

A. My name is John H. Staley, my age 37 years. I reside near Frederick, Maryland, and I am the son of Fleet E. Staley and Mary J. Staley. I am one of the Plaintiffs in this case, and I know all the parties to this suit. I knew Gideon M. Hedges, residing in Frederick City, in Frederick County, Maryland, and who died on or about the date April 9th, 1923 and who died without leaving a will and he was unmarried, and without any child, or descendants of a child, and his father and mother were both dead a number of years prior thereto. Gideon M. Hedges was about 70 years old at the time of his death. At the time of his death, Gideon M. Hedges left surviving him as his only relatives and next of kin, the following brothers and sisters; A sister, Annie P. Hedges, who is unmarried; a brother John W. Hedges, a sister, Ella R. Buxton, who is the wife of William L. Buxton. Gideon M. Hedges also left John Hedges, who is married to Belle Hedges, and Oscar R. Hedges, who is married to Idella C. Hedges, and they are nephews, being the children of Isaac Hedges, who was a brother of said Gideon M. Hedges, and said Isaac Hedges having died without a will at Baltimore, Maryland, on or about the date July 11th, in the year 1922, and said Gideon M. Hedges left a niece named Minnie M. Allen, who is the only child of James P. Hedges, who was a brother of Gideon M. Hedges, and the said James P. Hedges died intestate a number of years ago. My mother, Mary J. Staley, died in 1887, and was also his sister.

All of the aforesaid parties and all of the Plaintiffs of this case are adults over 21 years of age. The said Gideon M. Hedges, also left a grandnephew named Elmer Berriker, who is an infant about eight years of age, and who was born in August, 1915, and the infant being the son of Anna Rose Hedges, who was the daughter of the said Isaac Hedges and she died intestate in the month of January, 1916, then married to Jacob Berriker, said infant residing in Baltimore County, in the State of Maryland. These are all the next of kin and heirs at law of said Gideon M. Hedges, deceased, to my knowledge and belief. I know that Gideon M. Hedges owned a house and lot of ground on the North side of East Patrick Street, in Frederick City, in Frederick County, Maryland, where he resided at the time of his death with his sister, Annie P. Hedges, said real estate being the same which was conveyed to him by Deed from Rachel V. Fout, widow, of which "Exhibit A", filed in this case and now shown me, is a correct copy I believe, and being the same property which the said Rachel V. Fout obtained by Deed from her sister, Hannah N. Wahlen et al, which is correctly described I think in "Exhibit B", herewith exhibited to me as filed in the case.

In my opinion this property is worth about \$4000.00, as a fair market price at this time, This property is not susceptible of partition or division among the numerous persons entitled to it, without loss and injury, because it is one dwelling house and incapable of being divided in different parts, and I think it will be to the interest and advantage of all the parties entitled in the interest thereto, that the same will be sold and the net amount derived therefrom, divided among the persons entitled thereto as their respective interests may appear. And particularly now, as there is no one living in the property and as Aunt Annie has removed therefrom and living I think with her relatives, and there is no one now to look and take charge of the property. And I understand it is the wish of all the parties concerned that the property be now sold for their benefit, and I know it is my wish.

To the general interrogatory by the Examiner; Nothing further.

John H. Staley.

Whereupon there being no other witnesses to be examined and no further time being required for the production of evidence, the said Examiner hereby certified that the foregoing are the depositions of the witnesses, as the same were read over to them and signed by them respectively; and I herewith return the same enclosed to the Court.

Witness my hand this 12th day of September, A. D. 1923.

Clayton O. Keedy, Examiner.