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John Whittaker Esq<sup>r</sup> Copy London Decem<sup>r</sup> 4. 1793

Sir,

As it is now but little more than two years when the Trust of York Estate, under Mr Gale's Will is to expire, the Trustees will of course wish to be prepared to state exactly how far they have had it in their Power to comply with the Directions of the Will, in respect to the purchase of Negroes, Improvements on the Estate and such other Matters as appear necessary for the Trustees to do; we shall therefore be glad of your Opinion on these Subjects; but in the Mean-Time you will please to continue purchasing as many Negroes as you can provide Accommodation for on the Estate, and to pursue every other measure you may be carrying on according to the former Directions agreed upon by the Trustees

Copy of Mr Whittaker's Answer to the above dated Sam<sup>l</sup> Trelawny April 13<sup>th</sup> 1794

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Long Drake Long & Dawkins  
Gentlemen,

In answer to your Favor of the 4 Decem<sup>r</sup> last, respecting the Trust of York Estate, under the Will of the late Mr Gale. For the Trustees consideration they leave to forward you enclosed an Estimate of what money I conceive would be necessary for the Settlement of a new Estate, which Mr Gale seem'd to have in view. The Money would not be required immediately, only an Agreement could be made to the best advantage, by

having it to draw for occasionally.

If this Estate were settled, the Land is so good, and well adapted for Canes; my Opinion is the first Crop may be reckoned at 200 Hhd Sugar, and afterwards the annual Crops will regularly be certain from 250 to 300 Hhd, as the Seasons may happen. The great Advantage of these Lands are, they will require no replanting for 50 Years and upwards to come, if Attention is paid to the Canes from their first planting of course it will be a very easy worked Estate, compared with the old one, where we must plant annually seventy or eighty Acres of old Land to keep up the Crops.

I beg leave to inform the Trustees of a circumstance which gives me some concern, hoping if in their Power they will grant my request. I have a Son by a Quardroom Woman belonging to York Estate, of course he is very fair, and now five Years of Age; my wish is to purchase his Freedom for what is usually paid in such Cases, but if that cannot be done immediately I beg their permission to let me send him to England next Year, in order to put him to School, that he may receive such necessary Learning & Knowledge as will enable him to conduct such Business as his Capacity and abilities may be best adapted for, when he attains to a proper Age for it; for if he is kept longer in this Country, I am sorry to say, he will imbibed such bad Habits and Customs, that will be very hard to get the better off.

W. John Waugh formerly Overseer by

on York Estate Hudson / a Mulatto Boy / by a  
Negro Woman belonging to said Estate, and he  
has requested me to mention his wish to do the same  
for his Boy as I do for mine.

London Aug<sup>th</sup> 6. 1794

John Whittaker Esq<sup>r</sup>

Sir

We have duly received your Letter  
of 13<sup>th</sup> April inclosing an Estimate for settling a New  
Estate at Fowlers, but we are informed the Trustees  
under the Will of the late Mr Gale have not any power  
to do. What they are desirous of knowing is how far  
they have been able to comply with what is directed  
in the Will, a Copy of which was sent to you.

Whether the Works or Negroes are in a  
state or Quantity according to Mr Gale's Intention and  
it is necessary that the Trustees should be informed  
what is the Reason they are not so, we send you  
inclosed a Paper reciting part of the Will, and Questions  
proposed, to which we must beg the Favor of you to give  
positive Answers: we are sorry to observe the  
number of Negroes had decreased in the Year 1793 and  
you had not purchased any. - The Trustees being very  
desirous to shew you any personal civility, have made  
Enquiry in what manner they could comply with your  
Request in giving manumission to your Son, but they  
are informed they have it not in their Power to do any  
thing of the kind which they are sorry for, they are also  
by this means prevented from granting Mr Warrington's request.

Extract of a Letter from John Whittaker Esq. Dated  
6<sup>th</sup> October 1794 to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Long Drake Long & Dawkins.

Your other Fav<sup>r</sup> mentions the Receipt  
of my Letter of 13<sup>th</sup> April inclosing an Estimate for  
settling a new Estate, on Land called Fowler's, belonging  
to York Estate, but which you are informed the Trustees  
under the Will of the late W<sup>o</sup>. Gale have not any power  
to do.

A Copy of the late W<sup>o</sup>. Gale's Will was sent me  
and which is now by me, I have also received in your  
Letter extracts from said Will, with Questions proposed  
to which I beg leave to send you the following answer.

I always understood that previous to the late  
W<sup>o</sup>. Gale making his Will in 1784, he had an Idea  
there was a great Quantity of fine Cane Land in a  
part of his Lands called Ginger Valley, and the Hills  
about it which had formerly been in Negro Grounds  
before the New Works were built, and which a Carriage  
Road might be made from it to the old Set of works.

This I conceive to be the reason of his directing  
in his Will, the old Set of works to be rebuilt and kept  
up - but soon after I received a Copy of his Will, I had  
these Lands surveyed by a Surveyor, and we found the  
Quantity of Land fit for Canes so little and very indifferent  
that it would not be worth the Expence of making a  
Road to there, as there is a considerable Hill between  
it and the Old Works, and all the Land that was ever  
in Canes, and taken off at the old Works, has been taken  
off at the new works, since they were built and which  
is done very conveniently being down Hill from every  
Cane

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Cane Piece, and not very distant consequently they must have been very inconvenient to the old Works, being mostly uphill Carriage.

Therefore you see by rebuilding and keeping up the old Works, what an Injury it would be to the Property; for the old works you will please observe were abandoned and dismantled, long before Mr. Gale's death, and the only eligible Situation for a new set of works is upon the Land called Fowlers, and excellent Estate it will make, the two Estates might ship 800 Hhd's Sugar annually, and settled I think for less money than I sent you the Estimate, with the help of the present Estate, and there is a small Hill near where the Works should be erected, which will afford Stone and Lime for all the Buildings on the Spot, which will be a very great conveniency and a considerable saving; but I find you are not at Liberty by the Will to build here, indeed if you were it would be impossible to get all things completed 'till this and the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan'y 1796. The present Works are in good Order, nothing will be wanting for them but common contingences, to keep them in repair; and we have now 455 Negroes, and they are as healthy and well as ever, I knew them at this period of the Year

The Reason I have purchased none this year yet is because I could not meet with a proper choice of good young Cbe Negroes to buy / and that is the Country that will answer best there / but I am promised the pick of a fine Cargo of Cboes expected in all next Month or beginning of Decem<sup>r</sup>. when I hope to be able to make choice of 30 or 40 fine young people for York Estate; and if there should offer a good Gang of seasoned

Negroes for Sale, to the number of about 60, 70 or 100  
as it may happen to be, it may be very proper to purchase  
them for all new Negroes will not do and the whole  
can be well employed upon the present Estate, and  
compleating the Penns with a seperate Gang of Negroes  
taken out of them, to be settled and fixed to keep the  
Penn in order, as were always intended: This may be  
done before the Trust expires, which will bring the present  
Estate and Penns into complete order, and what I  
would recommend the Gentlemen Trustees to do, and  
if it meets with their Approbation, I will do my  
best endeavors to have it well executed.

I conceive the Sum of £40,000 Sterling  
would accomplish all the foregoing Business, settle  
the new Estate at Fowler's and complete the number  
of Negroes on the two Estates and Penns to 700; and  
there is Land sufficient for the two Estates Penns and  
Provision Grounds all contiguous - when the annual  
Crop might be expected to be 800 Tons Sugar &  
400 Bushels Rum if no accidents and the Seasons  
favorable.

I beg the Trustees will accept my best  
Thanks for their Intentions, in respect to the manumission  
of my Son, and as it cannot be done now, I can only  
entreat the Favor of their Interest for it with the  
Heir when their Trust expires.

Extract of a Letter from Mess<sup>rs</sup> Long Drake Long  
of Dawkins, dated Jan<sup>y</sup> 7 1795 to John Whittaker Esq.

We observe your Answer to the  
Questions sent you relative to York Estate, and  
think that it would prove use to the Trustees  
to have the further Opinion of some experienced  
Gentlemen in Jamaica to shew how far it is  
advantageous to the Heirs or proper for the Trustees to  
suspend rebuilding the old Works according to M<sup>r</sup>. Gale's  
Will

Extract of a Letter from . . ditto . . to . ditto.  
dated 4 March 1795.

We hope soon to hear of your having  
purchased the new Negroes you mentioned in your Letter  
of 6<sup>th</sup> October, and approve of the purchase of the hundred  
seasoned Negroes you describe, the sooner you can do it  
the better; the Bills for the whole to be drawn as usual  
at 90 D<sup>s</sup> Sight.

Extract of a Letter from - d<sup>o</sup> . . to . ditto. Dated  
April 1<sup>st</sup> 1795.

We send you enclosed a paper from  
M<sup>r</sup>. Gale's Trustees to which they beg a speedy answer.  
M<sup>r</sup>. Gale by his Will devised to his Exors.

This unsettled or uncultivated Lands  
after mentioned to wit, the undivided Moiety of 300 Acres  
of

of Land situate at Lumb's Spring in the parish of St. Elizabeth in Jamaica patented in the name of his late Father John Gale deceased, and the undivided Moieties of two other Runs of Land of 300 Acres each situate at burnt Savannah in said Parish, one of them patented in the name of said John Gale and the other of John Eastwick (the other Moieties of which said three Runs being the property of the Widow of the Testator's late Brother Jonathan Gale deceased) also the undivided Moieties of three Runs of Land of 300 Acres each situate at Lumb's Spring aforesaid patented in the Names of John, Jonathan and Joseph Dickenson, one of said Runs in the name of each of them with the Appurts.

To hold unto and to the use of the said Testator's then Heir and assigns for ever upon Trust as soon after his decease as conveniently may be to sell the same at the best price that can be got with usual power to receive and give Discharges for the purchase Monies and a clause that the purchasers shall not be answerable for its application:

And Testator directed that the monies arising from such Sales should from Time to Time be laid out and applied in the purchase of slaves & other purposes for the Improvement and support of his Sugar Plantation and that such Slaves and Improvements should go in like manner as and be considered as part of the Residue of his Real Estate after limited.

The Trustees of the late William Gale Esq. request Mr. Whittaker will inform them whether any part and what of the foregoing Clause in the will has been complied with, and that he will please to return this paper with a full Answer thereto, in case nothing has been done in it with the Reasons that have prevented.

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