Mahony to freedom or of any of his Ancestors,

8. She does not know John Hickman, or any thing concerning him,

10. She never heard that Anne Joyce Crofs was bound by Prince Georges County Court to John Chapman,

11. She has no knowledge concerning the right of the Petitioner, or any of his Ancestors to freedom,

George French

The Deposition of Michael Sowe of Prince Georges County being fifty seven Years of Age and being first duly Sworn on the holy Evangels of Almighty God deposeth and saith, That he this Deponent is well acquainted with John Wheat Senior of Prince Georges County (whose Deposition this deponent hath been informed has been taken in the Cause now depending in the General Court in which several Negroes claiming their descent from one Ann Joyce are petitioners against John Ashton Defendant) and that he this Deponent hath known the said John Wheat Senior as long as he can well remember any thing and the Deponent being asked what was the general character of the said John Wheat Senior saith that he is generally reported and believed in the Neighbourhood where he resides to bear a bad Character.

Sworn before me the 1st day of July 1797. Sam Hepburn

John Hickman
against
Dr. Richard Smith

Petition for freedom in the General Court.

Interrogatories

1. Do you know the petitioner, and the Defendant, or either and which of them.

2. Did you know Anne Joyce a Mulatto Woman, from whom the petitioner alleges he is descended, who formerly lived with Henry Darnall of Anne Arundel County

3. Do you know, or have you heard & from whom, that the said Ann Joyce was a Servant for Years; and how was she treated in the Darnall family, was she considered as a Servant for Years or a Slave.

4. Do you know, or have you heard & from whom that the said Anne Joyce was adjudged to serve for a term of Years for having Children in Mr. Darnall's family; and have you heard & from whom that her Children or any of them were bound out to serve until 31 years of Age; and to whom were they bound, & was not some of them bound to John Chapman by Prince George's County Court.

5. When and where did the said Anne Joyce die, and how many Children had she & and what were their Names, and to whom do they belong,

6. Do you know Patrick Mahoney who lives with the Revd. John Ashton, and Charles Mahoney, who lives with Mr. Ashton (alleged to be descended from the said Joyce) and who have petitioned for their freedom,

7. Did you know Sue the daughter of Anne Joyce, and did you know Mary the daughter of Sue; Mary died the property of Basil Waring, and Sue the property of Ignatius Digges deceased,

8. Did you know Molly, one of the daughters of Anne Joyce, and Kitty or Kilty another daughter, or either and which of them; and did you know Sarah who died

in possession of Henry Darnall about 18 Months ago, and who was daughter of Anne Joyce,

9. Do you know Will the Son of Sarah mentioned in the preceeding interrogatory, the property of Richard Darnall,

10. Did you know, or have you heard of, Anne Joyce Crofs bound to John Chapman in the Year 1701. and was she the reputed daughter of the aforesaid Anne Joyce,

11. Have you any further knowledge of this Subject, that will tend to the benefit of the petitioner; if yes, relate it fully and freely,

The Revd. Mr. Digges aged about 81 years being first sworn on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God deposeth and saith to the

1st Interrogatory. Answers, he knows the Defendant, but not the petitioner.

2nd Interry. Answers No.

3rd Intry. Answers, he knows nothing about it; he has heard of the name of Joyce, has some notion that he has heard, that a Woman of the name of Joyce lived with Mr. Hall the father of the late Frank Hall,

4. Intry. Answers he knows nothing about it,

5. Intry. Answers he knows nothing at all about it,

6. Intry. Answers he knows nothing about them,

7th Intry. Answers He knew one Sue, but does not know that she was the daughter of Joyce, it is said that Sue died the property of Mr. Ignatius Digges,

8th Intry. Answers He knows nothing about them,

9. Intry. Ans. No,

10. Intry. Ans. knows nothing at all about them

11. Intry. Ans. Nothing,

Sworn to this 14 April 1792. before me one of the Justices of the Peace for Prince G. County.

Thomas Digges

John Smith Brookes

The Deposition of Mr. Henry Hill aged about 84 years being first Sworn on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God deposeth and saith to the

1st Intry. Answers, He knows Doctr. Smith very well, but does not know the petitr.

2. Intry. Answers, he knew nothing of a Woman by the name of Ann Joyce living with Mr. Darnall, but he knew of a Woman by the name of Joyce that lived at the Wood yard – the property of Henry Darnall and after him to his Son Henry – but she was a black Negro,

3rd Intry. Ans. he allways understood the Joyce he knew was a Slave, and treated as such,

objected to

4. Intry. Ans. Never that he heard of, and the children of the Joyce that he knew were allways considered as Slaves and very good ones,

5th Intry. Ans. the Joyce he knew, he believes died at the Wood yard, the property of Mr. Darnall,