Maryland. Anne Arundel County to wit

At a County Court of the third Judicial District of the State of Maryland begun and held at the City of Annapolis in and for Anne Arundel County aforesaid on the third monday of October being the eighteenth day of the same month in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty four and in the forty ninth year of the Independence of the United States of America

Present

The Honble | Thomas B Dorsey Esquire Chief Judge
and
Charles I Ridgely Esquire associate Judge

William O'Hara Esquire Sheriff — William S Green Clerk

In the record of proceedings of the same Court among others is the following to wit

Negro Wat against John C Weems | Be it remembered that at this term to wit the third monday of October being the eighteenth day of the same month in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty four negro Wat by Madison Ridout his attorney exhibited to the Court here his petition for freedom against John C Weems in the words and of the tenor following to wit.

To the Honourable the Judges of Anne Arundel County Court

The Petition of Wat humbly represents that he is at this time held in slavery by John C Weems of Anne Arundel County. Your petitioner also represents that he is entitled to his freedom and therefore humbly prays your Honours that he may be discharged from servitude and have such further relief as he may be found entitled to and as in duty bound &c

M Ridout for Pet

And now comes voluntarily into Court here the said John C Weems by Alexander C Magruder his attorney and saith that he cannot deny the complaint aforesaid of the said negro Wat the petitioner aforesaid &c as aforesaid made nor but that the said negro Wat the Petitioner aforesaid is entitled to his freedom in manner and form as the said negro Wat by his said Petition to the Court here prefered against him the said John C Weems above hath alleged. Yet the said John C Weems further saith that this confession is by him made subject to the opinion of the Court here upon the following statement of facts to wit

Wat vs John C Weems — Petition for freedom.

It is admitted that Dinah mother of the Petitioner was the slave of John L Webster of Harford County and continued to be his slave at the time of said Webster's death

It is also admitted that the said John L Webster on the 28th day of May (in)