

At a Council held at the City of Annapolis on Tuesday the twenty ninth Day of September
in the tenth Year of his Excellency's Dominion of Annapolis 1760.

Present

His Excellency Horatio Sharpe Esq: Governor

The honorable { Benjamin Tasker Esq: } Col: Benjamin Tasker
Col: Charles Hammond } Benedict Calvert Esq:
Arml: Chamberlaine Esq: } Stephen Bowdley Esq:

About the Return of James Meems Esq: in relation to Capt: Cousins which is as follows.
Maryland Circuit County Court.

By Virtue of an Order from his Excellency the Governor and Council of this Province aforesaid
issued to the Subscriber one of his Excellency's Dominion of Annapolis the Right Honourable the Lords Proprietors Justices of the
Peace for the County aforesaid Dated the twenty second Day of September 1760 the following Depositions
were taken relating to certain John Cousins Master of the Brigantine Edward impeding into this
Province from the Coast of Africa a Negro Man called Capt: Gray another called Capt: Buck & eleven
other Negroes who it has been represented to his Excellency the Governor and Council were forced Persons
in their own Country and brought here by the aforesaid Capt: John Cousins & sold for Slaves.

The Deposition of Elias Glover Chief Mate of the aforesaid Brigantine being sworn on the holy
Gospels of Almighty God Deposeth and saith, that as to the Negroe called Capt: Gray he was taken in a
Sloop on board the aforesaid Brigantine and for that detained, that he afterwards was principally concerned
in cutting the cable and endangering the Life of the Vessel; that as to the Negroe called Capt: Buck, and
the eleven other Negroes they were brought on board the Vessel by the Traders, and these left as Pledges,
but that to his knowledge there was so much goods given for them as for the other Slaves, that they had been
on board of the Vessel for seven or eight Weeks before the Vessel sailed, and that the Traders never offered
to redeem them and further saith not.

Elias Glover

September 27th 1760 sworn to before

James Meems

The Deposition of Robert Morrison second Mate of the Brigantine Edward being sworn on the holy
Gospels of Almighty God Deposeth and saith, that he knoweth every Article contained in the above
Deposition of Elias Glover is true, and that he knoweth nothing more relating to the aforesaid Negroes.

Same Day sworn to before

Robert Morrison

James Meems

James Somers Boatwain of the aforesaid Brigantine, being sworn on the holy Gospels of Almighty
God Deposeth and saith, that the Deposition of Elias Glover contains the whole of his knowledge relating to
aforesaid Negroes and is strictly true in every Article to the best of his knowledge & belief.

Same Day sworn to before

James Somers

James Meems

The Deposition of Grew Laughing Aged about twenty one Years who being duly sworn on the holy Gospels of
Almighty God Deposeth and saith that he is a Sailor on board of the Brigantine Edward John Cousins Commander
and that he sailed from Liverpool along with the said Capt: Cousins before the mast on allage to the Coast of
Guinea to purchase Slaves, that during their Trade on that Coast Capt: Cousins made a Purchase of several Slaves
and that he this Deponent believes if never heard to the contrary but that all the Negroes brought in by Captain
Cousins were Slaves; unless a Negroe who calls himself Capt: Gray should be free whose particular Circumstances
are as follows, he Gray was detoured to a Storeman upon the Coast of Guinea & that he used to be employed by
his Master to go in a Schooner to convey Slaves on Board of Trading Vessels and as a Slave that he carried some
on board of the Brigantine Edward whilst he was in that Vessel he stole several Sacks from Capt: Cousins
who never permitted him (Gray) to go on shore afterwards, but offered to return him if he could get another Slave
for him which was refused by those to whom the Offer was made they said he was a Scandal to his Country and
they would not give a Shilling of four feet high for him, and this Deponent has heard that it was usual to punish
Slaves after that manner in that Country.

Sworn to this 25 Day of Septem: 1760 before me Geo: Stewart

Advised by this Board that the Captain be Discharged. It being their Opinion that the Complaint is groundless.
Whereupon the said Capt: Cousins attending was called in & Discharged accordingly.