their shares of their fathers estate and that Jos had received nothing and she had a right to do as she pleased with her property or words to that effect.

20th There was no understanding with Jos on the subject I signed the bill believing that it was the intention of my mother that the land should be his.

21st Int He never heard her say any such thing

Samuel Shepherds answer to Complainants

10th Int The money never was paid to his knowledge and he believes she never had it to spare and he believes in the execution of the receipt she put him in possession of the farm as she frequently told me that the farm was intended for him.

Samuel Shepherds answer to Defendants

22nd Int I answered the bill on these conditions that I claimed no right to the place

Answer of Defendants Witnesses to defendants Interrogatories viz

Thomas Plummer being sworn answered to the

1st Int He has purchased five negroes within the last three years one negro man from Theodore Hodskin, one woman and two Children from Alex Randall Trustee of William Arminger and one negro woman from Lewis Griffith administrator of Miss Smith at a cost of about seventeen hundred dollars which negroes are now in his possession he knows not how they were paid for and whether anything is now due

Answer of Defendants Witnesses

Henry C Welch being sworn answered to the Defendants Interrogatories as follows to the

1st Int He knew John Shepherd late husband of Mary Shepherd father of the Complainant Jos Shepherd and is under the impression that he died about twenty years since seized of two tracts or parcels of land one of which contained eighty or seventy acres and the other about one hundred and fifty more or less valued at eight thousand dollars I knew Mary Shepherd, she died last fall on the farm she bought of Mrs Allen and I believe at the time of her death she owned about five hundred and twenty acres of land and personal property to the value of twenty five or six hundred dollars a small farm containing about seventy acres she owned when married the rest of her land she acquired by purchase but know not at what time the purchase was made he believes part of the land was purchased of Samuel Shepherd part of Mrs Allen and the rest from William Shepherd but he does not know the price she paid for the land except what she purchased of William Shepherd which was fifteen hundred dollars

3rd Int He believes she could neither read nor write he thinks he has heard her say so.

4th Int He lived with his mother up to the time of her death and with his sisters since he does not know by whom he was educated but supposed by his mother and supported by his mother during the minority he does not know how many years and at what probable cost or expense, he is not able to say what his age is.

5th Int He has had to my knowledge a negro man woman and boy and most of the time a white man the negroes belong to him the hire



of the whole annually is worth about two hundred dollars

6th Int he does not know he knows not the quantity but he believes the description to be Corn wheat oats and Tobacco he does not know to whom sold and how applied,

7th Int He does know it he believes there are about sixty nine or seventy acres and the quality good the Improvements Consist of a dwelling two barns and some other out houses in a direct line about one and half miles from Mrs Shepherds residence the land is worth about forty dollars pr acre he does not know the quantity of products nor the value thereof

8th Int He knows nothing about the assessment or who paid the taxes.

9th I know he purchased a negro woman and a child or two for which he was to pay seven hundred dollars at the sale William Arminers property which negroes are still in his possession but knows not how they were paid for or whether the money is still due,

17th Special Int He does not know any thing about the deed nor does he know her wishes on the subject,

19th Int In Conversation with Jos Shepherd last August in his mothers presence he Welch was joking him about getting married when he Shepherd remarked that the property did not belong to him and he would not repair it any more until he had a better right his mother then remarked that he had as good a right as he ever would have until her death or while she lived or words to that effect

Cross Interrogatories for Defendants Witness,

Henry C Welch answers to the Complainants

1st Cross Int The Conversation on my part was in a joking manner but how far Jos and his mother were jesting, I am unable to say

Answer to the Complainants 1st additional Int He is Carpenter by trade he lives with his sisters at present and lived with his mother the most of his time up to her death he attended to her affairs to my knowledge occasionally and believes superintended her farm occasionally he repaired her dwelling built a Corn House and did other work for her but do not know what his services was worth

3rd Add I do not know his annual income from his profession but consider him an active industrious intelligent and thriving man and believe him to be of good character

Answers of Complainants witnesses to Complainants Interrogatories viz

James Owens Senr being sworn answered to the

1st Int I know them all and have known them from ~~them from~~ their infancy

2d Int I do, it contains sixty seven acres and some perches named "Bellingham" and considers it a kind productive farm

3rd Int The land is now in Joseph Shepherds possession and has been in his possession about four years.

4th Int He knows that improvements have been put on the farm by Joseph Shepherd within the last four years at Jos Shepherds expense and he considers the improvements worth five hundred dollars

5th She was aware of the improvements being put there and was pleased at the same,

6th I know of no contract between them but I heard her say that