are the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth to the best of his knowledge and recollection.

Sworn to and Signed before me this 27th August 1792
Edmd Plowden

Basil Shorter & Henry Rozer } In Prince Georges County Court
Petition for Freedom
Petitioners Interrogatories.

1st Do you know the parties, the petitioner and the Defendant and how long have you known them?

2d Do you know Linda the mother of the petitioner and how long have you known her?

3d Do you or did you know the Mary or Moll grand mother of the petitioner and to whom did she belong?

4th Did you know Mary Shorter commonly called mulatto Moll who lived with Anthony Neale (who died in Charles County many years ago) and did you know the said Mulatto Moll when she lived with James Neale son of Anthony Neale and with whom did she afterwards live and how long has she been dead?

5th Do you know or have you heard and from whom that Mulatto Moll (mentioned in the preceding Interrogatory) was the Daughter of a white woman, if so what was the name of the white woman was it Elizabeth Shorter or what was her name?

6th Do you know or have you heard and from whom that Elizabeth Shorter a free white woman was married to a negro called little Robin formerly the property of William Roswell of St Marys County and that the said Elizabeth Shorter with her children were given by the said Roswell to Anthony Neale?

7th Do you know or have you heard and from whom how many children the said Elizabeth Shorter had? What were their names and with whom did they live and die and when?

8th Do you know or have you heard and from whom that the said Elizabeth Shorter had a Daughter named Moll, another named Jane or Jenny, and another named Martha or Patty? if so with whom did they live and die and how long have they been dead?

9th If you know Jane, Moll and Patty the children of Elizabeth Shorter how many children had each or either of them, what were their names and with whom did they respectively live and die and how long since?

10th Do you know or have you heard and from whom that the petitioner Basil Shorter or Linda his mother, or Moll his Grand mother is or were descended from a white woman? and what was her name?

(11th Do,

11th Do you know or have you heard and from whom that the family of the negroes who called themselves Shorters or Shorts or any and which of them were descended from a white woman and what was her name and with whom did you understand she lived?

12th Did you know Mrs Anny Neale Widow of William Neale near Port Tobacco if yea, did you ever hear her say any thing of the Shorters and which of them and did she say they were descended from a white woman and what was her name and with whom did she live?

13th Do you know or have you heard and from whom that the negroes or mulattoes who call themselves Shorters or any of them are descended from a white woman and what was her name?

14th Were you ever present when persons were sworn concerning the right of the Shorters to freedom, if yea on what occasion was it what were their names, what did they depose and were they people of credit?

15th Have you any further knowledge concerning the right of the petitioner or any of his family to freedom if you relate it fully and truely.

G Duvall
Jos Gantt } for Petitioner

The Deposition of Elizabeth Thom of Charles County aged about 65 years being first duly sworn on the holy Evangels of Almighty God Deposeth and saith as follows, to wit.

Imprimis To the first Interrogatory this Deponent saith that know nothing Item to the 2d Interrogatory this Deponent saith that she know nothing

The Woman know nothing but herself

The above deposition was taken on the 25th August 1792 in presence of Weden Edwards Esq on behalf of John M'Gantt attorney for the petitioner & Henry Rozer Esq Defendant before the subscriber one of the Justices of the peace for Charles County.

Henry Barnes

Westmoreland County Virginia May 23d 1794. In obedience to a commission bearing date the fourteenth day of May 1794. Issued by the clerk of the General Court for the Western Shore of Maryland to me directed one of the Commonwealths Justices for the County aforesaid having pursuant to said Commission examined upon Oath John Baptist Anderson aged sixty six years touching his knowledge in the cause depending in the aforesaid Court between Thomas Short petitioner and Richard Jordon Defendant to which this Deponent saith that he knows nothing of his first second & third question demanded by the attorney for the petitioner, and for the fourth he saith I did know a mulatto woman by the name of Jane Short in the County of Saint Mary's, she lived in a House of

Roswell)