

SUES FOR \$2,000,000 OF BRAMAN ESTATE

**Widow, in Dispute With Two
Stepchildren, Claims Trust
Fund of Child Who Died.**

DEFENDANTS SEEK SHARE

**Suit Involves One-fifth of Fortune
Left by the President of
A. D. Juilliard & Co.**

A dispute between Mrs. Mary Richards Braman of 539 West End Avenue, widow of Chester Alwyn Braman, president of A. D. Juilliard & Co. and officer of other large textile corporations and banks, and her two step-children, Mrs. Ethel Josephine Pomeroy of Buffalo and Harold A. Braman of West Newton, Mass., over a share estimated at more than \$2,000,000 in the Braman estate, was disclosed in a suit filed in the Supreme Court yesterday by Mrs. Braman.

Mrs. Braman's suit demands that the Central Hanover Bank and Trust Company, as executor and trustee under the will of her husband, turn over to her as sole owner the principal of a trust fund established by her husband for their son Lawrence, who died on Feb. 23. This share consists of a fifth of the residuary estate, which was put in trust by Mr. Braman for his wife and four children, who included the two children by a former marriage, named as chief defendants in the suit, the dead son, Lawrence, and Chester A. Braman Jr.; the latter two are the children of Mrs. Braman.

Own Son Also a Defendant.

The complaint includes as a defendant Chester Jr., who married Anna Eleanor Roosevelt Hall, cousin of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, though Mrs. Braman says he does not oppose her claim, but she makes him a defendant "to enable the court to make a complete determination herein and forever quiet the unjust claims and pretensions" of her two stepchildren.

Mrs. Braman asserts that her son Lawrence was a resident of New York City, "where he was born, reared, lived and died," and that when he died without a will and leaving no children or wife, she took out letters of administration and became entitled to his entire estate, including the principal of the trust provided in his father's will.

She says she has demanded that the trust company turn over this share to her, but that it refuses to recognize her as the owner because the two stepchildren contend that Lawrence was a resident of New Jersey and that under the laws of that State when a person dies intestate leaving no father, widow or descendants, that the estate of such persons is divided equally among the mother, brothers and sisters, and that those of the half-blood share equally with the others.

Mrs. Braman asserts that this claim is unfounded and asks that the trust company be compelled to turn over a fifth of the residuary

estate to her; that the court rule that her step-children have no interest in this fifth, and that they be restrained from asserting such a right and from bringing any action to enforce it.

Will Probated in New Jersey.

Mr. Braman's will, probated in Bergen County, N. J., is attached to the complaint. It shows that Mrs. Braman received the West End Avenue house in which she lived and all the contents of the house, and that she and the four children got \$300,000 in cash each. Mr. Braman left several public bequests and also remembered employes of the Juilliard company. He asked the executors and trustees to continue to hold his 10,000 shares in the Alwyn Corporation, a holding company for his securities, and his Juilliard stock unless they found it to the best interest of the estate to sell them, or the Alwyn Corporation should be liquidated. The executors and trustees are requested to invest other assets of the estate in securities prescribed by the laws of New Jersey as legal for trust investments; in public utility, railroad or mortgage bonds, and in preferred stock of corporations that have paid dividends for ten years consecutively.

The estimate that Mr. Braman's stock in the Alwyn company is worth \$7,000,000 indicates that he left an estate valued at more than twice that sum.