

Lib. R. R. K. The said Downes having custody of the seale as aforesaid, and by vertue of his said Com^{on} did issue forth severall writts and process betweene Court and Court, all which were by the Commission^{rs} of the said County at the last County Court adnulled vacated and held for nought alledging that such writts and process were not legally issued by the s^d Downes as being noe sworne Clk;

That Coll Burges heareing the opinion of the s^d Commission^{rs} in manner aforesaid did then declare to them and advise that the s^d ffrancis Downes was really & bonâ fide constituted Clk of that Court by Comission from the hon^{ble} the Secrys, and that said Bonner was noe longer Clk there, and therefore recommended to them the Delivery of the Records to the said Downes, to avoid further trouble, but contrarily they still remaine in the custody of the said Bonner to the great hinderance & delay of proceedings in that County.

p. 290 Was then produced and read the foll Letter from the Com^{rs} of that County Court (viz:)

Ann Arr: County Comiss^{rs} Letter to the Secry conc:
the Clks place

Ann Arrundell County ffeb^{ry} the 19th 1685:
May it please your Hon^{rs}

Wee had this day brought before us in Court sitting, a Comission under your Hono^{rs} hands and Seale of Office, thereby Impowering M^r ffrancis Downes to be Clk of this County, which wee with all Imaginable respect and Hono^r recd: but the said M^r Downes by ord^r of Coll Burges, having recd: the County Seale, & issued forth all writts under his owne hand as Clk returnable this Court, without acquainting this Court, or having taken the oath to Officiate as Clk of this County according as the Law in such cases directs, by meanes of which Iregularity all writts and process wee conceive are void in Law; This Court was forced to adjourne without doing the Counties business, And upon peruseall of the Records of this Court, M^r Bonner our former Clk: by reason of sickness and want of Bookes for Records, could not enter up many Judgem^{ts} of greate moment & weight in time, which this Court conceives, (the said M^r Downes not being acquainted with the minutes and notes of our said now Clk: and being utterly unacquainted in the managem^t of such business that it may proove very prejudiciall to the Inhabitants of this County, who have judgem^{ts} unentred upon Record, and very dishon^{rb}le to this Court, Doe therefore with all submission humbly request for the safty of the people and