knew her she lived in blue shirt Neck near Pig point; The Deponent further saith that he well knew Samuel Shekell late of Anne Arundel County deceased, and about two years ago he mentioned to the said Shekell what Mrs. Ratcliffe had told him, and Shekell said it was true, and that he had always understood that Anne Joice came into this Country with Lord Baltimore, and that she was free and not held as a Slave until she had Molly and the Deponent says that he understood from Mr. Shekell that one of the Darnalls at that time owned her but did not mention his Christian name, That Samuel Shekell lived near Mount Pleasant, - Being asked if he understood from what Country Anne Joice came; Answers he did understand both from Rachel Ratcliffe and Samuel Shekell, that she came with Lord Baltimore from London

Sworn to this 12th day of May 1796. before

Bullen.

But the Commissioners aforesaid to whom the commission aforesaid was in form aforesaid directed have not made return thereof to the court here.

Thereupon further process of and upon the premises aforesaid, between the parties aforesaid by consent of the said parties and their Attornies aforesaid, and by order of the Court here thereon, is further continued until the second Tuesday of October next following

At which said second Tuesday of October being the Eleventh day of the same month in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety six, comes again into the General Court here, as well the aforesaid Charles Mahoney by his Attorney last aforesaid, as the said John Ashton by William Cooke and Philip Barton Key his Attornies: And the said John Ashton by his Attornies aforesaid filed in Court here the following depositions to wit (vide page No. 32. the deposition of Anne Cooke marked No. A. to come in before the following)

Charles Mahorney
vs.
John Ashton

Petition for freedom.

The Deposition of Ann Cooke aged about Seventy six Years being sworn on the above Suit on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God, answered the several Questions as follows.

1st. Question, Do you know the parties or either of them?

Answers, I have seen Mr. Ashton at his Chappel, have no acquaintance with him, never saw Charles Mahonny until the taking my Deposition before Mr. Hepburn.

2d. Quest.n Did you know Anne Joice who formerly lived with Henry Darnall at the Woodyard, and how long she has been dead?

Ans.r She remembers being at her Grandfather Hills when she was a small Girl, when the Cooke came in and told her Grandmother, that Joice was come, her Grandmother sent for her in, and talked with her, she appeared to be an Elderly Mulatto Woman, she never heard that Joice had any pretentions to freedom, nor did she know with whom she lived or when she died,

3d. Quest.n Had Joice any Children that you know or have heard of; relate their Names, with whom they lived and died and from whom you had yr. Information & when?

Ans.r Since giving my first deposition my Uncle Henry Hill and myself had some conversation respecting Anne Joice, and he told me that old Joice was Nelly's Grandmother; and that Sue was Joice's Daughter and Nelly's Mother - That old Sue died at Mr. Willm. Diggs and Nelly at Mr. Elt Hill's as she has heard,

4th Quest.n Do you know any of the Grand Children of Joice, with whom do the live that you know or have heard, and from which of Joice's Children are they descended that you know or have heard?

Ans.r I remember a Mulatto Woman by the Name of Sue the property of old Mrs. Carroll at Annapolis that used to come to my Grand Father Hills to see Nelly and who called Nelly Sister, there was another Woman that old Mr. Basil Warring had by the name of Polly that Nelly said was also her Sister and also a Man by the name of Johnny belonging to my Grandfather Hill brother to the said Nelly

5th. Quest.n Did you know any of the great Grand Children of Joice, and how are they descended from her? relate your knowledge, and if from hearing, from whom you had it?

Ans.r I know that Polly had Children, but I do not know any of them Nelly had none,

6th. Quest.n If you have any further knowledge, relate it, fully and freely,

Ans.r I have none,

Sworn before me the Subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace for Prince Georges County this 28th day of May 1796.

Robt. Bowie,

But the Commissioners aforesaid to whom the Commission aforesaid was in form aforesaid directed have not made return thereof to the Court here, Thereupon further process of and upon the premises aforesaid, between the parties aforesaid by consent of the said parties and their Attornies aforesaid, and by order of the Court here thereon, is further continued until the second Tuesday of May next following

At which said second Tuesday of May being the ninth day of the same month in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven, comes again into the General Court here, as well the aforesaid Charles Mahoney by Jonathan Roberts Wilmer and John Johnson his Attornies, as the said John Ashton by his Attornies aforesaid, Whereupon as well the aforesaid Charles Mahoney as the said John Ashton by their Attornies aforesaid file in Court here the following Depositions, to wit (vide page folio 33. the depositions of Anne Hurdle and Mary Davis marked No. B. and No. C. to come in before the following)

Charles Mahoney
vs.
John Ashton

Petition for freedom in the General Court.

Anne Hurdle, of Prince Georges County in the Seventy fourth Year of her age being sworn, on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, that she never saw the petitioner untill lately, and she has no acquaintance with John Ashton the Defendant but has seen him; that she never knew or saw Anne Joyce from whom she understands the petitioner claims his freedom; that about fifty four years ago, or thereabouts Mary Hurdle the Mother of the deponents late husband, had been summoned as a Witness to Prince George's County Court for one Daniel See, a Mulatto who had petitioned for his freedom against John Wright, and went to Court and was sworn as she heard her Mother in Law say when she returned from Court; that she understood from her that Daniel See was to be free when he was thirty one years of age, and that she said she knew when he was born; that when she returned, she said that it was the way of the great people that