

To the Hon^{ble} the Judge of the Circuit Superior Court of Law & Chancery for the Town of Petersburg in Chancery sitting. - The Answer of Lewis Lanier to the Bill of Complaint exhibited in C^t Court against him & then by Jane a free colored person. -

This deff. says for answer to the deff. that it is not true that the C^t Edwin Lanier's estate left by him was ample for the payment of his debts without considering & treating the plff. as a part of the estate thus liable. This deff. admits that if she be included as a part of the personal estate thus liable to the payment of debts then it is true that the S^r Testator did leave an ample estate for the payment of his debts, but without her, he did not. This deff. refers to the answer of the deff. to the plff. & also to the acc^t with the Will annexed of E. Lanier dec^d. & also to the acc^t current a copy of which is herewith filed & prayed to be taken as a part of this Answer, marked (AC). This deff. states that the whole of the Testator's personal estate (except the plff.) ~~estate~~ has been administered & accounted for by the S^r adm^r & there appears by the S^r acc^t to be a balance of \$25.24 cts still due to S^r Admr. That since the S^r adm^r no other estate (as this deff. feels confident) has come to S^r adm^r's hands: & there is no property within this deff.'s knowledge which has not been disposed of except the plff. This deff. admits that the S^r Edwin Lanier dec^d died seized

I proposed of the tract of land by his will bequeathed to his wife, Lucy Lanier, during her life or widowhood - which tract this Dept. considers worth about \$400. - This Dept. represents to your Honor that the above land mentioned in said Will, was bequeathed by this Dept's Grandfather (Mackner Lanier) as follows: - My will is that Edwin Lanier should live on the plantation where he now lives during his life & at his death should he leave a child or children he may will the sd. land to such of them as he thinks proper, to them & their heirs forever" - so that although that land is described in the sd. E. Lanier's Will as belonging to him, it did not, but he had only a power of appointment relative thereto at his death. - A similar provision is contained in sd. Will giving a power of appointment as to some slaves loaned to sd. Edwin Lanier for life - as will more fully appear by reference to sd. Will duly recorded in the County court of Sussex, a copy whereof is herewith filed & prayed to be taken as a part of this Answer, marked (W.) This Dept. believes that if the sd. Will be at liberty, she will leave the Commonwealth: & if the Infraction be not dispensed very soon he may lose his debt entirely. - He therefore prays your Honor to dispense the Infraction & permit the provision for the benefit of creditors relative to persons emancipated, to be carried into full force. And this Dept. having others answered deaying on may to be hence

Dismissed by the

Lewis Lanier

Town of Petersburg, to wit:-
Lewis Lanier this day personally
appeared before me a Justice of
the Peace in the Town of Petersburg
made oath to the truth of the above
Answer so far as facts are stated as
coming within his own knowledge, and
so far as they are represented or derived
from information from others he believes
them to be true. Given under my hand
this 11th day of June 1836.

J. C. Jones
Recorder.