General court here as well the said Mary Thomas for herself and her two children Letty and Robert by her attorney aforesaid as the said Thomas Lancaster by his attorney aforesaid; And the said Mary Thomas and her two children aforesaid by her attorney aforesaid files in court here the Deposition of Henry Hill which is in form following to wit.

Charles County Ss. October 19th 1795. Then came William Hill before me the subscriber one of the justices of the peace for said county and made oath on the holy Evangels of Almighty God that Negro John late the property of Raphael Boarman but who now calls himself John Thomas, is son of Anne who was daughter to Betty Mings as he has always understood. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the above date.

Walter Dyson (seal)

Whereupon all and singular the premises between the parties aforesaid by the Court here being seen, heard and fully understood and mature deliberation thereupon had for that it appears to the Court here, that the said Mary Thomas for herself and her two children Letty and Robert the petitioner aforesaid, is entitled to her freedom, being descended, in the female line, from a free white woman (whose name was Elizabeth Thomas) as she by her petition to the Court here hath alledged; therefore it is considered by the court here, that the said Mary Thomas and her two children Letty and Robert the petitioner aforesaid, be free and discharged of and from the service of the aforesaid Thomas Lancaster and that she the said Mary Thomas the petitioner and her two children aforesaid go thereof without day, &c. It is further considered by the Court here that the said Mary Thomas and her two children aforesaid recover against the said Thomas Lancaster the quantity of six hundred and fifty nine pounds of Tobacco by the court here unto her the said Mary Thomas on her afore adjudged for her costs and charges by her about the prosecution of her petition aforesaid laid out and expended, and that she have thereof her execution, &c.

Test John Gwinn Clk.

Henry Thomas against Thomas Lancaster

Be it remembered that heretofore to wit, on the seventh day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety two; Henry Thomas by Gabriel Duvall his attorney preferred

preferred and filed in the General Court here his petition for Freedom against Thomas Lancaster which is in form following to wit.

To the honourable the Judges of the General Court. The petition of Henry Thomas humbly sheweth that he is held in slavery by Thomas Lancaster of Charles County, and he is advised that he is entitled to be free being descended in the female line from Elizabeth Thomas a free white woman. He therefore prays your honours, the premises being considered, and the facts established, to discharge him from the service of the said Thomas Lancaster, and he as in duty bound will pray &c.

G Duvall for Pettr

Whereupon in pursuance of the rule of the Court here in such cases made and provided, the said Henry Thomas by his attorney aforesaid on the day and year aforesaid, prosecuted and sued forth out of the General Court here the writ of the State of Maryland of Sipbena ad respondendum against the said Thomas Lancaster, directed to the sheriff of Charles County in form following to wit.

The State of Maryland Ss. To the sheriff of Charles County Greeting. We command you that you summons Thomas Lancaster of Charles County that all delays and excuses 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 May next to answer unto the petition of Henry Thomas 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 14th day of February Anno Domini 1792.

Issued the 7th day of March Anno Domini 1792. G.D. Jno. Gwinn Clk.

At which said second Tuesday of May being the Eighth 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 Henry Thomas 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 Shff.

Whereupon comes into the General Court here the said Thomas Lancaster by Philip Barton Key his attorney: And thereupon further process of and upon the premises aforesaid between the parties aforesaid by order of the Court here is continued until the second tuesday of