

1822-034 A

SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY
CHANCERY PAPERS

COKER & ~~ux~~ al vs. JAMES' ADMR & al' 1/1822

other sURNAMES: Gilliam, Vasser,
Davis, Cooper, Birdsong,
Hines, Cobb, Blythe, Butts,
Simmons, Gay, Cargill,
Blow, Travis

3
Coker W. Bill
1 in
Davitt

May 16th 1878 Bill filed &
rule to answer—

Aug². 17th 1878 answer filed
& Genl. reple. of Comd. to take
ap^{on} Oct 1st

Sept. 5th 1878 Dep. of Comd. come to
hand under seal—

19th Oct^r 1878 Dep^t Depositions
come to hand under seal—

1879 Jan^y Revised by consent in the
name of Henry Briggs adm^r of the
Land acc^t

Sept^r 18th 1871 ^{for} answer for
the Compt^r—

if the said Edwin Davis and his wife Martha
in right of his said wife as the widow of the
said Arthur Williams are entitled to any portion
of said slaves, that such portion be allotted
to them. Finally your complacencies may that
your worships would make any other or further
order or decree in the premises which may comport
with principles of Justice and equity and as in
duty bound they will ever pray & And that
the Commonwealths writ of Subpoena may issue
&c.

Eli Coker & Susan his
wife

John Vesper & Lucy his
wife -

Inside
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Not decalified
5/14/92

To the worshipful Court of Southampton in Chancery sitting
Humbly complaining sheweth unto your worshipps your complain-
ants Eli Coker and Susan his wife late Susan Gilliam daughter of
Arthur Gilliam and and John Vaper and Lucy his wife late
Lucy Gilliam also daughters of the said deceased Arthur
Gilliam. That their deceased father ~~is~~ ^{was} ~~Arthur Gilliam~~ in his
lifetime intermarried with a certain Martha James a
daughter of a certain John James and sometime in the
year 1797 ^{or there about} that a short
time previous to the intermarriage aforesaid, and whilst
the said Arthur Gilliam was paying his addresses to the
said Martha, the said John James promised the
said Arthur Gilliam that in consideration that he
would marry his said daughter Martha he would
give him a negro woman named Leah ^{after}
several other articles which were at that ^{time} particularly
designated. That the above promise of the said John

James was made in consequence of the declarations
made by the said Arthur Gilliam, that he was
poor and unable to support a wife, unless he could
marry a woman possessed of some property. That in
consideration of the promise aforesaid the said Arthur
Gilliam agreed to and did marry the said Martha
That in execution of the agreement aforesaid, the
said John James immediately upon the marriage
sent and delivered the said negro woman Leah to
the said Arthur Gilliam, who remained in joint
possession of her until the period of his death, being
as your complainants believe upwards of six years
That the said John James during the lifetime of the
said Arthur Gilliam never pretended to exercise any

any right of ownership or set up any claim to the
said Negro woman Leah or her increase, but on the
contrary, whilst the said Arthur Gilliam was confined
in his Carl illness and advising with the said John
James in relation to the disposition which he should
make of his estate, and particularly of that woman
the said John James said in presence of the company
which was then that he Arthur Gilliam would do
with the ^{said} Negro woman as he pleased. That notwith-
standing the said Gilliam desired to make a last
will and testament he died without effecting it
leaving your two female complainants his only
children and heirs at law, and the said Martha
his widow who took out letters of administration
upon his estate. That shortly after the death of the
said Arthur Gilliam the said John James

landed the above facts ~~truthfully~~ into his possession
the said negro woman and her increase, and retained
them in his possession until the period of his death
which occurred a few months past. That sometime
after the death of the said Arthur Gilliam his widow
the said Martha intermarried with a certain Edwin
Davis, who hath lately taken out letters of administra-
tion upon the estate of said John James and who died
intestate, and who hath the said negro woman Leah
and her increase now in his possession as the widow of
the said John James and. That your complainant
Susan hath intermarried with the said complainant
Eli Coker and is at present about twenty two years
of age. and that your complainant Lucy hath
intermarried with the complainant John Vasser
and is at present about twenty years of age.

That your complainants have in vain applied to the
said Edwin Davis ^{guardian} of the said John James and
and to the said Edwin Davis and Martha his wife
who was administratrix of Arthur Gilliam and for an allotment
of that portion of the said slave Leah and her increase
to which they are respectively entitled under the act of
the General Assembly providing for the distribution of intestate
estates. That the debts due from the estate of the said Arthur
Gilliam ^{estate} ~~estate~~ ^{deceased} have been fully paid and settled or so nearly settled
that the personal representatives of said Arthur Gilliam
cannot require the said slave or any part of her
increase to be sold for that purpose. That the said
negro woman Leah is at this time reasonably
worth three hundred dollars, and that she hath
the following descendants at present alive, to wit:
her child Cary worth five hundred dollars and
the child of said Cary, to wit Nicholas of the

valued off five hundred dollars and Elty of the
valued of four hundred dollars - Cynthia of the
valued off five hundred dollars and her children
twent, kind of the valued off five hundred dollars,
Cary of the valued off five hundred dollars
and Jim of the valued off five hundred dollars -
Matilda who has no means, of the valued off five
hundred dollars - Amy of the valued of five
hundred dollars and her child Eliza of the
valued of four hundred dollars - Molly of the
valued off five hundred dollars, Dorinda of the valued
off five hundred dollars - Peter of the valued of
five hundred dollars, Dory of the valued off five
hundred dollars - Elay of the valued off five hundred
dollars - Tabitha of the valued off five hundred
dollars - Cherry of the valued of five hundred
dollars and Lissy of the valued off five hundred dollars

That the aforesaid slave Leah with her increase are of great value as appears by the prices annexed to their names respectively, and are almost the only estate of their deceased father the said Arthur Williams. Yet your complainants cannot obtain possession of the same, the said Edwin Davis alleging that they are the proper estate of his intestate John James Davis and that they are up to in his hands to be administered according to law. and at other times alleging other pretences equally untrue and unfounded, all which is contrary to equity and good conscience, and tends manifestly to the injury and oppression of your complainants. In tender consideration whereof and in as much as your complainants are reminded in the premises and in a bill of Chancery the. pray that the said

Edwin Davis administrator of the said John James Davis, and the said Edwin Davis and his wife Martha administratrix and widow of the said Arthur Williams and may be made defendants hereto and upon their corporate oaths give true and perfect answer be compelled to make to all and singular the allegations herein contained and set forth and that in as full and ample a manner as if the same were here again repeated and they and each of them thereto more particularly interrogated. They further pray that your worship the premises considered will please to decree that the said slave Leah and her increase should be divided between your complainants according to their respective rights, and that

Edwin Davis & Co
adrs. ³ 5 Amherst
Boston & Co

To the worshipful the justices of the County
Court of Southampton in Chancery sitting!

The Answer of Edwin Davis and Martha his wife (which
said Edwin is administrator of John James deceased, which
said Martha is administratrix of Arthur Gilliam deceased) to
a Bill of Complaint exhibited against them by Eli Coker and
Susan his wife and John Vaper and Lucy his wife, in this
Court - These respondents saving and reserving to them-

selves every benefit and advantage of exceptions to the many
errors & insufficiencies in the said Bill contained, for answer
thereunto say, it is true that they are administrator and administratrix
charged in the said Bill - They deny that the said John
James promised the said Arthur in consideration that he would
marry the said Martha, that he the said James would give
him, besides other property, a negro woman named Siab.

They state that about eighteen months after the intermarriage
of the said Arthur and Martha, the said John James banded
to the said Arthur a certain negro woman named Siab, and
did not, as charged by the Complainants, deliver her in
execution of any agreement whatsoever - They further state
that the said Arthur did not remain in quiet possession of
the said slave until the period of his death: but that the
said James in the life time, and with the consent of the said
Arthur, either took possession of the said Siab, or that the said
Arthur himself upon request & in compliance of the contract
made in relation thereto, returned and redelivered the said

Slave to the said James - that the said Arthur Gilliam, after his ^{expenses and disbursements}, incurred by the said James in his life
said intermarriage lived, as your respondents believe, only three years ^{time}, & by the said Edwin since his death towards supporting and
and twenty three days, and that therefore, as they contend, raising the increase of the said Slave, and that the said Com-
could not have been possessed of the said Slave a longer period ^{laintants are also indebted in one other large sum of money both to}
than about one year and an half - Your respondents further ^{the said Edwin individually, as also to him as the admor. of these}
state that from the period at which the said slave was so as James for necessary maintenance and support furnished and
aforesaid redelivered, to the time of the said James' death, making ^{provided to and for the said Susan and Lucy before their inter-}
in all twenty or twenty one years, he the said James held ^{marriage; which said sums of money, your respondents are advised}
and undisturbed adverse possession of the said Slave and her ^{ought to be applied as a discount against the claims for which}
increase; and because of the great length of time during which this suit has been instituted - Your respondents admit that
the said James continued to hold possession of the said property ^{no further funds are required for the payment of the debts due}
as aforesaid, your respondents are advised, that the complainants ^{and owing from the estate of the said Arthur Gilliam - without}
can in no manner be entitled thereto, and therefore as a ^{that &c.} - And these respondents deny all unlawful combin-
ber to their recovering the same, your respondents state and ^{ation or conspiracy in the said Bill charged & pray to be heard}
rely upon that fact as if the same were here more formally ^{disputed with their reasonable costs & charges in this behalf}
pleaded & set forth - Your respondents admit the names of the ^{most manfully sustained &c.} -
slaves said to be the increase of the said Slave to be correctly ^{Edwin Davis}
stated, all of whom, (except Crecy, who is dead,) are now in their ^{Martha Davis}
possession: they however, deny, that the said slaves are of the
value stated by the complainants, and therefore, call for ^{Southampton County, to wit:}
proof thereof - Should the foregoing matter of reference not ^{This day the above mentioned Edwin Davis ~~with~~}
be deemed sufficient to prevent a recovery in this case, your ^{Davis} appeared before the subcommittee a justice of the peace for
respondents (being so advised) rely upon the following facts or ^{County aforesaid, and made oath that the allegations contained}
circumstances: first, they say, that the said Martha, as the widow ^{in the foregoing answer so far as they depend upon ~~her own~~}
of the said Arthur Gilliam after his death, will be entitled for ^{knowledge are true; & so far as they depend upon the knowledge}
and during her life time, to one third part of such slaves as may ^{or information of others ~~they~~ believe them to be true - Given under}
be recovered by the said complainants - that the said complainants ^{my hand this 17th day of August A.D. 1818}
are indebted in a large sum of money for proper necessary

Coker wife & wife wife

Chy

Henry Briggs adm & r n of James Sothers

This day this cause was ~~heard~~ heard by consent of parties
and oral of the Court upon the bill answers, exhibits
filed and the depositions taken in the cause read
by consent of parties. and after mature deliberation
the Court doth adjudge and decree that
~~the~~ the complainants do recover of the said
Henry Briggs ad & r n of John James and the slaves
except ^{one of the slaves} ~~one of the slaves~~ ^{whose name is now dead}
mentioned in the bill. The Court being of opinion
that said ^{the mother of the slave from whom the said Briggs} ~~the mother of the slave~~ was given by the said John James
in his lifetime to the said William the father
of the female complainants at the time he
married said James's daughter Martha as a
marriage portion. The Court doth further decree
that the complainants pay to the said ^{Briggs} the sum of
\$1410.22 with ^{interest} on \$198 paid thereof from 31st Dec
1818. also on \$109 ~~paid~~ ^{paid} thereof from 31st Dec 1819
and also on \$110.34 another part thereof from 31st
Dec 1820. and also that they pay the further
sum of \$80 to the said defendant Briggs ^{last sum} which
is agreed between the parties is the amount of the
expense of maintaining the slaves this year
and that Samuel B. Miles Benjamin Cobb Geo. Miles Wm
Briggs or any three of them do find means to make sale
of so many of said slaves as may be sufficient to pay the
notice for cash as may be sufficient to pay the
sums aforesaid; and that they divide the remain-
der of said slaves into three equal parts having
regard to value. and allot one part to the said
Martha Davis for her life to which she is entitled

as the widow of said Arthur Gilliam and - one part
to ^{his wife} ~~Eli Coker~~ ^{the} complainants Eli Coker and Susannah
in right of his said wife, and the remaining
part to John Voper and Lucy his wife in right
of his said wife, and further that they make a
deed to this Court in order to a final decree.

Booker W.

"

Davis W.

Wm in
Chy.

To March Court 1878

Executed on Davis W.
At Newbern N.C. of
Richd. P. Clements G. J.

The Commonwealth of Virginia to the Sheriff of
Southampton county Greeting you are hereby commanded
to summon Edwin Davis and Martha his wife formerly
Martha Gilliam widow and adm^r of the ~~said~~ Arthur
Gilliam dec^d and the said Edwin Davis as adm^r of
John James dec^d to appear before the Justices of
our county court of Southampton county at the court-
house on the third Monday in March next to
answer a bill in chancery exhibited against them
by Eli Coker and Susan his wife formerly Susan
Gilliam and daughter of ~~the~~ said Arthur Gilliam
dec^d and John Vaper and Lucy his wife formerly Lucy
Gilliam also a daughter of said Arthur Gilliam dec^d
and this they shall in no wise omit under the
penalty of £100 each - and have then these their
writ - Witnesses James Rachelle clerk of our said
county court of Southampton at his office the 24th
day of January 1818 and 49th - Year of the
Commonwealth -

James Rachelle Clk.

Coker & Co

S

Davis & Co

Wm

Commr.

to take

depositions

The Commonwealth of Virginia to John Cargill and
George Blount. ————— Perpetuities: Justices of the Peace in

the County of Sussex. Greeting: Know ye that we, trusting to your
fidelity and provident circumspection in diligently examining William
Billiam and Edwin Cooper witnesses on behalf of Eli bther and Susan
his wife formerly Susan Billiam and daughters of Arthur Billiam deceased
and John Vaple and Lucy his wife formerly Lucy Billiam also a
daughter of said Arthur Billiam deceased - against - Edwin Davis and
Martha his wife, formerly Martha Billiam widow and adminis-
trator of ~~Arthur~~ Billiam deceased, and the said Edwin Davis
as administrator of John Davis deceased - In a Suit now depending
in the County Court of Southampton Command you, or any two or
more of you that on such certain day and at such places as you
shall appoint, you assemble yourselves, and the witnesses aforesaid
before you, you call and cause to come, and diligently examine on the
Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, and thus examinations into our said
Court distinctly and plainly, without delay you send, and Certify as
enclosed returning also to us, ~~the~~ our most worthy James Rochelle Clerk
of our said County Court of Southampton at his office the 18th day
of August 1818 In the 43rd year of our Foundation —

A. M. id below D.C.
(7)

M^r. Edwin Davis

Sir

Take notice that we shall

On Monday the 31st day of this month between
the hours of ^{ten} 11 o'clock in the morning and six o'clock
in the Evening of that Day at Rye's Store in the
County of Sussex, proceed to take the Depositions
of William Gilliam and Edwin Cooper to be read
in Evidence in a Court in Chancery now depend-
ing in the County Court of Southampton wherein
Eli Coker and Susan his wife late Susan Gilliam
Daughter of Arthur Gilliam Decd and John Vaser
and Lucy his wife late Lucy Gilliam also
Daughter of the said Arthur Gilliam Decd plaintiffs
and Edwin Davis and Martha his wife (which said
Edwin Davis is Administrator of John James decd,
and which said Martha is administratrix of Arthur
Gilliam decd) and defendants at which time
and place you may attend if you think proper

Eli Coker

John Vaser

August 18th 1818

Superior County to wit.

This day Ethelredus Papp appeared before me a justice of the peace for the aforesaid County; that he did on the twentieth day of this month (August) deliver to Edwin Davis a true Copy of the within Notice. Given under my hand this 31st day of August eighteen hundred and eighteen.

John Cargill (J.P.)

Davis 92 92

~~12/11~~

2 Comm.
3 No take
3 Disposition

Baker 92

The Commonwealth of Virginia To
George Henry Matthews Esquire, Justice of the Peace in
the County of Southampton, Greeting: Know ye that we trusting to your
fidelity and prudent Circumspection in diligent examining, Margaret
Bussong, Eliza Horn, Ann Hines and Temperance Hines, Witnesses
on behalf of Edwin Davis and Martha his wife formerly Martha
William Moore and administratrix of Arthur William deceased and the
said Edwin Davis as administrators of John James decd at the Suit of
Elisabeth and Susan his wife, formerly Susan William and daughter of
Arthur William decd & John Vaper & Lucy his wife formerly Lucy Williams
also a daughter of said Arthur William deceased. In a Suit now depending
in the County Court of Southampton, Command you, or any two or more
of you that on such certain days, & at such place as you shall appoint
you assemble yourselves - and the witnesses aforesaid before you
you call & cause to come, and diligently examine on the Holy
Evangelist of Almighty God and this examination into our said
beasts distinctly and Plainly without delay you send and certify
enclosed returning also to us this writ witness James Moschelle Clerk
of our said County Court of Southampton at his office the 18.th day of
August 1878 In the 43 year of the Commonwealth

A. McIsidleton D.C.

Mr Eli Coker and Mr John Vassor
Take notice that I shall on Saturday 19. of ^{the}
September 1818 between the hours of 8 o'clock in
the morning and 7 o'clock in the evening of
the same day Proceed to take the depositions of Peggy
Birdsong Eliza Horn Tempy Hines and others at the
dwelling House of Nancy James in the County of
Southampton also on the same day and between the
hours aforesaid I shall take the deposition of Ann
Hines at her dwelling house situate in the said
County to be read as evidence in a suit now Pending
and undetermined in the Court of the County of
Southampton wherein Eli Coker and Susan his
Wife and John Vassor and Lucy his wife are
Complainants and Edwin Davis and Martha his
Wife are Defendants the said Edwin Davis Adm^r
of John James dec^d and the said Martha his wife
Administratrix of Nathor Gillum dec^d and at
such time and Place you may attend if you
think Proper —

Edwin Davis
the
September 8. 1818

This day personally appeared before us Micajah Bottomman
Scribe with Platte and on the 21st day of September did give
to Eli Leoker Scribe & his Deputes Scribe such a notice
of which the within is a true Copy -

Ben Cobbley
Geo Harris

Coker H. 3

17

Davis H. 3

Leom. 1

Rockelle clerk of our said county Court of Southampton
at his office the 23rd day of October 1878 and 43rd
year of the Comm^t.

James Rockelle Esq.
H

Personally appeared before us Jordan
Vaper, who made oath that he deli-
vered Edwin Davis a true copy
of the within notice on the 19th
day of this instant October. Given
under our hands and seals this
28th day October 1848 J. J. V. P.

Benz. Griffin

The Commonwealth of Virginia to Jeremiah Cobb
of Bryn Griffen Gentlemen Justices of the peace
in and for the county of Southampton Greeting: Know ye
that we trusting to your fidelity and provident circum-
= spection in diligently examining Benjamin Cobb
and Mary Blythe witnesses on behalf of
Eli Loker and Susan his wife formerly Susan Lillian
(and Daughters of Arthur Lillian decd. and John Vaper
and Lucy his wife formerly Lucy Lillian also a daughter
of said Arthur Lillian decd. against Edwin Davis
and Martha his wife formerly Martha Lillian widow
and adm^r of Arthur Lillian decd. and the said Edwin
Davis an adm^r of John James decd. In a suit now
depending in the county court of Southampton, com-
= mand you or any two or more of you that on such
certain days and at such places as you shall appoint
you assemble yourselves, and the witnesses aforesaid before
you, you call and cause to come, and diligently examine
on the holy evangelist of Almighty God: and their
examination into our said court & it is to be plainly
without delay, you, you send, and certify enclosed
returning also to us this writ - Witness James

Davis 22 22

22

Walker 22 22

{ Corruption

{ to take

{ depositions

The Commonwealth of Virginia to George Stokes & Benjamin Cabell
Senators, Justices of the Peace in the County
of Southampton Greeting: Know ye that we trusting to your fidelity and
prudent Circumspection in diligently examining, Thomas Simmons, William
Bates and Henry Gilliam, witnesses on behalf of Esmer Davis and Martha
his wife, formerly Martha Gilliam, widow and administratrix of Arthur Gilliam
and also the said Esmer Davis as administratrix of John James dead at the Suit
of Eli Barker and Susan his wife, formerly Susan Gilliam and daughter of
Arthur Gilliam dead and John Vaper and Lucy his wife, formerly Lucy
Gilliam also a daughter of said Arthur Gilliam deceased. In a Suit now depending
in the County of Southampton, Command you, or any two or more of you
that on such certain days and at such places as you shall appoint, you
assemble your selves and the witnesses aforesaid before you, you call and
cause to come, and diligently examine on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty
God, and their examination into our said Court, distinctly and plainly
without delay, you send and certify enclosed, returning also to us this writ
witness Daniel Rochelle clerk of our said County Court of Southampton at his
office the 27th day of Oct^r 1818 In the 4th year of the Commonwealth
P. M. Middleton D.C.

Mr Eli Coker and Mr John Vasser
Take notice that I shall on the 14th of November
1818 between the hours of 9. o'clock in the Morning
and 6 o'clock in the evening of the same Day
Proceed to take the depositions of Thomas Simmons
and William Butts and Drury Gillum and others
at Mr William Simmons Tavern in the County
of Southampton to be read as evidence in a suit
now pending and undetermined in the Court of the
County of Southampton wherein Eli Coker
and Susan his wife and John Vasser and Lucy
his wife are Complainants and Edwin Davis
and Martha his wife defendants the said
Edwin Davis Adm^r of John James dec^d and the
said Martha his wife Administratrix of Arthur
Gillum dec^d and at such time and Place you
may attend if you think Proper

Edwin Davis
& Martha his wife
October 28. 1818

Le Ampten. Feb.

This day personally appeared before us Micajah Holliman and
I made oath that he did deliver to Eli Barker & Susan his wife
and Jno. Vaper & Lucy a notice of which the within is a
true copy -

Amos P
J. Hines. Jr

Booker T. W. H. } Commit.
 ^{the} } to take
Briggs ad. H. } deposit.

1860

The Commonwealth of Virginia to
Gentlemen Justices of the peace in the county of ~~Stafford~~ Southampton

Greeting: Know ye that we trusting to your fidelity and provident circumspection in diligent examining Emma Gay, George Blow and John Bargill, witnesses on behalf of Eli Loker & Susan his wife, formerly Susan Gilliam & daughter of Arthur Gilliam, and John Waper & Lucy his wife, formerly Lucy Gilliam, also a daughter of the said Arthur Gilliam decd, against Martha Davis, formerly Martha Gilliam & late widow and administratrix of Arthur Gilliam decd, but now widow & relict of Edwin Davis decd and Henry Bragg, administrator De bonis non of John James deceased

In a suit now depending in the County court of Southampton and State of Virginia command you or any two or more of you that on such certain days and at such places as you shall appoint you assemble yourselves and the witnesses aforesaid before you, you call & cause to come & diligently examine on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God and then examination into our said court distinctly and plainly without delay you send and certify enclosed & return us to us this Writ Witness James Rockelle clerk of our County court of Southampton at his office the 19th day of January 1819 and 43rd year of the Commonwealth

A. M. Coleman D.C.

Wth Henry Briggs
we take notice ^{that} we shal proceed to
Take the deposition of Edmond Gay
and others on the third Monday
in this month at Southampton Court
houses between the hours of ten o'clock
in the morning and six o'clock in the
Evening to be read as Evidence in
a Suit in Chancery depending and
undetermined in Southampton
County Court between our selves and
wives Plaintiffs and your self a Dem
de bonis non of John James died
and Martha Davis formerly elcar
the Gilliam widow and Relict of
of Lefther Gilliam decd

Chas Baker
John Vasser
February 5 1814

This day personally appeared before me
Benj Duany a Justice of the peace for
the County of Southampton John
Land and made oath that he deliver-
ed to Martha Davis a true copy
of the within notice on the 5 day
of this present month Feb^y and
the service of the within was acknow-
ledged by Henry Briggs —

Given under my hand this 15-
day of Feb^y 1819. Benj Duany

I do hereby acknowledge service of the within
notice this 22nd March 1819

Henry Briggs ad. de b. m.
of Th^o James Sec^y

W.^m Henry Briggs Adm^r De bonis now
of John James De^y and Martha Davis formerly
Martha Gilliam widow of Arthur Gilliam De^y.

- Take Notice that we shall proceed to
take the Deposition of George Bloom &
John Cargile on the first day of Aprile
Next at ~~Cox~~ Silliards Tavern in Sussex
County between the hours of 10 O'clock in the
Forenoon & Six O'clock in the afternoon to
be used as Evidence in a suit now depending
and undetermined in the County Court of
Southampton in Chancery where we are
Plaintiffs and you defendants.

March 17th
1819

Eli Coker and
Sara saw his wife

John Varzer and
Lucy his wife

Coker V.

B.

Briggs Ad. V.

} Com. val.

} As take

} Depo:

The Commonwealth of Virginia to William Robt John
Nicholson & Hugh C. Belcher, Gentlemen, Justices of the Peace in the
County of Suffolk — Know ye, that we having to your fidelity
and provident Circumspection in diligently examining George Blow and
John Barrill.

Witnesses on behalf of
Rt. Col. V. Susan his wife, formerly Susan Williams, and daughter of Arthur Williams and
John Vaper Lucy his wife, formerly Lucy Williams, also a daughter of the said Arthur Williams
and against Martha Davis, formerly Martha Williams, late widow & administratrix of
Arthur Williams and, but now widow & executrix of John Davis deceased and Henry Rogers
and others, now of John Davis deceased in the County of Southampton

Command you or any two or more of you, that on such certain days and
at such places as you shall appoint, you appear yourselves, and the
witnesses aforesaid before, you all and each to come, and diligently
examine on the holy Evangelists of Almighty God and their
examinations into our said Court, distinctly and plainly without
delay you find, and certify enclosed, returning also to us this writ
signed James Robt. Clerk of our said Court of Southampton at
his office the 17th day of March 1819 In the 43rd year
of the Commonwealth

Ch. McCallum D.C.

Mr Henry Briggs adm^r de bonis non of John
James de^d and Martha Davis family Martha
Gilliam widow of Arthur Gilliam de^d ~~the~~ take notice
that we shall proceed to take the depositions of
George Blaw and John Bargill on the first day
of april next at Dilliards tavern in Sussex
County between the hours of 10 o'clock in the forenoon
and six o'clock in the afternoon to be read as
Evidence in a suit now depending and undetermined
In the County Court of Southampton in Chancery
where in we are plaintiffs and you defendants

Eli Coker and
Susanna his wife
and John Vasser and
Lucy his wife

March 17th
1819

Wm
Gard

S. ampton Towitt

appeared before me John and

I made oath that on the 22nd Inst he delivered
to Martha Davis a true copy of the within relation
given under my hand this 31st March 1819 -

Peter Booth J.P.

me
me
me

Mr. Henry Briggs Adm^r. de bonis non of
John James dec^d and Martha Davis formerly
Martha Gillum widow of Arthur Gillum dec^d
take notice ~~that~~ ^{we shall proceed to take the deposition of Mary Davis} on the twenty fourth day of
July at Peter Booths House in Southampton
County between the Hours of 10.^o Clock in
the forenoon and 6.^o Clock in the afternoon
to be read as evidence in ^a suit now depending
and undetermined in the County Court of
Southampton in Chancery wherein we are
Plaintiffs and you defendant

Oli. Coker and
Suanna his Wife
John Vasser and
Lucy his Wife

Southampton July 7th 1879 I do hereby ack-
nowledge service of the within notice

Henry Briggs at death
of W. James Cecil



Mr Henry Briggs Adm^r de bonis non of
John James dec^d and Martha Davis formerly
Martha Gilliam widow of Arthur Gilliam dec^d
Take notice that we shal procede to take the
Deposition of Mary Travis on the Twenty fourth
Day of July at Peter Booths House in Southampton
County between the Hours of 10^o Clock in
The forenoon and 6^o Clock in the afternoon
to be read as evidence in a Suit now depending
and undetermined in the County Court of
Southampton in Chancery wherein we are
Plaintiffs and you defendants

Eli Coker and
Susana his wife
John Vofser and
Lucy his wife

Louthampton. July. 24 1819. — This day Copeland.
Whitfield jr of lawful age, personally appeared
before me, and made oath, that he delivered
on the 13th day of July (instant) a true Copy of
the within notice to Martha Davis:

John Gray.

Dec. 23rd 1879 I do acknowledge Service
of the within notice
Henry Briggs adm'r & t'n
of John James Cook

Mrs Martha Davis & Mr Henry Briggs
Take notice that wee shal on Saturday the first day
of Jan^y. next at the house of Peter Booth between the
hours of six o'clock in the morning and six o'clock
in the evening of the same day, proceed to take the
Depositions of Edward Gay and Mary Travis and others
to be read as Evidence in a suit in Chancery now
Depending in Southampton County Court wherein Eli
Coker and Susan his wife formerly Susan Gilliam a
Daughter of Arthur Gilliam dec^d and John Vasser and Lucy
his wife formerly Lucy Gilliam also a daughter of said
Arthur Gilliam dec^d are plaintiffs against Martha Davis
Family Martha Gilliam and Cath Widow and adm^r of
Arthur Gilliam dec^d but now Widow and relict of
Edwin Davis dec^d and Henry Briggs adma de Louis
son of John James dec^d at which time and place
you may attend if you think proper

Eli Coker
John Vasser

Dec^{ry} ^{the} 27 I do Enrolledge Service
To the within

her
Martha + Davis
mark

~~Adm~~
Administratrix of
Arthur Gilliam Dec

W^m. Martha Davis & W^m. Henry Briggs
Take notice that we shall on the first day of January
next at the House of W^m. Peter Booth, in Southampton
County between the Hours of Six O'clock in the Morning
and Six O'clock in the Evening of the same day proceed
to take the depositions of Edmund Gay and Mary Travis
and others, to be read as Evidence in a Suit in Chancery
now depending in Southampton County Court wherein Eli
Loker and Susan his Wife formerly Susan Gilliam a Daughter
of Arthur Gilliam Dec^d and John Vaper and Lucy his Wife
formerly Lucy Gilliam also Daughters of said Arthur
Gilliam Dec^d are plaintiffs against Martha Davis
formerly Martha Gilliam and late Widow and Adm^{or} of
Arthur Gilliam Dec^d but now Widow and Relict of
Edwin Davis Dec^d, and Henry Briggs Adm^{or} debitor
of John James Dec^d. at which time and place you
may attend if you think proper —

Eli Loker
John Vaper

your Brother was in his Senses at the time he was about to make his Will?

Answer. I believe he was in his Senses. —
and further this Deponent sageth not

William ^{his} ~~William~~ ^{mark} William

Supra Bury to Wit. The foregoing deposition taken before us, agreeably to the enclosed Commission and notice, and in the presence of all the parties at Keys Stone in the aforesaid County. Given under our hands this 31st day of August eighteen hundred and eighty.

John Cargile (J.P.)
Geo. Brown (J.P.)

Amgellian

The Deposition of William Gilliam of lawful Age
in a ^{now} ~~Suit~~ ^{in Chancery} depending and undetermined in the
County Court of Southampton between Eli Coker and
Susan his Wife formerly Susan Gilliam and Daughter
of Arthur Gilliam deceased. and John Vaper and
Lucy his Wife formerly Lucy Gilliam also ~~a~~ Daughter
of Arthur Gilliam dec^d Plaintiffs. and Edwin
Davis and Martha his Wife formerly Martha Gilliam
widow and Administratrix of Arthur Gilliam dec^d
and the said Edwin Davis As Administrator of John
James dec^d Defendant. Who first being duly sworn
deposes and says that the Negro Girl named Liah was
was at ~~his~~ ^{his} Brother's Arthur Gilliam's in his lifetime.
but how long she was there, or when she went there
he does not know. When his Brother was about to die,
he was sent for and went, and found Mr. William
Butts there about to write his Will, which he had commenced
and that his Brother Arthur Gilliam inquired of Mr. John
James who was likewise present what was to be done
with Liah and her children, who replied do as you
please with them. his Brother Arthur Gilliam then
proceeded to give away a part of his Estate from
his children, when this deponent interfered by
enquiring what was to become of his children. on which
Mr. Butts laid down his Pen and said he would write
no more. and that the said Arthur Gilliam
died the next morning without making any Will.

Question by Plaintiff: How ~~long~~ many children had
Liah at your Brother's death? Answer by Deponent.
~~I think~~ I do not distinctly recollect but think about
three.

Question by same: Were these Negroes ~~put~~ ^{put} into
your Brother's possession immediately after his
marriage with Mr. James's Daughter?

Answer. I do not recollect.

Question by the same: Did your Brother marry
Mr. James's Daughter with his consent?

Answer I suppose so, as I heard of no objection
being made, as they were married at his house and
he gave them a wedding, at which I was present.

Question by Defendant: — Do you think

C. Coomer.

The Deposition of Edwin Cooper of Lawful Age and
suly sworn taken at Keys Store in Duper County this
thirty first day of August 1818 to be read as evidence in
a suit in Chancery now depending in the County Court of
Southampton between Eli Coker and Susan his Wife
formerly Susan Gilliam and Daughter of Arthur Gilliam
deceased. and John Vaper and Lucy his Wife formerly
Lucy Gilliam also a Daughter of the said Arthur
Gilliam deceased, plaintiffs. and Edwin Davis and
Martha his Wife formerly Martha Gilliam, Widow
and Administratrix of Arthur Gilliam dec'd, and
the said Edwin Davis as Administrator of John
James dec'd. Defendants. deposeth and sayeth

That in the lifetime of Arthur Gilliam he was several
times (say twice) at his House, and saw there a
Negro Girl named Liah, and was informed that
the said negro Girl was one that M^r. John James
let them have: but whether as a gift or a loan,
the said deponent sayeth not. -

Question by Plaintiffs: What lapse of time took
place between your Visits to M^r. Gilliam's?

Answer by Deponent. About three or four weeks.

Question by same: How long previous to his death?

Answer. I do not know. but suppose it to have
been some time before he died. the last visit I
paid was during the fishing season in the Spring.
I do not believe he died in that year. -

Question by same: Do you know whether that Negro
was at M^r. Gilliam's after his death?

Answer. I do not. -

And further this Deponent sayeth not. -

Edwin Cooper

Duper County to Wit.

The above deposition taken before us, agreeably to the usual
Commission and notice, and in the presence of all the parties
at Keys Store in the aforesaid County. Given under our
hands this 31st day of August eighteen hundred & eighteen.

John Cargill J^r
Geo. Blount J^r

1
Peggs Bunting

Sep 1818

Exemption County to wit,

The depositions of Peggy Burroughs of her father
at the house of Nancy Gandy in the County of Exemption
of persons between the hours of 9 o'clock in the morning & seven
in the afternoon of the 19th day of September 1818. pursuant to
the annexed notice & commission to be made in evidence in a
suit in Chancery depending & undetermined in the Court of Exemption
wherein Eli Barker Plaintiff his wife and her heirs & assigns
her wife are defendants and Edwin Davis agent of Mr. James Lee &
and Martha Davis his wife are agents of Arthur Williams
dec'd are deposed. This deponent being first duly sworn
on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God deposes & saith
that she was at the house of Arthur Williams six or seven days before
his the said Williams death & that she heard him say that he had
sent back of her children home to Mr. James & that he would not
raise negroes for no man, for unless he could a right to them
they should not come on his plantations. Question by the pff's
do you know that the negroes were sent home? Answer I know
that they were. Question by pff's How many children had the
negro woman back when she was sent home? Answer she had two.
Question by pff's did you ever hear ~~the defendant~~ Mr. James
in his life time say that he had given this woman back & children
to Arthur Williams. Answer I did not. Question by def't
how long did Arthur Williams live after his intermarriage? Answer
three years. Question by def't how long after Arthur Williams inter-
marriage before this woman back was sent to him? Answer about 2 years.

Question by dep^y. Was this woman made. w^{or} in the possession of Arthur
Gilliam after he sent her home. Answer, she may not — and
further this deponent saith not —

Subscribed before us this
19th day of September 1818

her
Peggy + Burson
mark

Bonfobly D.
Geo Hines D.

Southampton County to wit,

The Deposition of ~~John James~~ of Lawful
age, taken at ^{his own} House ~~of~~ in
the County of Southampton between the Hours of
Nine O'clock in the Morning, and Seven in
the Afternoon of the Nineteenth day of September
1818 Pursuant to the Annexed Notice and
Commission, to be Read in evidence in a
Suit in Chancery depending and Undetermined
in the Court of Southampton, wherein Eli
Coker, and Susan his Wife, and John
Coker, and Lucy his Wife, are Plaintiffs,
and Edwin Davis as Administrator, of John
James Deed & Martha Davis his Wife, as
Administrators of Arthur Gilliam Deceased
are Defendants. This Dependant being first
duly Sworn on the Holy Evangelists of
Allmighty God, deposes and Saith That.
she has often heard John James say that he would never give
a child of his, a negro during his life, that about eight years ago Mr
James had a negro woman Phillis & applied to this deponent for a bill of
sale to manumit her by & after he returned the bill she this deponent
told him that she supposed he had sold this negro woman Phillis for
his daughter Patsy & he Mr. James replied no, that she had often
heard him say that it was never his intention to give any child
of his, a negro while he was living — And further this deponent

saith not —

from to before us

this 19th September 1818

her
Ann + Ann
mark

Benjamin D.
Geo. Ann D.

Ann - Ann

5th 19/1819

Write to hand under
See the 19th of Sept 1818

Southampton County to wit

The Deposition of Temperance Hines of Laurens
ago taken at the House of Nancy James in
the County of Southampton between the Hours of
Nine O'Clock in the Morning & Seven in the
Afternoon of the 19th day of September 1818
pursuant to the annexed Notice and Commission
to be read in evidence in a Suit in Chancery
depending and undetermined in the Court of
Southampton, between Eli Coker and Susan
his wife, and John Vaper & Lucy his wife
are plaintiffs & Edwin Davis as Administrator
of John James Deceased and Martha Davis his
wife as Administratrix of Arthur Gilliam
deceased are Defendants. This deponent being first
duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Allmighty
God deposes and saith That she was at the house of Arthur
Gilliam in the month of October preceding to his death & That she
heard him say that Mr James & himself had quarrelled about
the negro woman Kate (in dispute) & that he had sent the negro
home & that she should not come on his plantation any more

nor Ino Lamy author, without he could have a right to the negro
Question by the ppps. did you ever hear Mr Lamy say that he had given
this woman back to Arthur Williams this wife Answer I did not
Question by ppps. how many children did this woman have ^{with him} while in the
possession of Arthur Williams Answer two. Question by the ppps. did
ever Mr Lamy return the negro, after they were sent home to him by Mr
Williams Answer not that I recollect. Question by diff. how long
did Arthur Williams live after he was married Answer three years
Question by diff. how long did this woman & children remain in the possession
of Arthur Williams Answer not 12 months - & further this diff. must
satisfy not.

Returned to before us this
19th of September 1818

Ben. Lobb J.
Geo. Hines Jp 3

Chas
J. Hines + King
mark

J. Hines

To the Clerk of Southampton

3

13 bott.

The Deposition of Benjⁿ Cobb of full age
to be read as evidence in a suit depending
in the County Court of Southampton Between
Ely Coker & Jn^r. Vassor Plaintiffs and Edwin
Davis Administrator of Jn^r. James C. & Edwin
Davis And Martha his Wife Adm^r. of Adminis-
tratrix of Arthur Gilliam. ^{and notice having been given the defendants of the time & place} Being duly sworn
Deposeth & sayeth. That on the 2nd day of Feb^y
At the Hall of Jn^r. James C. Tempy James asked
this deponent what he thought of the Negroes in
dispute Between Coker & Vassor & Edwin Davis
Adm^r. of John James I told her that I knew nothing
of the Circumstances, and could not hazard an opin-
ion on the subject she then told me that she was
at John James a few days, or weeks, before Arthur
Gilliam was married, and Mr. James asked Arthur
Gilliam in the presence of John James her Husband
if he did not intend to marry Pelly James, Arthur
Gilliam replied it depended on Circumstances
whether he did or not. Mrs. James then told him
that she and her old man (meaning her Husband)
had agreed to give him a negroe woman Dick, and
a Horse Called Flower if he would marry their
Daughter, that the bargain was immediately
agreed to by the parties, and they were married
accordingly in a short time afterwards and
that John James did send him the property
agreeably to promise. and further this deponent
sayeth not

Benjⁿ Cobb.

Sworn to before J^{us} this 28th.

Day of October 1818—

Benjⁿ Griffin

November 17th 1878
Came to home under seal

To the Clerk of Southampton

Mary P. Hapton

The Deposition of Mary Blyth, of lawful age, to
be read in evidence, in a suit depending, where-
in Ely Coker, and Geo. Vaper are plffs. and Edwin
Davis admr of John James, and Edwin Davis &
Martha his wife, ~~Defendants~~ ^{vs} Arthur Gil-
liam dec^d ~~Def~~ ^{pursuant to process} - who being duly sworn
deposes & saith, that she said Mary Blyth
was at the house of Arthur Gilliam dec^d?
about eight months previous to his death, and
~~then~~ the deponent then seen in the possession
of the said Arthur Gilliam, a negro woman
by the name of Leah, which ^{woman} told the deponent
that she then had two children, and that
the said woman remained in the posses-
sion of the said Gilliam till his death, -
this deponent further states that on Apr 20th
last past, she met with Tempy Skines at
Silas Hott's and ^{the wife of T. Skines} she informed the said de-
ponent, that she was present when Mr. James
made the said Arthur Gilliam, a present
of the said negro woman Leah and made
an condition that he the said Gilliam should
marry ^{his} the said James Daughter, and that
the said Gilliam did marry her, and that the
said negro woman & man ^{were} in accord-
ingly, and that some time after the mar-
riage, some unpleasant differences took
place between the said Gilliam and his
wife, and that the said negro woman and
man was sent back to Mr. James, and con-
tinued there a few days, and that Mrs. James
the mother of the said Mrs. Gilliam went over

to Mr. Williams, and made friends, and then
the said negro woman & man were ^{there} sent back
and that they remained, in possession of the
said ^{said} Gilliam as long as he lived, and untill the
said John James took possession of the said
Williams Estate

Question 1st by Mr E. Davis

How do you the 3^d deponent know the said negro
and man did remain in the possession of the
said Williams ~~possession~~ untill his death

Ans^r by deponent-, that she was frequently in
the neighbourhood of the said Williams, and al-
ways understood that they did, but knows it not
of her own knowledge, and further this depo-
nant saith not —

Sworn to before us
This 28th day of Oct^r 1818

Mary Blyth
Barry Griffin J.P.

Nov. 17th 1878

Came to home mdr
Seal

M Bly

Kokew }
" } Lepor
Gavin }

Nov. 1878 came to hand
men seal —

The Clerk
of Sampson

The deposition of William Butts of Sampson age taken at the Barn
Towers the house of William Simmons in the County of Sampson between
the hours of 9 o'clock in the morning till in the afternoon of the
14th day of November 1818 pursuant to the annual notice &
Commission to be read in witness in a suit in Chancery depending
undetermined in the Court of Sampson wherein Eli Cooke
Susan his wife and Geo. Vason & Lucy his wife are
Plffs and Edwin Davis as admr. of Geo. James dec. & Martha
Davis his wife as admrs. of Arthur Williams deced
defts. This deponent being first sworn on the holy
Evangelist of Almighty God, deposes & says, That
he this deponent was frequently at the house of Geo. James during
his life time & has often heard him say ~~that~~ when speaking
of Parents giving their childrens property ~~before their death~~ that
it was a ~~thing~~ ^{thing} he had never done, nor would he ever
do it while he was living; that the property he has
lent his children, they might retain & after his death
do as they pleased with it. This deponent further states
that he knew when his son Robert was married that
he loaned him a negro man named by the name of Charlotte for
two years, while the said Robert James lived a neighbour
to his father & when he removed to a plantation
that was given him on the south side of Nottingham
River Geo. James took back the said negro char-
lotte, & within by the depts. what do you think it
was worth annually to take care of the children of
Arthur Williams & his negro woman ~~his~~ ^{his} children
answer one hundred & twenty dollars —

Question by the d^y How long do you think these children
& the negro women & children continued a charge to the Estate
Answer about 13 years & further this deponent say not
not —

sworn to before us
this 14th November 1818

William Butts

Benj^d C. J.
Geo^d Ainslie J.

6

Wm Butts

T. Luminis

Oct. 14. 1818.

The deposition of Thomas Lemmon of lawful age taken at the Bar
before the Hon^{ble} of William Simmons in the County of Campbell between
the hours of 9 o'clock in the morning & 5 in the afternoon of the
14th day of November 1818 pursuant to the annexed notice & com-
mission to be read in evidence in a suit in Chancery depending
& undetermined in the Court of Campbell wherein Eli Becker
& Susan his wife & Mrs. Wapen & Lucy his wife are p^{ps} & And
Eamon Davis as adm^r of Mrs. James dec^d & Matthew Davis his
wife as adm^r of Catharine Williams dec^d & dy^{ty}. This deponent
being first sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God
deposes & says that he has been often in the company
of Mrs. James & that he always said that he would never
give a negro to any of his children as long as he
lived - Question by dy^{ty} did you ever see Mrs.

James expend money for the female camp?
Answer I did not but frequently has bought
small articles from Court for him & gives him by

Mrs. James further this deponent says not -
Thomas his
mark

Bonifant P.
Geo. Hines Jp.

4

Drury Gilliam

Nov. 14. 1818

The Deposition of Drury Gilliam of Lawfull
age taken at the House of William Simmons
at the Barn Tavern in the County of Southampton
between the Hours of Nine o'Clock in the
Morning, & Eleven in the Afternoon, of the
fourteenth day of November Eighteen Hundred
& Eighteen, pursuant to the Annexed Notice,
and Commission, to be read in evidence in a
Suit in Chancery depending and undetermined
in the Court of Southampton, wherein Eli
Coker, Susan his wife, & John Vaper, Lucy
his wife, are plaintiffs, & Edwin Davis as
administrator of John James Decd., & Martha Davis
his wife, as administrators of Arthur Gilliam
Decd. are Defendants, This Deposition being
first duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of
allmighty God Reposeth and Saith That he
was at the above house of Mr. Key in the County of Sussex on the day that
Mr. Gilliam's deposition was taken in this Suit & was of opinion that
he was not capable of giving testimony he being very much intor-

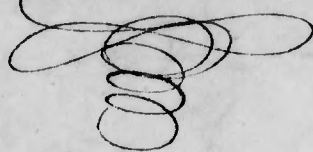
excalated
from to before us this 14 Nov 1818
Henry Cobb J.P.
George Hines W.

Drury Gilliam

February 15th 1879

Came to hand under seal

Ed Middleton Esq



C. Gay

Mr. James Rochester
to take of a southern paper
to send

The deposition of Edmund Gay taken at Jerusalem per
-suant to motion on the 15th Feby 1879 to be read in
evidence in a suit in Chancery depending in the
county court of Southampton wherein John Vaper
& wife Lucy & Eli Coker & wife Susan are plain
tiffs & Patrick Davis & Henry Briggs Adm^{rs} de bonis
non of John James Lee? defendants being
first sworn, deponeth & sayeth, that he went
to Mr. Gilliam's funeral & then went home
with Mr. James; then he told me he had given
Mr. Gilliam a negro woman & children but
he intended to take them home and take
care of them for the children of Arthur
Gilliam to keep them from being hired
out - And he further said he intended to
give them negroes to the said children
at his death or when the children
should come of age - and further this
deponent sayeth not - J. M. D. Gay

Taken & subscribed before us this 15th day
of February 1879 Wm. P. Goddard J.P.
Brj Dewary J.P.

6
Coker 3
15 } Depositions &c.
Baines }

Came to hand under seal
2nd day of April 1879
Rochelle

In: Gayle

Eli Coker & Susanna his wife & John Vasser ~~his~~ & Lucy his wife
Comp 1st

Henry Briggs adm^r de bonis man^{or} of John James dec^d
and Martha Davis formerly Martha Gilliam late the } In
widow of Arthur Gilliam dec^d } Defts } Ch

The deposition of ~~John~~ Cargill of lawful age
taken at Dillards Tavern in Sussex County on the
1 day of April 1819 between the hours of 10 o'clock
in the morning & six o'clock in the afternoon to be
read in Evidence on the trial of the ~~above~~ above suit depending
and undetermined in the County Court of Southampton the de-
ponent being first duly sworn deponent & faith:

That himself and M^r. George Blow took the depo-
sition of William Gilliam at Key's Store some
time last fall, to be read as evidence in the
above suit, and he truly believes the said Gilliam
was perfectly sober at the time of taking his depo-
sition, otherwise he certainly would not have
taken it. And further this deponent saith
not.

John Cargill

Sussex County to wit
The above deposition sworn to before us (two
of the Commonwealth Justices) at Dillards Tavern the 1 day
of April 1819
William Dobie (J)
W^m. Nicholson (J)

7

Geo. Brown.

Eli Loker & Susanna his wife & John Vaper & Lucy his
wife ————— Compt^{rs}

Henry Briggs ad^{or} de bonis non of John
James dec^d and Martha Lewis formerly
Martha Gilliam late the widow of Ar^d = Deft^s & In
their Gilliam dec^d. ————— 6th

The deposition of George Blow of Caswell up
taken at Belliards Tavern in Sussex County on
the 1. day of April 1819 between the hours of
10 o'clock in the morning & six o'clock in the
afternoon to be read in evidence on the trial
of the above suit depending & undetermined
in the County Court of Southampton the depo-
nent being first duly sworn solemnly & truth:

That himself & Mr. Mr. Bazzell took the deposition of
William Gilliam at Keys Store some time last fall
to be read as evidence in the above suit; and he verily
believes the said Gilliam to have been perfectly sober
at the time of taking his deposition. Otherwise this
deponent saith that he would have suffered man-
-tyrdom ere he would have administered an oath
to a man who he ~~supposed~~ to be drunk & further
this deponent saith not. Given under my hand
& seal this 1st day of Apr. 1819 Geo. Blow
— " —

Sussex County to wit The above deposition sworn to before us this

1st day of April 1819

William Dore (J)
W. Nicholson (J)

To.

The Clerk of the Court of Southampton County

W. Travis

Very virtue of a commission to us directed from the County
Court of Southampton, hereto annexed, we the under-
signed Justices of the peace for the County of Southampton
have proceeded this 24th day of July in the year 1879
between the hours of ten o'clock in the forenoon
and five o'clock in the afternoon at the house
of Peter Booth in the County of Southampton, to
take the deposition of Mary Travis to be read in
evidence in a suit in Chancery pending and
undetermined in the County Court of Southampton
wherein Eli Coker & Susan his wife & John Vasser
& Lucy his wife are Complainants, and Henry Briggs
admr de bonis non of John James dec^d; and Martha
Davis formerly Martha Gilliam widow of Arthur
Gilliam dec^d defendants, who being first duly sworn
before us deposes & says, — That she lived in the
neighbourhood of Arthur Gilliam, and well remem-
bers, that after the said Gilliam's intermarriage
with Martha James daughter of John James, he (the
said Gilliam) had in his possession a negro woman
named Liah, which negro woman it was generally
understood in the neighbourhood, was given by Mr.
James to the said Gilliam — that the said negro
woman continued in the possession of the said Gilliam
until his death; and after his death in the possession
of his widow, until she, went to live with her father
and further

This deponent saith not.

her
Mary + Travis
mark

John C Gray

Peter Booth

1871

Coker & Co & others
vs
Briggs ass't &c &c
Comrs
to take
deposition

The Commonwealth of Virginia to John C Gray and Peter
Booth _____ Gentlemen Justices of the peace in the County
of Southampton Know Ye, that we trusting to your fidelity and provident
circumspection in diligently examining Mary Travis a

formerly Susan Williams daughter of Arthur Williams dec'd & his wife formerly Lucy Williams also
a daughter of the said Arthur Williams dec'd against Martha Darr formerly wife of the said Williams & late widow and
of Arthur Williams dec'd but now widow and relict of Edward Darr dec'd & late administrator of the
Estate of John James dec'd. _____ in a suit now depending in the
County - Court of Southampton - Command you or any two or more of

you that on such certain days and at such places as you shall appoint
You assemble yourselves and the Witness is aforesaid before you and cause
to come and diligently examine on the holy Evangelist of almighty God and her
examination in to our said court distinctly and plainly without delay you send
and certify enclosed returning to us also this Writ - Witness James Rockledge Clerk
of our said court of Southampton at his office the 7th day of July.

1419 in the 44th Year of the Commonwealth
C. M. Middleton D.C.

To.

The Clerk of Southampton County Court

Edm. S. 17

Came to hand 26th Oct
1828

By virtue of a Commission to us directed from the County
Court of Southampton hereto annexed we the undersigned
Justices of the peace for the County of Southampton have
proceeded this first day of January in the year 1820
between the hours of six o'clock in the morning and
six o'clock in the evening at the house of Peter Booth
to take the deposition of Edmund Gay to be read as
evidence in a suit in Chancery pending and undeter-
mined in the County Court of Southampton wherein
Eli Coker & Susan his wife & John Vaper & Lucy
his wife are Complainants and Martha Davis ~~and~~
admon^r of Arthur Gilliam & Henry Briggs adm^r. de bonis
non of John James ~~de~~^{an defendant}, who being first duly sworn
before us deposes and says; - That he was well
acquainted with John James' situation, as to his property
at the time Arthur Gilliam married his daughter. - That
the said James owned at that time. Six likely negroes
besides two or three small negro children: This number
he well knows he owned at that time; and believes
there might have been more, though he does not now
distinctly recollect them - This deponent further
states that the negro woman Sick and a small child
of hers were in possession of Arthur Gilliam at the time
of his death: that John James told this deponent, not long
after Gilliam's death: that he intended to take home the
negro woman Sick & child - that he did not wish them
to be hired out: that he wished to take care of them - that
he intended them for Gilliam's children, as they (Gilliam's
children) came of age, or at his death as he saw fit
This deponent does not recollect, that he ever heard John
James say that he ^{had} given the said negro woman Sick
to Arthur Gilliam and further this deponent saith not

John Gray
Peter Booth

Edmund Gay

Coker & Co Comm.
is } to take
Briggs and Depo:

The Commonwealth of Virginia to John & Gray and
Peter Booth.

Ye Gentlemen, Justices of the
Peace in the County of Southampton, know, y^d. that we trusting to
your fidelity and prompt circumspection in diligently examining
Edward Gray and many other witnesses on behalf of the Clerk
and Susan his wife formerly Susan Gilliam & daughter of Arthur
Gilliam and of her Vaper & Lucy his wife, formerly Lucy Gilliam
also a daughter of the said Arthur Gilliam and against ~~Martha~~ Davis
formerly ~~Martha~~ Gilliam & late widow & administratrix of Arthur Gilliam
and her now widow & relict of Edwin Davis and of Henry Burgess co-defendants
Debris now of her James and, we a Suit now depending in the County
Court of Southampton - Command you or any two or more of
you, that on such certain days, and at such places as you
shall appoint, you assemble your selves, and the witnesses
aforesaid, before you, you call & cause to come, and diligently
examine, on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God and
then examination into our said Court, distinctly and plainly
without delay you send & certify enclosed, returning also to us the
said witness James Rochelle of our said County Court of
Southampton at his office the 21st day of December 1879
and to be returned to our Treasurers.

Deftention Luis
Vaper de
vs
James Adm

1870 June 22nd
The within Depo-
comes to hand
RR

Reichin

The deposition of Etheldreda Kitchen of lawful age, taken by
Consent of the parties, at Jerusalem, this 19th day of June 1820
~~deponeth & saith~~, - to be used as evidence in a suit now
depending and undetermined, between Eli Coker & John
Vaper Plaintiffs, ~~vs~~ Henry Briggs adm^r of John
James dec^d. - deponeth and saith, - that the negroes
claimed by the plaintiffs came into the possession of
John James dec^d. who brought Mr. Davis formerly Mr.
Gilliam & said negroes, ~~and~~ his house some short
time after the death of Arthur Gilliam dec^d. and that
the said negroes remained with him the S^r. James
till his death, and farther this deponent doth not

Etheldreda Kitchen

Personally appeared before us Etheldreda Kitchen
who made oath to the foregoing deposition

Given under ~~my~~ hands and seals this 19 June 1820

Wm. Briggs J^r
William Briggs J^r

Comptroller's Report
in the case of
Coker & Vaper }
vs }
James's Adm. }

March 20th 1820 recd
of ord. No 29th for Recd

1815		To Amt brought forward	98 67	704 56
		By hire of Leah this year	\$10.00	
		" " Cynthia "	10.00	
		" " Amy	10.00	
		" " Clary	12.50	
		" " Matilda	15.00	57 50
Dec. 31		To balance due John James this year	" "	41 17
1816		To support of Ely this year	20 "	
		" " Tab	20 "	
		" " Nicholas	20 "	
		" " Rindoe	20 "	
		" " Jim	20 "	
		" " Dized to Nov 22	18 34	
		" " Eliza from August	6 66	
		" " Etty from Oct	5 00	
		" " Cherry	20 "	
			150 00	
1816		By hire of Leah this year	\$10.00	
		" " Cynthia	10.00	
		" " Clary	10.00	
		" " Amy	10.00	
		" " Matilda	15.00	
		" " Molly from Sep 20	3.75	58 75
Dec 31		To balance due John James this year	" "	91 25
1817		To support of Ely this year	20 "	
		" " Tab	20 "	
		" " Cherry	20 "	
		" " Jeffry	20 "	
		" " Nicholas	20 "	
		" " Etty	20 "	
		" " Eliza	20 "	
		" " Jim & Rindoe	40 "	
			180 "	
1817		By hire of Leah & Cynthia	\$20.00	
		" " Clary & Amy	20.00	
		" " Matilda & Molly	30.00	70
		Amt Carried forward	" "	110 00
				946 98

1817	Dec 31	To Amount brought Forward	"	"	946 98
1818		To Support of the Negroes this year, as of Edwin Davis Adm. Jm. James. Acct.	198	"	
1819		To ditto this year of Henry Briggs Acct.	109	"	
1820		To ditto this year do. payable Dec 31/1820	110	24	417 24
		To balance due Jm. James Estate	"	"	1364 22
		To 23 births midwives fees & 12 1/2	"	"	46 "
		Balance due	"	"	1410 22

March 16th 1820.

Pursuant to the annexed decree, we have stated and settled an account of the profits and expenditures of raising, & support of the slaves alluded to in said bill, in the following manner, to wit:— From the time of their births, to the age of seven years old, we have allowed the sum of twenty dollars & annuum, for their raising; from seven to twelve years of age we considered they are not entitled to either profit or loss; for females, from the age of twelve to fifteen years of age, we allow fifteen dollars & annuum, for their hire; from fifteen years old the sum of twenty dollars; from the time the ~~children~~ women have children we allow ten dollars & annuum for their hire; to the time of John James death, after which, we have admitted an account exhibited to us by the Adm^r of the actual expenditure & hire, to the present time which account is annexed to this report; which leaves a balance due the estate of John James dec^d the sum of fourteen hundred & 22⁰⁰ including the amount paid for their support for the present year, as to the expenses incurred by John James in his life time, & by Edwin Davis, for the support and maintenance of the female complacants, it appears to us, that John James's account of his Guardianship of the said female complacants, which is filed in the Clerks office, embraces that subject entirely; it does not appear to us, that any expense was

incurred by Edwin Davis, in his life time on account of the female complacants, all which is respectfully submitted to the Court—

Commissioners fees for account
and report, ten dollars each
say 13 1/2 Hours at 75 cts & Hour.

Prescott M. Cone.
John Gray

The master form missionaries in making up the foregoing account, have thought proper not to allow interest on the expenditures— But the adm^r of John James, being of a different opinion requested us to make up an interest account which is hereto annexed, by which it will appear that the expenditures with interest amount to Two thousand & forty dollars and thirty seven Cents—

Prescott M. C.
J. C. Gray

1812		To Amount brought forward	80	"	647	90
"		By hire of Leah this year	\$10.00			
		" " Cynthia	15.00			
		" " Amy	15.00			
		" " Clary	20.00	60	"	
Decr.	31	To balance due Jos James this year	"	"	20	"
1813		To support of Louisa to Apr 20	6	66		
		" " Dixie this year	20	"		
		" " Peter	20	"		
		" " Ely	20	"		
		" " Tab from Sept. 17	5	"		
			71	66		
1813		By hire of Leah this year	\$10.00			
		" " Cynthia	15.00			
		" " Amy	15.00			
		" " Clary	20.00	60	"	
Decr.	31	To balance due Jos James this year	"	"	11	66
1814		To support of Peter this year	20	"		
		" " Ely	20	"		
		" " Dixie	20	"		
		" " Tab	20	"		
			80	"		
1814		By hire of Leah this year	\$10.00			
		" " Cynthia	10.00			
		" " Amy	15.00			
		" " Clary	20.00	55	"	
Decr.	31	To balance due Jos James this year	"	"	25	"
1815		To support of Dixie this year	20	"		
		" " Ely	20	"		
		" " Tab	20	"		
		" " Cherry from Oct	5	"		
		" " Nicholas from Apr. 8 mo.	13	67		
		" " Brenda	20	"		
			98	67		
		Amount Carried forward	"	"	704	56

The Estate of John James deceased
In Acct with the Heirs of Arthur Gilliam D⁷ 65

1798		To Support of Clay from Jan ^y 1 st to Dec. 31/1798	20	00		
		" " Cynthia Jan ^y 20 " de	18	89		
			38	89		
"		By the hire of Liah this year	10	00	28	89
Dec 31		To balance due John James	"	"		
1799		To Support of Clay this year	20	"		
		" " Cynthia de	20	"		
		" " Amy from July 5. 5 mo. 25 days	9	90		
			49	90		
		By hire of Liah this year	10	00		
Dec 31		To balance due John James this year	"	"	39	90
1800		To Support of Clay this year	20	00		
		" ditto Cynthia	20	"		
		" de Amy	20			
			60	"		
1800		By hire of Liah this year	10			
Dec 31		To balance due John James this year	"	"	50	"
1801		To Support of Clay this year	20	"		
		" ditto Cynthia	20	"		
		" de Amy	20	"		
			60	"		
1801		By hire of Liah this year	10	"		
Dec 31		To balance due John James this year	"	"	50	"
1802		To Support of Clay to July 2 nd	10	"		
		" " Cynthia this year	20	"		
		" " Amy	20	"		
			50	"		
1802		By hire of Liah this year	10			
Dec 31		To balance due John James this year	"	"	40	"
1803		To Support of Cynthia this year	20	"		
		" " Amy	20	"		
		" " ditto de	20	"		
			60	"		
1803		By hire of Liah this year	10			
Dec 31		To balance due John James this year	"	"	50	00
		Amount Carried forward	"	"	258	79

1803	Dec	31	To Amount brought forward	"	"	258 79	
1804			To support of Cynthia this year	20	"		
			" " Amy	20	"		
			" " Matilda	20	"		
			" " Molly from Sept 22 nd 3 mo.	5	"		
				65	"		
1804			By hire of Leah	10	"		
Dec	31		To balance due John James this year	"	"	55	
1805			To support of Amy this year	20	"		
			" " Matilda	20	"		
			" " Molly	20	"		
				60	"		
1805			By hire of Leah this year	10	"		
Dec	31		To balance due John James this year	"	"	50	
1806			To support of Amy to July 5 th 6 mo.	10	"		
			" " Matilda this year	20	"		
			" " Molly	20	"		
			" " Louisa from Apr 20 - 8 mo	13	67		
				63	67		
1806			By hire of Leah this year	10	"		
Dec	31		To balance due John James this year	"	"	53 67	
1807			To support of Matilda this year	20	"		
			" " Molly	20	"		
			" " Louisa	20	"		
				60	"		
1807			By hire of Leah this year	\$10.00			
			" " Clara from July 5. 6 mo.	7.50	17 50		
Dec	31		To balance due John James this year	"	"	42 50	
1808			To support of Matilda this year	20	"		
			" " Molly	20	"		
			" " Louisa	20	"		
			" " Peter	20	"		
				80	"		
1808			By hire of Leah this year	\$10.00			
Dec	31		" " Clara	15.00	25	"	
			Amount carried forward	"	"	55	
				"	"	514 96	

1808	Dec	31	To Amount brought forward			514 96	
1809			To support of Matilda	20	00		
			" " Molly	20	"		
			" " Louisa	20	"		
			" " Peter	20	"		
			" " Dixie from Nov 22	2	"		
				82	"		
1809			By hire of Leah this year	\$10.00			
			" " Clara	15.00	25	"	
Dec	31		To balance due John James this year	"	"	57	
1810			To support of Louisa this year	20	"		
			" " Molly	20	"		
			" " Peter	20	"		
			" " Dixie	20	"		
				80	"		
1810			By hire of Leah this year	\$10.00			
			" " Cynthia from Jan 20	14.00			
			" " Clara	17.50	41 50		
Dec	31		To balance due John James this year	"	"	38 50	
1811			To support of Molly to Sept 20	15	"		
			" " Louisa this year	20	"		
			" " Peter	20	"		
			" " Dixie	20	"		
			" " Ely from Apr 6	15	"		
				90	"		
1811			By hire of Leah this year	\$10.00			
			" " Cynthia	15.00			
			" " Amy from July	7.50			
			" " Clara	20.00	52 50		
Dec	31		To balance due John James this year	"	"	37 50	
1812			To support of Louisa this year	20	"		
			" " Peter	20	"		
			" " Dixie	20	"		
			" " Ely	20	"		
				80	00		
			Amount carried forward	"	"	647 90	

Coler &..

W

Briggard & B

George

copy

Southampton December Court 1819

Eliz. Baker and Susan his wife formerly
Susan William and daughter of Arthur
William sec^r and John Vaper and Lucy
his wife formerly Lucy William also
a daughter of Arthur William sec^r Compt^s
against

In Chy.

Henry Briggs adm^r D. Pat^r of And James sec^r
Martha Davis formerly Martha William
late widow & adm^r of Arthur William sec^r D^r

This cause this day came on to its trial upon the vice
amercement and writs filed whereupon by consent of parties
by counsel. It is agreed and ordered that Master Commissioners
Cobb and Bray, do jointly ascertain the profits and expens-
-ture attending the raising and possession of the Slaves
in controversy and also that they make up an account
of the expences incurred if any by the said John James
in his life time and the said Edwin Davis in his lifetime
for the support and maintenance of the female compt^s.
whilst they were infants, and it is also agreed between
the parties that depositions may be taken on either or
both sides to be read as evidence on the trial hearing

cause

At Test

James R. R. &c.

1 Leah was born Dec^r 25th 1777.

✓1 Greacy ditto May 3rd 1793 dyed 1810

✓2 Clary ditto July 2nd 1795 -

✓3 Linthy ditto Jan^y 20th 1798 - 54th Feb -

✓4 Amey ditto July 5th 1799

✓5 Billy ditto Aug^r 15th 1801 dyed 1802

✓6 Matilda ditto Jan^y 11th 1803

✓7 Molly ditto Sept^r 20th 1804

✓8 Louisa ditto Apr^l 20th 1806

✓9 Peter ditto Jan^y 17th 1808

✓10 Diza ditto Nov^r 22nd 1809

✓11 Eley ditto April 6th 1811

✓12 Tabb ditto Sept^r 17th 1813

✓13 Cherry ditto Oct^r 1815

✓14 Jeff ditto 1817

✓1 Nicholas ditto Apr^l 22 - 1815

✓2 Etty ditto Oct^r 1816 ~~dyed Dec^r 1817~~

✓3 Robben ditto 1818 - died Dec^r 1818

✓1 Willis ditto 1814 dyed 1815

✓2 Eleza ditto Aug^r 1816 +

✓3 John ditto May - 1819

✓1 Greacy ditto 1814 dyed 1818

✓2 Rindy ditto 1815 - " - "

✓3 Jim ditto 1816

✓4 Nanny ditto March 1818

✓ Mariah Matilda Child born Apr^l 1819

Leah's Children 14

679.62.567.02

$$58 = 14$$

$$58 = 14$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 22.52 \\ 17.37 \\ 4.02 \\ 1.03 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$25.55$$

The estate of John James decd.

In account with the heirs of Arthur Gilliam decd & Heirs

1798	To balance due pro James & Account Dec 31.	28	89		
1799	" ditto . . . ditto do . .	39	90		
	Int on \$28.89 from Dec 31/1798 to Dec 31/1819	"	"	37	77
1800	To balance due & Acct Dec 31/1800 . . .	50	"		
	" Int on \$39.90 from Dec 31/1799 to Dec 31/1819	"	"	47	80
1801	To balance due Dec 31/1801	50	"		
	" Int on \$50 from Dec 31/1800 to Dec 31/1819	"	"	57	00
1802	To balance due Dec 31/1802	40	"		
	" Int on \$50. from Dec 31/1801 to Dec 31/1819	"	"	54	"
1803	To balance due Dec 31/1803	50	"		
	" Int on \$40. from 31 Dec 1802 to Dec 31/1819	"	"	40	80
1804	To balance due Dec 31/1804	55	"		
	" Int on \$50. from Dec 31/1803 to Dec 31/1819	"	"	48	00
1805	To balance due Dec 31/1805 & Acct. . .	50	"		
	" Int on \$55. from Dec 31/1804 to Dec 31/1819	"	"	49	50
1806	To balance due Dec 31/1806 & Acct. . .	53	67		
	" Int on \$53. 67 from 31 Dec 1805 to Dec 31/1819	"	"	42	"
1807	To balance due Dec 31/1807 & Acct. . .	42	50		
	" Int on \$53.67 from 31 Dec 1806 to Dec 31/1819	"	"	43	86
1808	To Amount due Dec 31/1808 & Acct. . .	55	"		
	" Int on \$42.50 from Dec 31/1807 to Dec 31/1819	"	"	30	60
1809	To Amt due Dec 31/1809 & Acct. . . .	57	"		
	" Int on \$55. from Dec 31/1808 to Dec 31/1819	"	"	36	30
1810	To Amt due the 31/Dec 1810 & Acct. . .	38	50		
1811	" Int on \$57. from Dec 31/1809 to Dec 31/1819	"	"	34	20
1811	To Amt due 31 Dec 1811 & Acct. . . .	37	50		
	" Int on \$37.50 from Dec 31/1810 to Dec 31/1819	"	"	20	79
1812	To Amt due Dec 31/1812 & Acct. . . .	20	"		
	" Int on \$37.50 from Dec 31/1811 to Dec 31/1819	"	"	18	"
1813	To Amt due Dec 31/1813 & Acct. . . .	11	66		
	" Int on \$20 from Dec 31/1812 to Dec 31/1819	"	"	8	40
Amt Carried Forward —		679	62	507	02

	To Amount brought forward:	679	62	567	02
1814	To Amount Dec 31/1814 & Acct	25	"	4	20
	" Int on \$11.66 from Dec 31/1813 to Dec 31/1814	"	"	4	20
1815	To balance due this year & Acct	41	17		
	" Int on \$25. from Dec 31/1814 to Dec 31/1815	"	"	7	50
1816	To Amt due Dec 31/1816 & Acct	91	25		
	" Int on \$41.17. from Dec 31/1815 to Dec 31/1816	"	"	9	88
1817	To Amt due Dec 31/1817	110	"		
	" Int on \$91.25 from Dec 31/1816 to Dec 31/1817	"	"	16	41
1818	To Amt due Dec 31/1818 & Acct	198	"		
	" Int on \$110. from Dec 31/1817 to Dec 31/1818	"	"	13	20
1819	To Amt due Dec 31/1819	109	"		
	" Int on \$198 from Dec 31/1818 to Dec 31/1819	"	"	11	88
1820	To Amount due Dec 31/1820	110	24	"	"
	" 23 midwife fees	46	"		
	By Amount of Int Acct	1410	28		
		630	09		
	Balance of Principal & Interest	2040	37		

March

May 15th 1820
 The Comptroller of the
 Court except to make
 good of the foregoing Acct as
 allowed the diff. interest on the charge
 for the support & maintenance of the
 negroes.
 Signed & Brought

Wife of Negroes for the years 1818, belonging to the estate of John James decd and claimed by Coker & Vapen

1818 Biah & 5 Children to N. James for Sup^{ty} \$ 70-00
 Clara & 2 Children to A. Drake do 40-00
 Sintha & 3 ditto to E. Davis do 50-00
 Ann & 2 ditto to A. Drake do 38-50
\$198-50

Molly to N. James hire \$0-25
 Peter to ditto do 0-25
\$0-50

1819 Biah & 5 Children to N. James for Sup^{ty} \$ 79-00
 Clara & 2 do to J. Summons ditto 29-00
 Sintha & 3 do to Wm Butts ditto 58-00
\$166-00
 109

Molly to W. Briggs hire \$17-50
 Matilda to G. Booth do 8-25
 Louisa to N. James do 8-75
 Peter to same do 15-25
 Ann & Child to M. Davis do 7-25
\$57-00

1820 Biah & 3 Children to N. James for Sup^{ty} \$ 60-00
 Clara & 2 do to P. Butts ditto 27-00
 Sintha & 3 do to W. Butts ditto 60-00
 Ann & 2 do to E. Coker ditto 25-00
\$172-00
 10.24

Matilda & Child to Geo Booth Hire \$2-26
 Molly -- to Alfred steep do 20-00
 Louisa to Geo. Williams do 10-25
 Peter to Thos. Blunt do 25-25
 Eliza to C. Stewart do 3-00
 Eli -- to E. Coker do 1-00
\$64-76

Coker & P
" } Rough Record
James' adm

At a Court held for the County of Southampton on the eighteenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty one, and of the Commonwealth the forty sixth.

Be it remembered that heretofore to wit on the 24th day of January in the year 1818 Eli Looker and Susan his wife formerly Susan William and daughter of Arthur William dec^d and John Claper & Lucy his wife formerly Lucy William also a daughter of the said Arthur William dec^d by their Counsel sued out of the Clerks Office of the County Court of Southampton a Subpoena in Chancery against Edwin Davis and Martha his wife formerly Martha William widow and administratrix of Arthur William dec^d and the said Edwin Davis as administrator of John James dec^d, which Subpoena together with the return thereon is in these words to wit

"The Commonwealth &c (here copy Supra: &c)

At another day to wit At Rules held in the Clerks Office of the County Court aforesaid in the month of May in the year aforesaid came the plaintiffs by their Counsel and filed their bill in the following words to wit

"To the Worshipful Court &c (here insert the bill)

And at another day to wit At Rules held in the Clerks Office aforesaid in the month of August in the year aforesaid came the defendants by their Counsel &c filed their answer in these words to wit

"To the Worshipful &c" (here insert the answer) -

To which answer the plaintiffs by Counsel instantly replied generally, and thereupon Commissions were awarded the parties to examine and take the depositions of their witnesses they giving each other reasonable notice of the time & place of executing the said Commissions -

And at another day to wit At a Court held for the County aforesaid on the eighteenth day of January in the year 1819 By consent of parties it was ordered that this Suit stand revised in the hands of Henry Briggs a Commissioner of John James deceased

And at another day to wit At a Court held for the County aforesaid on the 21st day of December 1819 This cause this day came on to be heard upon the bill, answer and exhibits filed whereupon by consent of parties it was decreed &c (here copy decreed)

Commissioners Report

Here copy the report of Com^{rs}. first - the Gen. Report then the Interest acct: & exceptions filed, & then the account of Hires &c of negroes for 1818, 19 & 20 - And now at this day to wit At a Court held for the County aforesaid on the day & year first herein aforesaid to wit the eighteenth day of September 1821 This cause this day came on to be heard (here copy decreed as entered in the minute book -

Gilliam fl & Chy.
Gilliam fl } Report

June 17th 1862 recd for

Agreeably to a decree of the worshipfull Court of Southampton
to us directed to make sale of so many of the Negroes belonging
to the Estate of Arthur Guiliam decd as will carry the said
decree into Effect. we the subscribers have made the
sums directed in said decree from the sale of said
negroes. & have paid the amt to Henry Briggs as
directed, Mrs Davis having relinquished her right
to said negroes in favour of Eli Coker & John Vasser
& at the request of said parties we have delivered over
the said negroes without a division given under
our hands the 1st day Jan^y 1822

William Briggs

Benj Lobb