The State of Maryland, S^c. To the Justices and Sheriff of Caroline County Greeting
whereas a certain Henry Cotter, Hawkins Downes John Dickinson and Thomas
Whittington Meads are detained in the prison of your said County, under the
Custody of you our said Sheriff at the suit of Francis Sellers Esquire of a plea
of Debt of one hundred and fifty pounds current money which said plea
said is now still depends before you, our said Justices, undetermined; and we
being willing, for divers Causes, that the plea aforesaid undetermined as aff.
should be heard and determined before the Judges of our General Court: Therefore
we Command you that you have the body of the said Henry Cotter, Hawkins
Downes, John Dickinson, and Thomas Whittington Meads by whatsoever
name or names they may be called in the plea aforesaid, together with the
Cause of their Caption and detention, and all things thereunto relating, before
the Judges of our General Court, to shew further Cause of this State in
Talbot County at the Court house in the same County the second Tuesday in April
next that our said Judges of our said General Court may further process thereon as
to Justice appertains and so forth. Hereof fail not at your peril and have you
then and there this writ witness the honorable Robert Hanson Harrison
Esquire chief Judge of our said Court this 1st day of October anno Domini
1788. Signed the 22d day of October anno Domini 1788. James Earle C.

At which said second Tuesday in ~~September~~ April last, in the year seventeen
hundred and eighty nine, being the day for the return of the foregoing writ
of Habeas Corpus Came the aforesaid Francis Sellers by William Hayward
Junior his attorney and the Justices and Sheriff of the County aforesaid in
Obedience to the Command aforesaid made return of the same writ with
the following Recognizances annexed to it.

The State of Maryland. At a County Court of the said State held for Caroline
County at Melville warehouse in the said County on the monday before the
third Tuesday in October in the year seventeen hundred and Eighty eight by
the said State Commissioners and Officers authorized and empowered to hold
the same of whom were Present.

The Worshipful Matthew Driver, Philemon Downes, Tabezial Potter, Joseph Richardson, Peter Edmondson, John Stevens, John Hascettle — Justices
Messrs
William Bowles Esqr Sheriff
William Richardson C.C.

Francis Sellers
vs.
Henry Cotter Hawkins Downes,
John Dickinson & Thos W. Meads

Caroline County S^c. Command was
given to the Sheriff of Caroline County
the nineteenth day of February in the

year seventeen hundred and eighty eight that he should take Henry Cotter, Hawkins
Downes, John Dickinson and Thomas Whittington Meads, late of Caroline County
planters otherwise called Henry Cotter, Hawkins Downes, John Dickinson and
Thomas Whittington Meads, of Caroline County farmers if they should be found
in his Bailiwick and them safe keep so that he might have their bodies
before the Justices of our County Court to be held at Melville Warehouse on the
monday before the third Tuesday in March then next to answer unto Francis
Sellers of a plea that they render unto him one hundred and fifty pounds Gold or
Silver current money which to him they owe and unjustly detain and so forth and
that thereof he the said Sheriff should not fail and so forth. At which said monday
before the third Tuesday in March came the aforesaid plaintiff by William Hayward
Junior his attorney And the Sheriff of the County aforesaid made return of the writ of
Habeas corpus and Esqr Capt. William Bowles Sheriff, and the aforesaid Henry, Hawkins
John and Thomas W. being called upon appeared and at the prayer of the plaintiff
by his said attorney they are adjudged to give special bail to the action aforesaid Then
upon William Jackson of Caroline County planter, Valentine Spencer of Caroline
County planter, and Peter Edmondson of Caroline County Gentleman came into the
Court before the Justices aforesaid in their proper persons and severally and separately
acknowledged themselves pledges and mainpernors for the aforesaid Henry, Hawkins and
John, in this wise, the said William for the said Henry, the said Valentine for the
said Hawkins and the said Peter for the said John, that if it should happen that the
said Henry, Hawkins and John in the plea aforesaid should be convicted, then the
same William, Valentine and Peter did severally and separately grant that the
Debt aforesaid as all such Damages which unto the aforesaid plaintiff in that
part should be adjudged of their Lands and Chattels should be made and levied
of the aforesaid plaintiff levied if it should happen that the same Henry, Hawkins
and John the debt and Damages aforesaid unto the aforesaid plaintiff should
not pay or therein default severally and separately to the public prison of Caroline
County aforesaid to that Occasion should not render. And the aforesaid Henry, Hawkins
John and Thomas W. by James Tilghman their attorney came and defended the
force and injury when and so forth and prayed Liberty of imparling thereof here until
the monday before the third Tuesday in June next and they had it the same day
was given to the aforesaid plaintiff here and so forth. At which said monday before
the third Tuesday in June came as well the aforesaid plaintiff by his said attorney
as the said Defendants by their said attorney. and the aforesaid Defendants by their
said attorney prayed further Liberty of imparling thereof here until the monday before
the third Tuesday in October next and they had it the same day was given to the aforesaid
plaintiff here and so forth. And now here at this day to wit the monday before the