

## Stephen B. Plumsill ( - 9 Mar 1890)

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*The Evening Star, March 2, 1874*

### **Father and Son**

Stephen B. Plumsill, threats of violence to Thomas Plumsill; an old citizen and county constable. The warrant charges that Stephen (son of Thomas) threatened to burn the old man's house, and to kill him, and complainant has reason to believe that he will either kill, maim, wound or do him some great bodily harm. Thomas Plumsill, a very decrepid old man, took the witness stand, and in a very feeble tone of voice testified that he is 79 years of age, and that his wife had recently died, and his son Stephen had tried to get rid of him so that he could get possession of the property. He had made threats to kill him and drag him out of the house after the burial of his mother; that while his mother was laying a corpse in the house, Stephen had stolen the keys out of her pocket, and had told the grave-digger to dig his mother's grave two feet deeper, as he would have his father laying on top of her in less than two weeks.; that Stephen had laid his plans to take possession of the house during the burial of his mother. He had been a drag and torment to him for the last forty-seven years, and was the worst man he ever saw in his life. He had lately on several occasions threatened to burn every house he owned to the ground if the property was not given to him.

Judge Moore, counsel for defendant, called Mrs. Sumner, a colored woman, who testified that Stephen had been boarding at her house since last July, his father having driven him from home, and he was afraid to go home, except during the absence of his father, when he would go to see his mother; that the old man had threatened to kill him if he came to his house after the funeral.

Old man, (interrupting.)--"Judge, there's not a word of truth in it. I'm a minister of the gospel, and wouldn't tell a falsehood for the world."

Judge Moore, (to witness.)--"Did you ever hear Stephen use threats against his mother?"

Here Judge Moore made a statement that Stephen was afraid of his father and others, who were trying to prevent him from getting possession of property which had been deeded to him by his father long ago, and before he came to his dotage, and asked that protection be given to him.

Court.--"It is not possible that any danger can be apprehended from this feeble old man. If there are any other parties who defendant is afraid of, he can bring charges against them, but as the case stands, defendant must give bonds in the sum of \$200 to keep the peace to his father."