

The State of Maryland, &c.

At a General Court of the Western Shore of the said State
one of the United States of America, begun and held at the City of Annapolis on
the second Tuesday of May being the fourteenth day of the same month, in the Year of
our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine; And in the Twenty third
Year of the Independence of the said United States of America,

Present,

The Honorable | Jeremiah Townley Chase, Esquire Chief Judge,
Gabriel Duwall | Esquires Judges
and John Done, |

John Welch Esquire Sheriff of Ann Arundel County, John Gwinne, Clerk

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

Charles Mahoney
against,
Rev. John Ashton,

Be it Remembered that on the eighteenth day of
October in the year of our Lord one thousand seven
hundred and ninety one, Charles Mahoney by Gabriel
Duwall his Attorney exhibited to the Judges of the
General Court here, in Court sitting, his Petition for Freedom against the Reverend
John Ashton in the words and figures following, to wit.

To the honorable the Judges of the General Court.

The Petition of Charles Mahoney

humbly sheweth

That he is held in Slavery by the Reverend John Ashton of Prince
Georges County, although he is entitled to his Freedom, being descended from a free
Woman named Anne Joice, He therefore prays your Honours to order Summons for
his Witness, consider his case, and discharge him from the further custody of the said
John Ashton, upon your petitioners proving the facts stated, And he will pray and so forth
G. Duwall for Pet.

Whereupon it is ordered by the Court here, that the said Reverend John Ashton of
Prince Georges County do not remove the aforesaid Charles Mahoney out of this State, nor
abstract him from attending this Court from time to time in support of his petition for
Freedom preferred against him the said Reverend John Ashton and in the mean time
to feed, cloath and use the said Petitioner well; And at the prayer of the aforesaid
Charles Mahoney by his Attorney aforesaid Summons is ordered by the Court here to issue
to the Sheriff of Prince Georges County against the said Reverend John Ashton (actionable
immediately) to answer the Petition aforesaid, which accordingly issued in the words and
figures following, to wit,

The State of Maryland, &c. To the Sheriff of Prince Georges County greeting, we
command you that you summons the Reverend John Ashton that all delays and excuses
set aside he be and appear before the Judges of our General Court at Annapolis immediately
to answer unto the Petition of Charles Mahoney preferred against him for Freedom