hear Thomas Howe Ridgate say in his life time that certain Negroes or mulatto slaves called Lucy and Linda were the property of Sarah and Elizabeth Duncastle –

To the third Interrogatory this deponent answereth and saith. That he knows certain Negroes were in the possession of the defendant Elizabeth Ridgate said to be in despute, but of whom they are descended he does not know.

To the fourth Interrogatory this Deponent answeth and saith. That he did appraise together with a certain Robert Lawson now deceased the personal Estate of Thomas Howe Ridgate, but two Negroes to wit Sam and Nelly they did not appraise James Freeman the Agent for Mrs Ridgate telling them they were in dispute.

And the said cause so standing continued until July Term Eighteen hundred and Eight when commission issued to the persons therein named in the words following to wit.

Maryland ss

The State of Maryland to Thomas Rogerson. John Ferguson John E Ford and Ignatius Sims Esquires of Charles County Greeting. Know ye that we have appointed you to be our Commissioners to examine Evidences in a cause depending in our High Court of Chancery between Sarah and Elizabeth Doncastle Complainants and Elizabeth Ridgate admx of Thomas Howe Ridgate Defendant. We therefore require you or any three or two of 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 or to any three or two of you shall seem convenient, you cause to come before you all such Evidences as shall be named and produced to you by either the plaintiffs or Defendant, and that you examine them on their corporal Oaths, to be by you or any three or two of you administered upon the holy Evangelys 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 attornies, of the execution of this Commission, before you execute 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 hands and seals or of such three or two of you as shall act, to us in our High Court of Chancery, with all convenient speed. Witness the Honorable William Kilty Esquire Chancellor this fifteenth day of July Anno Domini 1808.

Test. Nich^l Brewer Regbur Cur

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 examinations 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.