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John Welch Esquire Sheriff of Anne Arundel County

John Gwinn Clk.

In the record of Proceedings of the same Court among others is the following to Wit.

Charles Mahoney against Revd John Ashton

Be it remembered that on the Eighteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety one Charles Mahoney by Gabriel Duvall his attorney Exhibited to the Judges of the General Court here in Court setting his petition for freedom against the Reverand John Ashton in the words and figures following to Wit To the Honorable the Judges of the General Court The petition of Charles Mahoney humbly sheweth that he is held in slavery by the Reverend John Ashton of Prince Georges County although he is Entitled to his freedom being descended from a free woman named Anne Joice he therefore prays your Honours to order summons for his witness consider his case and discharge him from the further custody of the said John Ashton upon your petitioners proving the facts stated and he will pray and so forth.

G. Duvall for Plaintiff

whereupon it is ordered by the Court here that the said Reverend John Ashton of Prince Georges County do not remove the aforesaid Charles Mahoney out of this State nor obstruct him from attending this Court from time to time in support of his petition for freedom preferred against him the said Reverand John Ashton and in the mean time to feed cloath and use the said Petitioner well And at the prayer of the aforesaid Charles Mahoney by his attorney aforesaid summons is ordered by the Court here to issue to the Sheriff of Prince Georges County against the said reverend John Ashton returnable immediately

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to answer the petition aforesaid which accordingly issued in the words and figures following to Wit the State of Maryland Set To the Sheriff of Prince Georges County Greeting we command you that you summon the Reverend John Ashton that all delays and Excuses set aside he be and appear before the Judges of our General Court at Annapolis immediately to answer unto the petition of Charles Mahoney preferred against him for freedom here of he is not to fail and fail not at your peril and have you then and there this Writ Witness the Honorable Samuel Chase Esquire Chief Judge of our said Court the 11th day of October Anno Domini 1791.

Issued the 18th Day of October 1791. (G. D.)

John Gwinn Clk.

And thereupon afterwards to Wit in this same Term that is to say October Term in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety one comes again into the General Court here the aforesaid Charles Mahoney by Gabriel Duvall his attorney aforesaid And the Sheriff of Prince Georges County to Wit Edward Lloyd Wailes Gentleman to whom the aforegoing precept was made and directed likewise comes and makes return thereof to the Court here thus Endorsed to Wit

Sumd Edwd Lloyd Wailes Shff.

And the said John Ashton by William Cooke his attorney appears in Court here and defends the Complaint aforesaid when and so forth and prays leave of the Court here to imparle hereunto until the second Tuesday of may next and he hath it the same day is given to the aforesaid Charles Mahoney also. At which said second Tuesday of may being the eighth day of the same month in the year of our Lord one thousand