

Lib. C. B.     The Deposition of Charles Somerset Smith taken before  
 No. 20       me one of the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary his  
 Justices of the Peace for Ann Arundel County this Twelfth  
 day of December Seventeen hundred and Sixty Nine.

This Deponent being first sworn on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God deposeth and saith that he was Sheriff of Charles County part of the year 1765, and 1766, 1767 and part of the year 1768 and that in August 1766 a certain John Duncastle was brought to his Goal and continued his this Deponents Prisoner until November 1768 and that he this Deponent in order to serve the said John Duncastle kept his Goal in Portobacco (the said Duncastle having a Wife and Family residing in that Place) for Twenty Months and upwards at a very great risque and expence and during that time he this Deponent has been informed and verily believes it to be true that the said John Duncastle frequently from his dissolute Behaviour caused the greatest Confusion and uproar among the Prisoners and often advising them to break the Goal and make their Escape which many of the Prisoners did at the said Duncastle's Instigation which run this Deponent to great Expence in repairing the said Goal. This Deponent further saith that a Suit was Commenced against him in Charles County Court for Seven Thousand Pounds of Tobacco on an Escape occasioned by the said Duncastle's advice and persuasion. And this Deponent further saith that the said John Duncastle persuaded the Prisoners not to go to the said Deponent's private Goal which he had built for the greater Security of the Prisoners the County Goal being altogether insufficient which they obstinately refused to go to the said Private Goal until he this Deponent raised a sufficient Force to carry them there And that from the said Duncastle's Advice he this Deponent frequently was obliged to Iron many of the Debtors to prevent their breaking the Prison And this Deponent further saith that the said John Duncastle during his Confinement in Portobacco was so very abusive and his Language so Gross that very few People chose to go near the Prison for fear of the Lash of his Abusive Tongue. And this Deponent further saith that after he got the said Duncastle to his House he let the said Duncastle have the use of one of his best Rooms in his House for a twelve Month the greatest part of which Time the said Duncastle was in a low and languishing Condition and was treated in the same manner as any of his Family for which Treatment he often expressed his Sense of Gratitude till some short Time before he this Deponent's Shrievalty was to end when he the said Duncastle assumed a quite different Tone and took every Method in his power to make himself disagreeable to this Deponent and