

**Documents at the New Jersey State Archives relating to the Van Wickle Slave Ring**

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**INDICTMENTS and PROCESSES (arrest warrants) and RELATED DOCUMENTS** returned against Charles Morgan, Nicholas Van Wickle, James Edgar and Lewis Compton for the following persons, transported on the “**MARY ANN**”, March 10, 1818:

[AUGUSTUS](#), aged about 4 years

*Indictment against Charles Morgan*

*Indictment against Nicholas Van Wickle*

*Process on indictment against Nicholas Van Wickle*

[CLAUS](#), a negro man, servant for years of Lewis Compton

*Indictment against Charles Morgan*

*Indictment against James Edgar (Constable)*

*Memorandum concerning the removal of slaves, with particular reference to CLAUS, enslaved by Lewis Compton, from Perth Amboy, March 10, 1818*

*Record of default on recognizance for two indictments against Lewis Compton in the matters of CLAUS and JOHN*

[DIANA](#), child of Christian, aged about 9 years

*Indictment against Charles Morgan*

*Indictment against Nicholas Van Wickle*

*Process on indictment against Nicholas Van Wickle*

[DIANA](#), child of Sarah, aged about 7 months

*Indictment against Charles Morgan*

*Indictment against Nicholas Van Wickle*

*Process on indictment against Nicholas Van Wickle*

[DORCAS](#), aged about one year

*Indictment against Charles Morgan*

*Indictment against Nicholas Van Wickle*

*Process on indictment against Nicholas Van Wickle*

[HARRIET JANE](#), aged about three years

*Indictment against Charles Morgan*

[HERCULES](#), aged about two years

*Indictment against Charles Morgan*

*Process on indictment against Nicholas Van Wickle*

[MARY](#), aged about two years

*Indictment against Charles Morgan*

*Process on indictment against Nicholas Van Wickle*

[ROZENA](#), aged about six weeks  
*Indictment against Charles Morgan*  
*Indictment against Nicholas Van Wickle*  
*Process on indictment against Nicholas Van Wickle*

[SUSAN](#), aged about seven months  
*Indictment against Charles Morgan*  
*Process on indictment against Nicholas Van Wickle*

**INDICTMENTS, PROCESSES (arrest warrants), and APPEALED INDICTMENTS** (including subpoenas for witnesses) returned against Charles Morgan, Mathew Mentor (Master of the “Thorn”), Elsey Morgan, James Morgan, Peter F. Hendry, Nicholas Van Wickle and Lewis Compton for the following persons, transported on the “**THORN**”, May 25, 1818:

[ANN](#), under the age of twenty-one years, slave for life of Elsey Morgan  
*Indictment against Charles Morgan*  
*Indictment against Mathew Mentor*  
*Appeal on Indictment against Elsey Morgan*  
*Subpoena to John Disbrow and Thomas Dey to give testimony for the State against Elsey Morgan*  
*Subpoena to Jacob Van Wickle, John Brewster and John Young to give testimony for the State against Elsey Morgan*

[CAROLINE](#), under the age of twenty-one years, slave for life of James Morgan  
*Indictment against Charles Morgan*  
*Indictment against Mathew Mentor*  
*Appeal on Indictment against James Morgan*  
*Subpoena to John Disbrow and Thomas Dey to give testimony for the State against James Morgan*  
*Subpoena to Jacob Van Wickle, John Brewster and John Young to give testimony for the State against James Morgan*

[CHARLES](#), aged about two years, servant for years of Nicholas Van Wickle  
*Indictment against Charles Morgan*  
*Indictment against Mathew Mentor*  
*Process on indictment against Nicholas Van Wickle*

[JOE](#), aged about one year, servant for years of person unknown  
*Indictment against Charles Morgan*  
*Indictment against Mathew Mentor*

[JOHN](#), aged about three years, servant for years of Lewis Compton  
*Indictment against Charles Morgan*  
*Indictment against Mathew Mentor*  
*Record of default on recognizance for two indictments against Lewis Compton in the matters of CLAUD and JOHN*

[JOSEPH](#), aged about ten days, servant for years of Charles Morgan  
*Indictment against Charles Morgan*  
*Indictment against Mathew Mentor*

[SAM](#), aged about two years, servant for years of Peter F. Hendry  
*Indictment against Charles Morgan*  
*Indictment against Mathew Mentor*  
*Process on indictment against Peter F. Hendry*  
*Appeal on Indictment against Peter F. Hendry*  
*Subpoena to Jacob Van Wickle, John Brewster and John Young to give testimony for the State against Peter F. Hendry*

[ADDITIONAL PROCESSES](#) on Indictments not specific to one case or incident, or the case is undetermined

*Process on seventeen indictments against CHARLES MORGAN for carrying away negroes*  
*Process on indictment against JAMES BROWN, for selling and sending away an unnamed negro servant*

[DEPOSITION OF JAMES M. ELAIN](#), taken in New Orleans, May 22, 1818, representing the manner negroes were put on board the "Mary Ann"

[INDICTMENTS and DEPOSITIONS](#) concerning the transportation of the following persons into Pennsylvania by Lewis Compton in November 1818

CHARLES QUERMAN and HIS WIFE VIOLET, HARRY, GEORGE, ELIJAH, MARY and PHEBE  
*Indictment against Lewis Compton*  
*Indictment against Gozen Ryerss De Hart for aiding and abetting Lewis Compton*  
*Indictment against Richard Adams for aiding and abetting Lewis Compton*  
*Deposition of Lewis Golden, relating how he transported GEORGE, VIOLET, HARRY and CHARLES from Perth Amboy to the Delaware River*  
*Deposition of William Wayne of Philadelphia, attesting to seeing Lewis Compton at Lebanon, Pennsylvania with SAMUEL, HENRY, CHARLES, GEORGE, ELIJAH, PHEBE, VIOLET and MARY, June 11, 1819*

[ADDITIONAL CASE PAPERS](#) related to William Raborg; Lewis Compton; and James Edgar (Constable)

SUPREME COURT CASE FILE  
*STATE V. WILLIAM RABORG*  
*Attachment for Contempt on a writ of Habeas Corpus from November 1818, to produce JACK, WALTER WILSON, his wife JANE WILSON, and HANNAH, named as slaves.*  
*Relates to a kidnapping contemporary to the Lewis Compton case, November 1818, and was reported in the press of the day.*

## ARREST WARRANTS

*In Nathaniel Manning v. LEWIS COMPTON and Abraham Hunt v. LEWIS COMPTON: Civil suits for \$600 and \$300, March and June terms 1819*

*In the Inhabitants of Perth Amboy v. JAMES EDGAR and David Edgar, civil suit for \$500, June term 1819*

*The civil cases against Lewis Compton and James Edgar are indicative of the precarious financial condition of these two actors in the Van Wickle episode.*

## DEPOSITION

*Deposition of LEWIS COMPTON, relating how Lewis Langstaff enticed or carried away a female slave of Lewis Compton named LOUISE, out of New Jersey into New York, June 12, 1819.*

*This is a document, which I have not been able to learn more about, but it clearly relates to the larger dynamic of transporting persons of color in this period.*

PETITION against transporting negroes, presented October 28, 1818, and related ENROLLED LAWS related to the slaves and the transport of slaves and servants of colour, 1798- 1819

[Petition against transporting negroes](#), presented October 28, 1818

[An Act Respecting Slaves](#), March 14, 1798

[An Act Supplemental to the Act Respecting Slaves](#), December 3, 1804

[An Act Supplemental to the Act entitled An Act Respecting Slaves](#), January 29, 1812

[An Act to prohibit the exportation of slaves or servants of color out of this State](#),  
November 5, 1818

[A Supplement to the act entitled An Act to Prohibit the Exportation of Slaves](#), February 19,  
1819

## SELECTED NEWSPAPER STORIES – found on microfilm at the New Jersey State Archives

[1809. May 2.](#) *Sentinel of Freedom.* Notice. The Overseers of the Poor offering placement for abandoned black children.

[1811. April 9.](#) *Sentinel of Freedom.* Sale of a Negro Boy. The Overseers of the Poor offering placement of abandoned black children.

[1817. July 1.](#) *Sentinel of Freedom.* For Sale, Very Cheap.

[1817. October 20.](#) *True American.* Abolition of Slavery.

[1818. June 1.](#) *Trenton Federalist.* Report on the kidnapers. For Sale... A Black Boy... A Black Girl.

[1818. June 22.](#) *True American*. Kidnapping. Communication. The Traffic in human blood reviving...

[1818. July 23.](#) *The Times and New-Brunswick General Advertiser*. Reports from other states kidnappings. Similar to Van Wickle reporting.

[1818. August 3.](#) *Trenton Federalist*. Letter from “Penn” on the “Mary Ann”. Some short reports on slavery in other states.

[1818. August 6.](#) *Fredonian*. Notice about the “Mary Ann”. An Association. For the purpose of opposing the practice of kidnapping... James Parker, Secretary.

[1818. August 6.](#) *The Times and New-Brunswick General Advertiser*. Report from Elizabeth Town about George Steer, owner of the “Bliss”, Lewis Compton, Lewis Abrams, and others. Report from “Penn” on kidnapping...

[1818. August 13.](#) *The Fredonian*. Letters from Jacob Van Wickle, John Voorhees, et al.

[1818. August 13.](#) *The Times and New-Brunswick General Advertiser*. Report on the meeting of the Association... Letter To the Public... from Charles Morgan.

[1818. August 13.](#) *True American*. Proposal... Concerning Slavery. Kidnapping... from Georgetown, Washington City.

[1818. August 20.](#) *The Times and New-Brunswick General Advertiser*. Response to the letter from Charles Morgan.

[1818. August 27.](#) *The Times and New-Brunswick General Advertiser*. Letters from Richard Stockton and William Deare in response to Charles Morgan.

[1818. September 3.](#) *The Times and New-Brunswick General Advertiser*. Letter to Mr. Wilson from “Humanity” concerning Negro Trading and Kidnapping... Report on sixty three slaves illegally brought to Georgia...

[1818. September 7.](#) *True American*. Proposal... Concerning Slavery... Kidnapping. Letter from Charles Morgan. Letters from Richard Stockton and William Deare.

[1818. September 10.](#) *The Times and New-Brunswick General Advertiser*. The Slave Trade. Thirty Dollars Reward... Runaway. For Sale, A Coloured Man...

[1818. November 12.](#) *The Times and New-Brunswick General Advertiser*. Printing of “An act to prohibit the exportation of slaves or servants of color...” A statement from Mr. Parker.

[1818. December 22.](#) *Report on Colonization Society*. Report of Rayburgh... kidnapping case...

[1818. December 28.](#) *True American*. From Philadelphia... Kidnapping. Trial of Lewis Compton...