Late of Prince Georges County, Planter, otherwise called Joseph Ramsey Hodges of Prince Georges County in the State of Maryland Planter if he shall be found in your bailiwick and him safe keep so that you have his body, before the General Court to be held at the City of Annapolis on the second tuesday of May next to answer unto Richard Higgins in a plea that he the said Joseph Ramsey Hodges render unto him the said Richard the sum of four hundred pounds Current money which he owes to the said Richard and from him he unjustly detains and soforth. Hereof fail not at your peril and have you then and there this writ. Witness the honorable Jeremiah Townley Chase Esquire Chief Judge of the said Court, the eleventh day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine.

Issued the 28th. day of February, 1799. W.C. Jno. Gwinn Clerk.

And the aforesaid Richard Higgins by his attorney aforesaid on the day of the issuing of the aforesaid writ filed in Court here the following Declaration and oyer of Bond, A Copy whereof was made and sent with the said writ, to the sheriff of the County aforesaid to wit.

Western Shore, State of Maryland, Prince Georges County, ss. Joseph Ramsey Hodges late of Prince Georges County, Planter otherwise called Joseph Ramsey Hodges of Prince Georges County, in the State of Maryland Planter, was summoned to answer unto Richard Higgins in a plea that he the said Joseph Ramsey Hodges render unto him the said Richard the sum of four hundred pounds Current money which he owes to the said Richard and from him he unjustly detains and soforth.

Whereupon the said Richard by William Cooke his attorney saith that whereas the said Joseph Ramsey Hodges on the thirtieth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety six at Prince Georges County, aforesaid by his certain writing obligatory acknowledged himself to be held and firmly bound unto him the said Richard in the aforesaid sum of four hundred pounds Current money, to be paid to him the said Richard when afterwards he should be thereunto required.

Nevertheless the said Joseph Ramsey Hodges (although often thereunto required) the aforesaid sum of four hundred pounds Current money to him the said Richard hath not rendered or paid but the same sum of Current money to the said Richard to render or pay, he the said Joseph Ramsey Hodges hath hitherto altogether refused and still doth refuse; wherefore the said Richard saith he is the worse and hath damage to the value of one thousand pounds Current money and therefore he brings

brings Suit &c. And brings here into Court the writing obligatory aforesaid Sealed with the seal of the said Joseph Ramsey Hodges which the Debt aforesaid in form aforesaid, Witnesseth whose date is the day and year aforesaid &c.

W. Cooke for Pltff. Pledges &c. John Doe and Richard Roe.

(Oyer of the Bond)

Know all men by these presents, that I Joseph Ramsey Hodges of Prince Georges County, in the State of Maryland Planter am held and firmly bound unto Richard Higgins of Anne Arundel County, in the full and just sum of four hundred pounds Current money of Maryland to be paid unto the said Richard Higgins or his certain attorney, his Executors Administrators or Assigns to which payment well and truly to be made and done I bind myself my heirs Executors and Administrators firmly, by these presents, Sealed with my seal and dated this thirtieth day of August one thousand seven hundred and ninety six.

The Condition of the above obligation is such that if the above bound Joseph Ramsey Hodges do and shall well and truly pay or Cause to be paid unto the aforesaid Richard Higgins or his certain attorney, his Executors and Administrators the full and just sum of two hundred pounds Current money as aforesaid with legal Interest from the tenth day of September one thousand seven hundred and ninety five to be paid on or before the first day of October one thousand eight hundred the Interest to be paid Annually, the first payment of Interest to be made on the first day of October one thousand seven hundred and ninety six and annually, hereafter on that day till the Principal becomes due; and in Case of failure in paying the Interest as Stipulated the above Credit shall be forfeited and the above Bond liable to be sued, to recover both Principal and Interest according to the true intent and meaning of these presents, then the above obligation to be void else to remain in full force and virtue in Law.

Signed Sealed and delivered
In presence of
Moses Orme.
Joshua C. Higgins

Joseph Ramsey Hodges (Seal)

At which mentioned second Tuesday of May, being the fourteenth day of the same month in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine and the day of the return of the aforegoing writ comes into the General Court here the aforesaid Richard Higgins by William Cooke his attorney aforesaid and the sheriff of Prince Georges County, aforesaid, to wit, Notley Maddox