the Libellants abovementioned to be the Sons and Representatives of Mary one
of the Daughters of the said John Hanson deceased.

And this Respondent believes it to be true that the said John Hanson being Married
to his then Wife Elizabeth, did on or about the time in the Libell or Complaint
aforesaid Alledged make and execute the Writing in the same Libell set forth,
purporting to be at that time the last Will and Testament of the said John
Hanson bearing Date the third day of April in the Year of Our Lord
One Thousand Seven Hundred and forty four, Sealed thereto as this Defendant
believes and Doubts not to make Appear by the persuasions means or procurement
of his said then Wife Elizabeth Hanson; which same Writing this Respondent
believes was signed Sealed published and otherwise Executed in the presence
of Robert Hanson, Walter Hanson, and Francis Adams Witnesses thereto the said
Robert and Walter being Friends and Near Relations and the said Francis Adams
a Neighbour and Acquaintance of the said John Hanson deceased.

This Respondent further Admits that Elizabeth, Wife of the said John Hanson
Died in the Lifetime of her Husband but not Immediately upon or Soon after,
making and Executing the Writing aforesaid the living Several Years after, that
time after whose Death, his Father the said John Hanson Intermarried with Mary
Gatrick, Widow who survived him and this Respondent also Admits that Mary
Mother of the Libellants or some of them Died after making and Executing the
Writing aforesaid in the Lifetime of the said John Hanson. And this Respondent
further Saith, that he believes it to be true that the same Writing was Generally
kept in a small Box or Trunk, amongst the Title papers of Lands and other
papers belonging to the said John Hanson deceased and was there found after
his Death, without being Torn Obliterated but with an Intention as this Respond.
believes from many Circumstances that the same should remain the last Will &
Testament of the said John Hanson but either through Inattention or for some other
purposes.

This Respondent also Admits his being Owned by his Father
in his Lifetime and that besides Five Hundred and fifty five Acres of Land he received
of him One Negro Man and his Wife and one Child and some Cattle Sheep and Household
furniture to the amount of fifty or sixty Pounds Current Money.

But this Respondent denies that he ever persuaded Mary Hanson the Widow
or to Francis Gatrick, her Son or in any manner Requested them or either of them
to Destroy or Secrete the same Writing above Mentioned as is falsely Alledged
in the Libell aforesaid on the Contrary this Respondent Saith that he had

once the Possession of the same Writing soon after his father Death, took
a Copy thereof and then returned the same to his Widow Mary Hanson.

And this Respondent further Saith that he always proceeded openly
and publicly in his Endeavours to have the Writing aforesaid set aside
upon the Many Declarations of his deceased father that the same
should not be his Will but was the Will of his Wife Elizabeth and even
before the Discovery of the true last Will and Testament of the said John
Hanson Entered a Caveat with the then Deputy Commy of Charles County
against the probate thereof. And the Respondent knows Nothing after the
Returning the Writing aforesaid to Mary Hanson, what become of it but
believes it now to be in the possession or custody of the Register of the
Commys or prerogative Office or amongst the papers belonging thereto.

And this Respondent further Saith that his father Dying in the Month
of February in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and fifty
four he knew Nothing of his last Will and Testament in the Libell or
Complaint aforesaid set forth, bearing Date over about the fifth day of June
in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty Seven till the
Month of June following at which time Capt. Francis Ware now living Son
of Francis Ware deceased in whose Custody the same was left brought the
same Will at the Court House in Charles County telling him he had found
it in a Drawer of his Father's Desk, amongst other his papers of no great
Consequence. And this Respondent doth Admit that he afterwards produced the
same last Will and Testament so delivered him by Capt. Ware to the Deputy
Commissary for probate thereof and the said William Hagan and this Respondent
by Bonds Mutually Entered into between them referred the Dispute touching
the said Wills or Writings to Messrs. John Stoddert, Bayne Smallwood, Robert
Yeates, Walter Hanson and Dan.l of St. Thomas Jenifer, who were of Opinion
upon taking the Depositions of Many Witnesses and full hearing that the Will
produced by this Respondent was the true last Will and Testament of the said
John Hanson his Father which Award and Depositions being Returned into
the prerogative Office the Will last aforesaid was Established and Letters
Testamentary Granted thereon to this Respondent by the Commissary Genl.
Benjamin Tasker and Daniel Dulany Esquires.

And this Respondent further Saith that he believes in his
Conscience and Doubts not to be able Clearly to prove by the Testimony
of Witnesses of Undoubted Credit and Veracity by Comparison of hands and by