

1853-001

Chancery Causes: Elizabeth Stephens, by & c vs William Belk 's children, by & c

Isle of Wight County

Noah Stephens & c vs Massillon Belk & al, by & c

other sURNAMES:
StephensONS

Elizabeth Stephens as her dower one third part of the
said land & that she be let into the full & immediate
possession & enjoyment thereof & decreed to hold the
same for her life & that such further & other relief
may be had as the nature of the case shall require
& to your worshipps shall seem meet & your complainants
will ever pray &c.

Hayden-jsg

To the Worshipful County Court of Isle of Wight in
Chancery sitting; The joint & several Answers of Hap-
sillon, Benj Hardy, Martha Ann & Indiana Sleek in-
fant children of Wm Sleek deceased, by N P Young
their Guardian ad litem, to the Bill of Complaints in
said Court exhibited by Noah Stephens & Elizabeth his
wife against them.

These defendants answering say that they are
infants of tender years - that they know nothing of
the matter in the complainants bill charged & sub-
mit their interests in the premises to the protection of
this worshipful court - & pray leave to be dismissed
with their costs in this behalf most unreasonably expended
L

Signed -

N P Young, atty. in law.
Attorn

To the Worshipful County Court of Isle of Wight County
in Chancery sitting; humbly complaining sheweth to the
Court, your complainant Elizabeth Stephens^m late Clerk
widow of W. D. Clerk deceased, who sues by Noah Stephens^m
as her next friend & the said Noah Stephens^m husband of
the said Elizabeth; that the said William Clerk, late hus-
band of the said Elizabeth was in his lifetime & during
the time he was married to the said Elizabeth seized in
fee simple of a tract of land containing by estimation
~~Two hundred Twenty Five~~ Acres situated in the County of
Isle of Wight, lying adjacent to the lands of Elphinstone
Belts, Joel Cooke, Wilson Hollernay, Jas Barlow, &
the heirs of. In all they decid & being so decided
the said William Clerk, departed this life in the County
aforesaid intestate, on or about the day of 18
leaving ~~from~~ said complainant Elizabeth, his widow,
who has since intermarried with the aforesaid complain-
ant Noah Stephens, and Mafillon, Benj Hardy, Martha
Ann, & Indiana Clerk, children of the said William
& Elizabeth, the defendants herein after named, his heirs
at law, him surviving; whereby your complainant
the said Elizabeth his widow as aforesaid became
by law entitled to her dower in the said land; that
no dower therein has yet been assigned her & that
owing to the infancy of all the heirs aforesaid, the said
heirs are unable to assign your said complainant dower,
in tender consideration whereof & for as much as your
complainants are without remedy at law & can only
be relieved by the order of this worshipful court of Chan-
cery where matters of this sort are cognizable; to this end
your complainants pray that the said Mafillon, Benj Hardy,
Martha Ann, & Indiana Clerk by some person appointed
their guardian ad litem to defend them in this suit, may be
parties defendant to this bill & be compelled to answer the same,
& that by a decree of this worshipful court of Chancery
commissions may be appointed to assign & set out to the said

Stephens &

1/2 bar. apt.
m. of dower &

Dick &

July 4. 183³ filed

Her Aug. 1. over 185³

By virtue of a decree of the County Court
of Suffolk, we the undersigned
commissioners have proceeded to allot and
lay of the dower right of Eliza Stephenson,
formerly Eliza ~~Stephenson~~ Delk, widow
of William D Delk Dec, one third part of
the land belonging to the said William
D Delk, ~~in~~ the following manner to wit
all the land lying north of a line, beginning
at a white oak on the line of Benjamin
Gwaltney Estate, thence running in an
eastwardly direction to a persimmon tree
back of the garden, thence southeast to a
Sasiphras stob at the corner of the garden
thence in an eastwardly direction to Wilson
Hollmans line being full one third part
in valuation; we also give unto
Noah Stephenson in right of his wife
all of the present growing crop, for
the improvements he has put on the
remaining two thirds of the land,
all of which we respectfully submit
to the further proceedings of the court
Given under our hands this 2nd day of July / 53

James Gray

Robert Bineford
J^r Bineford

Stephens & Co } In
 " } Chancery
Slack —

Jan. 3^d 1853 Bill &
filed & duly decreed.

July 4th 1853 report
of Com. & filed.

Dec. 5. 1853 final
decreed

Stephens Sup

as

Shelk ---

On motion of the Complainants & by consent
of parties this cause this day came on to be heard
on the bill & answer filed & was argued by coun-
sel; On consideration whereof the court doth adjudge
order & decree that James Gray, Joel Cooke, Robert
Beinfad Wm Beinfad, or any three of them, who
are hereby appointed commissioners for that pur-
pose do proceed to allot & set apart by metes &
bounds, having regard to quantity & quality to
Elizabeth Stephens, ~~late Shelk~~, late widow of
Wm Shelk deceased, one equal & full third part
of the lands in the proceedings mentioned where-
of Wm Shelk, late husband of said Elizabeth died
seized in the county of ~~Isle of Wight~~ ^{County of} containing
by estimation ~~Two hundred~~ ^{Twenty Four} acres lying adjacent
to the lands of Alphinston Betts, Joel Cooke, Melan
Hollenman, Jas Barlow & others, to the dower
therein of the said Elizabeth Stephens - make re-
put thereof to count for further proceedings
herein -

Noah Stephens wife
vs. ³/₄ lch
The infant heirs of
Wm Delt. decd.

Noah Stephenson & wife
against

Plffs.

3 In chry.

Mapilon, Benj^a Hardy, Martha Ann & Indiana Delk
infants

Df's.

On motion of Compt^{ts}. N. P. Young is appointed guardian
to the infants defendants, and by consent of parties
this cause this day came on to be heard on the bill answered
filed & was argued by Counsel; On consideration whereof
the Court doth adjudge order & decree that James Gray,
Joel Cook, Robert Binford and William Binford, or any
three of them who are hereby appointed Commissioners for that
purpose do proceed to allot & set apart by meets & bounds,
having regard to quality & quantity, to Elizabeth Stephens,
late Delk, late widow of W^m Delk decd: one equal and full third
part of the lands in the proceedings mentioned, whereof W^m
& Delk late husband of said Elizabeth died seized in the
County of Schofield, containing by estimation two hundred
and twenty five acres, lying adjacent to the lands of Ephraim
Betts, Joel Cook, Wilson Holliman, James Barlow & others,
as the dower therein of said Elizabeth Stephens. and make
report thereof to Court for further proceedings herein.

A Copy

Teste

N. P. Young cc.

Stephen's story } in Channing
is }
Helk — }

Rough beaver —
the term 1833.

X

Stephens et al

vs
Shelk

This cause this day came on to be again heard on the papers formerly read & the report of commissioners James Gray, Robert Binford, & W^m Binford made ~~at the~~ August term 1833 pursuant to a decree therein of Jan'y 3^d - 1833. Was argued by counsel on consideration whereof the court ^{confirming} doth ^{said report} adjudge order & decree that Elizabeth Stephenson late Shelk, be endowed of the lands whereof her late husband William S Shelk, died seized in the county of Isle of Wight, according to the report of said commissioners & that the said Elizabeth Stephenson hold the same ~~for the term~~ of her natural life - & the court doth further adjudge order & decree that the defendants contribute equally to pay the costs of this suit -