

pay unto the plaintiffs their costs by them in this suit expended

Ordered that the Court be adjourned till the next in Court

The minutes of these proceedings were signed

W. H. H. H.

P. H. H. H.

At the courthouse of Southampton County, the fourth day of July 1769

Memorandum that at the courthouse of Southampton County on the fourth day of July one thousand seven hundred and sixty nine in the sixth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord King George the third His Majesty's commission under the seal of this colony bearing date the first day of July one thousand seven hundred & sixty nine directed to Joseph Gray & others empowering them from time to time to try condemn and execute or otherwise punish or acquit all slaves committing capital crimes within their county was openly read together with his majesty's dedimus potestatem for administering oaths to the said commissioners whereupon pursuant to the said dedimus Joseph Gray had the oaths appointed by act of parliament to be taken instead of the oaths of allegiance & supremacy the abjuration oath & test administered him by James Jones & Charles Briggs which he took & then subscribed the said last mentioned oath & test & took the oath of a justice of the peace which was also administered him by James Jones and Charles Briggs & then the said Joseph Gray administered all the abovementioned oaths to Howell Edmund, James Ridley Henry Taylor James Jones Charles Briggs Benjamin Puffing & Edwin Gray which they took & severally subscribed the abjuration oath & test

Present the said Justices

The Court being thus constituted Aaron a negro man slave belonging to James Stanton of this County was led to the bar by the Goaler by virtue of a mittimus from Charles Briggs gent one of his majesty's justices of this county & charged & arraigned of a rape committed on the body of Elizabeth Bailey single woman to which he said he was in no wise thereof guilty & thereof he did put himself upon the court upon which the said Elizabeth Bailey was sworn & examined against the said Aaron & he fully heard in his own defence Whereupon