

## FREEDOM PROCLAIMED, FREEDOM WITHELD (1739)

Source: The Scots Magazine, Vol. 2, March 1740, pp. 138-139

*Extract of a letter from S. Carolina.*

"The King of Spain, while at peace with G. Britain, having published a proclamation at Augustine, promising protection and freedom to all negro slaves who should resort thither, some negroes belonging to Capts. Davis and Macpherson escaped to them. Those of the last took his horses with them, wounded his son, and killed another man; but one of them was killed and another wounded by the Indians in their flight. They were received there with great honour: one of them had a commission given to him, and a coat faced with velvet. Several Spaniards have been for some time strolling about Carolina, and two of them, who will give no account of themselves, have been committed to goal [sic] in Georgia. Several other negroes having attempted to escape, were taken, and one of them hanged at Charles-Town.

On the 9th September, being Sunday, (which is the day the planters allow them to work for themselves) 20 negroes assembled, and one Jemmy was their Captain. At Stonehow they surprised a warehouse belonging to Mr Hutchinson, killed Mr Robert Bathurst and Mr Gibbs, plunder'd the house, and took a pretty many small arms and powder which were there for sale. Next they plunder'd and burnt Mr Godfrey's house, and killed him, his daughter and son. Going along Pons Pons, the road to Augustine, they passed Mr Wallace's tavern about day-break, and said, they would not hurt him, for he was a good man, and kind to his slaves; but they broke open and plunder'd Mr Lemy's house, and killed him, his wife and child.

They went on towards Mr Rose's, resolving to kill him; but he was saved by a negro, who having hid him, went out and pacified the others. Several negroes joined them; they calling out *Liberty*, marched on with colours display'd, and two drums beating, pursuing all the white people they met with, and killing man, woman, and child when they could come up to them. Lt Col. Bull, riding along the road, was pursued, and with much difficulty escaped and raised the country. They burnt Col. Hext's house, and killed his overseer and his wife. They then burnt Mr Sprye's, Mr Sacheverel's and Mr Nash's, and killed all the white people they found in them. Mr Bullock get off, but they burnt his house.

By this time many of them were drunk with the rum they had taken in the houses. They increased every moment by new negroes coming to them; so that they were above sixty, some say a hundred; on which they halted in a field, and set to dancing, singing, and beating drums, to draw more negroes to them, thinking they were now victorious over the whole province, having march'd ten miles and burnt all before them without opposition. But the militia being rais'd, the planters pursued them, and when they came up, dismounting, charged them on foot. The negroes were soon routed, and several were killed on the spot, tho' they behaved boldly. Such as were taken in the field, were, after being examined, shot on the spot. Many ran back to their plantations, thinking they had not been missed, but were taken and shot there. About 30 escaped from the fight, of which 10, being overtaken by the planters on horseback, fought stoutly, and were all killed on the spot. In the whole action about 40 negroes and 20 whites were killed."

Further accounts here:

Two views of the Stono Slave Rebellion, South Carolina, 1739

<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/becomingamer/peoples/text4/stonorebellion.pdf>

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