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direction of the said Charles and without his knowledge applied to Henry Waggaman Esquire of Dorchester County and procured him to draw up and prepare a last will and testament for the said Charles according to directions by the said William to the said Henry then given, which is the same produced by the Complainants and exhibited by them which this respondent saith he doth not know believe or admit to have been duly executed by the said Charles L. Compte for the disposition of property thereby made are different from what had always been the declared intentions of the said Charles and from the disposition which but a few days before he had solemnly and deliberately made. and your Respondent further saith that when the said will so by the said Complainants produced & pretended to have been executed the said Charles had become so infirm and weak both in body and mind that he was not as this respondant believes capable of judging for himself and of making a disposition of his property. And your respondant further says that the Witnesses who signed the said pretended will are in the opinion of this respondant persons of infamous characters to whom no credit ought to be given and that they were under the influence of the said William and Sarah the Complainants whereas in the neighbourhood where the said Charles lived and where it is said the said will was executed there would have been no difficulty to have procured Witnesses in abundance of unblemished and respectable character.

Your Respondent further saith that the said last will and testament heretofore mentioned to have been made on the said day when the said three deeds were executed cannot be found but was as this respondant believes destroyed by the said Complainants or one of them or that the same is now in their possession. And this respondent denies all and all manner of fraud and unlawful combinations and confederacy in the Complainants bill charged against him, without that there is any other matter or thing in the Complainants bill contained material or effectual for this Defendant to make answer unto and not herein and hereby sufficiently answered into confessed or avoided traversed or denied is true to the knowledge and belief of this Defendant all which matters and things this Defendant is ready to aver maintain and prove as this Honorable Court shall award and humbly prays to be hence dismissed with his reasonable costs and charges in this behalf wrongfully sustained

L. Martin
Jno Johnson } for Defendant

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State of Maryland } Anne Arundel County to wit.

Personally appeared before me the subscriber one of the Justices of the peace for the County aforesaid the within named Solomon Frazier and made oath that the facts in the aforegoing answer contained so far as they relate to his own acts are true and so far as they relate to the acts of others he believes to be true.

Sworn this 1st may 1798. Before

Allen Quynn.

And the said Cause so standing continued until June Court seventeen hundred and ninety eight Commission issued by Consent of Parties to the persons therein named in the words following to wit.

Maryland to wit. The State of Maryland to Mesrs James Steele, John Craig, Charles Goldsborough and Doctor Muse of Dorchester County Greeting. Know ye that we have appointed you or any three or two of you to be our Commissioners to examine evidences in a cause depending in our High Court of Chancery between Sarah and William Lecompte Complainants and Solomon Frazier Defendant, We therefore require you or any three or two of you having first taken the oath, and also administered the annexed oath to the person whom you shall appoint as Clerk to attend the execution of this Commission that at such time and place as to you or any three or two of you shall seem convenient you cause to come before you or any three or two of you all such evidences as shall be named and produced to you or any three or two of you by either the Plaintiff or Defendant and that you or any three or two of you examine them on their Corporal oaths to be by you or any three or two of you administered upon the holy Evangels of Almighty God touching their knowledge or remembrance of any thing that may relate to the cause aforesaid and that you or any three or two of you cause notice to be given to the parties or their attorneys of the execution of this Commission before you execute the same and having reduced the depositions of the Witnesses so taken by you or any three or two of you into writing you send the same with this our Commission close under your or any three or two of your hands and seals to us in our High Court of Chancery with all convenient speed. Witness the Honorable Alexander Contee Hanson Esquire Chancellor this twenty first day of June 1798.

James Harvey Howard Reg Cur Can.

Commissioners oaths.

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 examination and

depositions