inclined to remove from any of the United States and become Citizens of this, provided that within ten days after their removal into the same they take the following Oath before some Magistrate of this Commonwealth, I A.B. do swear that my removal to the State of Virginia was with no intention to evade the Act for preventing the farther importation of Slaves within this Commonwealth, nor have I brought with me or will I cause to be brought any Slaves with an intent of selling them, nor have any of the Slaves now in my possession been imported from Africa or any of the West India Islands since the first day of November 1778. so help me God, or to travellers & others making a transient stay in this Commonwealth bringing slaves with them for necessary attendance & carrying them out again. 7th Provided also and be it further enacted, that this Act shall not be construed to extend to persons claiming slaves by Descent, Devise or Marriage or to any Citizens of this Commonwealth being now the Actual Owners and Proprietors of Slaves residing or being in any of the United States and removing such slaves into this Commonwealth. 8th And be it further enacted that so much of an Act of Assembly made in the year One thousand seven hundred and fifty three, entitled an Act for the better Government of Servants and Slaves as comes within the purview of this Act shall be and the same is hereby repealed — and they also offered the following Depositions by

Negro Patiena & Sally Dennis } Petition for Freedom in Worcester County Court. Witness examined on the part of Petitioner

James Hardy a Citizen of the State of Virginia aged forty seven years & upwards being first sworn on the holy Evangels of Almighty God deposeth & saith that he knows that negro Nanny the mother of the petitioner formerly belonged to a certain Shadrach Dennis of Accomack County and State of Virginia that Nanny lived and resided before the year seventeen hundred and eighty three for many years with the said Shadrach Dennis it was generally understood that Nanny was born in Virginia that she & her parents lived in Virginia ever since he could remember & until said Nanny was sent & turned out of said State by her said Master, that your was a near neighbour to said Shadrach Dennis in Accomack County, Virginia, that you heard the said Shadrach Dennis say that he had hired the said Nanny to a certain William Polk in Delaware for twelve months for the time she was hired to Polk, she was not seen by this deponent at Shadrach Dennis's her Master, that he heard said Shadrach Dennis say that he had sent the said Nanny to the said William Polk in Delaware that she had no children when she was hired to said Polk, to the best of his recollection it was about the year seventeen hundred and eighty four or five that he saw a memorandum of the time amongst some of his fathers papers, who was a near neighbour and very intimate friend of the said Shadrach Dennis that Nanny when she left home to go to live with Polk she had no child but when she returned to her Master in Virginia she brought one with her, the child at that time was a young sucking child which at that time was called Lucy which child a short time afterwards was called Patience, that the petitioner called Patience is the same person a child she brought from Delaware and that him was called Lucy that after Nanny and her said child returned to her Master Shadrach Dennis in Virginia & continued to live & reside with their Master several years, he does not recollect or know that after their return from Delaware that the said Dennis ever hired them out, that when they returned Shadrach Dennis went to Delaware and brought them home in Virginia that Dennis had heard that she had run away from said Polk to whom said Nanny had been hired by him, that he once saw said William Polk and heard him say that said Dennis had hired said Nanny to him. That the paper or memorandum found among his fathers papers, he does not know or recollect whether it was in the hand writing said Dennis or this Deponents father, that at the time the said hiring of Nanny took place he lived a neighbour to said Dennis often frequented said Dennis's house & noticed that said Nanny was absent & was not there for the time he said Dennis observed he had hired Nanny to said Polk, that he cannot write or read writing that he was informed by his father that the paper or memorandum amongst his fathers papers above alluded to contained the time of Nannys being hired as aforesaid that his father was looking over some of his papers & came across this one said it belonged to Shadrach Dennis and he should not destroy it, that

Athemiah Samuel administered on his fathers estate he also found said memorandum or paper and informed him of its contents that he was a Witness in the case of said Nannys petition & on his examination in that case he did not mention any thing of said paper nor question was put to him respecting the same, the only answers to interrogatories then put that he never informed any person before this time of having seen said paper or having been informed respecting its contents — James his X mark Hardy

Sworn to in open Court. Test John B. Handy clk.

Negro Patience & Sally Dennis } Petition for Freedom. Witnesses examined upon part of Respondent

John Goddard a Citizen of Sussex County in the State of Delaware aged about fifty three years being first sworn upon the holy Evangels of Almighty God deposeth & says that he is acquainted with Negro Nanny or Nancy the mother of Petitioner, that Nanny was the property of Shadrach Dennis of Accomack County in the Commonwealth of Virginia, that Nanny was hired to the father of this Deponent by William Polk of the County of Sussex aforesaid, and came to his fathers house to live upon the fourth day of January seventeen hundred and eighty three and continued there about two & seven months and then returned to her master the said Dennis in Accomack County aforesaid and from whence she came that in September of the same year she had a child which was called Lucy and which was the first child said Nanny ever had, which child was carried with Nanny into Accomack aforesaid in the month of December seventeen hundred and eighty three, when she returned to her master as aforesaid, that Nanny and her said child returned to the County of Sussex aforesaid in the month of January following to the house of the father of this Deponent and continued there untill the latter part of February next thereafter that he does not know why Nanny returned to his fathers house — that at the end of February aforesaid her master the said Dennis came and carried her & her child Lucy home to Accomack aforesaid, that the said Nanny or Lucy never at his fathers house after the month of February last mentioned, that this deponent managed the business of his father and kept his accounts that the Book here annexed was a book in which he this deponent kept his fathers accounts and entries that the entry upon the page marked A. in the following words "January the 7 day 1782 then he hired negro woman of Mr Polk" is in the hand writing of this deponent & that the negro woman there spoken of is the said Nanny, the mother of the said child called Lucy. John Goddard

Sworn to in open Court. Test John B. Handy clk

Negro Patience & Sally Dennis } Petition for freedom. Witnesses upon part of Respondent

George Goddard of Sussex County in the State of Delaware being first sworn upon the holy Evangels of Almighty God, aged about forty five years deposes & says that he is acquainted with Nanny or Nanny the mother of said Petitioner, that he knows of Nanny living with his father in Sussex County aforesaid at the time mentioned in the deposition of John Goddard a Witness sworn in this cause that he knows of Nannys having a child at the time spoken of by said John Goddard in his said deposition, that the mother of this Deponent & Nanny went to Church to have the said child christened, and that the said child was christened Lucy & the said child was always while she remained in the family of the Deponents father called Lucy that he has always understood that said Lucy was the first child Nanny ever had, that Nanny had no child with her when she went to his fathers. Geo Goddard

Sworn to in open Court. Test John B. Handy clk

Negro Patience & Sally Dennis } The Deposition of William Nanjes of the County of Accomac & State of Virginia of the age of forty nine years and upwards being duly sworn upon the holy Evangelists of Almighty God who saith that he this deponent is well acquainted with negro Patience and Sally Dennis the parties mentioned above and has known them both from their Infancy. This Deponent further saith that he well knew Nanny who went for the mother of Patience, and that he supposes he has known the said Nanny for about thirty five years past that there were two negro girls about Shadrach Dennis's house the one by the name of Lucy and the other by the name of Patience which was said to be Nannys Children. This deponent further saith that he well remembers that Nanny when about twelve years of age