State of North Carolina, Beaufort County

At a Sessions of said County, personally appeared before me Th. Latham, one of the Justices of said County, and being first duly sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, Concerning the treatment of Seconias Bell, late of said County, towards Rhoda his Wife, deposeth and saith as follows —

In 1821 or 1822 about Christmas time the said Seconias became very abusive to his said Wife, and made heavy threats of her life, and made several attempts with different weapons to put his threats in execution — and I believe he would have taken her life, if he had not been prevented by myself and others. He continued with his wife until February 1825, treating her in general when drunk or sober in the most brutal manner. About the middle of June 1825, he left his wife, and went away without letting it be known, whether he was going, and it was generally reported that he was dead — But during last August he returned into the neighborhood and took up at the House of a Mrs Bartlett, a person of ill fame. I went to her house myself and told it was reported, that he intended to take Delia, daughter of said Mrs Bartlett and carry her away together with her mother? and asked him if that report was true. He said it was; and moreover stated as his determination, never to stay with his wife one three day. I then