"Stampede of Slaves," Alexandria (VA) Gazette, June 17, 1863 https://stampedes.dickinson.edu/document/alexandria-va-gazette-stampede-slave s-june-17-1863

STAMPEDE OF SLAVES.

On Sunday night some seventy five slaves, belonging in the neighborhood of South river, Anne Arundel county, and Queen Anne's, Prince George's county, Md., stampeded, taking with them a wagon and cart, with horses, and bringing with them a portion of their effects. The party left about 11 o'clock at night, and travelled all night, at various points on the road being reinforced, until the number

reached about seventy-five.

Yesterday morning they were stopped near the "Long Old Fields" by a number of men styling themselves "patrols," armed, but the party of slaves massed themselves and pushed on, the patrollers attempting to stop their progress and to drive them from the teams, and when about one mile from Fort Meigs they fired into the fugitives, when it is said one of the slaves returned the fire, and several other shots were fired. The party of fugitives separated an I fled, and the patrollers also made off.

Among the fugitives were two men and one woman killed and five wounded, as far as known. The wounded were taken in charge and brought to the city, and the company in different rands arrived here yesterday afternoon and during the night—fifty having reported at the Contraband Camp up to this morning. Some of the wounded are not expected to live. One man received four balls, in his head, face, shoulder and hip.

The facts were reported to the authorities at once, and a detachment of Scott's 900 yester-day afternoon arrested John L. Gray on suspicion of being one of the attacking party, and he was brought to this city, and committed to the Old Capitol. His neighbors, however, assert that, although he was near the party at the time of the attack, he had no hand in it.— Cavalry are yet in pursuit of the "patrollers."

As one of the gangs were passing up the Avenue to the Provost Marshal's office, Mr. W. D. Stewart, of Anne Arundel county, recognized an ong them ten of his slaves, and immediately procured a writ for their arrest under the provisions of the fugitive slave law, from commissioner Walter S. Cox, and placed it in the hands of officers, who went with him to Capt. Todd's office, where the fugitives were, and showed the writ: but Capt. T. refus-

ed to give them up.

The shooting affair will be investigated im-

mediately.

On inquiry we find that the most of them are from Anne Arundel, near Annapolis Junction, and that the stampede commenced about a week ago. - Wash. Star.