

At the execution of the annexed Commission issued out of the Circuit Court for Frederick County sitting as a Court of Equity and to me directed and requiring me to examine witnesses in the Cause depending in said Court, between Catharine Harper as Complainant and Mary & James Samuel Balwin James Marion Thomas James and others as defendants, I Crispin Eckelbarger the standing Commissioner duly appointed and qualified according to said Com. met at my office in Frederick Town on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of May A.D. 1859 pursuant to previous notice thereof given to the said parties and having appointed William Mahony my Clerk and administering to him the oath annexed to said Commission, to be taken by him and proceed therein and these in the presence of the Solicitor for the Complainant - and of John B. Thomas one of the defendants to take the following depositions to wit:

John B. Thomas a Witness of lawful age produced on the part of the Complainant being duly sworn and examined as to Interrogatories filed with the Commissioner by the Complainant and herewith returned deposes and says: To the 1<sup>st</sup> Inter. I am acquainted with all the defendants and have known them for some time. I do not know the Complainant.

To the 2<sup>d</sup> Inter. I am acquainted with the handwriting of Brown & Laman. I look at the paper here shown and marked exhibit A the signature of Brown & Laman there affixed is the handwriting of said Brown & Laman and was present and saw him sign said paper. The 3<sup>d</sup> Inter. is - named as to this witness, To the 4<sup>th</sup> Inter. - I was acquainted with Brown & Laman late of Frederick County he is dead he died at his residence in Frederick County on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 1858. To the 5<sup>th</sup> Inter. Brown & Laman was married at the time of his death Mary & James is his widow and resides on the farm occupied by her husband during his life time.

To the 6<sup>th</sup> Inter. Brown & Laman left six children, namely Samuel Balwin Marion Thomas George Albert Anne McWilliam Bayard and John Clarence Laman they are all under 21 years of age and reside with their mother and are well maintained. To the 7<sup>th</sup> Inter. Brown & Laman did receive possession and occupancy and continued to hold during his life time and his heirs after his death the land mentioned and described in exhibit A now shown me for expropriation as sold by Catharine Harper to said Brown & Laman. To the 8<sup>th</sup> Inter. Brown & Laman did pay a part of the purchase money of said farm the precise amount I do not know but he told me a short time before his death that there was a small