Baldwich, that all Excuse set apart he be and appear before the Justices of the County Court of Worcester, at a Court by them to be held at Snowhill Town in and for the County aforesaid the fourth Monday in November Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and ninety five, to answer the Petition of Negro Hannah presented against him for freedom; and the same day is given to the aforesaid Hannah here, and so forth. — At which said fourth Monday of November came the aforesaid Negro Hannah by William Whittington Gentleman her Atty: and the Sheriff, to wit, Levin Pollitt Gentleman who now here returns that he has summoned the aforesaid James Selby to be and appear before the Justices aforesaid, at the time and place aforesaid, as by the foregoing Writ of Summons he was commanded &c. — Thereupon the said James Selby puts in his place William Polk Gentleman his Atty: against the aforesaid Negro Hannah of the Plea aforesaid, upon which, at the request of the Parties aforesaid by their Attys aforesaid day is to them now here given until the next Court, to be held at Snow Hill Town in and for the County aforesaid, the second Monday in June then next following in the same State as at present saving to the parties aforesaid here &c so forth. — At which said Second Monday of June came again the parties aforesaid by their Attorneys aforesaid upon which at the request of the parties aforesaid by their Attys aforesaid, day is to them now here given until the next Court to be held at Snow Hill Town in and for the County aforesaid, the fourth Monday of November then next following in the same State, as at present saving to the Parties aforesaid here and so forth. — At which said fourth Monday of November last mentioned came again the parties aforesaid by their Attorneys aforesaid, upon which at the request of the parties aforesaid by their Attys aforesaid further day is to them now here given until the next Court, by them to be held at Snow Hill Town in and for the County aforesaid the second Monday of February then next following in the same State, as at present saving to the parties aforesaid here and so forth. — At which said second Monday of February came again the parties aforesaid by their Attorneys aforesaid upon which, at the request of the parties aforesaid by their Attorneys aforesaid further day is to them now here given until the next Court to be held at Snow Hill Town in and for the County aforesaid the second Monday of August then next following in the same State as at present saving to the parties aforesaid here and so forth — At which said second Monday of August came again the parties aforesaid by their Attorneys aforesaid, and the said James Selby by his Attorney aforesaid, come and says that the said Negro Hannah is not held in the bonds of Slavery contrary to law in manner and form as is alledged by the said Petition, and of this he puts himself upon the Country, and the said Negro Hannah in like manner and so forth. — Whereupon Command was given to the Sheriff of Worcester County that he should cause to come here before the State's Justices of the County aforesaid now Judicially sitting twelve good, free, and lawful men of the County

aforesaid, by whom the truth of the premises may be better known, and who are no way related to the parties aforesaid to recognize upon their Oaths of and upon the premises aforesaid, because as well the said Negro Hannah as the said James Selby have put themselves upon that Jury, and the Jurors of that same Jury whereof within is made mention by the Sheriff of the County aforesaid to this matter impannelled and returned being called, to wit. John A. Purnell, William Pollitt, Isaac Nicholson, John Selby, William Handy, Peter Corbin, Hezekiah Johnson, John Whittington, George Spencer, Rowland Beauman, Edward Stevenson, and Hillary Pitts exactly came, who to the truth of the within Contained being elected, tried and sworn, on their oath say, that Negro Hannah is not held in the bonds of Slavery contrary to law in manner and form as the said Negro Hannah in her Petition hath set forth, as the said James Selby by pleading hath alledged. — Therefore by the Court now here it is considered that the aforesaid Negro Hannah is not entitled to her Freedom, and therefore accordingly dismiss the Petition and adjudge that the said Petition be returned to her Master. — At which said Second Monday of August, at the Trial of the Issue aforesaid, between the Parties aforesaid the said Negro Hannah by her Atty aforesaid, produces here in Court the following Bill of Exception and prayed that the same might be filed of Record, which said Bill of Exception is to this Record annexed, and is as followeth, to wit. —

Negro Hannah v. James Selby } Petition for freedom &c in Worcester County at August Term 1797 — The Petitioner by her Counsel moves the Court to direct the Jury that if they find that Negro Hannah the petitioner lived in the State of Virginia, previous to the year seventeen hundred seventeen hundred & ninety six, and was an Inhabitant thereof, the bringing her into the State of Maryland by James Selby in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty six, and in that year hiring her to in the State of Maryland that she is entitled to freedom, under the Act of the General Assembly of Maryland entitled "An Act to prohibit the bringing Slaves into this State, passed in the year 1783," which motion the Court overrule, and directed the Jury that if they find that James Selby was a Citizen and resident of Maryland, at the time of the importation aforesaid in 1786, and was the Proprietor of the said Slave before the year 1783, that he had a right to bring the said Slave into this State, and to hire her in the State of Maryland and that the said facts, as above stated, if proven, do not entitle the said Slave to her freedom under the said Act of Assembly; To which opinion and Judgment of the Court the Petitioner by her counsel excepts, and prays the benefit of her Exception according to the Statute in such cases made and provided. — William Morris (Seal) William Purnell (Seal) — Thereupon, the said Negro Hannah by William Whittington her Atty aforesaid, prays an appeal from the Judgment of this Court so as aforesaid on the Verdict aforesaid rendered against her, unto the next General Court to be held for the Eastern Shore of this State, at Easton in Talbot County the second Tuesday of September then next following, which is by the Court