Robert Harrison
against
Joseph Dowson and
James Williamson
Administrators of
James Footell

Be it remembered, that heretofore, to wit, on the first day of May in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven, the said Robert Harrison by John G. Mercer his attorney sued out of the General Court, the Court of the State of Maryland of Capias Ad respondendum, directed to the Sheriff of Anne Arundel County in the words and figures, following, to wit –

The State of Maryland, &c. To the Sheriff of Anne Arundel County Greeting. We command you that you take Joseph Dowson and James Williams late of Anne Arundel County Merchants Administrators of all and singular the Goods and chattels rights and Credits which were of James Footeee late of the County aforesaid Merchant otherwise called James Footell of the city of Annapolis Merchant if they shall be found in your Bailiwick, and them safe keep, so that you have their bodies before the Judges of our General Court, to be held at the City of Annapolis on the second Tuesday of May Instant to answer unto Robert Harrison in a plea that they render unto him the sum of One thousand and twenty three pounds six shillings and seven pence Specie of the value of the like sum of Current Money of Maryland which from him they unjustly detain and so forth; Hereof fail not, at your peril, and have you then and there this writ. Witness Robert Hanson Harrison Esquire, Chief Judge of our said Court, the 2nd day of December Anno Dominie 1786 –

Issued 1 day of May 1787 – (J. G. Mercer) Thos. B. Hodgkin Cl

And the aforesaid Robert Harrison by his Attorney aforesaid on the day of the Issuing of the aforesaid Writ filed in Court here, the following Declaration and Oyer of Bond, a Copy whereof was made and sent with the said Writ, to the Sheriff of the County aforesaid, to wit –

Maryland Anne Arundel County, Sc. Joseph Dowson and James Williams late of Anne Arundel County Merchants Administrators of all and singular the Goods and Chattels, Rights and Credits which were of James Footeee late of the County aforesaid Merchant otherwise called James Footell of the City of Annapolis Merchant were summoned to answer unto Robert Harrison in a plea that they render unto him the sum of One thousand and twenty three pounds six shillings and seven pence Specie of the value of the like sum of Current Money of Maryland which from him they unjustly detain and so forth: And whereupon the said Robert by John Francis Mercer his Attorney saith that whereas the aforesaid James Footell in his lifetime, to wit, on the twenty sixth day of July in the year seventeen hundred and eighty five, at the County aforesaid by his certain writing Obligatory acknowledged himself to be held and firmly bound unto the said Robert in the aforesaid sum of Specie to be paid unto him the said Robert when afterwards he the said James should be thereunto required. And the aforesaid Robert in fact saith that the aforesaid sum of One thousand and twenty three pounds six shillings and seven pence Specie was at the time of making the said writing Obligatory always since hath been and still is of the value of the like sum of Current Money of Maryland to wit at Anne Arundel County aforesaid – Nevertheless the aforesaid James in his life time or the aforesaid Joseph Dowson and James Williams since the Death of him the said James (to which said Joseph Dowson and James Williams administrators of all and

singular the Goods, Chattels, Rights and Credits which were of the aforesaid James at the time of his death, who died Intestate as it is said was after the decease of him the said James in the form of Law committed) or either of them the aforesaid sum of Money or the value thereof to him the said Robert altho' often thereunto required have not contented or paid but the same to him hitherto to render or pay the said James in his lifetime and the said Joseph Dowson and James Williams since the death of him the said James have altogether refused and the said Joseph Dowson and James Williams still doth refuse and unjustly detain – Wherefore the said Robert saith he is the worse and hath damage to the value of fifteen hundred pounds Current Money of Maryland and therefore he brings suit and so forth and brings here into Court the writing Obligatory aforesaid, Sealed with the seal of him the said James which the Deft aforesaid in form witnesseth whose Date is the Day and year last aforesaid and so forth. –

John G. Mercer for Deff. Pledges Vz John Doe and Richard Roe

And the said Joseph and James by their attorney come and defend the force and Injury when and so forth and pray an hearing of the writing Obligatory aforesaid and the Condition thereof and they have them as follows, to wit –

Maryland Sc. Know all men by these presents that we Joseph Dowson and James Footeee of the City of Annapolis Merchants are held and firmly bound unto Robert Harrison of Dorchester County Merchant in the full and just sum of One thousand and twenty three pounds six shillings and seven pence specie to be paid unto the said Robert Harrison his certain attorney, Executors, administrators or assigns; To the which payment well and truly to be made and done, we bind ourselves, our Heirs, Executors and Administrators in the whole and for the whole jointly and severally firmly by these presents; Sealed with our seals and Dated this twenty fifth day of July in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty five – The Condition of the above Obligation is such that if the above bound Joseph Dowson and James Footeee or either of them do and shall well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said Robert Harrison his certain attorney, Executors, administrators or assigns the just and full sum of five hundred and eleven pounds thirteen shillings and three pence in Gold and Silver Coin rating Dollars at seven shillings and six pence on or before the first day of April next with legal Interest thereon, then the above Obligation to be void else to remain in full force and virtue in Law –

Signed, Sealed and Delivered
In the presence of
Stephen Clark
William Wells

Joseph Dowson (Seal)
James Footell (Seal)

At which mentioned second Tuesday of May being the eighth day of the same Month in the year of our Lord, One thousand seven hundred and eighty seven, and the day of the return of the aforegoing writ, comes into the General Court here, the aforesaid Robert Harrison by John G. Mercer his Attorney aforesaid; and the Sheriff of Anne Arundel County aforesaid, to wit David Stewart Gentleman to whom the said aforegoing writ was in form aforesaid directed likewise comes and makes