

Withers & Washington vs F. Tebbs

9 March 1826

Note - On or before the first day of January 1826 we Foushee Tebbs do promise and oblige ourselves our heirs &c. to pay or cause to be paid unto Kitty Newman the sum of Forty Dollars, it being for the hire of Negro John, who is to be well clothed during summer, and to be returned (if living) on Christmas day next with good and sufficient winter clothing. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our names & seals the tenth day of January 1825

Foushee Tebbs (seal)

Commonwealth vs Bob or Robert a Slave

20 March 1826

Prince William County to wit: Whereas John M. Clarke of the said County hath this day made oath before me a Justice of the peace in the County aforesaid that on the night of the fourth of February 1826, the cellar of his dwelling house was forcibly broken open, and entered, and there was stolen and carried away from said cellar about eighteen pieces of pork and beef and that he hath just cause to suspect and does suspect that Bob a slave the property of Richard B. Tyler did feloniously steal, take and carry away the same. These are therefore to command you forthwith to apprehend the said Bob and bring him before me or some other Justice of the peace in the county aforesaid, to answer the said information and complaint, and further to be dealt with according to law. Given under my hand and seal this 23rd February 1826.

Chas. Hunton (seal)

Summon Mina & Burgess & Jerry the property of James B. Ewell.

C. H.

February 24th 1826 upon examining John M. Clarke, Burgess & Mima the property of James B. Ewell. I find it proper to send Bob to jail to be tried by an examining court..

Charles Hunton

Prince William County to Wit: To the sheriff of the said County, whereas Bob a slave the property of Richard B. Tyler of this county was this day committed to the jail of this County by my warrant for breaking open the cellar of John M. Clark and stealing there from a quantity of pork and beef it appearing to me that the felonious offence wherewith he stands charged ought to be examined unto by the county Court; Therefore on behalf of the Commonwealth I require you that you summon at least eight of the Justices of your said county to meet at the court house on the 20th day of March next and then and there to hold a court for the examination of the fact which the said Bob stands charged, and for such other purposes concerning the premises as it by law required and directed; and that you then have then this warrant. Given under my hand and seal this 24th February 1826.

Charles Hunton (seal)

Prince William County to Wit: To Walter Warder (deputed as constable) and to the Jailor in the said County.

These are to command you Walter Warder in the name of the Commonwealth, forthwith to convey and deliver unto the custody of the said Jailor the body of Bob a slave the property of Richard B. Tyler of the county aforesaid charged before me of breaking open the cellar of John M. Clarke and stealing there from a quantity of pork and beef. And you the said keeper are hereby required to remove the said Bob into your custody in the said jail and him their safely keep, until he shall thence be discharged by due course of law. Given under my hand and seal in the County aforesaid this 24th February 1826.

Chas Hunton (seal)

Commonwealth against Bob or Robert the slave of one Richard B. Tyler for burglary and felony.

John M. Clarke a witness on behalf of the Commonwealth provided that the cellar door attached to his dwelling house was on the night of the fourth day of February 1826 forcibly

broken open and entered into by some person and taken there from sixteen pieces of salted pork and two pieces of salted beef, altogether of at least the value of twenty dollars, that eight or ten days or perhaps more he made a search for the same and found two pieces of pork to wit: a shoulder and jowl corresponding in appearance with the pieces of the pork stolen from him in the possession of a Negro man named Burgess, the property of one James B. Ewell who said he got it from a woman of the said Ewell's called Mimy who had brought it there on Sunday preceding day and asked him to take care of it for her. Witness then went to see Mimy who informed him that Bob had brought to her six pieces and said Bob informed her he had gotten it from a cellar attached to the house occupied by Mr. Stith in the year 1825 and witness further proved that he occupied the same house at the time the cellar was broken open that Mr. Stith occupied in 1825. The witness says that (the next three lines crossed out).

Burgess, a slave, witness on behalf of the Commonwealth proved that on Sunday the 26th of February last he received two pieces of hog-meat to wit. a shoulder & a jowl from Clima the reputed wife of the accused, who told him that she would give him the jowl if he would take care of the shoulder; and he carried it in a upper chamber in the cabin where he lodged & there kept it.

Clima, a witness on behalf of the Commonwealth proved that the prisoner at the bar delivered her sundry pieces of hog-meat, to wit, three middlings, one shoulder & two jowls about three weeks before she delivered the shoulder & jowls about three weeks before she delivered the said shoulder & jowl to Burgess to keep on the Sunday morning after the first search was made for the stolen property in question by constable Warden, & other said witness John M. Clarke being in company; that she delivered the same to said Burgess about two hours before day-light on the said Sunday morning; that the meat was delivered to her by the accused on Sunday morning; that the meat was delivered to her by the accused on Sunday morning between two & three hours before day light; that suspecting the accused did not come honestly by the meat, and fearing someone might find it in the house, she hid it under the straw at her masters stock-yard; where one piece was taken by the dogs, & the rest was used by her, & the rest except the two pieces delivered to Burgess ; that, after the search, she delivered those two pieces to Burgess because she thought his house would not be examined for them.

The same witness John M. Clarke proved that the first part referred to by the witness Mima was made on a Saturday about six or seven days prior to the day of the date of the warrant for the apprehension of the accused which date is the 23rd day of February 1826; that the meat he lost from his cellar is aforesaid consisted of middlings, shoulder, & he believes two jowls; that the accused was committed to jail about one day after the date of the said warrant; that he took no note of the date when his cellar was broken open, & plundered, and he has fixed on the 4th day of February on that date merely from general recollection; but he is certain that it was the day before a fox chase in his neighborhood when W. William Florence was present.

William Florence and other witness on behalf of the Commonwealth proved that the fox-chase mentioned by witness John M. Clarke took place on the third Saturday in January.

Said witness Clima being further examined proved that the accused, she claims as her husband; that he visited her only once a fortnight; that he delivered her the meat aforesaid when he was to see her on his regular visit at once a fortnight; that he delivered her the said meat on the second visit next preceding the day when the first search was made and that he paid her no visit in that period except once a fortnight.

Virginia, Prince William County to Wit: Be it remembered that John Gibson attorney for the Commonwealth for the county of Prince William cometh here into court on this 7th day of March in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty six into a special court of the Commonwealth composed of the justices of the peace of the county of Prince William aforesaid organized according to the provisions of an act of general assembly of Virginia in such __ made and provided for the trial of slaves charged with treason or felony and for the said Commonwealth giveth the court to understand and be informed that a certain Negro Man slave named Bob or Robert late of the said county the slave and property of one Richard B. Tyler of

the county aforesaid on the night of the fourth day of February in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty-six about the hour of twelve o'clock with force and arms in the county aforesaid the meat house of one John M. Clarke in the said meat-house, within the cellar of the dwelling house of the said John M. Clarke then and there being and situate, there and then feloniously and burglariously to steal take and carry away; and then and there with force and arms the goods chattels and property of the said John M. Clarke to wit: sixteen pieces of salted pork and two pieces of salted beef of the value of twenty dollars. The said meat-house within the ___ of the said dwelling house of the said John M. Clarke and there being found, then and there feloniously and burglariously did steal take and carry away against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth and against the force of the act of the general assembly of Virginia in such case made and demanded.

And the said John Gibson as aforesaid giveth the court further to understand and be informed that a certain negro and slave names Bob or Robert late of the said county of Prince William, the property of one Richard B. Tyler of the county aforesaid on the fourth day of February in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty six being a person of wicked mind and corrupt disposition on the said fourth day of February in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty six at night about the hour of twelve o'clock with force and arms at the county aforesaid the mansion house of one John M. Clarke.

There situate feloniously and burglariously did break and enter with intent the goods chattels and property of the said John M. Clarke in the said mansion then and there being then and there feloniously and burglariously to steal take and carry away and then and there with force and arms the goods chattels and property of the said John M. Clarke to wit: sixteen pieces of salted pork and two pieces of salted beef of the value of twenty dollars in the said mansion house then and there feloniously and burglariously did steal take carry away against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth and against the force of the general assembly of Virginia in such case made and provided.

[On March 7th 1826 Bob or Robert was "found not guilty, and thereof is acquitted"]

Commonwealth vs Gray **8 March 1826**

Prince William County to Wit: Memorandum that upon this 2nd day in March in the year 1825 Charles Curtis came before me Charles Meng of the Commonwealth Justices of the peace for the county aforesaid and acknowledged himself indebted to James Pleasants Esq. Governor or Chief Magistrate of the Commonwealth of Virginia and his Superior in the sum of twenty five dollars to be levied of his goods & chattels lands & tenements to the use of the said Commonwealth upon condition that if the said Charles Curtis do personally appear before the Commonwealth's Justices of the peace for the said county on the first Monday in March Inst. at the court then to be holden for the said county - and do then and there on the behalf of the said Commonwealth give such evidence as he knoweth against a certain negro slave called Harry Gray said to be the property of Sukey Gray - Charged this day before me by Samuel Lucas with a breach of the peace &c. concerning the matter wherewith he is charged and that he do not depart without leave of the said court then this recognizance to be void else to remain in full force and virtue.

Acknowledged before me.
Charles Meng

Prince William County to Wit: Be it remembered that on the 2nd day of March 1825 Sukey Gray a free woman of colour on the aforesaid county came before me one of the Commonwealth Justices of the peace for the county aforesaid and acknowledged herself to owe to James Pleasants Esq. governor or chief magistrate of the Commonwealth of Virginia and his successor to wit the said Sukey gray in the sum of fifty dollars current money of Virginia to be levied and made of his goods and chattels lands & tenements to the use of the Commonwealth aforesaid there should be any failure in complying with the conditions underwritten - The condition of this recognizance is such that whereas a certain negro slave named Harry Gray said to belong to the said Sukey Gray is now brought before me charged by Samuel Lucas with

a breach of the peace and other violence's against the family of the said Lucas - Now if the above named slave shall personally appear at the next court to be holden in and for the county aforesaid to do and __ what __ shall then and there be enjoined him by the said court and in the mean time keep the peace and be of good behavior towards the Commonwealth and all its citizens and especially towards Samuel Lucas a free man of colour in the said county then this recognizance shall be void or else to remain in full force and virtue acknowledged before me

Chas. _____

Prince William County to Wit: Whereas Samuel Lucas personally appeared before me and made oath that Bill Wakfield a free man of colour & Harry Gray a negro slave said to be the property of Sukey Gray deceased on the 26th day of February in the year of 1825 did violently assault and abuse him the said Samuel Lucas at his own house in the county aforesaid against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth forthwith to bring this said Bill Wakfield and Harry Gray before me or some other justice of the peace to answer the premises that they may be dealt with according to law.

Given under my hand and seal this 27th day of February 1825. To the constable of Prince William County. Robert
Hamilton

The Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Sheriff of Prince William County, Greetings: You are hereby commanded to summon Samuel Lucas and Charles Curtis to appear before the Justices of our County Court of Prince William at the Court -House of the said county, on the 1st day of June court next, the truth to say in behalf of us in a certain matter of controversy in our said court, before our said Justices, depending and undetermined between us and Negro, Harry Gray. And this they shall in no wise omit, under the penalty of one hundred pounds.

Witness, Phillip D. Dawe, Clerk of our said court, at the Court-House, aforesaid, this 4th day of May 1825, and in the 49th year of our foundation.

P. D. Dawe

[Executed by W. Chapman deputy sheriff for Charles Ewell]

The Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Sheriff of Prince William County, Greetings: You are hereby commanded to summon Samuel Lucas and Charles Curtis to appear before the Justices of our County Court of Prince William at the Court -House of the said county, on the 1st day of August court next, the truth to say in behalf of us in a certain matter of controversy in our said court, before our said Justices, depending and undetermined between us and Negro, Harry Gray. And this they shall in no wise omit, under the penalty of one hundred pounds.

Witness, Phillip D. Dawe, Clerk of our said court, at the Court-House, aforesaid, this 11th day of July 1825, and in the 49th year of our foundation.

P. D. Dawe

[Executed by James Fewell deputy sheriff for Charles Ewell]

The Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Sheriff of Prince William County, Greetings: You are hereby commanded to summon Alexander Lucas to appear before the Justices of our County Court of Prince William at the Court -House of the said county, on the 1st day of August court next, the truth to say in behalf of us in a certain matter of controversy in our said court, before our said Justices, depending and undetermined between us and Negro, Harry Gray. And this he shall in no wise omit, under the penalty of one hundred pounds.

Witness, Phillip D. Dawe, Clerk of our said court, at the Court-House, aforesaid, this 22nd day of July 1825, and in the 50th year of our foundation.

P. D. Dawe

The Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Sheriff of Prince William County, Greetings: You are hereby commanded to summon Samuel Lucas and Charles Curtis to appear before the Justices of our County Court of Prince William at the Court -House of the said county, on the

1st day of November court next, the truth to say in behalf of us in a certain matter of controversy in our said court, before our said Justices, depending and undetermined between us and Negro, Harry Gray. And this they shall in no wise omit, under the penalty of one hundred pounds.

Witness, Phillip D. Dawe, Clerk of our said court, at the Court-House, aforesaid, this 7th day of October 1825, and in the 50th year of our foundation.

P. D. Dawe

[Executed by James Fewell deputy sheriff for Charles Ewell]

The Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Sheriff of Prince William County, Greetings: You are hereby commanded to summon Charles Curtis and Samuel Lucas to appear before the Justices of our County Court of Prince William at the Court -House of the said county, on the 1st day of November court next, the truth to say in behalf of us in a certain matter of controversy in our said court, before our said Justices, depending and undetermined between us and Sukey Gray. And this they shall in no wise omit, under the penalty of one hundred pounds.

Witness, Phillip D. Dawe, Clerk of our said court, at the Court-House, aforesaid, this 11th day of February 1826, and in the 50th year of our foundation.

P. D. Dawe

["Not Found - W. Chapman deputy sheriff for Charles Ewell]

Hord vs Claytor

10 March 1826

Prince William County to Wit: Robert Hord complains of William Claytor in custody of a plea of trespass on the case. For that the said defendant heretofore to wit on the 1 day of May 1823 in the County aforesaid was indebted ___ __ to the defendant at his special instance & ___ request to the plaintiff in the sum of forty dollars for the hire of Slaves & being so indebted he the said defendant in consideration thereof, afterwards to wit, on the day and year aforesaid in the county aforesaid, undertook and then & there faithfully promised the plaintiff to pay him the said sum of money when he the said defendant promised ___ __ requested. And also for that the said defendant heretofore, that is to say on the (blank) day of (blank) in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty three, at the county aforesaid was indebted to the plaintiff in the sum of forty dollars for turkeys and other goods before that time sold and delivered by the plaintiff to the defendant at his special request - and for money had and received by the defendant to the use of the plaintiff and for money lent and advanced by the plaintiff to the defendant at his special request; and for money paid, laid out and expended by the plaintiff for the defendant at his special request; and for work and labor done and performed by the plaintiff for the defendant at his special request. And being so indebted, the defendant afterwards, that is to say, on the day and year aforesaid, at the county aforesaid, in consideration thereof undertook, and then there faithfully promised to the plaintiff that he the defend the said several sums of money, when requested, would well and truly pay to the plaintiff.

And Whereas, the defendant afterward, that is to say, on the (blank) day of (blank) in the year aforesaid, at the county aforesaid, accounted with the plaintiff of and concerning divers sums of money from the said defendant to the said plaintiff before that time due, owing and then in arrears and unpaid, and upon such accounting the said defendant was then and there found arrears and indebted to the said plaintiff in the further sum of forty dollars and being so found in arrears and indebted the said defendant afterwards, that is to say, on the day and year last mentioned, at the county aforesaid, in consideration thereof, undertook, and then and their faithfully promised to pay to the plaintiff when thereto afterward required the said last mentioned sum of money.

Nevertheless the defendant said promises in no wise regarding, the said several sums of money nor any part thereof, though often required to the plaintiff has not paid, but the same to pay always refused and still refuse to the damage of the plaintiff of one hundred dollars, and thereupon he brings suit, &c.

J. Macrae P.Q.

“We the jury assess the plaintiffs damages to the sum of twenty seven dollars & 50 cents the principal sum due to carry interest from the 1st day of May 1823
Mason French

(note in file) May 1st 1823 William Claytor to Robert Hord - To hire of 4 Negro Men 3 months at 18/ - per man per month as per agreement \$36.00, To 2 turkeys at 3/7 \$1.25 for a total \$37.25 Interest from 1st May till paid.

The Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Sheriff of Prince William County, Greetings. We command you, that you take William Claytor if he be found in your bailiwick, and him safely keep, so that you have his body before the Justices of our said County Court, at the Court-house of the said county, on the first Monday in March next, to answer Robert Hord of a plea of trespass on the case damage \$100

And have then there this writ. Witness, Phillip D. Dawe, Clerk of our said court, at the court-house aforesaid, this 12th day of January 1825, and in the 49th year of our foundation.

P. D. Dawe

Not found - W. Chapman deputy sheriff for Chas. Ewell

The Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Sheriff of Prince William County, Greetings. We command you as before you were commanded, that you take William Claytor if he be found in your bailiwick, and him safely keep, so that you have his body before the Justices of our said County Court, at the Court-house of the said county, on the first Monday in June next, to answer Robert Hord of a plea of trespass on the case damage \$100

And have then there this writ. Witness, Phillip D. Dawe, Clerk of our said court, at the court-house aforesaid, this 30th day of March 1825, and in the 49th year of our foundation.

P. D. Dawe

Not found - W. Chapman deputy Sheriff for Charles Ewell

The Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Sheriff of Prince William County, Greetings. We command you that you take as oftentimes before you were commanded that you take William Claytor if he be found in your bailiwick, and him safely keep, so that you have his body before the Justices of our said County Court, at the Court-house of the said county, on the first Monday in August next, to answer Robert Hord of a plea of trespass on the case damage \$100

And have then there this writ. Witness, Phillip D. Dawe, Clerk of our said court, at the court-house aforesaid, this 29th day of June 1825, and in the 49th year of our foundation.

P. D. Dawe

Commonwealth vs Hampton

3 July 1826

Prince William County to wit: Be it remembered that on the 17th day of June in the year 1826 James Hampton of Brentsville in the said county, yeoman, personally came before me Jas Walker - one of the Justices of the peace for the said county, and acknowledged himself indebted to John Tyler governor of Virginia and his successors in office the sum of Twenty Five Dollars, lawful money of this Commonwealth to be made and __ of his goods and chattels lands and tenements, to the use of the said Commonwealth if the said James Hampton shall fail in the condition underwritten.

The condition of the above written recognizance is such, that if the above bound Jas Hampton shall deliver the body of Harrison (a Slave in the employment of Thomas R. Hampton now in Jail) upon the county court of Prince William on the first Monday in July next. Then the said recognizance to be void, else to remain in its force.

Jas. Hampton

21 June 1828

Negroes Purchase

William P. Williamson personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the County of Fauquier and made oath when he was in Kentucky some time after Richard Foote Jr.

agent for his Father who married Eliza Garrard has left there that he saw Mr. Mosley the purchaser of the negroes who informed him that Mr. Thompson received \$400 from the sale of the negroes as a fee for prosecuting the suit against Garrard estate and also paid to Richard Foote \$300 the agent.

Given under my hand
this 21st June 1828
Marshall Smith

I was in Kentucky in the latter part of April and May. I saw Mr. Phillip Thompson the attorney of Mr. Richard Foote who married Eliza Garrard, daughter of Henry Garrard deceased and Wm. Thompson told me that Richard Foote Jun. sold the negroes his father got by Eliza Garrard for three hundred dollars subject to the payment of Grimsby's debt and a debt from Lexington against Foote in the event they were recovered of the said Foote as administrator of his wife.

Alexander T. Grigsby personally appeared before me a justice of the peace for Prince William County and made oath the above statement was true - Given under my hand this 7th day of July 1828.

Geo. W. Jackson

February 1829
Selling of Slave

Pursuant an order of the worshipful County Court for Prince William County made February 1829 for the purpose of selling a Slave man the property of Jonathan Fable of the County of Shenandoah. In compliance with said order on the 1st day of March Court 1829 at the front door of the Court House in the town of Brentsville I sold said Slave for the sum of Seventy Dollars, cash paid for Jail fees \$18.70, cash paid Graham as witness \$2.13, cash for expenses for taking him \$6.00 (expenses \$31.03 subtracted from \$70.00) \$38.97

P. Norvill, deputy sheriff for

Charles Ming

1 January 1831
To R. Lipscomb, jailor of Prince William County
Sworn to in Court

16 Oct 1830 - To committing James Hickey charged with a felony 21 cents; To dieting said Hickey 26 days from 16th October till 11th November at 21 per, 67 cents.

5 October - To committing Negro George the property of David Jamerson charged with felony 21 cents; To dieting said Negro 47 days at 21 for day from 5th Oct till 21st November \$15.67

21st November to releasing same 21 cents; dieting Negro Slave Eliza the property of Anna Ward charged with felony 18 days from 3 November till 29th at 21 per day \$6.00.

21st November to releasing Negro 21 cents; Dieting Jack Cornwell a lunatic from 3 November till 7th December 34 days 2/per day \$11.34

7 December Releasing said Cornwell 21 cents

5 October To Committing Jacob a Negro slave the property of ___ Alexander charged with a felony 21 cents; Dieting same till 5th November 31 days 21 per day; releasing said negro 21 cents

3 November To committing C. G. Turner for a misdemeanor 21 cents; dieting said Turner to this date 3 January 1831 67 days at 21 per day \$20.34; Dieting Alfred Arrington held in custody for a breach of the peace from 3rd November till this date 3rd January 1831 61 days 21 per day \$20.34; Dieting John Kincheloe a lunatic from 3rd November till this date 3 January 1831 61 days 21 per day \$20.34

27 November To committing Samuel Davis at the writ of the Commonwealth for assault on James Atchison 21 cents; Dieting said Davis 3 days 21 per day from 27 November to 30th \$1.00

30th - Releasing same 21 cents

Total due \$116.14

Sworn to in Court
Jno Williams D.C.
January 4th 1831

15 July 1831

Notes

July 15, 1831 received of T. B. Hamilton and Charles Hunton fifty dollars and thirty nine cents being my part of the Negroes of H. Martin deceased. Sold by them as commissioners under a decree of the County Court of Prince William.

Polly Martin

Received of T. B. Hamilton and Charles Hunton commissioners to sell H. Martins negroes. One dollar for sale April 16, 1831.

Burr Combs

July 15, 1831 received of T. B. Hamilton and Charles Hunton fifty dollars and thirty nine cents being my part of the Negroes of H. Martin deceased. Sold by them as commissioners under a decree of the County Court of Prince William.

Charles B. Martin

July 15, 1831 received of T. B. Hamilton and Charles Hunton fifty dollars and thirty nine cents being my part of the Negroes of H. Martin deceased. Sold by them as commissioners under a decree of the County Court of Prince William

Susannah Martin

July 15, 1831 received of T. B. Hamilton and Charles Hunton fifty dollars and thirty nine cents being my part of the Negroes of H. Martin deceased. Sold by them as commissioners under a decree of the County Court of Prince William

Mahala Martin

July 15, 1831 received of T. B. Hamilton and Charles Hunton Two Hundred and fifty dollars and ninety five cents the same being for the several parts of Jane M. Martin, William H. Martin, Alexander H. Martin, James G. Martin and Frances G. Smith child of Elizabeth Martin who married William Smith Jr. all infants for whom I am guardian, each part being \$50.39. The same being their parts of the negroes of H. Martin deceased sold by said Hamilton and Hunton as commissioners under a decree of the County Court of Prince William.

Leaanna(?) Martin

my part of the Negroes of H. Martin deceased. Sold by them as commissioners under a decree of the County Court of Prince William

1 January 1833

Lipscomb to Shaw

For Hire of Ben - \$71.00

On the first day of January 1835, We bind ourselves our heirs &c. to pay to John Williams admns. de bonis nom of Wm. Shaw deceased the sum of seventy one dollars for the hire of Negro Ben for the year 1834, We further bind ourselves our heirs &c. to furnish said Slave with good and sufficient summer and winter clothing such as is customary for hirelings to have together with Hat, Blanket, & Shoes we further bind ourselves our heirs &c. to return said Slave to the said admistr. or any other person authorized to receive him at the end of the year clear of taxes and levies. Witness our hands and seals this 1st day of January 1833.

L.. Lipscomb (seal)

E. S. Bradfield (seal)

26 January 1833

Dade vs Keith

For Hire of Burwell

We promise to pay Charles E. Dade or his assigns the sum of fifty dollars on or before the first day of January next for the hire of a negro man named Burwell and agree to furnish him the usual summer and winter clothing with a hat and blanket, not to rehire him with out

the consent of said Dade and to return him on Christmas day next by giving him a note to his master to that effect, witness our hands and seals this 26th day of January 1833.

A. D. Keith (seal)

County Court of Prince William, Prince William County to wit: Lucien Dade administrator of Charles E. Dade deceased plaintiff complains of A. D. Keith, alias Anderson D. Keith defendant in custody, &c. of a plea of debt, for fifty dollars which to him he owes and from him unjustly detains for that the said defendant heretofore, to wit: on the 26th day of January 1833 at the county aforesaid, by his certain bill obligatory with his seal sealed, and to the court now here shown, the date whereof is the same day and year aforesaid, promised to pay to the said Charles E. Dade in his life-time the said sum of fifty dollars on or before the first day of January next (1834).

Nevertheless, the said defendant has not or yet paid the said sum of money above demanded, according to tenor and effect of the said writing obligatory, or any part thereof to the said Charles E. Dade in his life time nor to the said plaintiff administrator as aforesaid, since the death of the said Charles E. Dade (although often requested so to do) But to pay the same, or any part thereof to the said Charles E. Dade in his life time, or to the said plaintiff administrator as aforesaid since the death of the said Charles E. Dade the said defendant wholly refused, and still refused to do, to the damage of the said plaintiff of \$50.00 and thereupon he brings suit &c.

Dade p.q.

Prince William County, To wit: - Memorandum, that upon the 1st day of November in the year 1834 Stuart G. Thornton of the County of Prince William, personally appeared before me, and undertook for Anderson D. Keith at the suit of Lucien Dade administrator of Charles E. Dade deceased in an action of Debt, now depending in the County Court of Prince William, that in case the said Anderson D. Keith will pay and satisfy the condemnation of the Court, or render his body to prison in execution for the same, or that he the said Stuart G. Thornton will do it for him. Given under my hand this 1st day of November 1834.

Wm. Fewell, deputy for

M. Cleary, sheriff

I acknowledged the above recognizance of bail, and in testimony thereof have hereunto affixed my hand and seal this 1st day of November 1834.

S. G. Thornton (seal)

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greetings: We command you that you take Anderson D. Keith if he be found in your bailiwick and him safely keep, so that you have their bodies before the Justices of our County Court of Prince William, at the Court-house of the said County, on the first Monday in November next, to answer Lucien Dade administrator of Charles E. Dade deceased of a plea of Debt for \$50.00 Damage \$50.00.

And have the there this writ. Witness John Williams, clerk of our said Court, at the Court-house aforesaid, the 6th day of August 1834, and in the 59th year of our foundation.

Jno. Williams

1 January 1834
County Court of Prince William
Brawner guardian vs Hooe & Graham
For Hire of George

\$38.00 - On the 1st day of January next we promise and oblige ourselves our heirs &c. to pay or cause to be paid to William Brawner guardian for Alexander Purcell the just and full sum of Thirty Eight Dollars for the hire of George for the year 1834 and give him good summer and winter clothing, hat and blanket and treat him with humanity and return him at

Brentsville on the 1st day of January next accidents excepted. Given under our hands and seals this 1st day of January 1834.

Dade Hooe (seal)

U. Graham (seal)

Prince William County, William Brawner, guardian of Alexander S. Purcell, complains of Dade Hooe Jun. & H. Graham, alias Dade Hooe Jr. and Huriah Graham, in custody &c. of a plea, that they render unto him the sum of thirty eight dollars, which to him they owe, & from him unjustly detain, for this - that the said defendants, on the first day of January eighteen hundred & thirty four, at the county aforesaid, by their certain note in writing, sealed with their seals, and to the court now here shewn, the date whereof is on the same day and year aforesaid, at the county aforesaid, promise to pay or cause to be paid to the plaintiff, on the first day of January eighteen hundred and thirty five the said sum of thirty eight dollars, for the hire of Negro George for the year eighteen hundred and thirty four, by reason whereof, and by force of the statute in such cases provided, action has accrued to the plaintiff to demand and receive from the said defendant the said sum of thirty eight dollars. Nevertheless the said defendants, altho often thereto required, the said sum of money, or any part thereof, to the said plaintiff have not, nor has either of them paid, but the same to him to pay, the said defendants have always hitherto refused, and still do refuse to the damage of the plaintiff thirty eight dollars, and therefore he brings his suit &c.

B. Hooe P.Q.

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greetings: We command you that you take Dade Hooe Jun. and Huriah Graham if they be found in your bailiwick and them safely keep, so that you have their bodies before the Justices of our County Court of Prince William, at the Court-house of the said County, on the first Monday in June next, to answer William Brawner guardian of Alexander S. Purcell of a plea of Debt for \$38.00 Damage \$38.00.

And have the there this writ. Witness John Williams, clerk of our said Court, at the Court-house aforesaid, the 11th day of May 1835, and in the 59th year of our foundation.

Jno. Williams

Executed on Huriah Graham and Benjamin Cooper - his bail and recognizance is herewith received and Dade Hooe Jr. is not found.

Thos Shaw Deputy for
Jas Foster, Sheriff

Prince William County, To wit: - Memorandum, that upon the 1st day of June in the year 1835 Benjamin Cooper of the County of Prince William, personally appeared before me Thos Shaw deputy for Jas Foster, sheriff of Prince William County, and undertook for Huriah Graham at the suit of William Brawner guardian of Alexander S. Purcell in an action of Debt, now depending in the County Court of Prince William, that in case the said Graham will pay and satisfy the condemnation of the Court, or render his body to prison in execution for the same, or that he the said Benjamin Cooper will do it for him. Given under my hand this 1st day of June 1835.

Thos. Shaw, deputy for
Jas Foster, Sheriff

I Benjamin Cooper have acknowledged the above recognizance of bail, and in testimony thereof have hereunto affixed my hand and seal this 1st day of June 1835.

Benjamin Cooper (seal)

1 January 1834

Brawner vs Johnson

For the Hire of Betty & Child and Milly & Child

On the 1st day of January next we promise and oblige ourselves our heirs &c. to pay or cause to be paid to William Brawner, guardian for Alexander Purcell the just and full sum of thirty six dollars and fifty cents for the hire of negro Betty & child & Nelly & child for the year 1834 and give said negroes good summer and winter clothing, hat and blanket and treat then

with humanity and return them at Brentsville on the 1st day of January next accidents excepted. Given under our hands and seals this 1st day of January 1834.

Rutt Johnson (seal)

Prince William County, to wit: William Brawner guardian for Alexander Purcell complain of Rut Johnson in custody &c., of a plea that he render unto him the sum of Thirty Six Dollars and fifty cents which to him he owes and from him unjustly detains: for that the defendant on the 1st day of January in the year 1834 at the County aforesaid by his certain note in writing sealed with his seal and to the court now here shewn dated the day and year aforesaid promised and oblige himself his heirs &c. to pay or cause to be paid on the 1st day of January 1835 to William Brawner, guardian for Alexander Purcell the just and full sum of thirty six dollars and fifty cents for the hire of negro Betty & child & Milly & child.

Nevertheless the said defendant Rut Johnson although often required, the said sum of \$36.50 or any part thereof to the plaintiff hath not paid, but the same to him to pay have hitherto refused, and still do refuse, to the damage of the plaintiff \$36.50, and therefore he brings suit, &c.

John Doe & Richard Roe
Pledges, &c.

J. W. Tyler, P.Q.

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greeting: We command you that you take Rut Johnson if he be found in your bailiwick and him safely keep, so you have his body before the Justices of our County Court of Prince William, at the Court-House of the said County, on the first Monday in June next to answer William Brawner, guardian for Alexander Purcell of a plea of Debt for \$36.50 Damage \$36.50

And have then there this writ. Witness John Williams, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-house aforesaid, the 6th day of April 1835, and in the 59th year of our foundation.

Jno Williams

2 January 1834

Fairfax vs Milstead &c.

Hire of Mariah

note - We bind ourselves our heirs & assigns to pay unto William Fairfax jun his heirs or assigns the sum of twenty nine dollars for and in consideration of the services of his negro woman Mariah for the present year also to furnish the said negro with two shifts two linen petticoats and return the said negro the expiration of this year with a good suit of winter clothing including a wool hat and good blanket given under our hands and seals this 2nd day January 1834.

Teste.

James P. Carter

William Milstead (seal)

Isaac Milstead (seal)

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greeting: We command you that you take William Milstead and Isaac Milstead if they be found in your bailiwick and them safely keep, so you have their bodies before the Justices of our County Court of Prince William, at the Court-House of the said County, on the first Monday in March next to answer William Fairfax Jun of a plea of Debt for \$29 Damage \$29.

And have then there this writ. Witness John Williams, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-house aforesaid, the 6th day of February 1836, and in the 60th year of our foundation.

John Williams

Prince William County to Wit: William Fairfax Jun. complains of William Milstead and Isaac Milstead in custody &c. of a plea that they render unto him the sum of Twenty Nine Dollars which to him they owe and from him unjustly detains for that the defendants on the 2nd day of January in the year 1854 at the county aforesaid by their certain writing obligatory sealed with their seals and to the court now here shewn sealed the day and year aforesaid bound themselves their heirs & assigns to pay unto said William Fairfax jun. his heirs or assigns the sum of \$29.00 for the hire of negro woman Mariah for the year 1834.

Nevertheless the said defendants altho often requested the said sum of \$29.00 or any part thereof to the plaintiff have not paid but the same to him to pay have hitherto refused, and still do refuse to the damage of the plaintiff \$29.00 dollars & thereupon he brings suit.

John Doe
Richard Roe

Dade p.q.

Prince William County, To wit: - Memorandum, that upon the 20th day of February in the year 1836 Hendley Milstead of the County of Prince William, personally appeared before me, and undertook for Wm. Milstead & Isaac Milstead at the suit of Wm. Fairfax Jr. in action of debt, now depending in the County Court of Prince William County, that in case the said Wm Milstead & Isaac Milstead shall be cast in the said suit they the said Milstead will pay and satisfy the condemnation of the Court, or render their bodies to prison in execution for the same, or that he the said Hendley Milstead will do it for them. Given under my hand this 20th day of February 1836.

Wm. Fewell, deputy for
Jas Foster, sheriff

I acknowledged the above recognizance of bail, and in testimony thereof have hereunto set my hand and seal this 20th day of February 1836.
(seal)

Hendley Milstead

1 January 1834

Luttrell's adm. vs Milstead &c.

Hire of George

On or before the first day of January 1835 we promise to pay Joseph Lynn administrator of Thomas Luttrell his heirs or assigns the just sum of Sixty Dollars lawful money of Virginia for the hire of a Negro man George for the year of 1834 we further bind ourselves to furnish the said Negro George with all the customary summer and winter clothing give him a good hat and blanket and treat him with humanity for the performance of which we bind ourselves our heirs and each of our heirs jointly and severally and return him on the 25th of December next. Given under our hands and seals this 1st day of January 1834.

Teste, Seymour Lynn

Hendley Milstead (seal)
Isaac Milstead (seal)

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greeting: We command you that you take Hendley Milstead and Isaac Milstead if they be found in your bailiwick and them safely keep, so you have their bodies before the Justices of our County Court of Prince William, at the Court-House of the said County, on the first Monday in June next to answer Joseph R. Lynn administrator of Thomas Luttrell deceased of a plea of Debt for \$60 Damage \$60.

And have then there this writ. Witness John Williams, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-house aforesaid, the sixteenth day of May 1835, and in the 59th year of our foundation.

John Williams

Prince William County, To wit: - Memorandum, that upon the 1st day of June in the year 1835 William H. Barbee of the County of Prince William, personally appeared before me, Wm. T. Fewell deputy for Jas Foster, sheriff of Prince William County, and undertook for Hendley Milstead at the suit of Joseph R. Lynn administrator of Thomas Luttrell deceased in action of debt, now depending in the County Court of Prince William County, that in case the said Hendley Milstead shall be cast in the said suit, he the said Hendley Milstead will pay and satisfy the condemnation of the Court, or render his body to prison in execution for the same, or that he the said Wm. H. Barbee will do it for him. Given under my hand this 1st day of June 1835.

Wm. Fewell, deputy for
Jas Foster, sheriff

I Wm. H. Barbee have acknowledged the above recognizance of bail, and in testimony thereof have hereunto affixed my hand and seal this 1st day of June 1835.

Wm. H. Barbee (seal)

8 January 1834

Marsteller vs Lipscomb

On the first day of January 1835 we promise and oblige ourselves our heirs executors or administrators to pay to Cyrus C. Marsteller twenty seven dollars for the hire of negro boy Harry for the present year, to give said boy the usual clothing for summer, and to return him at Christmas with a suit of woolen clothes of a good quality & a hat, blanket and shoes, as witness our hands and seals this 8th day of January 1834.

Lucinda Lipscomb (seal)

Wesley D. Wheeler (seal)

Prince William County to wit: Cyrus C. Marsteller complains of Lucinda Lipscomb and Wesley D. Wheeler in custody &c. of a plea of debt, that they render unto him the sum of twenty-seven dollars which to him they owe and from him unjustly detain. For that whereas heretofore to wit., on the 8th day of January in the year 1834 at the county aforesaid, said plaintiffs by their certain writing obligatory sealed with there seals and to the court here shown, the date whereof is on the day and year aforesaid promised to pay to plaintiff the said sum of money on the first day of January 1835. Nevertheless the said plaintiffs have not paid the aforesaid sum of money or any part thereof to plaintiffs although often requested, but the same to pay have hitherto refused, and still refuses, to plaintiffs. Witness refused, and still refuse, to plaintiffs damage \$27.00 therefore he brings his suit.

Tebbs, p.q.

Prince William County, To wit: - Memorandum, that upon the 25th day of April in the year 1835 Francis D. Melis of the County of Prince William, personally appeared before me, Thos J. Shaw deputy for J. Foster, sheriff of Prince William County, and undertook for Wesley D. Wheeler and Lucinda Lipscomb at the suit of Cyrus C. Marsteller in action of debt, now depending in the County Court of Prince William County, that in case the said Lipscomb & Wheeler will pay and satisfy the condemnation of the Court, or render their bodies to prison in execution for the same, or that he the said Francis W. Melis will do it for them. Given under my hand this 25th day of April 1835.

Thos. Shaw, deputy for

Jas Foster, sheriff

I Francis W. Melis have acknowledged the above recognizance of bail, and in testimony thereof have hereunto affixed my hand and seal this 25th day of April 1835.

Francis W. Melis (seal)

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greeting: We command you that you take Lucinda Lipscomb and Wesley D. Wheeler if they be found in your bailiwick and them safely keep, so you have their bodies before the Justices of our County Court of Prince William, at the Court-House of the said County, on the first Monday in June next to answer Cyrus C. Marsteller of a plea of Debt for \$27 Damage \$27.

And have then there this writ. Witness John Williams, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-house aforesaid, the third day of March 1835, and in the 59th year of our foundation.

John Williams

1 January 1835

Williams vs Waite

For Hire of Abram

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greeting: We command you that you take William Waite and Richard Atkinson if they be found in your bailiwick and them safely keep, so you have their bodies before the Justices of our County

Court of Prince William, at the Court-House of the said County, on the first Monday in March next to answer Jane Williams of a plea of Debt for \$51.50 Damage \$51.50

And have then there this writ. Witness John Williams, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-house aforesaid, the 25th day of February 1836, and in the 60th year of our foundation.

John Williams

On or before the 1st day of January 1836 we bind ourselves and our heirs jointly and severally, to pay to Jane Williams, Fifty one dollars and fifty cents, for the hire of negro Abram during the year 1835. And we further bind ourselves and our heirs, to provide the said negro with suitable and sufficient clothing during the said year, and to return him on the 25th day of December 1835 to the said Jane Williams or other person legally entitled to receive the same, with a new and complete suit of suitable materials, and other usual clothing, including a new pair of strong shoes, a new wool hat and a four point blanket. Witness our hands and seals this 1st day of January 1835

William Waitt (seal)

Richard Atkinson (seal)

11 June 1835

Hooe vs Milstead

Hire of Slave Davy

We or either of us promise to pay to D. F. Hooe of Alexandria D.C. on or before the first of January next ensuing this date the just and full sum of sixty dollars lawful money of this Commonwealth it being for the hire of Negro slave Davy for the present year, which negro slave Davy we promise to return on the twenty fifth day of Dec next with clothes with the usual winter clothing including hat & blanket clear of all encumbrances whatsoever, for the ___ & ___ performance of whist we bind ourselves our heirs executors & administrators in the penal sum of one hundred and twenty dollars as witness our hands & seals this 11th day of June 1835.

Hendley Milstead (seal)

William Davis (seal)

Noah Milstead (seal)

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greeting: We command you that you take Hendley Milstead, William Davis and Noah Milstead if they be found in your bailiwick and them safely keep, so you have their bodies before the Justices of our County Court of Prince William, at the Court-House of the said County, on the first Monday in March next to answer Daniel F. Hooe of a plea of Debt for \$50.00 Damage \$50.00

And have then there this writ. Witness John Williams, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-house aforesaid, the 3rd day of February 1836, and in the 60th year of our foundation.

John Williams

27 July 1835

Barnes & Sewell Two Negroes vs Champe Terry

Elizabeth Ann Barnes & Elizabeth Sewell - Two Negroes

Evidence

3 August 1835 Leave to file a petition to sue Champe Terry in forma pauperis on Wednesday next.

4 August 1835 motion made by Terry to have negroes delivered to him & negroes delivered to C. Terry on ___ of all costs.

Jas. Ball sworn - Mr. Enoch Smallwood & Wm. Ball bought them from the jail & delivered them to carriage. His brother told him the negroes were sold for the Jail fees. Evan G. Jeffries was the purchaser. Mr. Jas Ball (defendant) says he lives in district colored or Virginia side of Potoc. River. Mr. Childs sworn - Knows Mr. Dorsey a pilot living in Fleet St., Fells Point, Baltimore.

Mr. Wm. Cockrell sworn - On asking the girls where they were going one of them replied she was a free girl & going to Georgia sold as a slave but only for her Jail fees. She was taken from the Jail this morning in Washington at day break. On mentioning to Mr. Ball that I had been informed that those negroes. He made no satisfactory reply.

Mr. Farrow sworn - states that on learning the facts in the case - He obtained a warrant & pursued Mr. Ball who rather objected returning but afterwards came back with him to Dumfries the negro girls were chained together at their feet.

Elizabeth Barnes states she was one of the negro girls born in St. Marys County Md. that her Grand Mother Patience Barnes was set free by Colonel Barnes of that County. Her Mother's name was Mary Barnes who lived in Baltimore but is now dead - that she was raised by Mrs. Polly Dorsey of St. Mary's. Left her about 3 years ago in Baltimore . Mrs. Dorsey now lives in Fleet St. close by the Methodist grave yard. She was living with her aunt Susan Hundy when Mr. Everett a shopkeeper in Pratt Street Baltimore at corner near the Bridge shipped her as a Cook to go a fishing on the Potomack River with Squire Norris below Alexandria on the Maryland side of the River. Mr. Norris she thinks was a partner of Mr. Hollis an old established fisherman on the Potomack.

She knows Mr. Donoho & Mr. Musgrove fisherman from Baltimore - On her return home to Balt. she was taking up in Washington City by Thomas Barry or Barret a constable & put in Jail about the last of Fishing time where she has remained until she was sold out for her Jail Fees - There were but three strangers present when she was sold and the sale took place inside Jail.

Mr. Richard Speake sworn - He recollects when a youth about 1803 lived in the lower edge Charles County Md. & frequently heard of Col. Barnes who died some years afterwards & it was reported at the time that he left a great many negroes free.

Elizabeth Swell the other Negro girl states that she was born in Baltimore free - her mother then having been set free by Mr. Nathaniel Chew of West River Md. She was raised on Federal Hill Balt. and was living Wiltmase Bridge in Frederick Street when she engaged with Mrs. Everett to go as a Cook for Mr. Norris: fishing shore. She states that she acquainted with Peter Cox on the new dock, Mrs David Spencer who lives on Gray Street her husband makes store ___ in Frederick Street & Pracilla Johnson on Federal Hill. She states that she left fishing shore a short time before the fishing was over and went to Washington arrived there on one Saturday evening and was taken on Sunday the next day by Thomas Barnett or Barry a constable and was committed to jail by a justice where she remained until this morning when she was taken out before day - She states that there is another free woman named Nancy Jones who is now in jail in Washington who she understood was to be sold out in a few days - She states that when she was sold in the jail and there was only six persons present viz Wm. Ball the jailor, his son, Mr. Tippet and three strangers.

Commitment

Prince William County to wit: To the Jailor of said County. Whereas Eliza Ann Barnes & Eliza Swell free negro women, lately in possession of James Ball of the county aforesaid made complaint before us that they were illegally held in slavery by the said James Ball whereupon the said James Ball was summoned to appear before us to answer the said complaint and the said James Ball appearing and failing to give bond and security according to law to suffer the said Eliza Ann Barnes and Eliza Sewell to appear at the next court to be held for the said county then and there to petition for leave to sue in the form of a poor persons for the recovery of their freedom - These are therefore to require you to take the said Eliza Ann Barnes and Eliza Sewell into your custody and them safely keep until the next court to be held for the said county when and where you are to produce the said Eliza Ann Barnes and Eliza Sewell - Given under our hands and seals this 27th day of July 1835.

Jno W. Williams (seal)

W. T. Colquhoun (seal)

Evidence

Mr. Ball states that he is the son of Mr. Robert Ball the Jailor of Washington City & that the negroes were delivered to him by his brother William Ball & Mr. Enoch Smallwood of Washington City.

W. T. Colquhoun
Jno W. Williams

4 August 1835

**Elizabeth Ann Barnes & Elizabeth Sewell
Sue Champ Terry for Freedom**

In the County Court of Prince William August 4th 1835. The following is a statement of the costs connected with the application of two negro women, to wit: Elizabeth Ann Barnes and Elizabeth Sewell, to be permitted to sue Champ Terry for their freedom, and the order directing said negroes to be delivered up to said Terry upon his paying all costs - \$9.28 cents.

Teste, Jno. Williams C.C.

1 January 1836

**Foote vs Hayes &c.
For Hire of Annie**

We Richard Hays & Catherine Green bind ourselves &c. to pay Haywood Foote his heirs &c. the sum of \$44 on or before the 1st day of January 1836.

The condition of the above obligation is such that if the above bound Hays & Green their heirs &c. shall pay to said Foote his heirs &c. the sum of \$22 on or before the 1st day of January 1836 for the hire of a negro girl named Annie hired by said Hays for the year 1835 and shall return said negro to said Foote on the 25th day of December 1835 well clothed with the usual summer and winter clothing or else remain in full force. Given under our hands and seals this 2nd day of January 1835.

Witness, John Fitzhugh

Richard Hayes (seal)
Catherine Green (seal)

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greeting: We command you that you take Richard Hayes and Catherine Green if they be found in your bailiwick and them safely keep, so you have their bodies before the Justices of our County Court of Prince William, at the Court-House of the said County, on the first Monday in March next to answer Haywood Foote of a plea of Debt for \$44.00 Damage \$44.00

And have then there this writ. Witness John Williams, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-house aforesaid, the 7th day of February 1836, and in the 60th year of our foundation.

John Williams

[Executed on Catherine Green and Richard Hayes is not found - Thos Shaw D.S. for James Foster]

Prince William County, to wit: Hayward Foote complains of Richard Hayes & Catherine Green in custody, &c., of a plea that they render unto him the sum of forty four dollars, to be discharged by the payment of twenty two dollars which to him they owe and from him unjustly detain: for that the defendants on the 2nd day of January in the year 1835 at the County aforesaid, by their certain writing obligatory sealed with their seals and to the court now here shewn dated the day and year aforesaid, bound themselves their heirs &c. to pay unto the said H. Foote the said sum of forty four dollars to be discharged by the said sum of twenty two dollars, to be paid on the first day of January 1836.

Nevertheless the said defendants, although often required, the said sum of forty four dollars or any part thereof to the plaintiff hath not paid, but the same to him to pay have hitherto refused, and still do refuse, to the damage of the plaintiff forty four dollars, and therefore he brings suit, &c.

John Doe & Richard Roe
Pledges, &c.

Foote P.Q.

6 March 1836

Commonwealth vs Jesse Bates

The Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Sheriff of Prince William County, Greetings: You are hereby commanded to summon George Cockrell and Henry Chapman to appear before the Justices of our County Court of Prince William at the Court -House of the said county, on the 1st day of April court next, the truth to say in behalf of us in a certain matter of controversy in our said court, before our said Justices, depending and undetermined between The Commonwealth and Jesse Bates defendant. And this they shall in no wise omit, under the penalty of one hundred pounds.

Witness, John Williams, Clerk of our said court, at the Court-House, aforesaid, this 15th day of March 1836, and in the 60th year of our foundation. Jno Williams

Prince William County to Wit: To the Sheriff of the said County, Whereas Jess Bates a free colored man of the County aforesaid was this day committed to the jail of this county by my warrant for entering the stable of George Cockrell on the 5 inst. at night in Dumfries & there cutting & maiming three of his horses it appearing to me that the following offence wherewith he stands charged ought to be examined into by the court therefore on behalf of the Commonwealth I require you that you summon at least eight of the justices of your said county to meet at the Court House on the 12 day of March and then & there to hold a Court for examation of the fact with which the said Jess Bates stands charged and for such purposes concerning the premises and that you have then there this warrant. Given under my hand and seal this 6th March 1836.

To the Sheriff to
his Deputies of
Prince William County

W. S. Colquhoun

Prince William County to Wit: The Commonwealth of Virginia to the Sheriff of the said County and to all and singular the Commonwealths officers of justice in the said County Greetings: Whereas George Cockrell of Dumfries hath this day came before me W. S. Colquhoun a justice of the peace for the county aforesaid and hath made oath that he hath cause to suspect & do suspect that Jess Bates colored free negro did on the night of the 5th March inst. at Dumfries go to his said Geo Cockrells stable and then and there did cut and maim three of his horses, one of them on the throat & the other two on the shoulder. These are therefore to require you to apprehend the said Jes Bates and bring him before me or some other justice of the peace for said County of Prince William to answer the premises and further to be dealt with according to law. Given under my hand and seal this 6th March 1836.

W. S. Colquhoun

Summon Witnesses
George H. Cockrell
Henry Chapman
Mrs. Gilbert Wellington

Prince William County to wit: Memorandum that upon this 6th day of March 1836 George Cockrell & Henry Chapman came before me the subscriber a justice of the peace for said county and acknowledged themselves indebted to L. W. Tazewell Governor of Virginia in the sum of fifty dollars each for their appearance at the court to be holden at Brentsville, Prince William County Court House there to give evidence in the case of the Commonwealth vs Jess Bates concerning matters wherein he is charged & that they do not depart from the court without leave of the said court then this allegation to be void else to remain.

Acknowledged before me

W. S. Colquhoun

August 1836
Commonwealth vs Gilbert, Addison, & Jarret
On a Charge of Murder

Commonwealth vs Addison

Prince William County to wit: Whereas Benjamin Cole hath this day given information upon oath to me J. E. Weems, a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid that on the 22nd day of April last past, at the county aforesaid certain slaves namely Addison, Janat, & Gilbert the property of Henry Fairfax did murder Clairborne Simms of the aforesaid County.

These are therefore in the name of the Commonwealth, to require you to apprehend the said slaves Addison, Jarrett & Gilbert and bring them before me or some other justice of the peace for the said County or Thomas Davis' to answer the premises, and further to be dealt with according to law. Given under my hand and seal, at Brentsville in the County aforesaid this 4th day of July 1836.

J. E. Weems

To Samuel Tansil, constable

["executed summon Benson Lynn, Joshua Taylor, Lawrence Cole, Daniel Carter, Eliza Sims, Marter Davis, Richard Arrington, Willie Cornwell, Levi Cornwell, Wm. Hutchison, Barney, Jim Wood, Jim Carter, Sandy Thomas, George, Harry, Arm Wood, Alfred, Enoch, Troy signed, S. H. Janney (seal)"]

Commonwealth vs Addison & Others

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County Greeting: You are hereby commanded to summon Robert Bland to appear before the Justices of our County Court of Prince William at the Court-House of the said county on the first day of August court next to testify and the truth to speak in behalf of the defendants in a certain matter of controversy in our said court before our said justices depending and undetermined between the Commonwealth aforesaid plaintiff and Negroes Addison & Others the property of Henry Fairfax defendants. And this he shall in no wise omit under the penalty of 100 pounds and have then their this writ. Witness John Williams clerk of our said court at the court house aforesaid this 23rd day of July 1836 and in the 61st year of our foundation.

Jno. Williams

Commonwealth vs Addison &c. - Recognizance

Prince William County to wit: Recognizance of the witnesses. Memorandum, that upon this 6th day of July in the year 1836 Benson Lynn, Joshua Taylor, Lawrence Cole, Eliza Sims, Martin Davis, Willie Cornwell, Levi Cornwell, William Hutchison of said county came before me Thomas Nelson a justice of the peace for the county aforesaid, and each of them of his proper person acknowledged himself indebted to Wyndham Robertson Esquire, acting governor or Chief Magistrate, of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and his successors, in the sum, of one hundred dollars, to be levied severally of each of their goods and chattels, lands and tenements, respectively to the use of the said Commonwealth; upon condition, that if each of them do personally appear before the Commonwealth's Justices of the peace for the said County of Prince William, on the 12th day of this month (July) at a court by them to be held, at the Court House of the said county, for the examination of Negroes, Addison, Jarrot & Gilbert charged with the murder of Clairborne Simms then and there, on behalf of the said Commonwealth, give such evidence as he know against the said Negroes Addison, Jarrot & Gilbert concerning the matters wherewith they are charged, and that neither of them, do depart without leave of the said court, then this recognizance to be void or else remain in full force.

Thos. Nelson, J.P. (seal)

Prince William County to wit: Whereas oath has been made before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for said county by Henry Fairfax that he has good cause to believe that Richard Stonnell, Doctor Sanders of Occoquan, John Jackson, Mr. Richard Stonnell, Maria, and Old Jesse Wright a colored man belonging to the estate of Jesse Scott deceased are material witnesses in the case of the Commonwealth vs Jarret, Addison & Gilbert charged with a felony. These are therefore to require you to cause the said R. Stonnell, John Jackson Sanders, Sandy, Maria, & Jesse Wright (Edward Field and W. P. Carter were crossed out) to

appear at Brentsville on Tuesday 12th July at the Court house concerning the said offence.
Given under my hand and seal this 9th July 1836.

To W. H. Norvell
or any other constable
of P. W. County

W. S. Colquhoun (seal)

Prince William County to wit: Whereas oath hath been made before me M. S. Colquhoun a justice of the peace for the county aforesaid by Henry Fairfax that he has good cause to believe that Edward A. Janney, John Bland, Jas McAboy & Robert Bates & Geo. Cockrell are material witnesses in a case of Felony the Commonwealth against Jarrott, Addison, Gilbert, slaves of said Henry Fairfax. These are therefore to require you to cause the said persons to proceed to Brentsville on Tuesday the 12th inst. to give evidence in the case aforesaid. Given under my hand and seal this 11th July 1836.

W. H. Norvell
Constable

W. S. Colquhoun

Commonwealth vs Addison

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County Greeting: You are hereby commanded to summon Eliza Simms, Manassa Russell, & William Carter to appear before the Justices of our said County Court of Prince William, at the Court-house of the said County, on the 1st day of August Court 1836, to testify and the truth to speak on behalf of the Commonwealth in a certain matter of controversy depending and undetermined in the said Court between Commonwealth & Slaves Addison &c. the property of Henry Fairfax.

And this they shall in no wise omit under the penalty of 100 pounds: And have then there this writ. Witness John Williams clerk of our said Court, at the Court-house aforesaid, the 12th day of July 1836, and in the 61th year of our foundation,

John Williams

Commonwealth vs Addison

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County Greeting: You are hereby commanded to summon Mary a Slave at John F. Davis' - Old Daniel, Eveline and Ann slaves belonging to Henry Fairfax - Bill at Benjamin Cole's to appear before the Justices of our said County Court of Prince William, at the Court-house of the said County, on the 1st Monday in August next to testify and the truth to speak on behalf of the Commonwealth in a certain matter of controversy depending and undetermined in the said Court between Commonwealth & Slaves Addison, Gilbert and Jarrat the property of Henry Fairfax.

And this they shall in no wise omit under the penalty of 100 pounds: And have then there this writ. Witness John Williams clerk of our said Court, at the Court-house aforesaid, the 12th day of July 1836, and in the 61th year of our foundation,

John Williams

Commonwealth vs Addison

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County Greeting: You are hereby commanded to summon Richard Stonnell, Addison H. Sanders, John Jackson, M. Richard Stonnell's Maria, and Old Jesse Wright a coloured man belonging to the estate of Jesse Scott deceased to appear before the Justices of our said County Court of Prince William, at the court house of said county, on the first Monday in August next, to testify and the truth to speak in behalf of Jarrot, Addison, and Gilbert slaves (belonging to Hanry Fairfax) and of the Commonwealth - in a certain matter of controversy in the said Court. And this they shall in no wise omit under the penalty of law.

And have then there this writ: Witness John Williams clerk of our said Court, at the Court-house aforesaid, the 12th day of July 1836, and in the 61th year of our foundation,

John Williams

Commonwealth vs Addison

Prince William County, to wit: To the Sheriff of said County. Whereas, Gerard, Gilbert, & Addison negroes the property of Henry Fairfax were this day committed to the jail of this county, by warrant under the hand and seal of Jesse. Weems, Gent. for having murdered a certain Claiborne Sims of aforesaid County it appearing to me, that the felonious offence wherewith they stand charged ought to be examined into by the county court; therefore on behalf of the Commonwealth, I require you, that you summon at least eight of the justices of your said county to meet at the court house, on the twelfth day of July inst and then and there to hold a court for the examination of the fact, with which the said Negroes Gerard, Gilbert & Addison, aforesaid stands charged, and for such other purposes concerning the premises, as is by law required and directed; and that you have then there this warrant. Given under my hand and seal this sixth day of July in the year 1836, and in the 61st year of the Commonwealth.

Robt Williams J. P. (seal)

Commonwealth vs Addison

Prince William County, to wit: To the Sheriff (or any Constable) of the said county, and to the keeper of the Jail of the said County. These are to command you, the said Samuel Tansill in the name of the commonwealth to convey and deliver into the custody of the said keeper of the said jail the body of Addison, Jarrat & Gilbert, slaves the property of Henry Fairfax late of Prince William County charged before me with the murder of Clairbourne Sims.

And you the said jailor, are hereby required to receive the said slaves Addison, Jarratt & Gilbert the property of H. Fairfax into your jail and custody, and him there safely keep, ill he shall thence be discharged by due course of law. Given under my hand and seal this 6 day of July in the year 1836 and in the 61 year of the Commonwealth.

J. E. Weems J. P. (seal)

Commonwealth vs Gilbert

Eliza Simms a witness on behalf of the Commonwealth stated that on the 22nd day of April 1836 her husband Clabourne Simms left the house in which he lived about a half hour ___ in the morning, just before he left the house he inquired of a negro girl named Mary where the keys were, she said she forgot them, He then inquired of his horse had been fed, she said his horse had not been fed, that Gilbert the prisoner had not come, he then asked witness for Capt. Fairfax's money and witness gave him his purse with \$5.00 of Capt. Fairfax's money & two of his own, in it - He opened a drawer in which there was about eight dollars & seventy five cents, which he left, Witness between 9 and 11 o'clock heard the prisoner say to Mary here are the keys, & he gave the keys to her & she brought them in the house, they were the keys of the Corn House &c. witness two children the oldest above five years old, were in the room with a ___ when the keys were brought in, the door of Witness room was closed when the keys were brought in; Witness' husband had a scar between the knee and waist on each leg, they were very plain, one of them about as long as witness ___ the other not quite so long, they were produced by being snagged against a rail pen and ___ or ___ a marsh, his ankles & feet were very small, his toes green to a point, three of his toes on ___ foot witness does not know had been mashed by a corn wheel caused them to ___ out and they were stiff; One of his green toes had been mashed and the one was nearly off, which of his great toes witness does not know, his hair was a reddish brown colour, (3 more pages of testimony)

Commonwealth vs Gilbert

Virginia, Prince William County, To wit: Be it remembered that John Gibson attorney for the Commonwealth for the County of Prince William here this first day of August in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty six into a special court of the Commonwealth of Oyer and Terminer composed of the Justices of the Peace of the County of Prince William aforesaid duly organized according to the provisions of the act of the General Assembly of Virginia in such case made and provided for the trial of Slaves charged with treason or felony, and for the said Commonwealth giveth the court to understand and be informed that a certain negro man - slave named Gilbert late of the County of Prince William aforesaid the property of one Henry Fairfax of the said County of Prince William on the twenty second day of April in the year

aforesaid not having the fear of God before his eyes being moved and deduced by the instigation of the devil, with force and arms at the county aforesaid, in and upon one Clabourne Simms in the Peace of God and of the Commonwealth, then and there being Feloniously, willfully, and of his malice aforethought did make an assault, and that the said Negro Slave named the property of the said Henry Fairfax with a certain staff, which said staff the said negro weapon before named in his right hand then and there had and held, then and there feloniously, willfully and of his malice aforethought did strike and wound the said Clabourne Simms in and upon the body of him the said Clabourne Simms giving to him the said Clabourne Simms then and there with the staff as aforesaid by force of the blow aforesaid, by the said negro man slave named Gilbert in and upon the body of him one mortal wound of which mortal wound he the said Clabourne Simms then and there instantly died, and so the said attorney saith that the said negro man slave named Gilbert - The property of the said Henry Fairfax, him the said Clabourne Simms in the manner and by the means aforesaid feloniously, willfully, and of his malice aforethought did kill and murder against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth and against the force of the act of the General Assembly of Virginia in such case made and promised. And the said attorney further gives the court to understand and be informed that a certain negro man Slave named Gilbert late of the County of Prince William, the property of one Henry Fairfax of the said County, on the twenty second day of April in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty six, not having the fear of God before his eyes, but being moved and seduced by the instigation of the devil, with force and arms at the county aforesaid, in and upon one Clabourne Simms - in the Peace of God and of the Commonwealth, then and there being feloniously, willfully and of his malice aforethought did make an assault and that the said negro man slave named the property of the said Henry Fairfax, with the right fist of him the said negro man slave named Gilbert the said Clabourne Simms in and upon the body of the said Clabourne Simms then and there feloniously, willfully and of his malice aforethought did strike and bruise and him the said Clabourne Simms with his the said negro man slave named Gilbert, right fist aforesaid did beat and throw down to the ground and that he the said negro man slave named Gilbert the said Clabourne Simms - so lying upon the ground in and upon the head, neck, breast, belly, sides and back of him the said Clabourne Simms then and there feloniously, willfully and of his malice aforethought, did strike and kick by reason of which said kicking and bruising of the said Clabourne __ on the said body of the said Clabourne Simms with the fist of him the said negro man slave named Gilbert and of the beating and throwing him to the ground aforesaid; and also by reason of the kicking of the said Clabourne Simms with the said feet of him the said negro man slave name Gilbert on the body of the said Clabourne Simms he the said Clabourne Simms from the aforesaid striking and kicking at the county aforesaid, did languish, and languishing did live; on which said twenty seven day of April in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty six at the county of Prince William aforesaid he the said Clabourne Simms of the striking and bruising, beating and kicking aforesaid did - and so the said attorney saith that the said negro man slave named Gilbert him the said Clabourne Simms in the manner and by the means last aforesaid feloniously, willfully, and of his malice aforethought, did kill and murder against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth and against the force of the act of the General Assembly of Virginia in such case made and promised.

John Gibson Attorney
for the Commonwealth
in the County Court for
Prince William

[August 1, 1836 Negroes Addison, Gilbert and Jarrat acquitted & discharged]

December 1836

Commonwealth vs Abram a Slave

Trial by a Court of Oyer and Terminer of the County of Prince William on the 22nd day of December 1836, on a charge of attempting to ravish a white female named Mary Jane Hurdle.

Synopsis of evidence and witnesses for Commonwealth

(1) Evidence of Mary Jane Hurdle - Was in Brentsville on Friday the 16th inst. remained in town about an hour, was at the houses of M___ Clifford and Capt. B. Norvill - left the house of the latter about 2 o'clock p.m., as she was told it was, and went down the main street by Mr. Waggener's tavern & left the town to go home by the bridge over Cedar Run on the road to Dumfries - Did not see the Prisoner whilst in Brentsville nor until she got to the hill above the said bridge between said bridge & said town, at which hill she met the prisoner who turned around and followed her addressing her saucily & inappropriately laying his hands on her shoulders - Witness then threatened prisoner with lashing before a magistrate, at Brentsville, then he told her he did not live in Brentsville, Witness then turned around to go back to Brentsville, when the Prisoner said to her "Girl go long home, I wont trouble you," and followed her as she went back towards said town. Witness went back as far as within sight of Mr. John Williams' house in Brentsville the one furthest in that direction she was, at an oak tree on the roadside. When she got so far prisoner made the capression above stated, whereupon witness, thinking prisoner would not farther molest her again returned towards home over said bridge. When witness got over said bridge just beyond the plank bridge over the culvert, prisoner, who had followed her closely behind from said tree, seized hold of her with violence around the waist, threw her down saying to her in substance that he would do it to her or would satisfy his desire at the risqué of his life. Tore her clothes very much particularly her under dress, in his attempt to gratify his desire, but did not succeed. Witness does not recollect the precise words used by the prisoner in his attempt to ravish her - She believes that it was his intention to ravish her, and used words to that effect, and prisoner said that if she did not give up and hush hollowing he would kill her. Seized her by the throat, attempted to choke her, and as she believes, to break her neck. Choked her three times - Witness got away from him once, & ran 5 or 6 yards, when prisoner again seized her & repeated similar violence, attempting to ravish her as she verily believes. Prisoner put his hand over her mouth to prevent her hollowing & as she believes, to stop her breath - then as if to rest himself laid across her neck, less than a minute - Directly afterwards witness saw persons coming down the road on the side of the said bridge next to said town, when she hollowed as loud as she could, weak as she was, whereupon prisoner left her, jumped down the wall of the abutment of bridge, half bent, and ran up the run over which said bridge is erected - Prisoner being shown to witness face to face, she swears that he is the identical person who attempted to ravish her as above stated. Witness states that prisoner in attempting to ravish her, lifted her clothes above her knees - tore her clothes in struggling.

Cross Examined - Prisoner's breath smelled strong of ardent spirits, but was not drunk, did not appear as if he was drunk - Twas early in evening when prisoner attacked witness near said culvert, as well as she recollected - thinks he was alarmed when he ran off as before stated. Does not recollect the precise hour in the evening when prisoner attacked witness last mentioned.

(2) Evidence of Slave names William Alexander belonging to Portician Robinson of Richmond, after being duly sworn and charged:

Witness & a slave named Van belonging to Capt. Norvill of Brentsville were going down the road to said Bridge from Brentsville, on the day mentioned by first witness above, and had gotten to the turn of the road immediately next to the point or jut of rocks close to said bridge on the Brentsville side, when they heard the cries of a female on the other side of the said bridge. They immediately ran over the bridge to where she was, to wit, on the eastern abutment, just by the culvert bridge, and there found her standing in great distress, her hair all loosened, her clothes torn, and her dress non pinned & off her shoulders, which witness pinned for her - Asked her what was the matter - She said there was a man who was trying to kill her - Witness asked where he was - She replied that there he went, pointing up the Run on which said bridge is erected. Witness looked in that direction & saw a man running off, which he could not recognize owing to bushes &c. - Witness ran after him about 100 yards, without overtaking him & returned to where said female was found. Said female was Mary Jane Hurdle who testified above. Witness said to her the man must have been drunk, to which she replied that she thought he must have been, for that his breath stunk very bad of whiskey. Witness

then returned to Brentsville, & she went on home with said servant Van, saying that she could not go alone.

(3) William Dickinson - Witness being sworn says: He was with the party who arrested prisoner at the House of Mr. Robert Williams near Brentsville, and thought prisoner was much alarmed when arrested.

(4) James H. Reid - Witness being sworn says: Witness , on wrong of same day above mentioned, thinking that prisoner might be hid in the house belonging to Mr. Robert Williams last mentioned, or thereabouts, proposed to several persons to go in pursuit & search of prisoner - accordingly they proceeded towards said house. Witness at head of party entered the said house, passed through the front room into a shed-room, and in a corner of the latter found the prisoner crouching apparently in a state of alarm. Witness seized him by the arm & drew him out into said front room. He manifested much alarm when he seized him as if he was apprehensive of an attack - Did not appear so much alarmed afterwards - is a dull, stupid fellow - Does not think prisoner an idiot - thinks his intellect below the medium capacity of common slaves - thinks he could discriminate between right and wrong. Witness states that the house of Mr. Robert Williams above referred to, viz in the occupancy of James W. Driskell as his tenant, & that witness was induced to penetrate into said shed room from information he received from Mr. Driskill at the door that prisoner had fled there. Prisoner at first denied that he was guilty of the attack on Mary Jane Hurdle above mentioned, but, about an hour after his arrest confessed it, upon being told that it would not make the situation worse. Dr. Marsteller urged him to make the confession as he will explain.

(5) William S. Fewell - Witness being duly sworn says: That prisoner denied attacking Mary Jane Hurdle when he was first arrested in manner above testified - but after he was carried to jail & when the prisoner was about to be locked in the prison room, witness and several others urged prisoner to confess all about the transaction, to tell all bout it, saying to him that it would not make any the worse for him to confess it, that he might as well tell them all about it, it would make none the worse for him. Prisoner thereupon in answer to questions, stated that he had made an attack on Mary Jane Hurdle first on the hill this side of said bridge, again on the other side, pretty much as she has above testified. Prisoner further said that he would not have done it if he had not have been drunk.

(6) Dr. Richard H. Marsteller - Being sworn, says: He believes that prisoner was induced to make confession as stated by witnesses James H. Reid and William S. Fewell, by being informed that it would not injure his situation, or make it worse for him - Witness asked prisoner why he committed the act, to which he replied that he was drunk.

(7) William S. Fewell - Again examined - says that he and several others went in pursuit of the person who had made the attack on Mary Jane Hurdle on the day before mentioned, and up the run aforesaid, near Farrow Rock, opposite a Spring called Farrow's or Goodwin's Spring, he traced the shoe tracks of some person who apparently had just waded over said run, the tracks being on both side of the run. witness further states that, about an hour & a half after he saw said tracks, he saw prisoner under arrest, & examined his pantaloons and found them to be wet - and also examined his shoe the toe of which appeared to correspond with the tracks aforesaid.

Lucien Davis
appointed by the Special
request and direction of the
Court to prosecute on behalf of
attorney for the Commonwealth

Virginia, Prince William County to Wit: To Wm. B. Brawner, constable of said County and Wm. Dickson, jailor of said County.

These are to command you on the said Wm. B. Brawner constable as aforesaid in the name of the Commonwealth to convey and deliver into the custody of the said Jail the body of Abram a negro man slave the property of Mrs. Jane Williams charged before me with feloniously assault Mary Jane Hurdle with a view of ravishing and carnally knowing her against her will; And you the said Jailor are hereby required to receive the said negro slave Abram into

your jail and custody and him their safely keep rill he shall be discharged by due course of law.
Given under my hand & the 64th year of the Commonwealth.

Lawrence G. Alexander (seal)

Virginia Prince William County to Wit: To the Sheriff of Prince William County -
Whereas Abram a negro man slave the property of Mrs. Jane Williams was this day committed
to the Jail of the county by my warrant for feloniously assaulting Mary Jane Hurdle with a
view(?) of ravishing and carnally knowing her against her will it appearing to me that the
felonious offence wherewith he stands charged ought to be examined into by the county-court.
Therefore on behalf of the Commonwealth I require you, that you summon at least eight of the
justices of your said county to meet at the court house on the 22nd day of December 1836 and
then and there to hold for the examination of the fact with which the said Abram stands
charged and for such other purposes concerning the premises, as is by law required and
directed and that you have then there this warrant. Given under my hand & seal this 10th day
of December 1836.

Lawrence G. Alexander (seal)

Virginia, Prince William County to wit:: Be it remembered that Lucian Dade who is
appointed by the special request and direction of the Court to prosecute in this case on the
behalf of the attorney for the Commonwealth - the said attorney being absent, who, for the said
Commonwealth presents in the person of the said attorney, cometh here on this the twenty
second day of December one thousand eight hundred and thirty six into a special court of the
Commonwealth, of Oyer and Terminer composed of the justices of the peace of the County of
Prince William, duly organized according to the provisions of the act of the General Assembly in
such cases made and provided, for the trial of slaves charged with treason or felony, and for
the said Commonwealth giveth the court here to understand and be informed, that a certain
negro man slave named Abram, late of the said County of Prince William the property of one
Jane Williams of the County aforesaid on the sixteenth day of December in the year one
thousand eight hundred and thirty six, about the hour of one o'clock in the afternoon of the
same day with force and arms, the county aforesaid, and within the jurisdiction of the Court
aforesaid, in and upon one Mary Jane Hurdle single woman, then and there being, violently
and feloniously did make an assault and her the said Mary Jane Hurdle against the will of her
the said Mary Jane Hurdle then and there feloniously did attempt to ravish and carnally know
against the form of the act of the General Assembly in such case made and provided, and
against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Lucien Dade

appointed by the special request
and direction of the court to
prosecute on behalf of the attor.
for the Commonwealth

["Prisoner, Abram found guilty of offence and condemned to be hanged on 2nd Friday in
February 1837"]

2 January 1837

Ford assignee of Hedges vs Williams

Hire of George

We bind ourselves our heirs &c. to pay Mary Hedges the sum of Fifty dollars for the hire
of Negro boy George for the year 1837. We further bind ourselves our heirs &c. to furnish said
slave with good and sufficient summer and winter clothing such as is customary for hirelings
to have and to return him to said Mary Hedges or other person authorized to receive him on
the 1st day of January 1838 well clothed including hat and blanket & shoes. Witness our
hands & seals this 2nd day of January 1837.

Robert Williams (seal)

Margaret Williams (seal)

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greetings: We command you to take Robert Williams and Margaret Williams if they be found in your bailiwick and them safely keep so that you have their bodies before the Justices of our said County Court, at the Court-house of the said county, on the first Monday in August inst. to answer Thomas C. Ford assignee of Mary Hedges of a plea of debt for \$50.00 - damage \$50

And have then there this writ. Witness, Phillip D. Dawe, Clerk of our said court, at the court-house aforesaid, this 4th day of August 1838, and in the 63rd year of our foundation.

Jno Williams

2 January 1837

Lutrell vs Smallwood

Hire of Seymour

Prince William County to Wit: Jane Lutrell complains of George W. Smallwood and George Smallwood in custody &c. in a plea of covenant broken; For that the plaintiff at the County aforesaid on the 2nd day of January 1837 did hire out to the defendants for the year aforesaid to be returned on or before the 25th December 1837 her negro man Seymour and the said defendants on their part among other things gave by their hands and seals that on date the 2nd of January 1838 in the penalty of \$100, that if they the said defendants should pay or cause to be paid to the plaintiff on or before the 1st of January 1838 the sum of \$50 and treat said slave with humanity, that said obligation should be void, else it was to remain in full force and virtue in law; Now the plaintiff avers that the defendants failed to keep their covenant but broke the same in that they failed to treat said negro or man Seymour with humanity but on the contrary treated said slave with great cruelty and hath not yet paid the plaintiff the sum of \$50 though often requested, and still refuses so to do and so the said defendants their covenant aforesaid hath not kept, but hath broken the same to the damage of the plaintiff \$250 and therefore she sues &c.

Gibson p.q.

“We of the jury find for the plaintiff and asses her damages to the sum of \$50 by reason of the breach in the declaration mentioned & that interest commence thereon from the 1st January 1838, all of which we asses as the plaintiffs damage.”

30 Oct 1838

Commonwealth vs Tacy

Prince William County to Wit: Whereas Harriet Johnson a free negress hath this day given information on oath to me the subscriber a justice of the peace for the county aforesaid that on Monday night 28th October inst. a certain slave negro woman belonging to Col. John Gibson named Tacy did steal take and carry away from the home aforesaid Harriet Johnson the following property to wit One Trunk with free papers of said Harriet & her daughter Margaret, 3 letters & fifty cents in small change, 3 Calico dresses, 1 Shirt, 1 White flannel petticoat belonging to another person sent to wash, 2 yards domestic cotton & 1 apron.

These are therefore in the name of the Commonwealth be required you to apprehend the said Negress Tacy and bring her before me or some other Justice of the Peace for said county to answer the premises & be dealt with according to law. Given under my hand and seal this 30th October 1838.

W. S.

Colquhoun (seal)

To W. H. Norvell constable.

Mr. Norvell will consider himself recognized to appear as a witness on the 25th November 1838.

W. S. C.

Harriet Johnson was duly recognized to appear at the next Court.

W. S. C.

Mima Bates to be summoned for Defendant

Mr. Norvell says when he arrested Tacy he told her to go and get the stolen goods & she replied that she would go along with him in the woods & look for them. Mr. Norvell says she did not deny that she had the goods positively but his impression was that she had them and he told her she might go by herself and get them and bring them to town - to which she replied she would go and look for them, he then left her to go and look but she failed to come as promised.

W. S. Colquhoun

Prince William County to wit:

To the Sheriff, or any Constable (W. A. Norvell) of the said County, and to the Keeper of the Jail of the said County.

These are to command you, the said W. H. Norvell in the name of the Commonwealth, to convey and deliver into the custody of the said keeper of the said jail the body of Negress Tacy the property of Col. Jno Gibson charged before me with larceny.

And you the said jailor, are hereby required to receive the said Negress Tacy into your jail and custody, and her there safely keep, till she shall thence be discharged by due course of law. Given under my hand and seal this 18th day of November in the year 1838 in the 62 year of the Commonwealth.

W. S. Colquhoun J.P.
(seal)

[Case Dismissed December 3, 1838]

1 January 1839

Chichester vs Hayes

Hire of Slaves - Joshua, Larence, & Sylvia

On the 1st of January 1840 we promise and oblige ourselves our heirs or assigns to pay Wm. T. Chichester his heirs or assigns the sum of sixty dollars for the hire of Joshua Levinian and Sylvia the present year 1839 and to be furnished with the usual summer and winter clothing and hat and blanket each, the period of their hiring to cease on the 24 of December 1839. Given from under our hand and seals this 1st of January 1839.

Richard Hayes (seal)

I hereby agree to give up the within named Joshua & Levinian to Wm. Chichester & pay for them to the 1st of August 1839 at the rate of \$53 per year. Given from under my hand and seal this 11 of Sept 1839.

Teste, Lewis Hammel

Richard Hayes (seal)

Prince William County to wit: William S. Chichester complains of Richard Hayes and Travis C. Nash in custody &c. of a plea of covenant broken for that the said defendants on the 1st day of January in the year of our Lord 1839 at the county aforesaid, by their certain writing sealed with their seals and to the court now here shewn the date and year is the day and year aforesaid in consideration of the use of three slaves named Joshua, Larence and Sylvia for the year 1839 which they then and there ___ of the said plaintiff, ___ covenant promised and agree to pay to the said plaintiff the sum of \$60 on the 1st day of January 1840 and to furnish the said slaves with the usual summer and winter clothing and a hat and blanket, each, yet the said plaintiff avers that the said defendants have not performed, fulfilled and kept the said covenant in this, that they have not paid the said sum of \$60 or any part thereof on the 1st day of January 1840 or at any time either before or since both said plaintiff, that they have not furnished the said slaves with the usual summer and winter clothing or with a hat and blanket each, although often requested to do , to wit at the county aforesaid, and so the said plaintiff in fact ___ that the said defendants although often requested so to do hath not kept the said covenant ___ their made as a ___, but hath broken the same, and to keep the same with the said plaintiff have hitherto wholly neglected and refused and still do

neglect and refuse to the damage of the said plaintiff of \$100 and therefore he sues &c.
Phelps p.q.

We of the jury find for the plaintiffs and asses his damages at thirty four dollars & fifty cents with interest thereon from the 20th January 1840 till paid.

Joseph Johnson

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greetings: We command you that you take Richard Hayes and Travis C. Nash if they be found in your bailiwick, and them safely keep, so that you have their bodies before the Justices of our County Court of Prince William, at the court-house of the said county, on the first Monday in June next, to answer William S. Chichester of a plea of Covenant broken Damage \$100.

And have then there this writ. Witness, John Williams, Clerk of our said Court at the Court-house aforesaid, the 23rd day of May 1840, in the 64th year of our foundation.

J. Williams

1 January 1839

Edwards vs Fewell & Dogan

Hire of Randolph

\$130 - On the first day of January next, We promise and oblige ourselves, our heirs, executors, or administrators, to pay or cause to be paid to Ann H. Edwards, her heirs or assigns, the just and full sum of one hundred and thirty dollars, lawful money of Virginia, for the hire of her man Randolph, a Black Smith for the present year, and we further promise and oblige ourselves to keep the said Randolph employed in a Black Smith Shop during the year, and treat him well, and to give him, the usual summer clothing, and discharge him on the 25th of December next, clothed in a good strong winter suit, shoes and stocking hat and blanket, witness our hands & seal this first day of January 1839

James Fewell & Co. (seal)

John D. Dogan (seal)

7 December 1839

Peace Warrant

Commonwealth of Virginia to James B. Hayes constable of Prince William County. 7 December 1839 to serving peace warrant on Randall a servant belonging to Col. Jno Gibson 63 cents. To summoning 7 witnesses at 21 cents - \$1.47 for a total of \$2.10