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Letter to J. D. Banks

Mims Williams

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Magee, Mississippi,

September 20th. 1913.

J. D. Banks,

Kirbyville, Texas, in re W.L. Douglas contested Will matter.

Dear Sir:-

I have your letter of 18th. instant and I wish to thank you for the very full information you have given me in this matter. I have the correspondence you sent me which is as follows:

Correspondence between yourself &	C.E. Keppler,	2 letters,
"	"	"
"	& M.G. Adams	4 letters,
"	"	"
"	& Tom Haley	3 letters,
"	"	"
"	& W.O. Banks,	3 letters,
"	"	"
"	& J.F. Lanier,	3 letters.

I note them so that you may know what is in my possession. The information I gather from this correspondence tends to confirm my opinion as heretofore that it would be an awful hard task to undertake to set aside the last will and testament of Douglas. The last will having been made some two years before his death make it appear strongly against any likelihood of the courts intervening in the matter. I was first of the opinion that the last will was made during his last illness and while he was in the Sanatorium at Houston. His first will made in 1904 in which my mother was named as half heir to the entire estate. His last will was then made about 1910 or 1911, some two years before he died. Now to establish that he was sane when he made the first will and of unsound ~~will~~ mind when he made the last will would be an undertaking that certainly would not look like could prove successful. My idea would be that if you could get up enough testimony to prove that he was so eccentric and erratic and peculiar as to show that he was for many years prior to his death in no fit mind to devise his property, and have both wills cancelled and his heirs at law to share his estate would be more likely to succeed than the

attempt to substitute a former will on the grounds that he was sane when it was made and incapable of making a will when he made the last one. I want you to talk this over with your attorneys and see what they think about it. In this attempt we all would doubtless have more help and co-operation from all the others that might be benefitted thereby. You understand that that it is going to require the help of all that we could enlist in order to get sufficient testimony to have the Wills declared invalid. This is merely my suggestion without consulting my mother. However I am sure that she would endorse my views about the matter. I am writing her to day and am sending her the correspondence mentioned herein and asking that she remail same to me at once and I will then send to you.

I want to thank you very cordially for the interest you have taken in this case and the spirit you have shown towards aiding my mother. I do not want you to incur any expense at your efforts in her behalf. I shall be glad to repay you for any expenditures thus far made in the matter. Now if you can get good firm of lawyers that you think would take the case on contingent fee, then I would be glad to take the matter up further with you looking to their employment. Have you any evidence that would tend to show that the will that has been probated was any ways tinged with fraud? I shall not make a ~~xxx~~ trip out there unless it appears that I could be of some service to be there on the ground.

Yours very truly &c.