MARYLAND, SC.

THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

TO Brice J. B. Wathington and Nicholas Brewer of Wm

of Annearundel COUNTY, GREETING:

KNOW, That we have appointed you to be our Commissioner, to examine evidences in a cause depending in our Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, sitting as a Court of Equity, between Harriett Anne Watkins

Complainant and William Watkins

Defendant. We therefore require you, having first taken the oath hereunto annexed, and also administered the annexed oath to the person whom you shall appoint as Clerk to attend the execution of this commission, that at such time and place as to you shall seem convenient, you cause to come before you all such evidences as shall be named and produced to you by either the plaintiff or defendant; and that you examine them on their corporeal oaths, to be by you administered upon the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, touching their knowledge or remembrance of any thing that may relate to the cause aforesaid; and that you cause notice to be given to the parties, or their attorneys, of the execution of this commission, before you execute the same; and having reduced the depositions of the witnesses so taken by you, into writing, you send the same, with this our commission, close under your hand and seal, to us in our Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, sitting as a Court of Equity, with all convenient speed.

WITNESS the Honorable NICHOLAS BREWER, Circuit Judge of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, this 30 day of May Anno Domini, 1854

Wm H Green (Clk)

At the execution of this commission issued out of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County sitting as a court of Equity to the undersigned and Nicholas Brewer of Md directed and empowering us to examine witnesses in a cause in said Court pending wherein Harriett Anne Watkins is complainant and William Watkins is defendant, I Brice J. B. Worthington one of the Commissioners therein named, in pursuance of notice previously given to the respective parties, did proceed on wednesday June the twenty eighth instant at ten O'clock A. M. at my office in the city of Annapolis to take the following depositions in the presence of A. B. Hagner Esq Solicitor for the complainant and A. Randall Esq Solicitor for the defendant.

Benjamin Beard, a witness of lawful age produced on the part of the complainant being duly sworn and examined to interrogatories filed with the commission, deposes and hereunto returned deposes and says:

To the first interrogatory, that he does know the parties. He has known William Watkins the defendant from boyhood, and the complainant for twenty years.

To the second interrogatory, that he is acquainted with the habits and character of William Watkins the defendant. The complainant Wm Watkins is defendants step-mother, having married his father.

The complainant and defendant were married about the last of the year eighteen hundred and forty eight or the beginning of the year eighteen hundred and forty nine. Deponent lived in the house with the complainant and defendant during the years eighteen hundred and forty nine and eighteen hundred and fifty two. During the year eighteen hundred and fifty deponent did not visit the house