

Claim of John J. Brooke
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State of Maryland – Calvert County – to wit:

Be it remembered that on this eighteenth day of January in the year eighteen hundred & twenty eight personally appears Mr. Benjamin W. Hershaw before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State & for the county aforesaid & makes oath on the Holy Evangel-gely of Almighty God – that in the year eighteen hundred & fourteen in the month of July or August as well as he remembers while the British Fleet lay in the River Patuxent in a short time after James Maulden Mathew Johnson & Benjamin Mason slaves of John J. Brooke Esqr of the state & county aforesaid had abscond-ed & gone to the British Forces as this Deponent hath understood & believes – he this Deponent had a conversation with Benjamin Mason Jr. who had ab-scinded as aforesaid & that the said Benjamin Mason Senr was also slave of the said John J. Brooke told this Deponent that he Benjamin Mason Senr had been on board of the British Fleet & had seen his son Benjamin Mason Jr. & had been treated very well & that his said son had new clothes & a plenty to eat & drink – whereupon this Deponent remarked to the said Benjamin Mason Senr

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that he expected he would go to the British also as his son was treated so well – when the said Benjamen Mason Senr replied that he would not go to the British - & that in a few days after the conversation aforesaid this Deponent met with Venus Mason wife of the said Benjamen Mason Senr & slave also of the said John J. Brooke who (Venus Mason aforesaid) told this Deponent that Benjamen Mason Senr had gone off & at the time of leaving home said he would go to his son Benjamen Mason Jr on board of the British Fleet & that the said Benjamen Mason Senr at the time of absconding [which fact is well known to this Deponent but where he went this Deponent does not certainly know – but from the conversations aforesaid had with the said Benjamen Mason Senr & Venus Mason & from the circumstance of the British Fleet then lay in the Patuxent River he this Deponent believes that the said Benjamen Mason Senr went to the British) was about fifty years of age & a rough carpenter & that the said Venus Mason is now dead – & further this Deponent saith not –

Sworn before

Aquilla G. Bowen

State of Maryland, Calvert County Sc.

I Hereby certify that Aquilla G. Bowen Esqr before whom the within Deposition was made and taken and who has thereto subscribed his name was at the time of [illegible words] a Justice of the peace of the said State in and for Calvert County aforesaid duly [illegible] sworn.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the Seal of Calvert County Court this twenty first day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty eight.

William S. Morsell Clk of Calvert County
Court

Claim of John J. Brooke, Calvert County, Case No. 513, Case Files. Ca. 1814-28, entry 190, Record Group 76, National Archives, College Park. MSA SC 5496-050671

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State of Maryland – Calvert County to wit:

Be it remembered that one this nineteenth day of January in the year eighteen hundred & twenty eight personally appears John G. Mack -all Esqr before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State & for the county aforesaid & makes oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God that in the year eighteen hundred & fourteen in the month of July & as this Deponent believes on the last day of said month – he this Deponent about sunrise in the morning met negro Benjamen Mason Senr belonging to the estate of Major John Brooke then deceased whose only heir is Jms J. Brooke Esq of the County & State aforesaid about two or three miles from the dwelling plantation of the said Jms J. Brooke traveling in a direction to said plantation – whereupon this Deponent enquired of the said Benjamen Mason Senr the cause of his being thus absent from home at that early hour. Who answered that he had been on the way to see his relations - & further this Deponent saith that after questioning the said Benjamen Mason Senr he told this Deponent that he had been on board of the British Fleet & stayed all night for the purpose of persuading the said Jms. J. Brooke's boys (meaning his negroes) to return home - & that while on board of the British he Benj'm Mason Senr had been treated very well & that the negroes who had gone to the British lived well & that the British officers had told him the said Benj'n Mason Senr that all the negroes who went to the British would certainly be free

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& that this Deponent left the County in a few days afterwards & when he returned he ascertained that the said Benj'n Mason Senr had gone off - & that this Deponent hath not seen the said Benj'n Mason Senr since & thinks it probable that he went to the British Forces or Fleet which then lay in the Patuxent River – & further this Deponent saith not –

Sworn before

Aquilla G. Bowen

State of Maryland, Calvert County Sc

I Hereby certify that Aquilla G. Bowen Esquire before whom the within deposition was made and taken and who has therefore subscribed his name was at the [illegible] of so doing a Justice of the peace of the said State in and for Calvert County [illegible] said duly commissioned and sworn.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the Seal of Calvert County Court this twenty first day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty eight.

William S. Morsell Clk of Calvert
County Court

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J.J.B. Paid 12 [illegible]

Robert P. Dunlop Esqr

Geo: Bowen

District Columbia

mail

State of Maryland – Calvert County – to wit:

Be it remembered that one this Twenty second day of January – in the year eighteen hundred & twenty eight personally appears James D. Denton before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace of the State & for the County aforesaid & makes oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God that in the year eighteen hundred & fourteen negro Benjamen Mason Senior slalve [sic] of John J. Brooke Esqr of the State & County aforesaid came to the House of this Deponent apparently much disturbed & said his son Benjamen Mason Jr was gone to the British & that he must go after him for fear his master would punish him because his son had gone - & that some time afterwards the said Benjamen Mason Senior came again to the House of this Depo-ment [sic] & told him he had been on board of the British Fleet to endeavor to persuade his son Benjamen Mason Jr. to return home – but could not do so because he was treated so well by the British – afterwards this Deponent observed the said Benjamen Mason Senr in conversation with his negroes & having a curiosity to know what he was talking about approached unobserved & listen-ed & heard the said Benjamen Mason Senr persuading the negroes of him this Deponent to go to the British – telling them they would be free - & that his son Benjamen Mason Jr. & others who had already gone were treated like a King - & that he the said Benjamen Mason Senr told the said negroes that he believed he would go to the British also although he was old – whereupon this Deponent reprimanded the said Benjamen [illegible] persuading his negroes [illegible]

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the British & threatened him with the consequences of so doing when he left the farm of this Deponent who hath never seen him since - & who had no opportunity of communicating with Jn. J. Brooke aforesaid untill [sic] after he understood that the said Benjamen Mason Senr had absconded – owing to the then disturbed state of things - & further this Deponent saith not –

Sworn before
Aquilla G. Bowen

State of Maryland, Calvert County Sc

I Hereby certify that Aquilla G Bowen Esquire before whom the foregoing Deposition was made and taken and who has thereto subscribed his name was at the time of so doing a Justice of the peace of the said State in and for Calvert County aforesaid duly commissioned and sworn.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the Seal of Calvert County this twenty third day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty eight.

William S. Morsell Clk of
Calvert County Court

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Jn. J. Brooke

Petition to have claim
for negro Benj Mason Senr
entered on definitive list
R. P. Dunlop
agent

20th Mar: 1828

Not within the Act of
Congress & therefore
not allowed.