Negroes Cressy Kelly George
Susan Rhody and Wesley
vs
Thomas Longue

Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County
April Term 1855
Petition for freedom

The Petitioners to sustain the issue on their part joined read in Evidence the agreement. "It is this Cause Mutually agreed that the Petitioners were at the time of the death of John Collenson their Master of the ages respectively of 16 & 14 years. It is admitted on the other side that the Petitioners Cressy and Rhody were the Slaves of John Collenson at the time of his death, and were embraced in the Clause of manumission contained in the will of said Collenson and that the other petitioners are the children of said Rhody and Cressy born since the death of said Collenson and it is further admitted that the personal Estate of the said Collenson other than his Manumitted Negroes was more than sufficient to pay his debts and that he left no widow

Wm H G Dorsey and
Thomas G Pratt for Thomas Longue
H C McMurray for Petitioners

And the Will of John Collenson

In the Name of God Amen I John Collenson of Anne Arundel County & State of Maryland being of sound and disposing mind Memory and understanding but weak & indisposed in body and being desirous of settling my temporal affairs that I may be the better prepared to leave this world when it shall please God to call me do make and publish this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say. First and principally I commit my soul into the hands of my Maker trusting in his Mercy and grace through Jesus Christ, and my body to the earth to be decently interred at the direction of my Executors hereinafter Named, and after all my just debts are paid I give and devise as follows.

To my Nephew John Collenson I give and devise my farm on Rhode River usually called my Rhode River farm, together with all the Stock & farming utensils and Slaves to him and his heirs & assigns forever provided however that he my said Nephew John

Collenson, in consideration of this bequest shall well and truly pay or secure to be paid to the rest of the Children of my brother William Collenson, deceased, the sum of Seven Thousand dollars in the following legacies & proportions to wit to Julia Anne Lee, the wife of Edward Lee one thousand dollars to Mary S Collenson, one thousand dollars to Sally Collenson one thousand dollars to Eliza Ann Collenson one thousand dollars to Edward Collenson one thousand dollars to Joseph T Collenson one thousand dollars the aforesaid legacies to be paid or secured to be paid within two years after my decease

Item I give and devise my farm in the Swamp usually known as my "Swamp Farm" on West River to the children of my late Sister Sally Gott the former wife of Mr Richard Gott of Montgomery County & State aforesaid to be equally devided between the children of my late Sister aforesaid Share and Share alike reserving however Ten acres of the farm aforesaid, in some convenient suitable Corner or Side for which I will devise to my old Servant Man George to him & his heirs & assigns forever

Item I will and devise to my late wife's Sister Mrs Harriet Waters My farm whereon I now live (usually known as the home farm) for her sole use benefit and advantage during her natural life and her death I will and devise as my said farm whereon I now live to the heirs of the late Thomas Longue Senior, the father of my late wife to be equally divided between them share & share alike. provided Nevertheless that they the said heirs shall pay or secure to be paid within one ~~year~~ two years after the decease of Mrs H Waters the sum of six thousand dollars to the following legatees to wit. To my nephew Edward Harper Three thousand dollars. To my nephew John Harper Two thousand dollars and to my Niece Sally Collenson one thousand dollars

Item I will and devise that all my negroes of which I shall die possessed shall be free from the service and of all persons whatever from and after my decease: provided that they my said negroes shall go to Liberia, or some one or other of the American Settlements on the Coast of Africa But should they refuse to go to either of the Settlements in Africa aforesaid then & in that case I will and bequeath them as follows that is to say, all the negroes I now own which I got by my late wife from her father's estate I will and devise them back to the heirs of the late Thomas