

1819-016

SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY
CHANCERY PAPERS

WILLIAMS' EXECUTOR

VS. WILLIAMS ^{val} 10/18/19

All also Williams v. Everett 1800-04

other surnames: Everitt,
Grantham, Sandifer,
Darden, Gay, Barnes,
Wiggins, Stephens, Story

William

as

William



Calif.

1819 Octo: dismissed

Williams

W

Williams.

Bill

Copy

June 1872 Mrs. Everett infant
of Mills, Everett made gift of
cont. &c.

Not deacidified
1992

To the justices of Southampton County sitting in Chancery,
respectfully ~~Complaining~~ sheweth unto your worships
your order George Williams.

That on or about the twenty second
day of March in the year of Christ one Thousand seven hun-
dred and ninety seven your order reflecting upon the uncerta-
inty of Lifes duration, determined immediately to make
some provision for his Children. That in consequence of this
wise resolution (which was only to please his children in
situations equally good) he called them together. That from
misfortune accompanied with great age he had at that lost
his sight. that Charles Williams and Solomon Williams ~~his wife~~
Two of his Children well knowing the defect of your orators
vision did wickedly attempt and fraudently execute four deeds
for him to sign two for the benefit of Charles and the other
for the benefit of Solomon Williams. That by ~~unintentionally~~
~~attaching~~ his signature to the said deeds, he conveyed (by one)
to Charles Williams a woman named sue a boy named Ro-
ger and Girl named Fillys, and (by another) a plantation
containing ~~four~~ hundred acres of Land lying in the
County of Southampton. That to Solomon Williams
he likewise conveyed a negro woman named Daffon
a girl named Venus and boy called Jim (by one) and also
two hundred and fifty acres of Valuable Land in the county
aforesaid (by another) that all these deeds were completed
on the same day although they have different dates
and your orator further states that he only intended (when
he collected his Children) to give one negro to each of them.
That he meant Venus for Solomon and Roger for
Charles and that at ~~that~~ the time of signing the deeds
he supposed that he was merely executing his said intenti-
on. That Charles and Solomon Williams obtained his
signature to the beforementioned deeds (which they prepared) by
Covetousness and a fullfilful advantage of your orators blind-
ness; and he lastly states that he never did knowingly sign
these deeds. that he from loss of sight could not read and
that Charles and Solomon Williams did not read the same ^{to} him.

him for fear of detection. In tender consideration whereof and for as
much as your orator is remediless at common law he solicits the
interposition of this court to the end therefore he prays that the
S^r Charles Williams and Solomon Williams may be made
defendants to this bill of complaint and that they and
the rest of their confederates when discovered may upon their
oathful oaths full true and perfect answer make to all
and singular the allegations herein contained and that as
fully as if the same were here again repeated And more espe-
cially that they discover what provision the complainant made
for his other children what was his whole estate worth
whether he was not then blind? and whether the deeds were
made to him at the time of signing and lastly whether he knew
that he was conveying so great a portion of his property to
your orator finally prays that your honors will decide
that the said deeds are void and that the title to the negroes
and land aforesaid be established in him and make such other
or further decree in the premises as shall seem just & equitable
May it please &c

A true copy teste

Sam^l Wells jr D^o & C^o

By leave of the court first made
and obtained to amend the foregoing bill
James Lee who has lately qualified as a
-an to Mr Everett (who is a Dep^t) the S^r James
Lee is also made a Dep^t and it is prayed that
a subpoena issue notifying him thereto -

Williams

ad.

Admission

Williams et al

Williams et al

Oct-1805 Answer filed

Bill
Williams &

Comm & Depositions taken

for hearing

A Bundle of
Chy issues

July 1804

Wm Higgins depo
files

The separate answer of Charles Williams one of the defendants to the bill of complaint exhibited against him and Solomon Williams in the worshipping court of Southampton, by Abraham Williams executor of George Williams dec'd.

This defendant saving and reserving to himself the manner of benefit of exception to the manifold words uncertainties and imperfections in the complainants said bill of complaint, for as much thereof as he shall think fit to demand it is material for him to make answer unto, and to the effect and tenor That on the 22^d day of March 1797 George Williams the complainants testator by deed duly executed in the presence of three respectable witnesses, conveyed and transferred to this respondent, of his own free will and accord and without constraint controul or persuasion of this respondent a tract of Land containing four hundred acres, and on the 24th of the same month, the said G. Williams now dec'd & Co by deed of sale properly executed and recorded in this court, sold & delivered to this respondent, sundry slaves as will appear from the said deed and bill of sale, reference being had thereto, and the same are prayed to be taken as a part of, this answer. This respondent most positively denies that he ever practiced fraud, art, deception or misrepresentation, or ever used or exerted any other unfair or dishonourable means to induce him to execute the said deed and bill of sale; as is most improperly and wrongfully charged in the complainants bill. This respondent most allegorically believes, that it was always his fathers intention to give him this respondent the property mentioned in the said deed and bill of sale, and it is his full belief, that he retained that intention to the day of his death. This respondent not thinking it necessary to repeat his former answer in this answer; begs leave to refer this worshipping court to the instrument for a full and complete answer to the complainants question, concerning the possession made by him for other children. This respondent most positively avers

So. on Williams

ads

Williamsen

} answer

Sept 1805 filed

Reph & Conn.

May 1814 cont.

June 1812 Wm. Everett, Everett infant
of Mills, Everett made Sept. 18 cont.

January 1815 leave to

amend file and new parties &c

Spa of review filed in Jones

See guardian to

Oct. 1819 (Dismissed.)

Williams

ads

Williams

} answer

The separate answer of ~~the~~ Solomon Williams one of the
defendants to the bill of complaint exhibited against him
and Charles Williams in the worshipful court of
Municipality by Abolam Williams executor of George
Williams dec^d.

This defendant saving and reserving to
himself all manner of benefit of exception to the many
errors, uncertainties and imperfections in the complaint
and Bill contained, for answer thereto or to so much
of it as is advised it is material for him to make an
answer thereto and saith that on the 22^d day of
the year of our Lord 1797 George Williams the complain-
testator by deed duly executed in the presence of three
respectable witnesses, conveyed and transferred to
of his own free will and accord and with
of the respondent

240 acres and on the 24th of the
the said George Williams now dec^d. who by
deed properly executed and recorded in this court
and delivered to this respondent sundry slaves as will
appear from the said deed and Bill of sale, reference
being had thereto, and which are prayed to be taken as a
part of this answer. This respondent most positively denies that
he ever practiced fraud, deceit, doublet or misrepresentation
or ever used or effected any improper unfair or dishonour-
able means to induce his father to execute the said deed
Bill of sale, as is most improperly and wrongfully charged
the complainant's Bill. This respondent most abjectly
thinks that it was always his father's intention to give him this
respondent, the property mentioned in the said deed
Bill of sale, and it is his firm belief that he retained that

intention to the day of his death - This respondent not thinking
it necessary to repeat his father's will for this answer, but
leave to refer this worshipping court to that instrument for
full and complete answer to the complainant's question
concerning the provision made by his father for other chil-
dren - This respondent most positively avers that the deeds &
Bills of Sale were read to his father before he executed
them and that he well knew what he was doing
The respondent denying all combinations fraud &
to be hence desisted with his reasonable
this behalf most wrongfully sustained - with which

Solomon Williams

Done &c!

Solomon Williams this day made oath before
said court that the

nothing but the truth

Given under my

17th day of Sept. 1805

J. P. Wilkinson

Not decified
1992

Williams es.

Williams } chg

March 1804

Acopy left the
8th April 1804

Nathl. E. Mabry Es
for

Abel Mabry Shff

give Solomon Williams
a Copy of this

Sampton March Court 1827.

Abalom Williams vs George Williams ppp

Against

Solomon Williams ~ ~ ~ O Dyl

In Chancery

.. Heard on the 11th ~~of the Court~~, whereupon it is
ordered that Solomon Williams one of the defendants be inhibited
and enjoined from committing waste on the lands now in his pos-
-session and for which the Compt. hath instituted his suit in Chancery
for the recovery of his proportion of said land as Corviduary
advice of George Williams dec^d his father. And from carrying
~~away~~ the negroes now in his possession out of this state or making
away or selling them in any manner until the hearing of this
Cause, and it is ordered that he appear before the justices of our
said County Court of Sampton on the third Monday in April next
to answer the Complaint of the plaintiffs, &c.

Samuel R. R.

Long comm. to 118

W. 3 chf
William 3

Nov. 1808

1808

Nov. 3. Executed

Tho. Stanby Deputy

Sam. Calverly

Sampton October Court 1808

Arthur A. Barr ~~com.~~ vs. Don with the
Wills Amends of Geo Williams and Comptt } In chancery
Charles ^{Ag't} Solomon Williams } Defs

On the motion of the complainant by his
counsel it is Ordered that the defendants be restrained and
injoined from carrying away out of this State or otherwise
Secreting negro woman Daphne & her children during the
pendancy of this Suit or until the further Order of this Court
and that the Sheriff serve the defendants with a copy of this Order
Sam Kello

Williams

as

Williams

28
Spa
in
Chy.

To March 1798

D. 1st March 1798.

Excused on Solomon
the 8th March
Charles No Inhab^t
Robt Mabry M^y

The Commonwealth of Virginia to the sheriff of Solon
county greeting You are hereby commanded to summon
Charles Williams & Solomon Williams to appear before
the justices of our said county court of Southampton at
the Courthouse of the s^d county on the third monday of
March next to answer ~~George Williams~~ a bill in
Chancery exhibited against them by ^{Abraham Wagon} George Williams
& hereafter there they are not to omit under the penalty
of £100 each & have then there this writ witness the Clerk
of our S^d Court at the Chouse the 1st day Dec^r 1797
& in the 22^d Year of the Commonwealth

Shello D

Williams &
ad J. Conrad
Williams & Co

Virginia

Sampton County to wit

The commonwealth of Virginia to Tho^s Banks
& Jas: Denson Gentlemen Justices of the peace
for the County of Northfolk and State of No Carolina
greeting know ye that we trusting to your pro-
vident Circumspection in diligently examining
William Stevens - - - - -

Witnesses as well on behalf of Absalom Williams
ex George Williams and Complainant as on behalf
of Solomon Williams and Charles Williams defendants
and we do give to your power to call and cause to come
before you the witnesses aforesaid when and where you
shall appoint and diligently examine them on the
holy evangelist of Almighty God and their examina-
tion do taken that you send without delay
returning to us also this your Verdict Signed
Wells Clerk of our said Court at his office
the 2nd day of December 1805. Jas Wells

Sampton County Feb

This day Jordan Johnson personally appeared
before me ~~Joseph Johnson~~ a justice of the peace
for the county aforesaid and made oath that he did on
the 10th day of this pres^t month (March) deliver
to Solomon Williams one of the within named depts a
true copy of the within notice given under my hand this
22^d day of March 1806

Brown J. P.

Notice to Chas.
Sol. Williams -

Mr Solomon Williams ~~And~~ Ch^s Williams
Sir

Take notice on Saturday the 22nd day of this present month (March) between the hours of 10^o clock A M and 4 P M of that day I shall proceed to take the depositions of William Wiggins Cullen Britt James Gay Leliza Grantham Elizabeth Darden Nancy Sandifer (at my house in this county) to be read as evidence in suit in chancery now depending and undetermined in the Court of Sampson wherein you are defendants and I am Complainant

Sampson March 5th 1806

Abalom Williams
w George Williams
dcd

Deposition of James
Pay. Cal.

Williams
27 } Comm
Williams ex

Virginia Sampson fec

The Commonwealth of Virginia to
James Manly & Timothy Ridley Gentlemen justices
of the peace for the County of Bedford — and State of
N^C Carolina Greeting Know ye that we trusting to your
provident Circumspection in diligently examining Athro-
darden, James Gay, Charles Barnes & William Higgins
witnesses as well on behalf of Absalom Williams as
George Williams did Compt as on behalf of Charles
and Solomon Williams ~~defts~~ defts and we do give power
to you to Call their Cause to Come before you the
witnesses aforesaid when and where you shall Appoint
and diligently examine them on the holy Evangelist
of Almighty ~~God~~ and their examination so taken ~~into~~
our Court of our S^C County of S^C you are to send enclosed
without delay Certified under your hands, as also this
with Witness Sam Kello clerk of our S^C Court at
the Courthouse the 19 day of May 1800 and
in the 30 year of the Commonwealth

Sam Kello

Notice to
Ab. Williams.

^{Williams}
Mr. Absalom, exor of George Williams dec'd

Take notice, on Saturday the 14th day of the present Month (June) between the hours of ten and four a'clock of That Day I shall proceed to take the depositions of Bethro Darden James Gay William Wiggins Cullen Brett William Barnes and Charles Barnes at the house of William Gattings living in Chancery Neck Hertford County State of North Carolina to be read as evidence in a suit in Chancery now depending and undetermined in the Court of Southampton wherein you are complainant and I am defendant, — deliver'd two copies one for Charles Williams and the other for Solomon Williams —

2nd Day June 1806 Charles & Solomon Williams

Samuel Abrams maketh oath that he did on the 2nd Day of June 1806 deliver to Absalom Williams, a two Coppies of the foregoing Notice one for Charles and the other for Solomon Williams. Saml. Abrams Sworn before us this 14th of June 1806

Timothy Ridley

Jas. Maney

~~James Maney~~

Deposition of William
Wiggins

Southampton County to wit

The Common Pleas of Virginia to John Lee and
Jacob Darsens Gentlemen greeting know ye that
we trusting to your fidelity and provident circum-
spection in diligently examining whatever

Writings as well on behalf of Abraham Williams
executor of George Williams dec'd Plaintiff
as on behalf of Charles Williams and Solomon
Williams defendants do command you to call &
cause to come before you ^{whatever witnesses you may think proper} ~~the witnesses~~ ~~of the~~ ~~case~~
and where you shall appoint and diligently examine them
on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God and their
examination so taken into our said Court of Southampton
and without delay enclosed returning to us also this
Writ Writings Samuel Shreve clerk of our S^d Court
at his office the 26th day of November 1806 and in
the 31st year of the Commonwealth

Sam. Hill

Southampton County, N.C.

This day Solomon Green came before
me and made oath that he did on the 27th
day of this present month deliver to Solomon
Williams a letter of which the within is a
true copy

15th Jan'y. 1857

L. Darden
(D)

Witness
to
Sol. Williams

My dear Charles & Solomon Williams

Take notice that I shall proceed to take the
depositions of William Wey & Samuel Abrams
on Saturday the 17 day of this month at the
house of John ~~Deane~~ ⁱⁿ the County of Southampton
between the hours of 10 o'clock A.M. and 4 o'clock P.M.
of that day to be read as evidence in a suit in Chan-
-cery now depending ⁱⁿ the County Court of Southampton
wherein I am Complainant and your saids defendants
when and where you may attend if you think
proper

Yours truly
E. J. Smith 1807

Yr. H. Serv.
Abram Williams
vs. Geo. Williams &c.

Williams ad

vs } Ship of Revenge

Owens ad Williams

ad -

To June 1811

Executed on Wms

Owens. Marcilla

Williams. Lewis

Williams & ~~Lewis~~

Williams - Charles

Williams no Inha-
bitant.

David Newson of
James Lee Ship

The commonwealth of Virginia to the Sheriff
of Southampton county, greeting. We command you
that you Summon ^{Charles Williams and} William Owens administrator
of Solomon Williams decd. & Marcellus Williams
his widow, Lewis Williams & Samuel Williams his
children, to appear before the justices of our
County Court at the Chouse on the 3^d Monday
in June next to their cause if anything
can shew a certain bill. and the proceedings
thereon ~~should be heard against~~ ^{the} Williams
and Solomon Williams heretofore brot by
~~the~~ Williams in ^{his} life time and since revived
by Abraham Williams his ex. should not
be revived in the name of Arthur Alarn
admr. & to nor with the will annexed of
the Williams decd and further to do justice
what (such things) as our s^d Court shall in
that part consider and thus they shall not omit
under the penalty of £100 wd shew them there this
with witness Samuels clerk of our s^d Court at his office
the 23 day of May 1811 835 year of the Comm^d Samuels

*Notice & Commission
to take Depositions*

Virginia Supton Town

The Commonwealth of Virginia to Brown
& W. ~~W~~ Low Gentlemen Justices of the Peace for the
County aforesaid greeting know ye that we trusting to your
provident Circumspection in diligently examining Wm Stephens
a material Witness as well on behalf of Arthur A. Case
adm D B N with the will Annand of H. Williams
decd as on behalf of Charles Williams & Wm Jones
adms Solomon Williams decd and Marcella Williams
his widow & the heirs of S^r Solomon to wth Lewis &
Sam Williams depts as also do command you
to give your process to call and cause the aforesaid
afores^d to come before you when and where you
shall appoint and diligently examine him in the
holy Evangelists of Almighty God this examination
be taken you are to send unto our said County Court without
delay enclosed returning to us also this with Witness
Sam Kells clerk of our S^d Court at the Courthouse
the 1st day of July 1811 and 35 year of the
Commonwealth

Sam Kells

Southampton County Court.

John Beale personally appeared

before ^{me} ~~me~~ ~~sworn~~ oath that he delivered a true copy of the

within notice to Wm Owens, Marcilla Williams, Lewis Williams

& Samuel Williams on ^{tuesday next} ~~the~~ ^{this inst.} ~~the~~ day of July ~~last~~ ~~past~~

given under my hand this 13th day of July 1811

Henry Blount J.P.

ge. J. Williams

Southampton

Messrs Charles Williams and
~~William Williams~~ were administrators of Solomon Williams dec'd of Marcella
Williams his wife one Lewis Williams, Samuel Williams children
of said Solomon.

Take notice that I shall at the ^{Law} ~~place~~ of John Cuthlow in
the Town of Jerusalem on the third Monday in ~~this~~
present month July being Southampton Court day between
the hour of Ten in the forenoon and Six o'clock in the
afternoon of that day proceed to take the deposition of
Wm Stephenson to be read as evidence in a suit and
chancery now depending in Southampton County Court
wherein you are defendants and I am Complainant.

Sampton July 1st 1811

Arthur A. Carr addn
of George Williams

Wm

21

Wm

Wm

Pursuant to a Commission of the Commonwealth of Virginia, to us directed, we have this day caused to come before us, Eleche Grantham, Elizabeth Darden, & Nancy Sandifer, being sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, to give us the truth.

The deponent Eleche Grantham says that the 4th of March 1797 to the best of her knowledge, her Father George Williams had his Children drawn together, in order to give each of them a Negro, which he did by putting the Names of the Negroes in a Hat, and let them draw, the Oldest first and so on, the Name that each drew they were to have; they all drew, except Absalom and Charles Williams, who were not present, but did draw afterwards as she understood, and all appeared to be satisfied. her Father gave them Bills of Sale for the Negroes, she the said deponent further says she understood afterwards, that that Charles Williams had two Negroes more in his Bill of Sale than he drew; she saw Charles Williams and asked him if it was so, he denied it, and said he had none in the Bill of Sale only Roger, which he drew, and the old plantation whereon his Father lived. which he said his Father always intended for him, and he wanted it, was the reason he put it in the Bill of Sale, she told him her Father was much dissatisfied about it. he told her he would carry the Bill of Sale to her Father, and destroy it, and things should be as they were before; — Sometime after this her Father sent for them all to bring in their writings that he might hear them read, he asked Solomon Williams where his writings was Solomon told ^{him} they were not there, and that there was nothing in them but the Negro he drew, and if any one said there was, they were liars. —

Further this deponent sayeth not —

The deponent Elizabeth Darden says that at the time her Father (George Williams) sent for them to bring in their writings that he might hear them read, he asked Solomon Williams two or three times where his was, Solomon told him they were at Charles Williams's, her Father told him

he wanted him to bring them as he might hear them read to end the dispute, Solomon said he had no other writings against him only for the Negro he drew, and that if any one said that he had, they were liars. —

This deponent further says that about Ten years ago, Solomon Williams & Charles Williams come to her House on a Thursday and told her they had Deeds, and they intended to get a Bottle of Brandy, and go to their Father's on Saturday, and get their Father to drinking and he would assign the Deeds, and then they would sweep Land. — Further this deponent sayeth not

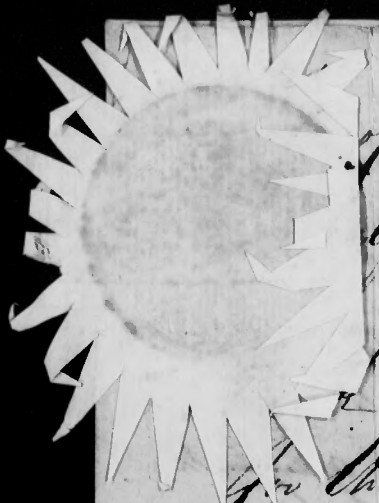
The deponent Nancy Sandifer says that at the time her Father (George Williams) sent for them to give each a Negro (which was the 4th of March 1797 to the best of her knowledge) he asked Solomon Williams (his son) where his pen and Ink was, and told him to get it, and write down the Names of seven Negroes, and told him which, (as there was seven Children of them) Solomon did so. he the S^r George Williams put them in a Hat and put a Handkerchief over them, he was asked which of his Children should draw first he said, Oldest, so the Oldest drew, and then the next and so on. Except ^{the} Absalom & Charles Williams, which were not there, but drew afterwards, as she understood, and all appeared to be satisfied. —

This deponent further says that as she returned home from her Father's she saw Charles Williams and after some Conversation he said that they had got in such an uproar down there against him, that he did not care what he did, so he kept the rope from around his Neck, and ^{his} ears upon his head. Further this deponent sayeth not —

State of North Carolina
Guttford County
— day of June One Thousand Seven hundred and Ninety Nine —

Given under our hands this 15th day of June One Thousand Seven hundred and Ninety Nine

Timothy Ridley
Jel. Darden



of Norfolk
your County

I Joseph F. Dickinson
of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions
for the County of Norfolk Do hereby certify
all whom it may concern that Timothy
Pickley & Sethus Barden esquires whose names
are subscribed to the within Deposition are
& were at the time thereof Acting Justices
of the Peace in & for the County of Norfolk
wherein that they have duly sworn
& are qualified to do as such & whose full
truth & credit is & ought to be given
to their acts as such. In Testimony
whereof I have hereunto set my hand
& affixed the Seal of Office Done at
Norfolk this 23rd Feb. A.D. 1807.

J. F. Dickinson

Pursuant to the annexed commission to us directed
at the House of William Gatling in the County of
Hertford and State of North Carolina on the 14 Day
of June between the Hours of Ten O'Clock in the
fore noon and Four in the afternoon of the same
Day Mills Purill agent for Solomon and Charles
Williams present we proceeded to take the Deposi-
tions of Lethro Darden James Gay Charles Barnes
and William Wiggins all of whom being first
sworn on the Holy evangelist of Almighty God
to depose the truth the whole truth and nothing but
the truth between the 2^d parties named in said commis-
sion depose and say as follows (to wit) that about
Ten or Eleven years ago he wrote a Will for George Will-
iams in which he gave to his son Solomon Williams 250
acres of land lying on the West side of the ~~Swamp~~
Dam Swamp binding on the State line and up the
St^d line to James Hepbeth's line also his Grist Mill
and one Negro of the Value of Forty five Pounds
Virginia Currency together with a Dividend of his
other property after giving legacies to his other children
and to his son Charles Williams he gave the Plantation
and lands lying on the East side of St^d Branch whereon
St^d George Williams then lived also his still together
with a Dividend of his remaining property after
having previously given legacies to his other chil-
dren — Question by the Defendant —

Do you suppose that in the last Deeds that George
Williams executed to his sons above mentioned equal
share of the lands he gave them ^{was} more than an equal
proportion of his other property

and I do not and further the ^{deponent} says not — James Gay says that Feb^y of the Year 1799 he heard Charles Williams ask his Father George Williams to give him and his Brother Solomon what property he intended to give them, the Old Man replied well get your Deeds Written and bring them, and I will assign them —

Question by Defendant — Have you not often heard George Williams say that he intended to give all his Lands in Virginia to his two sons Solomon and Charles Williams the part lying on the West side of the Beaver Dam Branch including his Mill to Solomon and that on the East side whereon he ^{then} lived to Charles —

Ans^r — I Have — 2nd Question by Defendant Did you not hear George Williams say at the time ~~he told his son Solomon to get his Deeds Written and~~ would assign them, that the Lands he intended to convey to them were the same Tracts that he has since conveyed by Deeds (to wit) the Lands on the West side of the Beaver Dam Branch in the State of Virginia including the Mill to his son Solomon, and that on the East side including the Plantation whereon he lived to his son Charles Williams

Ans^r — I did and ^{the} Deponent says that not — Charles Barnes deposes and says that he was a witness to a Will made by George Williams in which he gave to his son Solomon all his Lands on the West side the Beaver Dam Branch including his Mill and to his son Charles Williams all his Lands on the East side of ^{the} Branch together with the Plantation whereon he then lived, and further this Deponent says that not

William Higgins deposes and says that sometime in the Year Ninety seven he met Charles Williams, son of George Williams and asked him the Deponent if he could go with him to his Father, that the Old Man was going to make him a Title to some of his property, and that within a Day or two, he went with him and the said Charles Williams informed his Father he had brought them Instruments of Writing, the Old Man asked him where they were Charles then laid them ^{on} a Table four in number, Two Deeds, one being a Deed for Land to the ^{sd} Charles and the other to Solomon Williams for Land also and a Deed of Gift to each for Negroes, the ^{sd} George Williams then signed all four of the Instruments and the Deponent witnessed them, and that sometime after he was riding by disha Dardens and his Wife, Daughter of ^{the} ^{sd} George Williams sent a negro out to him ^{for} requesting him to call on his return, which he did, and she informed him she understood her Brothers Charles and Solomon had got a Bill of sale and Deed of Gift for all her Father's property, that he informed her they had not that he knew of nor did he believe they had, she then swore they had he then replied that if they had she knew more about it than he did, she said her Father wished to see him, he observed that he would call on him in the course of a Day or two, which he did and asked the Old Man what he wanted with him, after a little pause he replied, Blood I don't want any thing with you that I know of, but observed that he had had no more rest since he had signed them Instruments of Writing than if he had been at the Devil and further this Deponent says that not

Sworn before us on the time and at the place ~~also~~
before specified

James Mamy

Timothy Ridley

Set. Darden

James Gay

Charles Barnes

Question by the Defendant
ask'd William Wiggins and omitted
above

Wm Wiggins

Did you conceive George Williams to be, at the time he
assigned the Deeds to Charles and Solomon Williams ~~take~~ in
his proper senses - Ans^r - I did

2nd Question by Defendant - Did you conceive that
there was any fraud made use of to induce George Wil-
liams to execute the before mentioned, Deeds

Ans^r - I did not, and further the Deponent
sayeth not

Sworn to as above

Timothy Ridley

James Mamy
— " —

William Wiggins

~~14th May 1808~~

Deposition of Eliz:
Dando Lal.

Present to the annexed Commission to be recorded
at the House of William Gattings in the County
Dartford State of North Carolina on the 13th Day of
November before parties being present namely Absa-
lom Williams of George William and Plaintiff
and Solomon William Deft. We proceeded to take the
the following depositions of Elizabeth Darden James
Gay William Higgins Robert Smith and Genet Story
all of Law full age who being first sworn upon the
Holy Evangelist of Almighty God to depose the truth
the whole truth and nothing between the said parties
named in the said commission depose and swear
as followeth to wit — Elizabeth Darden says that at
the time her Father, (George Williams) sent for them to
bring in their writings that he might hear them read
he asked Solomon Williams two or three times where his
was, Solomon told him they were at Charles Williams,
her Father told him he wanted him to bring them that
he might have them read to end the dispute, Solomon
said he had no other writings against him only for the
Negro he drew, & that if any one said he had they were
Lies, — The Deponent further sayeth that about two
-entun Years ago, Solomon Williams & Charles Williams
came to her House on a Thursday & told her they had
Deeds, & they intended to get a Bottle of Brandy & go to
their Fathers on Saturday & get him to drinking & he would
sign them, & then they would swap lands, Further this
Deponent sayeth not

James Gay says that he & Charles Williams were in the year
1797 riding to Murfreesboro. & that Charles Williams informed
him on this way that he had Deeds for the land that his
Father had given him, & when they got to Murfreesboro.
he showed him the Deeds & observed to him not to say any
thing about it untill they were recorded & further this Deponent
sayeth not — Inet Story says that her Father (George
Williams) requested her to speak to her Brother Solomon
Williams, ^{about} what Instruments of writing he had carried into Court
she says that she went out & asked her Brother Solomon
Williams, she asked him if he had not got Stephen in his
writings, & he said he had not, that she then asked him if
he had not Jack in them he said not, she then asked him
what he had got, he answered that he had got Daphne &
her Children & that Charles Williams had got Susanna
& her Children & all the Land, she then asked him if their
Father knew it & he said he did not, she further says that
she observed to him that it disturbed her poor old Father so
much that if she was in his place, she would go & take
it out of Court, his reply was, that a Bird in the
hand was worth two in the bush & further this De-
ponent sayeth not

Sworn to before us on the time and at the place above
Specified — — — — — Elizabeth Darden
James Gay
Timothy Widley
J. Darden
James Gay
J. Story

Virginia

Southampton county, Feb

The commonwealth of Virginia to James Maney
Timothy Ridley & J. L. Larden Gentlemen greeting know
ye that we trusting to your provident Circumspection in
diligently examining whatsoever Writings as well on behalf
of Abraham Williams as of George Williams dead as on
behalf of Charles and Solomon Williams deft. and
we do give power to you to call and cause to come
before you the writings aforesd when and where
you shall appoint and diligently examine them on
the holy Evangelist of Almighty God and thence
examination so taken that you distinctly certify us
under your hands and into our Court of our said
County you send without delay enclosed Returning
to us also this writ Witness Sam Kello Clerk of
our said Court at his office the 9th day of Nov 1876
and in 31 year of the Comm

Sam Kello

State of Indiana
Law County

Joseph F. Dickinson Clerk

County Court of pleas & Quarter Spring
for the County of Butler Do hereby certify
that James & Mary Timothee Ridley of Illinois
Lawns require a ~~wa~~ **wa** name in the Western
Commission & whose names are marked & sub-
scribed to the American Depository are & were
at the time thereof Acting Justices of the
Peace in & for the County of Butler aforesaid
In testimony whereof I have hereunto set
my hand & affixed the Seal of Office
at Office this 18th Nov. 1866

J. F. Dickinson

Williams ex

vs J Comm.

Williams &

Virginia Southampton County Feb

The commonwealth of Virginia to
J^{rs} Brown & Geo. Guilley — Gentlemen
Justices of the peace for the County of Southampton aforesaid
greeting Know ye that we trusting to your provident
Circumspection in diligently examining Luther
Grontham & Nancy Landifer

Witnesses as well on behalf of Abalom Williams executor
of ~~George~~ Williams dec^d Compt^{ee} as on behalf of Charles
and Solomon Williams depts and we do give power
to you to call and cause the witnesses afores^d to come
before you when & where you shall appoint and dili-
gently to examine them on the holy Evangelists of Almighty
God and their examinations so taken into our Court of our said
County without delay you are to send certified under your hands
enclosed returning to us also this writ Witness Sam^l Kello
Clerk of our said Court at the Courthouse the 5th day
of March 1806 and in the 30 year of the Commonwealth
Sam Kello

Southampton St

Agreeably to a Commission to us directed from
the Court of said County we have this 22nd day
March 1806 due notice of the time and place
being first given and sworn to, between the
hours of ten of clock in the morning and four
in the evening taken the depositions of
Lettitia Grantham ^{and Mary Landier} in a suit depending
in the Court of said County between
Absalom Williams Executor of George Williams
plaintiff and Solomon and Charles
Williams defendants. They being first sworn
on the holy Evangelist of Almighty God
Lettitia Grantham ^{and Mary Landier} that on the fourth of March 1797 to the best
of her recollection, her father George Williams had his
children assembled together in order to give each of them
a negro, which he did, by putting the names of the
negroes in a hat and each one drawing therefrom
according to their respective ages. The name which
each drew they were to have. They all drew except
Absalom and Charles, who were not present, but did
draw afterwards as this deponent understood, and all
appeared to be satisfied. Her Father gave them bills
of sales for the negroes. This deponent farther states
that she understood afterwards that Charles Williams
had two negroes more in his bill of sale than he drew
She saw ~~say~~ Charles Williams and asked him if it
was so. He denied it, and said that he had none in

the bill of sale except Roger which he drew and the
old plantation whereon his Father lived, which he
said ~~to be the same as the one he wanted~~ he wanted it
was the reason he put it in the bill of Sale. She
told him her father was much dissatisfied about it
He told her that he would carry the bill of sale to
her Father and destroy it - and things should be as they
were before. Sometime after that this deponent
saith that her Father sent for them all to bring
in their writings that he might hear them read.
He asked Solomon Williams where his writings
were. Solomon told him that they were not there
and that there was nothing in them but the negro
he drew, and if any person said there was, they
were liars -

Question by J. H. J. Could Geo. Williams the plaintiffs testator see to
read writing? Answer. No. He was so nearly blind
that he could ~~not~~ ^{scarcely} read print. He had been in the
habit of wearing spectacles, but at the time these
wills were said to have been executed he could not
see to read even with them -

2^d Question. Did your father give you a deed for the negro
which you drew? Answer. Yes my Father George
Williams the testator of the plaintiffs executed
a deed to me for the negro which I drew in a short
time after I drew the name, but in signing the
instrument of writing which I had prepared
his hands was guided and his pen directed by
his request by a third person for he was unable
to do it himself and it was also read to him -

Question - What kind of negroes were those which were
given to the children of Geo. Williams by him?

Answer. They were every one of them small children
which were unable to support themselves ~~except~~
the two women which were said to have been
added in the deeds given to Solomon & Charles
and this deponent says that she heard her
Father say that as he was old and decrepid he
thought it better that his children should
support them than themselves as they were to
be benefited by them - and farther ^{the} deponent saith ^{her}

Drawn in 3^d line & page Petition G. Grantman
Interlineation between 6th & 7th line in page Mark
4 12th 13th line

March Drawn to before us the day and
year above mentioned

Browne J. P.

Geo. Gurley J. P.

The Deponent Nancy Sandifer says that at the time
her father (Geo. Williams) sent for them to give each a
negro which was the 4th March 1797 to the best of her
knowledge, he asked Solomon Williams (his son) where his pen
and ink was, and told him to get it and write down the
names of seven negroes (as there were seven children)
and told him which. Solomon did so. He then said George
Williams put them in a hat and a handkerchief over
them, he was asked which of his children should draw
first, he said the Oldest should draw first and so on
according to their respective ages. They all drew except
Abraham and Charles Williams who were absent, but
they drew afterward as she understood and all appeared
to be satisfied. This deponent further says that as
she returned home from her father, she saw Charles
Williams, and after some conversation he said

that they had got into such an uproar down there
against him, that he did not care what he did, so
he kept the rope from around his neck and his ears
upon his head -

Question? Could your Father George Williams see to read
at that time. Answer. No. he could not see to read
with spectacles, for when he executed a deed to me
for the negro which I drew, he ~~marked~~ marked
opposite the seal and requested a friend to sign
his name for him -

Question? What kind of negroes were they which were
given by George Williams? Answer. They were
all small children ~~except two~~. for my father said
as his children would be benefitted by them and as
he was old and infirm they had better be troubled with
raising them than himself. and farther this
dependent saith not

do
Nancy of Sandifer
Mark

Owen to before us The day & date above mentioned

Brown J. D.
Geo: Gurley

Wm^{es} }
n } Dehon
Williams

March 1806 filed

State of N. Carolina

Hertford County

In obedience to the above Commission to us directed we have caused William Stephens to appear before us at the ~~Indian~~ Queen Tavern he being of full age was sworn on the holy evangelist of almighty God the truth to say in a matter of Controversy to be tried in Southampton County Court between Absalom Williams Ex^r of George Williams Dec'd Complainant, and Solomon Williams & Charles Williams defendants. deposite and sayeth that some time in the year 1797 he went with Charles Williams to the House of George Williams his father and inform'd him that he had brought them Instruments of writing, the said George Williams his father asked him where they were the s^d Charles Williams his son took them out four in Number & laid them on a table, a Deed for Land to the s^d Charles Williams and another to Solomon Williams the defendant for Land likewise - also a Deed of Gift to each for Negroes - the said George Williams their father assigned the four Deeds, which were all read, & the Deponent further says that he witnessed them all, and at the time of so doing he believed the said George Williams to be of sound mind and memory. Further the deponent sayeth that at the County Court of Southampton held in July 1797 he was qualified to the same Deeds in open Court. further sayeth not.

Sworn to and Subscribed before us by the Deponent the 4th day of January Anno Domini 1806 at the Indian Queen Tavern in the Town of Murfreesborough occupied by John Siggitts between the hours of twelve & three o'clock in the afternoon

William Stephens

Thos. Banks S. P.

Geo. Darden S.

Williams

105

Prout

Williams &

Southampton County Set

The commonwealth of Virginia to Timothy Ridley
and J. Darden — Gentlemen you that are trusting
to your prudent circumspection and fidelity in examining
Elisha Grantham, Elizabeth Darden & Ann Sandifer
witnesses as well on behalf of George Williams Deftt —

— as on behalf of Charles Williams
and Solomon Williams Deftt.

And we command you or any two of you to call and cause to
come before you the witnesses aforesaid when and where you
shall appoint and examine them on the holy evangelists of
almighty God and their examination into our Court of our
said County you send and certify inclosed returning to us also
this writ witness Sam Kello clerk of our said Court at the
Courthouse the 3rd day June 1799 and in the 23rd year of the
Commonwealth

Sam Kellops Clk
(2)

Southampton County.

The deposition of William Wiggins of Lawfull age, taken at the House of John Lee. between the hours of Ten o'Clock A.M. & Four o'Clock P.M. of the twentieth day of January 1807. agreeably to a commission which issued from the Office of the Clerk of the Court of the County aforesaid. and which is hereto annexed.

This deponent being first sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of almighty God, deposes and saith - that sometime in the year 1797, he met with Charles Williams the dep. who ask'd him (this deponent) when it would be convenient for him to go with him to his father. upon which he fix'd on going there with him on tomorrow or next day morning - on one of those days (he does not recollect which) he, this deponent went with ^{the} Charles Williams to the House of George Williams. as they were on their way - Charles Williams mention'd to him that his father (the ^{late} George Williams) was about to make over some property - to him, or to give him some property - or some words to this effect -

When they arriv'd at the old Gentlemans. Charles Williams mention'd to him (George Williams) that he had got those papers pack'd, or words to that purpose. The old Gentlemans then ask'd Charles when they were - Charles answer'd that they were on the Table (there being then some papers lying on the Table) The old Gentlemans then told his son Solomon Williams to get the pen and Ink - Solomon went to look for the pen & Ink but did not find them - This deponent then observ'd that it was not worth while to spend

the day in looking for those things, for that they might make some ink by mashing ~~some~~ powder &c. upon which the powder was got, ink prepared in this way, and pens made - the papers were then taken from the table (as well as this deponent recollects by Charles Williams) & handed to the old Gentlemen one at a time, he signing his name to each as they were handed. as the old Gentlemen signed them he passed them to this deponent who subscribed as one of the witnesses viz: Two Deeds for land & Two Bills of Sale for a negro or negroes - one of each to Charles & one of each to Solomon Williams, that the papers being thus executed were folded up and taken possession of by Charles Williams & Solomon Williams each his own papers - The old Gentlemen then expressed to this deponent great pleasure in what he had done for his children, and said that others who had begun the world when he died, with equal chance had it not in their power to do so much - - Some time after this. (about 8 or 10 days) this deponent was passing by the house of Sisha Darden. Mrs Darden, desired he would call as he returned - he did so. Mrs Darden then said to this deponent she understood that Charles & Solomon Williams had got Bills of Sale for all their father's property. He answered her that he did believe there was any thing of it - if it was so it was more than he knew - the old lady then swore it was so. He again replied it was not so - she then told him that the old Gentlemen

(George Williams) wished to see him - he told Mrs Darden that he would call and see him, which he did on the next Monday, when he rode up to the door, Solomon Williams was standing in the door. he asked Solomon what the old Gentlemen wanted with him - Solomon answered "nothing as I know of". He got down and went in, to the old Gentlemen. after being a little time with him he asked the old Gentlemen what he wanted with him. After a ^{few} moments pause ~~the~~ the old Gentlemen said "Blood, nothing as I know of" - nothing more than, since I signed those papers, I have had no more rest than if I had been at the devil - This deponent further states that on the day the Deeds &c, above mentioned were executed, there was a little negro passing about the house (whether Boy or Girl this deponent does not recollect) George Williams showed to his son Charles Williams, "there is a little negro you may take it home with you, ~~and~~ give or something like this - Charles replied "Pa I had rather you would let it stay with its mother -

Question by Abalom Williams

were those papers read to George Williams or were they read by himself before he signed them -

Answer. They were not read in my presence. As I know not whether the old Gentlemen read them or not, I do not know -

Question by Jacob Darden -

Do you believe that at the time George Williams executed those deeds, he was in his perfect senses -

Answer - As well in his senses as I ever saw him in my life -

Question by the same -

How long have you been acquainted with George Williams?

Answer - I have lived ^{near} ~~with~~ him many years - and have been acquainted with him all my life until he died -

Taken and sworn to the
day & date above written
before us -

W. H. Higgins
J. D. Darden

John Lee
Jacob Darden

Mr Stephens our deposition

in the Case Canad.

Advs Williams

Liled July 15th 1811

Subscribing witness.

In pursuance the aforesaid order of court
we have this 15. day of July 1844. have
proceeded to take the Deposition of
William Stephens - as is as follows...

William Stephens deposed & a says that,
when he was about 14 or 15 years of age -
went by the request of Charles Williams
to his Father George Williams, for the purpose
of being a Witness to a Conveyance to be
made from his father George Williams
to him, the said Charles... that. He this
deponent was a Witness to the said Deed
but does not know whether he wrote his
Name or another Person wrote it for
him - - that the said Deed to his best
recollection was read to the said George
Williams - - This deponent remembers
that George Williams twice declared that
he intended to only to give his son Charles

a Negro Boy. either Bran or Roger —

This deponent saith the said George Williams at that time was from blindness unable to read writing —

This deponent. further saith, that after being a witness to the Deed, the said Charles Williams told him, that he would give him a Suit of Cloaths & Money to attend & prove the Deed. —

Question. by Deft. How long since the transaction took place — about 14 or 15 years. — & further this deponent saith not —

William Tipton (seal)
James P. Russell
Wm. W. Russell

Serv.
Owning.

To the Court
J. P. Russell

This indenture made the 22nd day of March in the
year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & ninety
Seven and in the year of the Commonwealth between George
Williams of Southampton County State of Virginia of the one
Part and Solomon Williams of the Same County and State S.D.
Witnesseth that that the said George Williams in consideration
of the sum of one hundred pounds lawful money of the
Commonwealth to him in hand paid by the said Solomon
Williams at or before the en sealing and delivery of these
Presents the Receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have Bargain
and sold unto the said Solomon Williams his heirs & assigns
A certain tract of land containing 250 acres the Property of the
said George Williams beginning at the mouth of the Beaver
Dam Branch where it empties into the Cypress Swamp running up
the S.D. Swamp to mill Everts Corner thence landing on the
said Everts line to the Virginia line thence the Virginia line
to East Course to a branch running out of Isaac Williams
Plantation into the Beaver Dam Branch thence down the S.D.
Branch to the Cypress Swamp being the first Station
With my water mill on the same and Every thing
Appertaining there to together with all singular Houses
gardain orchards lands Serementes water & water ways
fishings privileges profits appurtenances what ever
So the said ~~Solomon Williams~~ land that I the S.D.
George Williams warrant and defend the Right and
Title of said land against the lawful Claimes of any
Person what ever that I the S.D. George Williams do give
up make over and Confirm the S.D. bargain and premises
of said land and Every thing appertaining thereto and
do Out the S.D. Solomon Williams and heirs or assigns
in Peaceable and quiet Possession of the same that I
the said George Williams do warrant and defend the
afore said bargain and premises against the lawfull Claimes
of any Person or Persons what ever

And for ever do warrent and defend by
 These presents in witness whereof the said
 George Williams has hereunto set his hand and
 Seal the day and year above written
 Signed Seal and Delivered

In presents of
 William Higgins v
 John Williams v
 William Stevens



G. Williams
 to
 Sol. Williams } Deed

May 1797
 By L. wit & cont?

Only By Wm. Stephenson
 & Co.

Recorded
 Page
 433

Examined

Sam. Wells &

At a Court held for the county of Southampton the 13th
 day of May 1797 This Indenture was made
 by the said of William Higgins & Charles Willi-
 -ams sons of the witnesses above And at a
 Court held for the county of Southampton the
 14th day of July 1797 This Indenture was
 further proved by the said of William Stevens
 another witness made & borne to be executed

continued to
In a court held for the county of Southampton on
the 16th day of May 1797 This Deed of ~~full~~ ~~conveyance~~
~~was~~ was proved by the oaths of Charles Williams & William
Niggins two of the witnesses thereto and ordered to be
recorded

Samuel Kelloe
Esq

Williams
To
Williams
Geo Williams
to
Sol^r Williams
Read
Poll

May 1797.
By 2 wit & O.V.

Recorded

page
420

Examined

Know all men by the Presents, that I George Williams
of Southampton County and State of Virginia for and
in Consideration of the Sum of one hundred Pounds
Lawfull money of this Commonwealth to me in hand
Paid by Solomon Williams of the County and State aforesaid
The Receipt of which is hereby Acknowledged and my
Self fully Satisfied have Bargained sold maid over
And Confirmed unto the afore said Solomon Williams
and his heirs forever a Negro woman named Claffen
and girl named Venus and boy named Jim to have
and to hold the aforesaid Bargain these negroes to the
only proper use and behoof of the afore said
Solomon Williams and his heirs forever that I the
afore said George Williams do quit all Rights and Claims
So the said negroes and that the said Solomon Williams
and his heirs in peaceable and quiet possession of the
Same that I the said George Williams do warrant
and defend the afore said Bargain against the
Lawful Claims of any person or persons what
Ever in witness where unto I the said
George Williams have here unto set my hand and
This twenty fourth day of march in the year of
our lord one thousand Seven hundred and ninety
Seven Signd Seald and deliverd in presents
of *George Williams* 

William Higgins ✓
William Stevens