mentioned, sold the lands therein stated to this respondent for the price stated the whole amount of which purchase money was paid by this Respondant to the said French. This respondant also says that true it is the said Thomas French executed the bond of conveyance as set forth the original whereof is now shewn to this respondant and is marked A to which he refers as part of his answer

This Respondent says that true it is that the said assignments have been made by him as set forth and that the said George French is dead. - This respondant also says true it is the said Thomas French removed from this County as set forth in the bill. He also says that the lands in the bond mentioned are on the back thereof expressed from the time the said bond was executed have been in possession of this Respondant and those claiming under him, and that the taxes due thereon have been as he believes paid by him and them respectively

James Clarke

Baltimore to wit, On the 2 day of April 1806 personally appeared James Clarke before me the subscriber one of the Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid and made oath on the holy Evangelists of Almighty God that the facts stated in the above answer are true to the best of his knowledge recollection and belief

Sworn before
Owen Dorsey

The answer of the State of Maryland by William Pinkney Attorney General of the said State to the bill of complaint of Diana French, Thomas George Catharine Charles and Robert French.

The said William Pinkney Attorney General of the said State saving and reserving to the said State all manner of exception to the manifold imperfections of the said bill of complaint for answer thereunto, answereth and saith for and on behalf of the said State. That he has no knowledge of all or any of the matters and things in the said bill of complaint set forth. and therefore doth not admit the same to be true but leaves the complainants to such proof thereof as they may be able to make. Without that and so saith — Wm Pinkney

Whereupon the complainants by their Solicitor aforesaid entered a plication generally to the answers of the defendants, and commission issued by consent of parties to Charles W Hanson in the words following to wit.

Maryland to wit

The State of Maryland to Charles W. Hanson Esquire of Baltimore County Greeting.

Know ye that we have appointed you to be our commissioner to examine evidences in a cause depending in our high court of Chancery between Diana French Extx of George French and others complainants and the State of Maryland and James Clarke defendants. We therefore require you, having first taken the oath hereunto annexed, and also administered the annexed oath to the person whom you shall appoint as clerk to attend the execution of this commission, that at such time and place as to you shall seem convenient, you cause to come before you all such evidences as shall be named and produced to you by either the plaintiff or defendant, and that you examine them on their corporal Oaths, to be by you administered upon the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, touching their knowledge or remembrance of any thing that may relate to the cause aforesaid; and that you cause notice to be given to the parties or their Attorneys of the execution of this commission, before you executed the same; and having reduced the depositions of the witnesses so taken by you into writing you send the same with this our Commission, close under your hand and seal to us in our high Court of Chancery, with all convenient speed. Witness the honorable William Kilty Esquire Chancellor this tenth day of March Anno Domini 1806.

Samuel K. Howard Reg Cur Can

Commissioners Oath

You shall according to the best of your skill and knowledge, truly faithfully and without partiality to any or either of the parties take the examination and depositions of all and every witness and witnesses produced and examined by virtue of the commission hereunto annexed upon the interrogatories now, or which may hereafter before the said commission is closed, be produced to and left with you, by either of the said parties. So help you God

Clerks Oath

You shall truly faithfully and without partiality to any or either