

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

(Certificates of Freedom)
1805-1864

(Orphans Court Proceedings)
1794-1819

CR 47,243

87-1751 / February 9, 1987

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ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY REGISTER OF WILLS
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ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY REGISTER OF WILLS
(Orphans Court Proceedings)
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ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY REGISTER OF WILLS
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ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY REGISTER OF WILLS
(Certificates of Freedom)

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ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY REGISTER OF WILLS
(Orphans Court Proceedings)

1794-1819
*
CR 47,243-3

On this 13th Day of December 1819 Came Tho^s (prop^r) made
Oath on the Holy Evangelis of Almighty God before the subscr^{iber}
a Justice of the peace for Arundel that the bearers hereof
Allen Cole and Dover Cole Negroes are the identical same Negroes
which were left free by the last Will & Testament of Henry Howard
of Ep^h late of said County deceased.

Before, Benjⁿ Pindle?
Allen 5 feet 6 inches 36 years of age very black complexion
Dover 5 feet 6 inches 37. W. W.

Anne Arundel County to Wit. On the 21st of Sept^r 1819. appeared
L^{ya} Griffith before the subscr^{iber} a Justice of the peace for
said County & made Oath that the Bearer hereof a mulatto wo^m
man is named L^{isa} a free person, that she is the identical
person mentioned in the last Will & Testament of Amelia Over
field to be free
James Hunter.

State of Maryland Anne Arundel County to Wit. On this 12th
Day of June 1820. Came Abraham Jones & made Oath before
the subscr^{iber} a Justice of the peace for said County that Negro
David the Bearer hereof is the identical same man which is
mentioned to be left free by the last Will & Testament of Beth
page & inmons formerly of said County which will is now re
maining of Record in the Registers of Wills Office for the
County aforesaid. Sworn to before me
Richard C Watkins.

Anne Arundel County to Wit. On the 14th of July 1820 appea
red John Griffin before the subscr^{iber} a Justice of the peace
for said County & made Oath that Negro man Dick now pre
sent is a free man & that he is the identical person set free by
the last Will & Testament of Eleanor Simons late of said
County. James Hunter

Anne Arundel County to Wit. On the 14th Day of August
1819 appeared Francis Campbell before the subscr^{iber} a
Justice of the peace for said County & made Oath that the bea
rer hereof called Everham Ball Hookes is a free man, that
he was set free by the last Will & Testament of Mrs Frances
Campbell. James Hunter.

State of Maryland Calvert County to Wit. April 26th 1814 then Came
David Stewart before me the subscr^{iber} Richard Ruzely &
made Oath on the Holy Evangelis of Almighty God that
Tom a mulatto man five feet high who calls himself Tom
Brogden is the same person mentioned in the Will of John
L Brogden dated 14th May 1782 by which will said Tom was

to be free at the age of twenty⁴ one years.

I sworn to the best of his knowledge & belief.
R. Kiogely.

Emmorsed 6 feet in height at 40 years of age. Yellow complexion was freed by Will 5th apt 1782 was raised in a colony near Queen Ann has no particular mark except the 2^d finger on the left hand.

Anne Arundel County to Court. I hereby certify that Elizabeth Furlong made oath on the Holy Evangelists of almighty God before me the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid that the Deaver Amos yeard hall about 5 feet 8 inches high tolerable well made of a yellowish complexion is the identical boy willed free by Mrs Sarah Yeard hall about the year 1804. And the said Amos is above 24 years of age. Given under my hand the 10th day of August 1819.

John Gassaway
Ref of Wills & Act County.

Thos Furlong.

Anne Arundel County to Court. On the 29th day of May 1819 appeared William Collinson before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County made oath that the bearer hereof a negro woman named Tamar is a free woman that she is the identical person set free by the last Will & Testament of Mrs Franklin late of a County deceased.

James Hunter.

Anne Arundel County Feb. May 17th 1819 then came Mrs Ann Jennifer before me the subscriber a Justice of the County aforesaid made oath on the Holy Evangelists of almighty God that negro Harry the Deaver hereof is the identical person who was willed free by the last Will & Testament of the late Joseph Jennifer that the said Harry having served the time which was limited by the said Will is now free the said Harry is about 37 years old has a mark on the right cheek.

I sworn before
Richard of Blen.

On this 22nd day of April 1819. before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the State of Maryland in & for a Colony came John H O Lane made oath on the Holy Evangelists of almighty God that negro Frank Flora were the property of Mary Ann Wood late of a County deceased.

J. H. O. Reilly.

Anne Arundel County to Court. On the 20th day of April 1819. appeared Richard Gutton before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County made oath that negro woman Nancy the bearer hereof is a free person

and that she is the identical person set free by Mary Ann Wood by a Will executed by her on the 9th of October 1800
James Hunter.

Anne Arundel County to Court. On the 19th of April 1819 appeared a Mr Luthicum before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the said County made oath that negro woman Nell the bearer hereof is a free person that she is the identical person mentioned in & set free by Rachel Brewers Will late of said County deceased.

James Hunter.

Anne Arundel County to Court. On the 17th of April 1819 appeared Henry Dwall before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the said County made oath that negro woman Nell the bearer hereof is a free person that she got her freedom under the last Will of Ephraim Dwall late of the aforesaid County deceased that she is the identical person entitled to her freedom the Will of the aforesaid Ephraim Dwall.

James Hunter.

Anne Arundel County to Court. On the 6th of March 1819 appeared John Emory Everfield before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the aforesaid County made oath that John Fof set the bearer hereof is a free man that the said John Fof set got his freedom under the last Will & Testament of James Mungrove late of the aforesaid County.

I sworn before.

James Hunter.

Anne Arundel County to Court. On the 18th day of December 1818 appeared Thomas Dicknell before me the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace for the aforesaid County made oath on the Holy Evangelists of almighty God that the Deaver hereof James Fry a man of colour is a free man that he is the identical person freed under the last Will & Testament of Margaret Hall deceased late of a County.

I sworn before

James Hunter.

2nd July 1818. I certify that Hans Daughter Maria the bearer who is five feet & the eighth of an inch high slender made & a dark mulatto with a pleasant countenance 28 years old is the same that was left to be by Rachel Cromwell senior of a County deceased when she arrived at the age of 25 years she has served that time with me is now entitled to her freedom.

Rich^d Cromwell Esq of Rich^d Cromwell Esq.

July 2nd 1818. Personally appears before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for a County Rich^d Cromwell son of Rich^d & certified to the above according to Law. Given under my hand

John Gassaway Esq Ref of Wills of a County

John Gassaway Esq Ref of Wills of a County

June 4th 1818 County to Court. On the 3rd of Nov^r 1818 appeared Henry Euelling before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County, made oath that the bearer hereof Negro man named John Allen is a free man, that he is the identical person named in the Will of William Pitt Rogely late of a County deceased.

Before James Hunter.

June 4th 1818 County to Court. On the 16th Day of June 1818 came Edward G. another one of the Executors of Sally G. another late of the County aforesaid, made oath before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in & for said County that Negro Tom a mulatto man aged about 17 years five foot ten inches high square made a broad nose which turns up at the end with a scar over the right eye brow is the identical Negro man named Tom which the said Sally G. another in her last Will & Testament, the said Edward G. another as Executor as aforesaid further make oath that he considers the said Negro Tom to be actually free, that he is entitled to receive a passport as a free man.

Sworn before
Nicholas Worthington of Tho^s

June 4th 1818 County to Court. On the 11th of October 1818 appeared Henry Dwell before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County, made oath that Negro man named Charles (the bearer hereof) is a free man, that he is the identical person mentioned in Benjamin Dwell's Will.

Sworn before.

James Hunter.

End of 5 feet 5 inches 32 years of age no particular mark at Green Anne Ann G. G. G.

June 4th 1818 County to Court. On this 6th Day of October 1818 came John Hammond before me one of the Justices of the Peace for said County, made oath that Negroes Sam Sarah Jenny & Polly are the identical Negroes as set free by the last Will & Testament of Col Regim Hammond late of a County aforesaid.

Before August G. Ambrell.

June 4th 1818 County to Court. On the 6th Day of October 1818 came John Hammond before me, made oath that the bearer Basil a black man about five feet eight inches high with a small scar between his eye brows & one on the third finger on the left hand is the identical Negro Basil who was set free by the late Col Regim Hammond &c &c.

Sworn before August G. Ambrell

June 4th 1818 County to Court. On the 1st of June 1818

appeared John Echele before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County, made oath that Negro Woman bearing the bearer hereof is a free Woman, that she is the identical person named in Mrs Forciller Owens Will.

Sworn before

James Hunter.

June 4th 1818 County to Court. On the 25th of May 1818 appeared Charles Robinson before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County, made oath that the bearer hereof Negro Jason is a free man, that the said Jason is the identical person named in Sampson Robinson's Will.

Sworn before

James Hunter.

June 4th 1818 County to Court. On the 23rd of September 1818 appeared John O'Reilly before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County, made oath that Negro Woman called Polly a woman is a free woman, that she is the identical person as freed by the last Will & Testament of the said Mary Ann Wood.

Sworn before.

James Hunter.

June 4th 1818 County to Court. On the 23rd of Sept^r 1818 appeared John O'Reilly before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County, made oath that Negro man called Tom is a free man, that he is the identical person as freed by the last Will & Testament of the said Mary Ann Wood.

Sworn before

James Hunter.

June 4th 1818 County to Court. On this 13th May 1818 personally appeared before the subscriber an Alderman of the City of Annapolis Jeremiah Hughes who solemnly & declares & affirms that Charles the Negro man who is personally present is one of the identical persons manumitted, liberated & set free by the last Will & Testament of Mrs Frances Yates &c late of the County aforesaid.

Affirmed before, Wm. G. G. G. City of Annapolis.

Genl Gassaway will be so obliging as to let Charles have his papers. J. Hughes.

On the 11th Day of May 1818 personally appeared Jeremiah Hughes before the subscriber an Alderman of the City of Annapolis, being one of the people called Quakers did sincerely truly & solemnly affirm & declare that the Negro Women Jenny Charity & Letty who were present were three of the identical persons manumitted & set free by the last Will & Testament of Frances Yates &c deceased.

Nich^s Brewer Alderman

Anne Arundel County, to wit. On this 12th May 1818 personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid Jeremiah Hughes who solemnly & sincerely truly declares & affirms that James a negro man who is personally present is one of the actual persons set free liberated & manumitted by the last Will and Testament of Miss Sally Davis deceased that negro woman & her negro girl Lucy both personally present are two of the actual negroes liberated manumitted & set free by the last Will & Testament of Mrs Francis Yates deceased late of the City of Annapolis.

affirmed before. James Hunter.

On the 11th Day of May 1818 personally appeared Jeremiah Hughes before the subscriber an Alderman of the City of Annapolis being of the people called Quakers & sincerely truly & solemnly affirms & declares that the negro men John & Bill the negro woman Phillis & Esther who were present were free of the actual persons manumitted & set free by the last Will & Testament of Sarah Davis deceased.

Nichs Brewer Alderman.

Anne Arundel County to wit. I do hereby certify that on the 10th Day of April 1818 personally appeared Leonard Maloney before the subscriber one of the Justices of the peace in and for said County & made Oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God that James who calls himself James Brown the bearer hereof a yellowish complected man about five feet eight inches high & has an impediment in his speech is the same James that was willed free by Sarah Malonhall of this County deceased.

Edw Green Esq. Sworn before Wm Ball Junr.

Anne Arundel County to wit. I hereby certify that William Gambrell personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the peace for said County & made Oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God that the bearer Jacob Reah who calls himself Jacob Reah Brogden who is about one or two & twenty years of age of a yellowish complexion about five feet six inches high & tolerably well made is the actual boy that was willed free by Col Regim Hammond late of this County deceased. Given under my Hand this 9th Day of April 1818.

Tho Furlong.

Anne Arundel County to wit. On the 28 of March 1818 appeared the bearer before the subscriber a Justice of the peace for said County & made Oath that negro Tom the bearer hereof is free man and that the said negro

Tom is one of the negroes devised to him by the Will of Charles Boone deceased & that by said Will said Tom was to be free when he arrived at the age of 35 years & that the said Tom was 35 years of age in Dec last.

Sworn before James Hunter.

Anne Arundel County to wit. On the 17th of March 1818 appeared Henry Bayman before the subscriber a Justice of the peace for said County & made Oath that woman Mary the bearer hereof is a free woman & that the said Mary is the identical person named in Amelia Warfield's Will.

Sworn before James Hunter.

On this 3rd Day of March 1818 personally appeared before me one of the Justices of the peace in & for a County William Gambrell & made Oath that the bearer Austin a Dark man latter pleasant Countenance about 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high is the identical boy which is the son of negro Paul who was willed free by Stevens Gambrell & the said boy was willed free at the age of 21 as per reference to the Will of said Stevens Gambrell will more fully appear.

Sworn to before Wm Gambrell.

I hereby certify that the above named boy Austin is the same boy who was bound to me by his mother until he arrived to the age of 21 years & he is now free.

Wm Gambrell.

Richard Gray appeared this Day & made Oath before me John Randall Mayor of the City of Annapolis that Benjamin Boone a black man who also appeared before me at the same time is the same person manumitted by the Will of Greenbury Gray of said County who died on or about the year 1796. at which period the said Benjamin Boone was judged to be in the 11th year of his age.

Sworn & subscribed before this 28th Day of March 1818. Signed.

John Randall Mayor & Richard Gray.

On the 26th Day of Sept 1817. Came Wm Abraham Anderson before the subscriber a Justice of the peace for the County of Anne Arundel & made Oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God that the Bearer hereof negro Allen who measures exactly five feet five inches in height & has a smooth skin with curly black hair & a remarkable scar on the right cheek bone of the face near the eye is the actual negro Allen that did belong to the late Regim Hammond & that he believes him to be 30 years of age at which period he understood said Hammond willed his negroes free.

Sworn before And Warfield a Justice of the peace for the County of Annapolis in the State of Maryland.

On the 26th of Sept^r 1817. Came Leonard Maloney before the
subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County, & made
Oath on the Holy Evangelij of Almighty God that the bearer
hereof negro Allen who has a smooth skin, rather yellow
complexion, curly hair with a remarkable scar on the
right cheek near the eye is the identical negro man Allen that
did belong to the late Regim Hammond of said County &c.
Sworn before And Ewarfield.

Anne Arundel County to wit. On the 1st of Dec^r 1817 appear
ed E^r Ewarfield before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace
for said County, & made Oath that negroes Frank & Lucy the
bearers hereof were set free by the Will of W^m D^r Eworthington
Sworn before James Hunter.

Anne Arundel County to wit. On the 10th of Dec^r 1817 appear
ed William Ewarfield before the subscriber a Justice of
the Peace for the afores^d County, & made Oath that negroes Pe
ter Joan & Isaac came & grace the bearers hereof were
set free by John Eworthington Will late of said County.
Sworn before James Hunter.

Anne Arundel County to wit. On the 11th of Dec^r 1817 appear
ed William Ewarfield before the subscriber a Justice
of the Peace for said County, & made Oath that negro Pe
ter the bearer hereof was set free under the Will of
Elizabeth Eworthington.
Sworn before James Hunter.

I do hereby Certify that William Davis the bearer of this is
the identical person set free under the will of Robert
Sanders. Witness my hand this 24th day of Nov^r 1817
R Welch of Benw.

Nov^r 24 1817. Then came Rob Welch of Benw before me the
subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County, & made
Oath that the facts contained in the within Certificate are
just & true to the best of his knowledge.
Sworn before James Hunter.

White Hall Oct 4 1817

Sir. As the Bearer Mary Connor has paid up the 100th
that her late mistress Mary Creens by her last Will
required her to pay you can file this letter in your office
& give Mary Connor a free pass or Certificate of her having
been set free by the last Will & Testament of Mary Creens
late of said County &c. As I believe you know Mary the bea
rer to be the same Mary Connor mentioned in the Will
it will not be necessary for me to make any affidavit to
that effect, but if you do not yourself know her the matter
must remain until I come to Annapolis which will be

on Tues Day next for & vide the state of W^m Richards health
will admit of, leaving her she being at present very
much improved. With sentiments of regard
I remain your Obedient
16 Octatio Ridout

Anne Arundel County to wit. On the 16th day of April 1814 perso
nally appeared Thos R Cross before me the subscriber a Jus
tice of the Peace for the County aforesaid, & made Oath that
negro Charles the Bearer hereof is the identical same person
as mentioned in the Will of George Connon as to be free at a
certain age as mentioned in said Will.
Sworn before Louis Gasaway

Anne Arundel County to wit. On the 9th day of July 1817
appeared Henry Dwall before the subscriber a Justice of the
Peace for said County, & made Oath that negro man called
Luc the bearer hereof was set free by Benjamin Dwall late
of the aforesaid County by his last Will & Testament, that the
Doc is the identical person named in the aforesaid Will.
Sworn before James Hunter

Anne Arundel County to wit. On the 28th day of April 1814
personally appeared Sam Minskey before the subscriber a Jus
tice of the Peace for said County, & made Oath that negro wo
man Hayer the bearer hereof is set free by Henry Mins
cabin at the age of 25 years, she is now past that age.
Sworn before John Linsted.

Anne Arundel County to wit. On this 23rd of July 1817 came
Col Beale Ranole before me a Justice of the Peace for said
County, & made Oath on the Holy Evangelij of Almighty God
that this negro woman named Bazar the bearer of this is
the person who was set free by the last Will & Testament of
Mary Robinson late of said County.
Sworn before Tho Ewaters.

On the 17th of Sept^r 1817 came Doct An^rson Ewarfield before
the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County, & made
Oath on the Holy Evangelij of Almighty God that the follow
ing negroes now present in the registers Office by name of
Easter Peggy Mackey & Robert are free under the Will of
Regim Hammond, that they now present are the identical
persons named upon record in the Orphans Court.
Sworn before Wicks Eworthington of Shore

Maryland & Anne Arundel County to wit. On this 11th day of June
1817 personally appeared before the subscriber one of the
Justices of the Peace for said County Doct Mathias Ham
mond who after being sworn on the Holy Evangelij of Al
mighty God & swore & made Oath that the Bearer Eliza Sewoy
is one of the identical negro girls which was left free by the
late Col Regim Hammond of said County &c.

She is about five feet seven ¹² inches high of a yellow complexion with a mole near her left ear said negro girl being one of the children of a negro woman called Banny as by reference to the will of said R Bannum will more fully appear

I sworn before. Aug. G. Ambrell

Endorsed about 14 - 5 feet 4 inches.

On this 10th day of June 1817 came Con Evarfield before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace for said County & made oath on the Holy Evangelij of almighty God that the bearer here of Billy Chase a black man is belong to Miss Eliza both two daughters of Wm Brice & B. Worthington & that the said Billy Chase is free by the Will of Miss Eliza both Worthington his mistress late of said County.

I sworn to before James Hunter.

On the 27th of May 1817 personally appeared P Anderson was sworn before the subscriber a Justice of the peace for said County & made oath on the Holy Evangelij of almighty God that the bearer negro Jim is the identical person recorded in the inventory of Eliza both Worthington & of said County & is entitled to his freedom under her will the said P Anderson Evarfield being the adm^r of said & c.

I sworn before. James Hunter.

Come Arundel County to Court. On the 23rd day of Jan 1817 appeared John B Lane before the subscriber a Justice of the peace for said County & made oath that negro woman Eliza both the bearer here of is the identical person set free by Miss Mary Ann Wood's Will late of said County & c.

I sworn to the best of his knowledge before

James Hunter.

Come Arundel County on this 17th day of Sept 1817 personally appeared George Dorsey before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace for County aforesaid & makes oath on the Holy Evangelij of almighty God that negro Frank the bearer here of supposed at this time to be forty seven years of age is the identical person freed by the last Will & Testament of Wm Evarfield & c. The said Frank has a dent in his forehead occasioned by his skull being fractured when a child. The said George Dorsey further makes oath that he understood the said negro Frank's dwelling house was burnt some time in the year Eighteen hundred & fifteen & every article belonging to him destroyed that your Deponent has been informed by the said Frank & verily believes that the pass which he had obtained from the Register of Deeds for said County was destroyed at the time his house was burnt.

I sworn before. Nicholas Worthington of this

Come Arundel County & c. On this 17th day of January 1814 appeared Edward Colleson before me the subscriber & c.

a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid, made Oath that he knows Thomas Dipping to be a free man, was manumitted & set free by the Bill of William of William Franklin, that he knows this to be the identical person.
 I, given under my hand. Joseph Sands.

On the 17th day of August 1817 appeared Doct Anderson Esq field before the subscriber a Justice of the peace for a County, made Oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that he is the Administrator of Elizabeth Worthington deceased, that Negro Frank the bearer of this is the identical person returned in the Inventory of the said Elizabeth Worthington deceased of Negroes by the name of Frank to the Orphans Court of said County, that he is entitled to his freedom for her will the said Frank being by him measured is five feet three and half inches high has a good set of teeth smooth skin, good open countenance, no marks or scars that are perceived, except he has a scar on the left knee lately occasioned as he says by the cut of a sleeping hook.
 I sworn before John Ball Junr

On the 22nd day of Febry 1814 personally appeared before me John J Shaff, made Oath that the following negroes Bartholomew alias Polly Jack, & Lem are the identical negroes set free in the last will & testament of Bennett Darnall deceased.
 I sworn to the best of his knowledge & belief.
 Before me Louis Gasaway

On the 18th day of Febry 1814 personally appeared John J Shaff before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace for a County, made Oath that Negro Lem is the identical man named in an unnumbered in the bill of Bennett Darnall.
 I sworn to the best of his knowledge & belief before me Louis Gasaway

Anne Arundel County to Court. On the 9th of Decr 1817 appeared John Hopin before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace for the aforesaid County, made Oath that Negro in an Joshua the bearer here of is the identical person mentioned in William Franklin's will to sundry Negroes.
 I sworn to before. James Hunter.

Anne Arundel County to Court. On this 30th day of August 1815 before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace for said County appears Rachel Phillips, makes Oath that she now present, applying for a pass was set free by the last will & testament of Gray, that Ben & Rachel are the children & increase of said free who by said will were to have their

liberty that the aforesaid she is the same person named in
said will that Ben & Rachel are the increase of said she:

Sworn before James Hunter

Annapolis March 11th 1814. Personally appeared before me
the sub scriber a Justice of the Peace for all County made
Oath that Elmore & Rachel are the Centical female Negro slaves
set free by Bennett Barnall in his last will

Sworn before. Revellch of B. C.

Anne Arundel County Jct. On this 10th Jan'y 1814. appeared Jas
Sanders before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the
County aforesaid made Oath that he knows Lach by her to be
a free man, was manumitted, set free by William Lamsdale
according to his last will, that he knows this to be the Centi-
cal person.

Sworn to before me. Joseph Sands

Anne Arundel County to Court. On this 7th day of Jan'y 1817 apper-
red Jeremiah Hughes before the subscriber a Justice of the
Peace for said County solemnly declared & affirms that Negro
man Cesar (sometimes called Cesar Davies) is Centical one
of the negroes lately belonging to Wm Francis Yates by her
manumitted, set free in her last will & Testament as recor-
ded in the Orphans Court of all County

James Hunter

Anne Arundel County Jct. On this 17th day of March 1808 apper-
red Charles Robinson of Luke before me the sub scriber a
Justice of the Peace for the aforesaid County made Oath that
he knows Negro man who calls him self Will Johnson to be a
free man, set free by Hampton Robinson by his will, that
he knows this to be the Centical Will Johnson. Will Johnson
is a very black man about 37 years old, about five feet nine
in a half inches high, has a scar on his upper lip. Given un-
der my hand & seal the 10th day of year above written.

Joseph Sands

I hereby Certify that the following negroes to wit Negro (G)
Phas Stephen Ben & Sam Isaac Nancy Liza Polly & Will were
the property of the late Col. Regim Hammond agreeable to his
last will they are free this first day of January 1810. Given un-
der my hand on the date above mentioned

W. Hammond

Anne Arundel County to Court. On this first day of Jan'y 1810
personally appeared John Cord before me the sub scriber a
Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid made Oath on
the Holy Evangelly of almighty God that Cyphas Stephen Pa-
rick Asoy Lily Nels Polly Osborn & Ephraim are the persons
set free by the will of Col. Regim Hammond agreeably to said Ham-
mond's will according to his knowledge & belief that they were
considered to be the property of said Regim Hammond

Sworn before.

J. Bret.

I hereby that the Bearer will, Lach were the property of Col.
Regim Hammond late of all County &c. agreeable to his will
the said negroes are free this first day of Jan'y 1810
W. Hammond.

Anne Arundel County to Court. On the first day of January 1810
came Mayor Philip Hammond before the sub scriber a Justice
of the Peace for the County aforesaid made Oath on the Holy
Evangelly of almighty God that the above Certificate, the per-
sons therein stated were the property of the late Col. Regim Ham-
mond &c. Given under my hand the 1st day of year above men-
tioned

To John Gassaway Esq. Henry Woodward

Anne Arundel County to Court. On the 1st day of Jan'y 1810
came Mr Philip Hammond before the sub scriber made
Oath that one of the persons set free by the late Col. Regim Ham-
mond &c. Given under my hand the 1st day of year above
written

To John Gassaway Esq. Henry Woodward

I hereby certify that the Bearer John was the property of
the late Col. Regim Hammond agreeable to the said Ham-
mond's will the above named John is free this 1st day of Jan'y
1810.
W. Hammond.

On this 28th day of Decr 1809 came William Lambill before
one of the Justices of the Peace for all County made Oath
that the Bearer Negro Henry a mulatto woman aged about
25 years is the Centical person that was willed free by Stevens
Lambill late of so County &c. &c.

August Lambill

Anne Arundel County Jct. On this 9th day of Sept 1809 per-
sonally appeared William Hammond before me the sub scri-
ber one of the Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid
made Oath that Charlotte & Paul are the Centical persons
set free by the last will & Testament of Col. Regim Hammond
Sworn before. Gideon White.

Anne Arundel County to Court. On the 1st day of Jan'y 1810
personally appeared Christopher Jones before me the sub scri-
ber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid made
Oath on the Holy Evangelly of almighty God that Benjamin
Cy are the Centical persons set free by the will of Col.
Regim Hammond

Sworn before To John Gassaway Esq. Henry Woodward

Anne Arundel County 1st Jan. 1810. Then came Philip Hammond before me the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid made oath on the Holy Evangelis of Almighty God that the following negroes were the property of Col. Roy in Hammond late of the County aforesaid & to wit Isham Cille Gordon Jacob Smith Inach Peggy & Jemey agreeable to the said Hammond Will they are free on the & the above mentioned.

Sworn before Henry Woodward.

On the 7th day of Jan. 1810. Came before me Charles Brown son of John makes oath that he has always lived within a mile of the late Col. Roy in Hammond plantation called the lower quarter that he is acquainted with two black girls who are the bearers of this paper for 20 years past that they have always during that time lived at the said lower quarter & were always considered as part of said Hammond Estate One is named Lemina the other Sue.

Sworn before me. Henry Strigely of the third Judicial District

Anne Arundel County, Md. On this 13th day of Aug 1809 appeared Charles B. Hutton before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid made oath that he knows Henry Forrest to be a free woman, was set free by Sarah Gardiner according to Will, that he knows this to be the actual Henry Forrest. Henry Forrest is a black woman about 17 years old has a small mark on the right corner of her right eye she is five foot two inches high. Given under my hand & seal the day & year above written

Joseph Sands

Anne Arundel County Md. On the 26th day of Sept 1809. Came Augustine Lambill before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County made oath on the Holy Evangelis of Almighty God that negro woman Prijs is the actual person as set free by the Will of Roy in Hammond son of Philip late Secy.

Sworn before Joseph Sands

Anne Arundel County to wit On this 29th day of Sept 1809. Personally appeared W. H. Merritt before me the subscriber a Justice of Peace for the County aforesaid made oath that negro Anstin is the actual person set free by the Will of Col. Roy in Hammond.

Sworn before Joseph Sands

Anne Arundel County to wit. On this 29th day of Sept 1809 -

Personally appeared William H. Merritt before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid made oath that negro Sarah & her daughter Sarah are the actual persons set free by the Will of Col. Roy in Hammond

Sworn before Joseph Sands.

On this 13th day of Oct 1809. Personally appeared W. H. Merritt before me the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid made oath that Charles commonly called Charles Brown is the actual person set free by the Will of W. Hammond.

Sworn before Gideon White.

Anne Arundel County, Md. On this 14th day of October 1809 appeared Samuel Hutton before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid made oath that he knows Susanna F. onie to be a free woman, was set free by the Will of Mary and Jones that he knows this to be the actual woman. Susanna F. onie a black woman about eighty two years old a black woman has a crooked little finger on her right hand is five feet two inches high. Given under my hand & seal the day & year above written.

Joseph Sands.

Anne Arundel County to wit. On the 20th day of August 1808 appeared Leonard & Salem an Esq before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid made oath that negro Jerry Smith now applying to Clerk of said County for a pass is free being made free by William Salem late of said County deceased.

Gideon White.

Anne Arundel County, Md. On this 13th day of April 1809. appeared John Griffith before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid made oath that he knows William Cooke to be a free man, was manumitted & set free by Mrs. Eleanor Dummer that he knows this to be the actual William Cooke. The said Cooke is a black man about twenty eight years old five foot seven one half inches high has a scar over the left eye. Given under my hand & seal the day & year above written.

Joseph Sands

Anne Arundel County, Md. On this 23rd day of August 1809 appeared Charles B. Hutton before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid made oath that he knows Joseph Forrest to be a free man, was set free by Sarah Gardiner according to Will, that he knows this to be the actual Joseph Forrest. Joseph Forrest is a black man about 19 years old has a particular mark, is five feet seven inches high. Given under my hand and seal the day & year above written.

Joseph Sands.

State of Maryland City of Annapolis. to wit. On the 27th day of September 1809 Came William Hammond Marriot before me the public writer & recorder of said City & made oath on the Holy Evangelist that negro Commo is the identical person set free by the Will of Col. Regin Hammond & late of Anne Arundel County deceased.

Sworn before James Shaw.

On the 24th day of Sept 1809 appeared E. W. Marriot before me the public writer & recorder for the City of Annapolis & made oath that the negro man named Adam & his wife Peggy are the identical persons set free by the Will of Col. Regin Hammond.

Sworn before James Shaw.

Anne Arundel County to wit. On this 27th day of Sept in the year 1809 personally appeared E. W. Marriot before me one of the appointed judges of the then Indian Island & made oath that Polly & Maria the daughter of Poll are the identical persons set free by William Hammond.

Sworn before Rich^d W. Barwood.

On the 25th day of Sept 1809 personally appeared E. W. Marriot before me the public writer & recorder for the City of Annapolis & made oath that John & his wife Ruthy are the identical persons set free by the Will of Col. Regin Hammond.

Sworn before James Shaw.

Anne Arundel County to wit. On the 17th day of May 1807. Came Mary Dams before the public writer & Justice of the Peace for said County & made oath that Nancy Gover now applying to the Clerk of said County for a pass was formerly the property of Mary Gover & was set free by said Mary Gover to the identical person mentioned in the Will of said Mary Gover to the best of her knowledge. before

Gideon White.

Anne Arundel County to wit. On the 29th day of Sept 1807. Came James Owens before the public writer & Justice of the Peace for said County & made oath that negro Jane now applying for a pass is free being willed free by William Franklin of said County as per his Will dated in the year 1797 & recorded in the register of Wills office for the County aforesaid & is the identical person mentioned in said Will.

Gideon White.

Anne Arundel County Vix. On this 18th day of May 1808 appeared William Colson before me the public writer & Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid & made oath that he knows negro Woman Betty to be a free woman & that she was set free by William Franklin by Will & that he knows this to be the identical woman Betty. Betty is a black woman about 5 feet 5 inches high has no particular

mark or scar. Given under my hand & seal the day & year above written.

Joseph Sands.

State of Maryland Anne Arundel County to wit. On this 15th day of August 1807. Came Augustus Sewall before the public writer one of the justices of the peace for the County aforesaid & made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that the person named Negro man is the identical person which was willed free by a certain Sarah Seal whole or or about three years since which negroes marks are as follows. Viz. She is a light black or brown aged about 28 years and about 5 feet three inches high. Evidences my hand & seal this day & year above written.

August Lambrell

Anne Arundel County Vix. On this 9th day of May 1807. appeared Richard Thompson before me the public writer & Justice of the Peace & made oath that he knows Sarah &anson to be a free woman set free by Stephen Boone. Sarah is about five foot three inches high of a dark complexion & about 58 years old. No mark or scar that I discover more than common. Given under my hand & seal the day & year above written.

Joseph Sands.

Anne Arundel County Vix. On this 2nd day of May 1809 appeared Richard Gray before me the public writer & Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid & made oath that he knows negro woman called Bager Boone to be a free woman & was set free by the will of Greenbury Gray & that this is the identical woman. Bager is a black woman about 28 years old has a small scar or mark on the point of her right arm & is about four feet eleven inches high. Given under my hand & seal the day & year above written.

Joseph Sands.

Anne Arundel County Vix. On this 13th day of April 1809 appeared John Griffith before me the public writer & Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid & made oath that he knows a negro woman by the name of Manny Grant to be a free woman & was manumitted & set free by Mrs Elizabeth Cowner according to Deed of manumission the said Manny is a black woman about 28 old. very black has a mark of a burn on her right arm. and is about five feet one inch high. Given under my hand & seal the day & year above written.

Joseph Sands.

Anne Arundel County to wit. On the 17th day of Sept 1807. Came James Owens before the public writer & Justice of the Peace for said County & made oath that negro Jack now applying to the Clerk of said County for a pass is free being willed

free by Jane Owens of said County & said will recorded in the register of wills office for said County, that the said Jack is the identical person mentioned in said will

Gideon White.

Extract from the will of the late Wm Atkinson of said County Maryland. I give & devise to my daughter Mary Atkinson my negro man Harry to be kept hired out at service by her Guardian herein after named for her use till she arrives at the age of sixteen years & then to be free. I certify that the above is a true Extract from the will of Wm Atkinson & that his daughter Mary has this day obtained the age of 16 years the bearer Harry named in the said will is therefore entitled to freedom.

Jonas Clepham Esq of Wm Atkinson
Bath July 10th 1808.

Annapolis Feb 19th 1808. Personally appears Frederick Green before the subscriber a Judge of the State of Maryland for the third Judicial District, & maketh oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that negro Harry commonly called Harry Price is the identical person devised by Wm Atkinson late of said County to his daughter Mary to be hired out until his said daughter should arrive to the age of 16 years & then to be free.

Richard H Harwood.

Anne Arundel County Jc. On this 27th day of May 1809 appeared Ebenezer Thomas before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid, & made oath that he knows negro Eroman Rodah to be a free Eroman & was set free by the will of John Williams & that this is the identical negro Eroman. Rodah is a black woman about 35 years old pitted with the small pox, particular on the nose & is four feet 11 inches & one quarter high. Given under my hand & seal the day & year above written.

Joseph Sando

Anne Arundel County to Civl. On the 10th day of Sept 1809 appeared Rachel Stevens before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid, & made oath that negro Charles now applying for a pass is the identical set free & mentioned in Col Regim Hammonds will

Gideon White.

On the 10th day of Sept 1809 personally appeared Wm H Marriote before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County, & made oath that Billy is the identical person set free by the will of Col Regim Hammonds

Sworn before
Chas Waters.

Anne Arundel County Jc. On this 9th day of Jan. 1810 personally appeared Wm H Marriote before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid

and made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that negro Ellis is the person willed free by the last will & testament of Col Regim Hammonds.

Sworn before
Gideon White.

Anne Arundel County to Civl. On the 28th day of March 1809 appeared William Pitchard before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid, & made oath the negro late now applying for a pass is free being the identical person mentioned in Margeret Jones's will, recorded in the register of wills office of said County.

Gideon White.

Anne Arundel County Jc. On this 9th day of Sept 1809 personally appeared William H Marriote before me the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid, & made oath that Ellis is the identical person set free by the last will & testament of Col Regim Hammonds.

Sworn before
Gideon White.

Anne Arundel County Oct 27th 1810 Then came both Mathias Hammond before me the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid, & made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that the bearer Ned Sugars a negro man was the property of Col Regim Hammonds late of the County aforesaid & that he is agreeable to the said Hammonds last will the said Ned Sugars is now free & entitled to a pass.

August Gambrell

Anne Arundel County to Civl. On this 15th day of June 1810 personally appeared John Bryant before me the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace for said County, & made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that negro Britton is the identical person set free by the will of Col Regim Hammonds to the best of his knowledge & belief.

Sworn before
Gideon White.

I hereby certify that I know the bearer negro Britton who formerly belonged to Col Regim Hammonds & was liberated by his last will & testament under that part or clause of his will in which he devised all his slaves free on the first day of January after his decease who are thirty years of age.

June 15th 1810.
Wm H Marriote.

State of Maryland. a County. May 26th 1810. Then came Elizabeth Merrick aged 78 years before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County, & made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that the bearer Ann Cox (now Coates) is the same person among other liberated by Stephen Boone of said County deceased. Given under my hand the day & year above.

Richard Merrick

Anne Arundel County, Md. On this 27th day of April 1810 appeared Charles Black before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid, made oath that he knows the negro man by the name of Charles or Charles Cromwell to be a free man & was manumitted, set free by William Cromwell & that he knows this to be the identical Charles Cromwell Charles is a black man about forty years of age has a scar on his left hand & is five foot eight inches high. Given under my hand & seal the 27th day of April above written.

Joseph Sanders.

Nov^r 17 1809. On this day appeared E. H. Marriott before me the subscriber Recorder for the City of Annapolis, made oath that negro Hagar is the identical person set free by the last Will of E. Hammond Esq.

I sworn before James Shaw.

52 at 40th raised near Patuxent River a a g. a scar over the right eye but scarcely perceptible.

On the 16th January 1810. appeared John Powell before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for a County, made oath that negro Kate or Catharine now applying for a pass was set free by the last Will & Testament of Stephen Doore late of sd County deceased.

I sworn to the best of his knowledge before Gideon White.

State of Maryland Anne Arundel County to wit. On the 4th day of March 1811 came Jacob Franklin Jun^r before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County & State aforesaid & made oath on the Holy Evangelists of almighty God that negro Richard was born (from the best information he can obtain on or about the month of October 1782) was the property of Samuel Atwell deceased & is one of the negroes mentioned in the last Will & Testament of Henry Atwell as being entitled to his freedom to the best of his knowledge.

I sworn before Thomas Sellman.

I certify that the above mentioned negro Richard is 5 feet 3 1/4 inches high, eyes full bright, yellowish complexion, lame in his right knee. (Certified by me a Justice of the Peace for the State & County aforesaid the 4th day of March above written.)

To wit John Gaffaway. Rept of Charles a a County. Thomas Sellman.

State of Maryland Anne Arundel County to wit. On the 4th day of March 1811 came Jacob Franklin Jun^r before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid, made oath on the Holy Evangelists of almighty God that Will was born from the best information he can obtain on or about the year 1774 in the County aforesaid & was many years the property of Daniel Atwell & is one of the negroes mentioned in the last Will and

Testament of Henry Atwell as being entitled to his freedom to the best of his knowledge. I sworn before Thomas Sellman.

I certify that the above mentioned negro girl is 5 feet 7 inches high, is black, has a small scar under his left eye (certified by me a Justice of the Peace for the State & County aforesaid the 4th day of March above written)

To wit John Gaffaway. Rept of Charles a a County. Thomas Sellman

4th March 1811. Then came Richard Cromwell before me one of the Justices of the Peace for a County, made oath that negro Damon aged about 40. five feet three inches high very black with a small scar between his eyes as agreeable to the last Will & Testament of Richard Cromwell late of a County deceased was entitled to be free in 6 years from his decease which time expired the 25th of August 1810.

I sworn to before Henry Evans.

4th March 1811. Then came Richard Cromwell before me one of the Justices of the Peace for a County, made oath that negro Tom aged 24 years 5 feet six inches, 10 1/8 of an inch high a black man with a small scar over each eye & several scars on his right wrist was agreeable to the last Will & Testament of Richard Cromwell late of a County deceased was to be free in six years from his decease which time expired the 25th of August 1810.

I sworn to before Henry Evans.

On the 11th Jan'y 1811. appeared Benjamin Wootton before the subscriber, made oath John Dawson now applying for a pass is the identical person mentioned in Elizabeth Brazels Will

5 feet 3 inches high 21 1/4 sold at a h. man. I sworn before Gideon White.

Anne Arundel County to wit. Oct 12th 1810 then came Zachariah Cromwell before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County & made oath on the Holy Evangelists of almighty God that the bearer Mark is the same person who was freed by Elizabeth Waters after serving Charles Waters two years which time has expired.

I sworn before Isaac Torrey.

I certify that the Bearer Mark has my permission to work for himself from this date. Given under my hand. 12th October 1810. Chas. Waters.

16 13 Sometimes calls himself York Franklin a a County & c. On the 15th day of July 1812 came James Cheston before the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace for the said County, made oath on the Holy Evangelists of almighty God that the above specified negro Charles is the identical person created by the late wife Ann Cheston to be manumitted

Edward Ball W. River

Anne Arundel County, Md. On the 16th June 1812 appeared Thomas Small before the subscriber & made oath that he is the negro man applying for a pass as the identical person mentioned in Sarah Peckers will to be free as recorded in the Register of Wills Office for Anne Arundel County -
Gideon White.

Anne Arundel County On the 26th Day of Sept 1811 appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace of the County aforesaid Paul Smith, John Bruce, each made oath on the Holy Evangelis of Almighty God that a negro woman present by the name of Mary Ann was left free by the last will of Rachel Bremer, that the justice named Daniel Smith wrote the said will that she was to be free at the age of 25 years, that she was 25 years old the 13th of January 1811. Sworn to before me
Oliver Cromwell.

Anne Arundel County Md. On the 24th June 1811 appeared Zach^{ry} Small before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid & made oath that he knows Resiah Cromwell to be a free woman that she was set free by the last will of Mrs Ann Ailsworth agreeable to the said will, that he knows this to be the identical person. Resiah Cromwell is a black woman about twenty eight years old has a scar on her breast is 5 feet 3 inches high. Given under my hand & seal the Day & Year above written.
Joseph Sands

Maryland. Anne Arundel County Md. May 8th 1811 on this Day personally appeared Doct^r Matthias Hammond before the subscriber one of the Justices of the peace for said County who after being sworn on the Holy Evangelis of Almighty God & deposed that the bearer negro Beale aged 30 years about 5 feet 9 inches high, black is the identical negro which was willed free by the last will & Testament of Col^o Regim Hammond late of said County. See further this de-
ponant saith not.
Sworn before
August G Ambrell.

Anne Arundel County Md. On this 23rd Day of April 1811 ap-
peared Robert Franklin before me the subscriber a Jus-
tice of the peace for the County aforesaid & made oath that
he knows James Franklin to be a free man, was manumitted & set free by the will of Sarah Franklin, that he
knows this to be the identical person. James Franklin
is a black man about 44 years old has a scar on the left
side of his mouth, another the whole length of his nose
and is 5 feet 6 inches high. Given under my hand & seal
the Day & Year above written.
Joseph Sands

On the 25th April 1811 appeared Area Sands before the subscri-
ber & made oath that negro Sheeha now applying for a pass.

aged between 50 and 60 years is the identical person
left free by Richard or Simon in his last will.
Gideon White.

Anne Arundel County, Md. He remembered that on
this 4th Day of August in the year 1810 personally appears
Edward Elliott of said County before me the subscriber one
of the Justices of the peace of the State of Maryland for the
County aforesaid & makes oath on the Holy Evangelis of
Almighty God that the negro woman here presented by the
name of Susannah being of the age of 26 years of a yellow
ish complexion five feet one inches high some small scars
on the back of her neck the justice presented woman was
the same that was left free by William Franklin & in
his will to the best of his knowledge & belief. Given under
my hand this 4th Day of August in the year 1810.
Sworn before
Jos^{ph} Jennings.

Anne Arundel County. to Court. On the 6th Day of April
1811 came Jacob Franklin Jun^r before the subscriber a Jus-
tice of the peace for the County aforesaid & made oath on the
Holy Evangelis of Almighty God that the bearer John is one
of the negroes manumitted by the last will & Testament of
Mary Atwell Dec^d of said County, that he was born on or
about the second Day of June 1789, the property of Daniel
Atwell of the County aforesaid. John is 5 feet 10 inches high
of a very dark complexion nearly black a pleasant coun-
tenance has a small scar on the left breast nearly op-
posite the heart. Sworn before & certified by
Joseph John, assaway & Thomas Sellman.
Justices of the Peace of said County.

Anne Arundel County. Md. On the 19th Dec^r 1812 appeared
Elijah Gray before the subscriber & made oath that negro
Mall or Mal Hile now applying for a pass is the identical
person willed free by John Boone as recorded in the Regis-
ter of Wills Office of said County.
Gideon White.

Anne Arundel County. to Court. On this 22nd Day of Decem-
ber 1812 personally appeared Philip Hammond before
the subscriber one of the Justices of the peace for said
County who after being sworn on the Holy Evangelis of
Almighty God deposed that the bearer negro
Andrew the wife called Andrew know due to the best
of his Deponents belief is the identical negro man as was
mentioned in Regim Hammond's will who was to be free
at the age of 30 years. This Deponent further saith
that to his belief that said fellow is now 30 years of age.
Further this Deponent saith not. Sworn before
August G Ambrell

The Bearer hereof Andrew who by the last will & Testament of Col Roger Hammond was to be free at the age of 35 years has been my servant in my profession since the death of said Roger Hammond and now thirty years of age & agreeable to said Hammond's will is free. The Register of the Orphans Court is directed & requested by me to furnish him with a pass.
Sept. 23rd 1812. Denton Hammond

Anne Arundel County, to Wit. On the 21st day of October 1816 appears John Cromwell before me the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace for said County & makes oath on the Holy Evangel, of almighty God that a negro woman the bearer hereof was set free by Sarah Gray in her last Will.
Sworn before, John Linsaid

Anne Arundel County, to Wit. On the 17th day August 1816 personally appeared Thomas R Cross before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid & made oath on the Holy Evangelists of almighty God that negro Kate is the identical person set free by the last Will & Testament of George Conway late of Anne Arundel County &c &c.
Sworn before, Thos Furlong
To Genl John Gassaway

Anne Arundel County, to Wit. On the 21st day of May 1816 appeared Robert Franklin before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County & makes oath that negro Sam the bearer hereof was set free by the last & Testament of Elisha Sam Cheston of the County aforesaid.
Sworn before, James Hunter

State of Maryland a County to Wit. On the 4th day of March 1811 James Jacob Franklin Junr before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the State County aforesaid & made oath on the Holy Evangelists of almighty God that negro James was born from the best information he can obtain on or about the 1st day of Aug 1787, was the property of Saml Stowell &c &c is one of the negroes mentioned in the last Will & Testament of Mary Atwell as being entitled to his freedom to the best of his knowledge.
Sworn before, Thos Sellman

I certify that the above mentioned negro James is five feet eight inches high & of a dark yellowish complexion. Certified by me a Justice of the Peace for the State & County aforesaid the day & year above written
To Col John Gassaway Thos Sellman
Capt of Wiles a County.

I certify that the above mentioned negro Phillis is 5 feet 3 and 3/4 inches high and of a bright yellow complexion & has a scar on her right breast. Certified by me a Justice of the Peace for the County & State aforesaid the day and year above written.
To Col John Gassaway, Thos Sellman.
Capt of Wiles a County.

Anne Arundel County, to Wit. On the 10th day of Aug 1816 personally appears Enoch Shekell before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid & makes oath that Joshua Lucas a black man the bearer hereof is the identical person set free by Henry Robinson by Will bearing date the day of 1816.
Sworn before, Frederick Hammond

I hereby certify that the within named Joshua is free & has been discharged from service as a slave on the 12th day of August 1816.
Deale Randall, Martha Randall

Anne Arundel County, to Wit. On the 16th day of Feb 1815. Came Saml Paine before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid & made oath that the bearer hereof Thos Johnson whose application to the Clerk of said County for his freedom papers is the said Thos Johnson who was set free by the last will of Henry Woods of a County &c &c.
Sworn before, T. L. Watkins

Anne Arundel County to Wit. On the 16th day of Feb 1816 appeared Richard Histon before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County & makes oath that John Brown Ombas the bearer hereof was set free by the last Will & Testament of Ely abeth Peyton of a County.
Sworn to before, James Hunter
5. 8
35. Scar on the left cheek.

Anne Arundel County to Wit. On the 20th day of Apr 1816 appeared Wm Marmott before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County & makes oath that Lydia the bearer hereof is the identical person set free by the last Will & Testament of Ewellham Hammond son of John of a County.
James Hunter

Anne Arundel County, to Wit. On the 29th day of March 1816. Came Elizabeth Hammond before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County & made oath that Ben a black man about 5 feet 10 inches high was the property of Col Roger Hammond & is now free Thos Furlong

Anne Arundel County to Cert. On the 14th day of March 1816. Personally appears Dick W. Matthews & Gammon before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County & made oath that a white boy now known as about 3 feet 2 1/2 inches high was the property of C. Rogers Gammon and is now free.

Thos. Furlong.

Anne Arundel County to Cert. On the 11th day of May 1816. Personally appeared Enoch Shekels before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County & makes oath that negro Mark Jackson the bearer hereof was set free by the last Will & Testament of Henry Robinson of said County & that he is the identical person named in the Will given under my hand the date aforesaid.

James Hunter.

In 4th Dec. On this 17th day of Aug 1816 personally appeared before me one of the Justices of the Peace for said County by name Ganett Gambrell & made oath that the bearer negro Jack a bright mulatto aged 21 years slender make & about five feet nine inches high is now free as reference to the last Will & Testament of the said Gambrell will more fully appear.

Sworn before

August Gambrell.

P.S. The above boy was bound to me until he arrived 21 years of age. See Rec^d in Register of Deeds Office for said City of Annapolis.

Thos. Gambrell

City of Annapolis. Dec. On this 1st day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & fifteen personally appeared before me Henry B. Swale & made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that negro Kate the bearer hereof was set free by Will (of the late George Conway) & that he believes the said Kate to be the identical person freed by said Will. Sworn to before me this day.

Sworn before

Ramsay Eleuters.

Recorder City of Annapolis.

Anne Arundel County to Cert. On this 31st day of July 1815 before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County appears Ephraim Small & makes oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that negro Woman Patience now present was set free by Hampton Robinson & that the said Patience is the identical person mentioned in the aforesaid Robinsons Will given under my hand.

James Hunter.

Anne Arundel County to Cert. On this 31st day of July 1815 before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said

County appears Ephraim Small & makes oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that negro Woman Rachel now present was set free by Hampton Robinson & that the said Rachel is the identical person mentioned in the aforesaid Robinsons Will given under my hand.

James Hunter.

Anne Arundel County to Cert. On this 5th day of August 1815 before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County appears Thos. Furlong & makes oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that negro Stephen now applying for a pass is one of the children of negro Hannah who was set free by Richard Jacob of Rich^d by his last Will & Testament & that negro Stephen is the identical person mentioned in said Will given under my hand.

James Hunter.

Anne Arundel County to Cert. On the 11th day of September 1815 appears Thomas Black before me the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace for said County & makes oath that negro Betty the Bearer hereof is the person that was set free by John Berry Wacchlin Will at the age of twenty five bearing date 21st day of October 1803.

Sworn before

John Justice.

Anne Arundel County to Cert. On the 6th day of October 1815 before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County appears Benjamin Bassford & makes oath that negro Woman Kate now present & applying for a pass was set free by the last Will & Testament of Benjamin Ward & which freedom was to take place when she arrived at age and that the said Kate is the identical person named in said Will.

James Hunter.

Anne Arundel County to Cert. On the 6th day of October 1815 before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County appears Benjamin Bassford & makes oath that negro Woman Rachel now present and applying for a pass was set free by the last Will and Testament of Benjamin Ward & which freedom was to take place when she arrived at age and that the said Rachel is the identical person named in said Will.

James Hunter.

Anne Arundel County to Cert. On the 14th day of Sept^r 1815 appears Amos Minns before me the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace for said County & makes oath that negro man Isaac the bearer hereof was the person set free by John & Henry Wacchlin Will at the age of 30 years.

Sworn before

John Justice

Anne Arundel County. On the 7th Dec 1815 came Capt

20.30
Charles Humphrey before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said County made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that Joshua Richards a black man is the identical same negro man pulled free by Thos Boone in his last will and testament.

Sworn before
And Warfield.

Anne Arundel County Del. On the 13th day of May 1815 personally appeared Elizabeth Dufford before me a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid and made oath that the bearer hereof, Jerry Chase is the same identical person that was left free by the will of Benjamin Ward that the said Jerry Chase is more than 21 years of age. Sworn to the best of his knowledge before.

Louis Lassaway
Anne Arundel County Del. March 15th 1815. Then came Negro Adam before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid and made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that the pass granted to him by the Register of Deeds for Anne Arundel County as one of the persons set free by the last will & testament of Col Regim Hammond has been lost or stolen from him.
Sworn to before.
R Euelich of Dew.

Anne Arundel County Del. On this 13th day of April 1815 personally appears William Ketchum before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid and made oath that Negro Adam the bearer of this is the identical Negro set free by the last will & testament of Col Regim Hammond.
Sworn before.

Anne Arundel County to Del. On the 20th day of March 1815 came Richard Kirby before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid and made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that Samuel Calkins now present is the identical person who obtained his freedom by the last will & testament of James Crandall late of the County aforesaid and deceased.
Sworn to the best of his knowledge and belief before
Thomas Sellman.

I certify that Samuel Calkins aforesaid is a black man five feet eleven inches high and a quarter of an inch across the chest to be about 27 years old the great toe on the right foot shorter than the other and several scars on the left arm occasioned by a burn. Sworn under my hand and seal this 30th day of March 1815.

Thomas Sellman
Justice of the Peace for said County

21.31
Anne Arundel County, to Del. Then came before me a Justice of the Peace for Anne Arundel County the said Boone and made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God Negro Abraham is the identical negro as was freed by the last will & testament of Charles Boone late of the County aforesaid deceased that the said Negro Abraham is about forty two years of age. Sworn under my hand and seal this 16th day June in the year of our Lord 1814.

N J Ewalkins
Anne Arundel County to Del. On this 19th day of Nov 1812 personally appeared Daniel Everfield before me one of the Justices of the Peace for said County who made oath that the bearer Negro Bay or Basil a tall slender black man thin visage about five feet seven inches high, about 30 years of age is one of the identical negroes that formerly did belong to Col. Regim Hammond late of said County Del.
Sworn to before.
August Gamberle.

State of Maryland. Anne Arundel County to Del. On the 30th day of Dec 1812 came Jacob Franklin before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid and made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that the said man now present was one of the slaves that belonged to Mrs. Elizabeth late of a County Del. that the said man was manumitted by her last will & testament bearing date on or about the fourth day of January 1811 to the best of his knowledge.
Sworn before. Thomas Sellman.

I hereby certify that he is a mulatto five feet six inches & a quarter of an inch high has a small scar opposite his right eye & it is stated that he was born the 24th May 1791.
Thomas Sellman.

Anne Arundel County to Del. On this 29th day of March 1815 appears Robert Warfield before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid and made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that Negro Francis is the same negro as was freed by the last will & testament of Lewis Everfield late of the County aforesaid and deceased that the said Negro Francis is about forty five years of age. Sworn under my hand and seal this day and year aforesaid.

Thomas Dufford
Anne Arundel County Del. On this 17th day of Nov 1817 personally appeared Doct. Matthias Hammond before me one of the Justices of the Peace for said County made oath that the bearer Negro boy aged about 30 years black complexion thin visage about five feet nine or ten inches high is the identical negro which was will free by the last will of Col Regim Hammond late of said County.

County deceased which said boy is ³² years of age
of 20 years.

Sworn before

August 14th 1814

Anna Arnold County to Court. Then came before me
a Justice of the Peace for Anne Arundel County Stephen
Boone made oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God
that negro boy is the identical negro as was freed
by the last will & testament of Charles Boone late of the
County aforesaid deceased & that the said negro boy is
about forty four years of age. Given under my hand
and seal this 16th day of June 1814.

Wm J. Ewaltens

Anna Arnold to Court. Then came before me a Justice
of the Peace for the aforesaid County Stephen Boone made
oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God that negro boy
is the identical negro as was freed by the last will &
testament of Charles Boone late of the County aforesaid
deceased & that the said negro boy is about 40
years of age. Given under my hand and seal
this 16th day of June 1814.

Wm J. Ewaltens

John Fowler et al
vs

Orphans Court. A.A. Coty.

July 29th 1794.

Depositions, taken in open Court in this Cause.

The Deposition of William Humphrey aged about 54 y^s
who being first duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Al-
mighty God deposes and saith that he knew Benjamin
Bright in the label named from the time the said Benjamin
was about until the time of his death & that this Depo-
nent never knew otherwise of the said Benjamin but that he
was as great an idiot as ever he knew and was incapa-
ble in his deponents opinion at any time of transacting
any kind of business that the said Benjamin was at
times half naked & appeared to be as well satisfied there-
with as unconcerned as if well dressed. That this Depo-
nent about the year 1791 went up from Annapolis with
the said Benjamin John Walker & travelled 8 or 9
miles with them that the said Benjamin was then as
great an idiot as ever he saw him. That the said Ben-
jamin never was at Annapolis but that once that this
Depo-
nent knows or has heard of that this Depo-
nent con-
versed on the road with the said Benjamin that the
said Benjamin conversed like a person disordered in
his mind the greatest instance of sense this Depo-
nent ever knew of from the said Benjamin was in asking for

him that the look and appearance of the said Benjamin
was a good deal stupid that the said Benjamin as this Depo-
nent believes might have been prevailed upon to execute any
thing. That this Depo-
nent often saw the said Benjamin at his
brothers & had frequent opportunities of observing & judging
of the state of his mind that the said Benjamin lived in a very bad
way that the brother of the said Benjamin has been dead several
years that this Depo-
nent has seen the said Benjamin several
times since that event & saw no o^os in him that he was a poor
creature hardly any body took any account of him that
altho the defects of his dress were often evident he would come
into company where women were present without embarrassment
and without appearing to be conscious of the impropriety
of his situation that the defects of dress alluded to were that
the said Benjamin's breeches were almost worn off his shins
& his coat jacket & shirt were in the same
situation his body or parts thereof exposed to view. That this
Depo-
nent was at the house of the said Benjamin's brother
where the said Benjamin resided four or five times a week
that this Depo-
nent did not see the said Benjamin often for the
last three or four years but when he did see him he appeared
to be in the same situation as formerly that this Depo-
nent
never was at the house where it is said the said Ben-
jamin lived in his latter days has heard that he was sent into
a little house in the woods where Mr Philip Hammond
or Regia Hammond used to send him victuals. That this De-
ponent believes the said Benjamin might know his parents
& that he knew this Depo-
nent when he met him & knew such
persons as he was much accustomed to. It was the general
opinion of the neighbour hood that the said Benjamin was
a poor creature & incapable of transacting business.

Sworn to in open Court.

William Humphrey

Fowler et al.

The Deposition of Thomas Cromwell aged
about 63 years who being first duly sworn
deposes and saith that this Depo-
nent knew Benjamin Bright
from about the year 1767 to the time of his death & saw him
the evening he died. That this Depo-
nent knows him well saw
him often at his brothers & at this Depo-
nent's house. This Depo-
nent thinks he never was at any time capable of transacting
business of any kind that he was sometimes when attacked
with fits which happened every month excessively stupid at
other times between the fits appeared to have some genuine
sense of reason but still not to be competent to business of
any kind that the general opinion of the neighbour hood
was that he was a natural fool & incapable of transacting

business that this Deponent knew after saw the said Bay a
 man after he was removed to a long house as it was said sup-
 ported there by the Negro Hammonds that he was always
 to see him in the same situation as formerly that this Depon-
 ent was never in the said house tho he has been at the door
 that it is about half a mile from Deponents house that the said
 Benjamin never managed a plantation or superintended or
 conducted one since this Deponent knew him that except when
 the said Benjamin lived with Walker he never lived more
 than 3/4 of a mile from this Deponent. That this Deponent
 has seen the said Benjamin ragged dirty almost naked
 that at such times he would go into Company without any
 reserve or such circumstance that it was almost impossible
 to keep him cloathed for that in his fits he would tear them off
 that the said Benjamin was a grumbling discontented person
 that about a month before he died he came to Deponents
 house out of humour & complained that the Hammonds
 did not use him well that they did not give him victuals
 enough he wanted Deponent to go with him to Annapolis
 to get a bill he had made altered by the Chancellor for he did
 not like the bill. The chief or main bent of his sense seemed
 to be towards his interest knew Deponent when he met him
 such as he was well accustomed to except during his fits.
 for two or three days before & after. Deponent thinks in
 former times when a Lad he has seen him going to Mill but
 whether alone or in Company he does not recollect his
 fits towards his latter years seemed to be more powerful to
 stupify him worse than formerly. Deponent does not think
 he was born a natural fool but conceives his mind had been
 injured by fits. Curtness never knew Ben^y Wright transact
 or conduct any business or affairs of his own or other peoples
 a Negro woman lived in one end of the afores^d Long House
 when he lived there Curtness supposes she cooked for him
 This was the best house on the said Benjamin's Land.

Sworn in open Court.

Thos^r from well.

Fowler et als { The Deposition of Richard Jacob aged
 Hammond et als } about 43 years who being only sworn
 poses & says that this Deponent knew
 Benjamin Wright from a small Lad till about a year or
 six months before his death that the said Benjamin lived
 about 3 or 4 miles from this Deponent except when he lived
 at Walkers which was 6 or 7 miles from this Deponents.
 that when the said Benjamin was young this Deponent
 might have seen him about 10 times a year when he res-
 cided at Walkers about 3 or 4 times a year since he has seen
 him after he removed from Walkers that this Deponent

always thought him a person unable to provide for or take
 care of himself or to take care of his property or to manage
 or transact any business of any kind thinks that this was
 the general opinion of the neighborhood. Curtness never
 knew him undertake to conduct or transact any business
 appeared to this Deponent to be weak foolish and compe-
 tent to make any contract or agreement at any time. Has
 heard he was subject to fits but never saw him have any
 at the last time Curtness saw him appeared better than before.
 He knew Curtness when he saw him & others to whom he was
 accustomed.

Sworn to in open Court.
Richard Jacob

Fowler and als { The Deposition of Charles Stewart aged
 Hammond et als } about 43 years being first only sworn
 & poses & says that he knew Benjamin Wright well when
 they were boys together never since but that this Deponent
 hath not often seen him within the last ten years that Cur-
 ness went to school with the said Benjamin that from this
 Deponents knowledge & observations of the said Benjamin
 he never believed him to be of sound mind or capable of do-
 ing business or making a contract or of taking care of him-
 self his property or his affairs that the said Benjamin was
 not standing capable of giving an answer to a short
 question on a familiar or common subject that this Depon-
 ent thinks the general report & opinion were in conformity
 with the opinion above observed. That the said Benjamin
 was not capable of taking any knowledge while this Deponent
 was his school fellow that Deponent believes he never perfect-
 ly learnt his letters altho he went about one month to one
 master a year or more after about two months to another
 master was then about 18 or 19 years old. as this Deponent
 supposes. Deponent has heard that the said Benjamin went
 to another school than those above alluded to but whether
 before or after the times aforesaid Deponent knows not. De-
 ponent also understood that he made no progress there.
 Was reported at school to be a boy without common under-
 standing. Knew the school boys could call them by their
 names. It was said that he was subject to monthly fits but
 Curtness never saw him have any. Curtness did not conceive
 him a natural fool born but that his fits had numbed his
 senses. Curtness never heard of any period of the said Ben-
 jamin's life when he was not subject to these fits. Has
 seen him play at Cat but could never make much hand-
 of it.

Sworn in open Court.
Charles Stewart

Fowler et al vs The Deposition of John Cromwell aged 36

Hammond et al vs who being duly sworn deposes says that he knows Benj. Wright 31 at his knowledge of him he was frequently with him sometimes twice or three weeks lived about 1/4 of a mile from him from Chittys knowledge observation of him he thinks the said Benjamin was not at any time capable of taking care of himself his property or affairs or of transacting any kind of business. Evidence never was at the house where the said Benj. resided the latter part of his life. He always understood the said Benj. was subject to fits that they were more violent & frequent towards the latter part of his life. Never knew Benj. Wright conduct or manage affairs or undertake to conduct manage or interfere with any kind of business. He as frequently observed the said Benj. when raged & angry his nakedness even his private parts were openly exposed go into company where women of character have been present & at home without any arrangement or reserve & apparently unconscious of the impropriety of his situation Deponent has not seen the said Benjamin in that situation for five years past but has seen him in company since & very frequently the same exposed as above. Deponent never had any business to transact with him and never saw him in a situation to transact business owing to want of understanding arising as this Deponent thinks from fits in a great measure.

Does not believe he was a natural fool born but thinks that the weakness of his mind was produced in a great measure by his fits. Never saw him play cards & is certain he was not able. He as seen him attempt to keep the game at all but never could go on straight with it & they were obliged to run to him to set him right. Was often playing & would never go on above two or three notches before he would get wrong.

Sworn to in open Court.

John Cromwell

Fowler and al vs The Deposition of Thos. Hawkins aged

Hammond et al vs about 56 years who being duly sworn deposes & says that he knows Benj. Wright from his birth until his death during the whole time except about six months thereof saw him frequently that he lived in the same house with him about two years (about 1762-1763) knew him well that the five months above mentioned were before the year 1762 that at about the age of two or three years the said Benjamin was taken with a fit which exposed him of the use of his left side from his head to his foot that he went from a fool but seemed to be a sensible child before he was attacked with fits. that these fits generally returned every full change of the moon

often at times but very seldom did not return for two or three months & after a long interval they returned in the greater violence than usual that these fits continued upon him in the latter part of his life as before as Evidence has himself seen more than more violent than in the early part of his life. Does not know that they were more frequent than usual that these fits affected his mind & made him silly so as to render him incapable of taking care of his property or of transacting any business at any time Evidence thinks he was in no situation to make a contract Evidence never had any dealings with him. At times he would talk reasonably on right common topics for a short space but in a very short time less than half an hour he would talk silly again that he would often talk to himself as he walked along the road. That the topics above alluded to were his passions & passions rather to whom he was well accustomed but even on these topics he soon became inconsiderate & silly. That he knew those to whom he had been used and could recollect their names & some jokes that happened. That he has known him to go fishing but not by himself that he could not paddle. Has known him go to chills by himself. That he had sense enough to order the boys out a fishing to get back that he was very fractious & would as soon knock any body as not that provoked him. Evidence has seen him catching bait. Evidence saw him last fall when frost upon the ground without shoes or stockings about a mile from home.

The general opinion & report in the neighborhood were that he was foolish & incapable of transacting business or making contracts. Never knew him of his knowledge to buy or sell. When he got a little money would keep it close & would not spend it except when he got where there was drink. Knew a Dollar or a quarter of a Dollar but could make no great hand of counting money. Does not know whether he knew the value of money but knew that he could get drink with it. Was not troubled with much money. Any thing he had such as his clothes he was careful of & of. but when in his fits he'd tear them up.

Sworn to in open Court.

Thomas Hawkins

Fowler et al vs The Deposition of Ralph Hawkins

Hammond et al vs aged about 24 years who being first duly sworn deposes & says that he has known Benj. Wright for about 15 or 16 years back and for about one year of the time viz about a year ago saw him three or four times a week for the remainder of the time about 3 or 4 times a year. From this Deponents knowledge

and observation of him he thinks that the said Benjamin was owing to want of understanding, produced by fits incapable of transacting business of any kind or making contracts at any time. Some times he would have no fit for 4 or 6 weeks at a time when they would return upon him with more violence in an hour than while the fits were on him his understanding & memory were totally gone but during an intermission his understanding & memory were better than ever then he was incompetent to any kind of business or contract or reasonable conversation. Knew his acquaintances. Evidence never had any business to transact with him. Some things we could recollect that happened a year before but these were foolish & small trifling things. If any accident happened to his neighbours or himself he could remember it for six months or a year, could relate it but in a foolish & silly manner when he related it twice he would do it pretty nearly in the same way. Terms the general opinion of the part of the neighbourhood was that he was shallow and foolish & had no sense to speak of. Never knew him transact or conduct any business of any kind.

Sworn in Open Court.

Ralph ^{his} Hawkins -
with

Fowler and also
at

The Deposition of ^{the} Elyah Robson aged about 62 years who being first duly sworn & poses the and faith that he does not recollect ever to have seen Ben^y Wright till about the time of his brothers death had frequently heard that there was such a person & that the report of the neighbourhood was that he was an idiot incapable of taking care of himself that he does not recollect ever to have had any conversation with the said Wright he knows no more of him than what he has collected from general report & opinion. Saw him once at John Ewalters in the kitchen and did not speak three words they called him in to dinner but he would not come. He was dressed in common coarse cloaths but not ragged.

Sworn to in Open Court.

Elyah Robson.

Fowler and also
is

The Deposition of George Ash^{er} Hammond also aged about 48 years who being first duly sworn & poses & says that he knew Benjamin Wright for about 30 years back that in the course of that time has seen him frequently & often conversed with him from Ewalters observation and knowledge of him he took him to be a very weak man

did not look upon him capable of taking care of himself or his affairs or of making contracts or dispositions of his property lived about four miles from him when Wright resided at his brothers when at Ewalters about 8 miles when at his last place of about five & a half miles several times came by himself to this Deponents House & staid there all night & returned again alone. Evidence never saw him in a fit. Evidence cannot say that he was a natural fool for he would sometimes for a few words on a trifling matter talk as reasonably as could be expected from such a man tho' not as well as other people. Sometime last fall Ben^y Wright came by himself to this Deponents House & staid all night & told Evidence his wife in Deponents presence that the Chancel^{lor} had made his will. she asked him to whom he had left his property. He answered to Betsey Hammond his cousin Tommy Wright. It was on the evening before the first snow that he came to Deponents as above before Evidence wife asked him why he had not left Mary Polly & Wright something he answered because he loved best those he had left it to. Often complained to Evidence about his brother of Mr Ewalter & disapproved of Mr Hammond but Evidence is not sure. Seemed to be a discontented man. Sworn to in open Court.

George Ashpsaw

Fowler and also
is

The Deposition of Ew^{ing} Hammond also aged about 26 years who being duly sworn & poses & says that he knew Ben^y Wright for about 16 or 17 years back & for the first twelve years saw him on an average about once a week for the residue of the time about 4 or 5 times a year from this Deponents knowledge & observation of him he does not think he was an idiot he came nearer to the definition of a lunatic except that at his best times & intervals he was not in this Deponents opinion capable of taking care of himself or his affairs or of making contracts or dispositions of his property that the said Ben^y could not write & Evidence thinks he could not read? E would ask this Deponent often sometimes three or four times in an hour the day of the week or month & when the moon would full or change? Deponent conjectures that his fits were coming on when those questions were so frequent but at all times he was in the habit of asking them. Deponent did not go to school with him does not recollect to have seen with a book open in his hand or with pen ink & paper before him. that this Deponent forms his opinion that the said

Benjamin could not write from the information of
of Ebenezer's brothers & sisters who went to school with
him. Ebenezer was never in the house where Wright li
ved last & never had any business to transact with him
Does not recollect to have conversed with him upon
business but has talked with him a good deal & his con
versation generally silly. Could sometimes give a pretty
small answer about domestic occurrences that hap
pened under his view but could not persist in any ratio
nal discourse even on the most trifling subject for any
length of time. The general report concerning this
Deponents as far as he ever heard.

Sworn to in open Court
William D. Cromwell

Fowler and also
Hammond & others } The deposition of James Hawkins aged
about 34 years who being first duly
sworn & sworn & says that he knows Benj^t Wright from
his infancy that the last time he saw him was just before
his arrest in 1793. that he was raised within about half
a mile of Deponent that about 20 years ago Deponent re
moved about 4 miles off from the place where the said
Wright resided & continued so removed about 10 years
after which he removed within about 2 miles from the
said place in the latter part of the said Benj^t's life was
well acquainted with the said Benj^t & saw him often
& afterwards saw him several times a year that the said
Benj^t was always esteemed a poor weak man of very lit
tle understanding. Ebenezer does not think he was a na
tural fool Deponent did not think him capable of buy
ing or selling or making bargains he was so weak
that others might take advantage of him. When the Jury
of Enquiry met at Mercers the said Benj^t was asked
whether he thought he could manage for himself he an
swered Yes if he had a good man to live with him.
That the weakness of the said Wright's understanding
proceeded in Deponent's opinion from his fits. When a
small child he was a likely well looking child the
could at times talk reasonably enough in common
subjects & occurrences usually noted in the neighbour
hood & in the same manner ask & answer questions
thereon. Could not as this Deponent was covered
fly at such times from one subject to another like a
natural fool. Has seen some foolish people
than Wright get their living by working about the
Country. Think he could have done so if he had the
use of his limbs, but he might have been overreached

in bargains. Never understood that his fits were more fre
quent or more violent in the latter part of his life. Did not
often see him in his latter days. Last time Ebenezer saw
him where he lived? Wright answered at his own place.
Ebenezer then asked him if he was better satisfied than for
merly. Answered that he was better satisf^d. Ebenezer then
asked him how his wheat was? Answered. It was sorry
& was not good. while Deponent on passing by found to be so.
Deponent was one of the Jury of Enquiry before mentioned.
George Ashbaw who has been examined in this Cause was
another of the said Jury. Being asked by Deponents Court
whether any Ebenezer were summoned before that Jury
Deponent answers that there were but does not remember
who except that John Walker was one. Ebenezer did not
read the deposition taken on the said Jury but expects it
was read to them tho he cannot say whether it was or not.
Ebenezer signed the deposition & was sworn upon it. It was
examined at the place by W. Helvey afterwards copied
by W. Murray and signed. Sworn to in open Court.
James Hawkins.

Fowler and also
Hammond & others } Wednesday 30th July 1794.
Depts Ebenezer.
Joseph Stansbury aged 50 years being
sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God & sworn to
faith that he has known Benjamin Wright by sight 15 or
20 years so as to ask him how he did & find him good by.
Lived about 1/2 miles on opposite sides of a creek 1/2 mile
wide. Was in company with Benj^t Wright in Spring
of 1791. when he was talking about an Indenture of ser
vitude which he had given to John Walker. Wright paid
Walker & himself had quarrelled, he came to com
plain to Capt Merrick. Wright said he demanded of
Walker to give him his negro again & settle him on his
own land or see him better & Walker replied that Wright
had no land or negro so that he had given them to him
by an Indenture of Servitude & told him he had signed
it but Wright told this Deponent & Capt Merrick that
he signed it after drinking part of three bowls of punch
in Baltimore where he had went with Walker & said
to this Deponent & W. Merrick that they knew him to
be fond of liquor, but he said that W. Hammond or W.
Merrick or any body who understood such busi
ness could set it aside because in his opinion it was
not good for he had drank too much punch when
he signed it or something to that purpose W. Merri
kin asked him how he came to sign the paper

and he replied that Walker persuaded him to do it, told him if he did not do so that a Mr. Legum would take his living from him. To the best of Deponent's recollection Wright said the instrument of writing was done before Mr. Rigely in Baltimore this Deponent understood from Wright's conversation that he wished to come to live with Capt Merrick but Capt Merrick told him as he had given John Walker his Episcopate he must look to him for his living but as a neighbour he was welcome to come to his house. Wright replied that he did not wish to give his living to John Walker but he did not see how well he could give him cloth sufficient. He said he thought as Walker had the use of his land, two negro fellows he might maintain him well for it. And Wright further said his care was when he read that his brother's children should have his living, called this Deponent by name, Capt Merrick to take notice that was his intention. This Deponent believes he was then in the Company one hour or 1/2 hour or it might be more. This Deponent does not know whether he Wright was better or worse used while with Walker than when he lived with others, he used to complain of his Brother and Mr. Walker, this Deponent has heard him complain that Rev. Mr. Hammond would not let him have a cow to give him milk he said he had meat enough from Mr. Hammond but he could not eat the meat, went to the neighbours for milk. This Deponent thinks the said Wright at the time herein alluded to talked consistently, as well as common men brought up in an elite & genteel manner as him usually do. This Deponent had often heard he Wright was a fool, this occasioned him to take more notice of the conversation that passed, was amazed at what he heard. This Deponent was once present at his mother's when said Wright was there, Wright said Mrs. Danbury I have been a long way, she asked him where he replied to his uncle Maynard's she then asked him if any body went with him, he said no nobody was with him only himself & his horse she then asked him how he found the way, he laughed & said what was my tongue made for or where was my tongue to enquire. This conversation passed five or six years ago this Deponent says the distance from where Wright lived to Maynard's was about 50 miles. This Deponent further saith that said Wright used frequently to pass by his mother's house, call in an asked her how she did, when Wright wanted to cross the creek he used to call for some person to bring him over, this Deponent has brought him over several times himself & sometimes sent the people for him

and Wright used to ask how his own was, such slight conversations. This Deponent always thought said Wright was a part man, illiterate, nobody took care of him, he was often in debt & rags. This Deponent further says that at the time he saw Wright at Mr. Merrick's he thought he had sense enough to dispose of his property to those he liked best but he never had formed this opinion of him before nor any that he recollects, not having any thing to draw his attention, & probably should not have formed one then if Wright had not called upon him there to take notice.

Sworn in Open Court.
Joseph Stanbury.

J. Fowler and others. 30th July 1794.
Doer Richard Hopkins aged 30 years being sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God deposes & saith that he knew Ben^{ts} Wright late of the last five or six years of his life & lived within two or three miles of him & not above 4 miles when he died. This Deponent saw the said Ben^{ts} Wright frequently during that time & hath seen him in his fits (by Physicians called the Epilepsy) Deponent has had frequent conversations with said Wright that during the fits the intellectual faculties were suspended & from frequent recurrence of the Paroxysm the mind was weakened and obliterated this Deponent says that in the interval between the fits he hath frequently seen & conversed with said Wright when he would converse for an hour or two rationally & give pertinent answers to questions & would keep up a rational conversation on different subjects, this Deponent has had frequent opportunities of examining the said Wright. This Deponent declares from his observations of the state of the said Wright that he has often seen him in the interval between his fits of such understanding as to be fully capable of disposing of his property to those persons he liked best, that he believes at those times the said Wright had Judgment memory and will sufficient for that purpose. This Deponent saith he hath at times attended the said Wright as his father (this Deponent practising medicine) & once the said Wright having a sore throat applied to this Deponent to cure it. This Deponent gave him the necessary directions to hold down his tongue of his mouth, calling up some time afterwards for his assistance, Wright informed this Deponent that he had done as he was told to do. The said sore was no run or Ulcer & kept his leg from the time which were the directions this Deponent had given him but this Deponent his leg was a great deal better & most well

and which on examining appeared to be the case this hap-
 pened in the winter season. Among other questions said
 Wright was to take notice of 3 also which he said he had
 come to that he had got them from John Hammond.
 This Deponent hath frequently met the said Wright going to
 returning from Hull by himself this Deponent does not
 think the rational faculties of said Wright so obliterated or
 impaired as to degenerate to Idiocy by any means, but
 that properly speaking he had lucid intervals. This Depon-
 ent has discovered very frequently perhaps every month
 with said Wright & has come it with a view to discover the
 operation of the fits upon his intellects & the result of this
 frequent observation was that the said Wright in his lucid
 intervals between his fits was of sufficient judgment memo-
 ry sense to make a valid disposition of his private property to
 those he thought best of & most liked. The subject of his
 course above alluded to was in general the real or supposed
 said all treatment from Walker in the course of which he
 would relate things as they happened with consistency.
 These fits recurred almost every full change of the moon
 to said Wright that said Wright used to come alone very fre-
 quently to the house of this Deponent's mother in Law where
 Deponent resided which is scarce 3 miles from Wright's
 house & his behavior while there was harmless & inoffen-
 sive. This Deponent observed nothing in him like delirium
 or folly. That the stupor occasioned by the fits remained
 on Wright for several hours after the fit but then com-
 mencement was sudden and without much warning.
 This Deponent does not recollect any conversation with
 conversation from Wright during the remission of his
 fits at any time. That this Deponent has never understood
 from general report that Ben Wright was insane and
 his indigement for being more particular in conversa-
 tion with Wright was to discover to what extent his un-
 derstanding was impaired by these fits because a debili-
 tated understanding is the usual effects of such fits.
 This Deponent has frequently feasted with Wright on a
 variety of different subjects.

Sworn in open Court.

Richard Capkins.

Fowler and others 30th July 1794.

vs

Basil Smith aged 30 years

Hammond & others } being only sworn on the 16th July
 Evangelis of Almighty God depose & testify that he
 was very well acquainted with Ben Wright's late
 Dec'd ever since Deponent can remember & has lived

most of his life within 3 miles of him this Deponent has
 seen him very often & had conversations with him until about
 3 years before he lived with this Deponent during which time
 he only saw him three or four times, that said Wright lived & well
 Deponent last March was 12 months between four and five weeks
 saw him from that time almost every day until he died. This Depon-
 ent believes from his knowledge & observation of him that said
 Wright had regard for one neighbor more than another and
 from that circumstance judged him capable of making at times
 a disposition of his property this Deponent also thinks so be-
 cause said Wright had a very great memory & was in the opin-
 ion of this Deponent very sensible of favor done him or kind-
 ness conferred on him. He appeared to this Deponent at times
 to be capable of connected & rational discourse for several
 hours. Said Wright had two fits while living in this Deponent's
 family one of which was very violent & more so than the other
 it lasted about half an hour & the effect of it upon his under-
 standing lasted about three days during which time he walk-
 ed about had little to say & seemed to be stupid after which
 he recovered his usual understanding and from that time
 until the approach of another fit he had understanding
 enough to be capable of knowing for whom he had the great-
 est regard to distinguish persons to go to mill & go fishing
 with another person & knew and would often talk about the
 property of which he was possessed. He often heard him
 say that Mr Walker had cheated him out of his property
 which was before he lived with this Deponent & has often
 heard him say his brother's son should have his property but
 he does not recollect to have heard him say that he had
 made a will or to whom he had devised his property. This De-
 ponent believes that during the interval of fits he Wright
 had understanding enough to take care of his person and
 in an age his property had he continued in a state of mind
 for he appeared to this Deponent to be very careful. This De-
 ponent thinks said Wright knew the days of the week &
 the days of the month & the full change of the moon as
 any person & this Deponent has often as had him. He was very
 often played at Cat with him when boys together & he would
 play with one hand & keep tally as well as any of the boys
 He says that Wright in conversation with him used to la-
 ment his having fits & this Deponent said it was a pity he had
 fits & could not keep his Land his mind was fine. Wright said
 yes he had fine Land & Wright would talk reasonably about
 the Corn & Cattle growing & would talk very reasonably
 about the occurrence of the heavy snow which he had
 heard in the intervals between his fits & that between his
 fits while he lived with this Deponent he always talked

This Deponent thinks that Wright after his fits have been off him five or six or ten days according to the violence of the fit was very stout and in an old little battle if he had been allowed to be overreached as any man of ordinary understanding. Said Wright told this Deponent that he always knew from his feelings a day or two before his fits came on but this Deponent could not observe their coming on during that time.

Sworn in Open Court.
Basel Smith.

Fowler and others, 30th July 1794.

Oliver Cromwell aged 36 years being sworn on the 16th of January of the next year of our Lord God the first that he has been well acquainted with Benjⁿ Wright deceased ever since he could remember that in the early period of this Deponents life he lived within 3/4 of a mile of him afterwards lived 18 or 20 miles from him for about 9 years and saw him about six times in the course of that 9 years never saw him but once afterwards to have conversation with him until about 12 hours before his death. This Deponent went to school with said Benjⁿ Wright now aged of 20 years ago for about four months that Wright was never sent to writing but he and his brother went thro his spelling book and went thro his spelling book and so alter that he understood Wright had been at school before but Deponent did not go with him that Wright could read tolerably well that Wright used to play catch foot cricket he could play as well as keep the game as well as any other boy and used to prefer him as a partner. He was a little lame in his left hand but could play well notwithstanding and was a little lame his left foot turned in but could run well Deponent does not believe he was a fool but he had fits sometimes two or three in a day or two when he appeared stupid and did not wish to talk but when he recovered he was as sharp as a tack in a game as common boys are seem to have as much understanding about 18 years ago he was present with Wright in a store where he bought him for a shirt a buck pocket handkerchief a pair of buckles a clasp knife and made choice of these articles received his change and seemed to be as sharp as any body. Ever then 24 hours before Wright died Deponent was at a Taylors where Wright carried some cloths to have about of cloths made Wright and his brother started together from the Taylors and walked near the mill together. Wright told this Deponent he had got on his own place to live where he was fixed by himself and requested this Deponent as an old acquaintance to get him some good man to come and live with him to work with

his people and signed as a reason for it that he had fits as he used to have which made him sick for a day or two he could not look after his business and at such time there was nobody to look after his property things would grow and be destroyed this Deponent asked him why he did not get a wife he replied he was very sure he never should marry that as he had lived single so long to the age he then was he never intended to marry. Deponent then asked him who he intended to leave his estate to at his death he replied it was the first information Deponent ever had of it that he had made a will sometime before at Amepolis before the Chancellor and he had left part of his negroes to Betsy Cammond the remaining part of the negroes the land to Thos Wright the brother of Mrs Cammond they were his children Mrs Cammond has always preferred me to her and said it was his come that they two should have his estate Deponent and Wright walked slowly along during the conversation which lasted about half an hour. Said Wright appeared to the Deponent to be very polite calm and rational and he believed said Wright from the acquaintance he had with him was of such firm mind and memory as to be quite capable of disposing of his property. This Deponent heard Wright died of a fit within 24 hours. After this conversation passed between them.

Sworn in Open Court.
Oliver Cromwell.

Oliver Cromwell being further examined partly that about one year ago in conversation with Wright. Wright related a story with all its circumstances that had happened about 19 or 20 years ago to wit that he Wright had flogged a negro boy that waited on Mr Phil Charles Cammond when they went to school he flogged him because when playing at cricket together he had not returned the ball quick enough until Wright put the Deponent in mind of the circumstances he this Deponent had forgot them. Wright had a perfect know ledge of the days of the week the days of the month the full change of the moon when he was a little stupid and he could come out of his fits. He did not like to talk much when he first came out of his fits but used at times to ask those questions when he got a little better he did not use to ask those questions but readily answered them when required. This gave Deponent reason to think the fits hurt his memory at the time. Deponent does not know of nor did he ever see or ever hear Wright play at any game of cards. This Deponent Wright were very intimate and used to be together every day Wright for a week that Wright used to ask him to come and play pool with him that Wright when he was upwards of twenty years of age could paddle a light canoe Deponent has seen him froking

by himself in a canoe.

Sworn on open (oath).
C. Oliver Cromwell.

Fowler and others 31st July 1794.

vs

Unafraid Lenthien aged 26 years

Sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God & Joseph & Smith that he has been tolerably well acquainted with Benjamin Wright late Sec^y the last 3 or 4 or more years of his life that he has seen him frequently often during that time & has generally conversed with him when they met from what he saw & observed of Wright he does not think him capable of acting for himself in any manner as a man should do did not think him capable of managing his Affairs or disposing of his property. He could answer common questions yes or no but does not think him capable of a rational connected discourse for any time. He has heard him in conversing with Mr Cromwell very commonly & at different times say Sir instead of Madam sometimes his observations seemed quite indifferent & seemed more silly than at other times. Could not persue for any time without piddling but more so at some times. Deponent thinks he might at any time have been overreached or imposed upon. He has been in his company for two hours at a time or some thing more at Deponents house & at other peoples houses. He is a silent fool but had some kind of sense could answer common questions but was incapable of any business & had not judgment or discretion to do any kind of business but what he might be easily overreached in or to clear mine & that was proper to do. The general opinion of the neighbours here as far as he has heard was that Wright was incapable of doing any business for himself owing to want of understanding. Evidence given about a mile from where Wright lived or something better.

A true & faithful Lenthien.

Fowler and others 31st July 1794.

vs

James Kelso aged about 60 being

Sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God & Joseph & Smith that he has been acquainted with Benjamin Wright late Sec^y for about 20 years but has not known much about him till within 8 years past. He lived about 1/2 mile from Deponents house when he lived at John Ewalbers place was troubled with fits Deponent has frequently bled him & had frequent opportunities of seeing him at Ewalbers house Deponent always thought him a natural fool & it seemed to be the opinion of every body here who heard it & indeed till he heard the Chancellor had wrote Wrights will. Deponent was foreman of the Jury of Inquest does not recollect that Benjamin Wright was brought before

the Jury but might have been there. That no oaths or affirmations were taken or prepared. Deponent did not write the indictment but he believes he filled up the blanks or some of them. Deponent read it sundry times to the Jurors & explained it to the best of his abilities. He has always seen Wright treated at Ewalbers like a fool & behave like a fool. Wright about a fortnight before he died came to see Deponent & being at Mr Wrights Cromwells Wright followed him there he went to the door & Wright said he was much used by the Hammonds with respect to his preferences that they did not give him his papers also wanted not so much as they gave their papers & wanted Deponent to write to the Chancellor about the ill usage he got. Says Deponent Benny I cannot write to the Chancellor anything but what you can tell him to me as well as you can tell it to me Wright said he would rather Deponent should write for he said send it down by Ben Rayner for Ben does hate the Hammonds the clearest. and thus Deponent put him off and wishing to have anything to do with it. Deponent has often had some trifling conversations with Wright such as he could understand & has asked him to catch crabs for him & Ben Wright has gone to mill for him by hisse of. He once asked Wright to go to mill for him. He did go a short time after me. The next day Wright asked him for a shilling for going to mill for him & Deponent gave him eleven pence & said was Ben I have an account against you. What for says Ben? Why says Deponent must for bleeding you for a great many times at a dollar a time. Then Ben said God bless you I will go to mill for you as often as you please. Deponent did not see any person in behalf of Wright appear before the Jury. Deponent recollects further conversation that passed between him & Wright at Cromwells. To wit. Ben said the Hammonds would not let him cut any blood but what was down & that would not sell or something to that purpose & said that Ben Rayner could tell him all about it how he was treated or something to that purpose. He has heard him complain he thinks once of the treatment he got from his brother & frequently heard him complain of the ill treatment he got from Ewalber & at one time Wright had some difference with Mrs Ewalber said in Wrights presence that Wright had flown at her & hit her arm and hurt her much. Upon which Deponent threatened to send him to goal if he did so again.

James Kelso.

Fowler and others 31st July 1794.

vs

William Thornton aged 40 years

Sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God & Joseph & Smith that he has known Benjamin Wright about 23 years & in the

course of that time (until he removed to Mr Coaklers he did not see him so often) he was frequently with him & saw him generally twice a week and often conversed with him & from Ebenezer's knowledge & observations of him he took him to be a very obstinate silly man, of very little understanding, and never believed him at any time to be competent to the management of his affairs to the making of contracts or disposition of his property. That his conversation was weak & silly sometimes he would talk more reasonably than at others but could not at any time persist in any reasonable discourse. His conversation possibly trifling that people seldom thought it worth while to talk with him except to ask him questions. Ebenezer never had any business with him, never talked with him about any business or saw him have any to do. Has seen him in company with women formerly very ragged & his nakedness too much exposed for any person of his fortune & undecently exposed & seemed careless & unconscious of his situation. Ebenezer believes that for the sake of liquor he would have gone naked in a manner. Ebenezer thinks he was a good deal cautious about what he had but that he had not such sense or reason but that he might have been persuaded out of any thing. Has been four or five hours together with him, sometimes an whole day, but never found him company for any one.

Sworn to in Open Court.
William Thornton.

To wit and also

to the Deposition of Benj Rayner aged 38 years who being first duly sworn & deposes & says that he knew Benj Wright for about 18 years & during that time has in general been with him often & particularly the last year of his life in which Ebenezer saw & conversed with him two or three times a week & some times often he then residing about 400 yards from the said Benjamin. From Ebenezer's knowledge of him the said Benjamin was not competent in his opinion to the making of contracts to the management of his affairs or the disposition of his property. That he would sometimes talk with this deponent pretty reasonably about the usage he had received, what was to be done on which he would ask this deponent's advice, also relative to his property when questioned by this deponent. Wright told the deponent that he had made a will & had left his negroes to Mr Hammond & his land to his brother's son Tom. Ebenezer asked him if he was not able to manage for himself he answered & said to him that he was not that Mr Hammond would not let him sell any timber that Mr Godwin wanted

to buy from him some White Oaks for his mill & Ebenezer wanted Ebenezer to go to Mr Hammond with him to get liberty to show the trees to Mr Godwin to act on that occasion for Wright. Ebenezer accordingly went with him to Mr Hammond & Wright applied to Mr Hammond to go with them or to show the trees & give the above permission, said that he had been contracting with Godwin for some time & wished Mr Hammond to go & value them upon which Mr Hammond told him that he had no right to sell any timber at all for that he had only his living in the land to which Wright made no answer. He Ebenezer set off to return upon the road Wright said he would go down to the Chancellor & see if he had not a right, that if Ebenezer would lend him a creature to ride & go down with him he would give him one of his negroes for a twelve month upon which Ebenezer said he would have nothing to do with it. Wright then said he would go to Mr Kelso. Wright afterwards told him that he had been to Mr Kelso & that Mr Kelso had said that if this deponent would go with him he Kelso would instruct him how to get Wright his property. Ebenezer replied that if he was such a silly kind man he would have nothing to do with the business. That the foregoing conversation took place some time last year. That in the course of the first mentioned conversation Wright signified that he wanted to get his will again because if he had that & could & collect it he thought he could do as he pleased again with his land that he seemed displeased with the persons to whom he had given his property & with the course he had made owing to the ill treatment he thought he had received.

Sworn to in Open Court
Benjamin ^{his} Rayner.

It is admitted that the House in which Benjamin Wright lived was built by one of the Depts Philp Hammond & that the materials were furnished & provided by him & that the House was built about two years ago & stands upon the plantation of the said Benjamin.

Philip B Key. Ebenezer

Benj Rayner being further examined in this case & deposes & says that after Benj Wright came to live at his plantation where he died the wheat first sown there was sown by John Quaker & was not known for whose use but that Mr Walker claimed it & was cut down by Benj Hammond. That the second crop was sown by Mr Benj Hammond & cut down by Mr John Hammond this summer.

Sworn to in Open Court
Benj ^{his} Rayner.

Towler and others

Benjamin Wright late dec'd ever since he was a child that he used to live with Mr Wright as an Overseer when Ben Wright was 8 or 9 years of age for one year that after the period he sometimes did not see for years and does not recollect to have seen him the last 2 years of his life. Deponent does not think that he was a natural fool but had common understanding when his fits were off him. About 3 or 4 years ago Wright asked him to build a house for him and he was determind to go to the house keeping. That Wright at that time lived with John Walker Deponent said it did not suit him at any rate to build his house Wright then said he had been talking some time before with Deponent's brother Davy he said he could not build it for him and Wright said to him if neither of you could do it somebody else must (that this Deponent's brother did build her so: for this mode of living would do for me. They were together for three hours he seemed to be right well in his head & go another man in his condition who was afflicted with fits he appeared at that time to be perfectly settled in his mind his discourse was rational & connected & he did not fly from one subject to another this Deponent really believes that Wright at that time had such a mind & memory as to be capable of disposing of his property by a will & that if he had continued in that state of mind without having fits he was competent to the management of his person & property. This Deponent says that while he lived with Mr Wright mother of Ben Wright when the fits were on him he was void of all thought but in the interval between the fits his memory & understanding were as good & he was as ready witer as other children of his age his fits had taken away the perfect use of one of his arms & his leg of which he had not the right use. His father might have been dead about five years at that time. Fits attacked him almost every fall & change of the moon. They were not so very violent when a child. He could run when his fits were off & play with other boys.

Ezekiel Stewart

Towler and others

Benjamin Wright late dec'd ever since he was a child that he used to live with Mr Wright as an Overseer when Ben Wright was 8 or 9 years of age for one year that after the period he sometimes did not see for years and does not recollect to have seen him the last 2 years of his life. Deponent does not think that he was a natural fool but had common understanding when his fits were off him. About 3 or 4 years ago Wright asked him to build a house for him and he was determind to go to the house keeping. That Wright at that time lived with John Walker Deponent said it did not suit him at any rate to build his house Wright then said he had been talking some time before with Deponent's brother Davy he said he could not build it for him and Wright said to him if neither of you could do it somebody else must (that this Deponent's brother did build her so: for this mode of living would do for me. They were together for three hours he seemed to be right well in his head & go another man in his condition who was afflicted with fits he appeared at that time to be perfectly settled in his mind his discourse was rational & connected & he did not fly from one subject to another this Deponent really believes that Wright at that time had such a mind & memory as to be capable of disposing of his property by a will & that if he had continued in that state of mind without having fits he was competent to the management of his person & property. This Deponent says that while he lived with Mr Wright mother of Ben Wright when the fits were on him he was void of all thought but in the interval between the fits his memory & understanding were as good & he was as ready witer as other children of his age his fits had taken away the perfect use of one of his arms & his leg of which he had not the right use. His father might have been dead about five years at that time. Fits attacked him almost every fall & change of the moon. They were not so very violent when a child. He could run when his fits were off & play with other boys.

ceased. the first time he saw him to know him was about 3 years ago at a mill in Talmore County where he had a horse @ of one of his slaves he was a good back & sent for him & asked him if he would sell him had understood he was a fool and offered him \$40 for him but Wright said he would not take forty pounds for him asked him to sell his price on him said he would not take any price for him that he was his riding horse & plough horse. This Deponent afterwards saw the said horse at John Walker's who claimed him & to whom the horse belonged. This Deponent saw a few white trees oak on Whites Land which he wanted & applied to John Walker for them Walker said he had no right & could not sell them but bid him apply to Ben Wright for them they were his & probably he might get them. This Deponent carried Walker to tell Wright to come up to the furnace next day and accordingly Wright came there and agreed to let him have the timber. The next day was appointed to go & view the trees and Wright Walker & himself went into the woods together Deponent offered 4¢ a piece for two trees to Wright which he agreed to take there were 3 or 4 more trees pointed out he asked Wright what he would take for them he replied 4¢ a piece Deponent said it was too much & Wright then asked Walker what he thought of it Walker said it was too much the trees were not worth more than one dollar a piece then Deponent went to a large tree & asked Wright what he would take for that Wright looked at it & said it was a fine lumber tree he would take 50¢ for it offered him 35¢ for that tree which he agreed to take for it. Wright asked him then when he would pay him the money for the trees Deponent said in a day or two but as he had not much to do he might come down for it. Accordingly in a week or two Wright came down for the money which was not ready for him. Wright then desired Deponent to appoint a day when he might come for it and begged he would not disappoint him. The Deponent afterwards paid the money to Walker Wright said Walker had paid it to him & was much obliged to him for it & Wright in the course of conversation said that people wanted to make him out a fool & that Walker had brought him down to Annapolis before the Chancellor to have him examined Deponent asked him what questions the Chancellor asked him he replied the Chancellor asked him if he had a wife he said no. Asked him if he was led a wife & he replied no. Chancellor asked him if he had made his will he said no but he wanted to make his will if he could get any body to write it for him the Chancellor told him he would write his will & asked him who he would leave his estate to & to which

he answered that he would leave it to Bailey Hammond
 after it was done the Chancellor told him he was as sen-
 sible a man as any in our County. Wright several times
 repeated the whole of this conversation nearly in the
 same way when the Deponent had several times at the fur-
 nace conversation with him on the subject. That last
 time Deponent had any conversation with him it was at
 the furnace where Wright came to buy plank & told the
 Deponent he was about getting a house ready to live in
 & wanted 3 or 400 hundred foot of plank to finish or do
 something to the inside of the house he told him he might
 have it at 10¢ for hundred foot he said he would give it but he
 did not know how he should pay for it unless Deponent would
 take timber for it & asked him what he would give for his
 lumber Deponent said that after he took the plank away
 he would go up to Mr Hammond & get him to ride out with
 him to the woods & set a price upon the timber but Wright
 never took the plank away & said he could get it cheaper
 in Baltimore and this Deponent says it was cheaper in Bal-
 timore. Deponent from his knowledge & observation of
 Wright thinks he had as much right to make a will as
 any body & had sufficient mind & memory to do it and to
 make a disposition of his property that it appeared to
 him that Wright knew his friends & those who treated him
 best & was as fond of them as people usually are & the Depon-
 ent is covered this in his conversations with him.
 Deponent would not like to have made a contract with
 him in buying or selling without his friends being pre-
 sent because an advantage might have been taken of
 him & a person he trusted for it

(Taken in Open Court

Clam Bailey

Fowler and others } Henry Ashew aged 30 years being
 as } first only sworn in this Cause de-
 Hammond & others } poses & says that he knew Benj^m
 Wright very well for almost 30 years back was never
 very much in his company but has seen him at differ-
 ent times & has often conversed with him. That he ap-
 peared to this Deponent to be a fool & incapable of man-
 aging his affairs or making valid dispositions of his pro-
 perty at any time & that he never knew him make any con-
 tracts or any person attempt to make any with him
 he being deemed incompetent to do so. That he was repu-
 ted in the neighbourhood to be as the Drunks has above

described him. That he would never then suppose light or
 bantering subject give a tolerably smart answer but that
 in general his conversation was not rational or conse-
 quent. That he was afflicted with fits & Deponent saw him
 in one which was very violent & deformed him of all
 thought for a time. Sworn to in Open Court.

Henry & Ashew

Fowler & others } The Deposition of Dorsey Jacob aged
 as } 47 years who being first only sworn
 Hammond & others } in this Cause deposes & says that he knew
 Benjamin Wright for about 30 years back but was not
 acquainted with him except to ask him how he did. Does
 not recollect that he ever had any conversation with him
 that the report in the neighbourhood as to his family or insa-
 nity seemed to be various. Some saying that he was in-
 sane & others not. That this Deponent & Benjamin Wright
 were nearly of about one age.

Sworn to in Open Court.

Dorsey Jacob

Fowler & others } 31st July 1744.

as

Henry Woodges aged 25 years being

Hammond & others } by sworn & poses & says that he was
 well acquainted with Benj^m Wright ever since he could re-
 member but particularly so for 15 years past & has had
 frequent conversations with Wright & more so within these
 3 years past than ever before. This Deponent says from the
 conversations he had with Wright from his knowledge
 & observation of him he verily believes he was at times of
 such mind & memory & judgment as to be capable of making
 a valid disposition of his property. This Deponent says
 that Wright was subject to fits but in the interval between
 his fits he thinks he was capable of the management of his
 person & property. This Deponent says that Wright was
 subject to fits but in the interval has had frequent conver-
 sations with Wright in the last years of his life for 3 years
 at a time & that he would be as steady on the subject he
 was talking on as any common man. Deponent about
 two Weeks before Wright died had conversation with
 him at the house of Sam^l Richards where he found him
 serious & steady Deponent was laughing & joking there
 was liquor in the house Benjamin you have been pel-
 ling me & Woodges you can beat me says he I would beat you
 as soon as any man but my money is at home in my
 chest Deponent said Henry I suppose you are saying
 because to get married with. He replied it did not suit
 him to get married. Deponent asked him the reason
 why he said he was given to fits & every time they hurt

him worse & worse, he did not think he should live long
 Deponent said he ought to get near to the power, he would
 have some body to leave his Estate to when he died then
 he replied, ah! said he I have made my will already Depo-
 nent asked him who he had left his Estate to, he said he
 had left it to Betsey Hammond, Thomas Wright. Depo-
 nent then told him that he had done wrong to give any to
 Mr Hammond she had enough already that he ought to
 give it to Mr Hammonds two sisters, to which he replied
 that they were single, it would do them no good he thought
 that by leaving it to her Mr Hammond would give them
 so much when they were married. Deponent, him then par-
 ted but at other times they had much conversation, this De-
 ponent had heard by trifling part of people that Ben Wright
 had made his Will before this conversation with him,
 but did not know to whom he had given his property that
 at the time of this conversation Deponent lived with Mr Brown
 well as his overseer. On the 1st Jan'y 1794 went to live as
 an overseer with Betsey Hammond he was first employ-
 ed by Mr Goodwin in the month of October after he left
 Mr Cromwell lived with Mr Goodwin about one month
 then went to live with Mr Hammond. Deponent thinks
 he left Mr Cromwell in September late in the fall he had
 the above conversation with Mr Wright upon recol-
 lection the witness thinks he lived at Mr Goodwins fur-
 nace when the conversation happened with Wright
 where he plaid as a Bone & or 10 @ ays he then cut by
 water. Mr Goodwins furnace is about 27 or 28 miles
 from where Wright lived. Mr Goodwin after this did not
 take him into his employ.

Henry Hoages

Fowler and others } Depositions (cont) 1st Aug 1794.
 is } The Deposition of Burton Ebbel
 Hammond & others } Ebbel aged about 40 years being
 first duly sworn on the Holy Evangelis of almighty God
 deposes & says that the first time he ever saw Benjamin
 Wright was on the day of the date of the said Benja-
 min's Will & that he hath never seen him since. That the
 said Benjamin was brought to the office of the Court of
 Chancery on the said day by John Walker that an inquiry
 upon having been returned into the said Chancery
 office finding the said Benjamin an idiot. This Depon-
 ent took particular notice of the conversation & behaviour
 of the said Benjamin that when the said Benjamin first
 came into the office of the Court of Chancery he came & re-
 tired to one end of the office. that a number of questions
 was asked the said Benjamin by the Chancellor, the

Register in Chancery and this Deponent to all which ques-
 ons he gave rational answers. That he was asked by the Chan-
 cellor whether he remembered being at Mercers where there were
 a number of Gentlemen collected & what they wanted with him
 the said Benjamin answered he did remember it & that they wanted
 to make him out a fool & now Gentlemen said Benjamin you see
 I am no fool or worse so that effect. that they all looked at him but
 asked him very few questions that he appeared while in the Chan-
 cery Office to be angry with John Walker & said that the said
 Walker had kept possession of his property & would not allow
 him a horse or give him a good suit of cloaths to go to Church with
 to hear the good man that this Deponent believes the Chancellor
 asked him the said Benjamin whether he wished to make a will
 the said Benjamin answered I do. The Chancellor then replied
 shall I draw it the said Benjamin answered yes upon which the
 Chancellor proceeded to draw it and asked the said Benjamin
 who he would leave his property to the said Benjamin replied
 Tommy Wright to have my Land & the rest of my property to Bet-
 sey Hammond & Tommy Wright equally between them. John Wal-
 ker then was asked Benj consider your poor relations the said
 Benjamin answered Betsey & Shilly Hammond was always good to
 me & I like them best that he was repeatedly asked whether he would
 leave any of his property to any other person he uniformly per-
 sisted in leaving it as before stated to Betsey Hammond and
 Tommy Wright. That he named Shilly Hammond as his Execu-
 tor that the Will was signed & sealed & delivered in the presence
 of this Deponent at the request of the said Wright & delivered into
 the hands of Samuel Hawes Howard. That this Deponent con-
 ceives the said Benjamin Wright was about two or three hours in
 the Chancery Office in the presence of this Deponent from his
 whole conduct during that time this Deponent is of opinion that
 the said Benjamin was fully competent to make a disposition of
 his property. And further this Deponent saith not.

Taken and Sworn in open Court

Burton Ebbelcroft.

Fowler and others } 4th August 1794.
 is } Samuel Hawes Howard aged 43 years
 Hammond & others } being duly sworn & sworn that a
 Copy of Inquisition had been issued from the Chancery Court &
 an Inquest returned to said Office relating to the understanding
 of a certain Benjamin Wright of a County & ceased that some
 time after was to live on the day when said Wright received
 his last Will & Testament a certain John Walker came to
 the office & informed the Chancellor that he had brought
 Wright to town & a good deal of conversation passed between
 the Chancellor & Walker that the Chancellor requested him
 to bring Wright to the Chancery Office before him this Depo-
 nent understood it was done for the purpose of inspecting

and examining said Wright accordingly from after Wright.
 Walker came into the Office of the Court of Chancery that
 Wright appeared from his residence to be displeas'd
 This Depo^t knowing that he had been returned an Idiot
 or a Lunatic by an to take notice of him to see if any thing
 like an Idiot or Lunatic would fall from him which Depo^t
 want fully expected. That the Chancellor asked Wright
 for some considerable time a number of questions with a
 view to discover the state of Wright's mind as this Depo^t
 believes but which he does not recollect. That the Chancellor
 after some time asked Wright if he had any desire or wish
 to make his Will he said yes, and the Chancellor asked if
 he should draw it for him and Wright answered yes that he
 wished it. The Chancellor then went round to the Desk to
 draw his Will but previous to his beginning to draw it asked
 him if he knew the nature of or what was meant by a will but
 previous to his beginning to draw it the Chancellor asked him
 Depo^t did not understand distinctly what Wright's answer
 was being some little distance from him but perfectly recollects
 the Chancellor's objection to Wright's answer which was
 that no man in the Court could make or give a better answer
 immediately after some little discourse with Wright began to
 draw his Will. When the Chancellor came to that part of the
 Will disposing of the real Estate Wright said the Land belonged
 to Benjamin Wright after his death. When the Chancellor asked
 him what other bequests he would wish to make Wright men-
 tioned Betsy Hammond the Wife of Philip Hammond. That
 John Walker who was standing in the Office then said Benny
 think of our poor relations or words to that effect.
 Wright answered Walker rather in a pett that he did not
 care about them that Betsy & Philip Hammond had always
 treated him with more kindness or been kinder to him than any
 of them had & therefore he would give it to them. When the Will
 was finished this Depo^t & others signed it as Witnesses it was
 then sealed up & Wright agreed that Depo^t should keep the
 Will & he did keep it until after the death of Wright when he
 delivered it unopened to the register of Wills of a County.
 That this Depo^t mentioned in Wright's life time twice to Mr
 Hammond that Wright had made his Will & the contents of it
 offered to deliver it to Mr Hammond to take care of it which
 he refused. That after the Chancellor & Walker left the Office
 Wright remained in it some considerable time perhaps an
 hour that as Depo^t had signed the Will he made a
 point of conversing with Wright in order to discover if he
 could find any marks of insanity or delusion about him

knowing that there was an Inquest on found returned
 him if Depo^t had discovered any such marks he never
 would have proved the Will that a great deal of conversation
 passed at that time between Wright & him upon every subject
 then occurring to him that Wright in mentioning or complain-
 ing of his treatment said he should like to have a good part
 of his time to go to Church of a Sunday to hear what the
 good man had to say. That Depo^t further to try the state
 of Wright's mind began to joke with him & asked if he had ever
 touched the Epistles & he finally answered he had come a little
 in that way. This Depo^t discovered three leading points in
 Wright's mind together with other things which he does not
 recollect to wit. That Wright had great hold to Hammond
 & his Wife, some sense of religion, & passions like other men.
 & was religiously believe that Wright had at that time such
 sound & disposing mind memory understanding as to be fully
 competent to make a last Will & Testament. That Depo^t
 discovered that after the Will was executed, the Chancellor
 & Walker had left the Office that Wright appeared perfectly
 composed & seemed satisfied as if he had done something that
 had pleased him. That he behav'd with decorum & propriety
 & look'd as in a decent manner when he left the Office. Depo^t
 next days Wright paid the best part of the forenoon in the
 Office to the best of his recollection. That there is no record to
 his knowledge in the Court of Chancery of the determination of
 the Chancellor in the prosecution that he this Depo^t is re-
 gister of the Court of Chancery. Depo^t believes that the ques-
 tion was asked Wright in the Chancery Office whether he was
 married or not. Depo^t has searched the records now on my
 relating to or confirming the above Inquest & finds there that
 no Committee was appointed or proceedings had on said In-
 quest that Depo^t never heard the Chancellor say to Wright
 that he was as sensible a man as any in Anne Amos's County
 That this Depo^t never to his knowledge saw Benjamin
 Wright before or since the above mentioned interview
 Samuel Rowley Howard?

Bowler and others } 1st August 1794.
 Hammond & others } Alexander Carter Esq^r Chan-
 cellor of Maryland of lawful age being
 sworn on the Holy Evangelis of Almighty God Depo^t that
 that he never saw Benjamin Wright of a County late deceased
 but once which was on the day said Wright executed his Will
 in the morning of that day John Walker waited upon the De-
 po^t at his house said he had brought down Benjamin
 Wright & requested the Chancellor to appoint the time & place
 for bringing the said Wright before him. The Chancellor at

first told the said Walker there was no necessity for his seeing
 the said Benj^r Wright at all that he was put off with the re-
 turn of the deposition by which the said Wright had been
 found sane &c. after a little reflection however the Chan-
 cellor said that as Wright had been brought down he would
 see him & create Walker to bring him to the Chancery office
 at about 10 o'clock that morning. About that time the Chan-
 cellor was in the office Walker entered followed by a letter
 was somewhat deformed in his person & distorted in his visage
 The said man on entering the office took off his hat made a com-
 pliment bow & immediately retired to a corner of the room
 The Chancellor being struck with the appearance & the behavior
 of the man not all resembling in his opinion the appearance
 of an idiot or person in any manner insane immediately began
 to examine him. The Chancellor asked his name he replied
 that his name was Benjamin Wright the Chancellor proceeded
 to propose a great number of questions which he does not
 recollect nor can recollect the order in which he proposed
 the questions which still remain in his memory. But to set
 my question which he asked the said Wright in his opinion
 returned as perfectly satisfactory an answer as could be ex-
 pected from a man who had been brought up
 in a very retired manner without the benefit of a common
 education & subject to fits from his infancy. Amongst other
 questions the Chancellor asked the said Wright where he liv-
 ed & for what purpose he was brought thither. The said
 Wright replied that he lived with John Walker that he
 believed Walker had brought him here to prove him a fool
 before you Gentlemen. The Chancellor asked him whether or not
 he had ever travelled or been much from home his answer
 was. Yes he had been at Baltimore. Mr Walker made him go
 with him to Baltimore & treated him roughly & cruelly had gi-
 ven him plenty of punch made him drunk & then made him sign
 a deed for giving the said Walker all his property. The Chancellor
 asked whether he remembered that he was sometime ago at Mr
 Dorsys Ferry. Whether he did not see a number of Gentlemen
 there & what the Gentlemen wanted with him & whether the Gen-
 tlemen said any thing to them. The said Wright answered Yes
 he remembered very well being at Mr Dorsys Ferry & seeing a good
 many Gentlemen. They did not say much to him at all they want-
 ed to prove him a fool and he would leave it to you Gentlemen
 whether he was a fool or not. After a vast variety of questions
 such as the Chancellor conceived most proper for ascertaining
 the said Wrights condition of life and the manner in which
 he had lived and been brought up for discovering whether
 the said Wright was a lunatic after the said Wrights giving

a proper pertinent answer to each of the questions the Chan-
 cellor asked him whether or not he had an inclination to
 make his will he replied with somewhat of a generous eye
 he would be very glad to make will if he could if he knew
 how or if any Gentlemen would do it for him. The Chancellor
 said that if the said Wright desired he would write his will for
 him. And then asked whether he knew what a will was & he said
 it was to say who should have his property after his death
 The Chancellor then wrote the preamble of the will & asked him
 how he wished to leave his property. The Chancellor does not
 recollect the dispositions made by the will but he is positive
 that it was dictated by the said Wright & that not a person
 present offered to suggest any disposition to him except the
 said Walker who said Benj^r don't you think of your poor relations
 to which Wright partly replied I suppose I have a right to
 do what I please with my own. The said will being dictated
 by the said Wright written by the Chancellor then read aloud
 by the said Wright having said that it was all just as he want-
 ed it he then signed & sealed it & declared it to be his last will
 & testament in presence of the Chancellor the Register W^m Bur-
 ton & others Mr John Dorsy all of whom in the presence
 of the said Wright & at his request subscribed the said will as
 witnesses. The said Wright was then asked what he would
 have done with the said will whether he was willing that
 W^m Burton and the Register should keep it. He said he wanted
 he would have the Gentlemen (pointing to W^m Burton &c) to
 keep it. It was then delivered to W^m Burton & the Chancellor
 informed both Walker & Wright that there was no further occa-
 sion for their attendance. Walker immediately retired &
 was followed by Wright who made a bow & appeared dejected
 as the Chancellor supposed at the idea of returning with
 Walker. The Chancellor after that saw him no more.
 This Deposition further says that the countenance features and
 behavior of the said Wright during the whole time he saw
 him was such in his opinion would have impressed no per-
 son whatever with the idea that he was an idiot or in any
 manner insane or even remarkably weak considering his
 education & way of life. The said Deposition would not
 have written a will for the said Wright even at his request
 if he had not been fully satisfied that he was of sound dispo-
 sition mind. The Deposition thought that as the said Wright
 had been reported an idiot it was peculiarly proper for
 the Chancellor to write his will & see it executed & attes-
 ted in a public manner. The Chancellor did not pass
 any order whatever relative to the disposition in the

Case of Benjamin Wright nor make any record or entry of his examination. It never has been the practice in the Court of Chancery in Maryland to make any process or writ or order for either approving or ratifying or disapproving and setting aside an injunction, return or a Court De Lunatico or de Salubri mandando

This Deponent being asked whether or not he remembers that the said Wright was asked if he was married & says that to the best of his recollection the said Wright was asked the said question & answered in the negative

This Deponent further says that he cannot say that the questions & answers by him related were made in the precise words related he thinks they are nearly the precise words he has related them as nearly as he can & recollect in the precise words as he is positive that the substance of the questions & answers is accurately related.

This Deponent having heard the deposition of Mr. Dunbar & Whitecroft says & further that he now recollects every thing related by the said Whitecroft & that he thinks the said deposition accurate in substance altho not exact as to the precise words of the questions & answers.

And further this Deponent says not taken in open Court. In the presence of the Deponent present his name the first day of August 1794.

A. Hanson