the nineteenth day of May One thousand Eight hundred and fourteen. They further answering say that that the Petitioners are slaves and cannot bring any action in Equity either by next friend or Solicitor or in person. These Respondents further state that if the Deed was now Decreed to be recorded such a Decree would work a manifest injustice as all the property which came to these respondents and the others heirs and Devisees of Richard Darnall by his last Will and Testament as the Children of Frances Darnall has been divided and much the greater part of the Petitioners who at this time claim their freedom have fallen on the occasion of this and personal property to these Respondents. They further state that after the making of the said Deed of Manumission Richard Darnall as they are informed and believe altered his mind with respect to the petitioners and determined not liberate them which was the reason that he did not have the said Deed recorded in due time. They further answering say that they are not mentioned in the said petition and should not have answered if it had not have been for the Order of this Court passed Sept. 11 1816 and which Order they are willing to obey as far as may not be detrimental to their interests. They further state that Richard Darnall died on the twenty fifth day of December One thousand Eight hundred and seven. They pray that your Honor would hence dismiss them with their reasonable costs & they will pray &c.

James Boyle for Respondents

Anne Arundel County. to Wit. Personally appeared the within named George Mackall and Dorothy his Wife and made Oath that the facts contained in the within answer are true to the best of their belief and knowledge. Sworn to this 31st day of October in the year 1816 before me.

Thomas Tillman.

Whereupon the Chancellor passes the following Order. To Wit.

The act of Assembly under which the publication is made does not direct in what manner the Defence if any in consequence of the Notice is to be conducted. In the first objection by Holland and the third by Wickes and Darnall facts are stated which do not appear by the petition but being only alledged in the Petition they cannot be taken to be true as in an Answer. The parties may take measures for having the facts that may be thought material before the Court.

C. Kilty. Ch.

By the petition last mentioned was meant the one filed by H. Holland.

July 23rd 1817.

C. Kilty. Ch.

And the said Cause thus standing and being continued to the next Term to Wit July Term Eighteen hundred and Seventeen then Come the parties as aforesaid here again into Court and the Chancellor passes his Decree in the premises which said Decree duly enrolled among other