At which said term Tuesday in April term, in the year seventeen hundred and eighty nine came here again the parties aforesaid by their attorneys aforesaid, and the said John Bowman by Gustavus Scott one of their attorneys aforesaid offered their Declaration in the plea aforesaid against the said Thomas Bruff, Mary Bruff, Joseph Bruff and Susanna Bruff, in manner and form following to wit, Maryland, Talbot County, to wit, Thomas Bruff late of Talbot County, planter, eldest son and heir and devisee, Mary Bruff late of Talbot County, widow and Devisee, Joseph Bruff late of Talbot County, planter son and Heirs, and Susanna Bruff late of Talbot County, spinster, daughter and devisee of Joseph Bruff late of Talbot County, silver smith, deceased, of certain lands and Tenements which were of the said late Joseph Bruff deceased, at the time of his death, were descended according to the form of the Statute in such Case lately made and provided, to answer unto John Bowman, William French and John Crawford surviving Obligees of John Bowman William French, George Crawford and John Crawford, in a plea that they render unto them the sum of four hundred and eighty four pounds fourteen shillings and four pence Gold and Silver Current money of Maryland, which unto them they owe and from them unjustly detain &c. And whereupon the same Plaintiffs, by Gustavus Scott their attorney say that the aforesaid Joseph Bruff, deceased, on the first day of June, in the year of our Lord seventeen hundred eighty and four, at the County aforesaid, in his lifetime, by his certain writing Obligatory, sealed with his seal in his lifetime, and here into Court now brought, the date whereof is the same day and year aforesaid acknowledges himself bound and firmly bound unto the said John Bowman, William French, George Crawford, and John Crawford, in their life time after name George Crawford, which said George Crawford, is now dead, and the same Plaintiffs have survived, in the aforesaid sum of four hundred eighty and four pounds fourteen shillings and four pence in gold and silver Current money of Maryland, rating Spanish milled dollars at seven shillings and six pence, each, to be paid to the said John Bowman, William French, George Crawford and John Crawford when ever after he should be thereto required; to the payment whereof well and truly to be made and done he the said Joseph Bruff, deceased, in his lifetime bound himself, his heirs, executors and Administrators firmly by the same writing Obligatory. Nevertheless the same Joseph Bruff Deceased, in his lifetime, or the same Defendants or either of them after the death of the same Joseph Bruff, deceased, (to wit) said Defendants the said Joseph Bruff, deceased, in his lifetime, at the County aforesaid, by his last will and in writing, after the twenty fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord seventeen hundred ninety and two, duly made, Executed, attested and published, bequeathed and devised certain his lands and tenements of which he then and at the time of his death was seized in his demesne as of fee, to the thereto after required, the aforesaid sum of money, or any part thereof unto the same John Bowman, William French, George Crawford, and John Crawford, or either of them, in the lifetime of the same George Crawford, or unto the same Plaintiffs, or either of them, since the death of the same George Crawford, yet have not rendered or paid, but the aforesaid sum of money, or any part thereof unto the said John Bowman, William French George Crawford and John Crawford, or either of them, in the lifetime of the same George Crawford, or unto the said plaintiffs, or either of them since the death of the said George

Crawford, hitherto Joseph Bruff, deceased, in his lifetime, and the said defendants, and each of them, hitherto altogether have refused to render or pay and the same defendants do still refuse to render or pay the same to the said plaintiffs, whereupon the same plaintiffs say that they are injured and have damage to the value of five hundred pounds Current money of Maryland, & thereupon they bring their suit &c. Gustavus Scott for the plaintiffs & plaintiffs pledges &c. John Doe Richard Roe

The writing Obligatory mentioned in the foregoing Declaration comes as follows to wit,

Maryland } Know all men by these presents that I Joseph Bruff, of Talbot County, silver smith, am held and firmly bound unto John Bowman, William French, George Crawford and John Crawford, Merchants in Glasgow in that part of Great Britain called Scotland in the full and just sum of four hundred and eighty four pounds fourteen shillings and four pence in Gold and Silver rating Spanish milled dollars at seven shillings and six pence each for dealings at their at Talbot Court house, to be paid unto the said John Bowman William French, George Crawford, and John Crawford, their certain attorney Executors Administrators or assigns, to the 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 fifth day of June seventeen hundred and Eighty four. The Condition of the above Obligation is such that if the above bound Joseph Bruff, do and shall well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said John Bowman, William French, George Crawford and John Crawford, their Certain attorney heirs Executors Administrators or assigns the just and full sum of two hundred and forty two pounds seven shillings and two pence Current money in Gold and Silver rating Spanish milled Dollars at seven shillings and six pence each for dealings at their at Talbot Court house with legal Interest for the same then the above Obligation to be void else to remain in full force and Virtue in law.

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of } Joseph Bruff (Seal)

John Coats,

On the back of the aforesaid Bond was then endorsed to wit, Talbot County 10th March 1786. Then came before me one of the Justices for the County aforesaid Archibald Patison agent and John Jones Collector for the within mentioned John Bowman, William French George Crawford, and John Crawford, and made Oath on the holy Evangels of Almighty God that they nor either of them have not directly or indirectly received any part or parcel of the within Bond or the Interest thereon due, nor any thing in discharge or satisfaction for the same to the best of their knowledge, Sworn before me. Nicholas Johns

And the said John Bowman, William French, George Crawford, and John Crawford, by their attorney aforesaid prayed that the said Thomas Bruff, Mary Bruff, Joseph Bruff and Susanna Bruff heirs and devisees aforesaid, might be ruled to file their plea in answer to the Declaration of them the said John Bowman, William French, George Crawford, and John Crawford, on or before the second Tuesday in ~~September~~ of September then next following, or that Judgment on Default thereof against the said Thomas Bruff, Mary Bruff, Joseph Bruff and Susanna Bruff heirs & Devisees aforesaid might be rendered and it was granted unto them, the same day was given to the said John Bowman, William French, George Crawford & John Crawford their &c. ——