No. 12951

# Supreme Court of Illinois

Whiting et al.

VS.

Fuller et al

71641

## State of Illinois—Supreme Court.

THIRD GRAND DIVISION.

WILLIAM P. C. WHITING and JOHN F. BLAIN, APPELLANTS,

vs.

JAMES E. FULLER, and JEROME MYERS.

Appeat from the Cook County
Court of Common Pleas.

#### Abstract of the Record.

Page 2 of the Record.

On the 28th of May, 1858, suit was commenced and summons issued, returnable at the next June Term, which was duly served and returned.

Pages of Record 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

On the same day plaintiffs below filed their Declaration in the cause containing special counts on two notes, one dated November 23, 1857, due in sixty days, made by Whiting & Co., and payable to the order of Fuller & Myers, for \$461,20, and the other for \$64,05, made by Whiting & Co., dated April 1st, 1858, due at date, and payable to Fuller & Myers, or order, and containing also the common counts.

Pages of Record 9, 10, 11,

On the 7th day of June, 1858, which was the first day of the June Term of said Court, the defendants, by O. Hawkins, their Attorney, filed in said cause their plea of the General Issue, with notice of off-setts.

And on the same day, together with said plea, filed their affidavit in the words and figures following, that is to say:

STATE OF ILLINOIS,

Cook County Court of Common Pleas,

Cook County ss.

JAMES E. FULLER and JEROME MYERS,

WILLIAM P. C. WHITING and JOHN BLAIN,

William P. C. Whiting, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is one of the defendants in the above entitled cause, that he knows for what said suit is brought; that he believes he has a good defence to said suit upon the merits thereof, and further this deponent saith not.

W. P. C. WHITING.

Sworn and subscribed this 7th day of June, eighteen hundred and fifty eight.

WALTER KIMBALL, Clerk.

On the 10th day of the same June Term, on motion of the plaintiffs below, an order was entered by the Court that the plea of the defendants filed in said cause be stricken from the files for the want of a sufficient affidavit of merits to the defence in said cause, and that default be entered for want of plea, which was accordingly done.

And thereupon judgment was entered in favor of the appellees and against the appellants for their damages, \$516,87, and costs.

Page of Record 13.

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APRIL TERM, 1859.

JAMES E. FULLER, and JEROME MYERS.

Points made and authorities cited by Counsel for Appellants.

It is alleged that the Court erred in holding that the affidavit of merits was insufficient—in striking the plea from the files, and rendering judgment by default for want of a plea.

The statute requires that in actions upon contract, the defendant shall file with his plea an affidavit of merits, setting forth "that he "believes he has a good defence to said suit upon the merits."

Scates' Statute, vol. 1, page 272, sec. 3.

The appellant Whiting states that he is one of the defendants: that he knows upon what the suit is brought; that he believes he has a good defence to said suit upon the merits thereof.

This affidavit was held insufficient because it does not state that

both defendants have a good defence.

This affidavit was sufficient for the reasons.

1st.—If one of the defendants had a good defence, they both had. To prove the one was to establish the other. Each could avail himself of the defence of the other.

2d.—The two were made defendants by the plaintiffs. They

were not joined at their own election.

Joint defendants may plead separately or jointly as they choose. Each may set up the defence he has, either under a separate plea or a joint one, as he may be advised is for his interest.

The appellant Whiting had a good defence upon the merits, and

so states in his affidavit.

This defence he had a right to make, as well under the joint plea as though he had pleaded separately.

He could not make this defence without an affidavit of merits,

and so is the law.

Now, conceed that he could not make oath that the other defendant had a good defence, what will he do?

Either he must make the affidavit he has, or the Courts are

closed upon his rights, and he can make no defence.

This affidavit therefore is sufficient, or the statute requiring an affidavit is unconstitutional: but this Court have held in McDonnell v. Olwell, 17 Ill. 375, that the statute is constitutional, and we therefore must conclude that the affidavit is sufficient.

3d. If the affidavit was sufficient, as we have seen, the plea was improperly stricken from the files, and the judgment is erroneous.

WALKER VAN ARMAN & DEXTER,

Counsel for Appellants.

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WILLIAM P. C. WIIITING, ET AL VS
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BRIEF FOR THE DEFENDANT IN ERROR.

There is only one error assigned—it is striking the plea from the files, and holding the affidavit of merits insufficient. There is no bill of exceptions in the case, and nothing to show us what pleas were filed, or that affidavit was made; all that appears in the record is, that the plea of the defendant be stricken from the files, for want of sufficient affidavit of merits. No exception was taken to the order striking the plea from the files, nor any bill of exceptions to preserve the plea and affidavit, if any was ever filed.

There appears in the record a plea and affidavit, but we imagine they form properly no part of the record, and that they cannot be considered by this Court..

I. The Supreme Court will presume that the court below decided correctly.

11 Ill. R. 620. 17 Ill. R. 392. 14 Ill. R. 45, 394, 456.

II. The party claiming that the affidavit was sufficient, must preserve the same by bill of exceptions.

17 Ill. R. 166. 14 Ill. R. 45, 394. 11 Ill. R. 620. 4 Gilm. R. 326. 15 Ill. R. 297. 2 Gilm. R. 728. 2 Gilm. 730. 11 Ill. R. 297.

The mere copying them into the record, by the clerk below, does not make them part of the record. They must be made so by bill of exceptions.

14 Ill. R. 58-45.
3 Gilm, 366.
5 Gilm. R. 126.
4 Scam. R. 419.
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12 Ill. R. 380.
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Note particularly the case of Magher vs. Hone, 12 Ill. R. 381, Treat C. J.

III. It appears by the record, that when the plea, whatever that plea was, was stricken from the files, the plaintiffs in error were present; they did not except, and it is too late to claim error in this court.

4 Gilm. R. 330.
19 Ill. R. 271.
18 Johns. R. 247.
2 Gilm. R. 293.
13 Ill. R. 342.
3 Scam. R. 65-49
12 Ill. R. 76.
11 Ill. R. 84.
1 Gilm. R. 573.
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11 Ill. R. 30, 586.
3 Scam. R. 483.
17 Ill. R. 238.

But admitting, for the sake of argument, that the plea and affidavit, found among the records, is the one and that objection can be taken for the first time in this court, without excepting below—we say, the affidavit of merits is insufficient. It is, that one defendant has a defence; this is not according to the statute. Great strictness is required in affidavit of merits. 7 Term. R. 661, 4 Dom. P. C. 577, 3 Doml. P. C. 107, 648, 4 Doml. 289, 1 Hav. P. W. 515 2 Doml 710.

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STATE OF ILLINOIS, Ss. The People of the State of Illinois,
To the Clerk of the book County C Betause, In the record and proceedings, as also in the rendition of the judgment of a plea which was in the Took count of Common Flear Court of Gook County, before the Judge thereof, between fames E. S. Fuller & ferome Mit Myers plaintiffs and William P. C. Whiting & John F. Blair fest error hath intervened, to the injury of the aforesaid defendants by their complaint and we being willing that error should be corrected, if any there be, in due, form and manner, and that justice be done to the parties aforesaid, command you that if judgment thereof be given, you distinctly and openly; without delay, send to our fustices of the Supreme Court the record and! proceedings of the plaint aforesaid, with all things touching the same, under your seal, so that we may have the same before our Justices aforesaid at Ottawa, in the County of La Salle, on the first Tuesday after the third Monday in April next, that the record and proceedings, being inspected, we may cause to be done therein, to correct the error, what of right ought to be done according to law! Williams, The How. John D. Calon, Chief Justice of our said Court, and the Feat thereof, at OHawa, this 3% - day of fuly in the Year of Our Lord onr thousand eight hundred and fifty = wight

Clerk of the Supreme Court.

William P. G. Mitting New James & S. Fuller Aal Writ of Enor This went of Enor is made a suprisedes and as such is to he obeyed by all concerned by J. B. Mir Defuty Filed July 2 1858 Leland Elk Stato goldensois It Supreme Court
This Mand Division of Jaid State
William P. 6. Whiting to
Sohnet Blain Plaintiffs on Sun Same E.S. Faller of
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Cook County f. Thomas It Palmen being brly/hom dipres stays That he univer in ducity of threads In doing business Therein at the Corner of Ennal Nauthnew Thuts in Sow City of Chicago That he is a general dealie in Lumber at the Place appenier That hew since calotw Laits donlendy a make it His permanent brings Shathe has signed the Bond in this Carm Shereto an mys in this Came in the Renal from of Seven Hundred Sollaw But he is moth at Least ten Thursand dollars or dabare all Debts That There are no Sut Ingeneed, or decref a family him heither are Then any lient by Interments hered maly ofer or otherwise homany of his Party but the farme is fufully pu teleur of all

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	Witness, Jan I fanny Hall this Grand day of July 1. D. 1858
	The Condition of the above Obligation is such, That, whereas, the above named
	did, at the June Term of the Commonst Please Court, held in and for the County of Coope in the State of Illinois, A. D. 1858 recover a judgment against the above bounder Tilhaw P. 6, Whiting John
h	Hay out Seven and Tolf to reverse which said judgment, the said William Continue of The Mann have sued out a Writ of Error from the Supreme Court, within and for the Third Grand Division of said State. Now if the said William Tolkiam Tolkiam
	shall duly prosecute said Writ of Error, and pay, or cause to be paid, all judgments, costs, interest and damages which the said Supreme Court shall adjudge against and abide the order and judgment of said Supreme Court in this behalf, then this obligation is to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and effect.
	Me Whiting [SEAL.]  [SEAL.]  [SEAL.]
	CCAMUM [SEAL.]

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United States of America) Deate of Illinois Country of book SS

Wilson Judge of the book bounty bourt of Common Pleas within and for the County of book , Hate of Ellinois, at a special term of the Cook County Court of Common Pleas begun and held at the Court House in the Oly of Chicago in said County in pursuana of an order of the Judge thereof, and to public notice given in accordance with the Statute in such case made and provided, on the Gecond Tuesday being the eighth day of June inthe year of our Good one thousand eight hundred and fifty eight and of the In dependence of the United States the Cighty Lecond Tresent the Honorable John mWilson fudge Carlos It aren Prosecuting attorny The Wilson Theriff Walter Kimbace clerk But remembered that heretofores to wit

Beit remembered that heretofores towit on the twenty eighth day of May in the year of our Dord one thousand eight hundred and fifty eight fames & I willer und ferome Myers by Thum way Waite & Towne their attomus filed

on the office of the Clerk of the Cook bounty Court of Common Pleas, in and 2 for the County of Cook, State of Lilinois their Precipe for Lummons in the words and figures as follows to wit. State of Illinois County Court County of Country of Common Pleas

James 6. Fuller Assumpsit

Jume Myers Assumpsit

William PC Whiting

John F. Blain

The Clerk of said Court well issue a The Clerk of said Court well issue a summons in the above cause directed to the Theriff of Cook County in a plea of trespass on the Case on promises returnable at the June Term of said Court AD1838 to the damage of the Hantiffs of one Thousand clottay Thumway Waite & Towne Plaintiffs attorneys To Walter Kimball Eng Celerk Chicago May 28, 1838 And afterwards to wit in the same day and year aforesaid there issued

Court a word full strengthen thereon en forced is and figures as follows to wit State of Ellinois \ County of levor() is The People of the State of Illinois to the Theriff of said County Me command you that you sum mon William HO Whiting & John Fr Blain if they shall be found iny our bant personally to be and appear before the book County Court of Common Hear of said County on the first day of the next term thereof to be holden at the Court House in the City of Chicago in said County on the First monday of Lune next to answer unto James 60. Fulla Terome myers in a plea of trupas on the case on promises to the damage of the said Plaintiffs as they say in the sum of One thousand dollars And have you then and there this with with an endousement thereon in what manner you shall have ex cented the Dame Witness Walter Kimball Clerk of our said Court and the seal thereof at the leity of thicagoun may A0185 Haller Kimballon

Theriff Return Endorsed Derved the within summons by reading to the within named defendants this 28" day of May AD1838 John & Wilson Sheriff By JSY arlan Wood Theceal deputy And afterwards to wit on the same day and year aforesaid the said Plaintiff by their attorneys filed in the office of the Celerk of said Court Their declaration in the words and figures as follows to wit Cook County Court of Common Heas Of the fune Term AS1838 Dlate of Selinois) County of Cook SS Janes OF Fuller and Jerome Myers Partners under the hame of I'leller Myers Reaintiffs in this suit by Thumway Waite House their allower complain of William Pl Whiting and John I Blain Partners under the name of Whiting Hoo defendant who are summoned &c of a plea of trespass on the case on promises, For that whereas the said defendants heretofore to wit, on the trouby third day of tovember in year

of our Good one thousand eight hundred and fifty seven at behicago to witat said County of levok made their certain Promissory tote in writing bearing date the day and year afore said and then and there delivered the same to the said Plaintiff in and by which said stole said defendant by the name style and description If Whiting to promised to pay to the border of the said Haintiffs Fifty day after the date thereof which period hach elapsed the sum of Four hundred and sixty me dollars and twenty cents at the office of & Millard Houng for value Received By means whereof and by fore of the statute on such case madland provided the said defendant became liable to pay said Raintiff said sum of money inentioned in said tote and beling to liable in consideration thereof then and there underlook and princised to pay the same to the said Plaintiff according to the lenorand effect of the said tote to wit at the place aforesaid. And for that whereas also the said defendant heretofore to wit on the first day of thril in the year

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of our Good one thousand eight hun dred and fifty eight at Centings to wit at said County of leach made their certain other Promissory Note in uniting bearing date the day and year aforesaid and then and there delivered the same to said Plaintiffs in and by which said Note said de fendants by the name style and de scription of Whiting Heo for SYSY from ised to pay to the order of the said Haintiff at any time after the date of said note the sum of sixty four dollars and five cents for value received By means whereof and by force of the Statute in such case made and provided the said defendant became leable to pay said Plaintiff said sum of money mentioned in said Note and being to liable in consideration thereof then and there undertook and promised to pay the same to the said Haintiff according to the tenor and effect of the said Note to withat

the place aforesaid

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And wheras also the said defendant afterwards to wit on the wentieth day of May in the year of our Good one thousand said County became and were indebt:

ed unto the Plaintiffs in a large sum of money to wit one thousand dollars for money before that time lent and advance ed to said defendants by said Plaintiffs at said defendants request and also in the like sim formoney before that time paid taid out and expended for said defendants by the said Plaintiffs at the like special request of said defendants and in the like sum for money before that time had and received by said defend ants to and for the use of said Plaintiffs and also in the like sum for goods wares and merchandice before that lime, soldi and delivered by said Plaintiffs to said defendants at the like special instance and request, and also in the like sum for the tabor care and deligence of said Plaintiffs before that time done and perform by said plaintiffs for said defend= ants and at the like instance and request of said defendants and also in the like sum then and there found to be due and owing to said plaintiffs on an account stated between them, and being so indebted said defendants in consideration thereof then and there underlook and promised to pay said plaintiffs said several sums of money above mentioned when there-

ed unto the Plaintiffs in a large sum of money to wit one thousand dollars for money before that time lent and advance ed to said defendants by said Plaintiffs at said defendants request and also in the like sim formoney before that time paid taid out and expended for said defendants by the said Plaintiffs at the like special request of said defendants and in the like sum for money before that time had and received by said defend ants to and for the use of said Plaintiffs and also in the like sum for goods wares and merchandice before that lime, soldi and delivered by said Plaintiffs to said defendants at the like special instance and request, and also in the like sum for the tabor care and deligence of said Plaintiffs before that time done and perform by said plaintiffs for said defend= ants and at the like instance and request of said defendants and also in the like sum then and there found to be due and owing to said plaintiffs on an account stated between them, and being so indebted said defendants in consideration thereof then and there underlook and promised to pay said plaintiffs said several sums of money above mentioned when there-

unto afterwards requested 8. get the said defendants not regarding their said promises and under-Cakings but contriving to although often requested so to do have not paid said Huntiffeether of said sums of money above mentioned or any part thereof but so to do have hitherto wholly neglect ed and refused and still do neglect and refuse to the damage of said plain tiff of one thous and dollars and therefore he bring this suit to Thumway Haite Houne Haintiffs attorneys "Copy of Instruments and account sued Ohicago Nov 2 3 1831 J'efty days after date we promise to hay to the order of Fuller Myers Four Hunds received at office of EK Willard & Joung Bigned! Whiting He four & Two doctars value received

Chicago April 1et 1838

(Signed) Whiting Heo

for 14,14

Whiting Heo To Fuller myers To money lent and advanced \$ 1000. to money paid land out and expended \$ 1000. \$ 1000. To money had and received to and for the use of said Plaintiff To goods wares and merchandice sold and delivered \$1000 to labor and services \$ 1000 To balance due on account stated \$ 1000 And afterwards to wit on the seventh day by AS awkins their attorney filed in the office of the Clark of said Court their Plea. notice and affidurit of merits in the words and figures as follows to wit. State of Illinois James & Fuller & ) of the seventh a ) of the seventh day of day of the fune Term Jerome myers Welliam Ho Whiting & grand Court for the Sohn F Blain Gear As Eighteen Hun dred + Sifty eight Cook County of And the defendants by & Hawkins their attorney comes & defends the wrong and injury when re and say that they ded not undertake or Romer in manner of om

put themselves whom the Country to

By O Haw Kins

Their attorney

To the above named Plaintiffs or their attorneys You will Hear take notice, that on the trial of this cause that the above named defendants will give in Ovidence I Insist that the above named Haintiffs before and at the time of the commencement of this was and still is indebted to the said defendants in sum of one thousand dollars lawful money of the United States of Umerica for Diver goodsevase merchan dize sold and delivered by the said de= fendants to the said Haintiffs and artheir special instance and request and for money by the said defendants before that time lent & advanced to and paid laid out & Expended for the said plaintiffs and at their like request and for money by the said plaintiff before that time had received to and for the use of the sued defendants, and for money due Towing from the said Plaintiffs to the said defendants which said sum of money is due dowing from the said plaintiffs to the

said defendants as aforesaid exceeds 11 the claim of said plaintiffs that the said defendants will set off and allow to the said plaintiffs on the said heal to much of the said sum of one thousand dollars to due rowing from the said plain tiffs to the said defendants against any demand of the said plaintiffs to be proved on the said trial as will be sufficient to sat= isfy & discharge such demand according to the form of the statute in such case made & Rrounded Daled June 8 1838 your te AN awKins atty for Said defendants Fuller Myers To Whiting Her De To Balance on Good 150,00 Toloush lent 20,00 In leash advanced 1000,00 1070,00 Hate of Illinois, book bounty Court of Common Heas -James 60 J'uller 4 Herome myers Welliam He Whiting & John & Blain

Cook County of William Po Whiting being duly Swom deposes and says that he is one of the defendants in the above entitled cause that he Knows for what said suit is Brought that he believes he has a good defence to said suit upon the merits Thereof, and further deponent suith not Durm Bubscribed this ) Leventh day of fune to MPW thiting Eight wanded of fifty Cight Walter Kimbace Clerk And afterwards to wit on the tenth day of fune in the year aforesaid said day being one of the days of the fune Special Term of said Court the following among other proceedings were had in said Court and entered of Record to wit James & Feeller & Jerome Myers Welliam Ob Whiting & John & Blain Und now at this day come the said Haintiffs by Thumway Waiter Towne their actioners, and the said dependants being duly served with process of summons in this cause also

come by astacostins their attorney, and on motion of said plaintiffs it is ordered, that the plea of said defendants be stricken from the files of the cause forward of a sufficient affedant of merits to their defence herein, and that their default be entered for want of a plea which is accordingly done. Wherefor the said plaintiffs ought to have & recover of the said defendants their damages herein sustained by oceasion of the premise, and the Court now here after hearing the allegations throofs submitted by said plaintiffs apesses their damages to the sum of Tive Hundred Vix leendolland and lighty seven cents Therefore it is considered that the

said plaintiffs do have and recover of the said difendants their damages of Sive hundred and sixteen dollars and eighty seven cents in formafore said by the Court here assessed and also their costs and charges by them about their suit in this behalf expended

and have execution therefor

Deate of Selinois \ Cook County \s Multer Kimball belerk of the

Gook County Court of Common Pleas in and for said County do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full and true transcript of all the papers on filo in my office and of the proceedings had in said Court and endered of Record in the case wherein fames Esteller ferome my ers are Plaintiffs and William PO Whiting and John I'Blain are defend-In testimony whereof I have hereunte set my hand and at lehicago in said bourt this 16th day of June AD 1838 Walter Kimball Clark. 1

15 M Inframe Court of Dovision Miliano PG. Whiting & John & Bland James & Filler & deame myres And The Don't Hawtiff

for by Ochawaring Thew alty lower of the war have in Ens in the went of the art of the art of the art of the delivery for the Shirting The Same of the Clause has afficient of the Shirting The Same of the Standard for The definding the standard for The definding of the standard for The definding of the other of the standard of ally for Pelf where Lat a superecuas inne. Bail Leven Shuided dollars. Thomas W Palmer and A Hawkins Survey ID Courin

James & S'aller chal William Pl, Whiting stal

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