The State of Maryland. ss. To the Sheriff of Washington County Greeting We command you that you that you take Henry Ayton late of Washington County farmer otherwise called Henry Ayton of Washington County if he shall be found in your bailiwick and him safe keep so that you have his body before the Judges of our General Court to be held at the City of Annapolis on the second tuesday of May next to answer unto Richard Ridgely of a plea that he render unto him the sum of four hundred and forty four pounds eighteen shillings and eight pence current money which to him he owes and from him unjustly detains 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 19th. day of November Anno Domini 1787.

Thos B. Hodgkin Cl.

Issued the 4th. March 1788 – R Potts,

And the said Richard Ridgely by his attorney aforesaid declared against the aforesaid Henry Ayton in the plea aforesaid as follows to wit

Western shore of Maryland and Washington County to wit Henry Ayton late of Washington County farmer otherwise called Henry Ayton of Washington County was summoned to answer unto Richard Ridgely of a plea that he render unto him the sum of four hundred and forty four pounds eighteen shillings and eight pence current money which to him he owes and from him unjustly detains and so forth, and whereupon the said Richard Ridgely by Richard Potts his attorney saith that whereas the aforesaid Henry Ayton on the fifteenth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty five at Washington County aforesaid by his certain Writing Obligatory acknowledged himself to be held and firmly bound unto him the said Richard Ridgely in the aforesaid sum of Four hundred and forty four pounds eighteen shillings and eight pence Current money to be paid to the said Richard Ridgely when afterwards he should be thereunto required, Nevertheless the said Henry Ayton although often afterwards thereunto required the aforesaid sum of Four hundred and forty four pounds eighteen shillings and eight pence current money or any part thereof to him the said Richard Ridgely hath not contented or paid, but the same sum of money or any part – thereof to him the said Richard Ridgely to content or pay the said Henry Ayton hath hitherto altogether refused and still doth refuse whereby the said Richard Ridgely saith he is the worse and hath damage to the value of Four 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 the aforesaid Henry Ayton which the Debt aforesaid in form aforesaid, Witnesseth the date whereof is the day and year aforesaid and so forth – –

Richard Potts for the plaintiff – pledges and so forth

John Doe and
Richard Roe –

Oyer of Bond and Condition,

Know all men by these presents that I Henry Ayton of Washington County held and firmly bound unto Richard Ridgely of Baltimore County attorney at – Law in the full and just sum of Four hundred and forty four pounds eighteen – shillings and eight pence current money to be paid to the said Richard Ridgely his certain attorney Executors Administrators or assigns To the which payment well and truly to be made and done I bind myself my heirs Executors Administrators firmly by these presents sealed with my seal dated this 15th. day of June Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and Eighty five –

The Condition of the above Obligation is such that if the above bound Henry Ayton do and shall well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said Richard Ridgely his certain attorney Executors Administrators or assigns the full and just – sum of two hundred and twenty two pounds nine shillings and four pence Specie at or upon the day of next ensuing the date hereof with legal Interest for the same then the above Obligation to be void and of none effect else to be and remain in full force and Virtue in Law –

sealed and Delivered in presence of – Wm. Grahame –

Henry Ayton – (Seal)

Indorsed as follows –

I assign the within Bond to John McGill, Witness my hand this 3 March 1787.

R Ridgely –

I'll see this Bond paid, R. Ridgely –

A Copy of which aforegoing Declaration and Oyer was made and sent with the writ which issued in the plea aforesaid –

And now here at this day to wit the said second tuesday of May being the thirteenth day of the same month Anno Domini Seventeen hundred and eighty eight and the day of the return of the aforegoing writ comes the said Richard Ridgely by his attorney aforesaid, and the Sheriff of Washington County to whom the same writ was directed likewise comes and makes return thereof to the Court here thus endorsed to wit –

Cepi Non est inventus left 26th. March. Adam Ott Shff

And the aforesaid Henry Ayton being called upon appears, and at the prayer of the aforesaid Richard Ridgely by his attorney aforesaid the said Henry Ayton is adjudged to give special Bail to the Action aforesaid –

Whereupon the aforesaid Henry Ayton by Baker Johnson his attorney files in