the same and the said Defendants totally deny that they did forcibly & fraudulently turn out the said James Crawford from the said Log House, by a Sheriffs Deputy not in Office, but that the whole of said proceedings were duly legally & properly conducted as by the same proceedings now refered to, will fully and at large appear. And the said Defendants further say, that they have understood and sincerely believe that both the aforesaid John Crawford and James Crawford became Insolvent & severally took the benefit of the Laws for the relief of Insolvent Debtors, passed at different times by the Legislature of Maryland — Wherefore they pray that they may be herein dismissed by this Honorable Court with their costs & charges most wrongfully sustained —

Cecil County Sct. personally appeared this 9th day of March in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixteen, and made oath on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God, that the aforegoing answer is true to the best of his knowledge, James Rowland Esq. — James Rowland sworn before Lewis Miller — At the same time appeared Israel Reynolds and solemnly affirmed that the facts stated in the foregoing answer are true as far as his personal knowledge extends, and that the rest he believes to be true to the best of his knowledge — Israel Reynolds — affirmed before Lewis Miller

At the same Term the parties aforesaid by their Solicitors aforesaid agree and direct that a Commission shall issue in this case to James Porter and George Davidson to take Testimony, and afterwards to wit, on the first day of July 1816 the Complainants by Tobias Rudulph their Solicitor filed in Court here the following Interrogatories —

James Crawford and others
vs
James Rowland & Israel Reynolds

Interrogatories to be administered to any Witness to be examined under the aforegoing Commission.

1st Interog. Do you know the parties Complainants and defendants in the above case. 2d Do you know John Crawford late of Cecil County deceased in his lifetime and how long did you know him, and at what time did he die. 3d Inter. Do you know any thing of an agreement either verbal or in writing made by and between the said John Crawford in his lifetime, and James Rowland one of the defendants relative to a tract or parcel of Land containing about one hundred acres more or less, situate on the waters of Octoraro Creek claimed by and then in the possession of the said John Crawford — If yea state your knowledge of that agreement as particularly as your recollection will enable you to do, and state whether your knowledge of that agreement was obtained from James Rowland, and state also your knowledge of the Land alluded to in that agreement and who has had the possession of them, and how long, and whether James Rowland ever did perform that agreement, and whether John Crawford ever did perform the same on his part. 4th Inter. Do you know any thing of a Patent having been obtained for the said tract of Land by James Rowland and at what time and under what circumstances — state your knowledge of the same fully, and how you obtained that information. 5th Inter. Do you know any thing of the said Land having been sold by the Sheriff of Cecil County previous to the said James Rowland obtaining a Patent for the same, and for what amount was it sold who was the purchaser and under what circumstances and in what situation or nature was the title of the Land at the time of said

sale, and previous to James Rowland having obtained a Patent for the same — was it vacant Land the title whereof was in the State — If you know any thing more that would benefit the Plaintiffs in the above suit, state the same as if particularly interrogated thereto. T. Rudulph Atty pro Compts. July 1st 1816.

And the said Complainants by their Solicitor aforesaid ancka that a Commission issue to the said James L. Porter and George Davidson according to the above agreement, and that a Copy of the Interrogatories be sent therewith, which said Commission issued accordingly and is in the following words. Maryland Sct. The State of Maryland to James L. Porter and George A. Davidson of Cecil County Greeting: Know ye ~~Cecil County Ct.~~ that we have appointed you and each of you to be our Commissioners ~~seals placed~~ to examine evidences in a cause depending before the Judges of Cecil County Court under the Chancery Jurisdiction which is vested in them by an Act of Assembly lately made and provided between James Crawford and Hannah Mason Complainants and James Rowland and Israel Reynolds defendants We do therefore require you or either of you having first taken the Oath hereunto annexed, and administered the next Oath to the Clerk or person whom you shall appoint to attend the execution of this Commission that at such time and place as to you or either of you shall seem convenient, you cause to come before you all such evidences as shall be named and produced to you by either of the said parties & that you or either of you examine them on their corporal oaths to be by you administered upon the Holy Evangels of Almighty God, touching their knowledge or remembrance of any thing that may relate to the cause aforesaid, and that you or either of you cause notice to be given to the parties aforesaid 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, or either of you into writing, you or either of you send the same with this our Commission closed, under your, or either of your hands and seals to the Judges of the said Court, to be held at the Court House at Elkton on the First Monday of September next, Witness the Honourable Richard D. Earle Esq. Chief Judge of the said Court the 6th day of April 1816. Issued the 1st day of July 1816.

Rudulph & Chambers for Complants — James Ferrall Clk
Partridge — for Defendants Cal. Cecil Co.

Commissioners Oath — You shall according to the best of your skill & 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 & 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.

Sworn before me this 29th day of August 1816. Jacob Conrad

Clerks Oath — You shall truly faithfully and without partiality to any or either of the parties in this cause, take, write down and transcribe the depositions of all and every the Witness and Witnesses produced before & examined by the Commissioners named in the Commission hereunto annexed as far forth as you are directed and employed by the said Commissioners to take, write down and transcribe the said Depositions, or any of them — so help you God.

Sworn before me this 13th day of September 1816. James L. Porter, Commissioner
James F. Ewing, Clerk.