said Commissioners hereinbefore mentioned as far forth as you are directed or any three or two of them to take write down and transcribe, the said Depositions or any of them, So help you God

State of North Carolina Rockingham County

(seal) In pursuance of a Commission issuing from the General Court for the Western shore of the State of Maryland directed to Pleasant Henderson, Thomas Henderson Abraham Philips and Samuel Henderson, and bearing date the 9th of May 1797. to examine Evidences in a Cause depending in said Court between Philip Brashears's Lessee, Plaintiff and Thomas Hewitt Defendant.

We the undersigned Pleasant Henderson and Abraham Philips two of the Commissioners aforesaid have at the house of Sampson Lanier in the County and State aforesaid on the first day of September in the year aforesaid caused Peter Dowell, William Williams, James Delay, Thomas Knight and Thomas Lomax to come before us, and them examined on oath touching such matters and things as they know or remember relative to the said suit (first ourselves administering one to the other the oath by the Laws of Maryland directed to be taken by Commissioners appointed to examine Witnesses being Justices Commissioned to keep the peace in and for the County aforesaid and lawfully authorised to administer oaths, and also the oath by said Laws directed to be taken by a Clerk, were one appointed, having ourselves done the executive part of the business) who saith, to wit. Peter Dowell to the following Interrogatories or questions.

Question the first, How old are you?

Answers, Seventy years and upwards,

Question 2d. Where born?

Answers, In the State of Maryland between Mount Pleasant and London Town as he was always informed by his parents.

Question 3d. Where you acquainted in the State of Maryland with Robert Brashears son of Samuel Brashears?

Answers, That he was intimately acquainted for many years with Samuel Brashears the father and with his son Robert remarking as a reason that the said Robert married this Respondents Sister Charity,

Question

Question 4th. Have you any knowledge of the place, or are you acquainted with the Land on which the said Robert Brashears lived in the State of Maryland?

Answers. He is, that he was once at the house of the said Robert after his intermarriage with his Sister, and distinctly recollects that the Land was situated in Prince Georges County on the beaver dam branch and perhaps within three or four Miles of Bladensburg,

Question 5th. Do you know if the said Robert Brashears owned or Claimed any other tract or parcel of Land in the State of Maryland?

Answers, To the best of his knowledge, He did not.

Question 6th. Do you know how, or in what manner the said Robert Brashear came possessed of the tract of Land aforesaid?

Answers, That he ever understood that Samuel Brashear, father of the said Robert, gave it to him at or soon after his marriage with this respondents Sister.

Question 7th. Do you know whether Samuel Brashear claimed and acknowledged the said Robert to be his son?

Answers, That he never knew or heard any thing to the Contrary but at all times to the best of his recollection heard him the said Samuel acknowledge and claim him the said Robert to be his Son.

Question 8th. Are you acquainted with Philip Brashears eldest son of the said Robert?

Answers, That he is, that he was acquainted with the said Philip in the State of Maryland, though then a child and always understood and verily believes him, the said Philip, to be the eldest Son of the said Robert; and also recollects that the said Robert acknowledged and claimed him as his eldest son.

Question 9th. Do you know whether the said Robert Brashear who you was acquainted with in the State of Maryland and who you saw in possession of the tract of land on Land on Beaver Dam branch aforesaid, is the said Robert Brashear who lived at a place called the rocky Springs in Guilford County (then) now Rockingham in the State of North Carolina.

Answers