The State of Alabama Monroe County
Jeremiah Pritchett the claimant for runaway negroe
Ben sold out of the common Jail of this County being
lowfully sworn on his oath saith that he swaped
for Ben with William Sloan about the last of March
1835 and Ben ran away the 9th or 10th of April following
weight about 180 or 90 about 35 years old, a scar on
his right Cheek, and another scar on his breast.
Sloan and Ben informed affiant that Ben come
from Africa a boy. Ben was brot from Fayetteville
in North Carolina. Ben should have belonged to Abner
Branson in Fayette aforesaid. Ben mentioned to affiant
a Mr Dobbins, Hall & Johnson Merchants. Ben should
have lived in Fayette 18 or 19 years. and from all the
Conversation of affiant with Ben, and with Mr Ever
his neighbour who knew Ben in Fayetteville
affiant was then and now is fully satisfied that
Bens Relation of himself and his residence in
Fayette was true, Ben had when he left affiant two
Cloaks, one red striped plaid and one black Cloak with
no Cape, when he left Ben wore a pair of blue plain
cloth pantaloons, sort of a striped round about Coat,
black high Crowned ~~hat~~ wool hat, Red leather coarse
strong large shoes. The first information Claimant got
of Ben being in Pikeville, was from Wm Brown and Brown
from Henry Pedow, never got any letter from no man
about Bens being in Pikeville Jail. Ben related that
he was imprisoned in Fayette after sold. and confined
for some distance on the road and affiant solemnly on
his lowful oath swears. that from all the facts & circumstances
and descriptions of the said negroe man Ben He has no doubt
that he was in honest fact. his own right and properly ~~no~~ before
he was sold. sworn to and subscribed on the 12th Nov 1835
before Wm Jewell Judge &c

Jeremiah his mark Pritchett

Christopher and

Norman McKay on ~~his~~ their lawful oaths saith that He was sailor and so continued untill Ben was sold Ben informed affiant that he had resided in Fayetteville north Carolina, and repeated the names of many persons known by affiant Norman actually to reside in and about Fayetteville, His whole relation satisfied affiant that Ben knew all about Fayetteville & the people Ben said he belonged in Fayette to Branson He was put in Fayette Jail after being sold and [illegible] for some distance on the road. was sold to Sloan and by him swaped ~~by Sloan~~ to Mr Pritchett of Morenzo County, ~~some two or three weeks before he~~ from whom he ran away some 1 or 2 ~~or 3~~ weeks after. There was scars on his face and one noted on his breast, had been runaway from Pritchett some 4 or 6 weeks. Staid at home but a few days. was mainly helping roll logs in the neighbourhood.

Sworn to and subscribed on the 12th Nov 1836

J D Terrell
Judge.

Norman McKay
C C McKay

Noah Agee on his lawful oath saith that Jeremiah Pritchett this claimant of Ben swaped for him with a Mr Sloan. Ben told affiant He had lived at and come from Fayetteville N.C. said he had lended in the warehouse of Hall & Johnson and lived 19 years in Fayette. was brot from africa 12 yrs old, noticed one scar on his right cheek. and from all the circumstances and descriptions of and about this negroe Ben, affiant on his oath believes that this Ben is the real & that he has no sort of interest in this matter determined which was to may just right and property of this claimant Pritchett.

Sworn to and subscribed on the 12th of Novr 1836.
before J D Terrell Judge &c

Noah Agee

Pritchet

says he swapt for Ben last of march of Wm Sloan, & Ben ran off 9 or 10 days afterwards. weight 140 or 90. about 35 yrs old. a scar on his right check and an other on his breast. Sloan and Ben both said he had come from africa a boy. was then right from Fayetteville N. Carolina. that Ben belonged to Abner Branson of Fayette, and Ben mentioned to affiant. Dobbins. Hall & Johnson merchants in Fayette. lived in Fayette 18 or 19 years. affiant in conversation with McEver his neighbour who knew Ben in Fayette. believed Bens relation of himself to be true. the first information of Ben at Pikeville was from Brown & him from Peeden. no other information at all. ~~Branson~~ Sloan & Ben said that Ben when sold, was imprisoned at Fayette and confined for some distance on the road afterwards —

Norman & Christopher McKay. sweary. that they attended Ben whilst in Sail. untill sold. belonged to Abner Branson in Fayetteville, named many other persons there. that he must have known. In Fayette was put in Sail & confined some distance on the road. was sold to Sloan & by him swapped to Pritchet. of Marengo County. from whoom he ran away. some one or two weeks after the first of march. there was scars on his face and one noted on his breast.

= Noah Agee. sweary. that this Pritchet claiming Ben, swapd for him with Wm Sloan, Ben said he came from Fayetteville N. Carolina. had tended in the warehouse of Hall & Johnson and lived in Fayette 19 years. brot from africa 12 yrs old, noticed one scar on his right check.

= Peeden says. that Ben told him he belonged to Pritchet near the standing peach tree in Marengo County. that Pritchet could not write. that there was no scars on his breast. but one at the pit of his stomach said to be a cut. and that his negroe wooman said before Ben ran off. there was scarrs on his breast.

Now all the material facts stated by Pritchet are confirmed by the McKays and Agee. How could Ben tell where Pritchet lived and that he could not write. If he had not known him how could a strange negroe to Pritchet, tell all these things. tis impossible. How could a strange negroe know & tell, Pieden that Pritchet could not write, which was the fact. The Searrs on his heart are sworn to by the Sailors. unknown to the claimant and disinterested. The testimony preponderates for the Searrs and other circumstantial facts which proves Pritchets correctness. and as the best possible evidence (in the nature of the case) identifies Pritchets negroe.

Pritchett and Ben