

CORRESPONDENCE WITH  
GEORGE FRENCH, ESQ.

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE TITLE TO THE LOT SELECTED FOR  
ANTIETAM CEMETERY.

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STATE OF MARYLAND,

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

*Annapolis May 9, 1864.*

GEORGE FRENCH, ESQ.

DEAR SIR:—I have just received yours of the 5th inst. informing me that on investigation of the title to the lot selected for the Soldiers' Cemetery near Sharpsburg, it appears that Mr. Fiery, the trustee, is only authorized to make title to an undivided four fifths of it, and (as I understand you to say,) that fact appears upon the face of the proceedings under which he sells. I am much surprised at this, as Mr. Fiery never intimated to me that he was selling an undivided interest, or that there was any doubt as to the title of any part of the lot, and this although I expressly told him that I must have an investigation of the title before completing the purchase, and referred him to you for that purpose.

I of course could not feel authorized to consummate the purchase under such circumstances and I hardly suppose the trustee can differ with me on that point; if he has reported the sale, and it is necessary to show cause against its ratification, you will please take the proper steps to do so.

I feel much disappointed in failing to procure this lot, and I would, I believe, sooner than now be compelled to look out again for another site, undertake to make any reasonable arrangement that would guarantee the State against the claims of the owner of the outstanding fifth part. If the owners of the four-fifth are sufficiently responsible or could execute such a guaranty as would assure substantially the title, perhaps such an arrangement might still be made. Being however personally unacquainted with the parties, I should feel disposed to submit the practicability of any such arrangement to your advice, but I entertain no doubt that under the cir-