twenty first day of November in the said year seventeen hundred and ninety one accordingly issued directed to the Sheriff of Ann Arundel County aforesaid in the words and figures following to wit.— The State of Maryland to wit, To the Sheriff of Ann Arundel County Greeting, We command you, that, you summons John Francis Mercer late of Ann Arundel County that all delays and excuses be set aside he be and appear before the Judges of our General Court to be held at the City of Annapolis on the second Tuesday of May next to answer unto the Petition of Jenny Boston preferred against him for freedom hereof he is not to fail and fail not at your peril and have you then and there this Writ Witness the Honourable Samuel Chase Esquire Chief Judge of our said Court the 1st day of November Anno Domini 1791.—

Issued the 21st day of November Anno Domini 1791. G. Jennings, Jno Gwinn Clk.

At which mentioned second Tuesday of May being the eighth day of the same Month Anno Domini seventeen hundred and ninety two and the day of the return of the aforegoing Summons comes here into our General Court the aforesaid Jenny Boston by George Jennings her Attorney aforesaid And the Sheriff of Ann Arundel County to whom the said aforegoing precept was made and directed likewise comes and makes return thereof, to the Court here thus endorsed to wit.—

Summond Wm Goldsmith Shff.—

And the said John Francis Mercer by William Cooke his Attorney comes and defends the complaint aforesaid when and so forth, and prays leave of the Court to imparle hereunto until next Court, and he hath it and the same day is given to the Petitioner also.—

At which said next Court, to wit, the second Tuesday of October being the Ninth day of the same Month Anno Domini seventeen hundred and ninety two comes again here into our General Court as well the aforesaid Jenny Boston by her Attorney aforesaid, as the aforesaid John Francis Mercer by his Attorney aforesaid, and the aforesaid John Francis Mercer by his Attorney aforesaid as before defends the complaint aforesaid when and so forth and prays further leave of the Court to imparle hereunto until next Court and he hath it and the same day is given to the Petitioner also.—

At which said next Court to wit. the second Tuesday of May being the fourteenth day of the same Month Anno Domini seventeen hundred and ninety three comes again here into our General Court as well the aforesaid Jenny Boston by George Jennings, Gabriel Duvall, and William Pinkney her Attornies as the aforesaid John Francis Mercer by his Attorney aforesaid, and the aforesaid John Francis Mercer by his Attorney aforesaid as before defends the complaint aforesaid when and so forth, and prays further leave of the Court to imparle hereunto until next Court and he hath it, and the same day is given to the Petitioner also. At which said next Court, to wit, the second Tuesday of October being the eighth day of the same Month Anno Domini seventeen hundred and ninety three comes again here into our General Court as well the aforesaid Jenny Boston by her Attornies aforesaid, as the aforesaid John Francis Mercer by his Attorney aforesaid, and the aforesaid Jenny Boston by her Attornies aforesaid files in Court here the following Deposi-

Jenny Boston against John Francis Mercer

Anne Brown aged about sixty years being sworn on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God deposeth and saith that she knows John Boston and Jenny Boston who petitioned for their Freedom against John Francis Mercer and has known them ever since they were born, having lived close to them in the neighbourhood at the time; they are brother and Sister of Ben, Phil, and Maria who petitioned against Richard Spugg, an Son and Daughter of Nelly who belonged to Thomas Spugg, deceased; Nelly was daughter of Maria who lived with William Richardson and after his death with Daniel Richardson she also knew Maria well and always understood she was daughter of old Lenah, whom this Deponant knew when she lived with Madam Jones, and she further saith that Fanny, Henny, Anne Bet and Daniel are Children of Jenny, Sworn to this day of 1793.—

Before — Bullen

Whereupon it is agreed between the parties aforesaid and their Attornies aforesaid that all the Testimony taken in the cause of Anthony Boston against Gafsaway Rawlings in Ann Arundel County and removed by Appeal to this Court, and all Testimony taken since the said Appeal be received as Evidence in this Cause, which said Testimony is as follows, to wit.—

July 20th 1789. Anne Harwood of Ann Arundel County of lawful age being first duly sworn on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God touching her knowledge of the above dispute, deposeth and saith, that she this deponent knew old Lenah from whom Anthony the Petitioner descended, that she the said Lenah has been dead about forty years and died as a part of this deponents Fathers Estate, that she lived with him as a slave, and that she this deponent never heard of said Lenah's claiming her freedom till lately, that she understood said Lenah was brot into this Country in a Guinea Ship among st other slaves and sold as such, and was purchased by one Lockwood as she this deponent has been informed, who Will'd her to Mrs Jones the Grandmother of this deponent, which Mrs Jones left her, by Will to Gafsaway Watkins Father to this deponent, that her complexion was yellow and her hair strait and black, that this deponent never understood said Woman was a Portugea, nor knew what County she came from, and that Anthony Boston was the Son of Violet who was the daughter of of Lenah, and further this deponent saith not. Sworn this 20th July before me one of the Justices for Ann Arundel County.—

Ja Disney.—

Elizabeth Rawlings of lawful age of Ann Arundel County being duly sworn in the dispute above mentioned, deposeth and saith that she knew Old Lenah who formerly belonged to Samuel Lockwood upon whose death Mrs Jones the deponents Grandmother owned her and after Mrs Jones Death she belonged to this deponents Father Gafsaway Watkins and died his property upwards of forty years ago this deponent never heard that she claimed her freedom, that the complexion was yellow and her hair long and black and tied up, it was not wooly like the hair of negroes, she never understood that she received Wages from this deponents father, and further this deponent saith not. Sworn this 20th day of July 1789 before the Subscriber one of the Justices of Anne Arundel County Ja Disney.