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her at present incapable of being any way serviceable, but rather a charge to your petitioner, and therefore your petitioner prays that your worships may take it into your consideration, and set her Tax free whilst such time as she is restored to her former health, and your petitioner as in duty bound shall pray ---

The petition aforesaid being read and heard and fully understood Wherefore it is considered that the aforesaid Thomas Roucher be discharged from paying of Levys for the aforesaid Negro woman Bess until please God to restore her to her former state of health as by the petition aforesaid is said &c ---

His Lordship } Somerset p. Memorandum at a session of the peace of his Lordship the right honorable the Lord -  
Mary Gloster } Proprietary of the province of Maryland held at dividing Creek in Somerset County on the third Tuesday  
of March to wit the fifteenth day of the same month and ~~Year~~ One thousand Seven hundred & thirty  
Six before John Smith Gent. and others his associates Justices of his said Lordship the peace in the County of  
to preserve and also divers felonies trespasses and other Misdemeanors in the same County committed to hear and  
Determine assigned by the oath of Alexander Landie and twelve others being presented that Mary Gloster  
Late of Stegway parish in the County of Squinter the tenth day of March and ~~Year~~ Seventeen hundred & thirty  
and six at the parish aforesaid in the County aforesaid within the Jurisdiction of this Court did commit fornication with a certain  
person to the name of unknown and did permit the same unknown person then and there to have carnal  
knowledge of her body and to begett thereon a bastard Child on the body of her the same Mary to the high displea-  
-sure of almighty God to the dishonour of all others in such case offending contrary to the peace of the said Lord-  
-ship's Proprietary that now is his good rule and Government and against the form of the act of assembly in such case made &  
provided &c By which it was Commanded the Sheriff of Somerset County that he should take the said  
Mary Gloster Late of Stegway parish in Somerset County Squinter if she should be found in his bailiwick and her home  
safely so that he might have her body before the Justices of his Lordship's County Court of Somerset to be hold in the Court  
house at dividing Creek the third Tuesday of June ~~Year~~ One thousand Seven hundred and thirty Seven  
to answer unto his said Lordship &c and afterwards to wit the said third Tuesday of June and ~~Year~~ One thousand  
Seven hundred and thirty Seven that same term before his Lordship's Justices at dividing Creek aforesaid the said  
Mary Gloster in her proper person and had absconing of the Indictment aforesaid, and saith that she cannot deny but that  
she is guilty of the premises aforesaid in the Indictment aforesaid specified in manner and form as by the Indictment  
aforesaid above against her supposed, and the premises aforesaid expressly acknowledged and makes  
oath that a certain Benjamin Melson is the begetter of the Child the said Indictment for and puts her  
-self thereof in Mercy of his Lordship &c. Whereupon all and singular the premises being seen and  
by the Court fully understood - It is considered that the aforesaid Mary Gloster pay unto his Lordship the  
Right