being sworn on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God in this cause deposeth & saith that he has far Basil Shorter the petitioner & has known the Defendant ever since he was a Boy and he saith that when he was about twelve or thirteen years of B he knew a mulatto woman named Jenny Shorter who lived at Roswell Neale on Clements Bay in S Marys county; that the said Jenny Shorter was a Noted Doctor and he was frequently sent for the said Jenny to attend the families of M Henry Wharton, Joshua Dagney & M. Sligh when sick with the flux; that the said Jenny then managed a mill for the said Roswell Neale which was called Tomacohin Mill and when he was sent for her as aforesaid he applied to her the said Jenny & not to Roswell Neale & she would attend their families; and the said Jenny Shorter had great liberty in going about & attending people sick with the flux in the neighbourhood, but whether she was free or entitled to freedom he never heard. and he never heard her claim her freedom nor any other person say that she claimed it; that the said Jenny was a remarkably short squat woman & he thinks he never saw a shorter woman; that he knew at the same time a mulatto woman called Patty who lived with John Lancaster which said Patty was generally reputed to be the sister of the aforesaid Jenny; but he never heard her called Patty Shorter, that the said Jenny was sometimes called Jenny Short & sometimes Jenny Shorter; That he has understood that the said John Lancaster got the said Patty by his wife, but he does not remember who his wife was; that he knew another Mulatto Woman named Mary who lived at Edward Neales which Edward was Father of Mr Rozer wife of the Defendant; that she was generally reputed to be the sister of the said Jenny, but he never heard her called Mary Shorter; that he never heard who was the mother of the said three women that the said Jenny when he first knew her was done breeding & had Daughters grown who were women but he cannot say how old she was. The Deponent being asked if his mother was a white woman? answers she was and a Scotch woman named Jane Hill and the Deponent was about sixteen years old when she died at Dr Francis Pairnhams that he the Deponent devided his time partly with Justinian Wharton deceased with whom his mother lived after the death of Henry Wharton with whom his mother lived when he was born as he has understood & she was held as a servant by him. That he never heard any of the family of the aforesaid three sisters claim their freedom untill lately: that the aforesaid Patty and Molly were common sized women.

Sworn to this 2d day of September 1790 in presence of Wm H. Dwyer (Gabriel)

Gabriel Duvall Attorney in this suit.

Before David Craufurd

Shorter vs Henry Rozer } William Hill of S Marys County being again sworn on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God with the consent of the Counsel on each side deposeth and saith that when he lived in the family of Henry Wharton he used to go as a Mill boy to Tomacohin Mill for about two years, and during that time no other boy was sent from his masters family but himself & during the whole of that time Jenny Short attended & managed said Mill & there was no other Miller but herself for that space of time, as he thinks when he first went to the Mill he was about twelve or thirteen years old & he & Jenny together could not will put the bag upon the horse; that Jenny was a very short woman & he remembers that once after they had tried & could not put the bag on the horse he the Deponent went to the House of a neighbour who lived about half a mile off & a young man named Hazeldine went with them assisted in putting up the bag that at other times some of the family who were occasionally there & others who happened at the mill would assist in putting up the bag that afterwards as he grew stronger he & Jenny could put it up.

Sworn before Reind. Johnson.
Sept. 2d 1794.

Basil Shorter vs Henry Rozer } Pet. for freedom in Prince Georges County Court. Jane Hickey of Prince Georges County of Lawful age being sworn on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God to say the truth in this cause deposeth & saith that she knows the Petitioner Basil & knew his mother in her lifetime who was named Linda that she knows nothing of his claim to freedom. That she has lived nine years in the family of the Defendant and never heard any conversation from M. Rozer in which he acknowledged that Basil Shorter was descended from a white woman or any conversation in favour of his right to freedom.

Sworn before Saml Hepburn
April 8th 1794

Basil Shorter vs Henry Rozer } Petition for freedom in Prince Georges County Court. Jeremiah Neale of S. Marys County aged upwards of fifty five years being sworn on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God to say the truth in this cause deposeth & saith that since the dispute between Basil & his ~~Brother~~ Master this Deponent knew Jack the petitioner, but he never knew him before. That he did not know the mother of Basil. That he did not know a yellow woman