has always understood was son of the deponents Sister Betty that Bettys mother was the deponents mother, and Betty was many years younger than the deponent the deponent knew her ever since she the said Betty was a child, being both born in the same family. That when the deponent went to see her mother and her Sister at John Smiths on patuxent the said Tom was a boy and appeared to be about six or seven years old, that the deponents mother Nelly was then sick at Mr. Smiths and died of that Illness; that this deponent had never seen the said Tom but once before that, he then seemed to be about two years old, that her said Sister Betty was then big with her next child, and Tom always past for Bettys child and she never heard it contradicted or questioned. That Clem Shorter who petitioned against Raphael Neale is about three years older than Tom and she has known Clem ever since she knew Tom having first seen them at the same time, and Clem always past as the son of the deponents Sister Betty aforesaid and she never heard it contradicted and he was owned by Betty as her child. That Ignatius Shorter who petitioned against Henry Howell is brother of this deponent and son of her mother Nelly, and the deponent has known him ever since he was a child. That Gerrard Shorter who petitioned against Mary Boarman is son of this deponents Sister Jenny who petitioned against Mrs. Bradford. That Patty Shorter who has petitioned against Thomas Stone this deponent has known ever since she was a child, she is daughter of Betty who was aunt of this deponent and sister of this deponents Mother Nelly and she was always reputed as such and she never heard it contradicted, the said Betty was daughter of Patty who belonged to old John Lancaster as the deponent always understood and never heard it contradicted. Sworn this 17th day of October 1795. before. John Randall

Taken before John T. Mason and Gabriel Duvall.

Priscilla Shorter against John Smith — Petition for freedom. Sarah Butler of Anne Arundel County aged fifty three years and upwards being sworn on the holy Evangely of Almighty God deposeth and saith that she knows Priscilla Shorter now present, and has known

known her ever since she was born, that they were both born in the family of Henry Neale deceased, who was son of Roswell Neale; the said Priscilla Shorter is daughter of Appy Shorter now deceased; the deponent knew Appy well, she belonged to the said Henry Neale; that Appy has been dead about nineteen years; that she had Eleven children to wit, Henry, Joshua, Anthony, Jenny, Shadrach, George, Nelly, Peter, Prifsy, and Lucy and Gerrard; that Henry, Joshua, Jenny, Shadrach, George, Nelly, and Gerrard are dead; that Lucy belongs to Henry Neale of St. Marys county, son of Henry Neale deceased before mentioned, and has petitioned against him. That the deponent knew Jenny Shorter very well, and Appy was always reputed the daughter of Jenny Shorter, and they always claimed one another as mother and daughter and she never heard it contradicted.

Sworn 27. Octr. 1795 before J. Bullen

Leonard Shorter against Richard Edelen — Priscilla Shorter aged between forty and fifty years being sworn on the holy Evangely of Almighty God deposeth and saith that the petitioner Leonard Shorter now present, is the son of the deponent and her master John Smith sold him to Philip Ford four or five years ago, and Philip Ford gave him to the defendant who married his daughter. That Baptist Shorter who petitioned against John Smith is also son of this deponent and is older than Leonard and is now about twenty four years of age.

Sworn to this 30th day of October 1795. before J. Bullen.

Teresa Shorter against Joseph Boarman — Petition for Freedom. Jenny Shorter aged sixty two years and upwards being sworn on the holy evangely of Almighty God deposeth and saith that she knew Terry Shorter who petitioned against Joseph Boarman; she was daughter as the deponent always understood of Lucy Shorter who belonged to William Neale near Port Tobacco, and afterwards to the widow of said Neale, which Lucy was Sister of Henry who petitioned against Henry Barnes, and of Basil who petitioned against Charles Carroll; that she knows Robert Shorter commonly called Bob, Rupeten, who was always reputed to be the Brother of the said Lucy Henry and Basil. The deponent also saith that Anne Shorter who petitioned against Raphael Boarman is daughter of this deponent and was sold and sent to the Havanna as she has been