

take possession of said Ralph & here him out taking bond in the sum of five hundred dollars with security & conditioned as the law directs Will C. Carr. —

and on the said twenty sixth day of May in the year aforesaid the said Ralph by his attorney filed in the Office of the Clerk of the said Circuit Court his declaration against James Duncan and Coleman Duncan which said declaration is in the words and figures following to wit; — State of Missouri St. Louis County & Circuit Court third Judicial Circuit July term in the year of Christ 1830 —

Ralph a man of colour complains of James Duncan & Coleman Duncan of a plea of trespass assault & Battery & false imprisonment for that heretofore to wit on the thirteenth day of May in the Year of Christ Eighteen Hundred & thirty at the county of St. Louis aforesaid the said defendants with force & arms made an assault upon the said plaintiff & there beat bruised wounded & ill treated him & then & there with force & arms falsely & unlawfully imprisoned the said plaintiff & kept him & detained him in prison there without any lawful authority or cause for a long space of time to wit for the space of nine days then next ensuing

— And said plaintiff further says that before & at the time of the committing of the said several grievances he was & still is a free person & that said defendants held & detained & still hold & detain him in Slavery wherefore said plaintiff says he is greatly injured & hath

sustained damage to five hundred dollars therefore he sues & claims  
G. A. Bird atty for Plff

and afterwards to wit on the said twenty sixth day of May in the year aforesaid the Clerk of the said Circuit Court endorsed thereon a writ of summons which is in the words and figures following to wit; " County of St. Louis &c. The State of Missouri. To the Sheriff of St. Louis County—Greeting— We command you to summon James Duncan and Coleman Duncan that they be and appear before the Judge of our Circuit Court at the next term thereof to be held at the City of St. Louis within and for the County of St. Louis on the fourth Monday of July next then and there to answer unto Ralph a man of color of a plea of trespass, assault & battery & false imprisonment to the damage of said plaintiff of Five Hundred dollars, and have you then there this writ <sup>Seal</sup> Witness

Archibald Gamble Clerk of our said Court at office this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May 1830 - Archibald Gamble Clerk" and afterwards to wit at the return term of the said writ the Sheriff of the County of Saint Louis returned the same into court with his return thereon which is in the words and figures following to wit " Executed this writ on Coleman Duncan in the City of St. Louis May 20. 1830 by reading to him the

Declaration }

Summons

Sheriff's Return }