

Before Wm. S.J. Ford, C & M., Sevier County, Aug. 5, 1844

James T. Trotter's deposition; said Pate knew that he was supposed to look after old folks. Said Wm. Trotter was "ill treated." "I often passed there and heard him calling for water and I sometimes stoped and give him water & sometimes I did not & he stated time after time that he was starving, that they would not give him any thing to eat." Said Nancy Trotter was "complaining about that time, her rist was out of Place.## Did not know the condition of his father's body after his death because was not there "until after ~~z~~ he was laid out." Testified that his father offered him the land if he would support the old folks, but that he told him that "I was not sufficient, that my wife was not able to take care of them & I thought the others would not like it." Says that his wife was not willing to care for the old folks. Rebecca Thomas hired while the old man was ill, but did not know if she was hired to take care of the old man. Was satisfied with the dispostion of father's property in Will.

Isaac Chambers; acquainted with treatment of Wm. Trotter only from hear-say. Never heard Pate make threats or say anything about treatment of old man. Did not remember seeing the old man after death.

Before Wm. S.J. Ford, Sevierville, 23 March 1844:

Henry Romines, aged 30 years  
William Thomas, aged 28 years.

William Thomas' deposition; J.T. Trotter rented part of father's land from Samuel Newman, and that sd. J.T. Trotter paid rent to Pate. Said "I seen his boy start with a loan of wheat towards" Pate's house. Thomas said he hauled corn from sd. J.T. Trotter to Pate's crib. That Nancy Trotter forbid him to haul this corn to Pate; she got "before my team with some weapon." Pate told him to put same corn in crib on Trotter place for Mrs. Trotter, but she said no use because she intended to go to law against Pate. Mrs. Trotter said she did not want this corn until after trial.

Henry Romines' deposition; Mrs. Trotter told Pate not to bring corn, but Pate told her it was for her support. She said she would throw it out.

Thomas Langston's deposition; rented part of Trotter land from Newman and was to take care of Mrs. Trotter from Oct. 1841 to Jan. 1843. Stayed until Nov. 1842 and left with consent of Mrs. Trotter. Pate came to him after purchased land from Newman and asked why Mrs. Trotter left dwelling house and moved to "kitchen." Pate told her to come back because she was untitled to house for life. Pate told him Mrs. Trotter "ought to have Some body to make her now her place." Pate asked Mrs. Trotter if "twelve bushels of corn would do her and she complained.... said she was not a negro and that she never was allowanced and that she never would be.." Mrs. Trotter asked Pate what "would she do for her coffy and he respond-ent said he did not drink any and why need complainant drink it." Pate also came to Mrs. Trotter and asked her her age and Pate said she "was old enough to be put on the Church as there was a time that widows got to such an age that the Church supported them."



Randle Hill, aged 50 years; about 14 acres of land on Trotter place that is ~~XXXXXX~~ worth about 8 bushels per acre, rest of land fit only for pasture, and rest worth about \$6 a year in cash. Has known Mrs. Trotter "since I have been of any size." Lived a mile and a quarter from Mrs. Trotter. Thought above rents about "sufficient to support her comfortably- she is old."

Benjamin Atchley Sr., aged about 57 years; 12 to 15 acres "reasonable good land worth about 8 bushells of corn to the acre"; rest of land worth for pasture about \$7 per year. Lived three quarters of mile from Mrs. Trotter, and "have been acquainted with her ever since my recollection." Did not think land would ~~support~~ more than support her decently.

James T. Trotter, aged about 32 years; "I am well acquainted with the farm. I was born and raised out it." Had rented it for three years and paid "her one third of all I make." He kept up fences, etc., and still "she is always skerce." Did not think rents of land "more than sufficient to support her decently and hardly that." "I rented it from Mother (Nancy Trotter the complainant)". Had cultivated all of it that could be cultivated. "One year and maybe two that there was part of it that was so wet that I could not cultivate it."

Louis Reneau, aged about 62 years; "My acquaintance with William Trotter deceased, and the complainant, and the land on which said Trotter lived in his life time commenced about forty three or four years past. The best of the land on the tract spoken of was cleared and put in cultivation, I think, about forty two or three years past, excepting a piece a cross the creek, perhaps five or six acres, was not cleared for some few years later. Whilst the land was fresh, I think it was worth more, that is to say, would produce much more grain than it would now or for many years past. I cannot say how many acres there is of cleared land but suppose its quantity to have been correctly or nearly so stated by Hill, Atchley and Trotter who have just been examined. A part of the ground I know to be very poor and a part intirely too wet for cultivation in ordinary seasons, but cannot speak with any degree of certainty as to the quantity of either. I cannot say from knowledge of my own what would be the value of its rents and proffits, but I do not think that I would be willing to take the farm, be at the expence of keeping it in repair and support and maintain the complainant, as a person of her age ought to be supported where the means were sufficient, for its rents and proffits."

Thomas Langston, aged about 33 years; Newman employed him to keept Mrs. Trotter in October after Mr. Trotter's death until January "come a year." Did this for "what land lies on this side of the creek (the side on which the mansion house stands)." Stayed about 13 months and Mrs. Trotter agreed for him to leave and he left her "enough of meat, and employed Mr. Atchley to get her corn out of my field; and I also left a cow for her to milk." Said he knew that Pate put "about 30 or 40 bushells" of corn in Mrs. Trotter's crib before he left. Said that Mrs. Trotter did not want this corn in her crib but her son persuaded her to allow it placed in crib. Gave as her reason that "she would not have any support from Respondent Pate; and the reason she gave for not haveing any support from Pate was that he had bought the land from a man who had no right to it, and she intended to go to law for the land, as she claimed it as her own."



Newman asked James T. Trotter if he wanted to buy the land and Trotter's answer was "No," and Newman then asked Pate and latter said he would buy it if Mrs. Trotter was willing. She said she was willing if "Pate would support her during her life time." Langston said he furnished Mrs. Trotter with "meat corn meal milk & butter and flour when I had it myself and chickens whenever there was any chickens killed about the house." Gave her no clothing or coffee-"Pate had bought the land but his time had not yet commenced to support Mrs. Trotter." Said Newman had possession of land when he started supporting Mrs. Trotter, but Pate purchased it and rented part of it to James T. Trotter. Rents on land Trotter cultivated was corn Pate hauled to Mrs. Trotter, about 30 to 40 bushels.

16 March 1844, before W.S.J. Ford, C & M, Sevierville, Tennessee

Randall Hill, aged 46 years  
Ephraim Brabson, aged 32 years  
Daniel Atchley, aged 47 years  
Benjamin Thomas, aged 22 years  
William H. Thomas, aged 22 years.

E. Brabson; "When I saw him(Wm. Trotter) the symphiris pubir was reperate & also the under jaw in front." Brabson did not remember any conversation with the old man Trotter when he called on him.

Daniel Atchley; was witness to deed from Trotter to Newman and latter was not to sell the land during Trotter's lifetime and to give James T. Trotter "the refusal of the said land." Had heard Wm. Trotter say he had offered James T. Trotter and James Toomey the land if they would take care of him. Trotter always seemed reconciled about deeding the land to Newman. Also old man Trotter told him that he struck Pate first, and Mrs. Trotter said she did not blame Pate for hitting Trotter.

Randall Hill; Heard Wm Trotter sayd that Pate "had been fishing for his land," but that he intended to see to it that Pate never got his land.

Benjamin Thomas; Wm. Trotter told him that he hit Pate first.

William H. Thomas; "I have been there almost every day and passed there-- and I now that said Newman did not treat him(Trotter) well." "William Trotter told me that said Pate had nearly killed him that he nocked him down and kicked ~~at~~ <sup>or</sup> stomped him I am not certain which- he also told me that he (William Trotter) had Struck Samuel Patex ... first."