

Charles County ss^t 25th April 1770. The above and within
Deposition was taken before me the Subscriber One of his
Lordship's Justices for the County afs^d

Lib. C. B.
No. 20
p. 102

before, John Winter

Benjamin Branson aged forty two years or thereabouts being Sworn on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God Deposeth that he hath lived several years near Esq^r Lee's and frequently went to his House as a Neighbour and for the year past lived within three hundred yards of his Jail and this Deponent further saith that some short time after the Prisoners were removed from M^r Smith's Jail to 'Squire Lee's that John Doncastle told this Deponent that he was very much pleased with his Change from Smith's Jail to Squire Lee's for he had come from Hell to Heaven and blessed his God that he had once more got among Christians, sometime after this Deponent called at 'Squire Lee's and Squire Lee according to Custom asked me if I would drink a Dram or some Cyder, I in a merry Humour used freedom enough to say I had not eat my Breakfast, M^r Lee laugh'd and said I must wait 'till it was dress't, the Squire asked me if a cut of Bread and Cheese would do? I answered very well, which was ordered to be brought and M^{rs} Lee at the same time went out and presently returned with a Plate of Fresh Beef, hashed as good as ever I saw. M^{rs} Lee told me with a Smile that she had done for me what she had never done for herself for she had Stole that Breakfast for me out of the Prisoners' Provision upon this I told M^{rs} Lee if that was the way she fed her Prisoners I had almost got my own Consent to be a prisoner too, and 'Squire Lee made Answer they should never live worse if they behaved themselves well. Frequently after that when I was at Squire Lee's I have seen exceeding good Dinners carried into the Jail such as good fat Beef and Pork both Roast and Boiled and Raw Sallads Clean Table Linen Plates Knives and Forks and Cyder with their Dinner. I never heard any Complaint till after there was an attempt to break the Jail when Doncastle Wright and some others used to Cavil at the Family and would send very Abusive Messages into the House and used Squire Lee's Housekeeper in a very Blackguard manner whenever she went to carry them Victuals or any thing else. This Deponent further saith he was at Squire Lee's last Fall and Joseph Harrison's Wife was there and M^{rs} Harrison was saying she wanted to go into the Jail to her Husband Squire Lee declined granting her Permission and gave for Reason that it was late in the Night and by such indulgencies the Prisoners had endeavoured to ruin the Sheriff by breaking the Jail with some Tools that were given in by some of the Men's