Shorter by Gabriel Duvall his attorney preferred and filed in the General Court here, his petition for freedom against Richard Edelen which is in form following to wit.

To the honourable the Judges of the General court. The petition of Leonard Shorter humbly sheweth, that he is held in slavery by Richard Edelen of Charles County, and he is advised that he is entitled to his freedom being descended in the female line from Elizabeth Shorter a free white woman. He therefore prays your honours the premises being considered, to discharge him from the further service of the said Richard Edelen if he should prove his descent as aforesaid and that summons may issue for the said Richard Edelen to answer this petition, and he will pray, and so forth. G. Duvall for Petr.

Whereupon in pursuance of the rule and order of the Court here in such case made, on the day and year aforesaid, the said Leonard Shorter by his attorney aforesaid, prosecuted and sued forth out of the General Court here the of the State of Maryland of Subpena ad respondendum against the said Richard Edelen directed to the sheriff of Charles County, in form following to wit.

The State of Maryland to wit. To the sheriff of Charles County Greeting. We command you that you summons Richard Edelin late of Charles County that all excuses and delays be set a side he be and appear before the Judges of our General Court to be held at the City of Annapolis on the second tuesday of October next to answer unto the petition of Leonard Shorter preferred against him for freedom hereof he is not to fail and fail not at your peril and have you then and there this writ. Witness the honourable Samuel Chase Esquire chief Judge of our said Court the 8th. day of May Anno Domini 1792.

Issued the 21st day of May Anno Domini 1792. Ld. Int. Gwinn Clk.

At which said second Tuesday of October being the ninth day of the said month in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety two, and the day of the return of the aforegoing summons comes into the General Court here, the said Leonard Shorter by his attorney aforesaid and the sheriff of Charles County aforesaid, to whom the said summons was in form aforesaid directed makes return thereof to the Court here thus endorsed to wit.

Summoned James Simms Sheriff. Whereupon

Whereupon, comes into the General Court here the said Richard Edelen by Philip Barton Key his attorney; And on motion of the said Leonard Shorter by his attorney aforesaid; it is ruled by the Court here that the said Richard Edelen enter into a recognizance to the State of Maryland in the usual form in such cases made and provided, Whereupon a certain Philip Ford of Saint Marys County comes into Court here in his proper person and acknowledges himself to owe and stand justly indebted to the State of Maryland in the sum of one hundred pounds Current money to be levied of his body goods and Chattels lands and tenements, to and for the use of the said State of Maryland, On Condition that the said Richard Edelen do not remove the said Leonard Shorter out of the State of Maryland nor obstruct the said Leonard Shorter from attending this Court from time to time in support of his petition for Freedom exhibited in the said Court against the said Richard Edelen and in the mean time to feed cloath and use him the said Leonard Shorter well and pay whatever satisfaction the Court shall adjudge for the services of the said Leonard Shorter from this Term to the time of the Judgment with Costs; Thereupon further proces of and upon the premises aforesaid between the parties aforesaid between the parties aforesaid by order of the Court here is continued until the second Tuesday of May next, the same day is given to the parties aforesaid, then and so forth.

At which said second Tuesday of May being the fourteenth day of the said month in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety three, come again into the General Court here as well the said Leonard Shorter by his attorney aforesaid, as the said Richard Edelen by his attorney aforesaid. Thereupon further proces of and upon the premises aforesaid between the parties aforesaid, by order of the Court here is further continued until the second Tuesday of October next; the same day is given to the parties aforesaid then and so forth.

At which said second Tuesday of October being the Eighth day of the said month in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety three, come again into the General Court here as well the said Leonard Shorter by his attorney aforesaid, as the said Richard Edelen by his attorney aforesaid. Thereupon further proces of and upon the premises aforesaid between the parties aforesaid, by order of the Court here is further continued until the second Tuesday of May next; the same day is given to the said parties then and so forth.

At which said second tuesday of May being the thirteenth day of the same