1772

September Term

J. H. Jennings

George Watts & Rebecca his Wife Daniel Chas. Heath and Mary his Wife, and Susannah Key Apt

vs

Normand Bruce

Bill to Perpetuate Remembered that heretofore to wit on the 27th day of April A.D. 1772 Letters of Admon of all and Singular the Goods and Chattles of Theodosia Key late of Kent County Deceased were in Common form of Law granted and committed unto a Certain Normand Bruce of Frederick County; and that on the 8th Day of May Anno Domini 1772 contain Geo. Watts & Rebecca his Wife, Danl. Chas. Heath and Mary his Wife & Susannah Key Infants Libellants in this Cause by Jno. Hall their Procurator filed their Joint Libel against the said Normand Bruce as follows Viz.

To the Honourable Walter Dulany Esqr. Commissary General and Judge for Probate of Wills and Granting Administrations within the Province of Maryland

The Libell and Complaint of George Watts and Rebecca his Wife Danl. Chas. Heath and Mary his Wife which said Rebecca & Mary are the Daughters & only surviving Children of Ruth Ward Key of St Mary's County Deceased and Susannah Key Daughter of Doctor John Key also Deceased a Minor under the Age of Twenty one years by Geo. Watts her Next Friend Devisee under the Will of Theodosia Key of said County Widow and Relict of Phillip Key Esqr. humbly Complaining Sheweth unto your Honour that the said Theodosia Key some time after the Death of her

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September Term Continued

Her Husband, the said Phillip Key being without any Relations by Blood in this Province or Elsewhere to the Knowledge of your Libellants and being Desirous of Giving and disposing of her Personal Estate to the Children & Grand Children of her said Deceased Husband did some time in the Year Seventeen Hundred & Sixty four Sequent her son in Law Edmund Key Esqr late Attorney General to Draw her Will; which at her Desire and Accordingly to his Instructions he Accordingly Did and wrote the same altogether with his own Hand and Inclosed the same in a Letter Directed to the same Theodosia who Received & Kept the said Will by her to the time of her Death, the same being found amongst her Papers safe Locked up; and at many Different times declared she had made her Will and frequently Procured the said Will & Testament and also related in what Manner, and to whom she had Given her Estate & Particularly the Legacies, or some of them, to your Libellants Rebecca, Mary, and Susanna who are the Grandchildren of the said Phillip Key Esqr

And your Libellants further Shew that by the said Last Will and Testament Diverse Legacies are Given Viz. The Sum of One Hundred Pounds Current Money to Francis Key and the Sum of one Hundred Pounds like Money to Thomas Key, the Sum of two Hundred Pounds Current Money to Susanna Gardiner Brunt Wife of Normand Bruce the Defendant hereafter Named together with three Negroes, all her Plate & two Best Suits of Cloaths; and that independant of said Legacies & three Gold Rings for Mourning Rings the whole Personal Estate of the said Theodosia is Given either Specifically or by a General Residuary Bequest by your Libellants as by the said Last Will & Testament hereto with Produced Reference thereunto had may more fully appear And your Libellants further Shew that the said Normand Bruce upon Application to the Prerogative Office Obtained Letters of Administration on said Estate of the said Theodosia without the Knowledge of your Libellants and before the said Will was Discovered as your Libellants are Informed and Believe to be true

your