

# Schuyler Mansion Resource Guide

## New York Slave Code of 1730

An Act for the more *Effectual* Preventing and Punishing the *Conspiracy* and *Insurrection* of Negro and other Slaves; for the better regulating them and for repealing the Acts herein Mentioned Relating thereto

Whereas many *Mischiefs* have been occasioned by the too great Liberty allowed to Negro and other Slaves and that some of the Acts relating thereto are Expired and others not fully answering the Good purposes thereby Intended, the General Assembly therefore pray it may be *Enacted* and be it Enacted by his Excellency the Governour the Council and the General Assembly, and it is hereby *Enacted* by the Authority of the same, that no Person or Persons do hereafter through out this Colony presume to trade or *Traffick* with any Slave or Slaves either in buying or selling without leave and consent of the Master or Mistress of Such Slave or Slaves on *forfeiture* of *treble* the Value of the thing or things traded for and also the sum of five pounds Current Lawfull mony to the Master or Mistress of Such Slave or Slaves for each offence to be recovered of Such Person or Persons so trading contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act by Action of Debt in any Court of record within this colony where Such Sum or Sums in *Cognizable* and all Contracts and Bargains made with any Slave or Slaves shall be utterly void. And whereas notwithstanding Sundry Laws passed heretofore in this Colony for the purposes above Mentioned several evil disposed Persons having nothing in View but their private gain do *Clandestinely* trade and *traffick* with Slaves, for remedy whereof

Be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid that if any person or Persons within this Colony shall from and after the Publication of this Act sell any rum or other strong Liquor to any Negro Indian or Mulato Slave or Slaves or shall buy or take in pawn from them any wares Merchandises apparel Tools Instruments or any other kind of goods whatever and shall thereof be accused by the Master or Mistress of Such Slave or Slaves, or by any other Person or Persons...shall *forfeit* and pay the Sum of fourty shillings.

And be it further enacted by the same Authority that hereafter it Shall and may be Lawfull for any Master or Mistress to Punish his her or their Slave or Slaves for their Crimes and offences at discretion not Extending to Life or Limb.

And be it further Enacted by the Same Authority that it shall and may be Lawfull hereafter for every City town and Mannor within this Colony to have and appoint a Common whipper for any City town or Mannor within this Colony at their Common Council or Town Meeting to agree upon such Sum to be paid him by the Master or Mistress of Slaves, not Exceeding the sum of three shillings per head...

And for as much as the Number of Slaves in the Citys of New York and Albany as also within the Several Counties Towns and Mannors within this Colony doth daily increase, and that they have been often times guilty of Confederating together in running away & of other ill and Dangerous practices Be it therefore Enacted by the aforesaid Authority that it shall not hereafter be Lawfull for above three Slaves to meet together at any time or at any other Place then when it Shall happen they meet in some servile employment for their Master or Mistresses profit and by their

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Masters or Mistresses Consent upon penalty of being whipt upon the naked Back at the discretion of any one Justice of the Peace not Exceeding forty Lashes for each offence

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that hereafter no Slave or Slaves shall be allowed as Evidence or Evidences in any Matter Cause or thing whatsoever exception in Cases of Plotting or Confederacy among themselves...

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that it shall not be lawful for any Slave or slaves to have or use any gun Pistoll sword Club or any other kind of Weapon whatsoever, but in the presence or by the Direction of his her or their Master or Mistress, and in their own Ground on Penalty of being whipt...not exceeding Twenty Lashes on the bare back