

9<sup>th</sup> March 1866

Fifth Copy

**In the Matter of George  
Muir a person of unsound  
mind**

Dated the 16<sup>th</sup> March 1866

**To the Right Honourable the  
Lord High Chancellor of Great  
Britain**

**A State of Facts** supported by the evidence specified in the first schedule hereto has been laid before one by George William Muir and Reuben Harrison, the Petitioners for the Order, for inquiry in this matter & and proposing that the Petitioner Reuben Harrison should be appointed Committee of the person and Estate of the Lunatic and that as the chief portion of his Estate is in Malta and the particulars of it cannot at present be ascertained the Committee should be empowered to appoint an Attorney there to take the necessary proceedings for ascertaining the nature and amount of the Lunatic's fortune and for making the same available for his maintenance and that Thomas William Thatcher of Penge in the County of Surrey Gentleman should be appointed Guardian of the Lunatic's two Infant Children for the purposes of the Lunacy.

And I have been attended by the Solicitors for the Petitioners the above named George William Muir one of these being as herein after mentioned the Lunatic's heir at law and one of his next of kin and also for Thomas Douglas Muir and Mary Jane Muir the persons whom I herein after find to be the others of such next of kin and to whom I have given liberty by their Guardian herein after named to attend by Solicitor the future proceedings in this matter generrally (*sic*).

And I find as follows namely —

Inquisition 1. That by an Inquisition held by one at the  
and Nature of) Manor House Lunatic Asylum at  
Lunacy ) Chiswick in the County of Middlesex on  
the thirteenth of November 1865 the above  
named George Muir was found to be a person  
of unsound mind in that he was not sufficient for  
the government of himself and his Estate. His  
unsoundness of mind is exhibited by loss of memory  
erasions delusions frequent delirium and occasional  
violent conduct.

- Heir and Kin 2. That the lunatic has been only once married namely to his late wife Frances Ann (formerly Frances Ann Way) who died on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 1857 and by whom he had issue three children only His heir at law is George William Muir the above named Petitioner and his brother Thomas Douglas Muir and their sister Mary Jane Muir (both of whom are minors) are the Lunatic's only next of kin.
- Situation - 3. That the Lunatic is about 51 years of age and he formerly resided at N<sup>o</sup>42 Strada Mezzodi Valetta in the island of Malta carrying on the business of a Bookseller and Agent there until the month of August 1865 when he returned to England (residing for a short time with the Petitioner Reuben Harrison) and was on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of that month in consequence of his mental condition placed in the above mentioned Asylum at Chiswick where he continues under the care of Doctor Thomas Harrington Tuke.
- Committees 4. That the Petitioners are desirous and propose that **Reuben Harrison one of such Petitioners and the half brother of the lunatic should be appointed Committee of his person and Estate** — Reuben Harrison is a Coach Builder residing at N<sup>o</sup>1 Brook Street Euston Road in the County of Middlesex and his fitness to be appointed is shown by the several Affidavits of Richard Disturnal of Wednesbury in the County of Stafford Coach Iron Manufacturer, of William Cross Herring of N<sup>o</sup> 328 Euston Road in the County of Middlesex Menagerie Keeper and George Baker of Tottenham Court Road in the County of Middlesex Ironmonger who state respectively that they have for many years known and been intimately acquainted with him and that he is a highly respectable humane trustworthy and responsible person and a man of business habits and well qualified in every respect to be appointed the Committee of the Lunatics person and estate and is of ability to give the request ----- for the N---- probation (?) of the Estate Reuben Harrison has consented to be appointed such Committee of the person and undertaken to visit the Lunatic once at least in every three months and at such other times as may be required and to see that he is duly attended to and has all necessary comforts and enjoyments. He has also consented to be appointed such Committee of the Estate and is willing to give or provide such security as may be required for duly accounting for such Estate.
- Fortune. 5. That as to the fortune of the Lunatic I am not at present enabled to certify of what the same consists except that I find that he is entitled to certain real and personal estate at Malta in addition to certain other personal Estate the particulars of which are set forth in the second Schedule hereto and that his son George William Muir one of the Petitioners alleges by Affidavit referred to in the first Schedule hereto that such real Estate is of the value of £3000 or thereabouts and such

personal Estate consisting of the Lunatic's Goodwill of his business as a Bookseller and Agent and the lease of the premises in which such business was carried on with the stock in trade furniture and other effects Cash Shares in joint Stock Companies and other securities at the Bankers and elsewhere is of the value of £20,000 and he further alleges that some of the Shares are not fully paid up and that calls have to be made upon them.

That the Petitioner Reuben Harrison alleges before me by Affidavit that in order that the estate of the Lunatic at Malta which is under the entire control of Ann Tongue his Housekeeper these may be duly ---tuted and realized it is necessary that some proper person should be appointed to act as Attorney on behalf of the Lunatic and his Estate and to wind his affairs there.

Income 6. That under the circumstances herein before mentioned I cannot at present certify to your Lordship what the income of the Lunatic amounts to over what provision should be made with respect to his maintenance.

Guardian of ) 7.  
Infant Next of  
Kin That it has been proposed before me that Thomas William Thatcher of Penge in the County of Surrey Gentleman of whose fitness satisfactory evidence has been laid before me should for the purposes of the Lunacy of the said George Muir be appointed the Guardian of his Infant Children the above named Thomas Douglas Muir and Mary Jane Muir and I have appointed the said Thomas William Thatcher to be such Guardian and hereby certify the same to your Lordship accordingly.

**Conclusions** That Reuben Harrison is the most fit and proper person to be appointed the Committee of the Lunatic's person and estate.

2. That it is fit and proper that the said Reuben Harrison should as the Committee of the Lunatic's Estate take such steps and proceedings as the Masters in Lunacy should approve of for the purpose of securing recovery and realizing the personal Estate and effects of the Lunatic at Malta and for breaking and rendering the same and his real estate also available for his maintenance and for such purposes that the said Reuben Harrison should execute such Deeds instruments and powers as the said Masters may approve of.

3. That it is fit and proper that the several shares and other securities of the said Lunatic particularized in the said second Schedule hereto should be sold.

**No Statement of Objections** to the Draft hereof has been brought in.

**And I submit** to your Lordship that it should be ordered as follows ----(?)

**Consequential**) That the custody of the person and the regulation and government  
**Directions** ) of the above named Lunatic be committed and granted to Reuben  
Harrison No.1 Brook Street Euston Road in the County of Middlesex  
Coach Builder.

2. That the custody regulation occupation disposition and receipt of the Estate of the said Lunatic be committed and granted to the said Reuben Harrison, such grant to take effect upon the Masters Certificate that the said Reuben Harrison completed his security to such Committee.
3. That the said Reuben Harrison do as the Committee of the Lunatic's Estate take such steps and proceedings as the Master in Lunacy shall approve of for the purpose of receiving recovering and realizing the personal estate and effects of the Lunatic at Malta and for making and rendering the same and his real estate also available for his maintenance and for such purposes that the said Reuben Harrison do execute such Deeds Instruments and powers as the said Masters shall approve of.
4. That the several shares and other securities of the said Lunatic (other than his life policy) particularized in the second Schedule to the preceeding Report be forthwith sold and that for such purpose they be delivered over by the several persons in whose custody the same now are to William Mortimer the broker of the Court of Chancery and that hte proceeds of any such sale or sales after deducting the necessary expenses attending the same and the amount of any call or calls and interest which it may be necessary and proper to pay in order to effect any such sale or sales (the amount of such proceeds respectively to be verified by Affidavit) be from time to time paid by him into the Bank of England with the privity of the Accountant General of the said Court of Chancery to the credit of this matter and for the purposes of completing any such sale or sales the said Reuben Harrison as such Committee as aforesaid do execute purchaser or purchasers such transfer or transfers of such share or shares as may be necessary.  
All which I humbly certify and submit to your Lordship.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Schedule referred to in the foregoing  
— Report —

Evidence

- 1865 October 13<sup>th</sup> Office Copy Affidavit of Henry Maudsley of N<sup>o</sup>38 Queen Anne Street Cavendish Square in the same County, Doctor of Medecine
- 1865 October 12<sup>th</sup> Office Copy Affidavit of the above named George William Muir.
- 1865 October 16<sup>th</sup> Office Copy Affidavit of Thomas Harrington Tuke of N<sup>o</sup>57 Albermarle Street Piccadilly and of the Manor House Chiswick both in the County of Middlesex Doctor of Medicine.
- 1865 October 17<sup>th</sup> Office Copy Affidavit of Leonard Edward Mullings of 86 Gower Street Bedford Square in the County of Middlesex Doctor of Medecine.
- 1866 February 15<sup>th</sup> Affidavit of Richard Disturnal(?) of Wednesbury in the County of Stafford Coach Iron Manufacturer.
- Same date Affidavit of George Baker of Tottenham Court Road in the County of Middlesex Ironmonger.
- 1866 February 16<sup>th</sup> Affidavit of William Cross Herring of 328 Euston Road in the County of Middlesex Menagerie Keeper.
- 1866 March 8<sup>th</sup> Affidavit of Reuben Harrison one of the above named Petitioners. Consents and undertakings of proposed Committees.

The Second Schedule referred to  
in the foregoing report containing the  
particulars of certain personal Estate of the  
above named Lunatic in England \_\_\_\_\_