

Travis Hardin

Date sent: Mon, 21 Oct 2002 22:04:33 -0500
From: Les Tate <lrtate@comcast.net>
Subject: Fwd: John Bale
To: Travis Hardin <travishardin@mindspring.com>

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rick Glisson <rglisson@smyrnacable.net>
Date: Mon Oct 21, 2002 8:19:35 PM US/Central
To: Les Tate <lrtate@comcast.net>
Subject: RE: John Bale

I have a little more info on John Bale. I have a copy of his original naturalization papers. In his affidavit he swore "That I am a native of the city of London in that part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called England, that I am aged about twenty two years, that I am under allegiance unto the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, that I migrated from said ~~City of London on or about the twenty fourth day of July, eighteen hundred & seventeen, and arrived at Boston on or about the fifteenth of October of the same year, [a long trip - must have~~ been becalmed!]) that I am by occupation a coach maker, and that my residence is in Newark in said County of Essex. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of April one thousand eight hundred & eighteen. 1818." That's all I have, but a shipping record for Boston in 1817 would probably give you the ship's name and its manifest!

Apropos of his slaveholding, I have a photocopy and typescript of a letter from John to his brother Thomas, written in Augusta GA & dated February 13th 1853. It is a long letter in which he describes his children and his business enterprises (he had become a sort of jack of all trades, farmer, merchant, banker, land investor, etc.), but the relevant part is as follows:
"The negro man who managed my farm when I was in New York has been dead about three years. I have sold the farm and negroes with the exception of a girl about 18 which I have left to assist my daughter Josephine and the younger children. To reduce my cares as I advance to old age [he was 57 at the time] I have determined to condense all my operations and to quit the charge of all regular business a farm or negroes. Altho I do not claim to be an abolitionist yet I have felt the management and charge of negroes to be the source of the greatest vexation and agravation of anything I

