Henry Rozer
against
Peter Shorter

Be it remembered, that now here on the 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 the chief Justice and Associate Justices of Prince Georges county court, in pursuance of the act of Assembly in such case made and provided, transmit to the general court here the record and proceedings of a plea which was lately depending before them in the said county court between Peter Shorter plaintiff and Henry Rozer defendant, and wherein the said county court gave Judgment for the said Peter Shorter against the said Henry Rozer and from which said Judgment the said Henry Rozer prayed an appeal unto the general court here, the Tenor of which said record and proceedings is in form following to wit.

Prince Georges County to wit.

At a county court of the state of Maryland held for the county aforesaid at Upper Marlborough Town in said County on the first Monday in April being the sixth day of the same month in the year of our Lord one Thousand seven hundred and ninety five.

Present

Michael Jenifer Stone Esquire chief Justice
David Crawford and Thomas Duckett } Esquires Associate Justices
William John Jackson Esquire sheriff. John Read Magruder junr Clerk

In the record of proceedings of the same Court among other things is the following to wit.

Pd Peter Shorter } Prince Georges County Sc.
against
Hry Wm Henry Rozer } Be it Remembered that heretofore to wit on the fifth day of November in the year of our Lord seventeen hundred and ninety four, Peter Shorter by Gabriel Duvall his attorney, preferred to the Justices of the county court of the county aforesaid, the following Petition to wit.

To the Honourable the Justices of Prince Georges County Court.

The Petition of Peter Shorter humbly sheweth; that he is held in slavery by Henry Rozer Esq. altho he is entitled to his freedom being descended from a free white woman named Elizabeth Shorter. He therefore prays your Honours to direct summons to issue for the said Henry Rozer & that he may be discharged from further servitude.

G Duvall for Pet.

Thereupon Summons accordingly issued against the said Henry Rozer closed in the following words to wit.

Prince Georges County Sc. The State of Maryland To the

sheriff of Prince Georges county Greeting. We command you that you summon Henry Rozer of Prince Georges county, all excuses set apart to be and appear before the Justices of our next county court to be held at Upper Marlborough Town in said County on the first Monday in april next to answer the Petition of Peter Shorter preferred against him for freedom. Hereof he is not to fail at his peril and fail not at your peril. Witness Michael J Stone Esq. chief Justice of our county court at the Town aforesaid the 29th day of October 1794.

Issued the 5th day of November 1794. G Duvall, J R Magruder junr Clk.

And now at this day to wit the first Monday in april in the year seventeen hundred and ninety five, come here at the Court house in the Town aforesaid before the Justices of the court here the said Peter Shorter by his attorney aforesaid and the sheriff to wit William John Jackson Gentleman to whom the aforegoing summons was directed likewise comes, and makes return thereof to the court here thus endorsed to wit. Summd Wm Jno Jackson sheriff.

Whereupon the said Henry Rozer appears here in court by William Hammond Dorsey and Philip Barton Key his attorneys. and the said Henry Rozer by William H Dorsey his attorney saith in answer to the petition of the said Peter Shorter, that the said Peter is the proper slave of him the said Henry without that, that the said Peter is descended in the female line from a white woman called Elizabeth Shorter and therefore he prays Judgment &c.

William Hammond Dorsey for Deft.

and the said Peter by his attorney aforesaid by way of replication to the plea of him the said Henry, saith that he by any thing alleged therein to be precluded from having & maintaining his suit aforesaid for his freedom ought not, because he saith that he is not the proper slave of him the said Henry & that he is descended in the female line from a free white woman named Elizabeth Shorter and this he prays may be enquired of by the Country and the said Henry doth the like.

G Duvall for Pet.

Therefore for the trial of the the said issue command is given the sheriff of Prince Georges County that he immediately cause to come here twelve good and lawful men of his bailiwick by whom & wh. the truth &c. be cause as well &c. of which said precept the said sheriff to wit William John Jackson Gentleman, makes return that he has here ready twelve &c. as by the same precept he was commanded to wit. Benjamin Brookes, John Tendall Beall, Thomas Harwood, Jun of Benjamin, Thomas Hodgkin Junr, Charles Drury Hodges, Nicholas Sansbury, Joseph Blanford, Philip Hill, Richard Marshall, Edward Willett, Solomon Hillen and Josiah Gordon - who being duly elected, tried and sworn to say the truth in the premises upon their oath do say that the