1871-065 SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY CHANCERY PAPERS BRIGGS vs. BRIGGS etal 3/1871

Briggs
vs
Briggs et al

Bill, answer,
& Decree

1862. Oct. Decree as filed
+

1871. Mar. Removed from the
Docket.

To the worshipful County Court of Southampton
in chancery sitting

Humbly complaining your oratrix Dolly A Briggs sheweth unto your worships that sometime since her husband John E Briggs of Southampton County departed this life intestate leaving your oratrix his widow and two infant children Nancy E Briggs and Caroline A Briggs his distributees and heirs at law, that his estate has been settled up and one third of the negroes for life allotted to your oratrix she states further that very recently one the slaves named Henry who had been allotted to her for life, ran away from her and attempted to escape into the federal lines and that when arrested he had crossed the Blackwater river and was within four miles of the Federal picket, he was brought home and his neighbors all of whom had determined that no slave who had attempted to escape to the Yankees told she must sell him as none such could remain in the neighborhood and she convinced herself that the negro would be lost both to her and the estate if he remained at home sold him for the sum of $616, she is aware that she has violated the law and the rights of her children, but she acted under the advice of her father and the grandfather of her children and their best friend, and thinks that she has done and pursued the wisest course which could have been followed under the present trying condition of the country to save his value to the estate, she now comes and asks the court to sanction her conduct, and to allot so much of

the money to him in fee in lieu of his life right
In Tender consideration whereof and inasmuch as she is
without remedy at law and only entitled to relief in a
court of equity where such matters are cognizable she
therefore prays that Nancy E and Carolina A Briggs by
some fit and proper person their guardian ad litem
appointed for that purpose may be made parties
defendant to this bill, and compel them as full and
perfect answer make to the allegations therein contained
as if they had been thereunto more fully and specially
interrogated and that the court would allot her so much
as may be right in fee of the money for which the boy
Henry sold in lieu of her life right and divide the
residue between the two children, and that the court
would grant such other and general relief the premises
considered as equity may dictate and the nature of
her case may require and as in duty bound your
orator will ever pray &c

Shands J.Q.

The answer of Nancy E and Carolina A Briggs two infants
by Nathan N Thomas their guardian ad litem and next
friend to a bill in chancery by Dolly A Briggs vs them

This defendant for answer to the said bill or so much
thereof as he is advised it is material for him to answer
answering says he believes the allegations set forth in
the plaintiffs bill to be true, but submits the interests of his
wards to this court, whose peculiar duty it is to protect
the rights of infants, and having fully answered prays
hence to be dismissed with his costs &c

Shands for dft

Briggs
vs
Deane
Briggs &c

By consent of parties this day this cause
came on to be heard on the bill, answer and general
replication thereto and was argued by counsel on the
hearing whereof the court confirming the sale of
the down slave Henry by Dolly A Briggs doth
adjudge, order, and decree, that after paying the
expenses of this suit One half ——— of the
purchase of Henry be allotted to Dolly A Briggs
in fee simple in lieu of her life right and the
residue be divided into two equal shares and
one share allotted to Nancy E Briggs and one share
to Caroline A Briggs