1812-016 SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY CHANCERY PAPERS STEPHENSON &c. vs STEPHENSON 10/1812

To the worshipful Court of Southampton
sitting in Chancery

Humbly shewith unto your worships your orators Josiah Stephenson Martin Stephenson & Bennett Stephenson an infant by his next friend Josiah Stephenson

That about the year 17[illegible] Thomas Stephenson departed this life after duly making & publishing his last will & Testament, as with the on the records of this Court ... he gave to your orators his lands ... and ... Negroes Still, to be equally divided between them. To Nancy Gordon he lent for life a widow-hood the use of one of the said tracts of Land with giving the liberty of making choice of one of them which she might like out of the two, of which he died

That she has agreeable to the Will taken one (her choice) of the two tracts, and is living thereon; a

and still has possession of the other
tract containing 335 Acres and
thus and still devised to your complain-
=ants and of the same tract of land
the said Thomas Stephenson was seized
at the time of his death that
being now immediately the right & proper
of your complainants, they thereupon
by this Court with order & Decree an
equal Division of the said 335 Acres
of Land between them to wit Isaac, Martin
Bennett Stephenson the devisees
mentioned in the will of the said Thos
Stephenson dec'd and
the appointed to carry this decree into
effect; and that the said Still
being incapable of division may be
allotted to the distributees to whom
that part of the said land may fall
upon the said Still stands; to be
by them accounted for at the value
of to be ascertained by the said
Commissioners

The answer of Nancy Stephenson and
Thomas Stephenson to a
Bill exhibited against her in the
County Court of Southampton by Isaiah
Stephenson Martin Stephenson & Bennett
Stephenson an infant by his next
friend Isaiah Stephenson, for answer
thereto saith that true it
Stephenson her Dec'd Husband departed
this life leaving a will as stated in the
said Bill in Chancery tending to this
respondent the use of one tract of 60
out of two which he died possessed of
and she has agreeable to the
taken her choice of them — o
as to the other tract of 335 Acres on the
Brandy making Still thereon she has
no claim thereto nor any pretention
to keeping possession longer than till
such Decree is made as is prayed for
by the s. Bill for a Division, to
which she has no objection — Well
knowing the complainants entitled
to the said tract of 335 Acres, of
and the said Still thereon

Test for
Defts

Report about Thomas
Stephenson Land
Dated 1852

We the undersigned being appointed as Commissioners to divide, the Land wherein Thomas Stephenson deed died seized & possessed, between his heirs agreeable to the decedents Will - And we have in Conformity thereto done the same, in the following manner, i.e. The South part of said tract of Land, we have allotted as Josiah Stephenson proportion containing one hundred acres The middle part of said tract we have alloted as Martin Stephenson proportion containing fifty six acres and the balance of said tract being the Northern part we have alloted to Burrel Stephenson as his proportion containing one hundred & forty four acres with the Sum of eight dollars to be paid him by Martin Stephenson - Given under our hands this 28th. March 1812

W Bailey
Silas Summers
Arthur Hollaman