

29 January 1840

Gibson vs Howison

On or before 1st day of January 1841 we promise & oblige ourselves our heirs or assigns to pay John Gibson the just and full sum of forty dollars it being for the hire of a Negro Boy named John Robinson which Negro we bind ourselves to furnish good comfortable clothing viz 2 pair shoes, 3 shirts, one hat, & blanket and to return him by the 25th day of December ensuing. Given from under our hands & seals this 29th day of January 1840.

James M. Howison (seal)

Witness, John S. Jackson

Stephen L. Howison (seal)

The Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Sheriff of Prince William County, We command that you take James M. Howison & Stephen L. Howison 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 County, at the rules to be holden for said Court on the first Monday in March next to answer John Gibson of a plea of debt for \$40 and - Damage \$40 and have there this writ. Witness John Williams, clerk of our said court, at the Court House aforesaid, the 18th day of February 1840, in the 65th year of our foundation

J. Williams

23 April 1840

Tacey vs Hayes

Received of George A Furrow a Negro girl named Emily being the same girl I bought an action of detinue __ Richard Hayes to __ and thereby ____ the said foresaid as bail of said Hayes in the said action of detinue August 3rd 1840.

Baylis Tacey

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greetings: We command you that you take Richard Hayes if he be found in your bailiwick and him safely keep, so that 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 Baylis Tacey of a plea of detinue for a negro girl slave named Emily of the price of Six Hundred Dollars Damage \$1000.

And have then there this writ. Witness, John Williams, clerk of our said Court , at the court House aforesaid, the 23rd day of April 1840, and in the 64th year of our foundation.

Jno. Williams

31 December 1840

Hire of Mary

On or before the first day of January 1842 we bind ourselves our heirs executors &c. to pay or cause to be paid unto Kenrick E. Combs executor of David Wickliff deceased the just and full sum of twenty five dollars current money of Virginia it being for the hire of a negro girl named Mary for the next year which said girl we also bind ourselves to return at the end of the year well clothed and furnished with a good blanket. As witness our hands and seals this 31st day of December 1840.

Teste

Seth Combs

Thomas Norman (seal)

William Wright (seal)

Prince William County to Wit: Kenrick E. Combs executor of Daniel Wickliff deceased complains of Thomas Norman & William Wright defendants in custody, &c. of a debt for \$25 to the said plaintiff the said defendants owe and from him unjustly detain: For that the said defendants heretofore, to wit: on the 31 day of December in the year of our Lord 1840, at the county aforesaid made their certain writing obligatory sealed with their seals and to the Court now here shown, the date whereof is on the day and year aforesaid, by which they then and there promised to pay to the said plaintiff the said sum of \$25 on or before the 1st January 1842.

Yet the said defendants although often required, have no nor has either of them as yet paid the said sum of money above demanded, or any part thereof to the plaintiff; but the same to pay him hitherto wholly refused, and still do refuse, to the damage of the said plaintiff of \$100 dollars, and therefore he brings suit &c.

Conway p.q.

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greetings: We command you to summon as at another we have commanded you Thomas Norman & William Wright if they be found in your bailiwick, to appear at the Clerk's Office of our County Court of Prince William county, at the rules to be holden for said Court on the 1st Monday in November next, to answer Kenrick E. Combs executor of David Wickliff deceased of a plea of debt for \$25.00 - Damage \$100.00

And have then there this writ. Witness, John Williams, Clerk of our said Court at the Court-house aforesaid, the 10th day of August 1843, in the 68th year of our foundation.

J. Williams

31 Dec 1840

Smith vs Spindle

Hire of Washington

On or before the first day of January 1842 we promise and oblige ourselves our heirs &c. to pay to Sampson Hutchison guardian of Maria Smith the sum of twenty five dollars for the hire of Negro man Washington for the year 1841 and give said man the customary clothing given to hired servants witness our hands and seals this 31st day of December 1840.

James A. Spindle (seal)

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greetings: We command you to summon James A. Spindle surviving obligor of himself and John Hutchison deceased 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 November next, to answer Sampson Hutchison, guardian of Maria Smith of a plea of debt for \$75.00 damage \$20

And have then there this writ. Witness, John Williams, Clerk of our said court, at the court-house aforesaid, this 17th day of October 1843, and in the 68th year of our foundation.

J. Williams

Prince William County, to wit: Sampson Hutchison guardian of Maria Smith plaintiff complains of James A. Spindle summary obliged himself and John Hutchison deceased defendants in custody &c. of a plea of debt for seventy five dollars to the said plaintiff the said defendant owes and from him unjustly detains. For that the said defendant heretofore, to wit: on the 31st day of December in the year of our Lord 1840, at the county aforesaid, made their certain writing obligatory sealed with their seals and to the Court now here shown, the date whereof is on the day and year aforesaid, by which they then and there promised to pay to said plaintiff the said sum of seventy five dollars, on or before the 1st day of January 1842.

Yet the said defendant and the said John Hutchison although often required, and although the said sum of seventy five dollars was due and payable long before the institution of this suit have not as yet paid the said sum of money above demanded, or any part thereof, to the said plaintiff but the same to pay have hitherto wholly refused and still doth refuse to the damage of the said plaintiff of \$100 and therefore he brings suit, &c.

Philips p.q.

2 January 1841

Hire of Robert

\$100 - on or before the 1st day of January 1842 we promise and oblige ourselves our his executors & administrators to pay unto Louisa C. Muschett one hundred dollars for the

hire of negro man Robert to give said negro good and sufficient clothing and return said negro at the expiration of the year well clothed hat and blanket. Given under our hands & seals this 2nd day of January 1841.

John N. Johnson (seal)

A. N. Thomas (seal)

We the jury find for the plaintiff and assess her damage by reason of the breaches in the writing obligatory in the declaration mentioned to the sum of \$50 and that interest commence thereon from the 1st day of January 1842 all of which we assess as the plaintiffs damage.

James Fewell

**4 January 1841
For Hire of Henry**

For the hire of a negro man Henry for the year 1841 we and each of us bind our selves our heirs &c. to pay or cause to be paid to Jane Luttrell her heirs &c. on or before the first day of January 1842 the full and just sum of Ninety Dollars current money of Virginia also to furnish said slave with a good suit of summer clothes, pay his taxes and treat him with humanity and return him to the said Luttrell on the 25th of December next clothed with a good pair of pantaloons vest & coat of double cloth yarn, a pair of double soled shoes, yarn socks, hat, & blanket. We also bind our selves our heirs &c. to employ said slave on our own farm and not employ said slave on or near the necks rivers or creeks or on any public works under a penalty of one thousand dollars. We further bind ourselves if said Luttrell shall demand said slave to deliver him to her on order at any time after the first day of October next & pay in proportion to the time. Witness our hands and seals this 4th day of January 1841.

teste. L. Lynn

John N. Johnson (seal)

W. W. Davis (seal)

The Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Sheriff of Prince William County, Greetings. We command you, that you take John N. Johnson & William W. Davis 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 June next, to answer Jane Luttrell of a plea of debt for \$90 , Damage \$45

And have then there this writ. Witness, John Williams, Clerk of our said court, at the court-house aforesaid, this 21 day of May 1842, and in the 66th year of our foundation.

Jno Williams

Prince William County, To wit: - Memorandum, that upon the 25th day of May in the year 1842 Addison N. ___ of the County of Prince William, personally appeared before me Wm. W. Payne a deputy for L. G. Alexander, Sheriff of Prince William County; and undertook for John N. Johnson and W. W. Davis at the suit of Jane Luttrell in an action of Debt, now depending in the County Court of Prince William, that in case the said Johnson & Slaves shall be cast in the said suit, the said Johnson & Davis will pay and satisfy the commendation of the Court or render their bodies to prison in execution for the same, or that he the said A. N. Thomas will do it for them. Given under my hand this 25th day of May 1842.

Wm. W. Payne, deputy sheriff

for L. G. Alexander

I A. N. Thomas have acknowledged the above recognizance of bail and in testimony thereof have hereunto affixed my hand and seal this 25th day of May 1842.

A. N. Thomas (seal)

**6 April 1841
Hire of George
Muschett vs Shaw**

We and each of us promise and oblige ourselves, our heirs &c. jointly and severally to pay or cause to be paid to Jas M. A. Muschett or his heirs on or before the first of January 1843 the sum of forty five dollars the same being for the hire of a servant named George for the present year, and we moreover bind ourselves our heirs &c. to furnish said servant with good and sufficient summer and winter clothing, including two pair of shoes, hat and blanket, as witness our hand & seals this 6th April 1841.

Thos J. Shaw (seal)
Mary A. M. Shaw (seal)

The Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Sheriff of Prince William County, Greetings. We command you, that you take Thomas J. Shaw & Mary A. M. Shaw 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 June next, to answer James M. A. Muschett of a plea of debt for \$45 , Damage \$45

And have then there this writ. Witness, John Williams, Clerk of our said court, at the court-house aforesaid, this 28th day of May 1842, and in the 66th year of our foundation.

Jno Williams

Prince William County to Wit: Joseph M. A. Muschett and Mary A. M. Shaw complains of Thomas J. Shaw alias Thos Shaw and in custody &c. of a plea that they render unto him the sum of \$45 which to him he owes and from him unjustly detains and for that the said defendants on the 6th day of April 1841 at the county aforesaid by their certain note in writing sealed with their seals and here in court delivered dated the day and year aforesaid, promised and oblige themselves their heirs &c. jointly and severally to pay or cause to be paid to the plaintiff on or before the 1st of January 1842 the sum of \$45. Nevertheless the said defendants although often required, the said sum of \$45 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 45 dollars and therefore he brings suit.

Richard Roe,

Gibson P.Q.

Pledges, &c.

John Doe

31 December 1842

Nash vs Legg &c.

Hire of Jim

\$47.50 - On the 1st day of January 1844 we bind ourselves our heirs to pay to Eppa Nash an order for the hire of Jim for the year 1843 forty seven dollars and fifty cents.

We further bind ourselves &c. to furnish said servant with good & sufficient summer and winter clothing and a hat & blanket. Witness our hands and seals this 31st day of December 1842.

Legg (seal)

George

E. Becketts (seal)

Prince William County to Wit: Eppa Nash plaintiff complains of George Legg and Elijah Ricketts defendants in custody, &c. of a plea of debt for forty seven dollars to the said plaintiff the said defendants owe and from him unjustly detain: For that the said defendants heretofore, to wit: on the 31 day of December in the year of our Lord 1842, at the county aforesaid made their certain writing obligatory sealed with their seals and to the Court now here shown, the date whereof is on the day and year aforesaid, by which they then and there promised to pay to the said plaintiff the said sum of \$47.50 on or before the 1st January 1844. for the hire of Jim for the year 1843.

Yet the said defendants although often required, have no nor has either of them as yet paid the said sum of \$47.50 above demanded, or any part thereof to the plaintiff; but the same to pay him hitherto wholly refused, and still do refuse, to the damage of the said plaintiff and therefore he brings suit &c.

Wm. F. Phillips J.P.

26 January 1843

Purcell vs Mason

For Hire of Anthony for year 1843

On or before the 1st day of January 1844 for the hire of Anthony we bind ourselves our heirs &c. to pay or cause to be paid to James Purcell his heirs or assigns the just and full sum of Thirty Five dollars and furnish said negro with the usual clothing viz. Hat and Blanket, Two Shirts, summer pants, winter pants & jacket, one pair of good winter shoes & socks. given under our hands & seal this 26th day of January 1843.

J. Sedden Mason (seal)

John Hooe Jr. (seal)

The condition of the within note is such that I agree to take good paper from Dr. Mason in lew of his when due endorsed by Dr. Mason or his security or both of them to the satisfaction of myself.

Purcell

James

Hire of Anthony for year 1844

On or before the 1st day of January 1845 we bind ourselves our heirs &c. to pay or cause to be paid James Purcell his heirs or assigns the full and just sum of forty dollars for the hire of his servant Anthony for the year 1844 and we further bind ourselves our heirs &c. to furnish said servant with two suits of summer clothes one suit of winter clothes and two pair of good winter country made stitched shoes. witness our hands and seals this first day of January 1844.

J. Sedden Mason (seal)

John Hooe Jr. (seal)

Prince William County to wit: James Purcell, plaintiff complains of J. Seddon Mason in custody &c., that he render unto the plaintiff the sum of seventy five dollars, lawful money, with interest on 435.00 part thereof from the 1st Jay of January 1844 and on \$40.00 the render thereof from the 1st day of January 1845, until payment, which the said J. Seddon Mason owes to, and from him unjustly detains, for that whereas the said J. Seddom mason and John Hooe Jr. who is now dead, heretofore, to wit: on the 26th day of January 1843, at the County aforesaid by their certain writing obligatory, sealed with their seals, and to the Court now here shown, the date whereof is the day and year last aforesaid, bound themselves their heirs &c. to pay or cause to be paid to the said plaintiff his heirs or assigns the just and full sum of thirty five dollars on or before the first day of January 1844 and whereas also, the said J. Seddon Mason, and John Hooe Jr. who is now dead, to wit, on the first day of January 1844, at the county aforesaid by their certain writing obligatory, sealed with their seals and to the court now here shewn the date whereof is the same day and year last mentioned, bound themselves, their heirs &c. to pay to the said plaintiff his heirs or assigns the full and just sum of forty dollars for the hire of his servant Anthony for the year 1844 on the first day of January 1845. And the plaintiff avers that the said J. Seddon Mason, and the said John Hooe Jr. in his lifetime did not pay the said several sums of \$35.00 and \$40.00 making together the sum of \$75.00 according to the form and effect of the said respective writing obligatory, but therein wholly failed and made default, when by action hath accrued to the plaintiff to demand and have of the defendant the sum of money, with interest as aforesaid above demanded. Yet the said defendant and the said John Hooe Jr. in his lifetime, and his administrator since his

death, although thereto often required, have not paid to the said plaintiff the said sum of money with interest as aforesaid, or any part thereof, but the same to pay they have hitherto altogether refused, and the defendant doth still refuse, to the damage of the plaintiff \$50 and therefore he brings suit &c.

Jasper p.q.

The Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Sheriff of Prince William County, Greetings. We command you, that you take John S. Mason surviving obligor of himself & John Hooe Jr. deceased 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 James Purcell of a plea of debt for \$75 , Damage \$50

And have then there this writ. Witness, John Williams, Clerk of our said court, at the court-house aforesaid, this 15th day of January 1846, and in the 70th year of our foundation.

Jno Williams

**Grand Jury Presentments June 5, 1843
Virginia - Prince William County to wit.**

We the Grand Jurors of & for the body of the County aforesaid being empanelled, sworn & charged this 5th day of June 1843 upon our oaths present that the Road leading from Kinsley Mills to the Fauquier line in the County aforesaid, is not kept in lawful repair and further it appearing to the Grand Jury that there is no surveyor to said Road - on the information of two of our body viz. John S. Trone - Henry A. Barron.

And we do on our oaths present, that Joshua Brent emancipated slave is now at Buckland, in violation of the act prohibiting emancipated slaves from remaining more than 12 months, in the state, after such emancipation without leave of the Court for him to remain. On information of two of our body viz. John S. Trone & T. M. Washington

And we do on our oaths present, that Alexander C. Bullett, for unlawfully & willfully trespassing on the grounds & embankments of the Quantico Canal cutting a ditch near to & obstructing the tow path & carriage? way of said canal, to the great damage of said public work, & the citizens of the County aforesaid on the information of B. F. Thomas, William H. A. Merchant, Henry Love, sworn & sent to the grand jury.

And we do on our oaths present, that the Road leading from Kinsley Mills to the Fauquier line in the County aforesaid, is not kept in lawful repair and further it appearing to the Grand Jury that there is no surveyor to said Road - on the information of two of our body viz. John S. Trone - Henry A. Barron.

And we do on our oaths present, that the Road leading from Dumfries to Newport in the County aforesaid, there is a gate standing contrary to law & that it further appears to the grand jury that there is no surveyor acting as such on said road - on the information of two of our body viz. William A. Weaver foreman & William J. Weir.

William A. Weaver
Foreman Grand Jury

**1 January 1845
Tebbs vs Love
Hire of Jesse Bruce**

\$60.00 - On the 1st day of January 1846, We bind ourselves our heirs, executors and administrators to pay to Samuel J. Tebbs his heirs or assigns the sum of sixty dollars, for the hire of servant man Jesse Bruce for the year 1845 which sum of sixty dollars is to be paid quarterly. Witness our hands & seals the 1st January 1845. Damage \$20

Henry Love (seal)
Geo. Cockrell (seal)

For and in consideration of the premises we further bind ourselves, that the said Jesse Bruce shall not haul the ___, go in long boats or be rehired without the consent in writing of the ___ Samuel J. Tebbs and we further bind ourselves to give the said Jesse good and

sufficient summer and winter clothes with hat and blankets. witness our hands and seals 1st January 1845.

Henry Love (seal)

Geo. Cockrell (seal)

Dear Sir,

You will receive herewith Love's bond for the hire of Jesse - Mr. Merchant says he will pay Purcell today what money he has and the balance in the spring, he says he has a little account against Mr. Tebbs for supplies to old Nelly and I have a small bill for medical attention to Jesse on two occasions the amount is seven dollars the amount Merchant has arranged with me.

Very Respectfully Yours

R. W. Wheat

1st January 1845

Prince William County, To wit: - Memorandum, that upon the 4th day of March in the year 1846 Mr. H. A. Merchant of the County of Prince William, personally appeared before me John Weedon a deputy for Redmon Foster, Sheriff of Prince William County; and undertook for Henry Love & G. H. Cockrell at the suit of Samuel J. Tebbs in an action of Debt, now depending in the County Court of Prince William, that in case the said Henry Love & G. H. Cockrell 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 Mr. H. A. Merchant will do it for them. Given under my hand this 4th day of March 1846.

J. Weedon, deputy for

R. Foster, sheriff

I W. H. A. Merchant have acknowledged the above recognizance of bail and in testimony thereof have hereunto affixed my hand and seal this 4th day of March 1846.

Wm. H. A. Merchant (seal)

The Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Sheriff of Prince William County, We command that you take Henry Love & George H. Cockrell 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 County, at the rules to be holden for said Court on the first Monday in March next to answer Samuel J. Tebbs of a plea of debt for \$60 and - Damage \$60 and have there this writ. Witness Jno Williams, clerk of our said court, at the Court House aforesaid, the 6 day of January 1846, in the 70th year of our foundation

J. Williams

Prince William County, To Wit: Samuel J. Tebbs complains of Henry Love & Geo. Cockrell in custody &c. of a plea that he render unto the plaintiff the sum of \$60 dollars and from him unjustly detain for this to wit: that the defendants on the 1 day of January 1845 at the county aforesaid by their certain writing obligatory, sealed with their seals and to the court now here and have the date whereof is on the day and year aforesaid bound themselves and having agreed to pay to the said plaintiff his heirs or assigns the sum of money aforesaid for the hire of present year Jesse Bruce in the sum of \$60.

1 January 1845

**John S. Mason & Co. - Note
For Hire of Anthony**

\$40.00 - On the first day of January 1845 we bind ourselves our heirs &c. to pay James Purcell his heirs or assigns the full and just sum of forty dollars for the hire of his servant Anthony for the year 1844 and we further bind ourselves our heirs &c. to furnish said servant with two suits of summer clothes one suit of winter clothes and two pair of good winter country made stitched shoes. Witness our hands and seals this first day of January 1844.

Seddon Mason (seal)

John Hooe Jr. (seal)

June 1845

Nelson vs Shepherd

We promise and oblige ourselves our heirs &c. to pay or cause to be paid to Elizabeth Cannon, her heirs or assigns on or before the first day of January eighteen hundred and forty five the sum of fifty dollars for a slave named John for the present year, ending on the 25 day of December next. We farther oblige ourselves our heirs &c. to furnish said slave with good clothing for summer and winter, a hat and blanket. Not work him on a quarry - rail road - fishing - or in long boat and return him on or before the 25th day of December next, clear of all public taxes. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seal this first day of January eighteen hundred and forty four.

Teste R. F. Brawner

Edward Shepherd (seal)

Jno Homes (seal)

October 1845

Commonwealth vs Gerard Mason

Virginia, Prince William County to Wit:

Be it remembered, that on the 29th day of October in the year 1845 William Bates, Henry A. Duvall, Richard Johnson personally came before me James H. Reid, coroner of said county and acknowledged ourselves to owe severally to the Commonwealth of Virginia one hundred dollars of lawful money of said Commonwealth, to be made and levied of their goods and chattels, lands and tenements, to the use of the said Commonwealth, if the said William Bates, Henry A. Duvall, William H. Johnson an infant under the age of twenty-one year for the above bound Richard Johnson shall fail in the condition underwritten.

The condition of the above written recognizance is such that if the above bound William Bates, Henry Duvall, William A. Johnson do personally appear before the Commonwealth justices of the peace for the said county of Prince William on the 6th day of November next at a court by them to be held, at the Court- House of the said county, for the examination of Gerard Mason charged with murder and do then and there, on behalf of the said Commonwealth, give such evidence as they know against the said Gerard Mason concerning the matter wherewith he is charged, and that neither of them do depart without leave of the said court, then this recognizance to be void else to remain in full force.

Acknowledged before me
J. H. Reid, coroner P.W. County

William Bates (seal)

Henry A. Duvall (seal)

Richard Johnson (mark and seal)

Wm. Johnson - On last Wednesday week was hauling wood by Gerard Masons house - entering saw Mr. Mason at the quarters where Katy was, apparently in a violent rage - throw a stick at a negro boy & a stone at a little negro girl - then ran into the quarters where Katy staid & threw out a box & some bed clothes then into the cabin where he made a great noise as if thumping or knocking people about - witness went on - returning by same place from making next load at about 11 o'clock A.M. saw negro Katy lying in the yard at the quarters, seemed to be in great pain as if from a beating - just breathing, just talking not able to turn about.

Jas. Foster Jr. - Knows nothing of any beating received lately by Katy - saw Gerard Mason stomp Katy in his yard at his dwelling, late in the summer or early in the fall of 1844.

Wm. Bates - Has been in Gerard Mason's neighborhood for about two months past - When he first came, Katy was unable to walk about & has continued so ever since, has seen her crawling about her cabin & when crawling would sometimes fall some - has been in her cabin three times.

Henry Duvall - Went to Gerard Mason during last harvest to sell wood - saw Mason beat Katy with a large stick at the home, drove her back to the field, pursued & beat her a second time - knocked her down and left her lying on the ground. A few days after saw Katy get another beating from Mason in which he seemed to strike with anything he could get hold of.

Virginia, Prince William County to Wit:

Inquisition taken at the grave of Negro Katy or Kate on the land of Gerard Mason in the county aforesaid, the 29th day of October in the year 1845, before me James H. Reid coroner of the Commonwealth for the county aforesaid, upon the view of the body of Negro woman Katy or Kate late of said County of Prince William, then and there lying dead (the said body having been buried and now taken out of the grave in order to view it upon their inquest) and upon the oaths of John T. Selecman, William Duvall, Warren Davis, Thomas C. Ford, John Athey, William Selecman, Charles Shaw, William Brammell, Thomas S. Selecman, Pembroke Reid, William Brown, and Hugh Hammill. good and lawful men of the county aforesaid, who being sworn and charged to inquire on the part of the said Commonwealth, when, where, how, and after what manner, the said negro woman Katy or Kate came to her death, do say, upon their oath that one Gerard Mason, yeoman, late of the said County of Prince William not having the fear of God before his eyes, but being moved and seduced by the instigation of the devil, a short time before the death of his negro woman slave Katy or Kate aforesaid, which occurred on the 23rd day of the present month, with force and arms at a cabin on the farm of the said Gerard Mason in the County aforesaid, in and upon the aforesaid slave Katy or Kate, then and there being in the peace of God and of the said Commonwealth voluntarily made an assault; and that the aforesaid Gerard Mason then and there with some instrument or thing unknown to the jury which he the said Gerard Mason then and there used, the aforesaid Katy or Kate in and upon the head then and there violently and voluntarily struck and cut and gave to the said slave Katy or Kate then and there with the instrument or thing before mentioned in and upon her head several severe wounds, one of which on the back and lower part of the head is of the length of one & a half inches, cutting into and taking off a part of the skull, of which said wounds the aforesaid slave Katy or Kate shortly after their infliction died.

In witness thereof as well the aforesaid coroner and the jury aforesaid have to this inquisition put their seals on the day and year aforesaid, and at the place aforesaid.

J. H. Reid, Corner
Prince William County

John T. Selecman (seal)
Warren Davis (seal)
William Brown (seal)
Thomas C. Ford (seal)
Jno. Athey (seal)
Pembroke Reid (seal)
Charles Shaw (seal)
James William Brammell (seal)
Thomas L. Selecman (seal)
W. H. Duvall (seal)
Hugh Hammill (seal)
William Selecman (seal)

Virginia: Prince William County, to Wit:

Whereas Gerard Mason of the said County of Prince William, yeoman, by inquisition duly taken before me James H. Reid coroner of the county of Prince William hath this day been found guilty of the murder of negro woman slave Katy or Kate, at the farm of the said Gerard Mason in the county aforesaid; and the said Gerard Mason being present, hath this day been

committed to the jail of the said county of Prince William, by my warrant, until a court shall be held for the examination of the offence wherewith he stands charged; and it appearing to me that the said felonious offence 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 thereof, on the 6th day of November next, and then and there to hold a court for the examination of the fact, with which the said Gerard Mason 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 29th day of October 1845.

J. H. Reid (seal)

Virginia, Prince William County to wit: to constable of said County, and to the keeper of the jail of said County.

These are to command you, the said Andrew P. Lynn in the name of the Commonwealth, to carry and deliver, into the custody of the said keeper of said jail, the body of Gerard Mason of the County of Prince William, yeoman, who hath this day by inquisition duly taken before me James H. Reid coroner of the said County of Prince William been found guilty of the murder of one negro woman slave named Katy or Kate at the farm of said Gerard Mason in the County aforesaid. And you the said jailor are hereby required to receive the said Gerard Mason into your jail and custody, and him there safely to keep, till he shall thence be discharged by one course of law.

Given under my hand and seal this 29th day of October in the year 1845

J. H. Reid (seal)

1 January 1846

Weir vs Purcell

On or before 1st January 1847 we bind ourselves, heirs &c. to pay or cause to be paid to James Purcell his heirs or assignees the just and full sum of seventy five dollars for the hire of two boys, John & William for the present year to be furnished with the usual summer and winter clothes, two pair of shoes, hat and blanket and to be treated with humanity given from under our hands and seals this 1st January 1846.

R. M. Weir (seal)

C. B. Weir (seal)

Prince William County to wit:

James Purcell complains of R. M. Weir alias Robert M. Weir, and C. B. Weir alias Clara B. Weir in custody &c. of a plea of breach of covenant and thereupon the said plaintiff ___ that heretofore to wit: on the 1st day of January 1846 at the county aforesaid the said defendants by their certain writing obligatory sealed with their seals & to the court now here shewn the oath whereof is the day and year aforesaid, did covenant and bind themselves to and with the said plaintiff in manner and form following, that is to say, that they the said defendants should & would pay to the said plaintiff on or before the 1st January 1847 seventy five dollars being for the hire of two boys John and William for the present year being 1846, and also that they the said defendants should and would furnish the said two boys John and William with the usual summer and winter clothes together with two pair of shoes, hat and blanket, and the plaintiff owes that the said defendants did not pay to him the said plaintiff the said sum of \$75 on or before the 1st of January 1847 as they ought to have done according to the form and effect of their said covenant in that behalf so made as aforesaid but hath hitherto wholly neglected and refused so to do to wit on the said first of January 1847 at the county aforesaid and the said plaintiff further avers that the said defendants did not furnish the said two boys John and William with the usual summer and winter clothing nor with two pair of shoes and hat and blanket as they ought to have done according to the form and effect of the said covenant in that behalf made as aforesaid but have hereto wholly refused and neglected so to do contrary to the said writing obligatory and the ___ covenant of the said defendants in that behalf made as aforesaid to wit: on the first of January 1846 at the county aforesaid wherefore

the said plaintiff says that by reason of the said breaches of the said covenants of and by the said defendants as before mentioned, __ has sustained damages to the amount of \$120 & therefore he brings suit &c.

Jasper p.q.

We the jury find the issues joined for defendant.

The Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Sheriff of Prince William County, Greetings. We command you, that you take Robert M. Weir alias R. M. Weir and Clara B. Weir alias C. B. Weir 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 March next, to answer James Purcell of a plea of covenant broken Damage \$120.

And have then there this writ. Witness, John Williams, Clerk of our said court, at the court-house aforesaid, this 10th day of February 1847, and in the 71st year of our foundation.

J. Williams

In the County Court of Prince William County, Robert M. Weir & C. B. Weir ads James Purcell.

And the said C. B. Weir by Eppa Hunton her attorney comes and defends the wrong and injury when __ and says, that the said supposed writing obligatory mentioned on the declaration is not her deed, and of this she puts herself upon the county.

Prince William County to wit: This day C. B. Weir the defendant named in the forgoing plea personally appeared before me a justice of the peace for said county, and made oath that the said plea is true. Given my hand this 15th day of May 1847.

Lawrence G. Alexander J.P.

Commonwealth vs Agness a Slave January 8, 1850

The trial of Agness a Slave, pursuant to adjournment, whereupon the said Agness was led to the bar in the custody, of the jailor of this county, and thereupon the said Agness alleging that she has discovered herself to be with child about five weeks since, and from the inspection of said Agness by the court, and of the statement of several physicians who had examined her at the request the court being still in doubt as to the correctness of the allegation of the prisoner. It is therefore considered & ordered by the court, that the said Agness be remanded to jail the place from where she came, & there to remain till the day of her execution, & from thence taken to the place of execution, on the 10 May 1850, between the hours of ten o'clock in the morning and 4 o'clock in the afternoon of that day, and the court are of the opinion that the said Agness is worth \$450. The following __ then ordered taken in this case, to wit, "Commonwealth vs Agnes - Testimony of Lewis Weston" which evidence is ordered to be made a part of the record. Daniel Jasper, who was assigned counsel for Agnes a Slave charged with Murder is allowed \$15.00 to be paid by the estate of her late master Gerard Mason.

8 February 1850 Road from Landsdown Tavern to Daniel Coles Shop

Prince William County to wit. - Whereas Thompson Lynn surveyor of the road from Landsdown Tavern to Daniel Coles Shop hath given me information that the assistance of wheel carriages is necessary for making or repairing said road. Therefore empower the said Thompson Lynn to employ ploughs, draught horses or oxen with their gear & driver belonging to any person who or their servants or slaves are appointed to work on the said road.

Grand Jury and Presentments Monday - August 3rd 1851

Benjamin Johnson - foreman, William Wright, Lewis H. McCoy, Pembroke Reid, John A. King, Matthew Davis, James M. Barbee, William W. Davis, John Read, Wm. M. Lynn, Sanford W. Pickett, Robert R. Graham, Thomas W. Turner, Benjamin F. Lewis, Searles Lewis, Francis J. Carman, Benjamin P. Mitchell, Jno T. Leachman, John Fair, Richard Stonill, Austin B. Weedon, were sworn a Grand Jury of inquest for the body of this County, and having received their charge, withdrew, and after some time returned into court and presented. An Indictment against John Underwood, for unlawfully maintaining by speaking that the owners of Slaves in the Commonwealth, have not the right of property in said Slaves "A true bill". An Indictment against Joseph M. Savage for an assault on Benson Davis, "A true bill", They also made the following presentments, against Rachel Carter a Negro aged forty eight years emancipated since the 1st day of May 1806, for remaining in this State more than one year without lawful permission and against Thomas Carter a Negro aged twenty two years emancipated since the 1st day of May 1806 for remaining in the State more than one year without lawful permission - And on the motion of the attorney for the Commonwealth, it is ordered that the said Rachel Carter and Thomas Carter be summoned to appear here on the first day of the next November term to shew cause if any they can why information should not be filed on said presentments. -
- Absent Seymour Lynn Gent- Justice

John Underwood, who stands accused of unlawfully maintaining by speaking, that the owners of Slaves in the Commonwealth, have not the right of property in said Slaves, appeared in court in discharge of his recognizance entered into before a justice of the peace of this county, and on the motion of the said John Underwood this cause is continued until tomorrow - Whereupon the said John Underwood and Walter F. Collins and Albert M. Arrington, have in court acknowledged themselves to be indebted to the Commonwealth of Virginia, that is the said John Underwood in the sum of \$500.00 and the said Walter F. Collins and Albert M. Arrington in the sum of \$250.00 each, of their respective goods and chattels, lands and tenements to be __, and to the said Commonwealth of Virginia, rendered; got upon this condition that if the said John Underwood shall personally appear here on tomorrow to answer the Indictment this day found against him, for the misdemeanor aforesaid, and shall not depart there without the leave of the said court, then this recognizance is to be void.

S. Lynn

1 December 1851 Emancipated Slave

In Prince William County Court, December 1st 1851 on motion of Cassius Foley, ordered that the Justices of this County be summoned by the Sheriff of this County, to appear here on the first day of the next February Court, to take into consideration the propriety of permitting Lindsay who was the slave of Eliza Foley of Fauquier County and emancipated by her will in 1848 or 1849, to remain in this County, where he now resides, with the privileges extended by law to free coloured people.

a Copy Teste - J. Williams, Clerk

Justices to be summoned to February Court: Allen Howison, James B. T. Thornton, James D. Tennille, Benonie E. Harrison, Frederick Foote, James W. F. Macrae, George G. Tyler, Charles Ming, Albert Newman, Benjamin Johnson, Joseph C. Brown

1 January 1852 Commonwealth vs Smith

\$100 - Twelve months after date we or either of us promise to pay to Elizabeth Cason or order the just sum of one hundred dollars it being for the hire of George a blacksmith be kept at his trade, clothed with summer and winter clothing such is customary for hirelings, treated with humanity and returned at Xmas, and said Smith promises not to hire him to any other person without leave of his owner, given under our hands and seals this the 1st day of January 1852.

G. S. Smith (seal)

James Swart (seal)

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greetings: We command you to summon George S. Smith and James Stewart if they be found in your bailiwick, to appear at the Clerk's Office of our County Court of Prince William county, at the rules to be holden for said Court on the last Monday in October inst., to answer Elizabeth Cason of a plea of debt for \$100.00 - Damage \$100.00

And have then there this writ. Witness, Philip D. Lipscomb, Clerk of our said Court at the Court-house aforesaid, the 3rd day of October 1853, in the 78th year of our foundation.

P. D. Lipscomb

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greetings: We command you to summon George S. Smith and James Stewart if they be found in your bailiwick, to appear at the Clerk's Office of our County Court of Prince William county, at the rules to be holden for said Court on the last Monday in October inst., to answer Elizabeth Cason of a plea of debt for \$100.00 - Damage \$100.00

And have then there this writ. Witness, Philip D. Lipscomb, Clerk of our said Court at the Court-house aforesaid, the 7th day of September 1853, in the 78th year of our foundation.

P. D. Lipscomb

Grand Jury Presentments August 2, 1852

State of Virginia Prince William County to wit

We the Grand Jury of and for the body of the County aforesaid being empanelled, sworn & charged this 2nd Day of August 1852 upon our oaths do present Jerry Lucas a free Negro 21 years of age, emancipated the 1st day of May 1806, remaining in the State more than a year without lawful submission upon the evidence of William G. Austin, sworn and sent to the Grand Jury at their request.

And we also on our oaths present Albert M. Arrington of the County aforesaid for unlawfully trespassing upon the land of Charles E. Norman of the county aforesaid by cutting & taking away his timber within the six months last past on the evidence of the word of Charles E. Norman of the County of Prince William.

And we do further present on our oaths John A. King of the County aforesaid for retailing ardent spirits by the small quantity to be drank where ordered without a license within the last six months last on the oath of Harrison Cornwell, sworn & sent before the Grand Jury at their request.

And we do further present on our oaths Mathew Davis of the County aforesaid for suffering a Negro slave named Sony upon the control of said Mathew Davis to go at ___ and to ___ himself out for his own benefit upon the information and well ___ ___ ___ for being in a very dirty and filthy condition

B. F. Lewis
Grand Jury Foreman

6 September 1852

Conveying Slaves to Jail

The Commonwealth of Virginia to Frederick P. Brawner - To Two days attending Geo. W. Tennille constable of Prince William County in apprehending and conveying 4 slaves to jail charged with felony \$1.50; To 40 miles travel in apprehending and conveying to jail \$4.00.

Sworn to in Open Court, 6 Sept

1852

P. D. Lipscomb, clerk

3 November 1852

Commonwealth vs Davis

Unlawful hire of Sonny

Virginia, Prince William County to wit: Be it remembered that Eppa Hunton attorney for the Commonwealth of Virginia in the County Court of Prince William County and who in this behalf prosecutes for the said Commonwealth in his proper person coming into the said court on this 3rd day of November 1852 and gives the said court to understand and be informed that Matthew Davis of the said county and within the jurisdiction of the said court heretofore to wit on the 1st day of June 1852 and within six months last past before the presentment was made in this case did suffer a negro slave named Sony under the control of the said Matthew Davis to go at large in the said county and to hire himself out for his own benefit contrary to law against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Upon the information of Courtney Reeves of Prince William County sworn and sent to give evidence to the Grand Jury at their request.

Hunton

Attorney for the Commonwealth
of Virginia in said Court

The Commonwealth of Virginia to the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greetings: You are hereby commanded to summon Matthew Davis to appear 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 shew cause if any he can why an information should not be filed upon a presentment made against him by the Grand Jury of the said County on the 2nd day of August 1852 for suffering a Negro Slave named Sonny under the control of said Matthew Davis to go at large and to hire himself out for his own benefit.

And have then there this writ. Witness Phillip D. Lipscomb, clerk of our said court, at the Court-house aforesaid, this 9th day of August 1852, and in the 77th year of our foundation.

Lipscomb

P. D.

The Commonwealth of Virginia to the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greetings: You are hereby commanded to summon Matthew Davis to appear 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 shew cause if any he can why an information should not be filed upon a presentment made against him by the Grand Jury of the said County on the 2nd day of August 1852 for suffering a Negro Slave named Sonny under the control of said Matthew Davis to go at large and to hire himself out for his own benefit.

And have then there this writ. Witness Phillip D. Lipscomb, clerk of our said court, at the Court-house aforesaid, this 11th day of January 1853, and in the 77th year of our foundation.

Lipscomb

P. D.

The Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Sheriff of Prince William County, Greetings: You are hereby commanded to summon Courtney Reeves 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 March court, 1853 to testify and the truth to speak on behalf of the plaintiff in a certain matter of controversy in our said court, before our said Justices, depending and undecided the Commonwealth plaintiff, and Mathew Davis the defendant. And this he shall in no wise omit, under the penalty of one hundred pounds. And have then there this writ.

Witness, Phillip D. Lipscomb, Clerk of our said court, at the Court-House, aforesaid, this 11th day of January 1853, and in the 77th year of our foundation.

P. D. Lipscomb

26 December 1856

Killing of George E. Green Coroner Inquest

Mr. Phillip D. Lipscomb, Dear Sir, I should much regret to find that I had been remiss in any part of my duty, in conducting the proceedings of the inquest on the remains of George E. Green & the commitment to jail of his slaves who murdered him. You will therefore excuse

me for writing to you, to inquire what else is proper for me to do, besides returning to your office the warrant & verdict of the coroner's jury.

It is the first time I have had occasion to act as a coroner. There was much confusion & excitement, the negro house was crowded & darkened; time was pressing; my object was to expedite the proceedings, to prevent tragic violence; frozen ink, benumbed fingers, without desk or table to write on; I was in no condition to make deliberate examination of the law applicable to the case.

I have since thought that I ought to have taken down in writing the substance of the evidence & transmitted it to you with the warrant & verdict. As I did not, I now send it, hoping that it may still suffice. It has also occurred to me that I should have affirmed a scroll to each of the signatures to the verdict, which I believe was neglected. Perhaps I ought to have recognized the witnesses to appear at court, but the confession of three of the culprits caused me to doubt the necessity of so doing. But for the confessions other witnesses would have been examined.

The papers contain the confession "the body of George E. Green." The charred spine & pelvis of an adult human body was all that was visible. I may as well inform you of the circumstances corroborating the verdict. In approaching next morning the place where the house had stood, soon after passing the gate near the barn, I discovered a spot in the road much trampled & smoothed over, with traces of blood; from that spot to very near the house was the appearance of a body having been dragged, marked also by spots of blood at intervals. The yard gate had one of the slats broken; the ketch which held the latch was split off, The cap of one of the gate posts was broken off and split, & the gate had other marks of violence on it. I was also informed that a bunch of keys and a watch were found at the spot where the body was consumed, shewing that he was dressed at the time of the murder.

The first persons present were G. A. Hutchison; negro man Norman, and G. B. Tyler's negro man. (straight line no name) Mr. Tyler was next & Mr. Hutchison on a few minutes after. Luther L. Lynn afterwards arrived; all having seen the fire from their dwellings. It was 1/2 past 8 o'clock when seen by them, but as the house was then nearly consumed, it must have been fired earlier. A cut across the head of negro James & also a wound near his left shoulder, indicated that he was in the conflict. I sent to Brentsville by Constable Pattie a bloody axe which is undoubtedly the one which the old woman Nelly used in the murder - and also the coat of James with a cut in it, exactly corresponding with the wound on his shoulder. Mr. George B. Tyler & Mr. L. L. Lynn were on the jury; Mr. Hutchison was not present at the inquest, being confined to his bed with a sprained ankle which occurred the previous night in his hasty efforts to get to the fire.

Please write immediately to suggest whether I can supply omissions or remedy defects in the proceedings, if any there be.

very respectfully,
J. Ewell Dec. 26, 1836

26 December 1856

Killing of George E. Green

Coroner Inquest

Statements of Nelly, James, Elias, Newman & Eliza

Substance of the evidence taken before me, acting as corner and the jury of inquest upon the view of the body of George E. Green at his late residence in Prince William County on the 25th December 1856.

Nelly (slave of G. E. Green) sworn, says in substance as follows. "He (meaning said Green) was a hard master. He would not give us enough meat to eat. He would not allow any of us to go from home, nor give us any of the privileges which other people's servants have. He told us we should stay at home during the Christmas holydays & work. We concluded to get rid of him. When I went in the house. The others (meaning Betsy, James, Elias & Ellen) had him down on the floor; tied, I gave him one crack, (meaning a blow), I believe it was with an axe. I cut one of his hands & he caught the axe & got it away from me. He got out of the house. I did not follow him. The others did. Two of them dragged him back to the house. I do not know which of them."

James (slave of G. E. Green) sworn, says in substance as follows. "He (meaning said Green) was hard upon us & we could do nothing to please him. He said we should work through the Christmas holidays. We concluded to burn him up. He was lying before the fire in the house, when we got on him & tied him. He got out of the house & we struck him with a shovel & pieces of fence rails."

Elias (slave of G. E. Green) sworn, says in substance as follows. "He (meaning said Green) would not let us have a holiday. We concluded to burn him up. We got him down on the floor and tied his hands. I held him by the leg. Grandmother struck him with the axe. He got out. He was knocked in the head; dragged to the kitchen door & into the kitchen & burnt."

Newman (slave of G. A. Hutchison) sworn, says in substance as follows. "I saw Mr. Green's house on fire; I came here & saw no one but Mr. Tyler's man Peter who got here at the same time that I did. We met in the yard. In a few minutes Mr. Tyler came & in a few minutes more Master Gusty (meaning Mr. G. A. Hutchison) came; None of Mr. Green's people were present, but were I believe in their house; The house had nearly burnt down when I arrived. Sometime after I saw Mr. Green's body in the kitchen nearly burnt up."

Eliza (slave of G. A. Hutchison) sworn, says in substance as follows. As soon as I saw the fire I came here; the roof had fallen in, & the house was nearly burnt up. I went to the servant's house & called them to come out, two of them came out of the door, looked at the fire & went back. I asked them why they had not tried to save the old man. They would not answer. It was my opinion that something wrong had been done."

The above evidence was given by each witness, separate and out of the hearing of the others & in the presence & hearing of the jury. Given under my hand & seal this 26th Dec. 1856
Jesse Ewell
J.P.

Acting as Coroner

26 December 1856

Killing of George E. Green

Commonwealth vs Nelly, James, Elias, Newman & Eliza

Slaves of George E. Green

Nelly, Betsey, Ellen & Elias, slaves of George E. Green for the murder of the said George E. Green on the 24th December 1856. George B. Tyler for the Commonwealth being sworn says: One of my women told me that Green's house was on fire. I went over as soon as I could, on the way I met prisoner Elias. I asked why Mr. Green could not get out - he said he did not know - when I got there saw five or six of my boys there - Some two or three of Mr. Hutchison & two or three of Luther Lynn's. I asked them if Mr. Green was out & one of my boys (Peter's name was added) pointed to him in the flames. I saw him in the flames myself as soon as I reached the house - I saw the prisoner Nelly and asked her how the house caught fire - she said she did not know that some of them were asleep & others on the bed and when they came out the house was falling in. I staid there some hour or so - in a few minutes Mr. Luther Lynn & G. A. Hutchinson came. We all left after staying some hour or two with the agreement to meet there next morning - Went over next morning about 9 o'clock, a good many persons met there, some twenty perhaps - Mr. Lynn went up to where the remains of Mr. Green lay and found his keys & watch and we concluded he was burned while dressed and that he was murdered. Soon after I heard there were traces of blood leading from the house we traced it some 150 or 200 yards. We found a place where there seemed to have been a scuffle and we concluded he had been murdered there - there was more blood then we then questioned the prisoners about it - Mr. Norris told Jim he was the murderer - Jim said he did not do it - Jim had a cut on the top of his head - they searched the house & found a hatchet which the old woman said was Jim's or Elias', it was cut in several places and covered with blood - The jacket was then put on Jim and fit him and fit over a cut Jim had in his back, the cut in the jacket being right over the cut in his back - could not tell whether the cut in the back was made with an axe or a knife though at first it was a knife - I was one of the jury of inquest and we took the prisoners, out separately to question them about it - Asked old Nelly first - Dr. Ewell conducted the inquest and swore the prisoners as witnesses (Counsel for defence objected to the

testimony) Dr. Ewell asked Nelly to tell all she knew about the murder of Mr. Green - She said they had done it - meaning the five prisoners - that he was a hard master & they were tired living with him. She said the other four prisoners went into the house and cussed(?) at him - she said at first she struck with something she did not know what, finally said it was an axe - she then said that the deceased got up and ran off out of the house - they pursued him with shovels, axe & sticks till they killed him - as he was going out of the house he got the axe from her and Elias and struck Jim with the axe - after killing him they dragged him back in the house & set fire to it but said nothing about what occurred in their house. We then called on Jim and I think he said substantially what old Nelly had said, Betsy was then called- she said she knew nothing about it, Ellen said same thing - Elias said substantially what Nelly & Jim had said - All these prisoners were sworn before being examined.

Met Elias about half way between my house & Mr. Greens - said he was coming to let me know of the fire. I live about half mile from deceased on sight. I hear Ellen & Elias are twins - Don't know their ages - I would think they were not over fourteen years of age - each one of the female prisoners had blood on their dresses - Would not say positively as to Ellen but believe there was. When I saw the body in the flames it seemed to be burnt up and the skeleton could not recognize it as the body of Mr. Green or tell whether it was a white or black man - No mark on the skeleton by which it could be recognized. The flesh was all burnt off the bones when I first saw it - found remains of a watch & a key the key fitted the master house door of deceased, it was about 8 p.m. o'clock on the twenty fourth December I first saw the fire - sent my boy Peter to go for the neighbors, he took Elias with him.

signed, George B. Tyler

Luther Lynn being sworn says on day of 24 December he had gone to bed. My wife discovered the fire at Mr. Greens. She waked me up , I discovered it was at Mr. George E. Greens - got my horse and started over there & had got 2 or 3 hundred yards & met Mr. Tyler's boy & prisoner Elias coming after me - they told me the house was burned down and Mr. Green burned in it - when I got there found Mr. Tyler, Mr. Hutchison, & some negroes belonging to us there - they pointed to the remains of the body, the house had burned down then - the prisoner Nelly was out at the burning house, I ask her (how the house burned was scratched out) if she had gone to bed - said she had not when she discovered the fire the roof was about falling in - asked if she heard her master holler she said no - Did not see Jim, Betsy & Ellen that night, don't think they came out of the house

9 June 1857

Run-A-Way Slave Letter Buckingham Court House

Dear Sir, In looking over the Enquirer of the 5th of the this month I saw your advertisement giving a description of a woman that comes very near one of mine who absconded about three years since she is about 44 or 5 years of age high cheek bones has a burn on the back of her neck and I think the burn runs down her back some little distance . I reckon my woman must be some five feet four inches high. She has rather a down look when spoken to I should judge my woman would weigh about 145 or 50 lbs. she is rather incline to be thin. Her name is Mary and she went by the name of Mary Telter. She has a very good shaped foot. She has a hollow foot rather than otherwise. She has a scar on her hand, don't recollect which hand but the scar is above where the thumb fins the hand on the outside. Please on the reception of this note write me. I bought her from my Mothers Est. three years ago last January.

direct your letter to Buckingham County Va. my P. O. is the Co Ho she was raised by Mrs. Cobb my mother in this County. She is pretty smart.

signed, Watson B. Cobb

1 January 1858

Jones vs McMurtie Hire of Jacob

\$110.00 - On or before the first day of January 1859 we bind ourselves and our representatives to pay to Nancy Jones, or order, One hundred and ten dollars for the hire of Jacob for the year 1858, and further bind ourselves to give said negro two good shirts, good summer clothing good filled cloth winter clothing, pair of shoes, boots, hat and blanket and pay his taxes, (and not permit him to work on a fishing shore or boat) given under our hands and seals this 1 day of January 1858. [On the bottom of the page is says and give the servant \$10]

John S. Robertson (seal)

P. D. Lipscomb

Prince William County to wit: Nancy Jones, plaintiff complains of John S. McMurtie & Philip D. Lipscomb defendants, who were summoned to answer the said plaintiff, of a plea that he render unto her the said plaintiff the sum of one hundred dollars which to her they owe, and from him unjustly detains, and thereupon the said plaintiff avers that the said defendant on the first day of January in the year 1858, at the County aforesaid by their certain writing obligatory, sealed with their seals, and to the Court now here shown, the date whereof is the day and year last aforesaid, bound themselves & representatives to pay to the said plaintiff before the 1st day of January 1859 the said sum of \$110.00 for the hire of Jacob for the year 1858.

Nevertheless the said defendants although often requested so to do, the said sum of \$110.00 or any part thereof to the said plaintiff have not paid, but the same to pay have always hitherto refused and still do refuse, to the damage of the plaintiff, \$100 and therefore he brings suit, &c.

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greetings: We command you to summon John S. McMurtie and Philip D. Lipscomb if they be found in your bailiwick, to appear at the Clerk's Office of our County Court of Prince William county, at the rules to be holden for said Court on the 1st Monday in July next, to answer Nancy Jones of a plea of debt for \$110.00 - Damage \$100.00

And have then there this writ. Witness, Philip D. Lipscomb, Clerk of our said Court at the Court-house aforesaid, the 26th day of June 1860, in the 84th year of our foundation.

P. D. Lipscomb

Executed by delivering to the wife of John S. McMurtie a copy of the within writ and P. D. Lipscomb a copy of this writ.

January 29, 1860

Wm. E. Goodwin, deputy for

T. K. Davis, Sheriff

1 January 1858

Jones vs Horner

For Hire of Joe and Martha

\$132.50 - On or before the first day of January 1859 we bind ourselves and heirs to pay to Nancy Jones one hundred and thirty two dollars and fifty cents for the hire of Joe and Martha for the year 1858 and give said negroes good and sufficient summer and winter clothing, such as are usually given to servants, as well as a blanket for each. Given under our hands and seals the 1st day of January 1858.

John G. Horner (seal)

Samuel Troth (seal)

Prince William County to wit: Nancy Jones, plaintiff complains of John G. Horner & Samuel Troth defendants, who were summoned to answer the said plaintiff, of a plea that they render unto her the said plaintiff the sum of one hundred and thirty two dollars and 50 cents which to her they owe, and from her unjustly detains, and thereupon the said plaintiff avers that the said defendants on the 1st day of January in the year 1858, at the County aforesaid by their certain writing obligatory, sealed with their seals, and to the Court now here shown, the date whereof is the day and year last aforesaid bound themselves to pay to the said plaintiff on or before the 1st day of January 1859 the said sum of \$132.50.

Nevertheless the said defendant, although often requested so to do, the said sum of \$132.50 or any part thereof to the said plaintiff have not paid, but the same to pay have always hitherto

refused and still do refuse, to the damage of the said plaintiff, \$100.00 and therefore she brings suit, &c.

W. G. Brawner, P.Q.

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greetings: We command you to summon John G. Horner and Samuel Troth if they be found in your bailiwick, to appear at the Clerk's Office of our County Court of Prince William county, at the rules to be holden for the said Court on the 1st Monday in July next, to answer Nancy Jones of a plea of debt for \$132.50 - Damage \$100.00. And have there this writ. Witness, Phillip D. Lipscomb, Clerk of our said Court at the Court-house aforesaid, the 27th day of June 1860, in the 84th year of our foundation.

P. D. Lipscomb

Executed on John G. Horner & Samuel Troth on the 28th day of June 1860 by delivering to them a copy of this. Wm. E.

Goodwin, D.S. for

T. K. Davis, Sheriff

1 Feb 1858

**Frances B. Gibson vs Benjamin Thornton and Andrew Pringle
For Hire of Josiah**

Frances B. Gibson plaintiff complains of Benjamin Thornton and Andrew Pringle Jr. defendants who were summoned to answer the said plaintiff of a plea that they render unto the sum of one hundred and twenty five dollars which they owe to her and unjustly detain from her; and thereupon the said plaintiff any that the said defendants hereupon to wit on the 1st day of January in the year 1857 at the county aforesaid executer their two certain writings obligatory each sealed with their seals and to the court now here sworn the date of each of which is on the day year last aforesaid by the first of which they bound themselves their heirs executors & to pay to said plaintiff on or before the 1st day of January 1858 the sum of seventy five dollars for the hire of Josiah for the year 1857 by the other writing obliges (word not legible) they bound themselves their heirs executors and to pay said plaintiff on or before the 1st day of January 1858 the further sum of fifty dollars for the hire of Buckley while two sums together make the sum of One Hundred and Twenty Five Dollars abon? demanded - Nevertheless the said defendant although often requested so to do the said sum of \$125 above demanded or any part thereof has not paid to the said plaintiff, but the same to pay have always hitherto wholly refused and still refuse to the damages of said plaintiff \$125 & therefore she brings suit.

Eppa Hunton

On or before, 1st day of February 1858. We bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, &c. to pay, or cause, to be paid, to Frances B. Gibson, her heirs, executors &c. the just sum of seventy five dollars for the hire of Josiah for the present year, said servant, with good & sufficient summer and winter clothing, embracing, one pair of boots, one pair of shoes, socks, hat, and blanket & treat said servant with humanity. Witness our hands & seals, this 1st day of January 1857. Benjamin Thornton by Joseph Thornton his attorney- seal

Andrew Pringle Jr. - seal

On or before, 1st day of February 1858. We bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, &c. to pay, or cause, to be paid, to Frances B. Gibson, her heirs, executors &c. the just sum of fifty dollars for the hire of Bukley for the present year, said servant, with good & sufficient summer and winter clothing, embracing, one pair of boots, one pair of shoes, socks, hat, and blanket & treat said servant with humanity. Witness our hands & seals, this 1st day of January 1857. Benjamin Thornton by Joseph Thornton his attorney- seal

Andrew Pringle Jr. - seal

The Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Sheriff of Prince William County, If they be found in your bailiwick, to appear at the Clerk's office of our County Court of Prince William County, at the rules to be holden for said Court on the first Monday in February next to answer Frances B. Gibson of a plea of debt for \$125 and - Damage \$125 and have there this writ. Witness Phillip D. Lipscomb, clerk of our said court, at the Court House aforesaid, the 4 day of January 1858,

in the 82nd year of our foundation
P. D. Lipscomb.

10 February 1858

**Louisa C. Muschett vs
Benjamin Thornton and Andrew Pringle**

Louisa C. Muschett plaintiff complains of Benjamin Thornton and Andrew Pringle Jr. defendants who were summoned to answer the said plaintiff of a plea that they render unto the sum of ninety dollars which they owe to her and unjustly detain from her; and thereupon the said plaintiff any that hereupon to wit on the 1st day of February in the year 1857 at the county aforesaid the defendants by their certain writing obligatory sealed with their seals and to the court now here and now the (not legible) whereupon on the day and year last aforesaid promises to pay to the said plaintiff on the 25 December 1857 the sum of sixty five dollars for the hire of servant John for the year 1857 and the said plaintiff further (not legible) that said defendant (not legible) to wit. on the 1st day of January in the year 1857 at the county aforesaid by their certain other (not legible) obligatory sealed with their seal and to the (not legible) now here shown the date whereof is (blank) day of (blank) 1857 promised to pay said plaintiff on the 25th day of December 1857 the further sum of twenty five dollars being for the hire of Rachael and two others for the year 1857 which? two (not legible) make the sum of ninety dollars owed and demanded. Nevertheless the said defendants attempt often requested (not legible) the said sum of ninety dollars (not legible) demanded or any part thereof to the said plaintiff (not legible) not paid, but the (not legible) to pay (not legible) always (not legible) refused and still refuse to the (not legible) of said plaintiff of \$100 therefore she brings suit
Eppa Hunton

The Commonwealth of Virginia - To the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greetings, whereas an action of debt has been depending in our County Court of the County of Prince William between L. C. Muschett plaintiff and Benjamin Thornton and Andrew Pringle Jr. defendants, and before judgment was given or verdict rendered therein, the said plaintiff died, and Allen Howison and R. W. Wheat her Exors. have applied for a scire facias against the defendants: Therefore we command you that you make known to the said defendants, that they appear at the clerk's office of said county, at the court house of said county, at the rules to be holden for said court on the last Monday in February Inst. to shew cause, if any they can, why the said action should not be proceeded in to a final judgment, and have them there this writ. witness Philip D. Lipscomb clerk of our said court, at the court house aforesaid, the 1st day of February 1858, in the 82nd year of our foundation.

P. D. Lipscomb.

19 March 1858

John Robertson a Slave

Prince William County to wit. - I John Underwood, Justice of said County do certify that Edward Duvall and Wesley Mullen has arrested and this day brought before me John Robertson, a slave, the property of Samuel Hilton of the County of Fairfax as a runaway and having upon the examination of the said Edward Duvall and Wesley Mullen reasonable cause to suspect that said John Robertson is a runaway slave, I do further certify that said slave was apprehended in Prince William County in this State and that the distance from the place of his arrest to the residence of the said Samuel Hilton from whence he is supposed by me to have fled is 14 miles and that said Edward Duvall and Wesley Mullen is entitled to demand of said Samuel Hilton five dollars for arresting said slave including mileage at the rate of ten cents a mile for necessary travel from the place of his arrest. Given under my hand
the 19th day of March 1858

John Underwood J. P.

To the within named Edward Duvall and Wesley Mullen I command you forthwith to deliver the within mentioned slave to the jailor of the county of Prince William for safe keeping

together with this receipt and I hereby require the said jailor to receive said slave into his jail and to give you his receipt for him. signed, John Underwood J. P.

1 January 1859
Fitzhugh vs Deats
For Hire of William

On the 25th of December next, We promise and oblige ourselves, our heirs, executors, and administrators, to pay, or cause to be paid, to Edward H. Fitzhugh his heirs, or assigns, the just and full sum of Sixty Dollars current money of Virginia, it being the hire of Servant man William for the year 1859.

We, moreover, bind ourselves, our heirs, &c. to furnish the said Servant during the year, with good and sufficient summer and winter clothing, viz: Three shirts, Two pair pants and pair shoes for summer, coat and pants of good filled cloth, pair boots, pair socks made of yarn, hat and blanket. Witness our hands and seals, this 1st day of January 1859.

Robert Deats (seal)

Wm. E. Goodwin (seal)

Prince William County to wit: Edward H. Fitzhugh, plaintiff complains of Robert Deats and William E. Goodwin defendants, who were summoned to answer the said plaintiff, of a plea that he render unto him the said plaintiff the sum of sixty dollars which to him they owe, and from him unjustly detain, and thereupon the said plaintiff avers that the said defendant on the first day of January in the year 1859, at the County aforesaid by their certain writing obligatory, sealed with their seals, and to the Court now here shown, the date whereof is the day and year last aforesaid, promised to pay to the said plaintiff on the 25th day of December 1859 the said sum of \$60.00 for the hire of servant man William for the year 1859.

Nevertheless the said defendants although often requested so to do, the said sum of money so above described or any part thereof to the said plaintiff have not paid, but the same to pay have always hitherto refused and still do refuse, to the damage of the plaintiff, \$100 and therefore he brings suit, &c.

Eppa Hunton, P.Q.

The Commonwealth of Virginia, To the Sheriff of Prince William County - Greetings: We command you to summon Robert Deats and William E. Goodwin if they be found in your bailiwick, to appear at the Clerk's Office of our County Court of Prince William county, at the rules to be holden for said Court on the 1st Monday in July next, to answer Edward H. Fitzhugh of a plea of debt for \$60.00 - Damage \$100.00

And have then there this writ. Witness, Philip D. Lipscomb, Clerk of our said Court at the Court-house aforesaid, the 30th day of June 1860, in the 84th year of our foundation.

P. D. Lipscomb

Executed on Robert Deats & Wm. E. Goodwin on the 2nd day of July 1860

Wm. E. Goodwin, deputy sheriff
for T. K. Davis, sheriff

28 December 1860
Hutchison vs Berkeley
Hire of Barbara

On the first day of January 1862 we promise and bind ourselves our heirs executors &c. to pay to Elizabeth Hutchison her heirs executors &c. the sum of fifty dollars for hire of the negro woman Barbara for the year 1861 also to give said negro the following clothing viz for summer three shirts of good strong wide brown cotton, one frock of good plaid cotton, one bonnet and apron & one pair good shoes & for winter one frock of best home spun and made linsey(?) one pair stockings, one pair strong shoes and one heavy three pound blanket as witness our hands and seals this 28th day of December 1860

Edmund Berkeley (seal)

Charles Whitlock (seal)

Prince William County to wit: Elizabeth Hutchison complains of Edmund Berkeley and Charles Whitlock who have been summoned to answer to a plea that they render her the sum

of fifty dollars which to her they owe and from her unjustly detain; and thereupon the plaintiff avers that the defendants on the 28th day of December, in the year 1860 at the County aforesaid, by their certain writing obligatory sealed with their seals and to the court now here shown dated the day and year aforesaid, promised to pay said plaintiff on the 1 day of January 1862 the said sum of \$50.00 for hire of the negro woman Barbara for the year 1861.

Nevertheless, the said defendant, although often required, the said sum of money so above demanded or any part thereof to the plaintiff have not paid, but the same to pay have hitherto refused, and still do refuse, to the damage of the plaintiff 100 dollars, and therefore she brings suit, &c.

Eppa Hunton, P.Q.

Undated Note

The court orders the sheriff of Prince William County not to collect the sum of \$1.20 the tax on a slave charged to Charles Thatcher who was proven satisfactorily to the court was not 12 years old the 1st day of Feby, last the Commth. Atty. being present and defended the application.