

Shepherdstown August 22nd 1866

H. B. Swarr, Esq.

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 21st is received. I was until the breaking out of the war, the President of Virginia and Maryland Bridge Company, and my son Edwin G. Lee was the Secy. My son was an officer in the Confederate army. I being an old man took no part in the war – yet I was driven from home and my house burned by order of Genl Hunter, but my wife saved some of my books and papers; but a good many were destroyed – among those saved is a Stock book of the Bridge Company, from which it appears that John M. Lane's estate is entitled to 76 shares, the fair value of which is \$50 per share. During the war the entire management of the affairs of the company was operated by Mr. David Billmyer, one of the Directors, who obtained a license to establish a ferry at the old ferry landing belonging to the Bridge Company, the bridge having been burned by order of Gen. Johnson: tho' the piers and abutments and buildings are still standing: and so far as I can learn the ferry is probably more profitable than the Bridge. I own sixty shares of the stock, but have received not one cent from it since the war began. Mr. Billmyer, I am told, has been purchasing all the stock he can at some \$15 or \$16 per share and application was made to know what I would take for mine. I answered, par, tho in reality I would have taken \$40 per share. I made the answer from a connection that the radical party, who, or a very small part of the community that has continued during the war to annex this county to West Va. desired particularly to be rid of me, and then purchase the whole for a song. Besides the ferry and some of the stone portions of the bridge, the Company owns a wharf and warehouse in Va. and several valuable houses and ten acres of land in Maryland. By Law, I am still the President of the Company – my belief is, that during the winter the Supreme Court will decide that this County was fraudulently severed from Va., and I intend in Jany to call a meeting of the stockholders – elect a new board of directors and require Mr. Billmyer to give an account of his stewardship.

Mr. Kennedy of Chas. Town qualified as Adm [sic] of John Anderson in Va. and as such, received the dividends up to the breaking out of the war.

I wish however you would as Adm write to Mr. Billmyer and inquire of him what dividends Mr. Lane's estate is entitled to, and I should be glad to have a copy of his answer.

Very respectfully yrs

E. L. Lee

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