once knew Doctor Smith; that he knows Charles Mahoney who petitioned against John Ashton, but never knew him until since he petitioned; Being asked if he knew Anne Joyce who formerly belonged to Mr. Darnall at the Woodyard, answers he did not; that he knew Tom Crane, John Wood and Frank Herbert; who he has been informed were descendants of Anne Joyce; that Tom Crane and John Wood when he knew them belonged to Capt. Williams who lived at the Woodyard, whose Widow married George Gordon; that Herbert and Wood appeared to be Mulattoes; but crane was of a White complexion; that he has frequently heard his Grandmother whose name was Sarah Perdue say that the said Crane, Wood and Herbert were entitled to their freedom, Being asked if he ever heard her give her reasons for saying so, Answers she said they were the offspring of a free Woman, that his said Grandmother lived from the time she was first Married within about two Miles of the Woodyard Mill until she lost two Husbands; and after their death, she lived with the Deponents Father about four Miles from the Woodyard; and she often in this deponents presence conversed with this Deponents Father and others on the Subject of Crane and Wood and Herberts right to freedom and she always said when speaking of it that they were the offspring of a free Woman; and he has heard her say that she had often been at the Woodyard and had seen them there; he has often heard his Father say that he understood they were entitled to freedom but whether he knew it, or had it from his Mother this Deponent knows not; and he further saith that he has heard his said Grandmother often say that she was acquainted at the Woodyard in the life time of old [illegible] Henry Darnall, Grandfather of the present Robert Darnall near the Woodyard.

April 8th 1794. Sworn before, Saml. Hepburn

Charles Mahoney
a
John Ashton

Howard Duvall of P. G. County, aged Sixty seven Years and upwards being Sworn on the holy Evangely of Almighty God deposeth and saith that he knows Charles the Petitioner and has known him ever since he was a Child, and he has known the Defendant ever since he lived at the White Marsh, the Deponent being a near Neighbour and living within a Mile of said Ashton; that Charles is the Son of Eleanor a Mulatto Woman, who is now free, and lives as he has understood near the head of Severn, as a Servant to Col. Rezin Hammond – that he has known Eleanor Mahoney about fifty Years and ever since she was a Girl, and he knew Sue the Mother of Eleanor ever since he knew any body, and she lived at Enfield Chace when the Deponent first knew her and she then belonged to Charles Carroll Esquire now deceased; that Eleanor Mahoney was purchased by Robert Mahoney her husband who set her free; that the deponent never heard who was the aforesaid Sue's Mother, nor does he know any thing about Charles's right to freedom, that Patrick also is Son of Eleanor aforesaid, Robert, Thomas, James, Bernard, Daniel and Joseph are also Sons of said Eleanor

Sworn to in open Court the 23d May 1796. Jno. Gwinn. Cl.

Anne Arundel County, October 12th 1792. Came Richard Darnall before me the Subscriber and made Oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that he does not know any of the Negroes belonging to John Ashton or any other of the parties, except two Negroe Men by the name of Sam and James belonging to Francis Worthy. The said Deponant further saith that he never knew nor heard of such a Woman as Ann Joyce untill the parties sued for their Freedom, nor did this Deponant know the Father of Francis Hall but was acquainted with the said Francis Hall but never heard him nor any other person mention the said Ann Joyce untill the parties sued for their Freedom, the said Deponant further saith that he never heard that the said Ann Joyce was compell'd to serve for a Term of Years for having Bastard Children nor did he ever hear how many Children the said Ann Joyce had nor does he know any of the Children or ever heard of any such people until the Parties sued for their Freedom as above mentioned. The said Deponant further says that he knows of no conversation relative to Charles in any respect whatever. The said Deponant further declares that he does not know nor ever heard of Anne Joyce Cross the daughter of Ann Joyce aforesaid nor of her being bound to John Chapman nor any thing else relative to the said Ann Joyce Cross neither to her being Bound out by Prince Georges County Court nor any one thing relative to her or to her Mother Ann Joyce.

Sworn to before, Saml. Harrison,

Charles Mahoney
vs.
John Ashton

Petition for freedom in the General Court.

Peter Knight of Prince Georges County aged about 37 Years being duly sworn on the holy Evangely of Almighty God deposeth and saith, "that he does not know either the Petitioner or Mr. Ashton; that he does not know any thing of his right to freedom more than what he heard from Edward Clagett now deceased, that about eleven or twelve Years ago, the Deponent being at Edward Clagetts House the said Clagett was telling the Deponent that Jack Wood and Jack Crane two of Stephen Wests people had formerly killed Mr. Wests Overseer, that these two Men were Mulatto Men and that they thought themselves above the level of Common Slaves", and he said the reason was that John Wood and Moll Crane were free born; and would have been free according to Law had it not been that an Indenture was burnt in St. Marys County, Being asked if he mentioned what Indenture, answers he did not, Being asked if he mentioned who burnt it; answers to the best of his knowledge, he said one of the Darnalls burnt it; this Deponent understood from said Clagett that the aforesaid Moll Crane and John Wood were Brother and Sister; that the Deponent did not know Moll Crane but he knew John Wood and he lived about half a Mile from the great house at the Wood yard and that said Wood lived comfortably in his house when this Deponent knew him, and he said Wood has been dead many Years; that Clagett said that he knew John Wood from the time he was a boy; and that he never knew any thing mean in his Conduct; Being asked if he knew, or understood how Jack Wood and Jack Crane were related to John Wood and Moll Crane, answers he did not.

Sworn to this 12th day of May 1796, before, Bullen.

Prince Gr. County, 25th May 1792. This day came before the Subscriber a