

Proceed to take the following depositions of the witnesses in this cause then and there produced before me, that is to say--

present--Mr. Chas. McC. Mathias, of Solicitors for Plaintiffs.

No appearance for defendants.

Exhibits A and B to the Bill of Complaint filed with the Examiner as evidence and are so marked, William S. Stine, a witness of lawful age, produced on the part of the Plaintiffs, being first duly sworn, deposes and says as follows--

My name is William S. Stine; I am twenty-nine years of age and live in Braddock District, Frederick County, Maryland. I know all the parties to this cause and am the husband of Ethel May Stine, one of the heirs at law of the late Charles E. Mercer. I knew Charles E. Mercer during his lifetime, and at the time of his death in February 1913, he owned a small property which is situated on the road leading from the Frederick & Hagerstown Turnpike to Jefferson, containing about one acre of land. I look at Exhibit A., which is now handed me and which is a certified copy of a deed from Martin W. Swann to Charles E. Mercer, which correctly describes the property mentioned in these proceedings.

The heirs at law left surviving Charles E. Mercer were--His widow, Mary E. V. Mercer, Charles C. Mercer, a son whose wife's name is Bessie Mercer; Ethel May Stine, my wife; Hazel P. Klipp, a daughter, who intermarried with John Klipp, These are all adults above the age of Twenty-one years. There were also two infant children, Daniel W. Mercer, a son aged sixteen years, and Alma Mercer, a daughter, aged fifteen years. All of these parties reside in Frederick County, Maryland, except Daniel W. Mercer who is away from home.

I have agreed to purchase the property mentioned in Exhibit A., at and for the sum of One Hundred and Twenty five dollars, (\$125.00) and exhibit B. is the acknowledgment of purchase signed by me. I believe \$125.00 is a fair price for this property and all the same is worth, and I believe it will be to the advantage of all the parties having an interest in the land and particularly to the advantage of the infant defendants in this cause that the sale mentioned herein be ratified and confirmed by the Court.

To the General interrogatory.

A. Nothing further.

William S. Stine.

George H. Mull, a witness of lawful age, produced on the part of the Plaintiffs, being first duly sworn and examined viva voce, deposes and says as follows--

My name is George H. Mull, I am 71 years old and live in Frederick County Maryland, in sight of the property mentioned. I know all the parties to the cause and knew Charles E. Mercer during his lifetime. He died in the early part of February, 1913, and left surviving him a widow, Mary E. V. Mercer; a son, Charles C. Mercer, whose wife's name is Bessie Mercer; a daughter, Ethel May Stine, who intermarried with William S. Stine; a daughter Hazel P. Klipp, who intermarried with John Klipp. The aforementioned children are adults all over the age of Twenty-one years. He also left surviving him an infant son, Daniel W. Mercer, who is 16 years old, and an infant daughter Alma Mercer, who is fifteen years old. All these parties live in Frederick County Maryland, except Daniel W. Mercer, who is away from home.

I look at Exhibit A which is now handed me and which is a certified copy of a deed from Martin W. Swann to Charles E. Mercer. This land correctly describes the property mentioned in the Bill of Complaint. The price of One Hundred and Twenty-five Dollars (\$125.00) mentioned in the Bill of Complaint I consider a very fair price for this property as the ground was unimproved when Mr. Stine purchased it. I firmly believe that it is to the advantage of all the parties to this cause and especially to the interest and advantage of the infant defendants that this sale be ratified and confirmed by the Court, and in my judgment the price of \$125.00 is all the property is worth.

To the General Interrogatory.

A. Nothing Further.

George H. Mull.