

Loudoun County set

To Thomas, Major Capt. Joseph Vaupol
 Nelson Wilson Heykiah Ellis Wm
 Ashkinson Edward Tetter of Jas An-
 drew Beveridge Charles Pritchard
 John Pritchard Henry Victor David
 Allen Henry Bennett & Reason Dem-
 can Matthew Lee Levi Green &
 Peyton Crismon.

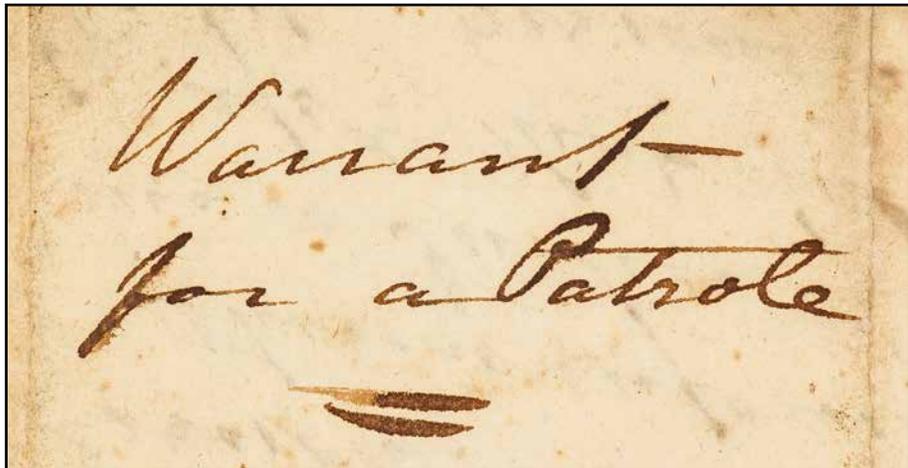
Whereas information has been
 given to me as Justice of the Peace for
 the County afo. that unlawful assemblies
 of slaves & other persons are frequently
 held in this neighbourhood contrary to
 the act of assembly in such case made
 & provided There are therefore require
 you to Patrol the said neighbourhood
 & to search for & apprehend all disor-
 derly persons & bring them before me
 or some other Justice of the Peace to
 be dealt with as the Law directs &
 further to report your proceedings
 to the next Court to be held for this County
 Given under my hand this 2^d day of
 Sept. 1826

Manuscript Warrant Ordering a Slave Patrol in Antebellum Virginia

Loudoun County, Va.: September 2, 1826

\$3000

Manuscript document unsigned. Approximately 7½" x 11". Docketed on the verso: "Warrant for Patrol." Old folds, small ink splotch, sound and very good. Issued by an unidentified Justice of the Peace in Loudoun County, Virginia, and addressed to Captain Thomas Moss, Joseph Vanpelt, Nelson Wilson, David Allen, and several other able-bodied white males in the Leesburg neighborhood directing them



to undertake a slave patrol, in response to certain "unlawful assemblies of slave & other persons... frequently held in this neighborhood." It further commands them: "... to patrol the said neighborhood & to search for & apprehend all disorderly persons & bring them before us or some other Justice of the Peace to be dealt with as the Law directs & further report your proceedings to the next Court to be held for this County."

Slave patrols served as an essential tool by which the southern states enforced slavery. In Virginia and South Carolina, the patrols were directly tied to the state militias and were appointed for allotted times. "The patrols apprehended runaways, monitored the rigid pass requirements for blacks traversing the countryside broke up large gatherings and assemblies of blacks, visited and searched salve quarters randomly, inflicted impromptu punishments, and as occasion arose, suppressed insurrections... The patrols inspired well-justified fear on the part of black slaves." (Hummel). Presumably the border with Maryland and not far beyond that the close proximity to Pennsylvania would have proved a temptation for slaves to escape and vigilance among slave owners would have been intense.

An excellent exhibit of one of the instruments used to suppress the slave population in the south.

[BTC#425819]