

The deposition of W^{ch} Meriwether taken to be read as evidence in the matter of Samuel B. Bell's will now pending in the Breckenridge County Court - taken by virtue of a Commission to me directed, by the honorable, the County Court of Breckenridge County, which Commission is hereto annexed.

Witness being of lawful age depose and says in answer to question by Mr. Rich. Nathan.

Question. you are shown what purports to be the last will & testament of Samuel B. Bell, dated the 5th day of February 1861, to which you name with that of another is subscribed as a witness - Please examine the paper, and if you shall know anything about it, tell what you know - say whether your name as witness is in your own proper hand writing - and if so, how did it happen that you signed it as such? at whose request? tell all about it.

Answer. I have examined the paper shown me, and I know it is the last will and testament of Mr. Samuel B. Bell - He died at the Infirmary in this city some few or five days after the date of the will. I was not acquainted with B. Bell and had been for some years before his death - I visited him frequently during his last illness. On the day of the date of the will, Mr. Ben. Nathan & myself happened together at the sick bed of the Testator - He agreed that he was dangerously ill, and concerned in the opinion that he ought to make a will - This conversation was in a private room from that in which Mr. Bell was and he knew nothing about - after we had come to this conclusion, we returned to his bed of affliction and Mr. Ben. Nathan told him that it was our opinion he ought to make a will and he consented to do it - He agreed to do so, and mentioned that I could do it as well as any one & he wished me to do it, He then spoke to me, as to the disposition of his property and directed me in what manner to draw the will - I went to another room and there drew up the paper, now shown me and inquired about in the question - after having written it I returned to the sick room and read the same to him verbatim as it now is - He said it was just as he wished it, and he then in the presence of Mr. Ben. Nathan, E. C. Parsons and myself, no one else being present declared the same to be his will - signed his name to it & requested Mr. Parsons & myself to sign it as his will, which we did in the immediate presence of the Testator and in the presence of each other. I saw Mr. Parsons write his name to the paper as witness after being requested to do so by Mr. Bell the Testator.

W. A. Meriwether.

State of Kentucky,

Jesse M. Rogers, Esq., J. C. I. I, James M. Rogers an Examiner for Jefferson County aforesaid, do hereby certify that on this day the foregoing deposition of W^{ch} Meriwether was taken before me - at my office (City of Jefferson) that Louisville State not being aforesaid, & do further certify that the witness was duly sworn before he gave his testimony, that his testimony as written by me was read to him and was by him, subscribed in my presence, and I do also further certify that no one was present at the Examination of the Witness except Richard M. Nathan.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this 11th day of March A. D. 1861.

My faith, given by Mr. Nathan.

Richard M. Nathan, Clerk of Breckenridge County, Ky.

County Court March Term 1861

This day the foregoing writing purporting to be the last will & testament of Samuel B. Bell deceased was produced in Court by Rich. Nathan, the Executor, duly sworn by

