

CHARGES OF FRAUD MADE

Shareholder Ocheltree Files
His Answer in U. S. Court
TO THE SUIT BY THE RECEIVERS
Of the Defunct Williamson, Okla.

Leather Company Against the Stockholders—He Claims to Have Bought His Shares Believing Them Fully Paid Up and Non-assessable.

In the United States Court this morning was filed the answer to the bill of complaint brought by William G. Prickett, receiver of the Wilmington Oil and Leather Company, a corporation of the state of Delaware, against Lewis M. Adair and others, stockholders of the company. The answer is made by Joseph L. Ocheltree, one of the defendants, and is a voluminous one. It is the disclaimer of any liability.

edge concerning the aggregate indebtedness on the company, but does not believe that the property, real and personal, of the company has been properly and legally taken in execution and sold by its creditors, and that it is

be possible to recover possession of part of it from those who claim title by reason of judicial sales made under cover of illegal proceedings. It is also desired that the entire remaining assets of the company

available for the liquidation of the Deb
are these amounts due from shareholder
but that the officers by the issuance
the stock have made themselves joint
and severally liable for the debts con
tracted while they were stockholders and

officers, and the receiver should look them for these debts and should be compelled to protect the innocent holders of stock.

The defendant denies that he owes ever did owe the company any money, and that if he is charged with any indebtedness on the books of the concern, the entries are false and unreliable and the

The Wilmington Oil and Leath Company organized under an act charter, though its officers issued upwards of 6,000 shares of the par value

of \$95, all of which expressed on the face that the shares of the capital stock represented by them were fully paid and non-assessable. That upwards of 3,000 of these shares were issued to certain persons who were promoting and organizing the company, without any consideration, and nothing was paid into the treasury of them and that the balance of them were

only partially paid up and were issued to the holders on payments of sums ranging from \$5 to \$25.

Bought in Good Faith.

Mr. Oshelstein then states that he purchased fifteen shares from B. Jackson, understanding at the time that they were fully paid up, and that he was buying from Mr. Jackson and not from the company. That on February 1, 1899, the company by a certain paper written under the hand of the president confessed judgment to Dan W. Taylor, trustee, for \$17,000.

which judgment he believes was made to protect the officers who had endorsed certain notes of the company and was an attempt to make the possible preference of possible creditors, they belong officers, as against the defendant. That immediately after the confession of this judgment, an officer of the company acting as attorney of record for D. W. Taylor directed the issue of a writ of habeas corpus.

Not Conducted Lawfully.

The defendant claims that the business of the company has not been conducted lawfully and with a view of paying just debts, nor to the interest of the stockholders. That he owes nothing, he bought his stock from an individual relying on statements contained in the certificates that the shares were paid and non assessable, and he suggests that the most important defendants and to ones most culpable and liable.

Charges an Officer With Fraud.
Defendant Osheltree then sets for

that he is "informed and believes that" of the officers, to wit, Henry C. Conroy, has fraudulently endeavored to escape his personal liability to said company by a transfer of some or all of the stock to some insolvent or financially

irresponsible person, with whom while an officer of said company, fraudulently contrived or attempted a surrender of such stock to said company, and that this act and any other acts of a like character should be brought to the attention of the court.

knowledge and within the jurisdiction of this honorable court by an amendment to the bill filed in 'his cause the books, papers and accounts of said company being now in the possession of the receiver appointed by this honorable court to take and that justice and equity may be done.

and that justice and equity may be done and decreed with respect to the rights and liabilities of all the parties and persons interested whether creditors or debtors."

Prays for a Decree in His Favor.

In concluding, the defendant pr
that the bill may be amended so as
bring all delinquent and debtor offic
of the company into court for the pu
pose of making them pay all sums f
which they are liable, that inneece

persons may not be called on to respond unnecessarily for their delinquencies as legal and official misdeeds. He further prays that after a decree in his favor for the sum due him as a creditor and payment of same, he be dismissed with his reasonable costs.

The officers of the Wilmington Oil and Leather Co. were: President, Z Jam Belt; vice-president, S L Wes treasurer, Henry C Conrad; secretary Benjamin F. Jackson; business manager John Walworth.

Mrs. Maloy Buried at Easton.
Remains of Mrs. Mary E. Graham,
wife of Rev. J. Earl Maloy, who died
at the residence of her son-in-law, D.
William E. Graham, were taken

Easton, Md., for interment to-day. The funeral party left on the Delaware railroad train leaving this city at 8 13 a. m.