

Richards Esq. laid before this Board the following Depositions and Papers in his Defence vizt
 The Deposition of Charles Somerset Smith taken before me one of the Right Honourable the
 Lord Proprietary his Justices of the Peace for Ann Arundel County this Twelfth day of December
 Seventeen hundred and Sixty Nine - This Deponent being first Sworn on the Holy Evangelis
 of Almighty God deposeth and saith that he was Sheriff of Charles County part of the year 1765, and
 1766, 1767, and part of the Year 1768 and that in August 1766 a certain John Duncastles was
 brought to his goal and continued his this Deponents Prisoner untill November 1768 and that
 he this Deponent in order to serve the said John Duncastles kept his goal in Portobacco (the said
 Duncastles having a Wife and Family residing in that Place) for Twenty Months and upwards
 at a very great risque and expence and during that time he this Deponent has been informed
 and verily believes it to be true that the said John Duncastles frequently from his dissolute beha-
 viour caused the greatest Confusion and uproar among the Prisoners and often advising them to
 break the goal and make their Escape which many of the Prisoners did at the said Duncastles
 Instigation which run this Deponent to great expence in repairing the said Goal - This De-
 ponent further saith that a Suit was commenced against him in Charles County Court
 for Seven Thousand pounds of Tobacco on an Escape occasioned by the said Duncastles advice
 and persuasion - And this Deponent further saith that the said John Duncastles persuaded
 the Prisoners not to go to the said Deponents private goal which he had built for the greater
 Security of the Prisoners the County goal being altogether insufficient which they obstinately
 refused to go to the said Private goal until he this Deponent raised a sufficient Force to carry
 them there and that from the said Duncastles Advice he this Deponent frequently was obliged
 to Iron many of the Debtors to prevent their breaking the Prison And this Deponent further
 saith that the said John Duncastles during his Confinement in Portobacco was so very abusive
 and his Language so gross that very few People chose to go near the Prison for fear of the Sarc
 of his Abusive Tongue - And this Deponent further saith that after he got the said Duncastles to
 his House he let the said Duncastles have the use of one of his best Rooms in his House for a twelve
 Month the greatest part of which Time the said Duncastles was in a low and languishing Condi-
 tion and was treated in the same manner as any of his Family for which Treatment he often
 expressed his Sense of Gratitude till some short Time before he this Deponents Shrivallty was to
 end when he the said Duncastles assumed a quite different Tone and took every Method in his pow-
 er to make himself disagreeable to this Deponent and his Family and behaved with the utmost
 Insolence on all Occasions so that he this Deponent was obliged to confine him in the said goal -
 for which purpose he this Deponent was obliged to lead him the said Duncastles by the collar to
 the goal and when he got the said Duncastles to the Door of the goal the said Duncastles Struck
 him this Deponent in the Forehead with his Dist which obliged this Deponent to return the blow
 and knocked the said Duncastles some Distance and then this Deponent Horsewhipped the said
 Duncastles for his Behaviour as aforesaid - And this Deponent further saith that one Ignatius
 Green of Charles County was a Prisoner sometime in the goal with Duncastles till the Year 1766
 when an Act passed for his Relief and in order to comply with the Act he this Deponent pro-
 cured two County Magistrates to examine the said Green and others as to their Effects when
 the said Green behaved in such a manner as to induce the Magistrates to believe the said
 Green would perjure himself and that he this Deponent afterwards indulged the said Green to
 go and bring all his Effects before the Magistrates on his the said Greens promising to return
 instead of which the said Green absconded for near Twenty Months before he this Deponent
 could retake him which he this Deponent did at last by way laying him the said Green and
 after