Eleanor Shorter
against
Hanson Briscoe

Be it remembered that heretofore court on the third day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety two Eleanor Shorter by Gabriel Duvall her attorney prefers to the court here her petition for freedom against Hanson Briscoe in form following to wit.

To the honorable the Judges of the General Court
The petition of Eleanor Shorter humbly sheweth that she with her son James Shorter are held in slavery by Hanson Briscoe of Washington county and she is advised that they are entitled to their freedom being descended in the female line from a free white woman she therefore pray your Honors the premises being considered, that they may be discharged from the custody of the said Hanson Briscoe, and that summons may issue for him to answer this petition and she will pray and so forth.

G Duvall for Petitioner

Thereupon it is ordered by the court here that the writ of the State of Maryland of Sabpena ad respondendum issue against the said Hanson Briscoe to answer unto the said Petition and so forth. and the same accordingly issues directed to the sheriff of Washington County in form following to wit.

The State of Maryland ss. To the sheriff of Washington County Greeting We command you that you summons Hanson Briscoe that all delays and excuses set aside 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 Eleanor Shorter therein James 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 Honorable Samuel Chase Esquire chief judge of our said court the 29th day of may anno Domini 1792.

Issued the 3d day of September 1792.

G D. Jno Gwinn Clk.

The same day is given to the said Eleanor Shorter also.

At which said second Tuesday of October being the ninth day of the same month in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety two. and the day of the return of the aforegoing writ. comes into the General court here as well the said Eleanor Shorter by her attorney aforesaid. and the sheriff of Washington County to whom the said writ was in form aforesaid directed makes return thereof to the court here thus indorsed to wit.

Summoned Henry Shryock Shff.

and the said Hanson Briscoe by Philip Barton Key his attorney appears in court here. and defends the force and injury when and so forth and prays leave of the court here to imparle until the second Tuesday of May next. and to him it is granted the same day is given to the said Eleanor Shorter also.

(At)

At which said second Tuesday of May being the fourteenth day of the same month in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety three. to which said day the said Hanson Briscoe had leave to imparle. Come again into the General Court here, as well the petitioner as the Defendant by their attorneys, and the said Hanson Briscoe by his said attorney (as before) defends the force and injury when and so forth and prays leave of the court here to imparle until the second Tuesday of October next, and to him it is granted the same day is given to the petitioner also.

At which said second Tuesday of October being the eighth day of the same month in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety three, to which said day the said Hanson Briscoe had leave to imparle Come again into the General Court here as well the petitioner as the Defendant by their said attorneys and the said Hanson Briscoe by his attorney aforesaid (as before) defends the force and injury when and so forth and prays leave of the court here to imparle until the second Tuesday of May next, and to him it is granted the same day is given to the petitioner also.

At which said second Tuesday of May being the thirteenth day of the same month in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety four. to which said day the said Hanson Briscoe had leave to imparle come again into the General Court here as well the petitioner as the Defendant by their attorneys and the said Hanson Briscoe as before defends the force and injury when and so forth. and prays leave of the Court here to imparle until the second Tuesday of October next and to him it is granted the same day is given to the said petitioner also.

At which said second Tuesday of October being the fourteenth day of the same month in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety four, to which said day the said Hanson Briscoe had leave to imparle Come again into the General Court here as well the petitioner as the Defendant by their attorneys and the said Hanson Briscoe as before defends the force and injury when and so forth. and prays leave of the court here to imparle until the second Tuesday of May next, and to him it is granted the same day is given to the petitioner also.

At which said second Tuesday of May being the twelfth day of the same month in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety five, to which said day the said Hanson Briscoe had leave to imparle, come again into the General Court here as well the said petitioner as the Defendant by their attorney and the said Hanson Briscoe (as before) defends the force and injury when and so forth and prays leave of the court here to imparle until the second Tuesday of October next and to him it is granted, the same day is given to the petitioner also.

At which said second Tuesday of October being the thirteenth day of the same month in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred

(and)