

To the Honble the Judge of the Circuit Supr. Court of Law & chancery for the
Town of Petersburg in chancery sitting.—

The Answer of Lewis Lanier to the bill of complaint exhibited in sd. court agst him & others by
Jane a free colored person.—

This deft. saving &c. for answer &c. saith, that it is not true that the sd. Edwin Lanier's estate left by him was "ample for the payment of his debts" without considering & treating the plttf. as a part of the estate thus liable. This deft. 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 sd. Testator did have an ample estate for the payment of his debts, but without her, he did not—This deft. refers to the answer of the deft. Thos. Hunt shff & adr. with the Will annexed of E. Lanier decd. & also to the acct. current a copy of which is here with filed & prayed to be taken as a part of this Answer, marked (AC). This deft. states that the whole of the Testator's personal estate (except the plttf.) estate has been administered & accounted for by the sd. admr. & there appears by the sd. acct. to be a balance of \$25.24 cts still due to sd. Admr.—That since the sd. settlemt. no other estate (as this deft. feels confident) has come to sd. administrator's hands: & there is no property within this deft.'s knowledge which has not been disposed of except the plaintiff.—This deft. admits that the sd. Edwin Lanier decd. died seized & possessed of the tract of land by his will bequeathed to his wife, Lucy Lanier, during her life or widowhood—which tract this deft. considers worth about \$400. This deft. represents to yr. Honor that the Sussex land mentioned in said Will, was bequeathed by this deft.'s Grandfather Buckner Lanier as follows—"my will is that Edwin Lanier should live on the plantation whereon he now lives during his life at his death should he have 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 of which is herewith filed & prayed to be taken as a part of this Answer, marked (W.) This deft. believes that if the Plttf be at liberty, she will leave the commonwealth: & if the Injunction be not dissolved very soon he may lose his debt entirely.—He therefore prays your Honor to dissolve the Injunction & permit the provision for the benefit of condition relating to persons emancipated, to be carried into full force. And this deft. having others answered denying &c. prays to be hence dismissd. &c.

Lewis Lanier

Town of Petersburg, to wit:—

Lewis Lanier this day personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in the Town aforesd. & 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.D. Townes
Recorder.