Cuthbert Hall against James Ringgold

Be it remembered that on the fifteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven, a certain James Ringgold by John Scott Esquire his Attorney sued out of our Eastern Shore General Court, the State of Maryland's Writ of Habeas Corpus in the words and figures following, to wit — The State of Maryland, to the Chief Justice and his Associate Justices of Kent County Court and to the Sheriff of Kent County (L.S.) Greeting: Whereas a certain James Ringgold is detained in the prison of our said County, under the Custody of you our said Sheriff, at the suit of a certain Cuthbert Hale of a plea of Debt, which said plea as it is said still depends before you our said Justices undetermined, and we being willing for divers causes that the plea aforesaid undetermined as aforesaid, should be heard and determined before the Judges of our General Court: We therefore command you that you have the body of the said James Ringgold by whatsoever name or names he may be called in the plea aforesaid, together with the cause of his Caption and detention and all things thereunto relating before the Judges of our General Court, to be held for the Eastern Shore of this State at Easton in Talbot County, the second Tuesday of April next, that the Judges of our said General Court may further proceed therein as to Justice appertains and so forth. — Hereof fail not at your Peril and have you then & there this Writ. — Witness the Honorable Robert Goldsborough Esquire, Chief Judge of our said Court, the 12th day of September 1797 — Issued the 15th day of October 1797. — L.S. James Earle Clerk.

At which said second Tuesday of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety eight being the day for the return of the aforegoing Writ of Habeas Corpus, the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of Kent County Court, and the Sheriff of the said County, in Obedience to the Command contained in the said Writ, to wit, the said Sheriff now here hath the body of the said James Ringgold, and the said Chief Justice and Associate Justices certify and transmit to the Court here, a Record of the Proceedings before the said County Court touching the cause of the Caption and detention of the said James Ringgold in the plea aforesaid and all things thereunto relating, the which said Record of Proceedings is in form following, to wit. —

The State of Maryland, to the Chief Justice and his Associate Justices of Kent County Court, and to the Sheriff of Kent County, Greeting: (Seal of the County Court) Whereas a certain James Ringgold is detained in the prison of our said County, and in the Custody of you our said Sheriff at the suit of a certain Cuthbert Hale of a plea of Debt which said plea as it is said, still depends before you our said Justices, undetermined, and we being willing for divers causes that the plea aforesaid, undetermined as aforesaid should be heard and

determined before the Judges of our General Court: We therefore command you, that you have the body of the said James Ringgold by whatsoever name or names he may be called in the plea aforesaid, together with the cause of his Caption and detention, and all things thereunto relating before the Judges of our General Court, to be held for the Eastern Shore of this State, at Easton in Talbot County, the second Tuesday of April next, that the Judges of our said General Court may further proceed therein 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 Goldsborough Esquire Chief Judge of our said Court, the 12th day of September 1797. — Issued the 15th day of October 1797. — L.S. James Earle Clerk.

The Execution of the above Writ, appears by the following Proceedings. — The answer of James Kilchman Esquire Chief Justice of the second district and Samuel Chew and Philip Reed Esquires, Associate Justices of Kent County Court, and Cuthbert Hall, Sheriff of the same County. — We James Kilchman Chief Justice and Samuel Chew and Philip Reed Esquires Associate Justices as aforesaid, and Cuthbert Hale, Sheriff. — To the Honorable the Judges of the General Court for the Eastern Shore of the State of Maryland, certify — that Command was given to the Coroner of Kent County on the third Monday of March seventeen hundred and ninety seven that he should attach the Body of James Ringgold late of Kent County, if he should be found in his Bailiwick, and him have before the Justices of our next County Court to be held at the Court-House in the Town of Chester in said County on the third Monday of October next, to answer unto Cuthbert Hall, Sheriff of Kent County aforesaid, according to the Liberties and Priviledges of the same Court, done out of mind used and approved in the same, of a plea that he render unto him the sum of one hundred and seventy nine pounds, one shilling and ten pence, which to him he owes, and unjustly detains and so forth. — At which said second Monday of October seventeen hundred and ninety seven, came the aforesaid Cuthbert Hale by William Barroll his Attorney, and the Coroner of Kent County also came, and made return of the Writ aforesaid, to the Court here thereon indorsed as follows, to wit; By virtue of the within Writ to me directed, I have attached the body of the within named James Ringgold, whose said body I have ready at the day and place within contained. — So answers Philip Taylor, Coroner. — Thereupon James Buchanan of Kent County in his proper person here into Court did come and became pledge and security for the aforesaid James Ringgold, that if it should happen to the said James Ringgold to be convicted in the plea aforesaid, that then the same Security granted that as well the Debt aforesaid, as all the Damages, Costs and Charges which to the said Cuthbert Hale in the plea aforesaid should be adjudged, of the Goods and Chattels, Lands and Tenements of the said James Buchanan to be levied and for the use of the same Cuthbert Hale the same if it should happen that the same James Ringgold should the Debt & Damages, Costs and Charges of the same Cuthbert Hale in the plea aforesaid should not pay, or himself in the Custody of the Sheriff of Kent County on that occasion render. — At which same second Monday of October seventeen hundred and ninety seven, came the aforesaid Cuthbert Hale by his Attorney aforesaid, and offered himself