

witness so taken by you, into writing, you send the same, with this commission, closed under your hand and seal, into this Court as a Court of Equity, with all convenient speed.

Witness, the Honorable John Ritchie, Chief Judge of our said Court, the 11th day of December anno Domini 1892.

Issued the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December 1892.

Notwood.

Adolphus Fearhake Jr. Clerk.

#### Commissioner's Oath

You shall, according to the best of your skill and knowledge, truly, faithfully and without partiality to any or either of the parties, take the Examinations and depositions of all and every witness and witnesses produced and examined by virtue of the Commission herunto annexed upon the interrogatories now, or which may hereafter before the said Commission is closed be produced to and left with you, by either of said parties. So help you God.

#### Clerk's Oath.

You shall truly, faithfully, and without partiality to any or either of the parties to this cause take, write down, and transcribe, the deposition of all and every the witness and witnesses produced and examined by the Commissioners named in the Commission herunto annexed, as far forth as you are directed and employed by the said Commissioners to take, write down, and transcribe the said depositions, or any of them. So help you God.

At the Execution of the annexed Commission issued out of the Circuit Court for Frederick County, sitting as a Court of Equity and directed to John E. R. Hood and Clayton Keady Commissioners therein named, being also the standing Commissioners of said Court duly appointed, qualified and sworn and empowering them or either of them to examine Evidences in a Cause depending in said Court between Ephraim R. Smith Complainant and Laura E. Stevens and others Defendants, I Clayton Keady one of the Commissioners named in said Commission, having met at my office in Frederick City Maryland on the third day of January A. D. 1893 pursuant to previous notice thereof given and in the absence of John E. R. Hood Commissioner, did then and there proceed to take the following testimony to wit: The Complainant filed with the Commissioner as Evidence Exhibits "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", "H", "I", "L", "M", "N", and "O" which are herewith returned by said Commission

Laura E. Stevens a witness of lawful age produced on the part of the Complainant being duly sworn and examined to interrogatories filed with the Commissioner by the counsel for the Complainant and herewith returned deposes and says, to the

1<sup>st</sup> Q<sup>nt</sup>. Are you acquainted with the parties to this suit or any of them? If yes, how long have you known them?

1<sup>st</sup> Ans. I know all the parties to this suit and have known them for some years. I am one of the defendants myself.

2<sup>d</sup> Q<sup>nt</sup>. Were you or not acquainted with a certain Reuben G. Stevens, late of Frederick County? If yes, is he dead or alive? If dead, where and when did he die and did he testate or intestate?

2<sup>d</sup> Ans. I was acquainted with the said Reuben G. Stevens. I am his widow: He is dead, he died in Baltimore, Maryland in September A. D. 1880 and he died intestate.

3<sup>d</sup> Q<sup>nt</sup>. Was or was not the said Reuben G. Stevens seized and possessed of any real estate situated in the State of Maryland at the time of his death? If yes describe it. Look at Exhibit C, D, E, F, G, H, I, L, M, N and O now shown you and state whether