Patrick & Robert Mackie
against
Alexander Lawson

The State of Maryland sent to the Sheriff of Queen Anne County her close writ in the words following to wit The State of Maryland To the Sheriff of Queen Anne County Greeting Whereas at a General Court held at the City of Annapolis the second Tuesday of April Anno Dominii seventeen hundred and seventy five Patrick and Robert Mackie did recover a Judgment against a certain Alexander Lawson of Queen Anne County as well the sum of five thousand Pounds Sterling Damages as the sum of one thousand and seven pounds of Tobacco which by consideration of the same Court was then & there adjudged unto the said Patrick and Robert Mackie for their Costs & Charges by them about their suit in that behalf laid out and expended as by the Record and Process thereof in our said Court remaining fully & manifestly appears And whereas the said Alexander Lawson hath not paid the Condemnation of the Court in the plea aforesaid nor rendered his body to the Custody of the Sheriff of Queen Anne County in Satisfaction thereof as by the insinuation of the said Patrick and Robert Mackie we have received And because we will that those things which in our said Court are rightly done and transacted should be brought to due Execution We Command you that by good and lawful Men of your Bailiwick you make known unto the said Alexander Lawson that he be and appear before the Judges of our said General Court to be held for the Eastern Shore of this State at Talbot County Court house the second Tuesday of September next to shew cause if any he hath or knoweth why the said Patrick and Robert Mackie Execution of the Damages and Costs aforesaid against him the said Alexander Lawson according to the Recovery aforesaid to have ought not if to him it shall seem meet And have you then and there the Names of those before whom you shall make the same known and this Writ Witness Robert Hanson Harrison Esqr chief Judge of our said Court this third day of May Anno Dominii 1782 Issued the 17th day of August 1782. L.M. James Earle Clk.

At which aforesaid second Tuesday of September 1782 came the aforesaid Patrick & Robert Mackie by Luther Martin their Attorney. And the Sheriff of Queen Anne County aforesaid made return of the writ aforesaid in the words following to wit Scire Fieri Robert Brown and Sam: D. Betton Present Jos: Seney Sheriff

And the aforesaid Alexander Lawson by Thomas Jennings his Attorney Prayed Liberty of Imparling thereof there until the second Tuesday of April then next and he had it The same day was given to the aforesaid Patrick & Robert Mackie there &c.

At which aforesaid second Tuesday of April 1783. came the Parties aforesaid by their Attorneys aforesaid And the aforesaid Patrick and Robert Mackie by their Attorney aforesaid Prayed that a Rule of Court be made for the aforesaid Alexander Lawson to file his Plea and answer unto the writ of them the same Patrick and Robert Mackie at the then next September Term and it was Granted unto them Whereupon the same second Tuesday of April 1783 It was Ruled by the Court there for the aforesaid Alexander Lawson to file his plea and answer unto the writ of them the same Patrick & Robert Mackie at the then next September Term at his Peril

At which aforesaid second Tuesday of September 1783 came the Parties aforesaid by their Attorneys aforesaid And the aforesaid Alexander Lawson by his Attorney aforesaid Prayed an hearing of the writ of Scire facias aforesaid and he had it Which being read and heard the said Alexander Lawson prayed Judgment of the Writ aforesaid because he said that by a certain Act of the General Assembly of Maryland made at a Session of Assembly begun and held at the City of Annapolis on Tuesday the seventeenth of October in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven hundred and Eighty among other things it was Enacted That every Person born within the Dominions or Allegiance of the Crown of Great Britain and every Person made a Subject of that Nation agreeable to its Laws should be and was thereby declared and adjudged to be a British Subject within the said Act unless he had by some Subsequent Act divested himself of that Relation by adhering to us and our Cause as by entering into the Service or Employment of the united States or any of them joining in the Formation of our Government taking the Oath of Allegiance to it withdrawing himself from the British Dominions for his Attachment to the united States or by doing some similar open Act, or by giving his implied Assent by remaining within this or some other of the united States and receiving the Protection and Benefit of their Government and Laws And the said Alexander further said that before passing the said Act the said Patrick and Robert & each of them were born in the Kingdom of Great Britain in parts beyond the Seas under the Allegiance of George King of Great Britain and under the Allegiance of the Crown thereof and at the Time of issuing the Writ of Scire Facias aforesaid and always from the Time of their Nativity hitherto have and each of them hath been Commorant and residing there And the said Alexander further said that the said Patrick and Robert nor either of them have or hath at any time divested themselves of the Relation of a British Subject or British Subjects aforesaid by any Subsequent Act And that the said Patrick and Robert did not at any time nor did either of them ever adhere to us or our Cause nor did they or either of them ever enter into the Service or Employment of the United States or any of them or join in the Formation of our Government or take the Oath of Allegiance to it or withdraw themselves or himself from the British Dominions for his or their Attachment to the united States or do any Similar open Act or give his or their implied Assent by remaining within this or some other of the United States of America and receiving the Protection and Benefit of their Government and Laws And the said Alexander said that the said George King of Great Britain was at the Time of the Impetration of the said Writ of Scire Facias an Enemy of this State and of the United States of America and there waging open War against the same And this he was ready to verify and so forth Wherefore he prayed Judgment of the Writ aforesaid and that the same may be Quashed.

And the aforesaid Patrick and Robert Mackie by their Attorney aforesaid prayed Liberty of Continuing their Action thereof there until the second Tuesday of April then next and they had it The same day was Given to the aforesaid Alexander Lawson there &c.

At which aforesaid second Tuesday of April 1784 came the Parties aforesaid by their Attorneys aforesaid And the aforesaid Patrick & Robert Mackie by their Attorney aforesaid prayed further Liberty of continuing their Action thereof there until the second Tuesday of September then next & they had it the same day was given to the aforesaid Alexander there &c.