The Deposition of Nathaniel Talbot of Prince Georges County aged near Seventy Years being first duly Sworn on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God deposeth and saith, That he this Deponent hath known John Wheat Senior of Prince Georges County ever since the Deponent was a boy and hath always lived in his Neighbourhood within a few Miles of him and for more than twenty Years past within sight of his House — being asked what is the general Character of the said John Wheat saith it is very bad, and that he is not esteemed by his Neighbours as worthy of Credit — and his Testimony where he lives would not be believed, Whether is John Wheat of such a Character as to Swear to a falsehood — thinks he would by what he has got to say

Sworn to this 28th May 1797. in Open Court. Jno. Irvine Cl.

This deposition to be read in Evidence if the Witness dies or is unable to attend Court, the same to be read in all or any of the Cases of petitions for freedom by persons claiming to be descended from Ann Joice.

John Johnson for Pet.
John Thos. Mason for Deft.

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 premisses 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 tenth 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, John Johnson and Richard Ridgely his Attornies, as the said John Ashton by William Cooke, Philip Barton Key, John Thomson Mason and Luther Martin his Attornies. 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.

Charles Mahoney
vs.
John Ashton

Petition for Freedom in the General Court.

The Deposition of John Wheat aged about Sixty two Years being sworn on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God in the above Suit answered the several Questions as follows.

1st. Quest. Being asked, if he knew the parties in the above Suit,
Answers. No he does not;

2d. Quest. Being asked, if he knew a Woman by the name of Ann Joyce who formerly belonged to Henry Darnall, and who is said to have died at the Wood yard,
Answers, He never did, or ever heard of the name until now.

3d. Quest. Being asked, If he had heard that Francis Hall of Prince Georges County deceased or his father Benjamin Hall in his life time; at any time; and when did say that Joyce before mentioned was free or entitled to be free and for what reason, and to relate any conversation that he may have heard from them or either of them or any other person upon the subject
Answers, No, he never did

4th. Quest. Being asked, If he knew or had heard and from whom, that Joyce or Ann Joyce the Woman alluded to in the second question came from England and when and whether she ever resided in England and how long and if he recollected ever to have heard who were passengers with the said Joyce at the time she came from England,
Answers, No he never heard of Ann Joyce until this time,

5th. Quest. Being asked, Do you know and have you heard and from whom that the before mentioned Joyce was ever adjudged in Prince Georges County Court to serve for a terms of Years for having Bastard Children,
Answers, No, he never did,

6th. Quest. Being asked, Do you know or have you heard and from whom how many Children the said Joyce had; what were their Names and in whose possession did they respectively die and when — and did you or do you know any of the Grand Children of said Joyce and to whom did they or do they belong,
Answers, No he never heard of such a Woman or any Children or Grand Children that she ever had,

7th. Quest. Being asked, Do you know or have you heard of any conversation which has at any time passed respecting Charles's right or the right of his Mother, Grand Mother or Great Grand Mother or any of his Ancestors to freedom, when and between whom; what was the conversation, relate it fully and freely,
Answers, He never heard a Word respecting either or any of them; he remembers to have heard his Father say often times and likewise his Grand Mother Sarah Perdue say that John Wood, Thomas Crane and another they called Frank, who at that time live with Captain Williams at the Wood yard, were entitled to their Freedom and was surprised they never applied for it, but whether they were descendants from Ann Joyce or not he does not know,

8th. Quest. Being asked, Do you know and from whom that one of the Children of Ann Joyce by the name of Ann Joyce Crofs was bound to John Chaplan in the year 1701 by Prince Georges County Court,
Answers. No he knows nothing of it,

9th. Quest. Being asked, Do you know and have you heard and from whom what became of Ann Joyce Crofs mentioned in the proceeding question, and how and for what reason and on what Account she was bound out by Prince Georges County Court,
Answers, No, he knows nothing about it.

10th. Quest. Being asked, Have you any further knowledge concerning the right of the Petitioner or any of his Ancestors to freedom, if you have, relate it fully and freely,
Answers, He knows nothing further,

Sworn to before me the Subscriber one of the Justices of the peace for Prince Georges County this 23d. day of October 1792. Sam Hepburn,

Question. Did yr Mother Rachel Ratlief the person alluded to in the Depos.n of Eben Paramore respect.g the Freed.m of same Neg.s belong.g to the Rev.d Mr. Jno. Ashton & others ever wash the Linen or do any kind of Work for the s.d Paramore,