capable of giving testimony materially useful in the advancement of their cause, and they therefore pray for permission to examine her as a witness, and as in duty bound they will ever pray &c.

Cornelius M. Lean, Solr. for Complts.

And thereupon the Chancellor passed the following order.

In Chancery 20 January 1846

Ordered on the aforegoing petition that the complainants have leave to examine the said Charity Sears as prayed subject to all just exceptions.

Theodorick Bland Chr.

And afterwards to wit on the 24th day of February 1845 the standing commissioners for Anne Arundel County made return of their said commission with their proceedings under the same in the words following to wit.

Maryland Sc. The State of Maryland To Jonathan Pickney and Francis H. Stockett of Anne Arundel County Greeting Know that we have appointed you to be our Commissioners to examine evidences in a cause depending in our High Court of Chancery between John T. C. Grandison Watkins and Eliza his wife complainants and Charity Sears and others 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 Evangels 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 hand and seal to us in our High Court of Chancery with all convenient speed. Witness the Honorable Theodorick Bland, Esquire Chancellor this 16th day of Jany. Anno Domini 1845. Test. Louis Gassaway Reg. Cur. Can.

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 & witnesses produced & examined by virtue of the commission hereto 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 of the parties in this cause take write down & transcribe the depositions of all and every the witness & witnesses produced before and examined by the Commissioners named in the commission hereunto annexed as 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.

Watkins and wife vs. Sears and Sears

Interrogatories on the part of the Complainants.

1st What is your age, and do you know the parties and which of them, If yea how long have you known them.

2d Do you know when Dennis Sears was born and when he died and what was his age at the time of his death.

3d Were you on intimate terms with the family of the late Dennis Sears and if so did you ever hear him or the family speak of his age and what was generally talked of in the family as his age and do you know of his having ever voted.

4th Look at the bible now produced and the family record and say whether you know the same and how long you have known it and say whether the record of Dennis Sears birth was put there after you saw the bible or whether it has been there ever since you saw it and was there when you first saw it, In whose hand writing are the entries of the ages as therein put down.

5th Do you know any thing of Childs, who was Nelly Clark and if yea do you know whether he was in the habit of doing writing for the father of Dennis Sears.

6th Do you know whether Dennis Sears or Lucretia Sears left any children & how many of the children of the said Caleb Sears are now living and the names of the children of such as are dead.

7th Do you know the age of the Defendant Charity Sears, if yea state her age.

8th Do you know the farm on which Caleb Sears lived and that half devised by him to Dennis Sears and if so state whether it could be divided amongst the parties now interested in it without loss to all the parties supposing Watkins and wife to be entitled to one half thereof and the children of Charles Sears to the other half.

Watkins & wife vs. Sears & others

In Chancery.

Interrogatories to be propounded on the part of the Complainant to Doctor Dennis Claud.

1st Do you know the parties in this cause & how long have you known them.

2d Were you acquainted with Dennis Sears the son of Caleb Sears and if yea is he now living and when did he die.

Interrogatories to be propounded to Grafton Munroe on the part of Complainants.

1st Do you know the parties to this cause and how long have you known them.

2d Look at the Bible now shown you and the writing on the first column of the family record and say whether you know the writing therein down to the record of Dennis Sears birth inclusive and if yea whose is it, And if you are acquainted with it state as near as you can from your knowledge of the hand writing of the person at different periods of his life and of his age as well as the time of leaving Annapolis at what time the same was written.

Interrogatories to be propounded to Mrs. Charity Sears on the part of