

**18 October 1836**

**Renoe vs Larkin**

The Commonwealth of Virginia to the Justices of the Peace of the County of Prince William, Gentlemen:  
Greetings:

Know Ye, that we trusting to your fidelity and provident circumspection in diligently examining William F. Matthews witness for the Plaintiff in a certain suit in our County Court of Prince William, now depending and undetermined between George N. B. Renoe plaintiff, and Henry D. Larkin defendant, command you, that at such certain time and place as you shall appoint, you assemble yourselves; and the witness aforesaid, before you, or any one or more of you, you call, and cause to come, and him diligently examine on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God; and his examination into our said Court, distinctly and plainly, without delay, you send, certified under your seals, returning to us also, this writ. Witness, John Williams, Clerk of our said Court, at the Court-house aforesaid, the 18<sup>th</sup> day of October 1836 and in the 61<sup>st</sup> year of our foundation.

Jno Williams

Clerk's Office of Prince William County,  
October 18<sup>th</sup> 1836.

George N. B. Renoe this day personally appeared before me the subscriber, and made oath that William F. Matthews is a material witness for him in a suit now pending in the County Court of Prince William wherein he is plaintiff and Henry D. Larkin is defendant and that said Matthews is about to remove from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Jno Williams C.C.

Mr. Henry D. Larkin

You will please take notice that between the hours of 10 o'clock in the forenoon and 5 o'clock in the afternoon of Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> instant, at the Tavern of Wesley D. Wheeler in the Town of Brentsville, Prince William County. I shall proceed to take the deposition of William F. Matthews and others, to be read as evidence in a suit depending in the County Court of Prince William, where I am plaintiff and you are defendant, and shall continue the same from day to day Witness completed on said 20<sup>th</sup> inst.

Yours &c.  
George N. B. Renoe  
October 18<sup>th</sup> 1836

Virginia, Prince William County to Wit:

The deposition of William F. Matthews taken at the house of Wesley D. Wheeler in the Town of Brentsville and County aforesaid on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 1836, to be read in a suit now depending in the County Court of Prince William, at Common Law, in pursuance of a commission and notice hereunto annexed wherein George N. B. Renoe is plaintiff and Henry D. Larkin is defendant. The respondent being first sworn deposeth as follows.

1<sup>st</sup> Question by Plaintiff – did you or did you not hear Henry D. Larkin say anything respecting the death of Penelope D. Renoe, the wife of George N. B. Renoe, if so please state. Answer, I heard him, Henry D. Larkin say that George N. B. Renoe was the cause of her death by beating her, and otherwise misusing her, he moreover said that she was poisoned by the negroes of George N. B. Renoe (at his instance) or in other words he made them do it.

2<sup>nd</sup> Question by Plaintiff – Was or was not Henry D. Larkin, at the time you heard him make the above acquisition under the influence of liquor. Answer – No he was not under the influence of liquor and I do not know that he had touched a drop that day.

3<sup>rd</sup> Question by Plaintiff – Were you or not in the habit of visiting my house during the lifetime of my wife P. D. Renoe, if so please state have we lived as companions. Answer – I have frequently been there and have seen the treatment of Geo. N. B. Renoe towards his wife as kind and affectionate as a wife could ask

1. Question by the defendant! When and where did this conversation take place. Answer – At the house of Henry D. Larkin sometime after the death of Penelope D. Renoe. I do not recollect the precise time and farther this deponent saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20<sup>th</sup> day of October 1836

William F. Matthews

