**1855 Law Suit in St Clair County, IL**

In the mid 1800’s in the state of Illinois there was no practice of recording a transcript of court cases. They only recorded the Plaintiff claims, Defendants response and the Judges Decree. This is a summary of the hearings associated with a law suit by the heirs of George Felps against Michael Felps, William L Felps and the family of Joseph Uge. regarding an accused fraudulent sale of property.

George Felps of St Clair County, Il died 7/1/1847, leaving various tracts of land to his living siblings and sole heirs: Michael, Peter, Henry, Catherine and Elizabeth Felps. In 1852 the court appointed Michael Felps the commissioner to sell the property of his deceased brother George Felps.

Michael advertised the sale, held the auction and sold the land to William L Felps in May of 1852 for $ 415. The court approved the sale and the estate was closed. William later sold the land to Joseph Uge for $2,250.

Catherine died in 1854 and her heirs together with George’s other heirs filed the law suit in 1855 against Michael and the heirs of Joseph Uge for fraud, asking the court to reverse the sale.

Plaintiffs: William Stone Defendants: Michael Felps

 Este..Stone William L Phelps

 Reuben Stone Pamela Uge

 John Stone Joseph Uge

 Silas Stone Meifshire Uge

 Elizabeth Mays Justus Uge

 William Mays Asa Uge

 Ezekiel England

 Sally England

 Peter Felps

 Henry Felps

 Mary Grub

 Abram Grub

In the Plaintiff’s hearing, they claimed that Michael had misled Elizabeth about the date and time of the sale in order to minimize the number of bidders and thus reducing the sale price. They also claimed that a George Felps bid $ 425 but his bid was refused. They claimed that the property sold for about one fifth of its value because of the fraud.

In Michael’s hearing, he denied any conversation with Elizabeth regarding the time of sale. He claimed to have talked to all the neighbors about the sale and tried to encourage the most bidders. He denied that George Felps had bid $ 425. He claimed that there were no bids higher than that of William L Felps at $ 415.

In the hearing with Pamelia Uge, wife of the deceased Joseph Uge, she claimed that they had no part of any fraud and knew nothing about the original sale until some time later. She said that they had paid a fair price for the property and asked the court to dismiss the case against her and her children.

Judge Underwood’s Decree was for Michael Felps to pay the Plaintiffs the sum of $ 425.

It is significant to point out that the document clearly states that Michael, Peter, Henry, Catherine and Elizabeth Felps were siblings of George Felps and his sole living heirs. This together with other research suggests that they are the children of Valentine Volp/Fulp//Felp.

It’s also interesting to point that the name William L Felps was spelled William L Phelps in another part of the document.

TAP

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