

# A Guide to the James Mercer Slave Pass, October 29-30, 1771

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## History

**Processed by:** Special Collections staff

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## Title Statement

A Guide to the James Mercer Slave Pass, October 29-30, 1771

**Subtitle:** Mercer, James, Slave Pass, 1771

**Collection:** MS 001771OCT30

**Sponsor:** Web version of the finding aid funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## Publication Statement

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## Profile Description

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**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Revision Description

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## Descriptive Summary

**Manuscript number**

MS 001771OCT30

**Language**

English

**Creators**

James Mercer, 1736-1793. Thomas Oliver, fl. 1770-1790. Jonathan Martin, fl. 1771.

**Extent**

1 item.

**Repository**

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

## Administrative Information

**Access**

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**Acquisition Information**

Gift, 1975.

**Preferred Citation**

James Mercer Slave Pass, Manuscript MS 01771OCT30, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

## Alternative Form

Transcript (TR/00/1771/Oct 30) and microfilm (M-1561) also available.

## Biographical/Historical Information

James Mercer was a planter and politician of Fredericksburg, Va. He served in the House of Burgesses, General Assembly, the Virginia constitutional convention of 1776, the committee of safety, and in the Continental Congress. He also served as a judge of the general court and of the court of appeals.

## Scope and Content Information

Safe conduct pass for two slaves, "Negro Bobb, coachman & Negro George, postillion", to travel from Fredericksburg, Virginia to Williamsburg "with a coach and six horses". Signed by Mercer's steward, Thomas Oliver. Requests the slaves be afforded hospitality at inns along the way; reverse contains an account of expenses signed by Jonathan Martin.

## Index Terms

**Persons:**

Mercer, James, 1736-1793.

Oliver, Thomas, fl. 1770- 1790.

Martin, Jonathan, fl. 1771.

**Subjects:**

Slavery--Virginia--History--18th century--Sources.

Travel costs--Virginia--History--18th century--Sources.

**Geographical Names:**

Fredericksburg (Va.)--History--18th century-- Sources.