

William Milward of Talbot County, being duly sworn deposes and saith that—

he went to live at Plain Dealing in the Spring of the year 1774 and his wife was employed to take charge of the house as housekeeper, at that time there was a quantity of salt in a house the key of which was delivered into his wife's care, he says the salt himself and supposes it might be less than one hundred bushels and that the whole family, were supplied with salt from that heap and he believes they consumed about twelve bushels per annum.

William Milward the deponent further saith that in January in the year 1775, he did receive five hundred and fourteen bushels of salt for Mr James Lloyd Chamberlaine and put it into the house above mentioned at Plain Dealing and that between the month of October and Christmas of the same year he the deponent did measure and sell all the salt out of the aforesaid house which he received as before mentioned at three shillings per Bushel And that at the time while that salt was measuring and selling, James Lloyd Chamberlaine aforesaid, did caution the Deponent not to mix the now received salt which was his, with the old salt that was before in the house as that did not belong to him, but to James Chamberlaine a minor

And the deponent further saith that the family at Plain Dealing used out of the aforesaid salt nearly at the rate of twelve bushels per annum, untill the 28<sup>th</sup> day of December in the year 1776, when a number of men armed with guns and clubs came about 8 o'clock in the morning and enquired for him the deponent who immediately went out to them, and enquiring their business, was told by one of them who appeared to be their leader, that they heard there was a quantity of salt there that their business was to buy some of it for which they would pay. The Deponent told them that he had very little salt, that the salt which was there was for the use of the family and not at his disposal, nor even under his care. he advised them to speak to Mr Chamberlaine which when they objected to be offend to send to Mr Chamberlaine himself. to which they answered that they would not wait so long. They some of them swore that they knew the key was kept there, that salt they would have and if the key was not delivered to them they would break the door. they then asked the Deponent's wife for the key and she refused to deliver it to them upon which refusal some of them said it would be the worse if they key was not delivered at the same time the most active said, come along, come along we have talked long enough, let us be doing or nearly the same words. At which they all of them went to the door of the house where the salt lay (except Jeremiah Colston, who appeared to be their leader and who continued still to propose to the key that they might not be under necessity or be run of breaking the door). Some picked up large stones others shook the door and some seized to stand or crouched with their  
(Guns)