to the truth of it

Richd Bramphin

The foregoing taken at the request of Charles Mahoney who was present.

Charles Mahoney agt John Ashton. | Petition for freedom in the General Court

The deposition of Henry Davis of Prince Georges County aged forty three years being sworn on the holy Evangely of Almighty God touching his knowledge in these causes saith that he does not know John Hickman and that he has seen the defendant Richard Smith only once that he has seen Charles Mahoney once and does not know the defendant John Ashton being asked if he knew Anne Joyce who lived in the family of Col Henry Darnall answers he did not that he has understood from his late father Henry Davis who was a joyner and carpenter by trade that he had worked at the woodyard where the said Darnall lived and he has often heard his father say that he knew a negro woman by the name of Joice that she was a jet black woman and was born as he his father was informed in Barbadoes that some of the family to whom she belonged in Barbadoes went to England and that the then Lord Baltimore brought her into Maryland with him in the character of a cook or waiting maid but whether from England or Barbadoes does not know when she was a young woman that his father died about seventeen years ago and was in his ninetieth year when he died that this conversation he has heard often and he has heard his father say that she the said Joice had three or four sons which were the strongest men he ever knew to come from one woman that he understood from his father that all the said sons were mallatoes and that their

father were white men that his father was born in prince Georges County about two miles from Upper Marlborough being asked if he has heard his father say that Lord Baltimore brought the said Joice from England answers he cannot say but he has often heard him say that Lord Baltimore got her from a family some of which removed from Barbadoes to England that he never heard his father say whether she was free or a slave but he understood from him that she was held as a slave and her children also that one of her children was named Thomas Crane and the other sons had different surnames taken as he understood from their supposed father sworn to this 9th October 1793. Before the Subscriber

J. Bullen

Charles Mahoney against John Ashton. | Petition for freedom in the General Court

Ellen Parramore of Prince Georges County aged thirty Eight years or thereabouts being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelly of Almighty God deposeth and saith that he has known the petitioner about three years but does not know Mr Ashton that he knows nothing of Charlesses claim for freedom more than what he heard from Rachel Ratcliffe now deceased that about six years ago when the deponent was a single man he had his washing done at Mr Ratcliffes and being there one Evening he saw a mullato man there and after he was gone he the deponant asked Mrs Ratcliffe who he belonged to she answered he belonged to John Lane the deponant observed that he was neither white nor black but more white than black upon which Rachel Ratcliffe told the Deponent that she knew Ann Joice very well and that