Which being read to the Court, and at the Prayer of the said Richard Booth by Jeremiah Townley Chase his Attorney, Summons is thereupon granted him for the said David Weems to answer the Petition aforesaid returnable here at the next Court; And it is Ordered by the Court here that the said David Weems of Ann Arundel County do not remove out of this State Negro Richard Booth the Petitioner aforesaid nor obstruct him from attending this Court from time to time in support of his Petition for freedom, and in the mean time to feed, Cloath and use the said Petitioner well —

And the aforesaid Richard Booth by Jeremiah Townley Chase his Attorney aforesaid afterwards on the twenty ninth day of July Anno Dominie seventeen hundred and Eighty nine sued out of our General Court the State of Maryland Summons directed to the Sheriff of Ann Arundel County in the words and figures following, to wit: —

The State of Maryland ss. To the Sheriff of Ann Arundel County greeting: We command you that you summon David Weems late of Ann Arundel County, that all excuses and delays set aside he be and appear before the Judges of our General Court to be held at the City of Annapolis on the second Tuesday of October next to answer the Petition of Richard Booth prefered against him for Freedom; Hereof he is not to fail and fail not at your Peril and have you then and there this Writ Witness the Honourable Robert Hanson Harrison Esquire Chief Judge of our said Court the 26th day of June Anno Dominie 1789 —

Issued the 29th July 1789 —

J T C. — John Grimm, Clk:

Whereupon said second Tuesday of October being the thirteenth day of the same Month Anno Dominie seventeen hundred and Eighty nine, and the day of the return of the aforegoing writ, comes again here into Court General Court the aforesaid Richard Booth by Richard Spregg Junior his Attorney, And the Sheriff of Ann Arundel County to whom the said aforegoing Writ was made and directed likewise comes and makes return thereof to the Court here thus indorsed, to wit —

Summ'd Ben. Howard, Sheriff

And the said David Weems by Gabriel Duvall his attorney

Attorney comes and defends the Complaint aforesaid when and where the said Court shall take the same into consideration But because the Court here are not advised to give their Judgment of and upon the Premises Day therefore is given to the Parties aforesaid until the second Tuesday of May next to hear their Judgment of and upon the Premises because the Court here thereof not yet &c

At which said second Tuesday of May being the Eleventh day of the same Month Anno Dominie seventeen hundred and Ninety comes again here into our General Court as well the aforesaid Richard Booth by Richard Spregg Junior his Attorney aforesaid as the aforesaid David Weems by Gabriel Duvall his Attorney aforesaid; And the aforesaid David Weems by his Attorney aforesaid as before defends the Complaint aforesaid when and where &c But because the Court here are not advised to give their Judgment of and upon the Premises Day therefore is further given to the Parties aforesaid until the second Tuesday of October next to hear their Judgment of and upon the Premises because the Court here thereof are not yet &c —

At which said second Tuesday of October being the twelfth day of the same Month Anno Dominie seventeen hundred and Ninety comes again here into our General Court as well the aforesaid Richard Booth by Richard Spregg Junior his Attorney aforesaid as the aforesaid David Weems by Gabriel Duvall his Attorney aforesaid: Whereupon by and with the Consent of the Parties aforesaid and their Attornies aforesaid, ~~thereupon~~, the aforesaid David Weems by Gabriel Duvall his Attorney aforesaid files in Court here the following Deposition which is by the said parties and their Attornies agreed to be read in Evidence on the hearing of the Petition aforesaid and which Deposition is in these words and figures, to wit: —

The Deposition of John Batson of Ann Arundel County Aged 86 Years, taken September 26th 1789 before Samuel Harrison Junior one of the Justices for the County aforesaid —