situated on the first floor, where they found her in or upon the bed, supported by pillows; that colonel John Dorsey read the acknowledgment of a deed from her to Charles Ridgely son of John, to which she seemed to give her approbation but he does not remember particularly in what manner and that when she took the pen to sign the aforesaid deed her hand shook and that her son Joshua Griffith steadied her hand by holding thereof, or her wrist - the deed being signed she held out her hand towards the Deponent who took hold of it and lowered her upon the bed that she said thank God, or words to that effect seeming to be in much pain and at the same time seemed to this Deponent to be sensible of the business she had done, but that she did not read the deed in his presence and that he believes that she did hear what was read in his presence owing to her extreme Deafness. And this Deponent further saith that his reason for not conversing with Mrs. Catherine Griffith, respecting the deed, was founded on the principal of her being so extremely deaf, and the presumption that her son Joshua Griffith had fully prepared her by giving her every information respecting the business, and that to the best of his knowledge Joshua Griffith was asked the question whether his mother was acquainted with the business, and he said yes. And he further saith that after they had taken Mrs. Catherine Griffiths acknowledgment of the Deed aforesaid they went into another room to finish the business that is to say to sign the acknowledgments and to witness the Execution. and this Deponent further saith that he does not remember the acknowledgment of any Deed at that time except the one before mentioned and that he did not hear her converse with any one whatever on that day. the the Deponent further saith upon the question being asked by Mr. John Ridgely, that he knew Mrs. Catherine Griffith previous to and after her acknowledgment of the said Deed and that he never knew her to be out of her senses

Thomas Dorsey

October 29th 1789

Sworn before William Campbell

John Dorsey being sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God deposeth and saith that on or about the 26th day of April 1773 he was requested by Mr. Joshua Griffith to go to his House to take the acknowledgment of same deeds from his mother Catherine Griffith to Charles Ridgely son of John that on his way to Mr. Joshua Griffiths he met Mr. Charles G. Griffith but he does not recollect any conversation that passed between them after arriving at Mr. Joshua Griffiths

Griffiths the writings being prepared he went into the room where Mrs. Griffith was on a bed but does not recollect who was in the room and that she acknowledged and acknowledged the deeds in the presence of this Deponent as he conceives by seeing the hand writing to the said deeds that this Deponent had never heard that she was insane and took the acknowledgment in the usual form, that this Deponent had no conversation with her that he recollects but she appeared to him as she had usually done when this Deponent had seen her and this Deponent conceived her capable of acknowledging Deeds or he would not have taken her acknowledgment or have witnessed the execution of the deeds that this Deponent does not now recollect the dates of the deeds which was acknowledged on the 26th of April or does he recollect being present at any time or a witness to the execution of any writings from Mrs. Griffith but on the 26th of April when the acknowledgments was taken this Deponent does not recollect the time he was in the room with Mrs. Griffith but he apprehends not longer than was necessary for the Execution of the said deeds and taking the acknowledgments which he believes was a very short time this Deponent saith that he witnessed the deeds which was acknowledged before him and the words, Catherine Griffith her mark was wrote by him.

The within Deposition sworn to
before me this 30th May 1789.

John Dorsey

Allen Quynn

And the said Joshua Griffith received the consideration from the said Charles as party to the said deed for which the said deed was executed.

The Plaintiff also further offered in Evidence, that the said Catherine Griffith at the time of the Execution and acknowledgment of the said deed had not sufficient reason and understanding to make a deed to convey land or dispose of property and offered further to prove this fact by hearsay, and that the said Joshua Griffith some little time after the execution and acknowledgment did declare that he was present at the Execution of the said deed and acknowledgment thereof that his mother the said Catherine knew nothing of it, that he guided her hand and transacted the whole business and that she had not at that time sufficient reason and understanding to convey her land or to make a deed for that purpose to which so offered to be given the Defendant by his counsel objected and the Court were of opinion that the evidence so offered to be Given was improper and unadmissable to which opinion the Plaintiff by his Council prays leave to except according to the form of the statute in that case made and provided and prays that the Judges will put their seals to this bill of exceptions.

Thomas Johnson (seal)
R. Goldsborough (seal)