stole a bay Mare and a bay Horse from the Plantation of Thomas Stokes in Prince Edward.

18.\* Edmund Graves of the County of Caroline a noted and dexterous signer of the 60 Dollar Bills — <sup>his father lives near the C<sup>o</sup> House</sup> He was also well skilled in the art of circulating them to advantage.

19.\* David Burton of Cumberland County, <sup>his father lives near</sup> stole a Black Horse from the Plantation of one Hutchinson who lives near Dunwoody Court House and delivered him to my Negro Fellow in my prison &c. He reced Col. Blackburn's Negro Man who was stolen by the direction of W<sup>m</sup> Nugent & Smith now in confinement. and gave me in lieu of him a Negro fellow belonging to W<sup>m</sup>. Harry or Henry Meikins of Cumberland Co<sup>y</sup>.

20. — Joseph Wray, or Ray, travels thro' the County passing counterfeit Money — Issued in his possession more than a hundred 60 Dollars Bills which he signed and circulated. His Father lives near the old Court House in Spotsylvania County, and may be found there.

21.\* William Randall }  
22. John Randall } of the County of Prince William informed  
23. Burr Harris } me where were some shay Beever and  
the Marks and Brands of them desiring  
me to claim them as my property. I did so, and we drove them to W<sup>m</sup> Randall's House where we killed them and divided them equally amongst us. The same 3 Persons in company with one W<sup>m</sup> Brewer of the same Co<sup>y</sup> went to a Barn of one Trushlow's and stole thereout several



several Bags of Wheat. John Randall & Wm Brewer  
now live in a Myary Mountain within 2<sup>1/2</sup> Miles of Little Ordinary. Burr Harris described his family in Prince Wm and now  
lives with his Father near Syde's Ford on Broad River in  
South Carolina. Burr Harris <sup>also</sup> stole a sowd Horse and a Boy  
Haw out of the Pasture at Sawtons Iron Works [I suppose he  
means Taylor's Iron Works] the property of W Robert Sawton.

25.† Samuel Blair of Prince William stole 15 Dollars (Paper)  
from Fran Robinson of the same County.

26.† Drury Hutchinson of Amherst near Jennets Bridge, <sup>Overseer</sup> on a planta-  
tion of Col Meeds - Honner Hutchinson (his Brother) of  
27.† Pinewald - He was Overseer for Charles Knight - Jesse  
28. Briggs of Brunswick and William King before named went  
to a plantation of Col. Tabbs in the Night Time and stole there-  
from a bay pacing Horse with a long mane, and Tail remarkably  
thick, and bushy which Jesse Briggs was to take to Carolina  
in order to trade him away. - He was to pass by the name  
of Speirs on the Journey.

Benjamin Jones has made frequent visits to my House on his  
Journals from Maryland Southwardly. He obtain'd a livelihood some  
time ago by industriously passing Counterfeit Money particularly 100  
Dollar Bills which he said he got from a person in Dinwiddie. He  
belongs to the Chain of Horse Thieves. I believe his chief residence is  
in Maryland.

29\* Frederick Briggs of Brunswick County, and the afore<sup>d</sup>? David  
Vaughan stole a bay Mare about 4 or 5 yrs old from a  
plantation near Miles Ford on Meherrin River. -

30.† Gray Briggs Brother to Frederick & of the same County  
belongs to the Gang and a common receiver of stolen Horses

31.† Robert Bowman of Charlotte County stole a large sowd Horse  
ab<sup>t</sup>: 3 or 4 yrs old from a plantation about 2 Miles from Little  
Roan Oak Bridge.

32. John <sup>Cleveland</sup> ~~Cleff~~ a common circulator of Counterfeit Money and  
a receiver of stolen Horses - He belongs to the Gang. He  
lives with his Mother near Rock Fork Gap.

33\* Selathiel Coffey on Santee River in South Carolina stole a  
white Mare ab<sup>t</sup>: 9 years old and a young Gray - 3 yrs - He  
sent the former to Virginia by the afore<sup>d</sup>? Mark Powell and  
the latter was carried to the Catuba by his Brother Nathan  
34\* or Nathaniel Coffey well knowing her to be stolen.



35\* Samuel Wood, and } Partners, and near Neighbours of the  
36\* John Wood - - - } two Coffey's, and concerned in stealing  
and disposing of Horses stole by others.

These four Persons possess large Tracts of Land, and own  
many Slaves as indeed do several others in this list which  
I will point out at some other Time.

March 12<sup>th</sup> 1782.

The Names with an astorisk before them are Persons of  
Disposity having lands, and Slaves.

Those with a Dagger are Residents, and most of  
them <sup>have</sup> Summaries. — The other Persons are easily  
taken being well known.