

State of Maryland Caroline county town, Whereas heretofore to wit, on the
twenty fifth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and
ninety nine a certain John Hooper of Caroline county aforesaid, by deed of Manumif-
sion duly executed & recorded did manumit & set free a certain negro boy, called Hitt (at
that time one year old) to be free and at liberty from the date of the said Manumission.
And whereas the same negro boy named Hitt (now calling himself Christopher Gardi-
ner) has made application to me for a certificate of his freedom agreeably to the
act of Assembly in such case made & provided, and I being satisfied by the oath of
Benjamin Roe of the county aforesaid, that the said negro boy, named Hitt (now call-
ing himself Christopher Gardiner) for whom this certificate is made, is the identic-
al negro boy mentioned in the said Manumission. I do, therefore grant his said
application, and hereby certify that the said negro boy Hitt, (now calling himself
Christopher Gardiner) is five feet six inches high or thereabouts, from his age
at the date of, & by the said Manumission expressed, he was twenty years of age in April
last, of a black complexion, his hair woolly, was born and raised in Caroline
county, has a small scar on the top of his right foot between the big toe joint and
the instep, and no other notable mark that I have observed.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my name
and the public seal of my office affixed this 16th
day of July Anno Domini 1818

J. H. Howard Clerk of
Caroline county court.