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The State of Alabama

Baldwin County

Circuit Court of Baldwin County, Alabama,

J.T. BRADLEY

.COMPLAINANT

HOWELL HALL, W.D.STAPLETON, FRED COUNTRYMAN, BALDWIN COUNTY BANK, H.H. MONTGOMERY, as State Superintendent of Banks for the State of MAXMANIANIX Alabama, as Liquidator of the affairs of the Baldwin

ave called an	d caused t	o come	before me	J.	T. BRAI	LEY		·	
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There appeared at the hearing as attorneys for the Complainant, J.B.Blackburn and Ben D.Turner, and for Respondents H.H.Montgomery, as Superintendent of Banks of the State of Alabama, as Liquidator of the affairs of the Baldwin County Bank, and Baldwin County, Mr. H.M.Hall, of the firm of Beebe & Hall.

The said J.T. Bradley, having been duly sworn to speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, the witness doth depose and say as follows:

My name is J.T. Bradley; I am thirty-three years old; I am the complainant in the above captioned cause and a resident of Baldwin County, Alabama.

I know Mr. Howell Hall and W.D. Stapleton; they are each over the age of twenty-one years and reside in Baldwin County, Alabama. I never knew Fred Countryman, but my information is that he is over the age of twenty-one years and a non-resident of the State of Alabama. I know H.H.Montgomery, and know that he is State Superintendent of Banks and was at the time of the filing of this bill liquidating the affairs of the Baldwin County Bank, and that he is over the age of twenty-one years and resides in Montgomery County, Alabama. The Baldwin County Bank is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Alabama and at the transactions alleged in the bill of complaint was operating a bank at Bay Minette, Baldwin County, Alabama. I am the owner of a note for Two Thousand Dollars, dated Bay Minette, Alabama, November 10, 1931, and signed "Howell Hall, Agent." The original note, which you hand me and which I am testifying about is the note which is marked Exhibit "D" to the testimony of J.T.Bradley, taken before T.W. Picherson, as Register and Commissioner on the lat day of before T.W.Richerson, as Register and Commissioner, on the 1st day of July, 1932 in a cause then and now pending in the Circuit Court of Baldwin County, Alabama, in Equity, wherein Bay Minette Land Company is complainant and Henry D. Moorer and W.D. Stapleton and J.T. Bradley are respondents.

We now offer in evidence the original note referred to and the

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endorsements thereon, and identified by the witness and asked that it be marked Exhibit "One" to the testimony of the witness J.T. Bradley.

It is agreed between the attorneys for the respective parties that Exhibit "D" attached to the original bill is a true copy of said original note, except for the endorsements appearing on the back of said note, which said endorsements are as follows: "We, the undersigned, hereby severally waive all right to exemptions under the Constitution and laws of Alabama and waive protest and notice thereof. (Signed Baldwin County Bank, by W.D.Stapleton, President, without recourse.)" and that said copy of said note appearing as Exhibit "D" be, for the purpose of this suit, treated as the Original of said note."

The complainant also offers in evidence certified copy of the deed from Frank B.Nihart and wife to W.D.Stapleton, Trustee, dated September 17, 1926, the original of which is recorded in Deed Book 40 N.S., at Page 587 in the office of the Probate Judge of Baldwin County, Alabama, being Exhibit "A" to the Bill of Complaint, and asks that the same be identified as Exhibit "Two" to the testimony of the witness J.T.Bradley.

The complainant also offers in evidence certified copy of deed from Howell Hall and wife to W.D.Stapleton, Trustee, dated September 17, 1926, and recorded in Deed Record 40 N.S., page 586, in the office of the Judge of Probate of Baldwin County, Alabama, and being Exhibit "B" to the original bill of complaint, and asks that the same be identified as Exhibit Three" to the testimony of the witness J.T.Bradley.

It is agreed that in lieu of the original contract of ownership referred to as Exhibit "C" in the original bill of complaint, that a copy thereof be introduced in evidence and identified by the Register as Exhibit "Four" to the testimony of J.T.Bradley, and treated as the original of said contract.

The witness resuming his testimony says: I bought the note referred to as Exhibit "I" from the Baldwin County Bank on or about November 24, 1931. I paid Two Thousand Dollars for this note, the payment being made by my check on the Baldwin County Bank, drawn in favor of said Baldwin County Bank for Two Thousand Dollars. This check was charged to my account and paid. I still own said note. I have received no payments thereon. The other notes secured through the instruments heretofore introduced in evidence were at the time this bill was filed, owned by the Baldwin County Bank. I do not recall their number nor the respective amounts of said notes. It is my understanding that all of said notes are past due. After the maturity of this note which I hold, I placed the same in the hands of Messrs. Stevens, McCorvey, McLeod, Goode & Turner and Mr. J.B. Blackburn, my attorneys, for collection and authorized the bringing of this suit.

CROSS EXAMINATION BY HON. H.M.HALL.

I was at the time, II purchased the note described herein as Exhibit "One", assistant cashier of the Baldwin County Bank of Bay Minette, Alabama, and had held such position for approximately three years. I, as assistant cashier of said bank, had free access to all notes and papers in said bank. I was also, at the time the said note was purchased by me, a director of the Baldwin County Bank and had been for approximately five years. I was assistant cashier and a director at the time the bank closed its doors on January 27, 1932. The Note executed to the Baldwin County Bank by Howell Hall, agent, for Two Thousand Dollars, and which is the basis of this suit was one of a series of four notes totaling Nine Thousand Dollars, executed by the said Howell Hall, agent, to the Baldwin County Bank.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
BALDWIN COUNTY.

WARRANTY DEED.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, THAT Frank B. Nihart and Blanche Nihart, his wife, for and in consideration of the sum of One (\$1.00) Dollar, to them in hand paid by W.D.Stapleton, Trustee the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, and sold, and by these presents do hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said W.D.Stapleton, Trustee his heirs and assigns, the following described real estate, situated in the county of Baldwin and State of Alabama, to-wit:

Being the west one-half $(\frac{1}{2})$ of Section number One (1) and also the south one-half $(\frac{1}{2})$ of the south east quarter $(\frac{1}{4})$ of said section number One (1) and also the northwest quarter $(\frac{1}{4})$ of the south east quarter $(\frac{1}{4})$ of said section number One (1) and also the south west quarter $(\frac{1}{4})$ of the north east quarter $(\frac{1}{4})$ of said section number One (1) and also the west one-fourt $(\frac{1}{4})$ of the north west quarter $(\frac{1}{4})$ of the north east quarter $(\frac{1}{4})$ of said section number One (1), all located in township nine (9) south, range four (4) east in Baldwin County, in the State of Alabama and containing in all Four Hundred and Ninety (490) acres of land, more or less.

To have and to hold, the aforegranted premises to the said W.D.Stapleton, Trustee, his heirs and assigns forever.

And we do covenant with the said W.D.Stapleton, Trustee, his heirs and assigns, that we are lawfully seized in fee simple of the aforegranted premises; that they are free from all encumbrance; that we have a good right to sell and convey the same to said W.D. Stapleton, Trustee, his heirs and assigns, and that we will warrant and defend the premises to the said W.D.Stapleton, Trustee, his heirs and assigns forever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.

In Witness Whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this the 17th day of September in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-six:

3. 3.

filed for record September Lette 1995 and recorded in 40 M. B. pages 568-4, the following instrument, fixt-CONTRACT OF OWNERSHIP. THIS AGREEMENT, Made and entered into in triplicate this 17th day of September, 1926 at Bay Minette, Alabama, by and between W. D. STAPLETON, HOWELL HALL and FRED COUNTRYMAN for the purpose of designating the ownership of the following described land located in Buldwin County, Alabama, to-wit:-Being the West one-half (W) of Section No. One (1) and also the South one-half (S) of the South-east Quarter (SE) of said Section No. One and also the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NW) of SE) of said Section No. One (1) and also the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SW) of NE(2) of said Section No. One (1) and the (SW) of NE(2) of said Section No. One (1) and the West Overter also the West one-fourth of the Morthwest Quarter of the Mortheast Quarter (Wh of NW of NE) of said Section No. One (1), all located in Township Mine (9) South Range Four (4) East in Baldwin County in the State of Alabama and containing in all four hundred ninety (490) acres of land, more or Also, the South half of the Southwest Quarter (S) of SW() of Section Two (2) and the Morthwest Quarter (N) ter(NW()) and North half of Northeast Quarter (N) of NK() of Section Eleven (11) Township Nine (9) South of Range Four (4) East, containing three hundred twenty (380) neros, more or less; Also, from the Northeast corner of Section Four (4) Township Nine (9) South Range Five (5) East, Fun East on the Township line twenty-five (25) chains and fifty-one (51) links for a point of beginning, thence East on the township line twenty-three chains and seventy-two links to a stake about two chains and forty-five links West of the intersection of the township line with Bay La Launch, thence South thirty-three chains and thirty-two links to a stake on the margin of Bay Ornocor, thence by mounders of said bay South eighty-five degrees West seven chains and sixty-six links, South eighty degrees West nine chains, South seventy-two degrees West seven Chains and sixty-six links, South eighty degrees West seven Chains and sixty-seven binks to division line between Bill's Lend and Dryer's, thence North thirty-seven chains and ninety-two links to beginning, containing eightythree and one-tenth acres, lying in Section Twelve, William Kee Grant, Township Nine South, Range Five Raut. WERREAS, on the 8th day of February, 1926, W. D. Stapleton, Howell Hall and Frank B. Wihart purchased the above mentioned real estate, together with other lands, and the said Wihart has this day sold his interest to Fred Countryman and the said Frank B. Nihart and Howell Hall have this day made Deeds to W. D. Stapleton, Trustee, for the above described land, the ownerships are as follows:- W. D. Stapleton has one-half interest; Howell Hall one-fourth interest; Fred Countryman one-fourth interest; WHEREAS, at the time the above mentioned land was procured a loan was made at the Baldwin County Bank in the principal sum of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00) and used for the purpose of purchase money for this land and other lands, then other lands belonging to the said Staploton, Hall and Nihart were sold, and Notes bearing date of December 19th, 1925 in the principal sum of Righteer -7850 ONG-

Hundred Eighty-five Dollars (\$1885.00) endorsed by Agnes B. Lott, and two Notes bearing date of November 17th, 1025 in the principal sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), each endorsed by Frank Barchard, Walter D. Sheppard, Sam W. Westbrook and W. A. Jackson, all secured by Vendor's Lien of even date, all which the said Frank B. Nihart has assigned all his right, title and interest, together with the above described real estate to Fred Countryman. Said Notes are to be held at the Baldwin County Bank and when paid are to be applied on the Twelve Thousand Dollar (\$12,000.00) Note as above said.

It is further mutually agreed by and between the parties hereto that the interest on the said Twelve Thousand Dollar (\$12,000.00) Note is to be paid at the Baldwin County Bank by the parties herein when due in proportion as aforesaid as their interest may appear as aforesaid.

It is further mutually agreed that the taxes and all expenses accrued shall be paid by the parties hereto as aforesaid.

It is further mutually agreed by and between the parties herete that all of the above described lands are to be sold at a price and terms to be agreed upon by all parties interested and the money collected from the sale of any of the lands shall be first applied on the above mentioned Twelve Thousand Dollar (\$12,000.00) Note, and any excess after Note is paid shall be divided among the parties as their interest may appear.

This Agreement shall be binding on the several parties hereto, their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns.

W. D. Stapleton

Fred Countryman.

Howell Hell

Witnesses:*

X. W. Countrymen

Frank B. Miliart.

STATE OF ALABAMA.

BALDWIN COUNTY.

I, Frank B. Nihart, a Notary Public for said County in said State, hereby certify that W. D. Stapleton, Howell Hall and Fred Countryman, whose names are signed to the foregoing instrument and who are known to se, soknowledged before me on this day that being informed of the contents of this instrument they executed the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date.

1926. Given under my hand this the 17th day of September, A. D.,

Frank B. Nihart, Notary Public, Baldwin County, Alabama. (COPY)

EXHBITI "FIVE"
TO TESTIMONY OF J.T.BRADLEY.

Bay Minette, Ala.

November 24, 1931.

Mr. J.T.Bradley Bay Minette, Ala.

Dear Sir:

We are selling you without recourse a note signed by Howell Hall, Agent. This note is one of a series of notes secured by 970 acres of land lying along the canal across south Baldwin, also 80 acres sub-division on Oronoca Bay, a deed securing same to me as trustee. We will say that if necessary to foreclose the property, the bank will take over your note and foreclose the property in connection with their loan.

Yours very truly,

W.D.STAPLETON, President.

WDS/s.

Complainant.

vs.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA.
IN EQUITY.

BALDWIN COUNTY BANK, a corporation, ET AL.,

Respondents.

Come H. H. Montgomery, as Superintendent of Banks of the State of Alabama, formerly liquidating the Baldwin County Bank, and the Baldwin County Bank, a corporation, and answering Complainant's complaint as amended, say:

- 1. That since the commencement of this suit the said Baldwin County Bank has been reorganized and the bank and its assets have been turned over to the said Baldwin County Bank, and the said H. H. Montgomery, as Superintendent of Banks of the State of Alabama, has no further interest in the cause made by said petition, and prays that he may go hence with his reasonable costs.
- 2. Further answering the said complaint, the Baldwin County Bank says:

It admits the allegations of Paragraph 2.

- It admits the allegations of Paragraph 3.
- 3. Answering Paragraph 4, the said Baldwin County Bank says that at one time the title to said property did stand in the name of W. D. Stapleton, but that long prior to the closing of the said bank the said W. D. Stapleton conveyed the said properties to the Baldwin County Bank by deed and the title stands in the said Baldwin County Bank as security for the said indebtedness.
- 4. It denies that the said complainant is entitled to priority in the payment of the note or notes held by him over payment of the notes still held by the said Baldwin County Bank, because at the time the said J. T. Bradley purchased the same, he was a director of the Baldwin County Bank, and that

at said time the said Baldwin County Bank was in a failing condition, all of which was known to the said J. T. Bradley, and that the sale of the said notes to the said J. T. Bradley by the said Bank was not submitted to and authorized by the Board of Directors of said Bank, but was a clandestine arrangement between the said W. D. Stapleton, as President of the said Bank, and the said J. T. Bradley, who was at that time Assistant Cashier of the said Bank, to defraud the said Bank and to defraud the creditors of the said Bank, and the said J. T. Bradley as a matter of law has and ought not to have or claim any preference or priority in the payment of his said notes over the payment of the notes held by the said Baldwin County Bank.

- 5. Answering the 5th Paragraph of the said bill of complaint, the respondent says that the said complainant is not entitled to attorneys' fees for the bringing of this suit under the terms of the said notes.
- 6. Further answering the said bill of complaint as amended, respondent denies any and all allegations therein made, not herein expressly admitted or denied, and demands strict proof of the same.

Selections for Respondents.

ORAL EXAMINATION

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ORAL DEPOSITION

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The State of Alabama

Court of Baldwin County, Alabama,

Moore Ptg. Co., Bay Minette, Ala.

At the time this note which is the basis of this suit was purchased by me from the Baldwin County Bank, I do not know whether the other three notes were due and unpaid. I do not know the due date of the other three notes. The note purchased by me from the Bank was a renewal note. The matter of the sale by the Baldwin County Bank and purchase by me of the note in question was not submitted to and authorized by the Board of Directors of the Baldwin County Bank. The Baldwin County Bank was re-organized sometime during the middle or latter part of the year 1932 and is at this time operating and doing business as the Baldwin County Bank at Bay Minette, Alabama. I did not buy the note in question as an outright investment. I knew at the time I hought the note that it was secured by 970 acres of land in Baldwin County, Alabama. There was an agreement between Mr. W.D.Stapleton, President of the Bank and me, that in the event the note was not paid at maturity I could turn the note over to the Bank and it would foreclose the property in connection with the loan and that I, along with the Baldwin County Bank, would get my money.

RE DIRECT EXAMINATION BY HON. BEN D. TURNER:

As to whether there are any minutes showing the sale of this note to me, I can only say that so far as I personally know, I do not know of any such minutes. When I referred on my cross-examination to an agreement with Mr. Stapleton about the fore-closure of the note I was referring to his letter to me of November 24, 1931. This letter was written by Mr. Stapleton, as President of the Bank, after I had bought and paid for the nore. There was no other agreement concerning the matter of the fore-closure. The letter is the one I how hand to the Register and ask him to identify as Exhibit "Five" to my testimony. The criginal of this letter is in evidence as a part of Exhibit "D" to the Testimony of J.T.Bradley, in that certain cause now pending on the Equity Side of the Circuit Court of Baldwin County, Alabama, wherein Bay Minette Land Company is Complainant, and Henry D.Moorer, W.D. Stapleton and J.T.Bradley are respondents, which said testimony was taken on July 1, 1932. "It is agreed that the copy hereto attached be treated as the criginal as the criginal of said letter."

I was not asked to and never agreed to turn my note over to the Bank for foreclosure.

MR. TURNER: Explain what you mean when you say that you did not purchase the note as an outright investment?

MR. HALL: We object to that question on the grounds that it is immaterial, irrelevant and incompetent and also a self-serving declaration of the witness.

THE WITNESS: The purchase of this Two Thousand Dollar note came about the following way: The National Surety Company was surety on the bonds of W.D. Stapleton and O.C. Hall, who were President and Cashier, respectively, of the Baldwin County Bank, said suretyship being for their respective liabilities as treasurer of the Baldwin County School Funds and County Treasurer. As such officers they had deposited their respective public funds in the Baldwin County Bank. The National Surety Company advised that it would require that the said public funds be withdrawn from deposit in the Baldwin County Bank unless additional marketable collateral secubities were pledged with it - the Surety Company. Mr. Stapleton, as President of the Bank, Mr. Hall, as Cashier of the Bank, and J.D. Crosby and L.T. Rhodes, directors of the bank were present in the directors room at the time Stapleton and Hall asked me to turn over to the Bank certain securities then personally owned by me to be pledged to the said Surety Company, and that I take in exchange therefor certain securities of the bank that were not of the

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class to be acceptable to the Surety Company. To accomodate the Bank I agreed to this and turned over to the Bank certain securities of the face value of Eleven Thousand Dollars. As a part of the securities received by me in exchange for those delivered by me to the Bank I received a note signed by G.W.Robertson for Two Thousand Dollars. About the time - probably ten days before the Howell Hall, Agent note was purchased, Robertson paid his Two Thousand Dollar note to the said Bank. I then, rather than draw said Two Thousand Dollars out of the Bank bought the Two Thousand Dollar Howell Hall, Agent note referred to in my direct and cross-examination. This is what I mean when I say that it was not done as an investment, but in order to protect myself.

MR. HALL: We move to exclude the answer of the witness on the same grounds above referred to.

THE WITNESS CONTINUING:

At the time I bought the note I did not know anything about whether the note was one of a series or not. I have since learned that it was. In making the purchase of the note I relied upon the statements made to me by Mr. Stapleton, President of the Bank, to the effect that the note was a good note. There was no agreement between Mr. Stapleton and me as to any priorities concerning said note. My understanding was that there would be no foreclosure, but that I would get my money back or get back the bonds which I had originally transferred to the Bank. I was not a member of the loan committee of the Bank and while, because of my position, I could have had an opportunity to see the securities and other papers of the bank, I never saw any of the other notes referred to in Exhibits to the original bill, nor did I ever see the note for Two Thousand Dollars, signed by Howell Hall, Agent, which I bought, until I bought it.

RE-CROSSEXAMINATION BY HON. H.M.HALL:

The whole transaction as enumerated by me in my re-direct testimony between w.D.Stapleton, who was President and a direct-or of the Baldwin County Bank, and me, was for the purpose of helping out the Baldwin County Bank. O.C.Hall, at the time of the transaction, was cashier and a director of the Baldwin County Bank. It was expressly understood between w.D.Stapleton and me that if the note was not paid the bonds or security given by me to the bank would be returned.

RE-RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION BY HON. BEN D. TURNER:

I have demanded of the Baldwin County Bank a return to me of the securities which I delivered to it. The Bank declined and refused to deliver them. When the Bank went into liquidation I again demanded said securities and was refused the delivery of them and was told that it was "too bad". I have never received any of said securities. My information is that the same have been sold by the National Surety Company, with whom they were deposited by the Bank. The only security I have for the Two Thousand Dollars paid for the Howell Hall, Agent Note, is the note itself and the security back of it.

RE-RE-CROSS EXAMINATION BY HON. H.M.HALL:

I did not, at the time I made demand for the return of securities delivered by me over to the Bank, tender the note here sued on.

J. J. Brudley

Signed, sealed and delivered : Frankin presence of : Blance

Frank B. Nihart (LS)

Blanche Nihart (LS)

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, I BALDWIN COUNTY.

I, Gladys Bush a notary public for said county, in said State, hereby certify that Frank B. Nihart and Blanch Nihart, his wife, whose names are signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who are known to me, acknowledged before me on this day, that, being informed of the contents of this conveyance, they executed the same voluntarily, on the day the same bears date.

Given under my hand this the 17th day of September, A.D., 1926.

(Seal)

Gladys Bush, Notary Public, Baldwin Co., Alabama.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, I BALDWIN COUNTY.

I, Gladys Bush a notary public in and for said county and State, do hereby certify that on the 17th day of September, 1926, came before me the within named Blanch_Nihart, known to me to be the wife of the within named Frank B. Nihart who, being examined separate and apart from the husband, touching her signature to the within conveyance, acknowledged that she signed the same of her own free will and accord, and without fear, constraint or threats on the part of her husband.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, this 17th day of September, A.D., 1926.

(Seal)

Gladys Bush, Notary Public, Baldwin Co., Ala.

STATE OF ALABAMA, X BALDWIN COUNTY.

I, W.D.Stapleton, Judge of Probate for said county, hereby certify that the following privilege tax has been paid on the within instrument as required by acts 1923 viz: \$3 cts 00.

W.D.Stapleton, Judge of Probate, By J.L.Kessler, Clerk.

Filed for record Sept. 18th, 1926 at 8 A.M. Recorded Sept. 25th, 1926.

W.D.Stapleton, Judge of Probate.

STATE OF ALABAMA, SS.

I, G.W. Humphries, Judge of Probate and Custodian of the Records and Files of the same in and for Baldwin County, State of Alabama, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true, correct and complete copy of an instrument of writing as the same appears of record in Deed Record 40 N.S. at page 587 now on file in the office of Judge of Probate of Baldwin County, Alabama.

Witness my hand and the seal of said Court, this 27th day of February, A.D., 1932.

Judge of Probate

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
BALDWIN COUNTY.

WARRANTY DEED.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, THAT Howell Hall and Cora B. Hall, his wife for and in consideration of the sum of One (\$1.00) dollars, to them in hand paid by W.D.Stapleton, Trustee, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, and sold, and by these presents do hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said W.D.Stapleton, Trustee, his heirs and assigns, the following described real estate, situated in the county of Baldwin and State of Alabama, to-wit:

The south half of the southwest quarter of section two, and the northwest quarter and north half of the northeast quarter of Section eleven, township nine South of Range Four East, containing 320 acres, more or less; Also from the North East corner of Section Four, Township Nine South, Range Five East, run East on the Township line Twenty-five chains and Fifty-one links for a point of beginning; thence East on the Township line Twenty-three chains and seventy-two links to a stake, about two chains and fortyfive links West of the intersection of the Township line with Bay LaLaunch; thence south thirty-three chains and thirty-two links to a stake on the margin of Bay Ornocor; thence by meanders of said Bay South Eighty-five degrees West Seven chains and Sixty-six links; south eighty degrees West nine chains; south seventy-two degrees West Seven chains and sixty-seven links to division line between Bill's land and Dryer's land; thence north thirty-seven chains and ninety-two links to beginning, containing eighty-three and one-tenth acres; lying in section Twelve, William Kee Grant, Township Nine South of Range Five East.

To have and to hold, the aforegranted premises to the said W.D.Stapleton, Trustee his heirs and assigns forever.

And we do covenant with the said W.D.Stapleton, Trustee, his heirs and assigns, that we are lawfully seized in fee simple of the aforegranted premises; that they are free from all en-

45 2 % In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, this 17th day of September, A.D., 1926.

(Seal)

Frank B. Nihart, Notary Public, Baldwin County, Alabama.

STATE OF ALABAMA, BALDWIN COUNTY.

I, W.D.Stapleton, Judge of Probate for said county, hereby certify that the following privilege tax has been paid on the within instrument as required by Acts 1923 Viz: \$3 cts.00.

W.D.Stapleton, Judge of Probate, By J.L.Kessler, Clerk

Filed for record Sept 18th, 1925 at 8 A.M. Recorded Sept. 25th, 1926.

W.D.Stapleton, Judge of Probate.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, I SE

I, G.W. Humphries, Judge of the Probate Court and Custodian of the Records and Files of the same in and for Baldwin County, State of Alabama, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true, correct and complete copy of an instrument of record and the same appears of record in Deed Record 40 N.S., at page 586, now on file in the office of Judge of Probate of Baldwin County, Alabama.

Witness my hand and the seal of the said Court, this 27th day of February, A.D., 1932.

Judge of Probate.

Complainant,

VS.

HOWELL HAIL, W. D. STAPLE-TON, FRED COUNTRYMAN, BALD-WIN COUNTY BANK, a Corporation organized under the Laws of the State of Alabama, H. H. MONTGOMERY, as STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF BANKS OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA, in his capacity as LIQUIDATOR OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY BANK, and W. D. STAPLETON, as Trustee,

Respondents.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF

BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA.

IN EQUITY. No.____.

MOTION FOR DECREE PRO CONFESSO.

Motion is hereby made for a Decree Pro Confesso against

Fred Countryman, one of the Respondents in the above entitled cause
on the ground that more than thirty days have elapsed since service of summons upon the said Respondent; that the said summons
was duly served on the said Respondent by registered mail according to law and that more than thirty days have elapsed since the
return receipt which was attached to the said registered letter
was received by T. W. Richerson, Register in Chancery, Baldwin
County, Alabama, and that the said Respondent, Fred Countryman,
has failed to plead, answer or demur to the Bill of Complaint in
said cause to this date.

Dated this the 8th day of July, 1932.

Shung Mc Lead Horde of Term Solicitors for Complainant.

Complainant,

VS.

HOWELL HALL, W. D. STAPLE-TON, FRED COUNTRYMAN, BALD-WIN COUNTY BANK, a Corporation organized under the Laws of the State of Alabama, H. H. MONTGOMERY, as STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF BANKS OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA, in his capacity as LIQUIDATOR OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY BANK, and W. D. STAPLETON, as Trustee,

Respondents.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA.
IN EQUITY. NO.____.

DECREE PRO CONFESSO.

In this cause it being made to appear to the Register that a summons was served upon Fred Countryman, one of the Respondents in the above entitled cause by registered mail according to law; requiring him to appear and plead, answer or demur to the Bill of Complaint in said cause within thirty days from the service of the said summons; that the return receipt which was attached to the said registered letter and addressed to T. W. Richerson, Register in Chancery, Bay Minette, Alabama, was received by the said Register on June 3, 1932, and the said Respondent having failed to plead, answer or demur to the said Bill of Complaint to the date hereof; it is now, therefore, on motion of the Complainant, ordered and decreed that the said Bill of Complaint in this cause be, and it hereby is, taken in all things as confessed against the said Fred Countryman, one of the Respondents aforesaid.

Witness my hand this 8th day of July, 1932.

J. W. Obelwoor

Register in Chancery.

Complainant,

VS.

HOWELL HALL, W. D. STAPLE-TON, FRED COUNTRYMAN, BALD-WIN COUNTY BANK, A CORPOR-ATION, H. H. MONTGOMERY, AS SUPERINTENDENT OF BANKS FOR THE STATE OF ALABAMA, AS LIQUIDATOR, AND W. D. STAPLETON, AS TRUSTEE,

Respondents.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA.
IN EQUITY. NO._____.

ORDER.

It appearing to the Court that the Solicitors for the Respondents, who are not in default, have had three days notice of Complainant's motion wherein he moves the Court to set the demurrers in the above entitled cause down for hearing before F. W. Hare, in Monroeville, Alabama, on November 15, 1932, at 10:00 c'clock A. M., and the said motion having been considered by the Court.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the demurrers in the said cause be and the same are hereby set down for hearing before Judge F. W. Hare in Monroeville, Alabama, at 10:00 o'clock A. M., on November 15, 1932.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the adverse parties, who are not in default, have ten days notice of the day set for hearing said demurrers.

Done at Monroeville, Alabama, on this the 31st day of October, 1932.

Judge.

J.W. Kare

The State of Alabama, Baldwin County

CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, IN EQUITY

То	Any	Sheriff	of	the	State	of	AlabamaGREETING	

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The State of Alabama, CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, Baldwin County

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The State of Alabama, Baldwin County

CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, IN EQUITY

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J.T.Bradley	
ainst said W.D. Stapleton, Et	Al.
ainst said W.D.O.C.	
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aid Defendant shall in no wise omit, und his writ with your endorsement thereon,	Judge shall order and direct in that behalf. And this er penalty, etc. And we further command that you ret to our said Court immediately upon the execution thereover of said Circuit Court, this day
WITNESS T W Richerson, Registe	
WITNESS, T. W. Richerson, Registe	

J. T. BRADIMY.

Complainant,

VS.

HOWELL HALL, W. D. STAPLE-TON, FRED COUNTRYMAN, BALD-WIN COUNTY BANK, a Corporation organized under the Laws of the State of Alabama, H. H. MONTGOMERY, as STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF BANKS OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA, in his capacity as LIQUIDATOR OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY BANK, and W. D. STAPLETON, as Trustee,

Respondents.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA.
IN EQUITY. NO.____.

DEGREE PRO CONFESSO.

In this cause, it being made to appear to the Register that a summons was served upon Howell Hall, one of the Respondents in the above entitled cause, by the Sheriff of Baldwin County, Alabama, on the 5th day of March, 1932, requiring him to appear and plead, answer or demur to the Bill of Complaint in said cause within thirty days from the service of said summons and the said Respondent having failed to plead, answer or demur to the said Bill of Complaint to the date hereof: It is now, therefore, on motion of the Complainant, ordered and decreed that the said Bill of Complaint in this cause be, and it hereby is, taken in all things as confessed against the said Howell Hall, one of the Respondents aforesaid.

WITNESS my hand this 25th day of May, 1932.

J. W. Rieuman

Register in Chancery.

Complainant,

VS.

HOWELL HALL, W. D. STAPLETON, FRED COUNTRYMAN, BALDWIN COUNTY BANK, A CORPORATION, AND H. H. MONTGOMERY, STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF BANKS, LIQUIDATING THE BALD-, WIN COUNTY BANK,

Respondents.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA. IN EQUITY. NO. 1033.

Please take notice that in the above entitled cause pending in our said Circuit Court in Equity, a Motion has been filed by the Complainant, a copy of which is hereto attached, and that the Monroeville, Alabama, on Monday, October 31st, at 8:00 o'clock A. M. Witness my hand this 27th day of October, 1932.

Register in Chancery.

Service accepted on this the 27th day of October,

1932.

Hy Rost Head & Chron

By PReche

Complainant,

VS.

HOWELL HALL, W. D. STAPLETON, FRED COUNTRYMAN, BALDWIN COUNTY BANK, A CORPORATION, AND H. H. MONTGOMERY, STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF BANKS, LIQUIDATING THE BALDWIN COUNTY BANK,

Respondents.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA.
IN EQUITY. NO. 1033.

MOTION.

TO THE HONORABLE F. W. HARE, JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA, SITTING IN EQUITY:

by his Solicitors of Record and shows unto the Court and your Honor that the above entitled cause was commenced on the 1st day of March, 1932; that on the 29th day of March, 1932, Messrs. Hybart, Heard and Chason, representing W. D. Stapleton, filed a general demurrer to the Complainant's Bill of Complaint; that on the 30th day of March, 1932, Messrs. Beebe and Hall, representing the Baldwin County Bank, and H. H. Montgomery, as State Superintendent of Banks, liquidating the Baldwin County Bank, filed a general demurrer to the Complainant's Bill of Complaint and that the said demurrers have not been disposed of.

WHEREFORE, the Complainant moves the Court to set the said demurrers in the above entitled cause for hearing before your Honor at Monroeville, Alabama, at 10:00 o'clock A. M., on towit, November 15th, 1952.

Stures, M. Corney, M. Lord, Horde & Thrus

Selicitors for Complainant.

Complainant,

VS.

HOWELL HALL, et al,

Respondents.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA.
IN EQUIPY. NO. 1033.

TO THE BALDWIN COUNTY BANK, & CORPORATION, OR TO BEEBE & HALL, ITS SOLICITORS OF RECORD:

You are hereby notified that the Complainant, J. T. Bradley, has moved for and obtained an order permitting and directing an oral examination of the witnesses named in the attached copy of the Motion therefor, the said examination of said witnesses to be oral before the Register of this Court at the places and at the times stated in said motion, copy of which is hereto attached and made a part of this notice.

Stime, M.: Comp. Mr. Lod, March & Tomm.
Solicitors for Complainant.

9 w Rietumon Register.

We, Beebe & Hall, Solicitors of Record for the Baldwin County Bank, a Corporation, one of the Respondents in the above entitled cause, do hereby accept service of the foregoing requirement of the oral examination of the witnesses named in said motion and notice thereof and waive any and all further notice of said examination.

Dated this 8th day of March, 1933.

BEEBE & HALL,

By John free

I, T. W. Richerson, Register, do hereby certify that I have this day entered a copy of the foregoing notice together with

a copy of said requirement for oral examination on the Order Book of the Register of this Court, and I direct that the adverse parties have three days' notice of said examination.

Dated this 8th day of March, 1953.

TW Risewown Register.

Complainant,

VS.

HOWELL HALL, et al,

Respondents.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA.
IN EQUITY. NO. 1033.

MOTION.

Comes the Complainant in the above entitled cause and shows to the Register that he requires an oral examination of the witnesses hereinafter named and therefore moves the Register for an oral examination of said witnesses, the same to be examined orally before the Register of this Court at the time and place hereinafter shown:

The Complainant moves for an oral examination of J.

T. Bradley and S. M. Tharp, said examination to be before the Honorable T. W. Richerson, Register of this Court at his office in Bay

Minette, Alabama, at 10:00 o'clock A. M. on Monday, March 13, 1933.

Your Complainant avers that due notice of this motion has been given in writing to all adverse parties to this action or to their Solicitors of Record in form and substance as is required by law.

Strong, M.; army M.; Lod, Hook & Farme

Solicitors for Complainant.

Complainant,

VS.

HOWELL HALL, W. D. STAPLETON, FRED COUNTRYMAN, BALDWIN COUNTY BANK, A CORPORATION AND H. H. MONTGONERY, STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF BANKS, LIQUIDATING THE BALDWIN COUNTY BANK,

Respondents.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF

BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA.

IN EQUITY. NO. 1033.

MOTION FOR DECREE PRO CONFESSO.

Motion is hereby made for Decree Pro Confesso against W. D. Stapleton, on the ground that more than thirty (30) days have elapsed since the demurrers filed by him in said cause were overruled and no answer has been filed by him in said cause to date hereof.

Dated this 13th day of February, 1933.

Stevens, M: Conny M; Lord, Morch & Trom

Solicitors for Complainant.

J. T. BRADLEY, Complainant,

Vs.

Howell Hall, Et Al,

Respondents.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BAID-VIN COUNTY, AIABAMA. IN EQUITY.

This matter coming on to be heard is submitted on Demurrers to the original Bill of Complaint, and the same being fully understood by the Court, the same are overruled.

The Respondents are allowed thirty days in which to file their answer.

Dated this 23rd. day of November, 1932.

J. W. Hare

Complainant,

VS.

HOWELL HALL, W. D. STAPLE-TON, FRED COUNTRYMAN, BALD-WIN COUNTY BANK, a Corporation organized under the Laws of the State of Alabama, H. H. MONTGOMERY, AS STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF BANKS OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA, in his capacity as LIQUIDATOR OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY BANK, and W. D. STAPLE-TON, Trustee.

Respondents.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA.
IN EQUITY. NO.____.

MOTION FOR DECREE PRO CONFESSO.

Motion is hereby made for a Decree Pro Confesso against Howell Hall, one of the Respondents in the above entitled cause, on the ground that more than thirty days have elapsed since service of the summons upon the said Respondent; that the said summons was duly served according to law and that the said Respondent Howell Hall, has failed to plead, answer or demur to the Bill of Complaint in said cause to this date.

Dated this the 25th day of May, 1932.

Struck M. Coray, M. Feod, Hook o Form.
Solicitors for Complainant.

Complainant,

VS.

HOWELL HALL, W. D. STAPLETON, FRED COUNTRYMAN, BALDWIN COUNTY BANK, A CORPORATION AND H. H. MONTGOMERY, STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF BANKS, LIQUIDATING THE BALDWIN COUNTY BANK,

Respondents.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF

BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA.

IN EQUITY. NO. 1033.

DECREE PRO CONFESSO.

In this cause, it being made to appear to the Register that a summons was served on the said Respondents and each of them as required by law, requiring them and each of them to appear and plead, answer or demur as required by law; that W. D. Stapleton appeared and filed demurrers to the Bill of Complaint in said cause, which said demurrers were overruled by F. W. Hare, Judge of the 21st Judicial Circuit of Alabama on November 23rd, 1932, which said decree provided that the said Respondent, W. D. Stapleton, was to file an answer in the said cause within thirty days (30) from November 23, 1932, and the said Respondent having failed to file his said answer in this cause to date hereof, it is now, therefore, on motion of the Complainant, ordered and decreed, that the said Bill of Complaint in this cause be, and it hereby is, in all things, taken as confessed against the said W. D. Stapleton, the Respondent aforesaid.

Witness my hand this 13th day of February, 1933.

Register.

The State of Alabama, Baldwin County

CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, IN EQUITY

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Complainant,

VS.

BALDWIN COUNTY BANK, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Alabama, and H. H. MONTGOMERY, as Superintendent of Banks of the State of Alabama, liquidating the Baldwin County Bank, ET AL.,

Defendants.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA.

IN EQUITY.

Come the defendants in the above styled cause and demur to each and every Count thereof, separately and severally, and as grounds for said demurrer set down and assign the following, to-wit:

1. There is no equity in the Bill.

Solicitors for Defendants.

The State of Alabama, Baldwin County

CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, IN EQUITY

То	Any	Sheriff	of	the	State	of	f AlabamaGREETING	
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N. B.—Any party defendant is entitled to a copy of the bill upon application to the Register.

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The State of Alabama, Baldwin County

CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, IN EQUITY

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Complainant,

VS.

HOWELL HALL, W. D. STAPLETON, FRED COUNTRYMAN, BALDWIN COUNTY BANK, a Corporation organized under the Laws of the State of Alabama, H. H. MONT-GOMERY, AS STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF BANKS OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA, in his capacity as LIQUIDATOR OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY BANK, and W. D. STAPLETON, Trustee,

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA
IN EQUITY. NO. 1033.

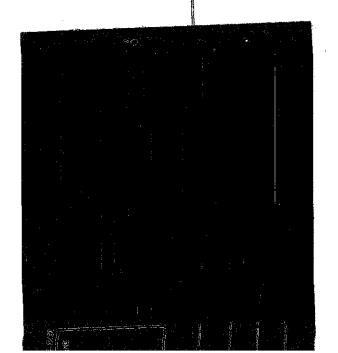
Before me, the undersigned authority, within and for said county in said state, personally appeared J. T. Bradley, who, after being by me first duly and legally sworn, deposes and says:

That he is the Complainant in the above entitled cause, that the respondent, Fred Countryman is over the age of twenty-one years and a non-resident of the State of Alabama and that he resides at 915 Northwood Boulevard, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

J. Bradley

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this the 25th day of May, 1932.

Notary Public, Baldwin County, Ala.



· Complainant,

-VS-

HOWELL HALL, W. D. STAPLE-TON, FRED COUNTRYLIAN, BALD-WIN COUNTY BANK, a Corporation organized under the Laws of the State of Alabama, H. H. MONTGOMERY, as State Superintendent of Banks and W. D. STAFLETON, Trustee,

Defendants.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT-EQUITY SIDE STATE OF ALABAMA BALDWIN COUNTY.

Comes W. D. Stapleton by his Solicitors of Record, Hybart, Heard & Chason, and demurs to the Bill of Complaint in this cause filed on the following ground, viz:

TIESI:

For that there is no equity in the Bill.

% of Record Stapleton.