

**MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT
FILE ABSTRACTS
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NOT TO BE COPIED IN WHOLE**

**SAMUEL CHAMBERS, JUN VS A J KINCAID
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT
1866 # 111**

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

In this case Samuel Chambers, Senr died in 1844 leaving two sons, Samuel Jr and George W, both under the age of 21. John Chambers was appointed guardian until 1846 and A J Kincaid was then appointed guardian of the two minor children. Samuel Chambers Senr possessed a large estate, real and personal, but apparently the boys never received any benefits. It doesn't mention the land in the part I copied, but mentions the money received by Kincaid by the hiring out of the slaves from 1846. At the time of Samuel Chambers Sen's death he owned slaves: Nancy about 30 years old, Tilda about 7, Jeff and Sarah about 10 years old, Ann and Amanda.. After Mr Chamber's death, Nancy had Jeff about 1846. There was a settlement on the 26th day of May 1860 but all Samuel and George Chambers received was worthless notes for the hiring of the slaves in years past.



**SUSAN SEWELL VS MOSES BROOKS
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT**

David S Smith, deceased
1867 - No 125

Transcribed by Nancy Kennedy and Brenda Rayman.

This case was a land dispute over 58 acres which Susan Smith Sewell thought she was entitled to inherit but J . E . Stephenson took possession of the land and then sold it to Brooks. This case was carried to the Supreme Court in Madison County but they sent it back to McNairy County.

The deed was procured by fraud and Brooks failed to prove that he was an innocent purchaser. The conveyance was set aside and title of the land was given to the heirs of David Smith .

The good news is that 150 years later we learn (1) some of the children and grand-children of David S. Smith and (2) Ellin that married Richard Tanner was the daughter of Susan Smith Ledbetter Sewell.

Some of the heirs of David S. Smith are listed:
son William R. Smith,

daughter, Nancy Smith wife of John M. Spain and lives in Mississippi,
Mary Smith who married Pelan Mills and lives in Hardin County,
Susan Sewell a daughter .

However there is at least one child, that married a Sewell, not mentioned, as Sally Sewell testifies she married his grandson. Jane Stephenson, a granddaughter of David Smith is also listed.

Susan Sewell is called Susan Ledbetter, Mrs. Ledbetter and Anna Sewell in the documents. (My note: Susan married James P Ledbetter and all her children are Ledbetter's, it is unknown which Sewell she married and when, but it was between 1850 and 1860. Mr Ledbetter died ca Feb 1858 as his son his appointed executor of his estate in March 1858, in McNairy County. So Susan married a Mr Sewell after 1858, and he died or they divorced before 1860/)

Court records show David S. Smith died Aug 10, 1866 in Tishomingo Co, Miss. Susan Sewell claims her father gave the land to her and that he lived with her most of the time in his later years. J. E. Stephenson claims the same and both have witnesses to attest to their facts. It is a case of she said - he said.

Susan gave deposition that her father placed the land grant in her hands and told her that the land would be hers if she would take care of him in his old age. She took care of her father except for a few visits to Stephenson's. David Smith was old, feeble and senile and did not realize he was signing a deed. J.E. Stephenson, who had married one of his Smith's granddaughters (Jane) gave deposition that Smith told Stephenson if he would take care of him all of his natural life, he would get the land at his death. The case does not reveal Jan's parents.

Complainant states Stephenson failed to comply with this agreement and on the 7th day of November 1862, Stephenson stole the grant from the pocket of the elderly David S. Smith, drew up a deed from it, and made the old man sign it (make his mark). Stephenson sold the land to Moses Brooks (26th September 1865) for \$300. In the lawsuit, Susan charges that the deed was fraudulently obtained by Stephenson. Therefore, Moses Brooks should not have title to the land.

The defendant, Brooks, stated that Susan did support and maintain David Smith until his death except a short time when Susan went to Stephenson's house and persuaded her father to go home with her. He says Smith stayed with Susan a short time and then returned to Stephenson's where he remained until he died. Brooks says that the old man had a strong mind and was capable of transacting business. He denied all charges of fraud.

The record includes depositions from:

William R. Smith (son of David S. Smith), age 50,

James W. Tanner, age 42 (brother of Richard Tanner who married Susan's daughter, Ellen).

John Price, age 27 (husband of Susan's daughter Mary). John refers to Susan as "Mrs. Ledbetter." He was present at the time David Smith made his mark on the deed (along with Dr. Mitchell, Mary Price, and Dave Price). He was asked if David S. Smith stayed most of the time at his daughter's, Susan Sewell, before and after the making of the deed or did he stay at James Stephenson's most of the time? He replied, "He did not stay at Stephenson's long but stayed at Mrs. Ledbetter's most of the time.

Mary Price, about age 26 (Susan's daughter). She testified that she saw her grandfather

make his mark on the deed, but he did not know what he was doing. When they told him he had conveyed the land to Stephenson, he said to put it away, but they (Stephenson and witnesses) went to town to have the deed recorded without Smith's knowledge. Mary said that her grandfather made his home most of the time with her mother, Mrs. Susan Sewell. She said he stayed at Stephenson's for only two weeks after he had made his mark on the deed and remained at Susan's until Stephenson and wife (Jane, David's granddaughter) came to get him and carried the old man to Arkansas with them. She said she did not think that her grandfather was capable of attending to business and had been sick for two weeks before he made his mark. She had gone to visit him and he did not recognize her .

Jane Burks, age 22 (daughter of Susan). She testified that her grandfather, David Smith, gave her mother (Susan Sewell) the land grant and told her to take it and keep it and that he intended for her to have it. She was asked, "Did your mother know at the time that your grandfather handed the grant to her that Stephenson had a deed to the land?" Jane answered, "She did ." Jane said, " . . . he said they [Stephenson] stole the grant out of his pocket when they made the deed.

The next documents are dated April 1869:

Susan Sewell, age about 44 years. She said that David S. Smith lived with her most of the time after November 1 862 up to the time of his death. She stated, "Brooks said he was going to purchase the land and I told him not to do so. I claimed the land and intended to have it . . . that the land belonged to me." Under cross-examination she said two or three weeks after the deed was made [conveying the land to Stephenson], her father came to her house and she told him, "I understand you have given away your land." He told her the circumstances and how he had been treated. She said, "He said he made his mark to the deed but did not know what is was for until they told him." She is asked, "Was it after he had executed this deed that he came to Purdy on horseback to see Mr. Wisdom in relation to the deed that he had made?" She stated , "It was. It might have been three or four months afterward. He said he wanted to live with me the balance of his life and wanted to get the land back for me."

Deposition of Jane Stephenson (granddaughter of David Smith), about 38 years old: She was asked if she slipped the grant out of the old man's pocket without his knowledge and against his wish for the purpose of having the deed made. She responded, "I was present, I did not slip the grant out of his pocket without his knowledge. He told me where it was and I got it at his request." She was asked. "Where did the old man make his home from the time of the execution of the deed until his death?" Her response, "At the house of my husband, James Stephenson , sometimes he went to Mrs. Sewell's on a visit." She was asked , "Did Mrs. Sewell come to your house and attempt to persuade the old man to leave your house?" Her response, "She did or at least he told me that he never would have left my house or tried to get the land back if it had not been for Mrs. Sewell."

The last documents are dated 1871. These indicate that the State Supreme Court at Jackson, Tennessee (April 1871) confirmed the decision of the Chancery Court at Purdy, Tennessee: "That James Stephenson did not have possession of the land anytime after he got possession from Smith until he gave possession to M.C. Brooks."

Deposition of B.G. East, age 59: stated when Smith lived with Stephenson he maintained a woman of bad character b y the name of Massengill. (She was first called Mrs Massengill and

then Mrs. Basengame.) B . G. East was a brother-in -law of Richard Tanner. In another deposition, Smith said to wait and lets let East do this.

Deposition of Sallie Sewell, age about 40: Sallie stated she was married to David Smith's grandson. She was asked if she knew David Smith in the year 1862 and responded, " I lived 3 or 4 miles from him. I knew him from that time up to his death. He stayed with Mrs. Ledbetter some and Mr . Stephenson. I saw him at Mrs. Ledbetter's twice." She was asked, "Did you ever undertake to keep Smith during his lifetime; if so state the circumstances and under what conditions?" She responded, "I went there to keep him if he would make my husband a deed to the land which he agreed to do , but he refused to execute said deed and I left."

Deposition of M.A. Seay, age about 54, regarding David Smith's land: "I know the place that was said to belong to him. I suppose some seven or eight acres of the land would be worth five dollars per acre and the balance about \$2.50 [per acre]. He said there were ten or eleven cleared acres. He was asked how many barrels of corn per acre and cotton per acre the land would produce if properly cultivated. He responded, "1,000 lbs. of cotton and six or seven barrels of corn."

Deposition of T.B. Kerr, age about 54: He was asked how far was David Smith's land from the Shiloh battle ground . He replied, 'It is on the edge of the battle ground ' " (NK note: The land was in McNairy county.) Kerr also states that Smith lived with Stephenson in Hardin County two years after they left McNairy County. Smith had fenced the land and built the house in 1862. Kerr also stated that he would not take care of Smith for the rents on a few acres of tilled land. (Tilled land was less than 15 acres .)

Deposition of Dr. J. M. Mitchell, age 33 - says Smith was at the age a man would be called in his dotage.'

Deposition of John Horn, age 57, says Smith was of strong mind and capable of doing business but did not know he had signed a deed.

Deposition of Benjamin Sanders, age 61, says Smith was of good mind and had told him he would give the land to Stephenson and he would take care of him.

Deposition of W. S. Wisdom age 71 said D. S. Smith was older than himself and came to town after he had signed the deed and wanted it set aside. He did not know what he had done - he was illiterate.

Deposition of R. M. Long states he fixed Mr. Smith for burial. Funeral expense \$25.

Several of the depositions were along the line that the care of Mr Smith was worth what the farm was worth.



W S ALEXANDER, ETAL VS W H CAROTHERS
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT
No 159 - 1868
Jesse Merrill, estate
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

W S Alexander and family apparently moved to a portion of the land in 1856. In reading this document, it seems each was jealous of what had been done for each child by Jesse during their lifetime. A big suggestion that W S Alexander had not paid for the land he was living on. It is also stated Jesse Merrill had a large sum of money about six or seven thousand dollars which could not be accounted for. The administrators can only account for \$725, mostly in gold. There is no decision of the court documented.

According to R M Thompson, Clerk report, estate valued appox \$6,733.70.

Real estate \$3872.39; Cash \$725.00; Good notes \$870.05 and \$487.53;

Doubtful notes \$8778.73.

Amounts advanced to heirs in land and property:

W H Carothers and wife \$230.75

George A Merrill \$970.00

W C Hayley and wife \$188.90

Robert Young and wife \$123.25

Rubin Swain and wife \$133,50

Hanks Hill and wife \$77.50

W S Alexander and wife \$274.70

From county records # 603, Jesse Merrill Estate, W H Carothers and WA Mills were appointed administrators of estate on November 5, 1866.

Jesse Merrill died intestate in September 1866 in McNairy County, possessing a considerable amount of personal property consisting of monies, debts due and other effects. leaving the following heirs:

Martha Merrill, his widow

Robert Young and wife Jane, formerly Jane Merrill

W H Carothers and wife, Elna, formerly Elna Merrill (Elma in other places)

Reubin P Swain and wife Malissa, formerly Malissa Merrill

W C Haley and wife Mary, formerly Mary Merrill

George A Merrill

W S Alexander and wife Louisa, formerly Louisa Merrill

Hanks Hill and wife Elizabeth, formerly Elizabeth Merrill, of Lane Co, Oregon.



HARDIN O'NEAL VS JOHN R SWAIN
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT
1868 * 180

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

John Long departed his life in 1867 and in the October term of court, John R Swain was appointed administrator of the estate. Surviving John Long are:

his widow Sarah Long
Jane who has since intermarried with Hosea St John
Christopher C Long
William H Long
Reubin Long
Levi Long
Robert Long

The last four being minors. The family may live in Henderson County, Tenn.

Hardin Oneal says he sold land to John Long March 4, 1861 consisting of three tracts of land in the amount of 409 acres for \$500. Part is torn off but apparently Long still owes Hardin money.

Fielding Hurst says John Long owes him \$500 for attorney fees for defending him in a prosecution for murder. (Note: The record does not show who the victim was but the census records show John Long was a felon and murderer.)



G G MICHIE VS NARCISSA DAMERON

McNairy County, Tennessee, Chancery Court

1869 - 189

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Dispute of James Dameron Heirs

See also Chancery Court case 440

Estate of land disputed. James Dameron departed this life Mar 13, 1861. G G Michie and R W Michie were appointed Administrators of his estate April 1, 1861. Dameron had survivors:

Narcissa his wife & widow; and his children:

1. J R Dameron, who has died leaving Martha his only heir in Mississippi.
2. Eliza (Elizabeth) who intermarried with R W Michie
3. Mary who intermarried with G J Pettigrew
4. Celia who intermarried with P H Michie, both of who have died, leaving Sarah J and Josephine Michie, both minors, their only heirs.
5. Lina who intermarried with Latham Donnell
6. Rebecca who intermarried with E DL Atkins, residing in Arkansas
7. Frances E who intermarried with W L Wilburn, residing in Texas
8. Joseph
9. John T, a minor, son of James and Narcissa Dameron
10. Martha Jane, a minor, daughter of James and Narcissa Dameron
11. Judia Alice daughter, a minor, of James and Narcissa Dameron

This was a long, long lawsuit. It went over and over all the details. Had numerous hearings with the same testimonies. It started in 1869 and apparently stopped somewhere before 1880. Even brought in a witness over a debt of \$1.25. In April 1880, a lawsuit was finally filed

to divide the land, which was accomplished.

Narcissa filed a countersuit saying marriage before her marriage was illegal and the first nine children was illegitimate and only her three children, John T, Martha Jane and Judia Alice deserved to inherit. The big statement was James had a living wife at the time of his marriage to Sarah Burks.

James Dameron had been married at a very early age to Charity Donahoe. She had a child named Joseph Dameron which she said belonged to James Dameron. Some people testified they did not know if the child was James Dameron's.

There was 'much to do' about the first marriage. Apparently, it was not known in the community that James had been married before he married Sarah Burks, the mother of nine of his children. Roland Burks testified on Feb 18, 1872, that he met James when he was 17 or 18 years old. "James married his sister, Sarah. They were married at Mrs Hanbricks, 35 miles from where Sarah's father lived. He had to prove to the father that his marriage was legal and the father accepted his prove." James and Sarah married in Lincoln Co, Tenn and lived there awhile after married. They married some 50 years ago, which would be ca 1822.

Elizabeth Donahoe, age 77, of Paducah, Kentucky, widow of Charlie Donahoe (not sure named was Charlie, very hard to read). Charity Donahoe was a sister to Charlie. She stated that Charity married James Dameron in Madison County, Ala. Elizabeth tells this as hearsay, she was not there, but she said her husband was there when they married. Charity had one son, who is dead. Elizabeth Donahoe said Charity died in Sept 1847 and her husband Charlie Donahoe (?) died May 3, 1837. She said Ellen Donahoe married Robert Crow in 1848. ?

John H Stubblefield, age 65, testified: James Dameron came from Jackson Co, Alabama or lived there when he was young. He knew James Dameron but didn't know if he really married Charity. He married Sarah Burks in the Spring of 1826. (I think this is an error - Elizabeth, James Dameron's daughter was born ca 1820, according to the 1860 and 1870 census. Maybe I misread it - it should be Spring 1820.) Sarah died in 1849. He said Jackson County was in the Indian Nation at that time.

Mrs Jane Crum, age 47, now married to Hiram Crum, was first married to Joseph Dameron, child of Charity and James Dameron. Joseph and Jane had a daughter Adaline who married G W Stickland. Charity left James.

Celia Wisdom, age 56, knew Jim Dameron in Alabama between 1816 and 1820. Jim and Charity lived together a short time. Celia said she went to dancing school with James 'Jim' Dameron.

I skimmed through the pages and found a lot of little odd notes

Josiah D Leath of Hardin County was killed during the war, but it did not state he was in battle, he as a Justice of the Peace in Hardin Co and was married to James Dameron's sister. Josiah D Leath testified on Oct 12, 1871, age 37. His mother, Judia Dameron Leath, died in 1869. Josiah Leath, Senr, died March 2, 1862. He testified James had been married three times (1) Charity donahoe (2) Sarah Burks (3) Narcissa.

J A Sharp was killed in the war.

E D L Atkins died in White County Arkansas Jan 16, 1873.

James R Dameron married in ca 1858 and his father gave him some land which he sold to

H A Pettigrew for \$800 but James Dameron did not approve of this sale and refused to give out the title. James R Dameron then sold it to P H Michie for \$1000 and James Dameron gave him the title. Michie later sold to Pettigrew.

E D L Atkins and some others owned a sawmill which they sold in Sept 1862. E D L tried to borrow wagons to take his family to Texas.

David Cunningham told the condition of the county in 1862, 'Our county was overseen by soldiers in 1862 and military law did prevail.

Eliza (Elizabeth) married R W Michie in 1837.

Narciss was a Hindman before she married.

At the time of James Dameron's death he owned these slaves: Jeff age 25, George age 16, Harriet age 37 and he two children, Dick age 4 and Peyton age 2, Henry age 10, Roseline age 9. Jeff Dameron continued to live on the place after the war.

Some people that James Dameron owed: R A Chambers, C F Sawyers, Ephriam Barnett, Josiah Leath, A J Kincaid, V A Sanders, Thomas Pettigrew, Samuel Chambers estate.

Others mentioned in this lawsuit, either as a debtor, or a Justice of the Peace or a bondsman: Wesley Elam, Clayton Davidson, John Simpkins, P H Michie, W H Moody, D S Michie, J A Sharp, Silas Littlejohn, W R Ledbetter, B G East, Clay Terry, James Dickerson (died in the war), B F Hanks, W C Cornelius, James Counce, Banj Sanders, W F Kendall, H T Emmons, R W Michie, J B Dameron, E D L Atkins, J R and Sarah Dameron, D T Atkins, Joseph Dunkin, A J Chambers, W Wood, John Doan, J B Miles, J M Needham, J C Proctor, J D Burks, John Wardlow, Daniel Davis, R Rushing, W H Pehlps, N Bagley or Bayley, Wm Carroll, P M Robinson, T B Cogdell, R B Williams, G P Pettigrew, David Cunningham, Wm Eachols, W Brown, J L Brittan, C H Carrol, J R Preston, J D Leath, Joseph Barlow, Robert Cook, R W Caffey, W Hopkins, James Wood, W W McAfee, Thomas Pettigrew, K C Atkins, G W Babb. (Some may be listed twice.)

Old notes of men who left McNairy County and about when they left: J Harrison 1847, — Battle 1823, S Tilman 1849, W Murdock 1849, Jack Moon or Moore 1848, B G Rodgers 1837, P H Nunley 1838, Thos Beard 1846, Geo Hurd 1833, Jackson Burks 1836, W H Thompson 1928, R H Burks 1852, T W Luther? 1854.



**RICHARD NEWELL VS JAMES F MCKINNEY
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT**

1869 - No 194

Re; John A Jones Estate

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

McNairy County Chancery Court Case No 194: filed February 2 , 1869

Richard Newell vs James F McKinney, et als

John A Jones died in said county, intestate, leaving Nancy his widow and Burgany and

William H Jones his minor children, his only heirs at law and that defendant Nancy has since intermarried with Jasper Medlock (Matlock) and that James F McKinney and Nancy Jones were duly appointed administrator and administratrix of the estate.

Deposition of Richard Newell, age 58 states: "I was acquainted with him. (John A Jones, deceased) I suppose died at Wilton (?). We lived in a mile of each other for some time before his death. Jones owed Newell \$140.00 which was recorded in a trust deed on the 5th day of January 1861, for a tract of land. The first payment was made in 1862, he left his cotton in the field and I (Newell) picked it and sold it for \$62. Also in 1864 he paid in cotton and the amount was \$33.

Newell attended to Jones' business for sometime before his death and during the time he was away in the army during the war and never received anything for it. (Apparently being a good neighbor was not in Newell's heart while a young man was away at a Civil War and a wife and young children at home.) Statement submitted April 10, 1869.

Nancy Jones Medlock stated she never knew of or saw a trust deed for the \$140 but the total sum was paid with interest, December 25, 1864. Submitted April 8, 1869. (Hiram Melton witnessed the trust deed.)

James W Pace was appointed guardian of the two children Berganie and W M Jones for this court case.

No mention is ever made of a John Jones as being a child of John A Jones and Nancy Melton Jones. It only refers to John A Jones heirs: Nancy, his wife and minor children, Bergania Jones and William M Jones - although she had a child John Jones born 1863.

(No record has been found of John A Jones' death date.)

The land was sold to the highest bidder in 1871.



MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT
JAMES W WARDLOW VS JOHN A BARNHILL

Estate of John Wardlow
1869 - No 197

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

"Your Orators and Oratories, Elizabeth Wardlow, James W Wardlow, Elizabeth Powell, Elisa Ann Wardlow, John and Mary Wardlow, all citizens of McNairy County, State of Tennessee, would most respectfully represent unto your Honor that John Wardlow died in McNairy county on the 24th day of August 1864, leaving the following heirs, towit:

Elizabeth Wardlow his relict and the following children

James W Wardlow

Elizabeth, who intermarried with Thomas Powell, who has since died, no children,

Elisa Ann Wardlow,

John

Mary

all of the age of adult years except John and Mary.

Malinda Jane's daughter was not mentioned as an heir. Malinda died ca 1862 and had one daughter.

The way this reads, it is uncertain if Susan Elizabeth Wardlow Powell is still living at the time of the lawsuit. In the first sentence it says she is a resident of McNairy County. Maybe it is Thomas Powell, her husband that has died. I have not found Susan Powell in the 1870 McNairy County Census, but I found one that may be her in the 1880 census in Sharp County, Ark.

James W Wardlow was appointed administrator of the estate in 1865. (The lawsuit was concerning that James had moved just over the state line into Tishomingo Co, Miss and Barnhill had been appointed administrator and James moved back and wanted to be administrator again.)

John owned 503 acres at the time of his death, bounded on the west by R S Houston, on the south, W S Richardson, on the west by H R Sharp and on the north by S B Hooker. (Another place says 450 acres.)

The court papers say that Barnhill and Houston obtained a judgement against the estate of John Wardlow and sold the land to Samuel Sharp for \$450.00 in 1867. Apparently they jumped the gun a little bit. James W Wardlow petitioned the court in 1870 that the widow had not had an allotment or her land dowery. H T B Speirs, Turner Wesson and B C Ijames were appointed to lay off the widow's dowery in 1870, which they did in the amount of 185 acres.

In reading over all the cold court files, if there is a widow left with land there is always some man wanting to court her or someone claiming the deceased owed them money. There were 22 claims and judgements that John Wardlow owed with court cost and high interest. Some of the claimants owed John Wardlow which is list above as \$1006.86 of which \$825.20 was insolvencies.

Those claiming that John Wardlow owed them:

R W & G S Michie \$22.67	L M Huggins \$13.87
William Prather \$217.89	L M & J M Huggins \$39.30
L M Huggins & Bro \$63.85	H T B Spears \$98.62
John N Barnhill \$40.12	Jas Forsythe \$39.16
John N Barnhill \$51.04	J R Hurley \$35.23
T L Barnhill \$42.08	J L Barnhill \$8.30
J N Barnhill \$52.91	B C Ijames \$13.93
R C Houston & J N Barnhill \$538.04	Samuel Sharp \$76.01
A L Robinson (Wm Phelps estate) \$281.00	Gilbert Wood \$73.75
J C Hurley \$7.56	Elizabeth Martin \$6.25
S J Murray \$31.69	
J R Hurley 401.70 (this was note \$200 interest 201.70)	
Total says \$2,267.11 (I did not re-add)	



**JOHN M HAMM vs LEVINIA RICHARD
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT**

May 21, 1869 - No 198

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

See also Chancery Court File No 860

May 21, 1869, John M Hamm, appointed executor of William Richards' estate, states William Richards died in McNairy County in the year 1861. And left surviving him:

His widow Lavina Richards and he had no children

Also surviving him - his brothers and sisters:

James L Richards, citizen of the state of Texas

J D Richards, a citizen of Haywood County, Tennessee

John Richards, of McNairy County

T A Richards, of McNairy County

Catherine Carter and John Carter, of McNairy County

Hosea Richards and Sibba Caffey, of McNairy County

John Redding and his wife, citizens of the State of Texas

Will of William Richards - 1857

I William Richards do make and publish this my last will and testament hereby revoking and making void all other wills by me at any time made.

First: I direct that my funeral expenses and all other debts be paid as soon after my death as possible out of any money that I may du possessed of or may come into the hands of my executor.

Second: I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Levina Richards all the balance of my personal property after the above named debts and expenses are paid, to be hers during her natural life time and no longer. I also bequeath to my beloved wife, Levina Richards, my negro woman named Hettie and four hundred acres, to be more or less which is all the lands I own, to be hers during her natural life and no longer and after her decease the personal property together with the negro woman and the above named four hundred and fifty acres to be sold to the highest bidder on twelve months credit and the proceeds thereof to belong to the Presbytery of which I am a member; to be lent out at lawful interest and the interest to go for missionary purposes as the Presbytery may think best. Witness my hand and seal this 3rd day of November A D 1857 Signed William X Richards.

The reason for this lawsuit was hard to understand. Court records had been lost and Hamm was asking to be paid for his services.

Note: The 1850 McNairy County census states William was a minister and school teacher.



P M DERRYBERRY vs W A DERRYBERRY
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, HISTORY
Chancery Court, 1869 #217
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy
Estate of John Derryberry: Petition to sell lands

P M Derryberry, a citizen of McNairy County, Ten, complainant

VS

Julia P Drury; R B Gatlin and his wife Elmira;

H B Campbell and his wife Elizabeth;

W A Derryberry;

C W Derryberry;

Frank Taylor and his wife Elmira, who is a minor, who is the daughter of Jack Derryberry;

all of whom are citizens of the State of Mississippi;

W G M Derryberry, who is a citizen of the State of Indiana;

George Hurley and his wife Hannah Hurley, citizens of Hardeman County, Tenn;

M E L Derryberry, a minor;

Martha T Derryberry, minor;

N F Derryberry, minor; citizens of Fayette County, Tenn;

Daniel McGuin and his wife Martha;

W Williams and his wife Christina;

Rosa Derryberry, minor;

Conrad D Derryberry, minor;

John Derryberry, minor; Mary E Derryberry, minor;

David Gibson and wife, a minor; citizens of McNairy County;

and Christopher White, a minor, citizen of the State of Arkansas.

Eleven Shares in the estate:

1. William Derryberry, M A Derryberry, C W Williams, Elmira Taylor, M C Derryberry, Rosa Derryberry, N F Derryberry, E D A (or CDA) Derryberry, heirs at law of J G Derryberry, deceased.
2. Angeline Owens, Isaac White, M C White, Poster M White, heirs of Louisa White, formerly Derryberry, deceased.
3. John W Derryberry, Louisa Gipson and Mary E Derryberry, heirs at law of H C Derryberry, deceased.
4. Julia P Drury, formerly Derryberry
5. Elmira G Gatlin, formerly Derryberry
6. Elizabeth Campbell, formerly Derryberry
7. Martha C McGuin, formerly Derryberry
8. H C Hurley, formerly Derryberry
9. P M Derryberry
10. W A Derryberry
11. C W Derryberry

Eight tracts of land: 112 acres - 53 acres - 160 acres - 160 acres - 160 acres - 160 acres
97 acres - on the west boundary line of Alexander McGuin;
313 acres - southeast corner of Daniel W Morgan, NW corner of Sarah Jones

William Phelps sold to John Derryberry sold the following for \$2,000 cash paid at the time of the sale on Sept 24, 1852: Both mills, one saw mill and one grist mill and all the appurtenances belong to said mills. Also several tracts of land subject to sale at Pontotac, Miss:

A - 112 acres, 98 acres, 160 acres, 160 acres, 160, 160

B - 313 acres (some boundaries listed) at the SE corner of Entry 1130 in the name of Daniel W Morgan, North line of Entry 581 in the name of Sarah Jones, SW corner on the Winchester State Line, SE corner of entry 1218 in the name of David Young, SE corner of Entry 1341 in the name of William D Dunn, SW corner of Entry 1360 in the name of James P Dunn.,

C. 97 acres, mentions Entry 818 in the name of ? Redding, Entry 735 in the name of Alex McGuin excludes 98 acres sold to R W Jones

D. 53 acres which excludes acres sold to Daniel Johnson, does not give total acreage, just assuming the balance was 53 acres.

Total 1313 acres. Land owned at time of death 1215, leaves 98 acres un accounted for. There is a 98 ac tract included in the sale, I did not check it out for error or if it was sold. The 1867 and 69 tax records shows John Derryberry estate with 666 acres in Dist 1 and 600 acres in District 5.



R H PRICE vs CAROLINE REYNOLDS
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT
1870 - No 222
Family Dispute
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Case 222 concerns land that Caroline Reynold s purchased when she came to McNairy County. Apparently, her husband had abandoned her or she had left him. She claims she paid for the land with her own means and her husband' s creditors have no claim on the land, because she put it in her children' s names. Poor Caroline, her children took her land away from her. She was powerless, being a woman alone in a greedy world.

Clips from this lawsuit:

" To the Sheriff of McNairy County, you are here by commanded to summons R. H. Price, Sarah Lee, William Lee, M. S. Reynolds, L. M . Huggins and Peter Elder to appear before the court at the courthouse at Purdy on the second Monday in April 1870"

The Bill of Complainant, Caroline Reynolds, filed in the Chancery Court of Purdy against R. H. Price, Sarah Lee & William Lee her husband, and M. S. Reynolds, minor and -----can't read ---- guardian and L. M. Huggins, all residents of McNairy County except Sarah and William Lee.

Caroline Reynolds, a citizen of McNairy and the State of Tennessee states she purchased

the land lying in County of McNairy and executed her note for the same, and she fully satisfied all the purchase money to the said McKenzie and had the deed made to her bodily heirs. The land at the time of the purchase was in John Hamm's name and at the request of Caroline Reynolds, Hamm executed a deed to the bodily heirs of Caroline Reynolds. The deed was made to her bodily heirs for the reason that her husband had abandoned her and gone to the State of Texas and she wished to secure her lands from the debts of her said husband.

Her children has claimed the land and refuses to let her have any control. Peter Elder who intermarried with her daughter Susan conveyed his undivided in the above tract to one L. M. Huggins and that Robert Price another heir of Caroline Reynolds has also sold his undivided interest to the said She states the children never paid anything toward said land and have no right to claim the land.

" The joint and separate answers of Peter Elder and L. M. Huggins. They admit complainant made a contract for the purchase of the tract of land described in said bill, but the they deny that said deed was made to said bodily heirs for the purpose of securing the title from the control of her husband or his creditors. They deny that the said husband was setting up any claim what ever to the land or that he had any creditors who were seeking or interfering with same. Respondants deny that complainant was abandoned by her husband, but on the contrary state that she left and abandoned him when they were moving from the State of Alabama to Texas and without any lawful cause refused to go any further with him.

(They also claim she used money from her husband to pay for the land.) Respondants admit that Peter Elder sold and conveyed his undivided interest which he acquired by the law of descent in said land to respondent L. M. Huggins, that he (Elder) intermarried with Susan who was the daughter of complainant and that she died leaving one child the issue of said marriage, who afterwards died and by the death of her said child he became owner of the undivided interest in said land. They also admit t hat said Robert Price sold and conveyed his interest in said land to the said L. M. Huggins.

Caroline asks that the complainant be invested with a life in interest in the one half said tract of land and the remaining half be vested in M. S. Reynolds fee simple. Caroline Reynolds and the Price children got 1/2 of the land and M. S. Reynolds got the other half.

(My note: This verdict was assuming that M S Reynolds was a child of Caroline Reynolds and her ex-husband that had gone to Texas. Later, M S Reynolds, also known as Wick, changed his name to Huggins.)



JAMES E FERGUSON, ETALS VS HENRY W ROTEN, ETALS,

McNairy County, Tennessee, Chancery Court

1871 # 224

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

This cause came on to be heard on the 9th day of March 1871, before Chancellor Nixon.

Ezekiel Dunaway, deceased, was the owner of an occupant claim in McNairy County prior to the year 1838 and lived upon the same and that he died in the latter part of the year 1838 while residing on the same, leaving him surviving three children, his heirs at law, W P Dunaway, James T Dunaway and Mary Ann Dunaway. His wife survived him but her name is not mentioned and it does not tell when she died - see Chancery Court Case 277 for more about the wife.

The widow and family of Ezekiel Dunaway lived on this land to about the year 1844 or 1845 when apparently the land was divided among the heirs. The date, July 17, 1849 was entered, which I think was the date court was petitioned for Mary Ann's land was transferred to Henderson Ferguson. Apparently Mary Ann inherited 232 acres of land.

This lawsuit is a land dispute between the heirs of one Mary Ann Dunaway, a minor at the time of her father Ezekiel Dunaway's death. Mary Ann married Henderson Ferguson, about 1845, before she became of age and therefore Henderson Ferguson took possession of the land, as was the law and custom in that time.

Mary Ann Dunaway married Henderson Ferguson about 184/45. They had four children,
James E Ferguson,
Nancy Jane who married William C Ramer,
Mary Margaret who married J M Melton,
Henderson Ferguson, a minor at the time of this lawsuit.

Henderson Ferguson (Senior) died in August 1852 and Jesse Gooch was appointed guardian over the children. Apparently the court never divided the land among the widow and the children. When Mary Ann married Henry W Roten, he became guardian of the Ferguson children and Jesse Gooch gave him the money due the Henderson Ferguson estate and he loaned it to a Mr Young.

Apparently this lawsuit was over the fact that the money earned on their share of the land was not saved for them. Another factor was that the Ferguson children felt the land was theirs and none belonged to the Henry Roten children by a previous marriage.

Mary Ann died a few days before Christmas 1869. The resting place for Henderson Ferguson or Mary Ann Dunaway Ferguson Roten are not documented in the cemetery book.

In reading over this case - I hope Mary Ann was happy, it seems both men married her for her land. She was also called Polly Ann.

The case says Mary and Henry Roten had six children, four of whom are living in 1870. Mary Ann was dead by census time in 1870 and I did not find Henry Roten in the McNairy County census.

This case went to the Tennessee Supreme Court. Outcome unknown.



DAVID MCKENZIE VS THOMAS BABB
McNairy County, Tennessee Chancery Court
233 - 1870
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

This lawsuit is similar to the #241 filed in Chancery Court, concerning the heirs of Elizabeth, deceased who was the heir of John D Lewis, deceased ca 1842. John D Lewis had quite a bit of land and assets.

Elizabeth Lewis Babb, daughter, who intermarried with G B Babb died before 1871. Apparently this law suit is concerning the children of Elizabeth Babb. They claim her husband, G B Babb sold her portion of the land that they felt was their inheritance.

The heirs of John Lewis petitioned the court in 1843 to sell the land and divide the estate among the heirs. Witness say Babb purchased part of the land out of his wife share of the estate. The other side claims G W Babb purchased the lands with his own money. This law suit was filed after Elizabeth Babb and her husband G B Babb had died.

G W Babb departed this life in 1863, leaving surviving him, Mary Babb, his widow (Mary is the second wife, since Elizabeth Lewis Babb was the first wife,) Thomas Babb, Martha Babb, Joseph Babb, James Babb, & F P Mitchell, C C Mitchell, Elizabeth J Mitchell, Sarah V Mitchell, Mary J Mitchell, all minors except the widow & F A Bryant and wife Jane (of Dyer Co, Tenn) Joseph A Babb & Mary A residents of Texas and the children of John Babb deceased, names unknown of Mississippi.

Testimony was given that the administrative papers of G W Babb, deceased have been destroyed or missing.

G W Babb owed Dr J M Mitchell for July and August 1863 \$12.50.

After the death of Elizabeth Babb, G B Babb married a Mary J. then before 1868 she married Fitzpatrick.

Apparently Babb owed more than he was worth when he died.



F A BRYANT VS JOHN FITZPATRICK
McNairy County, Tenn Chancery Court
#241 - 1871
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy
See Also Chancery Court file 233

This lawsuit was filed over 20 years after the death of John D Lewis.

F A Bryant and wife Jane C Bryant, Franklin P, Christopher C, Elizabeth J, Sarah V and Mary Josephine Mitchell, the last five of whom are minors under the age of 21, filed by Jas M

Mitchell then next friend; Lafayette and Johnnie A Babb, who are minors under the age of 21 filed by Sarah E Babb their next friend; all of the State of Tennessee; Joel M Babb, and Witty (or Mitty) A Anderson, formerly Witty A Babb, residents of the State of Texas; VS John Fitzpatrick, Mary J Fitzpatrick, Ephriam Shuffield, Washington Shuffield, and W C Cornelius and Elizabeth Green (or Greer) residents of McNairy County, and Martha, Thomas, James, Samuel, and Joel Babb.

Ephriam Shuffield, Washington Shuffield, W C Cornelius and Elizabeth Green are not relatives of the deceased John D Lewis, but purchased the property of G W Babb.

Joseph Walker who was County Court Clerk during the years of 1862, 63 stated that the county court records was destroyed by fire and the minute docket of 1858-9, 60 and part of 1861 was saved with a few others. Also Calvin Shull, County Court Clerk in 1872, testified to the same in Feb 1872.

John D Lewis departed this life, in March 1842 in the ninth district, McNairy County, Tennessee. He came to McNairy County about the year 1836 or 1837, yet his will was dated 1840 in the county of Jackson, Alabama. He married his second wife, Jame Hammonick about 1836 and they had one daughter, Emily.

Elizabeth Lewis Babb, daughter, who intermarried with G B Babb died before 1871. Apparently this law suit is concerning the children of Elizabeth Babb. They claim her husband, G B Babb sold her portion of the land that they felt was their inheritance.

The heirs of John Lewis petitioned the court in 1843 to sell the land and divide the estate among the heirs. Witness say Babb purchased part of the land out of his wife share of the estate. The other side claims G W Babb purchased the lands with his own money. This law suit was filed after Elizabeth Babb and her husband G B Babb had died.

The possible heirs of Elizabeth Lewis Babb:

F A Bryant and wife Jane C Bryant,

Franklin P, Christopher C Elizabeth J, Sarah V and Mary Josephine Mitchell, the last five of whom are minors under the age of twenty-one years, who file this bill by James M Mitchell, their next friend; (their mother's first name is not mentioned, James M Mitchell the father.)

Lafayette A and Johnnie A Babb, who are minors and surety under their friend Sarah E Babb, residents of the State of Tennessee; (Father's name not mentioned.)

Joel M Babb

Mitty A Anderson, formerly Mitty A Babb, residents of the State of Texas.

J D Lewis's, deceased, wife, Mary Jane, received an equal portion of the estate as the children and she re-married to John Fitzpatrick.

This lawsuit concerns the estate of John Lewis, deceased ca 184- in McNairy County, Tenn. Apparently there was an earlier lawsuit filed Jan 16, 1844 in Tishomingo, Co, Miss, as it is described:

'To the Honorable Probate Court of Tishomingo, County, Mississippi: Your humble petitioner showeth and prayers that grant on order of the Sale of the South East quarter section fourteen, and the South West quarter of section thirteen in township one and range eight, and that the said lands belong to the estate of John Lewis, deceased. Your petitioner further showeth that

he is an heir and one of the executors of John Lewis, deceased, your granting the above named order, your humble petitioner would ever pray, January 16th, 1844. John D Lewis.

The following is the names of the heirs of John D Lewis, and places of residences, viz: Henry Lewis, Joel D Lewis, Ala; Jane Lewis (Sr) Matilda Mason, Elizabeth Babb, Jane Wardlow, Susan Lewis, John H Lewis, Emily Lewis of Tennessee, except Elizabeth Babb, Spencer D Lewis, Arkansas. Celia Babb's heirs, Henry Lewis their guardian, Daniel A Lewis, Marshall County, Ala. Signed J D Lewis.'

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The will of John D Lewis: 'Be it remembered that at a quarterly court began and held at the court house in the town of Purdy, County of McNairy, the 3rd day of April in the year of our Lord, eighteen hundred and forty three, and the sixty seventh year of American Independence: Present the worshipful, S d Pace, G G Adams, Dol- Sweat, John G Gooch, E T Dodds, John Chambers, James M Huggins, A C Houston, A M Brown, Jacob Lawrence, W t Anderson, Elijah Lynch, - McKnight, Jacob Jackson, and Joseph Anders, James Warren, sheriff, A A Sanders, clerk. This say the last will and testament of John Lewis was presented:

'The State of Alabama, Jackson, County, I John Lewis, being in health and in sound mind and knowing the certainty of death, do make this my last will and testament as follows viz:

I give and bequeath to my son William Lewis five (?) out of my money at my death if I have any and if none out of my property;

and I give and bequeath to my son Daniel A Lewis, one dollar out of my property at my death

and I give and bequeath to my dear wife Jane Lewis, one equal share with the balance of my children, that is after paying out of my estate the above ---- to my sons above named.

I want my estate divided equally between my dear wife Jane Lewis, and my sons, Henry, Joel D, Spencer P and John Lewis and my daughters Celia, Matilda, Rebecca, Margaret, Elizabeth, Jane, Susan and Emily Lewis, equal shares, but if my dear wife should choose a dower that the law allows, I desire that she should have it and the balance of my estate after paying my two sons and Daniel A Lewis, the above named sons, I desire should be divided equally between the balance of my children; and I desire that if I should have any more heirs that they should share equally with my present heirs, except my two first named. If I should depart this life before my youngest daughter Emily should get her education and if I have any more heirs, I desire there should be a sufficient sum set apart for their education and that the balance of my estate be divided as before written. I desire that my dear wife Jane and my two sons Henry Lewis and Joel D Lewis be and I do appoint them as executors of this my last will and testament and I desire that my son Daniel A Lewis children that is to say his first wife and children to have as much of my estate between them as any of my other sons and daughters will share. That is I want all of my son Daniel children above named to only have as much between them all as one of my heirs, say son or daughter, with the exception of one hundred. That I want — back one hundred dollars of getting as much between them as all of my other heirs.

In Testimony of this being my last will and testament, I have hereunto set my hand and seat this 14 day of Jany, 1840. John Lewis (his mark). Witness: William Daniel and James E Daniel.

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Some witnesses in this lawsuit were Jesse Ealim, David S Wardlow and David Carol.

Testimony of Ann M Sharp in the office of W J Sutton, Justice of the Peace on Feb 23, 1872. Ann is 65 years old and was a neighbor to John D Lewis. She stated that Lewis made a statement that he did not make any provisions for his son Wiley Lewis on account of his recklessness and dissipation. The sale of Lewis' assets was two days. Aaron Rice, a son-in-law of Lewis purchased two slaves, a woman and child, since they were family. The slave man someone else purchased. Lewis had good stock horses and cattle, mules and hogs, good household and kitchen furniture. He owned four tracts of land in this county and land in Alabama. G W Babb bid off certain portions of the land and soon afterward I heard Elizabeth Babb that on account of difficulties between herself and her husband she had been abused and --- -- but now she had a home of her own and wouldn't leave no more. The land that G W Babb bought was paid for out of Elizabeth Babb's share of inheritance. That Babb was in embarrassing circumstances on account of recklessness and had little property.

Letter from Henry Lewis to a niece: March the 24/1871. Woodville, Jackson Co, Ala. Dear niece, I will now try to answer your kind letter of Feb 24th which was some time on the way but came at last. Thinking that you are more anxious to know all that I can tell you that first I know that I can tell you of the contents of my Father's will. I will tell you first, I know that he made a will and that he did it in my presence and appoint Joel D Lewis and my-self executors to the will and we filed the will in Purdy, McNairy county, Tenn and also filed a copy of it in Bellefonte, Ala and it was destroyed in time of the war. We also file a certificate from the county clerk of McNairy in Jacinto.(Tishomingo Co, Miss). The will stated that there was to be a sufficient amount set apart for the education of my half sister Emily. After the debts were paid my father willed my oldest brother Wiley five dollars, then the widow, my step mother, was to have a choice of a child's part or a dowry,----missing----- child's part. (She took the dowry). The balance of his property he willed to his children and their heirs and at the sale of my father's land Green Babb, your father said that he had no interest in, but his wife, your own mother, authorized him to bid for the land. She was standing close by and said yes I authorize him to bid for me and your father bought some of the land and we charged it to her and took it out of her part of the estate. And we managed the property just as my father willed it, and if you see proper to have my disposition taken, Henry Dillard or Frank Cotton, either one or both would be very suitable men. They both live in Woodville, which is near me and if you have that done you and your husband come to see us. We live in two miles of Woodville. You could come that near on the railroad, we would be glad to see you. Hope you will excuse this imperfect letter and let me hear from you again. You Uncle Henry Lewis



**W D HUDDLESTON VS JOSEPH HURST
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE CHANCERY COURT**

1872 #264

Arthur Hurst Estate

Abstracts by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Humbly complaining your Orator, W D Huddleston, citizen of McNairy County, Tenn would respectfully report unto your honor that Arthur Hurst departed this life in said county about the — day of ---- 1864, leaving surviving him:

Phebe Hurst, his widow and relict who now resides in the State of Arkansas
Orlena who intermarried with George M Owens of Hardeman Co, Tenn
Demindaville who intermarried with Abel L Hurst who resides in Missouri
(The will and 1870 census says her name is Lemindville, in Douglas Co, Mo)
Elizabeth who intermarried with Hiram Dunn, residence unknown
Jasper Hurst

Arthur C Hurst and Malissa, his wife, residents of McNairy County

Orator would further state and show that deceased before his death made and published a written will in which he made special provisions for Phebe, his widow and relict.

According to the lawsuit, W D Huddleston purchased from Arthur Hurst, 159 ½ acres of land in 1861, bounded by Wm Thompson, L Robinson and Woodville Road. Huddleston claims he paid for the land but Arthur Hurst never made a deed. Huddleston also claims he made improvements to the land.

Jasper Hurst, age 38, gave his deposition on March 3, 1873. ‘I heard my Father, Arthur Hurst say that he sold the land to complainant. I heard my Father say that complainant was to give him \$550 for the land and that he had paid him for it.’ I think the trade was made in 1862 and the money was paid for the land in 1862 and 1863. Mileage to and from his home to courthouse was 17 miles. Signed Jasper Hurst.

A C Hurst, age 24, gave deposition that what Jasper Hurst had said was true. Mileage to and from his home was 17 miles. Signed A C Hurst.

Fielding Hurst had sold this land to Nathaniel Huddleston in two tracts, one Sept 17, 1752 for 110 acres; and one Jan 24, 1856 for 99 ½ acres. Nathaniel Huddleston sold Arthur Hurst 209 ½ acres, date unknown for \$800.

E C Hurst and S Y Hurst were appointed administrators of Arthur Hurst’s estate in 1864 and have since fully administered said estate.

Honorable George H Nixon, Chancellor, ruled that W D Huddleston should be given clear title and deed to the land in question.

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The last Will and Testament of Arthur Hurst of McNairy County, State of Tennessee, abstracts:

To wife Phobe Hurst, I give \$100 to be paid out of the first monies collected.

To my two sons, Jasper Hurst and Arthur C Hurst, my land, consisting of three separate tracts. (1) the one on which I now live known as the Overall tracts containing 175 ac. (2) The Woodville tract containing 65 acres, adjoining the next tract (3) the Andrew Campbell tract containing 100 acres, lying two miles south of my present residence. To be equally divided

between them at the time the youngest Arthur C Hurst becomes of age.

To daughter Lamandeville Hurst the sum of five dollars

To daughter Elizabeth Hurst the sum of five dollars

To the heirs of the body of my daughter Orlena Owens \$200 to be paid to them when they become of age or marry.

To my son-in-law, D W Huddleston, one note in hand that I hold against him for \$300, also \$100 cash.

The remainder of my personal estate and chattels I give and bequeath to my two sons, Jasper Hurst and Arthur C Hurst. The same to be sold for cash to the highest bidder as soon after my decease as possible.

I appoint my two brothers E C Hurst and S Y Hurst of this my last will and testament.

Signed Arthur Hurst on June 20, 1864. Witness J M Stovall and Wm Thompson.

Arthur Hurst could write but the signature is very feeble.



MARY EMMONS VS P W NORTH
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT

1871— No 265

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Henceford T Emmons, deceased

This case was filed concerning a debt Hansford T Emmons owed P W North. Apparently North owed Emmons but Emmons owed North more. The main issue was money owed for the land Emmons purchased in 1862 or 1863 from Henry R. Sharp and borrowed from P W North. After Hanceford's death, North proceeded to sell this land to L. M. Huggins and Leander Huggins, but Mary felt she deserved at least a dower's right. The judgement, on April 10, 1875, as best as I could determine, gave Mary a dower's right, 55 and 3/4 acres, as long as she lived then it reverted back to P W North or his heirs.

This lawsuit gave Hanceford's death at Jan 8, 1870 and lists his children. Apparently, Mary did not list his children by previous marriages in the lawsuit, but Mr North listed the children. (Mary Rushing Emmons was the third and last wife.) He stated, that Robert H, Marion J and George Emmons are not the only heirs of Hanceford Emmons.

One petition says Hanceford had six children by first wife, 5 in Texas and 1 in Mississippi, and one or more children by 2nd wife that reside in Mississippi.

Another petition lists the children by name:

Children by first wife (Mary):

1. Leander, of age
2. Lawson, of age
3. Louvenia in Texas, all of age.
4. Mary, under age 21

5. Thomas under age 21
6. John (Did not list John - but I assume he is living since the other petition states 6 children by first wife.)

Children by second wife (Mary):

1. Jane, minor living in Mississippi
2. Jefferson, minor living in Mississippi

Children by third wife (Mary)

1. Robert H
2. Marion J
3. George

Apparently one of the older children carried the three younger children with them to Texas and Jefferson was with his step sister Louisa Derryberry Gibbs somewhere in Mississippi. I don't know who Jane was with. I haven't found her in 1870.

My notes: Hanceford Emmons was married three times. All wives were named Mary, which made everything confusing. Approximate marriage dates 1847; 1860; 1864.

It is thought the first wife was Mary Smith, but that fact has not been proven.

The second wife was unknown to me until I found another court case. McNairy County, Tennessee, County Court No 115 concerning the John H Sanders case, lists her as a daughter. She was first married Henry C Derryberry.

The third wife was Mary Rushing and their marriage is recorded in the McNairy County, Tennessee, Marriage Records. Nancy Wardlow Kennedy



**FRANCIS KERBY, ETAL VS C M CASON, ETAL
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE CHANCERY COURT**

1872 No 273

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Reuben Long, deceased

Complaints: Francis Kerby, Joseph Long, William Walker and Susan his wife, James Long, Robert Rankin & Josephine his wife, Acan Miffle, all of McNairy County, Tennessee

By Francis Cherry administrator of Robert Long, deceased of the County of Henderson, Tenn; John Ingraham and Nimrod Ingraham, administrators of A H Ingraham, deceased; John Aldridge of the County of McNairy County; C M Cason of the County of Madison, Tennessee and A H Skinner, Administrator of J C Hollis, deceased of County of McNairy County.

Reuben Long departed this life in the State of Texas, Bowie County, about the month of October 1856 where his estate in said state was fully administrated. That said deceased at the time of his death owned effects in the State of Tennessee (Henderson or McNairy County.)

Reuben left McNairy County for Texas on August 26, 1856 and was killed in October 1856.

Reuben Long left surviving him the following children to wit:

Jasper Long,

Susan who intermarried with William Walker,

James Long,

Josephine Long who intermarried with Robert Rankin,

Sarah Long who intermarried with Acan Miffley who has since died, leaving no issue

Francis Long who is a minor under the age of twenty one years.

No widow or wife mentioned in the heirs.

At the time of his death, Reuben Long owned considerable estate real and personal in said State of Texas and Tennessee, consisting of lands, slaves and other personal property and debts (owed to him).

Robert Long was appointed guardian of minor children of Reuben Long, with John Aldridge and A H Ingraham as his sureties, Dec 6, 1858. Robert Long resigned his position as guardian in the year 1861 and J C Hollis & C M Cason were named as guardians of minors of Reuben Long May 6, 1861. After J C Hollis died, A H Skinner was appointed in his place as guardian.

Robert Long removed said slaves to wit: Dick, Mose, Aney, Bell, George, Steve, Puss and some children about the year 1858 from the State of Texas to McNairy County. Robert Long (brother of Reuben Long) died intestate in McNairy County about the year 1868 and H M Burten was appointed his administrator, who resigned and Francis Cherry was appointed administrator.

Susan Walker gave this deposition on August 30, 1875. Abstracts:

Susan Walker was the daughter of Reuben Long, she will age 34 next month (September) "I returned to Tennessee from Texas in June 1858, all the white children came together at this same time. Robert Long, Sr and John Long moved the family."

Susan married William Walker on February 25, 1859 in McNairy County, Tennessee

The negro men were brought back to Tennessee by Robert Long and a Wm Barnhill before Susan married.

Susan's mother had died and Reuben had married another woman, because Susan called her 'step-mother' and she had \$90, a wagon, a horse and yoke of oxen when they left Texas. There were six children, 2 boys and 4 girls. Two boys being the oldest (Jasper, James, Susan, Josephine, Sarah and Francis. The boys lived or stayed with Robert Long. The step mother had one child by Reuben Long, does not give name or mention again that I could find..

William Walker sold Susan's interest and Francis' interest in their inheritance to C M Cason August 1872 for \$600 each.

Deposition of Francis Long, March 25, 1875. Abstracts:

Her father, Reuben Long kept a record of births and she was born May 1, 1851. At the time of the deposition, she is living with her sister Susan. She traveled 26 miles round trip to

Purdy for depositions.

John Alderidge's deposition, March 30, 1875: says he is about 51 years old When he became guardian of the minor children the slaves were: Dick about 65 or 70, his wife Anie about 50-55. Moses about 21. Bill 13, George 12-13, Steve age 8 and Puss about 6 year old and Babe about one year old. Reuben long went to Texas about one year before he died. John Aldridge traveled 24 miles round trip to Purdy.

W J Long, says he did not know how old he was when they left Texas, but they made his step mother pay all the money, about \$100 in gold, she had for expenses on the trip. His Uncle Robert Long and John Long came for them. John Long was a gambling man and they would stay as high as 3-4 days at one place. There were six children , the step mother and her child.

The step mother had a wagon, the Long children had a wagon with all the heavy 'stuff' and a carriage to ride from Texas to Tennessee.

They all stayed with John Long's the first year after they returned. Part of the family went to Robert Long and part went to William Walker's. W J says he was a good size plow boy but was never paid him for any work. He said James would play rather than work.

Money had apparently been misappropriated by both Robert Long and Hollis and Cason. If Robert Long had any money or assets on hand as guardian of the children, it was turned over to Cason and Hollis. The slaves were hired out and it was mostly this money that was never divided among the heirs. This case went to the State of Tennessee Supreme Court in 1877 but was sent back to Chancery Court for defendants to offer additional proof.

From 1859 to 1861 the slaves were hired out by first Robert Long, then Hollis and Cason and the heirs never saw any of the money. In 1859 they were hired out for: Dick \$80, Amy \$60, Mose \$125, Bell \$65, George \$25, total \$355. In 1860 Dick \$100, Amy \$55, Mose \$140, Bell \$60, George \$50, total \$405. In 1861 Mose and smaller children \$450, Bell \$80, George \$40, total \$570. It doesn't give any other years except Hollis & Cason hired the slaves out for \$795. There were several figures of unaccounted for funds, all over \$2,000.

Francis Kerby was appointed guardian of Francis Long in Sept 1879. He went to Texas in 1874 to see about here interest in Texas. Apparently money had been misappropriated there also.

I could never find Reuben Long's second wife's name or which child he had by her or if the child mentioned is Reuben's child or the child of his wife.



MCNAIRY COUNTY CHANCERY COURT
JOHN G GOOCH VS JESSE GOOCH, ETALS CASE
1872 No 277
PETITION TO SELL LAND, RATHER THAN DIVIDE IT
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Thomas Gooch died — 1864 and left surviving him the following:

1. J G Gooch, age 63, resident of McNairy County

2. Jesse Gooch, age 61, resident of Mississippi
3. Nichols Gooch, age 59, resident of Arkansas
4. Margaret Gooch, deceased, who intermarried with E Dunaway
(Note - twice, Margaret is mentioned as Margaret Dillon. Ezekiel Dunaway died about 1844, so Margaret probably married again.
 1. J T Dunaway, age 35, resident McNairy County (James T)
 2. W P Dunaway, age 33, resident McNairy County (William Pinkney)
 3. Mary (Polly) Ann Dunaway, deceased, intermarried Henry Ferguson
 1. Mary M Ferguson, who married James Melton
 2. Nancy J Ferguson, deceased, married Wesley Ramer died without issue
 3. James E Ferguson, age 20, resident of McNairy County
 4. Hardeman Ferguson, age 18, resident of McNairy Co.
(Note- one place says Henderson, one says Hardeman)
 (Polly Ann Dunaway Ferguson, married Henry Roten and had four children:
 5. Robert Roten, age 16
 6. Francis E Roten, age 12
 7. Rachel Roten, age 10
 8. Mary Ann Roten, age 2
5. Mary (Polly) Gooch, deceased intermarried with W B Terry, dec'd
 1. Amanda Terry married Dr Hodges, resident of Mississippi
 2. Annie Terry, married D M Wisdom, resident of Jackson, Madison, Tenn
 3. Molly Terry, married James Hart, resident of Jackson, Madison, Tenn
 4. Jennie resident of Jackson, Tn
6. William Gooch, deceased left his wife Sarah and 8 children
 1. John Gooch,. Age about 30, resident of McNairy County
 2. Henry Gooch, age 27, residence unknown
 3. James Gooch, age 19, resident of McNairy County
 4. Elizabeth, married John Larue, residence unknown
 5. Margana (Margaret), married Chanery Miller, resident of McNairy County
 6. Caroline Gooch, age 20
 7. Jennie Gooch,
 8. Annie

Thomas Gooch owned three tracts of land, McNairy County, Range, 2 Section 2.
 (1.) 200 acres, this land bounded No 2045, heirs of L Gillentin (2) 147 3/4 acres. Bounded by No 1850 A J Ferguson, (3) 47 acres. All lands were sold at public auction at the McNairy County courthouse at Purdy on July 7, 185 for \$252.00 by John G. Gooch



JOHN WOODS VS SUSAN ANN WOODS

McNairy County Chancery Court

ca 1873 - 300

Compiled by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

This is a case of 'he said, she said.'

John Woods and Susan Ann Woods married Dec 30, 1848 and he declares he had be a good and faithful husband, that he treated her kindly and they had four living children and two dead as the result of their marriage. Woods states that after the birth of her first child Mrs Woods became cross and ill toward him and treating him with all kinds of disrespect. She would not let him in the least degree raise their said children or in any wise train and instruct them in any branch of house keeping or labor of any kind and she instructed them to disobey their father the complainant.

Complainant would further show that about the year 1862 defendant became hysterical that he gave her reasonable medical attention and that the defendant would refuse to obey the doctor. They had large medical bills.

In the year 1866 she abandoned her home and went to her old father who was unable to take care of her that she would remain absent for weeks at a time for six or seven year. Leaving the care of the children on complainant. In March 1873, she procured a wagon and loaded it with her best bed and clothing and her own apparel, moved off his premises, declaring her determination never to live with Mr Woods again.

Woods states he has lost all hopes of ever living with her in any kind of peace whatever. Statement dated April 1, 1873.

Susan Ann Woods denies all the statements her husband John Woods had made. She thought she had doing pretty good until she got sick in 1862 when her health began to decline and he did not treat her with kindness and tenderness that her condition required, became cross and ill to her and was displeas that she could not attend to her household matter. He grumbled about her sickness and the accumulation of medical bills and would order her to leave his house saying that she should not stay in his sight and that he would not be troubled with her finally when she was sick and not able to walk or get out of the bed, he ordered her to leave and told J A (John A) Sanders, their son-in-law to put her in a waggon and haul her like a hog. She charges that she has been driven from her home by her said husband and forced to seek protection and shelter at the house of Mrs J A Sanders, her married daughter. She further charges she is now a refuge and would be homeless if not for the kindness of her son-in-law.

Susan states he owned over 200 acres, bound on the west by Harris Cobb, on the north by V M Archer, East by Joel Harris and South by Drew Archer and she has an equitable interest in said land having paid \$1,000 dollars on it and some \$800 . Also she is the owner of the following personal property to wit: 8 head of hogs, 3 cows & calves, 4 heifers, 7 head of horses. 12 head of sheep and a large amount of house and kitchen furniture. She request alimony to be paid to her. Susan's statement dated March 4, 1873.

State of Tennessee, McNairy county: Articles of agreement made and entered into between John Woods on the one part and his wife, Susan Ann Woods of the other. The said John Woods agrees on his part to give his said wife, Susan Ann Woods, 30 acres of land on the

south end of his home tract of land. Also he gives her one mule or mare. She is to have choice out of three two mules or grey mare the two mules that she is to have choice of are known as Jake and Bradon and one milk cow and 200 pounds of pork at killing time.

The said Susan Ann Woods agrees on her part for and in consideration of the above real estate and personal property given to her by said husband, John Woods. That she agrees to (with) draw her suit against her said husband for divorce and alimony and prosecute the suit no further against him. This 31st day of July 1873. Signed by John Woods, Susan Woods, with John A Sanders, John L Epps as witnesses. Susan Woods could not sign her name.

Susan may have filed another case on October 1, 1873. The file does not state when they got a divorce - but they probably did, since he married again in 1875.

<<<<<>>>>>>>>

(Note: I can't remember if this will was in the file or where I found it. I thought it quite interesting, the children of his first wife was not included in the will.)

John Woods Will 1891: I, John woods, do make and publish this my last will and testament, hereby revoking and making void all others by me at any time made.

First: I direct that my funeral expenses and all my debts be paid as soon after my death as possible out of any moneys that I — of or may first come into the hands of my executors.

Second: I give and bequeath all of the residue of my property both real and personal to my children by Louisa, my last wife, towit: David Blair, Joseph Curry, James Garfield, Lucretia, Florence, Mary Thankful, John Sherman, and Thomas Harrison to be used and enjoyed in common until the youngest one becomes of age - when I desire that they divide the same & equally among themselves, and in the event that any one or more of them leaves home before the youngest one becomes of age, then in that event, I desire that they forfeit their share or any rights they have under this will and said shared rights to go to those who do not forfeit their rights, to be equally divided among those living up to this will.

Lastly, I hereby nominate and appoint W H Maness and D L Archer my executors. In witness whereof, I do this my will set my hand, this September 9, 1890. Signed John Woods. Witness: Wm McCaskill and P W Archer.

The will was presented in open court January 5, 1891.



ELIZA PRESTON VS J R PRESTON
McNairy County, Tennessee, Chancery Court
Dec 6, 1873 # 307
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy
DIVORCE

Eliza Preston, formerly, Liza Case of McNairy County, Tenn VS Jef R Preston, Resident of State of Arkansas.

Eliza Case and Jef Preston married in Jefferson County, Arkansas in December 1871 and lived together as husband and wife until about the month of April in the following year. Complainant said the Defendant left her and refused to contribute any thing to her support and she was compelled to return to McNairy county to friends and relatives.

Aaron P Gage testified for Eliza Case Preston and stated after he spent the money she had received from her guardian he abandoned her.

Samuel C Jones was security for Eliza Case Preston.

The divorce was granted April 10, 1874.



JOHN A HOOKER, ETALS VS H H HOOKER ETALS
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT
1874 - No 311

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

- * John A Hooker
- * J M Osborn and wife Sirena
- * Hester Ann Woodard, formerly Hester Ann Hooker and relect of Gilbert Woodard, dec'd;
- * Eliza English who intermarried with William Hooker who died and left the following heirs:
 - Franklin Hooker
 - A M Hooker
 - Thomas Hooker
 - Mary Jane Smith
 - Layfayette Smith & wife Martha
- * Elizabeth Hooker who intermarried with John Wardlow
(All citizens of Mississippi except heirs of William Hooker and Elizabeth Wardlo

VS

- * H H Hooker
- * A J Hooker

This lawsuit concerns the estate of Samuel B Hooker, who died in McNairy County, Tennessee on or about August 26, 1869. A J Hooker was appointed executor of the estate Jan 5, 1870.

Samuel B Hooker owned 290 acres in McNairy County, near the community of Guys.

After old Samuel B. Hooker died, 2 or 3 lawsuits were filed in Chancery Court of McNairy County. Sometimes it would be A J Hooker vs H H Hooker, then it would be John A

Hooker vs Harrison H Hooker, Jno A Hooker vs A J & H H Hooker. It was nearly always someone against H H Hooker. H H Hooker usually the defendant. His name was Harrison H Hooker and A J Hooker was called Jack.. Apparently all the cases were combined into case Number 311. Some of this same information is in Case 421, D R Hooker vs H H Hooker

Andrew Jackson Hooker and Harrison H Hooker were sued by some of their siblings because of the transaction about Harrison Hooker purchasing the Samuel Hooker farm. Most thought it did not actually take place that Harrison took advantage of his father's feeble condition. The land which was supposed to have been sold for over \$2,000 was sold at public auction for \$500-600 dollars. Greed seems to work its way most time into nothing. Part of the land was reportedly sold to D R Hooker for \$1,300 which was null and void after the public auction.

After the death of Samuel's wife, Jack and Harrison Hooker took care of his business and at one time sold part of the land and household furnishing, proceeds which were not divided among the other children. Some of the children claimed, Samuel B. Hooker's mind was bad and Jack and Harrison took advantage of him. During the depositions, I gather Samuel B was well thought of and called a gentleman.

Samuel B Hooker died August 27, 1869. The Coffin made by P W North cost 11.80 \$5.00 for labor . 50 feet of lumber \$1.00, made with coffin tacks, nails and screws. He used 5 1/2 yards of alpaco, 6/1 2 yard domestic, 5 yards black edging, 2 yds velvet lining and velvet tape.

The clothing to bury Samuel Hooker was purchased from F H Sanders & Bro. 1 Black coat \$14.50, 1 pr pants \$8. 00, 1 jaconet .50 cents, 1 pr shoes 2.75, 1 pr hose .50 cents, 1 pr white gloves .50 cents, 1 Black Italian Vest 2 .75. Total cost \$29.50, I thought it was really wonderful about the white gloves.

In the court document Samuel is called once Brown Hooker. Some called him "Uncle Browney

A thought for the Hooker master-minds. There is almost, always a D R Hooker and a Thomas Hooker in every line that is associated to us? There is always a Martha.

(This may be a note from my file and not in the lawsuit.) Harrison tried his best to get the farm of his father . He had a deed made and hid it in his trunk. Someone broke into the trunk and got the deed and Samuel got it and gave it to his wife Barsheba. She put the deed under the head of her bed and send for Jack. She gave the deed to Jack and told him the land was not to go to Harrison. She died no mention after that.

The one thing I noticed, is the lawyer usually called Samuel Hooker as the 'old man,' instead of using his name. I thought this was quite dis\ respectful.

Harrison H Hooker states his mother died Oct 22, 1866

Nine original heirs:

1. William Hooker, who is dead,

The 7 heirs of WM Hooker:

- 1 Eliza English (his widow who remarried),
- 2 Mary Jane who married a Smith
3. Thomas J

- 4 Martha Ann Smith,
- 5 Franklin Hooker,
- 6 Armstead Hooker and
7. A Z or A L married W A Derryberry and was dec'd by 1874. She had a son name John Derryberry? Her husband also died. The son went to Arkansas? (that makes 6 children and widow of Willian N.) (My note)
2. Elizabeth Wardlow married John Wardlow
3. A J Hooker
4. Hester Ann Woodard married Gilbert Woodard
5. H H Hooker
6. J A Hooker
7. Susan A Hooker
8. Sarah Osborn (Sirena Ellen or Cyrena)
9. Thomas B Hooker, decd before 1869, left one heir surviving him, Dona Hooker
There is listed a Josephine Hooker, this is Donia, in the 1860 census she is listed as Caldona J.

Another page states on Oct 7, 1878: Wm Hooker, deceased left the following heirs at law: his widow, Eliza, M. J.(Mar y Jane) Smith, T. J. Hooker, M. A. (Martha Ann) Smith , W. F Hooker, A M Hooker, A Z Hooker w ho intermarried with W A Derryberry who has since died and left surviving her J. F. Derryberry. I beg to further report that D R Hooker has purchased the interest of the following heirs of the said Wm Hooker, deceased: Eliza English formerly Eliz Hooker, widow of said Wm Hooker, T J Hooker, M F Hooker, M J Smith. In all 4 shares of one interest.

Other interesting notes:

John N Barnhill says he had known Samuel B Hooker since 1831 or 1832. " When I first met him he lived about 15 miles me but then lived about 6 miles from me." John Barnhill also states that S B Hooker was a 'very old man'. T he person that interviewed Barn hill and Dr Ramer, called S B Hooker 'the old gentleman.'

O L Meeks stated that he had known S B Hooker since 1843 and had lived within 3/4 a mile since 1846.

Martha Ann Smith's deposition states she is ca 36 years and a granddaughter of S B Hooker and that she lives has know n him for 19 years and in 1875 she lived about four miles from him and her grandmother died in Oct nine years before which would be 1866.

A M Hooker is the son of William Hooker, dec. William had died 22 years before which would be about 1853. A M states - "My grandfather has 9 heirs and representatives and there are seven of us. So I am entitled to one seventh of one ninth of my grandfather's estate and I considered I got what I was entitled to after we figured on the division o f the estate. (He sold his interest of his land to D R Hooker for \$36.50) D R Hooker is the son o f A J Hooker, grandson of Samuel.

D R Hooker, son of James Nathan Hooker, of Alabama, bough t Mary Jane Smith and Thomas Hooker's interest of the land . There was such a mix u p about this land, I am not sure he got to keep it.

J. M. Osborn gave his deposition. He was married to the daughter of Samuel B Hooker. He stated he had been acquainted with S B Hooker since 1848 and in the family since 1857. He also stated that Samuel B Hooker's mind, prior to his death was in a disrainged state and that he did not transact any business after 1865 placing his business in the hands of A J Hooker and Harrison H Hooker. At that time S B Hooker would stay with his daughter, Elizabeth, the Osborns, and many times he would not know his daughter, grandchildren or son in law. Samuel B Hooker died Aug 26, 1869. According to Osborn, H H Hooker lived with his father for 2-3 years before his death. Osborn thought the Hooker land was worth about \$2,000.00 at the time of his death.

Deposition of John M. Hamm. John Hamm lived about three miles from Samuel Hooker and called him "Uncle Brownny." Hamm did not know Samuel Hooker's mind was bad and appraised his land at \$2,500.00 - 3,000.00. He stated he always called Mr Hooker, 'Uncle Brownny.'

According to J H Nolen, age 30, who knew S B Hooker for two years, Hooker on his death bed made out a deed to H H Hooker for his land, which H H was to pay him \$3,600.00.

C C Burns, age 64 years old, had known S B Hooker since 1844.

Elizabeth Wardlow, age 61 years, daughter of Samuel B. She lived between 1-2 miles of her father for the past 30 years.

A J Hooker (Andrew Jackson Hooker, also called Jack in this lawsuit) was 49 and states that his father was 86 years and 6 days

Susan Hooker, age about 48, stated Samuel B was 86 years old on the 20th or 21st day of Aug (1869) and died on the 29th day

I V Hooker was a son-in law of A J Hooker. I V stated he met Samuel B Hooker August 6 1869 and says in 1875 that he is 25 years old.

John N Barnhill says he had known Samuel B Hooker since 1831 or 1832. "When I first met him he lived about 15 miles from me but then lived about 6 miles from me." no statement tells us about when Samuel B Hooker came to McNairy County. John Barnhill also states that S B Hooker was a 'very old man'. The person that interviewed Barnhill and Dr Ramer, called S B Hooker 'the old gentleman.'

A W Smith gave his deposition. He said he was age 33 and had known S B Hooker since he was a boy. He states he is related by marriage only to some of the complainants. He stated the Mr Hooker was in good mind. "He came to Mrs Wardlow's and come to the door where we were sitting. Mrs Wardlow went to the door to help the old man in, and he said 'get away Betsy, I can get in by myself.' Mrs Wardlow said that he must be getting along better than usual and he said 'yes, he thought he would soon be able to marry again.' I considered his mind good then. The last time I saw him was in the fall of 1868 and David Hooker had to help him down off his horse.

I V Hooker was a son-in law of A J Hooker. I V stated he met Samuel B Hooker August 6 1869 and says in 1875 that he is 25 years old.

John A Hooker states that six children were living at the time of Samuel Hooker's death, but apparently he did not count himself. (Samuel's son, Thomas B Hooker died in the Civil War, and William N Hooker died in Alabama.) He also said Samuel had two brothers living at the time of his death that William and Thomas died before Samuel.

O L Meeks stated that he had known S B Hooker since 1843 and had lived within 3/4 a mile since 1846.

T B Hooker also gave a statement in 1875 and states he is 35 years of age. T B was asked about his interest in the old Samuel Hooker lands. His answer "I think it was in Dec 1870 we bought the land tract, wit: my father, J N Hooker, my brother, D R Hooker, and myself. I moved there in January 1871."

Question: "When you, your father and D R Hooker purchased, what was you to give and the payments." Answer "We agreed to give \$3900. (with payments up through Christmas 1875) We took bond for title and I failed to pay my part and father and brother let me out and took upon themselves the payments. My father and brother failed to make their payments."

Question: "What relation are you to defendant A J Hooker?" (A J is Samuel's son).

Answer: "He's second cousin to me."

So T B Hooker son of James N Hooker is a second cousin A J Hooker, son of Samuel Hooker.

John stated that his parents had six children living at the time of their death and two brothers William and Thomas deceased before the death of his father.

John also stated that he sold the place to James Hooker, 'a cousin of mine' the father of D R Hooker. I have not proved Thomas purchased the land. John thought D R Hooker came from North Mississippi.

David R Hooker's deposition: 1875. He states that he is 30 years old and that on Feb 4, 1873 he purchased 100 acres for \$13.00 per acre. (This is the \$1,300.00 that never got into the estate. David R owed Harrison and Harrison owed the estate and Harrison never paid the estate. So they had to sell the remainder 199 acres at auction and got 5-6 hundred dollars.) The land was mostly woods and he cleared about 23 acres and built a house, fenced in about 50 acres and sold some crossties. He was asked where he lived prior to coming to McNairy County and answered, "I came from Winston County, Mississippi about Christmas 1869 and had lived there two years before that time.". D R apparently came to McNairy County ca Jan 1869

Nancy Jane gives the statement that she is the wife of A J Hooker. John Hooker gives the statement (in 187) that he is 84 years old and he is a brother to the deceased Samuel Hooker. During the last three years of Samuel's life he stayed a lot of the time with A J and Nancy Hooker. Nancy was asked "How often did your father, John Hooker, visit his brother during the time he (Samuel) stayed at your house?" Her answer "I don't recollect but he would visit about twice a year I think."

John Hooker in his deposition Sept 1 1875 said he was 84 years old and his talk was of fairly well educated man, as was almost everybody's in this deposition. He signed his name John S Hooker. He stated he was 84 years old and was the brother of Samuel B Hooker. He visited his brother in February before he died. He stated he lived 15 miles away from Samuel He could write. John Hooker, aged 84 years old, a brother of Samuel B Hooker, lived about 15-16 miles apart. John visited Samuel 2 - 3 times a year. John stated that Samuel was a few days of his 87th year. (John lived close to Adamsville.)



**W. T. MOORE VS THOMAS E. PEARSON, ETALS
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT**

1874 No 312

transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Indebtedness

In the Ninth Chancery court including the County of McNairy

W. T. Moore, Dickson Etheridge and Elias Etherdige

VS

Thomas E Pearson, J P Pearson, J P Maness, W H Estes and C Shull

Thomas E. Pearson was at the September 1872 term of the County Court of the County of McNairy, was appointed guardian for Roxy A. Reed and Alice Reed, minor children of T. W. Reed, decd, and who were the step children of said Thomas E. Pearson, he having married the widow of said deceased and the mother of said minors, and as such guardian he executed his bond in said court for the sum of two hundred dollars, and W. T. Moore, Dickson Etheride and Elias Etheridge as his securities.

Thomas E. Pearson is about to remove himself and his property together with the funds belongs to his said wards beyond the State of Tennessee to the State of Missouri, without having made a settlement of his said guardianship.

Complainants also state Thomas E. Pearson was the owner of a steam saw and grist mill and fixtures encumbered with a lien of some five or six hundred dollars, they were informed that sometime in the month of January the said Thomas E. Pearson sold steam saw and grist mill and fixtures to J. P. Maness for the sum of fifteen hundred dollar and paid off and discharged said lien and J P Maness executed his note for the sum of one thousand dollars due 15th day of November, next; with W. H. Estes and C Shull as securities. The note was also made payable to J P Pearson, the son of Thomas E. Pearson. This is considered a fraudulent to keep Thomas E. Pearson from paying his debts.

Dated March 3, 1874



MILLS VS PEARSON
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT
1874 - 316
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy
Indebtedness

William A Mills, adm of F. W. Gorrell, dec
vs
Thomas E. Pearson, J P Pearson of the State of Missouri and J. P Maness, W N Estes and C Shull
and Marion G. Neal, of the State of Tennessee.

In Hardin County, Tennessee Circuit court, one J P Killpatrick recovered a judgement against Thomas E. Pearson and said F. W. Gorrell with W A Mills as security in an action of replevin brought by said Thomas E Pearson against Killpatrick for the sum of three hundred and twenty seven dollars. The same was levied against the land of said intestate and the land will be sold for the satisfaction of said judgement. Thomas E. Pearson was the person liable for said judgement and now the heirs of F. W. Gorrell will have to pay the judgement with the sale of the lands they inherited. Filed March 30, 1874. This case also refers to case 312, dated March 3, 1874.



MCNAIRY COUNTY CHANCERY COURT
JOHN KERBY VS ROBERT BEATY
July 26, 1875 - No 338
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

John Kerby and his wife Sallie Kerby, citizens of Purdy, McNairy County, Tenn
vs
Robert M Beaty, a citizens of Texas, George W Beaty, John Beaty and
Mary Ann Roten, citizens of McNairy County, Tenn.

This lawsuit was mostly between John Kerby and John Beaty over the land left by William Beaty. John Kerby says John Beaty has owed him \$225 since 1853 for paying off the amount owed to W S Wisdom. Beaty says he worked with Kerby and the time worked was supposed to have been taken off the amount he owed. It is a case of 'he said and he said.' William Beaty died intestate in McNairy County, about the year 1846, leaving surviving him Lettis Beaty, his widow and relect and Elizabeth Beaty, Sallie Kerby , formerly Sallie Beauty, John Beaty, and Mary Roten, formerly Mary Beaty, his only heirs at law.

William owned two tracts of land, one with 135 acres and one with 180 acres and owed

William S Wisdom some money and put these two tracts of land as security. Apparently Wisdom was about to foreclose on the land which would leave the wife and daughter Elizabeth in indigent circumstances. Elizabeth Beaty and brother John Beaty were to jointly pay the debt owed so their mother would have a place to live for the remainder of her life. Elizabeth paid her half within a short time leaving about \$200 still due and to be paid by John Beaty.

Elizabeth Beaty died intestate in McNairy County, Tenn August 22, 1851, leaving John Kerby and his wife Sallie Beaty Kerby, John Beaty and Mary Beaty Roten her only heirs. Nearly the whole of her personal property was left to the use and benefit of her mother. After Elizabeth's death, John Beaty moved in with his mother and took possession of the land. On November 9, 1853, John Beaty had failed to pay W S Wisdom the amount due and John Kerby paid Wisdom the amount due of \$225 and Wisdom gave Kerby his warranty deed. John Beaty executed his promissary note of \$225 to John Kerby for the payment of the land. John Kerby held the note of John Beaty in the amount of \$225 from 1853 to Dec 5, 1874 and a verbal agreement between John Kerby and John Beaty, Robert M Beaty and George W Beaty.

Since John Beaty, Robert M Beaty and George W Beaty failed to pay, John Kerby filed a complaint July 26, 1875 for \$266.25 for amount due. John Beaty said he and his wife were in indigent circumstances and getting older and that they should have a home and John Kerby should make a new note to his sons George W Beaty and Robert M Beaty to pay the \$225, although he had approximately 21 years to pay it. In 1880 a commission was appointed to divide the lands of William Beaty who died in 1846. John Beaty shows 60 ac, Mary Roten 69 ac and Sally Kerby 52. Apparently this was the 180 acre tract.

John Kerby died before March 1882 and R F Beard was appointed administrator of his estate.

Sept 8, 1880 John Beaty was 68 years old. He says he did work for John Kerby and the pay was supposed to go toward what he owed. He tells about the war years and they always had plenty of meat. At times John Kerby had to go to Paducah, Memphis and other places to get food and supplies. One trip of supplies may have been destroyed by the federal army.

John Kerby was aged 65 when he gave his deposition October 8, 1881.

Sallie Kerby was age 64 when she gave her deposition October 8, 1881.



MCNAIRY COUNTY TENNESSEE CHANCERY COURT
J R CYPERT OF NEW YORK VS D T ATKINS, ETAL
1875 No 349
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy
Indebtedness

Cypert received a judgement in the amount of \$686.70 against E D L Atkins, etal on Nov 16, 1860. E D L remained in McNairy County until 1862, when he removed to the State of Arkansas and died ca 1873 with no assets. This judgement was stayed by D T Atkins, meaning he went on the bond with him and since E D L Atkins cannot pay, they are looking to D T Atkins to

pay. D T Atkins is the owner of a parcel of land 120 acres, ½ mile east o Montezuma, which he purchased from C M Cason for about \$1500.00. Apparently D T Atkins still owns the land, but still owes Cason, so he won't give up the title until the note is paid.



MARY MCGUIN VS NOAH MCGUIN
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT
1877 - No 364
Divorce
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Mary Wooten McGuin was granted a divorce April 6, 1 877, received her maiden name back and the 30 or 40 acres. I have not researched Noah to see what happened to him or where he went, but apparently he left McNairy County since she got the land. They married Feb 4, 1874 in McNairy County.



R I WALKER VS CLAIBORN MCCULLAR, ETAL
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT
No 365 - 1877
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy
S W McCullar, deceased

R I Walker, administrator of the estate of S W McCullar, deceased
VS

Claiborn McCullar, Frank L McCullar, J O McCullar, Jennie Graham formerly Jennie McCullar who intermarried with C S Graham, L S McCullar, Georgia McCullar, age 14, and William McCullar age 13, the last two being minors and have no regular guardian, and David Horn, late administrator of the estate of S W McCullar and his securities, J F McKinney, J M Huggins and W W Lindsey, all citizens of McNairy County, Tenn.

S W McCullar, a citizen of McNairy County, died intestate in McNairy county April 1876 leaving surviving him J O McCullar, his widow and relect; F L McCullar, Jennie Graham, L S McCullar, Georgia A McCullar and William McCullar.

S W McCullar, during his lifetime was engaged in the business of retail merchant at Chewalla, Tennessee in his own name up to January 11, 1873, when Claiborn McCullar was admitted as a partner. Claiborn McCullar put into the firm \$1,127.99 against the then stock on

hand of S W McCullar amounting to \$3,533.98. The said S W McCullar to enjoy 3/4 of the profits and sustain 3/4 of the loss. The said Claiburn McCullar to enjoy 1/4 of the profits and sustain 1/4 of the loss. The firm name was S W McCullar & Co.

The firm continued until about March 1, 1876, when F L McCullar, son of S W McCullar was admitted as a partner, purchasing 1/3 of his father's interest. S W McCullar owning 1/2 interest, Claiburn McCullar 1/4 interest and F L McCullar 1/4 interest. New name was S W McCullar, Son & Co. This firm continued only a short time when S W McCullar died.

The surviving partners had to close the business until David Horn was appointed administrator of the estate. Goods on hand when Horn took charge as administrator was \$2,677 and cash 164.15. 1/2 of this amount belonged to the estate, the other half to the partners. Walker implies some of the funds were missing, and David Horn, the first administrator did not do his job.

Claiborn McCullar filed his petition for bankruptcy Feb 1877 .

The store owed about \$3,000 and S W McCullar personally owed about \$1,500. The store account amounted to about \$2,620.73, many of them worthless. The property S W McCullar owned will have to be sold to pay the debts.

The widow, J O McCullar, has had her homestead and dower, 45 acres out of the first tract, assigned her out of the real estate and given her year's allowance.

300 acres less the 45 acres for widow's dower, 101 acres, 25 acres. Some of this land bordered the Memphis & Charleston Railroad. Also two town lots in Chewalla. There is also a mention of land purchased from R S Houston.

Signed R I Walker, March 26, 1877

Depositions taken at the Clerk & Master's Office in Falcon, TN, March 16, 1886:

R I Walker, age 57. Walker states these accounts are insolvent, at the date of S W McCullar's death.

Adams, J M,	Boyd, J G	Dancer, P	Faulkner &
Adams, Wm	Boyers, J M	Deming, W J	Parkerson
Adams, WM	Bray, J G	Derryberry, B W T	Ferguson, Jas
Austin, Lewis	Brewer, Bill	Derryberry, Jasper	Ferrell, J L
Austin, J C	Bridges, J L	Derryberry, Jerry	Ferrell, Wm
Austin, J H	Bridges, G M	Dillingham, Jas	Ferrell, M M
Austin, Lewis	Bridges, J P	Dillingham, Joe &	Fulton, G B
Ayen, T N	Burns, AP	Graham	Gallahaugh, Andy
Ayers, T M	Butler, L A Mrs	Dixon, J T	Gillespie, G
Baker, Rich	Butler, A	Dobbins, C F	Graham, C S
Bayers, J M	Cardwell, Thomas	Driskell, Evelin	Graham, J H
Biggs, R W	Chambers, Nat	Driskell, Nan	Graham, Bill
Blankenship, J J	Chambers, Zach	Eaker, D W	Graham, W M
Boatman, Louisa	Chambers, Reuben	Eaker, T W	Graves, G W or J
Boatman, Henry	Churchwell, P	Elroy, C M	Guess, John
Boatman, J L W	Coleman, C	Emmons, N N	Harbin, Albert
Bowers, Levi	Coleman, C A	Emmons, H N	Harbin, H Mrs
Bowers, Levi	Coleman, S M		Harbin, Elbert

Harbin, Bud	MCCullar,	Roberts, Till	Thrasher, Wis
Hawkins, George	McElory, J H	Rodgers, W C	Tucker, T J
Hawkins, J T	Meeks, Robert	Ross, Nancy	Tucker, Dan
Haynes, Jas	Miller, Wash	Saxen, H H	Tucker, T J
Henderson, W C	Monroe, J F	Scott, J	Turner, M M
Hendrix, G L	Morphis, W J	Shelton, J A	Vanstory, Samuel
Henley, J C	Mucklery, J & Wm	Shelton, W A	
Hicks, J C	Mynatt, J L	Shelton, S E	
Hogan, Jane Mrs	Neill, J C	Smallwood, G D &	
Holyfiled, E C	Newell, John	Potts,	
Hooker, A M	Newell, Mollie	Sweat, L H	
Hooker, T J	Nickols, A B	Sweat, Issiah	
Hooker, A N	Null, Mrs L M	Tate, Marvin	
Hooker, Duck	Null, Charles	Tate, Dewit	
Houston, R W	Null, W J	Tate, E M	
Huggins, John	Parchman, Ward	Tate, Marvin	
Hurst, E D	Parkerson, Dan	Tate, C Z	
Jeans, C M	Parkerson, D P	Tate, J W	
Jones, W E	Parkerson, R	Tate, E C	
Jones, J B	Parkerson, Kelly	Tate, J W	
Jones, W E	Mrs	Taylor, R E	
King, Jack	Parkerson, Barb		
King, Elgin	Parkson, John		
King, T B	Phillip, Shack		
Kirk, G D J	Phillips, W J		
Kirk, Giles	Phillips, H C		
Lambert, Fannie	Pittman		
Lambert, Mollie	Pittman, A Z		
Lambert, J L	Pittman, V A		
Lambert, Billie	Pittman, E A		
Lambert, J P	Price, W E		
Layton, W M	Ramer, T J		
Layton, G W	Ramer, Elgin		
Lewis, B H	Ramer, W C		
Mask, W F	Ramer, E A		
Mason, G W	Rankin, J A		
McCullar, J A	Rankin, W P		
McCullar, C M	Reed, W M		
McCullar, T S	Reed, W M		
McCullar, P	Reynolds, Wm		
McCullar, F L	Reynolds, W M		
McCullar, C	Richards, D W		
McCullar, J O Mrs	Richards, D W		
McCullar, S W	Roberson, T J		
McCullar, C M	Roberts, J N		
McCullar, F L	Roberts, M M		
McCullar, T S	Roberts, W M		

Walker, K M	Wrenn, J H
Washinton, George	Wright, Finnis
Wilmeth, B F	Wright, M A Mrs
Wilmoth, G W	Young, S F
Woods, A	Young
Wren, H C	
, Samuel	

Mrs Jane Hogan is mentioned as deceased.

March 18, 1886, R I Walker, states J O McCullar, the widow of S W McCullar is now deceased and been has been dead some time.

F L McCullar, age 32 states: He owned 1/4 of the business, Claiburn McCullar owned 1/4 and S W McCullar owned 1/2. At the death of S W McCullar, David Horn, the executor of the estate at the time, inventoried the goods and turned it over to the surviving partners. They continued to sell the goods and pay the profits on the debts of the business. Claiburn Mccullar then filed bankruptcy. All the goods under the bankruptcy and those owned by F L McCullar were sold to pay the debt of Hill, Terry & Mitchell, maybe ca 1879. F L McCullar was a witness in that case and has testified twice in this case, once in March 1884 and one time before that.

F L McCullar states the following concerning the accounts at the time of his father's death: T J Tucker, G E Schilling, J W Graves and D W Richards could have been contacted. John Rowsey - insolvent. D C Mitchell and Dave Turner were considered good but they lived in Mississippi.

Some accounts were good but no money could have been made out of execution. His mother, J O McCullar, has been dead two years or more. There are four heirs: himself, F L McCullar, T S McCullar, Jennie Graham and Georgia Derryberry.

Some valuable timber was cut off the land by T L McCullar, T S McCullar, George ? McCullar and some by person unknown. \$130 rent was received off the land last year. March 16, 1886. F L McCullar could sign his name.

David Horn age 70, state: D W Richard was a farmer and run a cotton gin and had left the state before the death of S W McCullar.

These accounts struck off and sold to J W Walker for .05 cents: T J Tucker, S E Schilling, Sam young, Mollie Newell, J W Graves, John Johnson, Patrick Scully, Mary turner, Albert Harbin, V A Pittman, J W Leatherwood, W J Null, Eliza Hooker, J F Hensley, Willis Nelson, J W West, Z T Gwynn, John Ramsey, G W Thrasher, Jno L Briggs, W H Richardson, W H Hamilton, E H Pittman, B T Davis, O F Lamberth, Bill Nelms, Taby Nickols, Bill Lamberth, T H Maberry, A Woods, Lafayette Smith, Jack Bass, R J Howell, John Smith.

Hargroves & Lamberth, J P Phillips, Jas Dillingham, W E James. J H Walker, J M Harrison, M A Butler, Louis Austin. A P Burns, J M Guess. W E Jones. R Bradley, G W Graham, Reuben Chambers, E Z Tate & D W Richards, W H Bass, J W Graves, T J Tucker, C B Rodgers, E D Hurst ?, C F Dobbins, Julia Smith. E M Tate, D W Eaker. Lue Campbell. R W Biggs, J B Jones, W H Hogne ?. R Long, Jas Biggs, Jno R Rollerson. Jas Eaker

These accounts struck off and sold to J W Walker for .25 cents: Hayan Woodward, Jack King, W E Price, Alex Bailey, Ben Anderson, Mrs L M Hail, N L C Derryberry, J H

Austin, Ed Steen, Clint Claxten. Monroe Phillips, C A Coleman, W M Stewart, Ward Parchment, Finnie Wright, L M Coleman, Wm M Reed, F L McCullar. C Mask, Charles Deloch,

These accounts struck off and sold to J W Walker for .20 cents: J M Dixon, George Howie, Billie Phillips, E Paysinger, W M Adams, Julius Camp, T M Clear, Marilda Smith, S E shelton, L H Sweat, Nute Easley, J T Hawkins, Ann Patterson, C G Graham.

These accounts struck off and sold to Ben Baysinger for .05 cents: R W Long, J G Bray, J W Tate, S L Reynolds.

These accounts struck off and sold to J W Walker for \$1.25: S F Young.

These accounts struck off and sold to R I Walker for .25 cents: J & W McElroy, J M Walker.

These accounts struck off and sold to J C Ijames for .10 cents: B T Morgan.

These accounts struck off and sold to Cobb for .30 cents: W J Morphis.

These accounts struck off and sold to J C Ijames for .05 cents: J F Gurley, C A Burrow. D C Mitchell, Jas A Osborn. J W Graves, C W Baker. W P Ranking, J P Lamberth, A McCuller. M Nelms, A M Erwin, J C Hurley, A C Mcculler, J J Turner, J B Tassell, Nancy Rose, B H Lewis.

These accounts struck off and sold to R I Walker for .05 cents: John Franklin, David Turner. Dan Parkerson, W J Morphis, John Parkerson, T D Hobgood.

These accounts struck off and sold to Polk Lawson for .95 cents: Jeff Smith.

These accounts struck off and sold to J W Walker for \$1.50: C M Elroy, J C Austin.

These accounts struck off and sold to J W Walker for \$1.25: S F Young

These accounts struck off and sold to J H Ammons for .30 cents: G D Freeman, J G Richard, Wes Thrasher.

These accounts struck off and sold to J W Walker for .85: F L Mccullar, D W Eaker, Bill Layton.

These accounts struck off and sold to J W Walker for \$2.00: W M Ferrell, J P Bridges, Bill Layton, G Gillespie, J S Rankin, T S McCuller.

These accounts struck off and sold to B W T Derryberry for .30 cents: Wm Ferrell, A Butler. Dan Parkerson.

These accounts struck off and sold to T L McGraw for \$2.65: H C Wallis.

These accounts struck off and sold to J N Bullman for 10 cents: Mollie Lamberth.

These accounts were sold to various people for various prices: J M Faulkerson, Mrs H Moss, D C Mitchell, J C Butler, H C Wallis, Giles Kirk, Wm Ferrell, L A Butler, Gus Harrison, Almedia Shepard, Jas Wallis.

These accounts struck off and sold to R I Walker for .50 cents: J J Blankenship.

These accounts struck off and sold to R I Walker for %5.30: P M Mccullar.

These accounts struck off and sold to Wm Henderson for 10 cents: Thomas Cardwell.

These accounts struck off and sold to Elijah Smith for .10 cents: George Smallwood.

These accounts struck off and sold to Green Stanley for .05 cents: W M Tuner, R B King, Jas Smith, Levi Springer.

These accounts struck off and sold to Polk Lawson for .35 cents: W C Rodgers, G M Bridges, M Nelms.

These accounts struck off and sold to R I Walker for .50 cents: J L W Boatman.

These accounts struck off and sold to R I Walker for 10 cents: W A Shelton, G W Graves, J W Tate, M Nickals. Wm A Brewer, S F Young, J O McCuller.

These accounts struck off and sold to B W T Boatman for 2.35: Wm Graham. Another Wm Graham account sold for .55 cents.

These accounts struck off and sold to Jas Brock for .15 cents: W J Deming, B H Lewis, J H Osborn, J P Bridges, M M Layton, G M Briges, R Z Pittman, D W Muse, W J Owens, J H Mackelroy, B T Morgan, J W Graves.

These accounts struck off and sold to J H Stuttts for .10 cents: R W Houston, G B Fulton, L H Sweat, P Rickey, E M Tate.

These accounts struck off and sold to T S McCullar for .10 cents: W A Shelton, J W Graves, J W Tate, M Nickols.

These accounts struck off and sold to Asa Bell for \$1.00: L M Clark, Josph Idlett, A B Nickolls, Nate and E C Holyfield.

These accounts struck off and sold to J W Walker for .75 cents: W T Steen.

These accounts struck off and sold to B W T Derryberry for .05 cents: W C Rodgers, M E Watson, Geo Hawkins, Dan Tucker, Richard Bayers, Saml Vanstory, Charles Tate, Callie Ijames, Laverna Smith, Jenny Smith.

These accounts struck off and sold to Sid Plunk for .25: J M Boyers, J C Butler, J W Calhoun, John Easley, J W Cheatwood, Jas Dillingham, Henry Nash, D W Richards. (Richards owed \$1,47.72.)

The following is a list of judgements sold to R I Walker for \$5.00

Jaret Scott, J C Derryberry, G W Lentz, T Churchwell, Reuben Chambers, Matt Chambers, George Lister, Susan Newell, R Parkerson, R W Baker, H N Emmons, N A Julin, Marvin Tate, Andy Gallaher, E A Ramer, W H Wrenn, G W Wilmeth, C M McCuller, G W Hendrix, Matt Chambers, T J hooker, A M Hooker, Nancy Julian, M J Smith, George Luster, B G Wilmeth, M E Shelton, James Haynes, Isaiah Sweat, E W Wooten, Jas Ferguson, J C Hicks, Zach Chambers, P J M Derryberry, John Huggins, J H Wrenn, R Chambers, S Washington, J T Nethery, Sam & thad Nethery, Henry boatman, Charles Johnson, T J Robertson, Henry boatman, J V hooker, Louisa Boatman, W C Henderson, Barney Wray, Bob Meeks, Mrs P Flanigan, W W Flanigan, A J Mccullarm Jacob Triplett, Frank A Monroe, Jessie Gooch, J S Spiers, P M Derryberry, J B Tassell, Pete Capoot, P M Derryberry, J J and R H Smith, J C Derryberry, Calvin Wooten, G G Brown.

Apparently Mr McCullar was too good for his own good.

The October 1886 term of court assign to the creditors of S W McCullar 150 acres. To Virginia Graham, wife of C S Graham 35 acres. To Georgia Derryberry, wife of J C Derryberry 25 acres. To Thomas McCullar 25 acres. To F L Mccullar 34 acres. Signed T L Barnhill, Jas Haynes and John L Epps.

The shrouding and coffin for S W Mccullar cost \$33.80.

The following is a list of parties owing S W McCullar and the firm with which he was connected who live out of the State of Tennessee and those that are dead:

C McCullar - dead
 A P Burnes ? - Mississippi
 E M Tate - out of Tennessee now
 Sam Parkerson - In Texas now
 J F Monroe - In Miss now
 J T Dixon - In Miss now
 Jas Dillingham - In Miss then
 T J Tucker - In Texas now
 J W Graves - In Miss then, now dead
 G W Mason - dead
 J F Gurley - in Miss now
 W M Turner - In Miss then, now dead
 T McCullar - In Miss now
 S F Young - dead
 W F Mash - In Miss then
 J H Butler - In Miss then
 G Gillespie - dead
 T N Ayen or Ayers - In Miss then,dead
 K P Lamberth - In Miss
 J M Adams dead
 W T Steen - In Miss then
 W C Ramer - dead
 Reuben Chambers - dead
 Miss L A Butler - In Miss then
 M Nickols - dead
 John Smith - In Miss then
 Bud Harbin - out of state
 E A Pittman - In Miss
 V A Pittman - In Miss
 W M Reynolds - dead
 D C Mitchell - in Miss then, now dead
 J J Blankenship - In Miss
 K P Hipps - in Ala
 Fannie Lambert - in Miss
 Mrs M Turner - in Miss
 Bill Brewer - In Miss
 J C Butler - In Miss

Mrs Jane Hogan - dead
 Wm Reynolds - dead
 Mollie Lambert - In Miss
 A Woods - dead
 P McCullar - In Miss then
 W J Neill - dead
 R Parkerson - dead
 J F Hensley - in Miss, maybe
 M A Phillips - In Miss
 John Smith - In Miss
 Pack Butler - in Miss
 Ed Steen - in Miss
 Julia Smith - In Miss
 J W Tate - gone
 Mrs L M Hail - In Miss
 Wes Blankenship - dead
 C S Graham - in Miss
 W E Price 0 In Miss
 H Husley - In Miss
 G Gillespie - dead

Sept 30, 1885: B W T Derryberry, age 42, at Falcon, Tenn: I lived near Chewalla in this county in 1876 I was raised near Chewalla and live there now. In 1876, I was appointed Deputy Sheriff, was appointed deputy sheriff in 1874 and held the position until 1882.

J C Ijames, age 41: I lived at Chewalla in this county at that time and had lived there for several years until 1882. I Was enjoyed in the grocery business. S W McCullar lived at Chewalla and was enjoyed in the dry goods business and died in Chewalla in March 1876.

M M Demming, age 34, is a justice of the peace in the first district. Demming states S W McCullar was engaged in merchandising near the Mississippi and Tennessee state line and had customers from both states.

This file has a lot more but very hard to cipher. The accounts listed here were the insolvent accounts. There were many good accounts that were collected.



**B P MOORE VS R M THOMPSON
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TN, CHANCERY COURT**

No 370 - 1877

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy
William Carroll Moore estate

This lawsuit was about the William Carroll Moore estate. The best I could tell, some monies for land sold from the W C Moore estate was never collected, or never paid to the heirs and R M Thompson was the Chancery Court Clerk. The lawsuit gave names of some of the heirs that moved away from McNairy County. Alfred Moore and James F McKinney was appointed administrators of the W C Moore estate in April 1863.

The Dempsey Moore land was sold in 1858. Dempsey Moore was the father of W C Moore. C H Moore and A C Moore were appointed administrators of the Dempsey Moore estate.

W C Moore received 1179 acres in a land grant in 1848. That land was divided into smaller tracts for easy sale and sold at public auction October 31, 1867:

Fielding Hurst - 139 acres for \$486.50

J R S Moore - 20 acres for \$507.00

J W Basham - 101 acres for \$131.30

D W Moore - 100 acres for \$380.00

C H Moore - 99 acres for \$277.20

Total sold 659 acres for \$1,782.00. Lawsuits does not address what happened to the other 520 acres. (He also purchased 99 acres from his father's estate.)

Lists of heirs: Alfred Moore; C H Moore; B P Moore; J R S Moore; A C Moore; L M Moore, R Martin and his wife Angeline in Texas; Emantha Styles, Alzira Styles; Eliza Ann Moore who has since intermarried with John M Russom; Selbrinia Fulkerson, J D Fulkerson and P A Fulkerson, (there were other siblings, not listed, children of Adeline Moore,) all underage. Eliza Ann Moore is of age at this lawsuit.

Three siblings, Casandra Martha, Wade Shelby and George W apparently died without issue before William Carroll Moore as no heirs are listed for them. Wade Shelby Moore had one daughter that was not listed and she sued for her share in Chancery Court Case 518.

Ten heirs listed: C H Moore, B P Moore, J R S Moore, A C Moore, L M Moore, James Grant and wife, Eliza Styles heirs, – Brown and wife, R Martin and wife Angeline in Texas, Adelaide Fulkerson heirs.

Notes from McNairy County Court Minutes 1858-1868, transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy:

Sept 1858. Wm Carroll Moore appointed administrator of Jesse P Jeans. Bond \$400 with W W Jeans and W D Jopling security.

Nov 5, 1860, Wm Carroll Moore appointed administrator of George L Moore estate. Bond \$200, with J R S Moore and T H Bell, securities. (George was his brother.)

Aug 1863, Alfred Moore and J F McKinney appointed administrators of Wm Carroll Moore, deceased. Bond \$2000 with Arthur Harris security.



THOMAS E DEVAULT VS W T LILLY
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT
Sept 24, 1877 - No 376
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Thomas E Devault, Guardian of Martha S Riley of McNairy County, Tenn
VS
William T Lilly, John Lilly; Daniel Harris and wife Elizabeth; Freeman Wolverton & wife Nancy;
Almira J Lilly of McNairy County.

Thomas E Devault was appointed guardian for Martha S Riley, a minor child of James Riley, dec'd.

On March 1, 1874, R M Thompson executed a note to Thomas E Devault as guardian of Martha S Riley for \$558.32. Thomas H Lilly was his security. On January 29, 1876, Devault obtained a judgement for said note against R M Thompson and his security T H Lilly. R M Thompson has no personal property to be found and the burden falls on T H Lilly. There was no reason given for the loan, if personal loan or if he purchased land or other items from estate.

T H Lilly departed this life in 1877, (before September 24) leaving surviving him his widow Almira J Lilly; T W Lilly, John Lilly, David Harris and wife Elizabeth, Freeman Wolverton and wife Nancy L, his only heirs. Prior to his death T H Lilly made and published his last will and W T Lilly was appointed executor of the estate. Thomas H Lilly was the owner of two tracts of land: 200 acres of land and 14 acres.

Dated Sept 24, 1877

The defendants answer: T E Devault was not appointed guardian of Martha S Lilly as stated. The defendants know nothing about such note that T H Lilly signed as security for R M Thompson. Defendants feel since Thompson was the principal he should be liable for the amount.

Guardian Notice: First Monday in February 1874 before J G Gooch, chairman of County Court and W H D Maxedon and W J Massengill, associate justices, W D Jopling, sheriff and C

Shull Clerk: "This day John Devault came into open court and tendered his resignation as guardian of Martha Susan Riley, which was received. There upon Thomas E Devault came forward and was appointed guardian and gave bond of \$1,000 as required by law with W D Jopling and David McKenzie as securities."

S L Warren, is guardian for Sarah Lilly, minor on April 7, 1880. She is not mentioned as a defendant in the lawsuit.

Thomas H Lilly could not sign his name.

Poster: Land Sale: In pursuance of a decreetal order of the Chancery Court of McNairy County, Tenn, I will offer for sale to the highest bidder at the court house door in the town of Purdy on Saturday the 18th day of September, 1880: About 100 acres of land belonging to the estate of T H Lilly, deceased, lying on the waters of Lick Creek in the 11th civil District of McNairy County. The above lands will be sold on a credit of twelve months. Note and approved security required of purchaser and interest from day of sale. Robert E McKinney, Clerk and Master, Aug 12, 1880. Notice given in McNairy Independent Aug 12, 1880.

There was in this file a Circuit Court Case W H Carothers use of Andrew McKenzie Vs R M Thompson, T H Lilly and W T Lilly. Judgement was for complainant. March 18, 1880. Thompson owed \$517.13

It is unknown if any money was recovered. R M Thompson left McNairy County. The reason for the loan by Devault to Thompson was not disclosed.



MCNAIRY COUNTY CHANCERY COURT
RICHARD HILL VS HARRIET HILL,
DIVORCE , CASE
1878 - NO 383
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Stated they married 1866 in McNairy County. Richard said he had been living in McNairy County now 2 years. (Must have left the county, I do not find them in 1870). They lived together until 1875 when Harriet willfully and maliciously abandoned complainant. Divorce granted 1 st Monday in April 1878



**OBEDIAH FARRIS VS R W CAFFEY
MCNAIRY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT**

1869 - No 385.5

Estate of Lina Farris Chambers Caffey
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

To the Honorable Geo H. Nixon Chancellor presiding at Purdy Tenn for the county of McNairy:

The bill of complaint of Obediah Farris, Nicy Wardlow, Mahala Elam and her husband Jesse C Elam, S P Farris, H C Farris, F P Farris, J R Horn and wife Lucretia L Horn, Wm Forsythe and wife Lina Ann, all residents of McNairy County, Tennessee except, H C Farris and J R Horn and wife who are residents of Hardin County Tenn and Wm Forsythe and wife Lina Ann, who are residents of the State of Mississippi

Against

R W Caffey, McNairy County Tenn and the then minor children of Caroline and Gov Jones dec'd, who reside in the State of Arkansas and whose names are unknown.

Complainants respectfully present to Your Honor that John Chambers departed this life in McNairy County, State of Tennessee, intestate in the year 1856 leaving Lina Chambers his widow and Henry Clay Chambers his infant son and sole heir at law. (Infant son, does not always mean a baby, but a person under 21 years of age.)

The said Henry Clay Chambers also departed this life intestate in said county in May or June 1863 without a wife or issue, leaving the said Lina Chambers, his mother, as his only heir at law. (That he died in McNairy County, may not be right. He may have died in the Civil War.)

The said Lina Chambers, after the death of her first husband John Chambers, intermarried with defendant R W Caffey, and on or about the 10 day of April 1875, she also departed this life intestate, without issue, leaving her brothers and sisters and their issue as her heirs at law:

Obediah Farris,

Nicy Wardlow,

Mahala Elam

Commandore Farris, dec'd, heirs: S P Farris, H C Farris, F P Farris and Lucretia L Horn

Caroline, who married Gov Jones, dec'd, heir: Lina Ann Forsythe

Complainants further state that the said John Chambers, possessed real estate lying in McNairy County, which descended to his infant son H C Chambers which also, upon his death descended to his mother, the said Lina.

Complainants further state that soon after the late war, some time in 1865 or 1866, defendant R W Caffey was appointed administrator of said H C Chambers dec'd and afterwards, at the November term of the county court of McNairy County, 1866, he resigned the administration and David and John Horn were appointed in his stead as administrators of the said H C Chambers dec'd; and on the 27th day of April 1867, the said David Horn and John Horn administrators filed their bill in Chancery Court at Purdy against the said R W Caffey and wife Lina, (stating) that the personal estate of their intestate, had been exhausted in the payment of

debts. That there was yet debts remaining due and unpaid against said estate to the amount of \$3, 327.95 and praying for the sale of the lands of said estate, or (pay the debts). At the Oct 1867 term, said Chancery Court, said lands were to be sold for payment of debts and on the 14th day of December 1867 and on the 27th day of Feb 1868, said lands was sold by the Clerk and Master of said Chancery Court , being 11 small tract s - coming to the aggregate about 2, 395 acres of valuable land. All of which land , except the widow's dowry, was sold by said proceedings, purchased by the said R W Caffey and at almost nominal prices, no one bidding for the same but him.

Complainants, here refer to the original bill and ----- in said cause o f David and John Horn, administrators vs R W Caffey and wife Lina, and to the ---- papers filed therein, for a description of said lands; and compts further state that since said sale of said Clerk & Master, defendant Caffey has, as they are informed, sold or contracted various -- -- of said lands to the other defendants. viz:

205 1/2 acre tract referred to is the result of sale of lot No 2 of the Swansen lands to defendant Charles Burns;

200 acre tract referred as Pinkney Wardlow tract to defendant Eddy Cobb;

200 acre tract referred as Silas Littlejohn tract referred to an defendant Elisha Palmer

125 acre tract referred as west side of Lot no 1, Swansen lands to defendant Alex Irwin

Said defendants in possession of said tracts claiming them as their own lands under said purchases. Said Caffey may have sold or bargained other of said lands, since his said purchases, but if so complainants are not now aware of it . Said Caffey and those claiming under him --- - - and occupied the lands so purchased by said Caffey, ever since said sale was made by the Clerk & Master as aforesaid. Said sale was reported to the Court of the Clerk & Master and confirmed at the October term 1868; but no title has ever bee n ----- by the Chancery Court, in pursuance of said sale. At least Complainants can find no evidence of such ---- - title and they charge here has been none.

Complainants charge that said sale by the Clerk & Master as aforesaid was void and communicated no title to purchaser R W Caffey, for the following reasons among others, viz:

1 - The said bill of said Administrators not --- t h e exhaustion of the personal assets in the payment of just and bona fide debts again st their instate.

2. - Said bill does not show the existence of any bonafide debt against said intestate.

3. - There was no appearance or answer in said cause by or on be half of said defendant Lina Caffey to whom said land belonged. And she was not represented by counsel nor was there any --- or order taking s aid bill for - --- against her.

4. - There was no proof what ever showing the exhaustion of personal assets in payment of bonafide debts or the existence of bonafide debts against said estate and the report upon which the --- for sale w s based, was wholly insufficient to ----- order the sale of said lands.

5. - There was ---- and found, as Complainants charge upon the part of said Caffey with the parties claiming demands against said estate, to have said lands sold for the satisfaction of false in---- and fictitious claims to enable Caffey to purchase the lands at -- nominal prices and thereby change the title from his wife to himself and ----- .

They charge that said H C Chambers was not extrusively (?) indebted at the time of his death, that he had arrived at lawful age within a short time previously, not over twelve months as

they ----- and that if any liabilities existed against him at all, they were for ----, or based upon ---- many transactions which should not have been paid in full - of which was well known to defendant Caffey and they charge that he has never paid the purchase money bid by him for said land, but on the contrary he has brought up false and fictitious claims against the estate at large and ----- and by collusion with said administrators, proceed credits in his purchases --- by means of such false fictitious claims.

And Complainants charge upon their information and belief that not \$500.00 of valid and bona fide debts existed against said H C Chambers' estate at his death and that his (estate) was fully sufficient to have paid his just debts.

Complainants further charge that the said Lina Caffey, possessed also a tract of land in McNairy County, from 80 to 100 acres, upon which she with her said husband, resided at the time of her death and upon which Defendant Caffey has since resided and now resides. Said land is a part of the land which was allotted her as (dowery) out of the estate of her first husband, John Chambers.

Complainants, give a definite description of said land and they call upon Defendant Caffey to file a definite description of same with his answer hereto.

Complainants charge that said land is the property of the said heirs of Lina Caffey and that they are entitled to have the same sold of partition and that said Caffey is liable to them for the rents of said land for the years 1875 - 1878."

The lands sold (mentioned above) on December 14, 1867 were:

1. 170 acres to R W Caffey for \$229.90, paid \$15.00 and a 12 month note for \$214.90
2. 200 acres to R W Caffey for \$400.00, paid \$15.00 and a 12 month note for \$385.00
3. 205.5 ac to R W Caffey - \$901.20, paid \$20.00 and a 12 month note for \$883.10

Surety was Jesse Elam and H T Emmons

The lands sold on Feb 27, 1868 were:

4. 200 acres to R W Caffey for \$370.00, 12 month note, surety Pinkney Wardlow
5. 140 acres to R W Caffey for \$242.00, 12 month note, surety Pinkney Wardlow
6. 140 acres to R W Caffey for \$217.30, 12 month note, surety Pinkney Wardlow
7. 146 acres to R W Caffey for \$197.90, 12 month note, surety Pinkney Wardlow
8. 125 acres to R W Caffey for \$875.00, 12 month note, surety Pinkney Wardlow
(The lawsuit above, charges that R. W. Caffey never paid his notes to the estate.)

List of claims that have been presented against the estate of H C Chambers, dec'd:

L. J. Wiley 2.00	R C Houston 55.00	
P. H. Braden 44.64,	G W Pratt 38.75	L A Canon ? 318.00
James Wardlow 50.00	H. T. Emmons 165.00	John Richards 150.00
C T Swayers 50.19	F. H Sanders 81.63	David North 60.00
Pinkney Wardlow 250.00	J. L. Britton 8.00	Reed Phillips 21.00
Calvin Shull 151.00	Joseph Walker 5.00	A T Emmons 6.00
James Chambers 60.00	M S Crow 40.00	M ----- 30.00
John Kerby 25.50	J L W Boatman 35.00	W m Lea 75.00
R W Caffey 947.00	Lina Caffey 210.00	Bell & Wisdom 45.84
John A Truley-- 2 mares 1 mule 502.50.		

State vs Circuit Court cost 38.25, Before Justice of Peace cost 13.65
Total 3,478.95 dated July 1866

The case was settled and dismissed March 2, 1880.

Transcriber's Note:

Charles Burns, that purchased 205.5 acres, had a granddaughter named Minnie Burns, that was my grandmother.

Obediah Farris, the complainant in this lawsuit (brother of Lina Caffey) had a grandson named J E Bolding, that was my grandfather.

J E Bolding and Minnie Burns were married about 1911 in McNairy County and lived most of their life, about 1 mile north of the land.

All of the 205.5 acres belonged to the Burns descendants until about 1950. Some of it still belonged to descendants as late as 1996. This land was about 1.5 miles south of Gravel Hill on the Old No Five Highway, and about 2.5 miles west of New Hope Community were Lina and R W Caffey lived.



**EMILY L J PARRISH VS GEORGE S PARRISH
MCNAIRY COUNTY CHANCERY COURT**

Sept 1878 No #397

Divorce

Emily J L Cheatham and George S Parrish married Dec 25, 1867 in McNairy County. They have four children: Columbus L age 8 last February, Thomas O aged 7 last November, Edgar O aged 3 last May and Maggie May age 1 years old August 11, 1878. Emily says for the past several months the husband has been abusing her, hitting, kicking and beating her and threatening to throw her and the children out of the house, even threatening to kill her. George denies that for the past several months his conduct towards her has been of such outrageous character and has abused her. He says her father and family have influenced her to leave him. In April 1880 the case was dismissed by Emily.

came to my house with John Moore (or Moon) and left his notes with me to collect for him. Caffey owed Thomas a note and so did John Moore and two or three more.

N A Erwin, Jr, age 30: Thomas paid for and purchased three hogs, pork, from Erwin in 1876 and he delivered it to the Crisp smoke house.

Clem Lee, age 29, heard Crisp say he did not think Mr Thomas had done him right in taking all of his things away and not giving his wife anything as he had all the trouble of taking care of the old lady.

Arch Olive, age 61: Stated Mr Crisp built a house upon Mr Thomas' land in 1869, apparently it was paid for by Crisp. Olive stated William Rogers put the building up and he finished it.

John Bowers, age 50: Crisp was a farmer and works at the saddle trade.

The separate answer of N L Thomas to the original attachment was made Feb 3, 1879. He denies emphatically that he owes complainant the amount set forth in said bill or any part thereof. He never heard of any claim against him by Crisp until the filing of this bill. That he settled up everything that he owed before he left for Texas. Respondent emphatically denies that he is indebted to complainant for board of himself in the year 187- for 16 months at \$7 per month. He emphatically denies he owes \$250 for board and attention to wife for ten months. He denies his liability for Mrs Bowers and four children, Mrs Bowers the sister of complainant's wife and Mrs Wardlow stay for two month, \$20. He denies any indebtedness to complainant but on the contrary said Crisp is largely indebted to him and has been for a long time for supplies and — for himself and family. Thomas states Crisp never has taken care of his family is a trifling drunken man. Said itemized amounts are filed 'Exhibit A.' May 27, 1879.

M M Crisp owes to N L Thomas

Aug 12, 1866	marriage license	6.00
1868	3 months board, Crisp and wife	42.00
1869	3 month board, colored hand	24.00
1870-71	shop rent, 2 years \$2 per mo	24.00
1872	paid Wm Rogers to build Crisp house	30.00
1874	Loan Money in Memphis	7.00
1875	Cash loan	20.00
1876	Cash loan	5.00
1876	140 pounds flour	45.60
	coffee & sugar	15.00
	573 lbs pork	35.91
	298 lbs pork	20.86
	42 lbs bacon	4.20
	100 lbs beef	5.00
1877	note on Dr Huggins	80.00
1877	note on Ellick Hurst	15.00
1877	Judgement on Kiaser	8.50
Nov 21	cash paid to F H Sanders & Bro	6.00
	molasses 30 gal	15.00
	total	433.07

Signed by N L Thomas March 24, 1879 in Tarrant Texas

Depositions taken in McNairy County on Sept 9, 1879 in front of W H Stone, JP:

Amanda Conner, age 49 years old: Mrs Thomas lived at the Crisp home for a good while. She had cancer and required attention. Amanda didn't miss many days when Mrs Thomas was sick. Mrs Crisp waited upon Mrs Thomas and Amanda did Mrs Crisp's work. Board for Mrs Thomas should be worth \$100 per month. Mrs Bowers was there five months and Mrs Wardlow most of the time Mrs Thomas was sick. Mr Thomas had request them to come. Mr and Mrs Thomas had a single daughter at the time and she stayed all the time of her mother's sickness, only a few days at the time she would go over to Mrs Elders. Signed Amanda Connor.

M N Olive, age 59 said she had been neighbor to them since 1861. Not sure if Crisp or Thomas. She thought \$50 a month would be a reasonable charge. Those in the household: Mrs Thomas, her husband, a single daughter Emma, Mrs Bowers and four children, Mrs Wardlow and one child. She states Mrs Bowers and Mrs Wardlow came from Arkansas and stayed 5-6 months. The smell from Mrs Thomas' cancer was very offensive. Signed M N Olive

Mary Watson, age 47: was asked to nurse Mrs Thomas for awhile but didn't think Mr Thomas would pay. She also states Mrs Bowers and Mrs Wardlow came from Arkansas. Mary could not sign her name.

Winnie Gibson, age 50: Thought \$50 a month for nursing Mrs Thomas was adequate. She head Mrs Thomas say she wanted Mrs Crisp paid for her trouble. Winnie Gibson could not sign her name.

Eliza J Bowers, age 45 years: Also thought \$50 per month was adequate for taking care of Mrs Thomas. Eliza could not sign her name.

In the file shows a note date Feb 3, 1879 of M M Crisp to N L Thomas & others for \$250.

N L Thomas died before April 7, 1880, as his death was suggested in court.

Judge Geo Nixon, chancellor ruled on October 8, 1880 in a law suit M M Crisp vs N A Erwin, Jr, administrator of N L Nixon estate. It was agreed that Crisp would receive in full settlement of all claims he has against the estate of said Thomas, the sum of \$300, out of the funds now attached and in the hands of R E McKinney. Defendants to pay the costs of the suit plus the attorney fees and any funds left to be paid to the administration of said Thomas estate.



MARY M SCOTT VS T WASH SCOTT
McNairy County, Tennessee, Chancery Court
Sept 4, 1878 - No 410
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy
Divorce and Land Dispute

Mary M Scott, a resident of McNairy County, Tennessee: Complainant

VS

T W Scott, Jesse Jones, D A Hill & Z T Tate, Residents of said State and citizens of said county.

Humbly complainant would respectfully represent unto your Honor that she intermarried with the defendant T W Scott in said (county) about the month of November 1865, and that they lived together as husband and wife until about the month of September, 1872, when they separated and lived separate until sometime in the year 1877 when they came together in the manner hereinafter explained. Complainant would further show that the — of their first separation was that defendant repeatedly abused her by cussing her and violently taking hold of and shaking her and threatening her and offend her such indigent and inhuman and cruel treatments as to render her condition intolerable and unsafe for her to be under his control and dominion.

Complainant further charges that about the month of October 1873, defendant willfully and maliciously abandoned her and adulterously with one Martha Wicker and left the county, and as complainant is informed went to Corinth, Mississippi when he married said Martha Wicker from which place they went to the State of Texas, where they lived together as husband and wife until some time in the year 1876, he returned to the County of McNairy and proposed to complainant that he was penitent of his conduct and promised her that if she would go with him to the State of Texas (where he had procured her a home) that he would abandon the said Martha Wicker and that complainant as a dutiful husband and also threatened that if she did not comply with his desire that he would take their child, a daughter from her and take her to Texas, then she should never see her again and complainant believing that he would carry out his threat consented and did go with him to the State of Texas, as she preferred to submit to any thing rather than have her child taken from (her.)

Complainant would further show that said defendant Scott fled from Texas to avoid prosecution for bigamy and that he is now in the penitentiary in the State of Florida upon a — for the offense of horse stealing as will appear from a certified transcript of the record from said state which will be shown upon the hearing of the cause.

Complainant would further show that at the time of their separation they were residing upon and occupying as a homestead a certain lot in the village of Adamsville, known as the Brick House Lot. That complainant after their separation continued to occupy the same as a homestead until she was forced to temporarily leave it for the purpose of teaching school in a different neighborhood to support herself and child, but retained one room in which she kept her furniture with the intention of returning to occupying the same. Complainant would further show that on the — day of 187— one Z T Tate executed to one Jesse Jones a deed to said lot but by what authority complainant is not advised as she is informed and believes that there is no record of any deed of transfer of said lot to said Tate by said T W Scott or anyone else to said Tate, no has she ever joined in any sale or conveyance of said lot to anyone and she further informed that said Jones disclaims any title to said house and lot.

Complainant further shows that one S A Hill is now in possession of said house and lot, but complainant charges that he is there without title .

The complainant prays that said T W Scott, Jesse Jones, Z T Tate and D A Hill be made parties, defendants, that publication be made as to the non resident. And copy bill and — issue

resident defendants, and that they be required to answer and upon the hearing of this cause that the bonds of matrimony between complainant and T W Scott be dissolved and for nothing held, and that the custody of said child be decreed to her; and that said house and lot, the sum not exceeding in value one thousand dollars, be decreed to her as a homestead and for such other and different relief as to your Honor shall – right and equitable and in

Signed Mary M Scott, Sept 4, 1878. Witness John Wolverton, JP.

In the part of the case against Z T Tate, Jesse Jones and D A Hill: Z T Tate testifies that on December 12, 1871, T Wash Scott transferred a town lot of land in the town of Adamsville, McNairy county, Tenn, known as the brick house lot to Z T Tate and his wife Mary. (Z T Tate was a brother-in-law of Mary M Scott, having married her sister Frances Cox. Frances died in 1869 and he married Mary Mitchell.) T Wash Scott told Tate he had debt and if land was put up and sold for his debts it would not pay them out, but he could get someone to hold his land for him and let him sell it, he could pay off his debts and have a house left. Tate paid him nothing. Scott wanted him to hold it for him as a homestead in case he lost all his other property. It was a service only.

T W Scott told Tate he owed some debts in Savannah, Tenn, he was a stock holder in a woolen or cotton factory but he had not paid up his stock.

“That was the year he built the house. In the first part of the year he was living in the house with Mr Abernathy while they were building the house. Don’t know if this was before or after the title was made.” The Scotts moved into the home when it was finished.

The title was later transferred to Jesse Jones and then transferred to D A Hill.

T B Cox, brother of Mary Cox Hill, stated T W Scott had wanted to transfer the title to him but he did not want to do so. He also stated that Mary Scott received rent from the place between 1871 and 1875. She occupied one room where she kept her furniture stored.

Mrs Jennie Freeling wife of Dr Freeling stated they lived in the house in Nov or Dec 1873 to Jan 1875. Mr and Mrs Scott occupied the house first, then Jasper Jones, Tom Woolverton, Mr Williams a short time in 1872, then Dr and Mrs Freeling, Mr Rowsey Mr Holeman and Mr Hill. Most of this time Mrs Scott stayed with her brother T B Cox. Upstairs in a small room was a lot of old books boxed up that belong to Mr Scott and congressional material and agricultural reports.

Mary Scott testifies that T W Scott came back to McNairy County in 1875 and wanted to live with Mary at the homestead. (They made a new title to Jessie Jones by Z T and Mary Tate January 25, 1876, which both W Wash Scott and Mary M Scott signed as approved.) Scott left the property with her in October 1876 and went back to Texas. He came back to get her and the child and stated if she didn’t go with him he would take the child from her. He then sold the property to Mr Hill and apparently she thought he was only holding the property as Z T Tate had done for them. She did not realize she was signing her rights way to the property. Mr Hill took possession of the property in Dec 1876. She stated she did not recover the benefits of the rents until Scott abandoned it in 1874.

While in Texas, in the city of Round Rock, Williamson County, Texas, Scott made a title to Mary Scott for a house and lot and 640 acres in Burnett or Lampassas County. She stated she had to pay it out which she did so by selling things out of her house. She does not state what happened to the house when she left Texas. The 640 acres of land was investigated and no account. Mary stayed about one year.

D A Hill, age 55, states he made a contract with Wash Scott and Jesse Jones was present. He paid \$1,000 for the property - it was all to be paid in trade, no money at all: A wagon, 2 mules, 36 gallons of apple brandy, a deed to Mrs Scott to a house and lot in Corinth valued at \$300, two gold watches - a gentleman's watch and a ladies watch, a small lot in Adamsville. T Wash and Mary Scott left for Texas within two weeks after the sale . Mrs Scott returned to Adamsville in about 12 months.

D A Hill and Terry Cox, brother of Mary, made a trade for the property. Cox was to trade him a piece of land adjoining Hill, which was a part of Anderson Cox old farm, which Mary Scott had sold to Terry Cox and he had sold to Whitesides, (Terry Cox's father-in-law.) Whitesides would not make a deed to the property, said he was going to keep that for Terry's children. So there was no trade.

Somewhere along through all this the property has been sold to Jesse Jones and he had given notes for it but had not paid anything because he was hard up. Tate had sold Jones the land with permission of the Scotts..

The title to Jessie Jones, dated January 25, 1876 described the property as: Situated in the village of Adamsville, described as follows: Beginning at a stone cor (corner) on the south side of the main road or street and west edge of fifth street, the north east cor of brick house block, runs south about 40 poles to a stake; thence west about 50 poles to a stake on east line of C Carrell tract; thence north 40 poles to the old stage road; thence east 50 poles to the beginning cor, including the brick house block or property. Punctuation added.

October 11, 1879 Honorable Geo H Nixon, Chancellor: It is therefore ordered and decreed by the court that the bonds of matrimony between said partners be dissolved and the defendant to pay cost.

Office of Adjutant-General, Tallahassee, Fla, 17 July, 1878: To C Shull, Esq Clerk, McNairy county Court: Inclosed please find a certified copy of the State of florida vs George W Scott, conviction and sentence - of the court of Polk county of Fla. The law make it the duty of the Adjutant to supervise the state convict, therefore I am the legal — office to send you this certified copy - Scott acknowledges that his name to be T W Scott in place of George W, as in the indictment Very Respectfully: J J Dickison, Adj, General, State of Florida.

The state of Florida }
vs } Larceny
George W Scott }

On calling this case, defendant was brought to the bar, was arraigned, pleaded guilty and threw himself upon the mercy of the court. Sentence: that the defendant, George W Scott be imprisoned by confinement in the State Penitentiary at hard labor for two years.

This is to rectify that the above is a line copy of the order of the court in the above case on file in my office. Witness J J Dickison, Adjutant General of the State of Florida, this the eighteenth day of July A. D. eighteen hundred and seventy eight. Signed J J Dickison, Adjut General, State of Florida.

On the 6th day of April 1881: the court is of the opinion that the complainant Mary M Scott has filed to open the allegations in her bill so far as she seeks to recover of D A Hill the lot or tract

of land described in the pleading and exhibits. It is therefore decreed by the court that her said bill be dismissed so far as it seeks to recover from D A Hill the lot of land known as the brick house, situated in the town of Adamsville, Tennessee. (In several sentences, with many words unreadable, Mary lost and has to pay court cost..) Complainant prays an appeal to the next session of the Supreme Court to be held in Jackson, Tenn, which is allowed upon complainant filing an appeal bond within 30 days.

In reading this case, I am not trying to take sides, but apparently T Wash Scott never appeared at any of the hearings because he was in prison in Florida. So therefore, we only heard one side and there are always two sides. Since harsh treatment or abandonment was the only reasons for divorce in the 1870, it is logical Mary would say she was abused. Hopefully a man as talented as Scott we hope he was not the sort to abuse his women. However he did elope with Martha Wicker. It seems all the men were supportive of T Wash Scott. However there were some untruths told.

Mary stated Scott executed a title to Z T Tate, however both T W and Mary signed the title. Mary stated she only received rents form the house after or during 1874 - her brother stated she received rents from 1871-1875. Mary also stated she never received a ladies gold watch from D A Hill but he saw her wearing one.



MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT

B. K. SMITH, ETALS VS JOHN B. SMITH, ETALS

May 187 - No 411

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

John B Smith departed this life intestate in the county of McNairy about the month of March 1859, leaving him surviving:

1. Mary C, his widow and relect, who has since intermarried with the said ---- Roberts and living in Texas. T J Roberts if listed later as the husband of M C Roberts
2. Julius F Smith who has since died leaving Martha F his widow who has since intermarried Thomas Latta, and Julius F(born ca 1862) and Matilda C Smith (born ca 1864) his only heirs at law, living in McNairy Co.,
3. Mary J Smith who has since intermarried with B. K. Smith, living in Texas
4. Elizabeth F Smith who has intermarried with M L Flerhel, living in Texas
5. Samuel A Smith, living in Texas
6. Alvie E Smith, living in Texas
7. John B Smith, living in Texas
8. Preston B Smith, living in Texas
9. Annie E P Smith, living in Texas, later married J P Douglas

John B Smith, Preston B Smith and Anna E Smith are minors and also Matilda C Smith and Julius F Smith, children of Julius F Smith are minors and have no regular guardian I n this state.

At the time of his death John B Smith owned several tracts of land:

1. 400 acres in McNairy Co, beginning at the SE corner of John Chamber entry 173
2. 200 acres in McNairy Co
3. 99.2 acres in McNairy Co.
4. 160 acres in McNairy Co, mentions Robert Stubblefield, Wm Donnel Sr boundary
5. 13 acres in McNairy County, mentions William Donnel Dr and Joseph Donnel boundary
6. 75 acres in Hardin Co, Tenn. Mentions Joseph Cunningham boundary
7. 200 acres in Hardin Co, Tenn. Mentions G W Walker boundary

The land in McNairy county was sold on Jan 8, 1880 and in Hardin County, Tn on Jan 9, 1880:

1. 99 acres sold to J. M. Simpkins for \$133.65
2. 100 acres sold for \$365.00 to John Ross
3. 100 acres sold for \$130.00 to J. W. Ross
4. 82 acres sold to J.. H. Stutts for \$389.50
5. 81 acres sold to R. W. Caffey for \$222.75
6. 100 acres sold to G J Coln for \$400.00
7. 100 acres to James wardlow for \$475.00
8. 200 acres sold to James Wardlow for \$400.00

The land in Hardin County was sold at Hamburg on Jan 9, 1880. C Kendrick purchased for \$206.24

All heirs except the children of Julius F Smith have removed to the State of Texas



N C RIGGS VS W T LILLY

McNairy County, Tennessee Chancery Court

May 10, 1879 - No 417

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

N C Riggs, Andrew McKenzie and W H Carothers, citizen of McNairy County

VS

Wm T Lilly, John Lilly, David Harris and wife Elizabeth, Freeman Wolverton and wife Nancy, Alvina Lilly the widow and heirs at law of T H Lilly, dec'd and Thomas E Devault, guardian of (Martha S Riley) all citizens McNairy County.

R M Thompson executed a promissory note to W H Carothers with Thomas H Lilly as his security for \$477.77, due the March 1, 1874, dated Nov 17, 1873. Judgement for \$400.63 was rendered Dec 20, 1875. There is no personal property to be found to levy against R M Thompson.

Thomas H Lilly departed this life in McNairy County Jan 23, 1876.

Thomas E Devault, guardian of Martha S Riley, had filed a bill against the heirs of Thomas H Lilly (376) in 1877.

On Feb 6, 1880, W T Lilly, age 29, state Riggs, McKenzie & Carothers had filed a levy on 100 acres of land while his father was alive. It was carried to Chancery Court and Judgement was against R M Thompson and W T Lilly. 59 acres was sold at fifty cents an acre to help satisfy the judgement. W T Lilly thought R M Thompson would pay the judgment since it was his note and T H Lilly was only the security.

Thomas E Devault tried to settle their part for \$400 but Lilly could not get the money.

Do not know if the complainants in this case got their money. This case is full of notes and judgements, etc. My note: R M Thompson, left the county.



D R HOOKER VS H H HOOKER

MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE CHANCERY COURT

1879 - No 421

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

See also Chancery Court Case 311

D R Hooker vs H H Hooker, of Texas and S L Warren, of McNairy County.

Complainant states on Feb 4, 1873 he purchased from Harrison H Hooker 100 acres of land for \$1,300.00, with note payment due Dec 25, 1875. D R Hooker took possession of the land and greatly improved the land by clearing and fencing.

This tract of land was part of the 300 acres Harrison H Hooker purchased from his father, Samuel B Hooker, in 1869. Harrison Hooker still owed a balance of \$2,100.00 on the 300 acres. A J Hooker and other heirs of Samuel B Hooker filed a lawsuit in Chancery Court Mar 2, 1874 stating the 300 acre purchase was obtained by undue influence and fraud, which Harrison H Hooker denied.

This agreement for the land was rescinded because D R Hooker couldn't make payment. D R Hooker was charged any rents and wasn't repaid for the improvements. They just 'struck off even.' Harrison H Hooker then sold the 300 acres to W F Moore and S L Warren on Aug 12, 1876. Apparently Harrison Hooker rescinded the agreement with D R Hooker and made the sale to Moore and Warren without contacting D R Hooker personally. From the best I can read this Warren got a judgement against D R Hooker for the \$1,300, he thought had been settled between him and H H Hooker.

This was very hard to read, with a lot of details not covered in this transcription. It is hard to if the land was sold to Warren and Moore by Harrison Hooker or by the heirs of Samuel B Hooker. It was also hard to understand why D R Hooker was sued to pay the \$1,300 when the agreement was rescinded.

This Harrison H Hooker is the son of Samuel B Hooker, deceased ca August 1869. D R Hooker is David R Hooker, son of James Nathan Hooker. In Chancery Court Case 311, it states D R Hooker and H H Hooker are second cousins.



JOHN DAMERON VS J M DAMERON
MCNAIRY COUNTY TENNESSEE CHANCERY COURT
 1880 - #440

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy
 Concerning the estate of James Dameron
 See also Chancery Court Case 189

James Dameron died in the year 1861. He owned a tract of land containing 557 acres, which he received on a grant from the State of Tennessee. 275 acres assigned to Narcissa Dameron as dower. Narcissa was the last wife and widow, married about 1853, John T, Judia Alice and Martha J are her children.

This law suit, apparently was filed to sell the land and divide the money. There was another lawsuit filed in 1869 and lasted for several years. Apparently this was to settle the estate, after all that said and done.

Complainants:

1. Children of Eliza (Elizabeth) Michie formerly Elizabeth Dameron, deceased:
 - R W Michie Jr
 - D D Michie
 - Thomas R Michie, live in Texas
 - Ephriam Michie, a minor
 - Mausel Kendrick and wife Fannie, formerly Fannie Michie, live in Mississippi
2. Children of Celia Dameron and P H Michie, both deceased:
 - Frank Farris and wife Sarah, formerly Sarah Michie
 - George Moore and wife Josephine, formerly Josephine Michie
3. Lina Donnel, widow of L Donnel, deceased, formerly Lina Dameron, resident of Arkansas
4. Children of Rebecca Atkins, deceased, formerly Rebecca Dameron, and Ephriam D Atkins, all in the State of Texas:
 - James Atkins, George Atkins, Napoleon, Joseph, Rebecca, Robert, Isreal
5. J M Dameron, residing in Texas
6. Frances Wilburn, deceased, formerly Frances Dameron, and William Wilburn
 - All in Texas, Sarah, John, James and two minor children, names unknown
7. J R Dameron, deceased, heirs unknown
8. Mary Pettigrew, deceased, formerly Mary Dameron and G J Pettigrew
 - In Texas, Celia and Sallie and others, names unknown
- 9 John T Dameron, mother Narcissa, maybe residing Hardin Co, Tenn
- 10 E G Greer and wife Martha Jane formerly Martha Jane Dameron, mother Narcissa, maybe residing in Hardin Co.
- 11 Nat Britton and wife Juda A, formerly Juda A Dameron of Hardin Co. Tenn, mother Narcissa. Juda died before Oct 1881 and had one child George Britton.

<<<<<<>>>>>>>

James Dameron had given his heirs, out of his estate, before and after his death:

I show this to show marriages, etc and shows 11 children

R W Michie and Eliza	331.50 + 976.94
P N Michie and Celia	525.25
K D Donnel and Lina	292.20
E D L Atkins and Rebecca	312.20+ 571.83
J M Dameron	581.40 + 1717.13
William Wilburn and Frances	1306.10
J R Dameron	-0-
Joseph	-0-
John T	-0-
Judia Alice	-0-
Martha J	-0-

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Narcissa was awarded 275 acres, a widow's dower, but apparently she had to give it up when she married G W Turner. The land was sold as follows:

- Lot 1 - 178 1/2 acres to G W Turner for \$160.00
- Lot 1 - 61 acres to G W Turner for \$131.pp
- Lot 3 - 60 5/8 acres to David Cunningham for \$180.00
- Lot 4 - 77 acres to S P Farris \$340.00
- Lot 5 - 104 acres to J H Stuttts \$150.00
- Lot 6 - 110 3/4 acres tp S E Perkins \$300.00
- Lot 7 - 100 acres tp G W Burks and S E Perkins
- Lot 8 - 100 acres to G W Burks



**JAMES HAYNES ETAL VS
JOHN W WALKER, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF H T B SPIER**

McNairy County, Tennessee Chancery Court

1880 - 443

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

James Haynes etal vs John W Walker, Administrator of the estate of H T B Spier
 "Bill of Complainant of James Haynes , a citizen of McNairy County, Tennessee, Zimri S. Haynes, Abi Haynes and Robert Haynes, all residents of the State of Georgia and W T Haynes and Wm Howell and wife Sophia formerly Sophia Haynes, residents of the state of Georgia VS John W Walker, Administrator of H T B Spier , dec'd and Eliza Spier, Ann Spier, John Spier, Charles Spier, Laura Spier, all residents of McNairy County, Tenn, the said Charles and Laura Spier being minor without --- guardian, James Spier, a resident of the State of Texas, Charles Tate and his wife Mollie Tate, formerly Mollie Spier, residents of the state of Arkansas, Wesley Richardson

and his wife Fannie, firmly Fannie Spier, residents of the state of Mississippi and George Fields and Elizabeth Fields, formerly Elizabeth Spier, residents of Madison Co, Tn.

Complainants respectfully represent to your Honor that they and Marcus Haynes and Richard Haynes, now deceased, are all the heirs of Martha M Haynes, dec'd, who died intestate about the year 1863. She was a daughter of James Tate, who died intestate in McNairy County in 1865 or 1866."

T A Pittman and H T B Spier was appointed administrations of the said James Tate, Feb 1866. The case goes on to say the estate of James Tate was between \$10,000 and \$20,000 and that Martha M Tate Haynes share of \$2,226.13 had never been fully paid. Tate had railroad stock and the Martha Haynes heirs were accusing H T B Spier of fraud concerning the stock. H T B Spier died in 1878.

The wife of H T B Spier in this document is called Eliza. She was Sarah Elizabeth Tate Spier.

The disposition of John Davis was taken at the office of Dr W R Ramer in Chewalla, McNairy County, Tennessee on July 29, 1881. Apparently there was some question that James Haynes owned Dr Spier and Spier had not settled fully with Haynes on the Tate estate.

Question: Please examine the memorandum or account presented to you and state of you know of any other items therein stated being sold or furnished by Mr. Haynes to Dr Spier in his lifetime - and which ones - state fully as you can remember.

Answer: I know he got the ox but don't know he agreed to give for it. I know he got some corn but don't know how much. He got some pork but I don't know who much. Jim/James Spier(son of Dr Spier) had a child to die and got me to go to James Haynes and get a coffin made. Dr Spier gave me an order to get the goods to bury the child and I have forgotten whether he gave me order to Haynes for the coffin or not, (some in here I could not read). Haynes swapped him a good wagon for an old one. Dr Speir's family told me they got the chairs from Mr. Haynes, don't know what price. I was going to kill a beef and sent word by my little boy to Dr Spier that I would let him have a quarter if he wanted it. He sent word that he had bought a beef from Mr Haynes but hadn't got it and would like to borrow a quarter until Mr. Haynes killed his. (There was quite a bit of discussion about if James Haynes got credit on his account for the coffin)

Question: State specifically how you know of the delivery of each item.

Answer: I saw the ox in his (Speir's) possession. I saw the Speir boys in Haynes' crib shelling the corn and saw their taking it ou but don't know if it was for Dr Spier. I didn't see the pork, but Dr Spier told me he got it from Haynes. I saw him make the doors.

John Davis stated that he was 61 years of age and an attorney at law. He was the attorney for the M & O Railroad and he handled the transaction of the sale of stock that James Tate had owned.

Sarah Elizabeth Spiers was 66 years old at her disposition September 1882. She stated the James Haynes had paid on his doctor bill by: a quarter of beef, a 1,000 lb shoat, made a door and window sash, 6 chairs, swapped wagons, two bushels of corn and a bell.

G. W. Fields and his wife lived at Ramer Station, sometimes called Ramer Switch, at the time of the disposition. He stated the day before Dr Spier died, Spiers came by his house at Ramer to give his wife medicine, and to pay his tax to Bob Hicks. Enos Tate lived ½ mile west of Dr Spiers. Field's wife was a daughter of Dr. Speir.

According to James T. Spier, age 34, Dr Spier, on the day of his death, was not sick, ate his breakfast, directed the boys to go to Ramer after some seed oats he had bought the days before and dropped dead.

In the final decree, April 1886, James Haynes was ordered to pay \$34.70 and his land notes for \$250.00 and the lien against the land would be discharged. (James Haynes was the ancestor of Nancy Wardlow Kennedy on her father's side.)



H C GOOCH VS E E WARREN
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT
Filed June 13, 1881 No 464
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

This law suit was Henry Clay Gooch against his mother-in-law Mrs. Edie E Warren over two lots and a hotel business in Falcon. It is amazing to read these law suits sometimes, you might call this "he says - she says." He says he paid most of the expenses and is entitled to more than ½ interest when they went out of the hotel business. The lawsuit is to petition the court to sell the property as it cannot be divided. He says because she was about 53 years old she was too old and dotage to do much or take care of the business. (This was in 1881 and Mrs Warren didn't die until 1918, she was 90 years old. But even in 1881 days, unless in ill health, most 53 year old women were still very active at that age and many with small children.

I think Mrs Warren was a strong willed woman and her son-in-law was just as strong willed. Although the acuzations were never ugly it seems Mrs Warren was a little more kinder. I hope this did not split the family because H C Gooch married Mrs Warren's only daughter.

This case drug out in court for 4-5 years. H C Gooch eventually moved from Falcon to Selmer and purchased another hotel that graced the town of Selmer for half a century.

From the notes of H G Ammons, grandson of H C Gooch, "The Gooch Hotel was built by Sid Jeanes in 1890 soon after the corner stone at the new Court House was laid in 1891. Mrs. Curry was first to live there and run the hotel - she came to Selmer from Old Purdy, having kept a hotel there.

Mr. Ike Dickey was Postmaster next door and he bought the property. It was remolded and red-decorated and after living there leased the property to H. C. Gooch Later the property was bought by W A Gooch, then sold to H C and Florence Gooch. They moved from Cypress Avenue in 1903 and lived there until 1913. Mrs Gooch's health failed and she moved to Court Avenue where she lived until 1918 when she passed away.

Mrs. Lizzie Gooch Ammons moved to the hotel as hostess for her father and when he died in 1925 she bought the property. She lived there kept the hotel for more than 40 years. She kept the traditional Gooch Hotel which was known far and near for good clean bed and wonderful home cooked meals."

August 1882, H C Gooch age 32 says he moved to Falcon December 24, 1876 and was engaged in the hotel business at Falcon, Tenn from the 24th day of December 1876 to the last day of October 1880. Was overseer of the building of the hotel and ran the busioness. He states that when he married Florence lock, daughter of Mrs Warren, she wanted them to live with her or by her. "Mrs Warren proposed to me and my wife that if we would sign our righ away to her and Dick (?), to the home place, upon which she lived before she went to Falcon which congained 365 acres of land, that she would make my wife a deed to the tract of land said to conain 192 acres which I was cultivating, that she intended to give it to her anyhow. The deed shows that my wife's father was the owner of the land - Daniel Lock.

On June 26, 1878 H C Gooch purchased one half interest of land in the Town of Falcon. Jess king lived on Mrs Warren's place

Arguments in the case:

1. If H C Gooch and his wife moved in with Mrs Warren and took care of her, all the property would go to them at her death.
2. That Mrs Warren built the boarding house or hotel with her funds, while Gooch contends it was with mutual funds and he was overseer of the building and managed the business..
3. Duties were Gooch to collect from all regular customers and Mrs Warren to collect from "drummies" and transient customers.
4. Who owned the land that H C Gooch farmed in what is southwest of the Sulphur Springs area now. Mrs Warren claimed her husband Daniel Locke left her a life time dowery of the land and any rent proceeds went to her.

Names mentioned in this lawsuit and various notes:

R Young

J M Byrum & Son of Corinth for wallpaper

L C roten - 2700 feet of lumber for 33.75

W A Gooch - 2200 feet lumber for 22.00

J M King built the hotel for \$183.00

J C Taylor for shingles 21.40

L Carmen and George Carmen built 4 chimneys with 5,000 bricks for 52.50

S B Wise built hen house, shed and privy for 10.50

John McDougal and Bill Burkett dug the well for 10.00

W B Smith painted the house for 48.00

Others mentioned Dan King, Dock Nethery, Thomas Simpson, Jesse Gooch, James Roten, J L Smith — Bizzell, W E Tedford, Alfred McCullar, Josiah Jeanes, W a Gooch, W H StoneYoung and Smith built a hot house (apparently to grow vegetables)

Insurance on building from David Horn & Compnay

Boarders from 1878 to 1880:

A L Sanders 1878-1880

W E Adkins 1877

E C Guden ?

J F Young

Gglespie,

Levi Gushen

Dick Wise	McNatt	J M Nelson
Albert Adams	L H Dabbs	J D Null
Dock Nethery	J F Williams	J F Young
McDougal & Burkett	W J Horn	Mr Smith and Lady
W B Smith	Frank Holman	John Johnes
Duke King	Isaac Mendal	Henry King
Math King	C A Smith	J M King
J L Smith	K W Person	Wesley Simpson
J M Nelson	Dr Bradly & Lady	J P Peck
M T Shull	Mrs Wm Smaples	J M Nelson
W C Rosson	S B Wise	J Jeanes
L H C Prather	Fred Smith	Mr Fastman (not spelled right)
J L Smith	Wm Mccullur	Robert Barnhill
Frank McCullar	John Coleman	J G Jones
W S Reynolds	J L Smith & Harris	John Burnes
W E Tedford		
Fred Sepherd & family	P J Huggins	F P Browder
J M King & Bizzell	J A Roberson	W H Wood
Harris	Pro Owens	Wm Bounds?
Rev Kennedy	Isaac Mendall	

Mrs Warren had a sale of her farm property in 1877
 Wood shingles cost 4-5 per thousand. They are hand shaved. Jess King furnished about 2600.

10,000 feet of lumber used at 1.00 per 100 feet

Cotton sold at gin at 10 cents per pound.

Frank Locke, son of Mrs Warren, stated the Gooches and Mrs Warren lived on the farm but they would moved to Falcon and open a boarding house and the Gooches would take care of her.

Mrs Warren wanted to move from the country to Falcon and go into business but would not move unless Florence, her daughter went with her. John bird drove a wagon when they moved. John Bird was 46 and lived on Mrs Warrens land. H C and Florence Gooch lived on the Daniel Lock land known as the Bill Lock land.

David Horn was 67 in the year 1882

Depositions July 19, 1882.

W L Carmen, age 58 was a blacksmith

J N Jeanes 49

J J Horn

Green Sessin age 29

1883:

Isham Knight about 50

J F Williams age 32

G D J Kirk age 26

J M Nelson 41

L C Roten age 44

James M Nelson, age 41

Frank Locke 24

Other notes to build the hotel:

miss 5, 78.94?

Lumber 104.95

Labor J M King 183.00

J C Taylor for shingles 21.40

Bricks, 5000 for 30.00

Paint white lead 42.75

Stable and garden, flower hot house 17.25

Sills for hotel, post for fencing 17.00

Diggin two cellars 20.00

Hauling brick and sand L M Lock 8.50

Set out cedars in yard

windows 12.91

Lumber 124.07

Taxes 40.15

Smith & Overtson chimney 22.50

10 barrels lime/build chimney 16.00

42 gal linseed oil 21.60

Garden work 10.00

Fence around hotel 22.00



MARY F. A. CROW VS GABERAL S CROW

McNairy County, Tennessee, Chancery Court

No 474 - 1881 petition for divorce

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Mary F A Crow a resident citizen of McNairy County, Tenn, Complainant
VS

Gaberal S Crow, whose residence is unknown, Defendant

The Complainant and Defendant were married in McNairy County, Tenn on the 13th day of March, 1881 and they have resided in said county and lived together as man and wife until about July 12, 1881 when defendant willfully and maliciously abandoned complainant without any just or reasonable cause that she knows of.

Complainant states during the time they lived together she was a kind, loving and dutiful wife. She states he has repeatedly threatened and abused her with great violence and vulgarity, calling her a – lean bitch, stumpet and other degrading names and about July 9, 1881 he threatened to whip her. She attempted to make her escape when he sprang at her and caught her and kicked her but she did escape. She states that she is in the family way and has no means of support.

She states Mr Crow has an annual income of about \$750 which he receives quarterly from Great Briton. He owns land, about 52 acres, in the 15th Civil District, about three miles north of the Village of Adamsville, McNairy County, Tenn. Land borders John Hooker on Winding Ridge Road. 15 acres was purchased from John Hooker and 37 acres my part of the Theopilis Hamm place on which is a dwelling. (My note: reads like the 37 acres was an inheritance of Mrs

Mary Crow, since she says, 'my part.')

15 acres is cleared and rented to a Mr Thomas Copeland on the 3/4, crop would be worth about 40-50 dollars.

Mr Crow owns one cow and calf, a log of other cattle, a lot of sheep, a lot of hogs, one mare, two saddles and bridles, four bed- stead bed and bed clothing, one lounge bed and clothing, one calender clock and one spring clock, one set of bed and one set and one set lounge springs, one fine sc----, one bureau, one cook stove, one pair irons, a lot of table ware, a lot of cooking utensils, a center table one carpet, two sets of chairs, one dining table and other house hold furniture.

Complainant is informed the defendant, through some agent, will dispose of all property and she will not be able to support herself and her legitimate off-spring.

She asks for two years and if defendant does not come back, then the marriage to be dissolved. She prays for support until that time.

Signed by Mary F A Crowe on Sept 24, 1881. Mary could sign her name

On April 11, 1883, Mary F A Crowe, send statement to her attorney, Mr Pace: 'my husband Mr G S Crowe, having returned from California and now living with me on friendly terms, I have to request you will take the necessary steps to have the divorce suit against him, now pending in court, dismissed.

The name is spelled Crow and Crowe in this document.



JOHN W LAWSON VS THOMAS LAWSON
PETITION TO SELL LAND
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT
1881 No 475
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

This abstract includes:

John W Lawson vs Thomas Lawson # 475

L. C. Roten, friend of Robert Lawson, minor vs John W Lawson, # 479

Both abstracts are the same as I used both files to make one abstract.

James Lawson died intestate in McNairy County, State of Tennessee on or about the 5th day of October 1880 leaving surviving him defendant Malissa J. Lawson his widow and relect who was his second wife and children:

Children by first wife:

1. John W. Lawson;
2. James K. P. Lawson;
3. Thomas M Lawson;

4. Sarah Browder formerly Sarah Lawson and his husband Isham Browder;
5. Nancy Cooper formerly Nancy Lawson and her husband Walter W Cooper;
6. Elvira McCoy formerly Elvia Lawson and her husband Richard J W McCoy;
7. Jane Leath, heir at law of Rachel Leath who is now dead, formerly Rachel Lawson and her surviving husband David Leath;
8. Jefferson Jones, Mollie Jones, John Jones, Lina Fisher and her husband John H. Fisher, Sarah Dancer formerly Sarah Jones and her husband B. F Dancer, heirs at law of Louhania Jones formerly Louhania Lawson and her husband, both of whom are now dead;
9. Robert Lawson his only child by his said second wife, all of whom are his legal and only heirs.

James Lawson and Malissa J Goforth were married in McNairy County on the 30th day of July 1872. She was the widow of a former husband and at the time of said marriage the mother of defendants J. W. T Goforth, W. R. Goforth, John T Goforth and Julias Lee Goforth. Apparently they had a rocky marriage, for the lawsuit states they were separated about a year but had reconciled at his death.

Before his second marriage, James Lawson made a contact with his intended wife, then Melissa J. Goforth, by which each was to retain the real and personal property they separately owned and at the death of either, the property owned by the deceased was to go to the lawful children thereof. Any profits after the marriage would be held on common between them. This marriage contract was signed July 30, 1872 and filed at the McNairy County Register's Office.

At his death James Lawson owned several tracts of land, about 600 acres of valuable lands in one body lying in the 6th civil district of McNairy County on Oxford Creek, bounded on the north by Josiah Jean and Isham Browder on the west by John M Fisher and J. W. Prather and on the south by James Mitchell and A M Anderson and on the east by Thomas Prather and W S Stewart. Also 1,582.48 personal property.

John W Lawson was appointed administrator of the estate with J. K. P. Lawson and Isham Browder as sureties.

Robert Lawson, is a minor, seven years old, and L. C Roten was appointed guardian.

Grandchildren, Mollie Jones, John Jones and Jane Leath are minors and have no guardians in McNairy County.

Apparently, the heirs from the first marriage believe the widow, which is the second wife, should not receive an homestead or dower rights because of the marriage.

Melissa J Goforth Lawson and son Robert moved to Texas.

This case went on to the State Supreme Court in April 1884 which sent it back to the county.

November 11, 1880 . A list of property not joint belonging to the estate of James Lawson, deceased was about \$333.85. There was a separate list but this list was also included in the total list. The best it could be figured, the total sale was \$1,006.20 and 718.88 of that was acquired during the marriage between James and Melissa. Therefore she received 1/3 of \$718.88

An inventory of the sale of the property of James Lawson Deceased.

A C Chenault - one set of gears 1.35; set of gears 1.15;

A H Deaver - one-- .55
 A J Mccullar - four chairs .70
 A M Mitchell - bushel corn 1.50;
 A M Rindehart - 5 bushel corn 10.75;
 Andrew Forsyth - one sugar bowl and molasses stand .40; one set crockery .90;
 B P Ray - 1 lot white wool 3.20; four choats 10.75; shot gun 1.70; Table cloth 1.15; plank 1.00;
 C H Hill - one pair of st— .50;
 C M Jeans - 10 bushes corn 21.20;
 C T Moore - oat cutter .30;
 David Brown - lard and stands .70; lot pot vessels .35; spinning wheel 2.50; skillet & kettle .35;
 David Yokely - large shovel 1.00; spade 1.10;
 Elizabeth Jones - sad iron .30; one pan & spoon .60; 4 ½ yards of jeans 4.00; table cloths 1.60;
 Elvira McCoy - one loom 3.00;
 Enoch Foy - dishes .65; sheets and slips .55;; five bed quilts 3.50; two bed blankets 2.75;
 Ephriam ---- 5 bushel corn 10.00;
 F A Barnes - sythce blade .25:
 George Browder - 2 hogs 2nd choice 20.25; one bedstead & quilt 2.00; seven tumblers and salt
 sellers .40;
 H L Peck - two sheets 1.00; safe 4.70; 1 bed quilt 1.50; lot of dishes 60; cooking stove 15.50;
 feather and straw bed 13.35; 2 buckets 2 pans & dipper .65;
 Jacob Alexander - one milch cow 6.50;
 J T Jeans - 5 bushel corn 10.50; one lot of soap 4.50;
 J K P Lawson - 4 doz doz chickens 11.14; dry cow for 12.05 and potato patch 3.50; 2 hogs 3rd
 choice 17.75; Lawson one heifer 8.75; one white sow 8.75; one hog 5.40; lamp .40; yoke
 of oxen 69.00; mare mule 20.40; 4 wagon wheels 10.00; bed quilt 3.85; measure .25; one
 blanket 2.15;
 J H Reeder - one lot seed cotton 51.75;
 J E Furgerson - one lot hay 10.50;
 J W Lawson - plow 4.00; gate hinges .50; gun 3.00; table 1.15; bed quilts 7.40; blankets 4.10;
 James Mitchell - four chairs 1.50; one table .10; shovel .80; towel and table cloths .45;
 Joshua Mitchell - bed & straw tick 1.20; sheets/towels .90; sack of peaches 1.85; quilt 3.65;
 J W Blasingame - lot black wool .15; one table cloth .25; one tray & sifter .70; one colt 56.75;
 J. W. Prather - stand .60; one clock 1.05; bucket and coffee pot .20; lot of dishes .55; water
 bucket and pot .20; fine shovel .25; two books .45;
 J W Suggs - 1 bed quilt 2.00; 1 bed quilt 2.80; two kettles .50; 2 lard stands .300; one lot of f
 lower 4.20; one lot chatels .30;
 J J Williams - bucket .50
 J L Fowlkes - side harrow 2.25; one cow and calf 16.50;
 J S Lawson – can't read 3.20
 John M Fisher - 1 lot black wool 6.24; two hogs, 1st choice 20.25; one sausage mill .80; side
 saddle and bridle 11.00; safe 5.25;
 John Ray - bear hook 1.00;
 John Winn - harrow 1.10; large kettle 3.50; two jars and pitcher 1.10; ble of salts 1.65;

John McHughes - bucket .40; bakets .35;
 John McCoy - one lot of plows .50;
 John Taylor - one wagon 3.25;
 L Fisher - blanket 1.75; one bed blanket 1.75;
 Mrs. M. J. Lawson - Quilt 1.95; quilt 3.70; quilt 3.95; blanket 1.65 coffee mill and sugar .25;
 bible .75; bottle of drugs .30; bed, pillows and sheets 16.65; quilt 3.00; feather and straw
 beds 13.35; 1 quilt and 1 blanket 1.60; blanket 1.65; quilt 3.20;
 Nancy Cooper - five cups and plates .55; one table .15; one bureau .15
 Nelson Merrell - Grind rock .50;
 N S Hudgespeth - 10 bushel corn 21.50;
 Peter McCullar - one gray horse 50.00;
 Pinkney Brooks - one black sow 7.00; 4 slips and sheets .70; lot of dishes .30; safe 2.00; balances
 .25; two buckets and strawners .60; pr of cards .30; one lot onions .60;
 R J W McCoy - one ax 1.15; one heifer 6.50; one quilt 2.75; lot of plows 1.95; one lot of pork
 3.10; Bbl m seed ? .10; one lot of cotton .45; two pitchers .30;
 R A Morgan - bed stead 2.50;
 R T Sweat - bed stead 2.70;
 R H Garrett - 10 bushel corn 21.37;
 S S Roberson - 2 hogs 4th choice 17.25;
 T M Lawson - one black sow 4.00; 2 yearlings 5.50; dry hides; moving sythe 1.50; one lot of
 geese 5.60; slay and pitcher .30; sorrell mare 92.00; lot of bbls .15; man's saddle 2.80;
 one side saddle .80;
 Thomas Bassham - saw .30; four hoes 2.10;
 W H stone - one lot fodder 2.25; can and 2 bbls .15;
 W J Williams - 5 bushel corn 10.55;
 W M Cooper - shovel plow & stock 1.05; one lot of corn and sack .80; set of gears .80; spinning
 wheel 1.75; sorrell horse 57.00;
 W J William - plow tools 2.00;
 William Calaway - five bushel corn 12.00;
 J W Suggs - one lot fodder 6.30;
 Notes due: T M Lawson 24.00; David Brown 180.00; J W Prather 25.00; T M Lawson 12/75; W
 M Cooper 5.00; J M & J H Fisher 20.46; J K P Lawson 15.00; J M Nelson 140.90; E Foy 28.03;
 S Thomas & R Steadman 31.95; G D J Kirk and B F McAlpin 22.05



STATE OF TENNESSEE VS JAMES H MITCHELL AND OTHERS

MCNAIRY COUNTY CHANCERY COURT

Sept 30, 1881 - # 477

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

State of Tennessee vs James H Mitchell, James E Mitchell, Petser, Miller, J H Smith, J H Moore, W W Massey, J A Maness, W N Maness, J W Rowland, G W Hill, John H Reeder, John H Reeder Jr, J C reeder, W A Reeder, James A Reeder, Martha Williamson, J L Wisdom, James L Huggins, C C Neill, J H Farris in his own right as Administrator of John L Farris, dec'd, Alexander Farris, Franklin Farris, William Farris, Malinda Farris, Fannie Farris, Rufus Tuton and his wife, Bettie Farris, Dick Leath and his wife Mary Ann Farris, all residents of McNairy County, Tennessee, except Alexander Farris who resides in the state of Texas and John L Wisdom who resides in Madison County, Tenn.

March 11, 1881, shows record of judgement in the Circuit court of McNairy County against C Shull, principal and John Aldridge and defendants J H Mitchell, J H Reeder and J H Farris, adm of J L Farris dec'd, securities for the sum of \$4,099.56. Said judgement was for State monies due from said C Shull as clerk of the County Court of McNairy County and the said Aldridge, Mitchell, Reeder and J L Farris, together with one J R Holmes, being securities upon his official bond as said clerk.

Apparently, Calvin Shull skipped out with monies that belonged to the office of County Clerk. Those listed in the judgements are the faithful ones that signed his bond the last time he was elected. In reading the file, apparently some of the bondsmen tried to prepare for this lawsuit and have their assets transferred to someone else or indebtedness too high to for the State to collect.

Judgement for \$1,248.22 - March 1880

Judgement for \$333.46 Nov 16, 1878

Judgement for \$273.82 March 1879 & 1889

J H MITCHELL CASES

No 1: Mitchell owes the estate of Petser Miller \$150 due Nov 1, 1880. Miller was a resident of Hardeman County.

No 2: Was endedbted to Martin Finley for \$500. J L Wisdom was security on note

No 3: About six years ago borrowed \$600 from Mrs Mary B Shull and J R Holmes was his security. J R Holmes became insolvent and left the state

No 4: Concerning George T Smith and brother J H Smith and \$200 concerning the estate of Bennett Smith.

No 5: Feb 1871 J H Moore owed a balance of \$360 on 138 acres to the estate of E C Hurst. David Hurst was administrator.

No : Concerning J H Smith

No 7: 1879 contracted with W W Massey for the sale of 142 acres

No 8: J A Maness(?) For 130 acres in the winter of 1879 or 1880.

No 9: Sold his son J E Mitchell 80 acres of land in 1880.

No 10: J H Mitchell sold to W N and Louisa C Maness 78 acres of land for \$371.43, paying \$180 and making a note for the balance. Louisa Maness has a minor son name A C Russom. Signed W N Maness, L C Maness, security P P Maness and G D Maness.

No 11: Sold land to J W Roland on Feb 5, 1878 land for \$750. Rowland says he has paid his note to Mitchell. Note due Dec 25, 1878 for \$50. Note due Dec 25, 1879 for \$100 and note due Dec 25, 1880 for \$100.

No 12 : Sold a tract of land in Adamsville to G W Hill in Feb 1878. Wiley Baucum was security.

J H REEDER CASES

No 1: J H Reeder: Made deed to his son J C Reed for 63 acres. He is the father of several grown sons and daughters. Some land was sold for \$600 and \$200 was paid and \$400 was made payable to his other children. Mentions Ciscero Jeanes and J S Ramer.

No 2: J H Reeder sold Martha Williamson 100 acres of land for \$1,000 on Dec 25, 1878. 40 acres he bought from Philip Hamm and 60 acres from James Boatman. She paid the purchase price and was given possession of the land and title dated October 18, 1878, Martha Williamson is now dead.

No 3. Land sold in 1868 or 1868 by John J McCoy to J H Reeder for 222 acres for \$500. Purchase price was paid and the deed was dated Dec 20, 1870 and deed is in file. John J McCoy could not write his name. Mary McCoy is wife of John J McCoy. J H Reeder sold this land to Colman C Neill that W S Wisdom has conveyed to McCoy, on Jan 1, 1871.

No 4: W A Reeder, J H Reeder and James A Reeder concerning a tract of land of 123 acres. This has not been paid and due July 1881.

No 5: J L Huggins of 38 acres of land. Respondent borrowed \$1,000 from Huggins on June 2, 1880 and gave him the title to this land. He paid \$300 on Jan 1, 1881 leaving \$700 with interest is still due. He had to borrow the money to pay Josiah Jeans and jack Ray and also to pay a security debt of Cicero Jeans to the state.

Complainant states J H Reeder conveyed all of his land subject to debt :

1. To his son J H Reeder, 63 acres in the 6th district. Book O page 467.
2. To Martha Williamson, 100 acres for \$500 which has been paid. Book O page 468.
3. To C C Neill, 220 acres for \$500 which has been paid. Book O page 466.
4. To W A Reeder, J H Reeder Jr and James Reeder 123 acres for \$800 paid and \$1200 a gift. Book O page 454.
5. To J L Huggins, 38 acres, one sorrel horse 11 years old, 1 sorrel mare 2 yrs old, one Durham bull, one cow and calf, four yearlings, one champion reaper, one ox wagon, one buggy, all household furniture, except that is exempt by law and the rents from his growing crop, for \$1,000 due to Huggins on Jan 1, 1880.

Complainant charges that all said conveyances of J H Reeder are fraudulent.

Complainant states that J H Mitchell acknowledges nine different conveyances conveying all the property he owns on the same day.

1. To Petson Miller, 80 acres of land in McNairy County with note from Miller for \$150. Trust Book D page 267
2. To J L Wisdom, 50 ½ acres alledged to be due from Mitchell on Feb 1878. Book D pg 279
3. To Mary B Shull, 10 calves, one year old and past, 3 milk cows, one gray horse, one mule 17 years old, one brown horse mule 6 years old, one clay-bank mare 4 year old, one clay-bank horse 3 years old, one bay mare 14 years old, a sucking calf, one year old colt, two yoke of oxen, one ox wagon, one buggy, one champion mower, the sum of \$700 alledged borrowed due Feb 1880. Trust Book D page 266.
4. To J H Smith 170 acres for \$400 paid. Deed Book O page 472.
5. To J H Moore 133 acres for \$368.7- paid. Deed Book) page 472.
6. To J H smith – acres of land, for \$250 paid. Deed Book O pg 474.
7. To W W Massey 142 acres for \$500, with \$100 each January until paid. Book O page 475.
8. To J A Maness 130-150 acres for \$700. To be paid in 100 pounds of lint cotton each Nov 15th until paid. Book) page 476.
9. To James E Mitchell, 80 acres for 4 notes of \$250 each due each year beginning 1880. Book) page 477.

Not sure who this applies to

- 1, To W N Maness 188 acres for \$767.76 due in yearly notes. Book O page 478
2. To J W Roland – acres for \$250. Due beginning Dec 1878. Book) page 479.
3. To G W hill a town lot in Adamsville for \$150, due Dec 25 of each year beginning 1880. Book O page 480.

Complainant charges that all the conveyances were made after judgement was rendered.

John L Farris, deceased, left surviving him the following heirs: J H Farris, Alexander Farris, Franklin Farris, William Farris, Malinda Farris, Fannie Farris, Bettie Farris Tuton, Margaret Farris Leath. William, Malinda and Fannie are minors under 21 years of age. Administrator is J H Farris. His personal property inventory was only \$200. Notes and etc are insolvent. He owned 5 acres and 21 acres in the 15h district and 175 acres in the 15th district (Adamsville.) Dower or homestead has been assigned to the widow. J J Parish, W J Massengill R W Michie Sr, surveyor were appointed to assign to the said widow a homestead worth one thousand dollars in value, including the mansion house and improvements, and one-third in value of the remainder as dower.

Ordered at the October 1882 term of Court that on March 28, 1883 at courthouse door in Purdy will offer for sale the following tracts

1. 80 acres of land from J H Mitchell to Jas E Mitchell
2. 142 acres conveyed by J H Mitchell to W W Massey
3. 130-150 acres known as the John Smith land conveyd by J H Mitchell to I A Maness
4. 63 acres in the 6th district conveyed by J H Reeder to J C Reeder
5. 123 acres in 6th dist conveyed by J H Reeder to W A Reeder, J H Reeder, Jr and J A Reeder

6. 38 ½ acres conveyed by J H reeder to J L Huggins
7. All personal property conveyed to J L Huggins (see above list).

Sold for: J A Pitts, attorney for the state high bidder

1. \$350
2. \$200
3. \$200
4. \$250
5. \$500
6. \$50

C H Oneal substituted as bidder for 1, 2, 3 for \$1,000 for J H Mitchell

W A Reeder substituted for 4, 5, 6 for \$1,000

This was a very difficult case and the facts may have errors in transcribing and typing.



L. C. ROTEN, FRIEND OF ROBERT LAWSON, MINOR VS JOHN W LAWSON

MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT

1881 No 479

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

This abstract includes:

John W Lawson vs Thomas Lawson # 475

L. C. Roten, friend of Robert Lawson, minor vs John W Lawson, # 479

Both abstracts are the same as I used both files to make one abstract.

James Lawson died intestate in McNairy County, State of Tennessee on or about the 5th day of October 1880 leaving surviving him defendant Malissa J. Lawson his widow and relect who was his second wife and children:

Children by first wife:

1. John W. Lawson;
2. James K. P. Lawson;
3. Thomas M Lawson;
4. Sarah Browder formerly Sarah Lawson and his husband Isham Browder;
5. Nancy Cooper formerly Nancy Lawson and her husband Walter W Cooper;
6. Elvira McCoy formerly Elvia Lawson and her husband Richard J W McCoy;
7. Jane Leath, heir at law of Rachel Leath who is now dead, formerly Rachel Lawson and her surviving husband David Leath;
8. Jefferson Jones, Mollie Jones, John Jones, Lina Fisher and her husband John H. Fisher, Sarah Dancer formerly Sarah Jones and her husband B. F Dancer, heirs at law of Louhania Jones formerly Louhania Lawson and her husband, both of whom are now dead;

9. Robert Lawson his only child by his said second wife, all of whom are his legal and only heirs.

James Lawson and Malissa J Goforth were married in McNairy County on the 30th day of July 1872. She was the widow of a former husband and at the time of said marriage the mother of defendants J. W. T Goforth, W. R. Goforth, John T Goforth and Julias Lee Goforth. Apparently they had a rocky marriage, for the lawsuit states they were separated about a year but had reconciled at his death.

Before his second marriage, James Lawson made a contact with his intended wife, then Melissa J. Goforth, by which each was to retain the real and personal property they separately owned and at the death of either, the property owned by the deceased was to go to the lawful children thereof. Any profits after the marriage would be held on common between them. This marriage contract was signed July 30, 1872 and filed at the McNairy County Register's Office.

At his death James Lawson owned several tracts of land, about 600 acres of valuable lands in one body lying in the 6th civil district of McNairy County on Oxford Creek, bounded on the north by Josiah Jean and Isham Browder on the west by John M Fisher and J. W. Prather and on the south by James Mitchell and A M Anderson and on the east by Thomas Prather and W S Stewart. Also 1,582.48 personal property.

John W Lawson was appointed administrator of the estate with J. K. P. Lawson and Isham Browder as sureties.

Robert Lawson, is a minor, seven years old, and L. C Roten was appointed guardian.

Grandchildren, Mollie Jones, John Jones and Jane Leath are minors and have no guardians in McNairy County.

Apparently, the heirs from the first marriage believe the widow, which is the second wife, should not receive an homestead or dower rights because of the marriage.

Melissa J Goforth Lawson and son Robert moved to Texas.

This case went on to the State Supreme Court in April 1884 which sent it back to the county.

November 11, 1880 . A list of property not joint belonging to the estate of James Lawson, deceased was about \$333.85. There was a separate list but this list was also included in the total list. The best it could be figured, the total sale was \$1,006.20 and 718.88 of that was acquired during the marriage between James and Melissa. Therefore she received 1/3 of \$718.88



JAMES A BARNES VS SARAH SIPES, ETAL
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT
Date 1882 - No 507
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

J A Barnes, complainant
Vs Sarah Sipes, Thomas Sipes and Ike Sipes, defendants.

J A Barnes states is the owner of 200 acres of land, survey being dated January 24, 1837.

The complainant states the land of Sarah Sipes is drained off by a ditch running in a northerly direction and empties into a ditch on a small, adjoining tract of land belonging to the defendants. That said ditch and stream has been running in same direction for over 20 years and causes flooding to his land at various times. The obstruction of said water is a nuisance and if continued will at every ordinary rainfall cause the water to flow back upon his land, creating stagnant pools and ponds and marshy acres that will greatly endanger the health of his family and destroy the peace and comforts of his home of which no compensation can be made in money. Complainant also charges that all of said defendants are wholly insolvent and that no damages could be made out of them.

Complainant states the defendants are throwing brush in the ditch and filling it up. To which Sarah Sipes denied.

The defendants state J A Barnes has occupied the land for a year or so, but as to whether he is the owner of said land by purchase or otherwise, the defendants do not know.

The defendants deny that is now or ever has been a water course of stream of water running through either the Barnes land other than a small wet weather drain which is dry most of the year, but they do admit that there is a ditch running through complainants land and they state that it was put there some years ago when the place belonged to defendants Sarah Sipes' mother for the purpose of carrying off the head water from a hollow that runs through complainants land and that said ditch discharges said head waters into said wet weather drain which runs for about six poles through defendant's Sarah Sipes' land.

The defendants further deny throwing any trees or brush into head water.

Several people testified:

W S Plunk age 51, testified August 28, 1882. Plunk who sold the land to James Arter Barnes. The ditch has been there 20 years. Powell Sipes had it cut a long time ago to drain the water to the natural branch. The branch has been there always. In the winter and spring the ditch might overflow. Plunk states he thought brush and etc was thrown into the ditch to stop it up and if the ditch is stopped up the Barnes land would become a swamp.

James Arter Barnes moved to the house on the land, last September. Plunk also states the Sipes are insolvent and they could not pay for damages.

Before Jim Arter Barnes lived at the place, Powell Sipes and his family lived there in 1865 or 1866 and lived there until about two years ago.

Charles Gage settled there before Powell Sipes lived there. Plunk did not remember when he moved there but stayed until he died and his family moved away during the war. The

cause of Charlie Gage's death? - He is supposed to have fell in the water with a fit and drowned. Charlie Gage lived there before the ditch was cut . Charlie Gage nor Powell Sipes lost any family by sickness before the ditch was cut. Powell Sipes, they said had some kind of a fever and the old lady died with old age (?).

M P Henry, age 38 testified on the same date. Henry is a ditcher until last winter when he could not find work and now he farms.

Miles Plunk, age 52 testified on the same date.

E Q Ivey, age 21 testified on same date.

N B Gamble, age 34 testified on Sept 2, 1882. Gamble has ditched his land from the line of Sallie Sipes to continue to carry off the head waters coming down through the hills through J A Barnes land. He opened out a ditch from the land that W S Wisdom sold to Powell Sipes. Sallie Sipes had a fence to try to keep her stock out of the ditch.

In Gamble's testimony it ask if he knew if T H Sipes, or Isaac Sipes cut dense timber and filled up the old branch or whether or not Sallie Sipes, and Tom Sipes and Isaac Sipes or any other of the 18 to 20 children of Sallie Sipes has filled up the branch.

Gamble was asked if he knew anything of a state prosecution against the Sipes boys and Dave Plunk for counterfeiting. Yes and Pleas Henry is the prosecuter and tend Mr J A Barnes land. Sarge Plunk sold the land to J A Barnes. Barnes and Plunk are not on friendly terms with Sallie Sipes and her boys. Signed Brown Gamble

Sallie Sipes, age 49, also testified on Sept 2, 1882. Sallie Sipes could not sign her name.

W C Sipes, age 24, son of Sallie Sipes testified on Sept 2, 1882.



CORA THOMPSON VS A C MOORE
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT
1882 - No 518
Estate of William Carroll Moore
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Cora W Thompson, resident of Hardeman County, Tenn

VS

A C Moore; J R S Moore; L M Moore, all residents of McNairy County, Tenn

John W Russom; Eliza A Russom, residents of Texas

Amarintha and James Grant, Elzira and C Brown, residents of McNairy County, Tenn

Angeline and R Martin, residents of Texas

Selbinia & Roysdon Roberson; Mary A & E M Kinzy; Angeline & Henry Boderick; Martha C & Peter Renfro, J D Fulkerson, P A Fulkerson, all of Missouri

William W Roberson, Cornelius Graham, E J Johnson, Residents of McNairy County, Tenn

William Johnson, resident of Arkansas

Fielding Bassham, Mary Bassham, minors, residents of McNairy County, Tenn

R M Thompson, resident of Washington, DC
Dempsey W Moore, James Moore, James McCullar, Frances McCullar, residents of Arkansas
Elizabeth McCullar, William McCullar, Martha Kinzer, Bud Kinzer, Mary Moore, residents of
Arkansas

Please note, many names are misspelled in this document.

Complainant would respectfully submit that Wm Carroll Moore died intestate — day of 186—, leaving surviving him his brothers and sisters or their heirs, since he died without issue:

C H Moore

B P M oore

J R S Moore

A C Moore

L M Moore

Heirs of Mary Stiles:

Emantha Stiles, who married James Grant (name spelled Amarintha)

Elzima Stiles, who married Mr Brown

Eliza, who married John M Russom

Heirs of Adelaide Fulkerson:

Selbania who married Roysdon Roberson

J D Fulkerson

P A Fulkerson

Mary A, who married E M Kinzey

Angeline, who married Henry Bodindick

Martha C, who married Peter Renfro

Angeline Martin who married R Martin

However: W S Moore (brother of William Carroll Moore, not listed in the heirs) died July 1662 and left surviving him his widow Mary E Moore, who has since intermarried with William Thompson, and the complainant, Cora W Moore. In 1879 or 1880, William Thompson adopted Cora Moore and her name was changed to Cora Thompson, in Hardeman County, Tenn.

There is entered about 20 pages, on both sides, concerning the lands owned by William S Carroll, and who purchased, etc., which was like reading an encyclopedia and useless.

The point of the lawsuit, which could have been stated in one page, was that she, Cora Moore Thompson, only heir of W S Moore (Wade Hampton Shelby Moore) was missed and received no money from the estate of W C Moore, her uncle, and she is entitled to 1/8 of the estate.

It did state that Armenthia Grant was deceased.

It was decreed that B P Moore, J R S Moore, W W Roberson, Cornelius Graham, and Hamilton Laughlin pay the court cost and \$250.00 to Cora Moore Thompson.



**PRISCILLA WARDLOW VS HENRY WARDLOW
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT**

1882 - No 521

Divorce

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Priscilla Williams and Henry Wardlow were married January 22, 1880 in McNairy County, Tenn and lived together until sometime in April 1880, when Henry Wardlow abandoned her without cause and refused to provide for her. He went to the State of Arkansas. Priscilla also states 'he is reckless and a slave to alcohol.



**A J HOOKER vs T J SHARP & F C SANDERS
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT**

1883 No 532

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

A J Hooker, a citizen of McNairy County, Tennessee

Vs

T J Sharp, a citizen of McNairy County, Tennessee

F H Sanders, a citizen of Alcorn County, Mississippi

Hooker states he owns a tract of land seven miles north of Corinth Miss, part of which was owned since 1859. Acreage was not stated but the 1862 McNairy County Taxes show 501 acres.

On July 4, 1865, he executed and delivered to F H Sanders a deed conveying the said land specifying 'in consideration of \$3,000 - but in truth and fact, there was no other consideration than a desire on the part of Hooker to protect the title to the said land against confiscation of the government of United States ' a measure then much agitated and strongly advocated by many of the people of the United State and non-seceding states of the Union, as against those of the rebellious state, commonly known as the southern states or confederacy, who had served in the armies of the latter in the late war.'

Hooker states the market value of the land is about \$10,000 and years rents are \$400. Apparently some of Hooker's neighbors's land was confiscated by the Government after the war and he was advised by Benjamin Sanders, the father of the defendant, F H Sanders, who was a very subtle, shrewd, crafty and (unknown word) man, to make a deed to F H Sanders for the purpose of protection against the Federal Government. The United States government would not confiscate any land, the title to which was in F H Sander's name, because Sanders had sympathized all the time with the cause of the Union Army; but, the lands would be taken from

Hooker very soon unless he made a conveyance to Sanders. Hooker did not trust Sanders but did not want to lose his land

Later the complainant, Hooker, prepared a deed conveying the land from Sanders to Hooker and presented it to Sanders with a request that he execute it. Sanders remarked he was very busy and promised to execute it, but never did.

F H Sanders and his brother M T Sanders had a store in Corinth called F H Sanders & Bro. They were the sons of Benjamin Sanders.

Feb 20, 1882 this business failed, owing between 50-75 thousand dollars. Being broke and destitute, F H Sanders sold the A J Hooker land to T J Sharp for \$4,000, with \$1950 paid in cash and a note for the balance. Notes were held by Sam Sharp and Robert Houston. Sharp then went to Hooker and demanded use of the land that he had purchased. Sharp was a young, stout, action man while Hooker was an old man 66 years old, and Sharp told him he would take possession of the land 'if he had to wade in blood up to his arm pits to do it.'

Hooker also accused of an agreement between T J Sharp and R W Caffey, justice of the peace for the district, that any action would be in favor of Sharp and Hooker was given less than a week to show up at the Caffey hearing and not having enough time to secure an attorney. He also thought Robert Houston and Sam Sharp of being allies in this scheme.

Says T J Sharp lived about 3/4 mile from Hooker and his land since the year 1857. Robert Houston lived about a mile since about 1840 or 1850 and Sam Sharp within 2 miles since 1857 until recently when he moved near the city of Corinth, Miss. This location was in the now Guys area.

Jack Hooker also states that his wife Nancy Jane never signed or acknowledged the original deed. She died June 12, 1879.

Apparently Hooker lost this lawsuit, as he left in the middle of the night and went to Arkansas.



JOHN H REEDER vs ELIZA HILL
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT
Estate of James H Hill
1883 - #543
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Complainants would most respectfully show and represent unto your Honor that James H Hill died intestate in McNairy County on or about the - - day of 1876. That he left surviving him his widow, Eliza Hill, who has since intermarried with Brice Prather and is now a citizen of the State of Miss, and his children and heirs at law:

- (1) Charles Hill, a citizen of McNairy County

(2) N J (Nancy Ann Jospeline) Hill who intermarried with R A Morgan, also citizen s of McNairy County

(3) L J (Louisa Jane) Hill who intermarried with J L Armstrong, both of whom are deceased and they left surviving as their legal representatives, a daughter name believed to be Rebecca , (error) who intermarried with Robert Shields, a citizen of McNairy Co, Tenn and John Armstrong, also a citizen of McNairy County, both of whom are believed to be 21 year s of age . (Another document in this file has Rebecca marked out and Mate 'Matty' marked which is the correct name.)

(4) Samuel Hill, a citizen of McNairy County

(5) F E (Finus) Hill, a citizen of the State of Arkansas

Dower was never assigned and Eliza, the widow, abandoned her right by remarrying and moving away.

Complainant would state and show unto your Honor that at the December term of the County Court of McNairy County 18 76 , he was appointed and qualified as the Administrator of the said James H Hill, deceased.

James H Hill owned 348 acres at the NW corner of Robert C Houston, East bounded by William Prather and W W Jeans land, conveyed to James Hi ll, Feb 12, 1853 by B B Adams



**MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE CHANCERY COURT
W W MCCULLAR, ETALS VS J J HORN / C C SHAFNER**

1884 No 577

ISAAC MCCULLAR ESTATE, DISPUTE
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

David McCullar, Betsy Simmons, Martha Houston, the latter a citizen of Texas, Jackson McCuller, Mary Jane Hefley and W W McCuller vs J J Horn and C C Shafner.

Isaac McCullar departed this life in McNairy County on the – day of September 1879, that he died without issue, leaving Missouri E McCullar his widow. Missouri McCullar and W W McCullar took the oath of administration of the estate on October 6, 1879 and the approximate value of his estate was \$1,586.76 plus 178 acres.

At the time of this court action being taken, L B Carter, Sr; L B Carter, Jr and J Sweat had outstanding notes. Missouri McCullar loaned J J Horn \$430.00 on March 28, 1883 to purchase a house and lot in the town of Falcon, McNairy County, Tennessee.

Missouri married Calvin C Shafner on April 14, 1883 and then she died January 1884. Isaac McCullar's siblings say the estate belongs to them, including the money owed by J J Horn.

In this case, it tells about cotton picking time and using baskets to pick the cotton. Apparently Missouri and her second husband didn't agree on this. He wanted to buy baskets and she told him he should have made baskets. Half the cotton belonged to her, since it was on her land. The mare belonged to her and he wasn't to ride it. She had built a nice new house, \$375

on her land after Isaac McCullar's death and if Shafner though he was marrying into a good time - he might have made a mistake. Missouri was about 49 when she died.

A J Powel, age 51, in 1884, testified that he wanted to marry Missouri but apparently they couldn't come to terms on what each owned. She said no man would control the property of her first husband. He also stated "Yes, she agreed to marry me, but she did not tell me that she did not want to marry an old man." Yet she paid \$75 for C C Shafner, who had come from middle Tennessee, to get a divorce to marry her. She had to give instructions that she would not be responsible for his debts. (Maybe she made a mistake.)

They were married about 10 months when she died. It did not state when she got sick, but W W McCullar stated that when she got sick, Shafner would give her the medicine but he didn't do it right (maybe too much) so she said Martha Lipford would give it to her. He stayed in his room, drunk and mad, and would not see her much during the last. She told W W McCullar she was a little afraid of him, that maybe the medicine she was taking was not the right kind. She died 8-10 days after she told this.

Mary Jane Hefley bought the 178 acres of land in October 1884 for \$1,000.. The 178 acres had been given to Isaac McCullar by his father Alexander McCullar in August 1873.

The siblings of Isaac McCullar received \$142 each: Andrew Jackson McCullar, F H & Elizabeth 'Betsy' Simmons, David McCullar, Mary J Hefly, William W McCullar, Martha Houston who resided in Texas in 1884.

(Note: Elizabeth 'Betsy' in 1884 is the wife of F H Simmons. Reflections state that Elizabeth married a Martindale and then a Cannon. The marriage book shows that an Elizabeth Hill married F H Simmons Jan 31, 1864. In 1880 a John C Hill is living with Frederick and Elizabeth Simmons.)

Mary Jane McCullar married P J Helfy

William W McCullar married Mary Etta Murphy

Isaac McCullar married Missouri Lipford

David McCullar married Margaret Cagle

Martha McCullar married Archibald Houston and moved to Texas

Andrew Jackson McCullar married Adaline Rains.

This case did not give a lot of information but it sure was interesting to read.

Isaac McCuller departed this life in McNairy County on the – day of Sept, 1879, that he died without issue leaving Missouri E McCuller, his widow and relict. The said widow and W W took out letters of administration upon his estate on Oct 6, 1879. Then came into their hands the sum of \$1,586,76 consisting of notes, accounts and personal property. The estate was settled in 1882 after collecting the most of the debts due said estate and paying off the creditors. Outstanding notes at that time were L B Carter Sr and L B Carter Jr for \$108.52



T B GARRETT VS E H T GARRETT
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT
Chancery Court - 1884 # 581
McNairy County Court -1869 Administrator Bond # 349

Nancy Garrett died intestate in 186- leaving two sons, T B Garrett and E H T Garrett. J W Garrett was appointed as administrator of the estate but died without settling the estate. He left a judgement on a note of J W Miller and H H Brown. J W Garrett was related to Nancy Garrett, but relationship never stated.

Jan 1869 H H Brown was appointed administrator. Recorded in # 349 County Court Records. Bond set at \$350 with W D Joplin and A D McCullar.

E H T Garrett was age 34 in 1885. Apparently E H T Garrett sold the land that T B Garret was due ½ of the proceeds or rents earned.

E H T Garrett and T B Garrett were half brothers. Fathers never mentioned. T B Garret was very young at his mothers death.

My personal research on Nancy Garrett: In 1860, Nancy is listed twice in the McNairy County census. Once in District Five with James Garrett, probably brother and probably the J W Garrett appt adm of her estate. She is listed as 33, born SC and one child Tailor age 10, Tn. Next door is C B Rogers, also known as Commadore Rogers. Commadore may have married one of the Garrett girls since James Garrett has a son Commadore. Also C B Rogers is appointed guardian of T B Garrett.

She is also listed in 1860 with McDaniel Garrett in Dist 5, she is listed as Nancy A, age 31 and Ephriam H age 10. So the eldest child must be named Ephriam H Taylor Garrett.

In 1870 T Bennett Garrett is living with Commadore Rogers. Commadore Rogers was born Mar 13, 1813 and died Oct 31, 1896 and buried at Indian Creek, near Chewalla. T. B Garrett was born in 1860 and became of age in 1881. Relationship, if any, of Commadore Rogers and Nancy Garrett, is unknown.

It is thought Nancy Garrett had these two boys out of wedlock.



JAMES WARDLOW VS SAM SHARP
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT
1884 No 585
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

James Wardlow vs Sam Sharp, L H Springer.

A very interesting court case. A very sad case when read with Hooker vs Sanders, Chancery Court Case 532. A J Hooker, usually called Jack, had his farm taken away under false

pretenses, he was broke, owed a lot of debts. So he sells what he can and leaves in the middle of the night.

A J Hooker sold to James Wardlow on 11 day of Oct 1883, some of his possessions, hogs, plow tools, and the cotton in his fields for \$300 and he went to Arkansas..

At the time of this transaction, Jack's son, David R, states "he was hunting a hog" was the reason he went by his father's house . This was very common since most people had no fences or pens.

The case was too long to cipher all the details. I was more or less interest in facts presented in this case.

D R Hooker, Jr. states that A J Hooker died 23 day of March 1885 in Pope County Arkansas, and that he was 66 years old in 1883.

Jack Hooker, left McNairy County and went to Arkansas 'in the middle of the night'to avoid his debts. He meant to leave earlier, and didn't want anyone to know where he went, but it rained and delayed him a few days. Because he did not have any money, he sold most of his possessions to James Ward ow. He had tried to borrow some money from Wardlow, but couldn't. So he told his share cropper, Babe Thomas, to get some hands and go to the fields and pick him enough cotton for money to leave, which was done and the cotton was carried to the Wardlow gin. One bale was carried to Chewalla to the gin.

All of his daughters did not leave with him at that time, only one daughter and grandson. Since most of them wound up in Arkansas, apparently they followed. He gave his daughter Zade a cow, his son David R Hooker a cow. There were pigs left on the farm, which the daughters killed seven. David Hooker killed one pig, a man by the name of Sweat got one, and one sow is still at the farm.

There are two James Wardlow's in this case. One is James Wardlow, the complainant, who was about 52 years old at the time. (He lived at New Hope and was married to Memphis Caffey.) The other is James W or J W Wardlow, age about 46 , brother-in-law A J Hooker. In the deposition, J W states he is 4 or 5th cousin to James Wardlow. We have it a little closer kin but may be missing something. (This fact had been a big concern to Wardlow researchers. We thought the two James Wardlow's were related - just wasn't sure.)

A J Hooker left McNairy county a defeated old man, robbed of most of his belonging, except what he could put on a wagon . The Sanders case tells how Hooker's land was just taken away from him.

He wrote a letter back to his cousin T B Hooker. 'Pottz Station, Polk Co, Ark. "Mar the 2# 1884. Mr T B Hooker, ESQ/ After my congrutlation to you & famuly as you now (know) I left McNary under the most heart rewing surcumstances eve (ever) any man did on earth. Robed of everything that I posest without any compensation. Now T B I want you to tell my friends back their if you permite me to live & give me health & strengh I see them again. Now T B, I not going to rite much as I have just rote to D R & it geting late. I want you to rite me all the news of the country that is of emporance & please see D R & now (know) the reason he dont rite. I have not recd anything from him sence t he 29th of Jany. Please let me hear how they ar geting along & what they ar doing. Please answer imediatly & all & co dock & family & a ll joins in sending ther tenderst regards to you & family. This leaves us all in your health. Rite soon & often. I give you my fiend of - - - in my next if permiten to live. A J Hooker.

Enclosed you find Davids letter. Please cary it to him or send it imediatly & all. I send to you for the reason I think there is something rong ome wher in the post off ice. D R write he has never recd but 3 letter from me & I had rote 8 or 10 now. “ (Letter copied as written - with punctuation added for clarity.) A J Hooker could write.



BUELAH KING VS A J KING
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TN CHANCERY COURT
1884 No 600
DIVORCE GRANTED OCTOBER 18, 1884
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Beulah King and A J King married Feb 9, 1882 and lived together until about Dec 20, 1882 and he abandoned her and her child only a few weeks old that died before she applied for divorce which was filed Sept 20, 1884.

H C Carter and J C Millsaps testified in her defense, stating that he left and she and the baby went home to her mother. Mr Carter stated “he plays the fiddle, hunts squirrels and goes to see other women is about all that I ever see or hear of him doing.”

The court case plainly says A J King, but the Marriage Records documents by R Harold Cox say R L King and B B Milsaps married Feb 9, 1882, H Derryberry bondman and John W Walker, JP. Recorded book I pg 62.



WILLIAM FERGUSON, ETAL VS L C ROTEN, ETAL DOCKET
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TN CHANCERY COURT
LAND DISPUTE, FILED IN THE CHANCERY COURT AT FALCON, TENNESSEE
1885 No 621
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

THIS CASE HAS THE SAME INFORMATION AS CHANCERY CASE 629

A J Ferguson died intestate 186- leaving Mary A Ferguson, his widow and children: James H, Nancy Jane, Frederick S, Mary Ann, Eliza, Victoria, Ephraim, Louisa and William. Mary Ann was appointed executor of the estate. He died before Nov 1865 because a petition had been filed for dower and sale of the land by Mary Ann Ferguson before that date. At the December 1865 term of court, it was ordered that the land be sold to highest bidder January 13, 1866 and Mary A Ferguson bought the land in question for \$30.00.

Misc information discovered: Mary A Ferguson drew a \$8.00 a month pension for herself and each minor child. Starting at least in 1872. She did not receive money on a child

after they reached age 16. The youngest child was 16 on Dec 20, 1874. Victoria name was: Comfort Victoria Ferguson. Victoria could write.



**JOHN M HARRIS VS E. H. FERGUSON, ETAL
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TN. CHANCERY COURT**

1885 No 629

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy
Debt Dispute

Defendants: John F Gilmer, J. H Ferguson, E H Ferguson, F P Ferguson, William Ferguson, Lawson King and wife Nancy J King, John King and wife Louisa King, Henry Boatman and wife Mary A Boatman, Jeff Foster and wife Eliza Foster and Victoria Ferguson.

This case pertains to an indebtedness, lien on land. Complainant states that on the 29th day of September 1879, Mary A. Ferguson executed to him her promissary note for \$65.00 due on the 25th day of December 1879, which is still unpaid at court date. The \$65.00 was the balance of the \$250.00 purchase price of 26 acres lying and being on the waters of Mosses Creek in the first civil district of McNairy County, State of Tennessee. Bounded by J L Boatman, William Wallace, J T Gooch and William Gilmer.

Complainant states that on November 1, 1880, F P Ferguson and E H Ferguson sold this tract of land to John F. Gilmer.

According to this court case, Mary A Ferguson died intestate April 1884 (the McNairy County cemetery Book documented by Albert Brown shows her death date as June 30, 1883.)

Defendants state the 26 acres was Mary A Ferguson dower which she was entitled to out of the lands of A J Ferguson. A J Ferguson departed this life intestate leaving surviving him Mary A Ferguson his widow and James H, Nancy Jane, Frederick S, Mary Ann, Eliza, Victoria, Ephraim, Louisa and William Ferguson, the last eight of whom are minors under the age of 21 years of age, His widow, Mary Ann was appointed administratrix of his estate (which is unusual - it is usually a man.)

R. M. Thompson, McNairy County Court Clerk, declared that the court declared in December 1865 that the lands of A J Ferguson be sold at the courthouse door in the town of Purdy on January 13, 1866 and Mary Ferguson, the high bidder, purchased the land in question for \$35.00. A. J. Ferguson owned approximately 126 acres at the time of his death and Mary A selected 26 acres as her dower.

There are several pages to this court case but the arguments go round and round.(Note: Frederick's middle initial was sometimes listed as F s and sometimes F P.P



GEORGE PARRY VS JAMES DUNAWAY

McNairy County, Tennessee, Chancery Court

1886 - 641

ISHAM FORSYTHE Descendants

Compiled by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Names mentioned in these files:

Adams, Armstrong, Basham, Bell, Bizzell, Boatman, Cottrell (?), Chambers, Chamness, Curry, Dancer, Davis, Dunaway, Fisher, Forbes, Forsythe, Garrett, Gibson, Glass, Henderson, Jones, Lakey (?), Lawson, Leath, Leeper, Manley, Matlock, McCoy, Melton, Monroe, Moore, Morris, Nickels, Nickles, Prince, Sanders, Tate, Vanstory, Wallace, Wren

(Note: please allow for errors in transcribing names.)

This information is drawn from two lawsuits in McNairy County, Tennessee Chancery Court:

#641 George Parry, etals VS James Dunaway, etals 1886

#903 James McNatt, etals VS Can Foresythe, etals 1894

This case shows that James Forsythe departed this life intestate in McNairy County, State of Tennessee some time in the month of April 1884, without issue, leaving surviving heirs only Martha Forsythe, his widow, who since intermarried with complainant George Parry. (Note: Martha Forsythe Parry died in 1892.)

At the time of the death of said James Forsythe, intestate was the owner of a large personal estate which has been fully administered and left to his widow, Martha Forsythe. (Apparently, his personal wealth, which Martha Forsythe inherited was gleaned by her new husband George Parry.) However, at the time of her death, James Forsythe's siblings and legal heirs, filed the lawsuit to obtain title to the land. The first lawsuit was filed in 1886 and the second filed in 1894, after Martha's death.

At the time of the death of said intestate, he was the owner of the following tracts of land:

1. Lying and being on the south side of Oxford's Creek, in the sixth civil district, McNairy County, Tennessee, containing 231 acres. Land Grant from the State of Tennessee Sept 10, 1847.

2. Lying and being on the south side of Oxford Creek, joining the first tract, containing 6 1/2 acres. This land was purchased from Thomas Prather on December 26, 1859 for \$250.50. Deed witnessed by S. T. Brooks and M. K. Forsythe.

3. Lying and being on the south side of Oxford Creek in the sixth and thirteenth civil districts, containing 100 acres. Purchased from Augustus Browder 1876.

To the best of my ability, I have read the two cases and compiled the chart below:

. James' siblings were:

1. Sarah Forsythe, married James Melton, died and left:
 - Dicy A., married John Basham.
 - Nancy, married a Curry
 - H. M. Melton
 - M. A. Melton, married Mose Matlock
 - J. M. Melton, in all five children who are all living.
2. Robert Forsythe, now deceased, had one child
 - Solomon, who also died and left one child
 - Florence who married James McNatt.
3. John Forsythe, a brother who died and left one child
 - Mich, who died and left (1) John Forsythe (2) Can Forsythe
4. Elizabeth, married W. R. Wren and died and left
 - James H. Wren
 - Sam Wren
 - William Wren, died and left children
 - Elizabeth, married a Chambers
 - unknown daughter that married a Matlock
 - Sam Matlock
 - Saline, _____Lakey ? died and left children
 - Cynthia, married -----Davis
 - Charity, married James Vanstory, died and left children
 - Rachel Thompson
 - Cynthia Wingo
 - Sam Vanstory
 - John Vanstory
5. Hanna Forsythe, married James Boatman, died and left:

(Note: one deposition called her Sarah, but the 1850 & 1860 census says Hannah)

 - J. L. W. Boatman
 - Thomas M. Boatman
 - H. C. Boatman
 - Mary Boatman, married William Nickles
 - Malinda, married Ephriam Chamness or T. B. Chamness (has two different names)
 - Millie, married Alfred Forbes
 - Sarah, married Fletcher Monroe
 - Elizabeth, married Pink Dunaway, died and left
 - James E. Dunaway (minor in 1886)
 - W. P. Dunaway
 - M. L. Dunaway, married Joseph I. Sanders
 - M. H. Dunaway, married Wesley Wallace
 - M. J. Dunaway, married W. R. Manley
 - John T. Dunaway (minor in 1886)
 - Andrew J. Dunaway (minor in 1886)

John Boatman who died and left
John H. Boatman
Joseph Boatman
Victoria Henderson
L. F. Boatman, married F. Davis
N. H. Boatman.

6. Mary who married James Lawson, died and left:

John W. Lawson (who is dead but had sold his interest to E. H. Garrett)
J. K. Polk. Lawson
T. M. Lawson
Sarah Lawson, married Isham Browder
Elvia Lawson, married Dick McCoy
Nancy Lawson, married Walter Cooper
Rachel Leath,
Jennie (minor in 1886)
Luhaney Lawson, (James) Jones, died and left
Mary J. Jones, married Dick Morris
Lenia Jones, married Joseph Fisher
Jefferson Jones
Sarah, married a Dancer and died and left
Montie A. Dancer
Mollie E. Dancer.

7. Isham G. Forsythe died a long time ago. (There were 5 children by his 1st wife)

(1) James Forsythe, the oldest, died and left:

Missouri Forsythe, married James Adams
W. S. Forsythe
Malinda Forsythe
Sarah (Sissie ?) Forsythe
Isabella Forsythe, married John Gibson
Mary Forsythe, married Thomas P. Moore
America Forsythe
Nancy J. Forsythe
F. H. Forsythe.

(2) Will Forsythe was the next oldest child. He is dead and left:

Misline Forsythe (died 1886 - 1894) married James Nickels
William Forsythe (died between 1886-1894)
Carroll Forsythe
Sissie Forsythe, married Robert Tate
Mary Ann Armstrong
Ephriam Forsythe.

(3) J. C. Forsythe. (Lived 5 miles south of James Forsythe)

(4) Frances Moore, died between 1886-1894

Albert Moore, Malissa Glass, Callie or Caroline Cottrell
Jennie Leeper, Bluford Moore, Elzetta Moore.

- (5) Parthenia Gibson.
- (6) Ophelia J Morris, married J. D. Morris ?
- (7) Caroline Bizzell, is dead and left (not clear about the Bizzell children)
 - William
 - Jennie (Prince?)
 - John ???
 - James ????
- (8) Victoria Bell, deceased and left the following minor children 1886
 - Jennie, Thankful, Mollie, Pearl, Ruben, & Colie Bell.

Soloman Forsythe was an older brother of said intestate, James Forsythe and is supposed to have died many years ago in the State of Kentucky. If he has any children or grand children now living they are unknown to the complainants.

Thomas Forsythe was an older brother of said intestate, James Forsythe, and is supposed to have died many years ago in the State of Arkansas, and if he has any children or grand children, they are also unknown to complainants.

J. . M. Adams wrote a note on Aug 26, 1889: "Please send me my little mite of money due me."

May 28, 1894:

Residents of the State of Texas: John Forsythe, A. B. Forbes and Millie Forbes, W. P. Dunaway, Joseph Fisher and Lena Fisher, Jennie Leath, Albert Moore, Melissa Glass, Caroline Moore, Jennie Moore, Bluford Moore, Elzetta Moore, Reuben Bell, J. D. Morris and Felia Morris, James Nickles

Residents of the State of Mississippi: J. H. Boatman, Joseph Boatman, N. H. Boatman, Victoria Henderson, L. F. Davis

Unknown residence: Fletcher Monroe and Sarah Monroe, W. R. Manely and M. J. Manely, Dick Morris and Mary J. Morris, Jeff Jones. Heirs of Misline Nickles who married James Nickles are of unknown names and unknown residences.

Sept 27, 1897: Shares of this lawsuit distributed from a net worth of \$197.05

Florence McNatt	28.15	Mary Nickles	3.12
J. M. Melton	5.63	Malinda Chamness	3.12
Dacey A. Basham	5.63	Millie Forbes	3.12
Nancy Curry	5.63	Sarah Monroe	3.12
H. M. Melton	5.63	M. H. Wallace	.45
M. A. Matlock	5.63	M. L. Sanders	.45
Can Forsythe	14.08	W. P. Dunaway	.45
John Forsythe	14.07	J. E. Dunaway	.45
J. L. W. Boatman	3.12	J. T. Dunaway	.45
T. M. Boatman	3.12	A. J. Dunaway	.45
H. C. Boatman	3.12	M. J. Manley	.45

John H. Boatman	.63	F. H. Forsythe	.39
Joseph Boatman	.63	Misline Nickels	.59
L. F. Davis	.63	Wm Forsythe heirs	.59
Victoria Henderson	.63	Carroll Forsythe	.59
“Teen” Boatman	.63	Sissie Tate	.59
John W. Lawson	3.52	Mary Armstrong	.59
J. K. P. Lawson	3.52	Ephriam Forsythe	.59
T. M. Lawson	3.52	Albert Moore	.59
Sarah Browder	3.52	Malissa Barr (Glass?)	.59
Elvira McCoy	3.52	Callie Cattrell	.59
Nancy Cooper	3.52	Jennie Leeper	.59
Rachel Leath heirs	3.52	Bluford Moore	.59
Jeff Jones	.88	Elzetta Moore	.59
Lena Fisher	.88	Jennie Bell	.59
Mary Morris	.88	Thankful Bell	.59
Montie Dancer	.88	Mollie Bell	.59
Mollie Dancer	.88	Pearl Bell	.59
J. H. Wren	3.52	Reubin Bell	.59
Sam D. Wren	3.52	Cole Bell	.59
Elizabeth Chambers	3.52		
Cynthia Davis	3.52		
Sam Matlock	3.52		
Elizabeth Chambers	3.52		
Cynthia Davis	3.52		
Sam Matlock	3.52		
Salina Lakey	3.52		
William Wren heirs	3.52		
Sam Vanstory	.88		
Rachel Thompson	.88		
Cynthia Wingo	.88		
— Vanstory	.88		
J. C. Forsythe	3.52		
Parthenia Gibson	3.52		
Ophelia Morris	3.52		
Caroline Bizzel heirs	52		
Missouri Adams	.39		
W. S. Forsythe	.39		
Malinda Forsythe	.39		
Sarah Forsythe	.39		
Isabella Gibson	.39		
Mary Moore	.39		
America Forsythe	.39		
Nancy J. Forsythe	.39		

has lived with his father all of his life, and was supposed to take care of Mr McCullar and his business.

J W Durham, age 26, also states Mc McCullar's mind went bad in the fall of 1884.

James Berryman, age 73, has known Alexander McCullar for 51 years and lived about 2 miles from him. He has been of unsound mind for about four years.

A J Powell, age 58, has known Mr McCullar for about 40 years and lives about 1.5 miles from him. His son, W W McCullar, a single man has always lived with him and taken care of him.

Mary J Hafley, age 49, the daughter of Alexander McCullar, says he is insane since a bout 1884. She stated her father told her 'none of the children who had married off and he had given to, need expect mich else. That he willed the----- of land to her brother William W McCullar, he wanted the brother to live on with him and take care of him during his lifetime. Wouldn't be nothing much to sell at his death except the two lower places and the mill tract. The stock wouldn't amount to anything, old and worn out. He had never given her sister Betsy anything and her sister Martha in Texas he had given some and when the land was sold he wanted them brought up with the rest. She says W W McCullar has been appointed guardian.

Alfred McCullar, age 47, a grandson, has known Alexander McCullar about 35 years. He thinks Mr McCullar is between 90 and 93 years old and has been deaf ever since he (Alfred) has known him and deficient in sight about 10 years. His mind is very bad. It has been several years since he transacted any business.

Henry McCullar, age 46, grandson, has known Alexander McCullar since he could recollect anything. He has not transacted any business for about four years.

J T McCullar, age 35, grandson, has known Alexander McCullar all his life.

J W Durham, age 26, has known Alexander McCullar about 10 years. He lives about 1.5 miles away.

Dr W Edwin Atkins, age 35. Has known Alexander McCullar about 11 years. Dr Atkins has practicing medicine in Falcon for 10 years and is Alexander McCullar's doctor and he is wholly incompetent.

W W McCullar was appointed guardian of Alexander McCullar at the April term of court in 1887, provided W W McCullar provide bond within 30 days. Alexander McCullar had been unsound of unsound mind.

Alexander McCullar lived near Falcon.

Inventory June 15, 1887

one sorrel horse mule about 22 years old

one sorrel horse mule about 18 years old

one gray horse mule about 9 years old

one white mule about 3 years old

2 steers, one red, one white about 2 years old.

One reaper

Farming tools of plows and harrows.

2 beds, one old wagon

12 barrels of corn

1,000 bundles of fodder
one note on C Shull \$700.00

Alexander McCullar had died before Dec 23, 1889.
Mary Jane Helfey may be deceased before Oct 20, 1887 as Laura M Hefley, minor heir is mentioned.



R P NEELY VS H C MOORE ETALS
McNairy County, Tennessee, Chancery Court
July 27, 1887 # 669
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

This was a very difficult case to read, I read it twice. Case not necessarily listed in chronological order, but as it was found in the file.

R P Neely, of Bolivar, Hardeman County, Tennessee VS H C Moore, A M Moore, Arilla Murray and her husband Dick Murray, Mollie McCullar and her husband S B McCullar, Rebecca Dick and her husband T J Dick all residents of McNairy County, Tennessee, except S B McCullar and his wife Mollie who are residents of the State of Mississippi and Rebecca Dick and T J Dick, her husband, the heirs at law of Laney Moore, dec'd late of McNairy Co, Tenn.

H C Moore and A M Moore being sons of George M Moore, who was the only son of Laney Moore; Mollie MCCullar, and Arilla Murray being the daughters of Geo M Moore, son of Laney Moore. Said George M Moore being long since dead.

Laney Moore died in 1859 leaving George M Moore his only heir and the above named are the only heirs of Geo M Moore, who died in 1886.

(NK note here: The above two paragraphs is the statement of the complainant, who did not know the family pedigree. I have listed the true information concerning the pedigree later in this document when the defendants state their cause. Incorrect information: 1. George M Moore 'being long since dead,' this case was filed in July 1887 and G M Moore died in 1886. 2. 'Leaving George M Moore, his only heir,' Laney Moore had two children, George and Elizabeth. 3. Rebecca Dick and husband listed as heirs of G M Moore.' Rebecca was not a descendant of George, but a descendant of his sister Elizabeth. Laney had given the property rights only to his son, George M, so the children of the daughter, Elizabeth, should not be in this lawsuit.

Complainants state on May 21, 1857, Laney Moore sold and conveyed to R P Neely, Jno R Fentress and A F Robertson, 3/4 interest to a tract of land containing 333 acres in McNairy County, Tenn. On May 22, 1857, said Laney Moore, S T Robertson, Jno R Fentress and R P

Neely purchased of Edward – a tract of 231 acres adjoining the first tract. Total 564 acres. Each owning 1/4 interest. Recorded in Book F, page 461-462.

Robertson and Fentress died many years and ago and their portion was sold by a decree of the Court of Hardeman County to Martha Neilson who sold the property to R P Neely on April 8, 1880 for \$200.

(NK note: Laney Moore sold Robertson, Fentress and Neely 1/4 interest in 333 acres for \$250 each. Didn't find the price of the 231 acres. Neely purchased the shares of Robertson and Fentress for \$200 each. Big loss.)

Laney Moore's heir own just 1/4 of the two joint tracts.

Neilson, Robertson and Fentress lived in Hardeman County, Tenn.

The land is located near the center of McNairy county and near the Mobile & Ohio Raid and also near Bethel Spring Station and very valuable for the fine timbers.

Complainant states H C Moore and A M Moore have been systematically for years selling timber off said land and not dividing the profits. The Moore heirs are only due 1/4 of the money received.

The deed dated says Laney Moore sold to A T Robertson, John R Fentress and R P Neely 3/4 interest for \$750 for 333 acres land in McNairy County. Range 3, section 3, granted by entry no 1775 to Hezekiah Sweat and deeded to Laney Moore by WM S Wisdom.

Depositions, August 21, 1888:

G D Smallwood, age 34: Many years ago, 17 or 18 years ago, he purchased and cut timber from H C and A M Moore. About \$10 from their father and \$23 from them. He also traded 15,000 shingles for timber one time but Ike McCullar claimed they belonged to him. McCullar and Moore divided them. The shingles were on McCuller's land. Smallwood said he was indicted and convicted for cutting timber and had to pay about \$72.00. G D Smallwood could sign his name.

Kinney Sweat, age 33: Sweat stated he and his brother Bob helped their father cut timber on the land and they paid Clay Moore (H C Moore). Kinney Sweat's father is dead. They got 6,000 two foot boards on the land and about 3,000 shingles as well. Mr Sweat paid 70 per thousand for the boards. The boards were sold to Mr Epps at Bethel. The singles were for Dr Hudson at Bethel. They did not pay H C Moore of A M Moore for the timber. Signed W M Sweat.

W D Murray age 54: Cut timber off the land per permission of A M Moore. 2700 shingles.

R L Smallwood, age 28 : Said he paid Clay Moore \$5 in 1882 and paid Andy \$4.00 in 1884. R L Smallwood could not sign his name.

Henry Lumpkins, age 34: Cut very little and paid very little. He paid Andy Moore \$4 and does not remember paying H Clay Moore any money. He and Richard Smallwood made some boards once for Zib Chambers. Once he worked for Brad Roberson who cut some timber. Also mention is Weet Smallwood, and Jim McNatt. Lumpkins' land adjoins the Moore tract. Henry Lumpkins could sign his name.

R K Hendrix age 67: Some of his hired help got over the line onto the Moore tract and he paid \$25 . He paid Andy Moore \$2 one time. R K Hendrix could sign his name.

A T Murray, age 41: Says he has never paid for any timber. Sometimes people would just cut timber off the land without permission - they did to his land. One time he helped G M Moore cut timber to make shingles for his house. The G M Moore home house was about 3 miles from the land. Dick Murray helped A T make the shingles. About 12,000. About 10 years ago. A T Murray's land adjoins the Moore tract.

Elbert Houston age 42: He only got a couple of trees off the land last year. He paid \$4.50 and owes \$4.50. E E Houston could sign his name.

James Kerby age 44 : J L Epps and James Kerby had used about 8,000 shingles at .50 per thousand. Kirby hasn't paid anybody and he didn't know if Epps had paid or not. Epps got permission from Andy Moore. James Kerby could sign his name.

H C Murray age 44: G M Moore looked after the land in his life time and he reckons Clay and Andy now look after it to keep people from cutting timber off it. Worth \$10 to \$12 to oversee. H C Murray could sign his name.

R C Murray: Clay Moore is the defendant H C Moore. If somebody hadn't been looking after the land, all the timber would have been cut without permission. R C Murray is the son-in-law of G M Moore. E C Murray could sign his name. He has made about six hundred boards off the land, worth about 15 cents per hundred foot, by permission of G M Moore.

H B Roberson states he paid about \$9 for timber off the land, maybe 1885. He could sign his name.

M L Roberson: A bout 1886 he paid \$5 for boards. He could sign his name.

William Sweat states a Bob Nixon cultivated some of the land in 1861 or 62 - only one year, a small crop. Bob Nixon is now dead. In 1869 William Sweat paid \$25 to G M Moore for timber. He cut the trees for cross ties but the railroad refused to take them because they were worm eaten and rotten. About 300-400 cross ties. Isaiah Sweat the father of Kenney Sweat is dead. W M Sweat could sign his name.

Scott Nixon: States he is the son of Robert Nixon. He was 38 years old last June. They lived on the land at one time and cultivated the land. They lived on the Owens land on the east side of the creek. And they also lived on the Sweat land and cultivated it, this was during the war. About one or two years. He was very small when they lived on the land. It was a state of war at that time; the soldiers of both armies being scattered through the county, more or less, at different times. They were living on the Sweat place at the time of the Battle of Shiloh. Scott Nixon could not write his name. Oct 17, 1888

William Nixon, age 40: son of Robt Nixon. Lived one year on each tract and made a small crop during the war. Wm Nixon could sign his name.

Defendants Statement: H C Moore, the defendant, the son of G M Moore. G M Moore walked the land and showed H C Moore where the lines were. John Epps was deputy surveyor. 565 acres in two tracts - known as the Sweat and Owens tracts. He stated R P Neely never looked after the land. G M Moore family has paid the taxes every year since 1859-1876. Neely never repaid to the Moore family his part of the taxes. In 187- they had the land assessed separately, Neely was to be taxed on his own. H C Moore purchased his father's interest in the land in 1870 and he stated then he paid the taxes from 1870 to 1883 when he re-conveyed the land back to his father G M Moore.

G M Moore was 66 years old when he died, he was born in 1820. He stayed in the 7th district 1865-1870 but his home was in the Second District. H C Moore could sign his name.

The Defendants state Laney Moore died and left surviving him two heirs: George M Moore, the ancestor of the defendants, and Elizabeth Moore Tatum. (Elizabeth Moore Tatum died in 1860.)

The Laney Moore 1/4 interest part of the land was left to his son G M Moore at his death.

G M Moore conveyed the land to A M Moore Dec 14, 1870 and he took responsibility of taking care of the land. Aug 14, 1883 A M Moore conveyed the land back to his father G W Moore.

G M Moore died intestate in McNairy County, October 1886, surviving him: H C Moore, A M Moore, Mollie McCullar and Arilla Murray.

Rebecca Dick is a daughter of Elizabeth Tatum. Rebecca Dick has no interest in the said land and should not be a party to this lawsuit. (*Note: Elizabeth Tatum was the daughter of Laney Moore, she died in 1860, leaving two children, Roxanna and Rebecca. Roxanna Morton died in 1865 and is buried in Buena Vista Cemetery. Rebecca moved out of McNairy County.*)

R P Neeley , Oct 5, 1888, age 79, states they purchased the tract of land in 1856 or 1857 when he was building the Central railroad and Judge Brown was building the Mobile & Ohio railroad. They bought it with a view of getting the county seat of McNairy County moved and located on it. The tract of land was located about in the center of the county, this was before Chester County pulled off McNairy and formed a new county. Neely was taken into the company for the purpose of getting his influence with Judge Brown who was building the M & O Railroad to locate a depot upon the land. Neely employed engineers to lay off the town.

He intended for the engineers to cut the timber to supply for track for the railroad. (Not too clear.) (There were two railroads being built, the G & O and the Central near Bolivar.) One engineer cut timber and put on the Central RR near Bolivar but it was destroyed in the war.

He hired an engineer for \$240, to lay off lots for a town. They were to petition the G & M office in Jackson to put a depot and then try to moved the county seat but the war 'came up' and stopped everything.

He also paid traveling expense and hotel bills to oversee the laying off of the town and going to Jackson. He was not reimbursed for any of his expenditures. At the time of purchase, Moore lived near the land and the others lived in Hardeman County.

The Moore's lost it all.

A committee was appointed to survey and divide the land between Neely and Moore: R F Beard, surveyor, John Maxedon, William Pigott, R J Hendrix, Andrew Beard. They divided 358 acres to Neely and H C Moore, eta, 206 acres. On Sept 24, 1888.

Sheriff's sale was called to be held on October 7, 1889, of what is known as the Moore and Neely land containing 206 acres lying on the waters of Cypress Creek in the 19th civil district. Bounded on the north by Catherine Murray and R R Hendrix. On the south by J W Purviance on the east by H C Murray and W D Jopling and on the west by the lands of R P Neely. To recover the court cost against H C Moore, etal for the sum of \$98.20 in favor of R P Neely.



STATE OF TENNESSEE VS JACK FARRIS, ET ALS
McNairy County, Tennessee, Chancery Court
March 24, 1888 - 684
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

State vs Jack Farris and wife Caldonia; Tom Nichols and wife Victoria; Randolph Hopkins, Pleasant Hopkins, all resident of McNairy County, Tenn; also Joe Reed and wife Sarah; Asa Hopkins, all resident of Texas.

This lawsuit was about the 70 acres they inherited when William P and Margaret Hopkins died. It was bound on the north by W M Lockman, on the south by Damerson, on the east by Lockman and on the west by Singleton.

There was \$1.80 tax due in 1887.



STATE OF TENNESSEE VS W P DUNAWAY
McNairy County, Tennessee, Chancery Court,
Tax Bill, 1887 - 728
transcribed by Nancy Kennedy

W P Dunaway not found in this county and notice to be published in the Falcon Advocate, for summons to court for back taxes, on a lot in the town of Bethel Springs for .91 cents.

Case retired from docket..



JOHN C FARRIS vs W W HARRIS
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT
1889 NO 768
Margaret Elam Hopkins Estate
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

This lawsuit It gave the date of Margaret's Elam Hopkins' death, July 3m 1876, and the birth of a son, Asa.

The lawsuit was all the children, except Sarah and Asa, against W . W. Harris. W. W. Harris was married to Margaret's sister. He and his wife took care of the three boys after their mother's death. The case alleges that he took advantage of the situation and disposed of Margaret's property and worked the boys.

W. W. Harris claimed Margaret made a deathbed wish that he and his wife would take the children if their older sister did not marry. He stated the older sister, Victoria, did marry but her husband, Tom Nickles did not want to take the children - so they came to live with him. Sara h lived with her sister Caldonia most of the time. (Caldonia was the child of Margaret's first marriage to David Wardlow.)

Margaret's estate was minimal. She owned 25 acres of land with about 7-8 acres cultivated. At the time of her death she had a few household furnishings, 7 head of geese, 20 barrels of corn, 20 gallons molasses, 2 wash pots , 2 hoes, plow tools and steel balances, one mare and hog s worth about \$30.00. Her total estate was less than \$500, depending on who appraised it.

Margaret Hopkins, W. W. Harris and James Wardlow all lived in t he New Hope or Caffey community. It may nt have been called New Hope a t that time.



**DAVID NORTH VS MARY NORTH
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT**

1889 - No 817

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

David North states that he and Mary North were married Dec 1, 1887 in McNairy County and lived together as man and wife until about October 1888, when Mary willfully and voluntarily abandoned him and carried all her effects.

North also states in November 188, Mary committed adultery with one Henry S Wardlow and at various other times after she left him.

Henry S Wardlow was summoned to court to testify on Oct 22, 1889, however, the testimony is not included in the file.

David North issued a decree to miss the lawsuit on October 25, 1889 and dropped charges of adultery.



JAMES C GILCHRIST VS MRS M M PETTIGREW
McNairy County, Tennessee Chancery Court
821 - October 21, 1889
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Your petitioner James C Gilchrist would most respectfully represent and show to your honor that C Gilchrist died in McNairy County, State of Tennessee, some time in the year 1868 after making and publishing his last will and testament, leaving:

Mary Caroline Gilchrist, his widow and sole executrix who is still living,

your petitioner James C Gilchrist,

John Gilchrist,

Robert C Gilchrist,

William Gilchrist,

Archable Gilchrist,

Nancy K Cook, formerly Nancy K Gilchrist,

L J Pettigrew, formerly L J Gilchrist,

Elizabeth Gilchrist,

Frances Gilchrist;

sons and daughters and Mary C Gilchrist his said widow as his sole legatees of his said estate.

On the 11th day of November 1878, the said Robert C Gilchrist married a Miss M M McKinze and that some time about the year 1882 or 1883, said R C Gilchrist died intestate in said county, leaving surviving him the said M M Gilchrist as his widow and two children as the result of said marriage.

On the 20th day of December 1879, the said Francis Gilchrist intermarried with one Thomas L Pettigrew and sometime about the year 1882 the said Francis Pettigrew died intestate in said county leaving surviving him the said T L Pettigrew, her said husband and one boy child named William E Pettigrew as the results of her said marriage.

On the 4th day of June 1885, the said T L Pettigrew, widower aforesaid and the said M M Gilchrist, widow as aforesaid, intermarried with each other and that some time in the year 1889 T L Pettigrew died intestate in said county leaving surviving him said M M Pettigrew as his widow, and her two children by the said Robert C Gilchrist, deceased her former husbands, and the said William E Pettigrew his only child by his first wife the said Francis Pettigrew and two children as the result of his last marriage, his only heirs.

William E Pettigrew is a minor and now about eight years old and has an estate consisting of real and personal property amounting to about one thousand dollars left to him by his mother the said Francis Pettigrew, deceased and one of the legatees of the estate of her father the said C Gilchrist, deceased.

James C Gilchrist was appointed guardian for William E Pettigrew September, 1889. As guardian he is legally entitled to the custody and control of the person and property of said William E Pettigrew. James C Gilchrist states that M M Pettigrew, step-mother and aunt of William E Pettigrew, wrongfully and illegally withholds the custody and control of William E Pettigrew and positively refuses to deliver him up to petitioner although she has often been requested to do so. Petitioner also states that M M Pettigrew is in no wise related except as step-

mother and who has two other sets of children, both her own by two different husbands to care for and look after.

Frances Gilchrist Pettigrew requested at the time of her death that her brother, James C Gilchrist, to take charge of her son William E Pettigrew and raise him for her. James C Gilchrist took him to his house and kept him until he was about four years old , when his father T L Pettigrew married Mrs M M Gilchrist, the widow of Robert C Gilchrist. At which time William's father took him to his home to live. William lived with his father until his father's death in 1889. At T L Pettigrew's death he requested his wife M M Pettigrew to keep William with her and raise all the children up together, which she agreed to do.

In this case James C Gilchrist states that M M Pettigrew is a good woman but the child would be better off with him. It is unknown the outcome of this case.



E F HENDRIX VS W P DUNAWAY
McNairy County, Tennessee, Chancery Court,
1890 - 826
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy
Indebtedness

E F Hendrix, a resident of McNairy County
VS

W P Dunaway, resident of Texas and
Duke Hendrix, Avla ? Hendrix, Henry ? Hendrix, all minors living in McNairy County, Tenn
with L A Lockman, Guardian

E F Hendrix states that W P Dunaway executed to H M Hendrix and E F Hendrix a deed to a certain real estate in McNairy County, to secure a debt to the then Hendrix Brothers Merchants in Bethel Springs, which amounted to \$228.75. Dunaway executed a note on Jan 11, 1887 for \$203.75. Dunaway has failed to paid the money owed and has moved to Texas.

H M Hendrix died the 29th day of July 1887 and he left surviving him Duke Hendrix, Avla Hendrix, his heirs, and after his death Henry was born and they are all minors. L A Lockman was appointed guardian of the minor children.

The land, 117 acres is located in the first district and bounded by J L Rosson, Nicolas Gillentine, being a part of entry no 18256 in the name of B B Adams. One tract of land in the second district, Deed signed Dec 2, 1886. 24.5 acres and the homestead. Wesley Wallace was to buy part of the second tract.

J M Lacefield purchased the land. He may have married the widow of H M Hendrix. Her name was Laura and her father was L A Lockman.



W H WEEKS VS F N ONEAL
McNairy County Chancery Court #840
Estate Settlement, year 1890
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Hardin Oneal died intestate in McNairy County, State of Tennessee, come time about the month of September 1890 leaving surviving him Betsy Oneal, his widow, who was his third wife; F M Oneal, J P H Oneal, Jordan Oneal, Jno F O'Neal, R W Oneal, B T Oneal, Annie Lott formerly Annie Oneal and her husband John R Lott, all of whom are adults; and seven children of by his first wife and W H Weeks, Lessy A Ellis, formerly Lessy A Weeks and her husband J R Ellis and Charles B Weeks the three children of Margana Weeks, formerly Margana Oneal who was also one of the children of said intestate Harden Oneal by his first wife and therefore his grandchildren; Ana Jennie Moore formerly Jennie Jamison and her husband A L Moore and Sarah C Spencer formerly Sarah C Jamison and her husband J P J Spencer, the two children of Betsy Jane Jamison formerly Betsy Jane Oneal who was also one of the children of said intestate Hardin Oneal and therefore his grandchildren.

Harden Oneal, at the time of his death was the owner of a small tract of land which – to the benefit of his said widow as a homestead and a considerable amount of personal property, consisting of money, notes, corn, fodder, some hogs, cattle, farming tools, one buggy, one half interest in a grist mill and one cotton gin as well as some household and kitchen furniture amounting in the agregate to about \$4,500.

Jas P Oneal and Jno F Oneal appointed administrators of estate.

Estate divided:

F M Oneal	1/9
J O H Oneal	1/9
Jorden Oneal	1/9
Jno F Oneal	1/9
R W Oneal	1/9
B T Oneal	1/9
John R & Annie Lott	1/9
Heirs of Margana Weeks	1/9
Heirs of Betsy Jane Jamison	1/9



SAMUEL E COOKSIE VS SARAH COOKSIE

McNairy County Chancery Court # 855

Divorce - Filed July 4, 1891

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Complainant state he and defendant Sarah Cooksie were married in McNairy County, Tenn about the 23th day of Nov 1882 and lived in said county as man and wife for about 1 year after they were so married when defendant Sarah Cooksie committed adultery with one Wick hockaday near the spring from which complainant and defendant were using water near their home in the fall of 1883. Also complainant state Sarah Cooksie committed adultery with one Noah Cates in open lewdness and abandoned her baby when it was only about 3 or 4 months old and left McNairy County and went to the State of Mississippi where she lived with said Noah Cates. The said defendant was delivered of a child, born unto her about 18 to 24 months after defendant and complainant separated and he has not had any relationships with defendant. Petitioner also states that he and defendant are both residents of this county and have been for more than two years.

Deposition of Thomas Wigginton, On Oct 10, 1891, age 40 years old: Thomas lived about a quarter of a mile from Samuel and Sarah Cooksie in 1882. He carried Sarah Cooksie to the railroad when she was leaving the county about Christmas time about a year after Samuel and Sarah Cooksie had separated. A man by the name of Noah Cates was with her they were going to Tupelo, Miss. To get married. She came back to McNairy County about the first Monday in March. Thomas Wigginton helped carry her home. She was gone 4 or 5 months. She gave birth to a child after she got back but Wigginton did not know how long after she returned. He did not know the father of the child. General talk of the community was the child belong to Noah Cates, the man she left with. She is said to be with child again. Thomas could not sign his name.

Samuel E Cooksie, deposition on Sept 21, 1891. He is 26 years old. Samuel stated he lived with his wife about a year. Clark Keenan had seen the relationship between Wick Hockaday and Sarah Cooksie. Samuel Cooksie was at Purdy on that day. Samuel and Sarah were living on Wick Hockaday's place at the time. Samuel stated when he got home from Purdy and was told the new he told his wife he was not going to live that way and she didn't say a word. He left as soon as he could gather up his clothes and he never had relationships again with her. He went to Rienza, Miss just after Christmas. They had never had any trouble before this. Ask if he had ever been guilty of adultery since he heard of his wife's affair, he said no. At the time of the deposition he is living on the head of Owl Creek. She had a child a few weeks old when she left - it does not state if she carried the child with her or what happened to it. She had another child about 2 years after they separated. It is about five years old. Samuel E Cooksie could not write his name.

Deposition of Nellie E Cooksie, age 59 years old, Sept 21, 1891: she is the mother of Samuel E Cooksie. They were all living together on Wick Hockaday's place when Samuel left his wife. Nellie states she saw Sarah recently and she is in a pregnant state. It is common knowledge in the community. Apparently Sarah left her baby when her mother because Nellie states it was

screaming after it's mother. Nellie states the child Sarah had after she returned from Miss looked like Noah Cates, as both are light headed and coss-eyed. Nellie states Sarah told her the child was a Cates.

Sarah Keenan, age 28, give deposition on Sept 21, 1891. She is the widow of Clark Keenan who saw the affair between Sarah Cooksie and Wick Hockaday.

Decree for divorce was entered October 20, 1891.



JOHN RICHARDS, ETAL VS JOHN M HAMM & J W SMITH

McNairy County, Tennessee, Chancery Court

1891 * 860

Compiled by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

See also Chancery Court Case 198

My notes at random:

William Richards died in McNairy County, State of Tennessee, in the year 1861, without children. He nominated John M Hamm, executor of his estate which consisted of a large amount of real and personal property. Complainants state that the will and records of the probate thereof, and inventory of personal property of said estate were destroyed by fire or otherwise during the late Civil War and that about the 1st day of March 1869, defendant John M Hamm, executor filed his original bill in Chancery Court against Levina Richards, who was the wife and relect of said testate and J L Richards, J D Richards, John Richard, T A Richards, Catherine Carter, Sousanna Richards, Sibba Catha, Elizabeth Reding who were brothers and sisters of said William Richards, deceased and John Carter, Hased Richards and John Reding who were the surviving husbands of some of the said sisters.

Apparently the complainants claim John M Hamm sold the land to A W Smith for \$800 on Dec 6, 1890, after Levinia's death, but he had settled the case in 1869. That he had collected other monies without turning over the money to Levinia, the widow of William Richards. She later married a McCullar. Levinia died Feb 17, 1890.

William Richards' will, date 1851, left the Negro woman named Hettie, his real estate consisting of 450 acres and personal property to his wife Levinia Richards, and at her death, all property to be sold to the highest bidder with a twelve month note, and the proceeds to go the Presbytery of which he was a member. (Lawsuit does not show the Presbytery getting any money.)

The 1860 census records of McNairy county show William was a Cumberland Presbyterian Minister. The 1850 census shows he was minister and school teacher. In 1860 census, Levinia still lists her name as Levinia Ramer.

William and Levinia did not have any children.

William purchased more land from his father-in-law, John Ramer, at Ramer by the railroad after he signed the will and before his death.

William Ramer says his relation to William Richard, "he married my sister." States she also had a brother Dr Roark Ramer and father was John Ramer. L H Springer's relation to John ramer, "He is my wife's grandfather."

Apparently some of this case is missing because it is confusing because he states William had eight siblings that had children, yet only seven is mentioned. J D Richards is always mentioned in the eight listed, but it says he died without issue.

This case dragged on until about 1901 at which time only John Richards was the only living sibling or William Richards.

Levinia married W W McCullar and moved from her old homestead near Ramer Station to McCullar's house. She did not have any children with McCullar.

Lee Richards, possibly the son of Hettie, was a slave of William Richards, and stayed on Levinia Richards after the war and tilled the land. In 1891, he still called William and Levinia, the Old Master and Old Mistress. He was seven years old when William died. Lee later purchased the land .

William Richards lived a mile and half west of Ramer and east of Cypress Creek. The land was east of Reed's Mill.

The court declared the sale of the land in this controversy by defendant John M Hamm to defendant a. W. Smith null and void, Oct 14, 1892.

Apparently it took several years to disburse the funds.

From a document presented at the October 1897 term of McNairy County Court: "The Clerk and Master reports that William Richards, (from the sale of whose property the fund now in the his Court arose) had twelve brothers and sisters, and that four of them have died without issue, leaving eight brothers and sisters who are entitled to a one-eighth interest each of said fund. He further finds from the proof, that seven of the eight brothers and sisters who are entitled to said fund, are dead, and that they all left children surviving them. The names of said brothers and sisters who have died are as follows: Elizabeth Richards, who married John Redding; Sevilla Richards, who married Lark Caffey; Annie who married Hose Richards; Susan Richards who married J C Richards; J L Richards; T A Richards; The complainant, John Richards, who is entitled to a one-eighth interest in said fund is the only one of the brothers and sisters of said William Richards now living and he resides in McNairy County."

Another documents says at the time of his death, he heaves his widow Levinia and James L Richards of Texas, J D Richards of Haywood County, Tenn (elsewhere it states J D died without issue but he is on the list) John Richards, T A Richards, Catherine Carter, Hased Richards and wife Sousanna Richards, Sibba Caffee, John Redding and wife Elizabeth of Texas.

Another list, June 1898 mentions John Richards, age 77 of the 4th civil district the only one living, Elizabeth who married John Redding, Sevella Richards who married Lark Caffey, Anna who married Hose Richards, Susan Richards who married J C Richards, J L Richards, T L Richards, W W Richards.

So from all these list I have gleaned eight sibling who had children to inherit this estate:

1. John still living in 1897
2. Elizabeth who married John Redding, moved to Texas, deceased by 1897.

3. Sevella or Sibba, married Lark Caffey (Cathey) moved to Texas, deceased by 1897.
4. Anne or Anna, married Hose or Hased (H C) Richards, moved to Dyer co, TN deceased by 1897
5. Susan or Sousanna who married J C Richards, deceased by 1897
6. Catherine Richards Thompson Stoker Carter, died between 1891-1898
7. James L Richards, Cherokee Co, Texas, deceased by 1897
8. Thomas A Richards, Hill Co, Texas, deceased by 1897

Family connections from this lawsuit. There may be other children, these were the only ones listed.

1. John still living in 1897. Since he is living his children is not named.
2. Elizabeth, married John Redding, moved to Texas, deceased by 1897. No other info.
3. Sevella or Sibba, married Lark Caffey (Cathey) moved to Texas, deceased by 1897.
 1. Richard Cathy died in Hill Co Texas, left a widow, C J Cathy, who remarried to a Fleming, and two children Laney and Ida
 2. John Cathy died in Hill Co Texas, two daughters Harriett Mayfield, wife of Wm Mayfield and Molly Cauble wife of George Cauble of Howard Co, Texas
 3. Thomas Cathy lives in Hill County, Texas
 4. Annie Catherine Cathy Messer wife of W B Messer (Waco Texas)
 5. Mary Cathy Casteel wife of Henry Castell, (Arkansas)
 6. Nancy Jane Cathy Jones

This lawsuit fails to mention that Sevella Richards Cathey had six children. Nancy Jane Cathey Jones stayed behind or died before her parents moved to Texas. The typed deposition was from a son in Texas, said she had five children and included only the sons with Mary and Annie Catherine written in by hand. However the next two are daughters of Nancy Jane Cathey Jones, and grandchildren of Sevella Richards Cathey. There are more according to the census records but apparently they did not live in McNairy County or did not come forth and declare their rights.

- Nancy Adaline Jones, married Rickman says she is a granddaughter of Sevilla Richards Sarah Ann Holmes, wife of N N Holmes say she is a granddaughter of Seville Richards.
4. Anne or Anna, married Hose or Hased Richards, moved to Dyer co, TN deceased by 1897
 5. Susan or Sousanna who married J C Richards, deceased by 1897. Children:
 1. Julia Ann Floyd lives in McNairy County
 2. S M Richards lives in McNairy County
 3. W W Richards lives in McNairy County
 4. J F Richards lives in Obion Co, Tenn
 5. Thomas Richards lives in McNairy County
 6. Martha Jane (or Nancy Jane) married Wm McDaniel she died and left one child, Amanda Jane of Weakley Co, TN
 7. Caldonia who married John Bell She died and left two children: Robert and Mattie Bell who married John Mulder
 8. Mary Frances who married Job Bell

- died and left Frank Bell and Minnie Bell, both in McNairy Co,
Becky who died and left one child Lula Curtis
9. Mary Elizabeth who married Christopher Blakely
died and left 1 child Jim Blakely
 6. Catherine Richards (Thomson, Stoker) Carter, died between 1891-1898
June 27, 1901: Children of Catherine Richards
 1. James H Thompson a son of Catherine Richards (dec'd) who married Jason H Thompson. James Thompson is entitled to 1/3 of 1/8 of Catherine's share.
 2. Mary Malvina Elizabeth Thompson who married John Armstrong, dec'd.
 1. Mary Ann Armstrong who married R L Leonard is a daughter of Mary Melvina Elizabeth Thompson Armstrong, and entitled to 1/2 of 1/3 of 1/8.
 2. Sarah Shields, formerly Sarah Armstrong, daughter of Mary Melvina Elizabeth Thompson Armstrong, married to T M Shields is entitled to 1/2 of 1/3 of 1/8
 3. Amanda Ann Stoker who married R. A. Pace and is entitled to 1/3 of 1/8
 7. James L Richards, Cherokee Co, Texas, deceased by 1897 No Information.
 8. Thomas A Richards, Hill Co, Texas, deceased by 1897. His children are
 1. J J Richards of Hill County, Texas
 2. W H Richards, Elrath Co, TX
 3. S P Richards, Elrath Co, TX
 4. J S Richards, Elrath Co, TX
 5. L B Richards, Elrath Co, TX
 6. R C Richards, Elrath Co, TX
 7. Mary Richards wife of J W Cosby.

My thoughts: Such a waste of time to make a will. William Richard plainly states after his wife's death the proceeds from his estate goes to the Presbytery of which he is a member. No money whatsoever was to go to his siblings or their families. Apparently his wishes were not followed. As for the Presbytery, William was a Cumberland Presbyterian Minister, so I am not sure if he meant the local church that he attended or pastored, or if he meant the Madison Presbytery that was over the local churches in McNairy and surrounding counties. I tend to think he meant the local church.

The will of William Richards: "I William Richards do Make and publish this my last will and testament hereby revoking and making void all other wills by me at anytime made.

First: I direct that my funeral expenses and all other debts be paid as soon as possible out of any moneys that I may die possessed of or may first come into the hands of my executor.

Secondly: I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Levina Richards all the balance of my personal property after the above named debts and expenses are paid to be hers during her natural life time and no longer. I also give and bequeath to my beloved wife Levina Richards my Negro woman named Hettie and four hundred and fifty acres of land, be it more or less which is all the land I won to be hers during her natural life and no longer and after her deceased the personal property together with the Negro, the four and fifty acres of land to be sold to the highest bidder on twelve months credit and the proceeds thereof to belong to the Presbytery of which I am a

member, to be lent out at a lawful interest and the interest to go for missionary purposes as the Presbytery may think best.

Lastly: I do hereby nominate and appoint m worthy friend, John M Ham, my executor. In witness hereof, I do to this my will set my hand and seal this 3rd day of November AD 1851. William X Richards.”

All these statements need to be read, although they are repetitious. No 8 and 9 are concerning the granddaughters of Sevilla Richards. All the rest are the children or grandchildren of Catherine Richards Thompson Stokes Carter. No 1 states that Catherine Thompson left surviving her are two other children besides James Thompson: Mary M. E. Thompson Armstrong and Amanda Stoker Pace. I think this is a statement is misconstrued. (It should say Catherine had three children: Jason H Thompson, Mary Malvina Elizabeth Thompson who married John Armstrong and Amanda Stoker who married — Pace.) Catherine outlived her daughter Mary M Armstrong, unless she abandoned her young family and went elsewhere. The last time she is found is in 1860 in Arkansas with her husband, John, and two young children. In 1870, her two children are living with John in McNairy County.

1. State of Tennessee, McNairy County

Personally appeared before the undersigned official, James H Thompson, who being duly sworn on oath says that he is a son (of) Catherine Richards, dec'd, who married one Jason H Thompson and as such is entitled to a one third interest in the part of the fund due said Catherine Richards as an heir of the estate of Wm Richards being a fund arising from sale of the lands of the estate of said Wm Richards in the cause of Jno Richards et al vs Jno M Hamm et al no 860 in the Chancery Court of McNairy County. Affiant further states that said Catherine Thompson left surviving her two other children besides himself towit: Mary Malvina Elizabeth Thompson who married John Armstrong, and Amanda Ann Stoker who married one - Pace, and that these are the only heirs of said Catherine Thompson. Signed James H Thompson. Sworn to and subscribed before me June 27, 1901. Albert Gillespie, C&M

2. State of Tennessee, McNairy County:

Personally appeared before the undersigned official, James H Thompson and J T Houston, who being duly sworn on oath say that they are personally acquainted with Mary Ann Armstrong, who married R L Leonard and that she is a daughter of Mary Melvina Elizabeth Armstrong, who was a niece of Wm Richards, dec'd, and as such heir is entitled to ½ of 1/3 of 1/8 of the funds arising from the sale of lands in the cause of Jno Richards, etal vs Jno M Hamm, etal No 860 in Chancery Court of McNairy County, Tenn. Signed James H Thompson, J T Houston. Sworn and subscribed before me, June 27, 1901, Albert Gillespie C & M.

3. State of Tennessee, McNairy County:

Personally appeared before the undersigned official, T M Shields who being duly sworn on oath says that he is the husband of Sarah Shields, formerly, Sarah Armstrong, who is a grand daughter of Catherine Richards, deceased, and said Sarah Shields, is entitled as one of the one of the heirs of said Catherine Richards ½ of 1/3 of 1/8 of the funds arising from the sale of lands in the estate of Wm Richards, in the cause of Jno Richards, etal vs Jno M Hamm, etal No 860 in Chancery Court of McNairy County, Tenn. Signed T. M. Shields. Sworn and subscribed before me, Aug 3, 1901, Albert Gillespie C & M.

5. State of Tennessee, McNairy County:

Personally appeared before the undersigned official, R L Leonard, who being duly sworn, says that he is personally acquainted with T M Shields and wife Sarah Shields and that the said Sarah Shields is one of the heirs and distributees of Catherine Richards, dec'd, and as such heir is entitled to 1/3 of the 1/8 interest of said Catherine Richards in the funds arising from the sale of lands in the cause of Jno Richards, etal vs Jno M Hamm, etal No 860 in Chancery Court of McNairy County, Tenn. Signed R L Leonard. Sworn and subscribed before me, Aug 3 1901, Albert Gillespie C & M.

5. State of Tennessee, McNairy County:

Personally appeared before the undersigned official, R A Pace, who being duly sworn on oath says that he is the husband of Amanda Ann Stoker, who was a daughter of Catherine Richards who was a sister of Wm Richards and that his wife is one of the three heirs of said Catherine Richards, and as such is entitled to a 1/3 interest in her mother's 1/8 interest in the funds arising from the sale of lands in the cause of Jno Richards, etal vs Jno M Hamm, etal No 860 in Chancery Court of McNairy County, Tenn. The said interest of 1/3 of 1/8 amounting to \$20.96. Signed R L Leonard. Sworn and subscribed before me, July 13, 1901, Albert Gillespie C & M.

6. State of Tennessee, McNairy County:

Personally appeared before the undersigned official J T Houston, James M Hamm, Jr, who being duly sworn on oath says that they are personally acquainted with James H Thompson, who is one of the heirs of Catherine Richards, dec'd, who married Jason H Thompson and that said J H Thompson is the indential (?) Person he represents himself to be and that the facts set out in his affidavit hereto attached are true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief. Signed J M Hamm, J T Houston. Sworn, subscribed before me, June 27, 1901, Albert Gillespie C & M.

7. State of Tennessee, McNairy County:

Personally appeared before the undersigned official, R L Leonard who being duly sworn on oath says the he is personally acquainted with R A Pace, and states that he knows said Pace to be the husband of Amanda Ann Pace, formerly Amanda Ann Stoker, and that she is entitled to 1/3 of the 1/8 interest of her mother Catherine Richards in the funds arising from the sale of lands in the cause of Jno Richards, etal vs Jno M Hamm, etal No 860 in Chancery Court of McNairy County, Tenn. Signed R L Leonard. . Sworn and subscribed before me, June 13, 1901, Albert Gillespie C & M.

8. State of Tennessee, McNairy County:

Personally appeared before the undersigned official, R L Leonard and R W Michie, who being duly sworn, says that they are personally acquainted with Sarah Ann Holmes, wife of N N Holmes and that said Sarah Ann Holmes is a granddaughter of one Sevilla Richards and as one of the heirs at law of Sevilla Richards is entitled to 1/5 of 1/5 of the share of Sevilla Richards in the funds arising from the sale of lands in the cause of Jno Richards, etal vs Jno M Hamm, etal No 860 in Chancery Court of McNairy County, Tenn. Signed R w Michie, R L Leonard. Sworn and subscribed before me, Dec 2, 1901, Albert Gillespie C & M. (My note: Sarah Ann Jones Holmes is the daughter of Nancy Cathey Jones and granddaughter of Sevilla Richards Cathey.)

9. State of Tennessee, McNairy County

Personally appeared before the undersigned official, R L Leonard and R W Michie, who being duly sworn, says that they are personally acquainted with Nancy Adaline Rickman, who was

before her marriage Nancy Adaline Jones and that the said Nancy Adaline Jones was a granddaughter of one Sevilla Richards and as one of the heirs at law of Sevilla Richards, now deceased, is entitled to 1/5 of 1/5 of the share belonging to Sevilla Richards in the funds arising from the sale of lands in the cause of Jno Richards, etal vs Jno M Hamm, etal No 860 in Chancery Court of McNairy County, Tenn. Signed R W Michie, R L Leonard. Sworn and subscribed before me, Dec 2, 1901, Albert Gillespie C & M. . (My note: Nancy Adaline Jones Rickman is the daughter of Nancy Cathey Jones and granddaughter of Sevilla Richards Cathey.)

Personally appeared before the undersigned official, James H Thompson, who being duly sworn on oath says that he is a son (of) Catherine Richards, dec'd, who married one Jason H Thompson and as such is entitled to a one third interest in the part of the fund due said Catherine Richards as an heir of the estate of Wm Richards being a fund arising from sale of the lands of the estate of said Wm Richards in the cause of Jno Richards et al vs Jno M Hamm et al no 860 in the Chancery Court of McNairy County.

Affiant further states that said Catherine Thompson left surviving her two other children besides himself towit: Mary Malvina Elizabeth Thompson who married John Armstrong, and Amanda Ann Stoker who married one — Pace, and that these are the only heirs of said Catherine Thompson. Signed James H Thompson. Sworn to and subscribed before me June 27, 1901.

Albert Gillespie, C&M



D R HOOKER VS W C CARROLL
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT
1891 No 864
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

D. R. Hooker, Jas S Wood and wife M F Wood, all residents of Gibson County, Tennessee
vs

W C Carroll, E Z Copeland, L H Copeland, E E Copeland, James Copeland, Thad Copeland, C L Copland, E T Estes, E S Estes, W A Estes, G W Smith & wife, T J Smith, W T Victry and wife, E H Victry, F F Varnell and wife, I F Varnell, all residents of McNairy County, Tenn.

On October 22, 1859 John Hooker conveyed by deed (recorded Book H, page 34, McNairy County Registers's office) to his son David R. Hooker a tract of land in the 15th civil district consisting of 150 acres.

This land was granted to John Hooker by a State of Tennessee grant no 14764 on May 1, 1854. David R. Hooker moved away from McNairy County many years ago and left John Hooker and his wife, Mary, life tenants.

John Hooker and his wife also moved away from McNairy County. John Hooker died in Texas about Feb 25, 1879 and his wife about December 8, 1884, but David R. Hooker was not

informed until about 1890.

John Hooker sold various parts of the land from about 1870 to 1879. According to the complainants, John Hooker did not own the land, therefore he was not in the position to sell.

One document mentions Faulkner Co Arkansas, but it is unclear as to the reason. D. R. Hooker and Elizie Hooker sign this document. It reads like D R Hooker traded with Mrs F M Wood two tracts of land for 150 acres in Arkansas in Oct 1890. The two tracts of land were in McNairy County, one the 188 acres David R Hooker purchased from John Hooker; two, 43 acres.

The original deed from John Hooker " This deed and conveyance witnesseth that, whereas my son David R. Hooker , formerly owned a tract of land in the southern portion of Mc Nairy County in the ----- and I exchanged it , by his account for one hundred eighty eight acres, ----- claim of John Wardlow in said county, on which I now live and the grant for the same ----- to me from the state of Tennessee on the 14th day of May 1854, to which reference is then made a for a more particular description of the same. And whereas since that time the said David R. Hooker, has paid to me the sum of six hundred dollars. Now therefore in consideration of ----- in regard to the one hundred eighty eight acre tract, I, John Hooker , hereby convey to the said David R. Hooker, said tract of land and vest him with the full legal title, as he has all the time been the equitable owner of the same but a t his own suggestion and request, I reserve in said tract , a lifetime estate for myself and wife Signed 22 day of October 1859 Jno Hooker witness Jno R. Head.

The land in question was sold Dec 8, 1884, this is probably the last sale, as above it states the John Hooker sold the land from 1870-1879. There is not a deed as prove of sale but defendants ask for the bill to be dismissed since they purchased it over seven years ago. It doesn't state which one of the defendants purchased the land. It does state that several of the defendants are minors and need a guardian appointed in the matter.

The Hooker family apparently was not close, since eldest son, David R was not told for several years that his parents had died.

There are other lawsuits in McNairy County concerning a D R Hooker. However, those are a different Hooker. This David R Hooker was the son of John, brother to Samuel Hooker. It is the cases concerning Samuel Hooker that shows other D R Hooker's.



H P WOOD VS E A GOOCH
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT

John T Gooch, deceased February 22, 1892

August 7, 1893 - No 895

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

This is a very big file and I remarked to a Gooch descendant there is no telling what we might find. I started at the front and typed information as it was filed. It may not be in date order.

To the best I could figure... John T Gooch owed money to H P Wood, L A Lockman and H A Hunter. They sued the estate and won judgements:

Judgement was rendered for L A Lockman \$97.98 on March 18, 1893.

Judgement was rendered for H P wood \$150.00 on Feb 23, 1893

Judgement was rendered to H A Hunter for \$106.00 on April 3, 1893

Wood, Lockman and Hunter, then joined and sued the estate for the monies due them on August 7, 1893. There are also other debts recorded in the file.

Since John T Gooch had purchased the land of his father's estate and paid each sibling \$100 for their share. Apparently he still owed some of this money. In one place it will say he only owed the heirs of W B T Gooch. Instead of suing only the widow and family of John T Gooch, Wood, Lockman and Hunter sued all of heirs of John G Gooch.

H P Wood, L A Lockman, H A Hunter, all residents of McNairy County, Tennessee

VS

Mrs E A Gooch, Mary Foster & her husband J T Foster, T M Gooch, Noah Jeanes, Mandy Jane Jeans, Thorn Reynolds, Mattie Reynolds, Richard Gooch, W J Tacket, Tennie Tacket, Fannie Gooch, Vinnie Gooch, Lee Gooch, C M Gooch, H C Gooch, W A Gooch, all residents of McNairy County, Tennessee;

John Gooch, a resident of Miss;

Jim Gooch, a resident of Alabama;

William Kirk and wife Nancy Ann Gooch Kirk, W B T Gooch, Dink Gooch, Marshall Gooch, Loula Gooch, Pearl Gooch, Jeff Foster, all residents of McNairy County, Tenn.

J Warren Gooch. a resident of Weakley County, Tenn

Eliza Gooch Dalton and husband T S Dalton, Sarah Gooch, all residents of the State of Virginia

Donnie Gooch Howard and husband P J Howard, Callie Gooch, Nannie Youngblood and husband — Youngblood, residents of the state of Illinois

John Brown, Andrew Brown, Tommie Brown, Tommie Gooch, residents of Oklahoma.

Buford Gooch, a resident of McNairy County

John T Gooch departed this life on or about February 22, 1892, after having made and published his last will and testament in which he nominated and appointed his wife, the defendant, Mrs E A Gooch, and one W B T Gooch, as executrix and executor respectively.

At the April Term, 1892 term of County Court, Mrs E A Gooch qualified without bond as the sole executrix of the state of John T Gooch, the said W B T Gooch who was nominated as one of the executors having previously died. (John T Gooch's will was made Jan 14, 1882 and he made his wife and brother W B T Gooch executors, but W B T Gooch died in 1883. See County Court file 360.

J T Gooch owned a considerable portion of personal property and real estate. The personal property consisting of several yoke of oxen, some horses and mules, milk cows, stock and pork hogs, a gin head, wool carder, a set of blacksmith tools, a great deal of corn, bacon, and other family supplies, a number of other items of personal property not necessary to be mentioned here; the real estate consisting of the greater and almost the entire interest in several tracts of land lying adjoining each other and aggregating some 1,000 to 1,400 acres, worth at least \$3,000.

Complaints state that after E A Gooch qualified as executrix of the estate, she took charge of all the property, and at once began to dispose and use the personal property at her own pleasure but has made no settlement for his just debts. She has disposed of at least five yoke of oxen, at least two mules and other stock. She disposed of great deal of timber on the land and converted the entire proceeds of all said property to her own individual use and has failed to pay any of the debts owed by J T Gooch. Mrs E A Gooch has also been accused of converting notes due to the estate to herself.

Complaints state that said testator John T Gooch owned, at his death owned no land except that described in said report and that was owned by John G Gooch, father of John T Gooch. Land of J T Gooch surveyed by R F Beard January 2, 1897. He owned six adjoining tracts: 491, 200, 87, 197, 312, 197 which equaled 1,484 acres.

Complainants state that the defendants listed below are children/heirs of J G Gooch and are made parties defendant for the purpose of having the rights and interest of the said J T Gooch in the lands of J G Gooch, dec'd ascertained and declared by the court:

C M Gooch

H C Gooch

W A Gooch

Nancy Ann Kirk,

J W Gooch

Eliza Dalton

Sarah Gooch

Donie Howard

Callie Gooch

Nannie Youngblood, all children of said John G Gooch

Children of Lucinda Gooch Brown: and John Brown, Andrew Brown, Tommie Brown,

Children of W B T Gooch: W B T Gooch, Dink, Marshall, Loula , Pearl and Tommie Gooch,

all grand children of J G Gooch, being children of two of the deceased children of said J G Gooch, and all of said devisees, both children and grandchildren owned and held said lands as tenants in common. (My note: there may be more children of J G Gooch, but they are not made parties to this lawsuit.)

Complaints believe that the said J T Gooch had bought and paid for all the interests or share in the land at the time of his death except the interest of W B T Gooch, Tommie Gooch,

Dink Gooch, Marshall Gooch, Loula Gooch and Pearl Gooch, children of W B T Gooch, deceased, who was a son of John G Gooch and entitled to one share in said land.

Jeff Foster is in no way related to J T Gooch, deceased, but is a debtor to the estate and is therefore made a party.

The defendants Mary Foster, T M Gooch, Mary Jane Jeans, Mattie Reynolds, Richard Gooch, Tennie Tackett, Fannie Gooch, Vinnie Gooch, John Gooch, Jim Gooch, Lee Gooch are children of J T Gooch and defendants J T Foster, Noah Jeans, Thorn Reynolds and W J Tackett are the husbands of Mary Foster, Mandy Jane Jeans, Mattie Reynolds, Tennie Tackett respectively and are made defendants only because of the right of their wives.

Defendants William Kirk, T S Dalton, P J Howard and — Youngblood are the husbands of defendants Nancy A Kirk, Eliza Dalton, Donie Howard and Nancy Youngblood (daughters of John G Gooch.)

All defendants are adults except Fannie Gooch, Vinnie Gooch, Lee Gooch, Tommie Gooch, Dink Gooch, Marshall Gooch, Loula Gooch and Pearl Gooch.

Depositions, Sept 21, 1894:

W B Gooch. W B Gooch age 28, commonly called Bedford Gooch is a son of J T Gooch, deceased and step son of the defendant Mrs E A Gooch. J T Gooch owned at his death six tracts of lands. J T Gooch died Feb 1892. Wiley Gooch was a son of J G Gooch, died before his father. He had several children. Signed W B Gooch

T M Gooch, commonly called Monroe Gooch, age 31, son of John T Gooch. He is a farmer. His father had paid all the heirs of John G Gooch for their interests in the estate except the children of Wiley Gooch's children. He thinks J T Gooch paid all the heirs of J G Gooch \$100 per share for their interest. About \$1,400 or \$1,500. Signed T M Gooch.

A J Foster, age 33, called Jeff, purchased a tract of land from J T Gooch. He still owes about \$354. He let Mrs E A Gooch have a mare on the debt worth \$125.

Oct 9, 1894: Zula Kirk and Beula Kirk are the minor heirs of Nancy Ann Kirk (daughter of John G Gooch). So apparently Nancy Kirk died between Aug 7, 1893 and Oct 9, 1894. J C Houston is appointed guardian.

September 3, 1894, the death of Nancy Ann Kirk was suggested and duly proved to W H H Gillespie, C & M, McNairy County Chancery court. Julia (or Zula) Kirk and Beulah Kirk are heirs of Nancy Ann Kirk.

Jan 8, 1896: Delinquent taxes are due on the land.

May 16, 1894: Eliza Dalton and husband T S Dalton, Sarah Gooch residents of Virginia Donie Howard and husband P J Howard, Callie Gooch, Nannie Youngblood and her husband are resident of Illinois. John Brown, Andrew Brown, Tommie Brown, Tommie Gooch are residents of Arkansas.

Depositions on Sept 15, 1894: Mrs E A Gooch who does not know her age exactly. Widow of John T Gooch. Had four doctors with Mr Gooch during his last sickness: Dr Hensley, Dr Carter, De Webb and Dr Atkins.

John T Gooch Will:

State of Tennessee, McNairy County: In the name of God, amen, I John T Gooch, do make this my last will and testament.

First of all, I will and bequeath my soul to God that gave it.

Secondly, I will that all my just debts be paid and my burial expenses.

Thirdly, I will and bequeath to my loving wife, Elizah A Gooch, my entire tract of land that I bought from Lock - Stanton Ferguson, containing five (5) acres, in all the tract containing two hundred, eighty five (285) acres, to have and to hold the title to her, during her natural life or widowhood and to have all the rents and profits arising from the cultivation of said land, to enable her to support and school my children until the youngest one becomes of age or marries off. I further will and bequeath to my loving wife, Elizah A Gooch, all my furniture, utensils and personal property, to wit: horses, cattle, sheep and hogs and all the supplies on hand and all my pork hogs except enough of my personal property to be sold sufficient in value to pay my debts or expenses.

I except my filly colt for my son Bedford Gooch when he becomes of age, provided he stays with his step-mother and assists her in raising and taking care of his little brothers and sisters until he is twenty one years old or marries off and if he complies with my request then it is my will that he have the filly colt and after the death of my wife and when the youngest child becomes of age, there my will is that all my lands and personal property that is on hand then to be sold and divided equally among all my children.

But my wife is to have the benefit of all my lands as long as she lives and then be sold and divided among my children equally.

Fourthly, I do hereby constitute and appoint my brother W B T Gooch my executor with my wife as executrix, to carry out this my will as described in body of this my last will and comply with my request and that they qualify as executor and executrix, without giving bond, given under my hand and seal this 29th day of Nov 1881. Signed John T Gooch

The last will of John T Gooch, deceased was presented in open court and proven March 6, 1893.

Report of Homestead and Dower laid off for Mrs E A Gooch, widow of J T Gooch, deceased: (Did not give acreage) This the 31st day of March 1893. Signed: J L W Boatman, S H Russell, J F Sanders, commissioners. (Do not know if this dower was enforced,)

Another homestead dower was laid off May 24, 1895 which included the mansion house and out building and two tenant house and 380 acres of land, plus one third of the remainder of land 143 acres. Commissioners J O McCrary, J M King, and R F Beard, county surveyor.

A petition to the court by H P Wood, L A Lockman and H A Hunter for an order that defendant E A Gooch post \$2,000 as executor of the John T Gooch estate.

In obedience to a decree of sale made at the April 1896 term of this honorable court, after advertising according to law, offered the lands described in the pleadings of this case for sale at public outcry to the highest bidder at the Court House door in Selmer, Tenn, on Saturday the 8th day of August 1896. The lands were first offered in separate tracts. It was then offered in one entire lot or tract, subject to the existing homestead and dower rights of Mrs E A Gooch, when Mrs E A Gooch bid the sum of \$437.00 and that being the highest and best bid received, she became the purchaser at that price and in compliance with the terms of sale, she executed her

promissory note for \$437.00 with interest from date and due in six months. W C Coleman signed as her security. Signed W H H Gillespie, Clerk and Master.

April 16, 1897: All the purchase money paid for the land of J T Gooch estate has been paid.

Will of J G Gooch

In the name of God, Amen. I, J G Gooch of the County of McNairy and State of Tennessee being of sound mind and memory and considering the uncertainty of this frail and transitory life, do therefore make, ordain, publish and declare this to be my last will and testament revoking all other will heretofore made by me.

1. I will that my just debts be paid.

2. I will and bequeath to my loving wife, Nancy A Gooch, all of my home-tract of land where I now live and all of my Thorton tract of land being east of my home tract including all the building thereon, except the Baptist Meeting House. I will that the Brethren composing Mosses Creek Church have the use of said house to hold meeting in as long as they remain a church at Mosses Creek, but should the church dissolve or fail to hold their meetings in said house then it falls back to my estate again. The above named tracts of land she is to hold as her dower in my land and the use and the use or rent of all the balance of my land to wit - the Goad place and the Holecomb place.

And further bequeath to my loving wife Nancy A Gooch all my household and kitchen furniture and all my stock of every description to wit: horses, cattle, hogs, sheep and all my ready money that I may be possessed of to enable her to raise and school my children now living with her, to wit - Louisa, Sarah Ann, Nancy Ann, Caldonia, Lucy, Caroline, and Amandy Jane; and my will is for her to give an equal portion to all the children that is now living with her as above named, as they marry off.

I will that she give them out of the above named property an equal share with the rest that has married off until they all get their part, as the rest that has married off, and my desire is for her to send them to school that they may learn to read and write; and I further will that my wife have the use and benefit of my gin and mill to be controlled by my executors.

Now all of the above named property that I have willed and bequeathed to my loving wife Nancy A Gooch, she is to have during her natural life or widow-hood and then to the support of my children that is single until they all become of age or marry off. Then said property is to fall into the hands of my executors to be disposed of as the law directs, for the benefit of my children with all the rest of my papers, notes and accounts.

After my executors qualifies and collects them as they fall due, and I further will that if I should sell any of my lands to any person before I die, my desire is for my executors to give the purchaser a deed to the same when it is fully paid for and not until then. When they hold my title bond and they hold my notes.

And I further will that my wife have a good wagon and oxen and all the growing crop that I may have at my death or if gathered crop, for the support of her and the children, and after my estate is wound up by my executors, after giving to all the children as they marry off as all the rest has had. Then the balance of my estate to be divided equally among all my children, except Annie Neoma who intermarried with J H Grantham and I will and bequeath to her \$35.

I likewise make, constitute and appoint two of my sons, William A Gooch and H C Gooch as my executors of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all other wills by me made. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal in the presence of the subscribed witnesses. This 14th day of January 1882.

Signed J G Gooch.

Signed and sealed in our presence: Jno W Sanders, H W Dunn.

The above will was proven before me in common form of law by John W Sanders and H W Dunn, the above subscribing witnesses, this 7th day of Sept(probably 1885, page with date missing or not attached.)

The separate answer of E A Gooch in Chancery Court, October 2, 1893: She admits the death of J T Gooch and she was named and qualified as executor of the will. By the terms of said will she was excused from giving bond. John T Gooch had considerable property. She denies she has disposed of or misappropriate any of said property. Most of the livestock was mortgaged by J T Gooch in his life time and some was taken by his creditors of satisfaction of said mortgages. Some of the stock and cattle have been sold and disposed of by Mrs Gooch and the proceeds of the same applied to the payment of debts of the estate. She denies she has sold or disposed of a great deal of the timber on the land and converted the proceeds to her own use. She has not used any of the timber except for the purpose of repairing and keeping up the tenants and buildings. She admits that complainants L A Lockman and H P Wood are judgement creditors of the estate of J T Gooch but the exact amounts of their debts she does not know. She denies that the estate of J T Gooch is indebted to H A Hunter in any amount. She admits that she was removed from the executor-ship of said estate by order of the county court and she denies the charges in the bill. Jeff Foster was indebted to the estate for about \$125 and she transferred the notes of Jeff Foster to W A Gooch and H C Gooch, executors of J G Gooch estate for the purpose of paying off and discharging a debt due by the estate of J T Gooch. She denies she executed a deed or attempted to convey any lands to defendant W A Gooch. She denies that her husband J T Gooch owned an undivided interest in any of the lands of his estate but states his interest in all of said lands were entire. J T Gooch, at the time of his death owed more than \$300 on the land purchased by him from the executors of J G Gooch, but she states that said land was purchased in its entirety and not as an undivided interest. She denies in fraud practiced by her or said commissioners in laying off said homestead dowery.

Deposition of M H Jernigan, age 60 years old, resident of Hardeman County, farmer. October 6, 1894.

Q: Did you know Wiley Gooch and were you related to him or his family?

A: Yes sir, I I knew Wiley Gooch. Related to him by my marriage. He married my wife's sister.

Q: Who is the guardian of Wiley Gooch's minor children.

A: I am

Q: How many are minors and what are their names?

A: Jodie, Marshall, Lula and Pearl. 4

Q: Are any of the heirs of Wiley Gooch of age?

A: Terry.

Q: Is the land of J G Gooch estate divided?

A: No it is still undivided.

Mrs E A Gooch sold to John Vaughn one sorghum mill of the estate of J T Gooch, for 165 gallons of sorghum molasses to be delivered to her and one barrel of molasses a year until paid. Feb 18, 1895.

John G Gooch, on Oct 20, 1849, purchased from A H Thorton a tract of land for \$350, beginning at Mosses Creek 230 acres. Witness N C Riggs, Alfred Moore. Book C page 410. Ben Wright, Register.

Deposition of W A Gooch: W A Gooch, age 55, son and executor of John G Gooch estate, states that John T Gooch had two notes outstanding \$101.30 and \$135.50, executed on Oct 4, 1892 by Mrs E A Gooch, widow of J T Gooch. He stated he also owed the heirs of Wiley Gooch \$100. W A Gooch stated his brother Wiley died before their father John G Gooch.

Deposition of W J Tackett: My name is W J Tackett, commonly called Jack Tackett, age 24 years, live in the 1st district of McNairy County. I am a farmer. I am Mrs Gooch's son-in-law. My wife's name is Tenny. He states Bedford Gooch and Richard Gooch are sons of J T Gooch. Richard is the son of J T Gooch and Mrs E A Gooch.

Sept 3, 1894, J C Houston appointed guardian of Fannie Gooch, Vinnie Gooch, Lee Gooch, Tommie Gooch, Dink Gooch and Pearl Gooch, minor heirs of W B T Gooch.



MARY PARLEE RIMMER VS JOHN RIMMER

McNairy County, Tennessee, Chancery Court

1894 # 900

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Divorce

Mary Parlee and John Rimmer were married in March 1892 and they lived together as man and wife until about the month of October 1892 when John Rimmer willfully and maliciously abandoned complainant without cause. Defendant has failed to provide for the complainant and has visited in the neighborhood and refused to see her. Complainant further states John Rimmer's residence is unknown.

John Rimmer has been gone about two years and he has refused to communicate with her
Dated July 16, 1894.

The Defendant is to appear at the courthouse in Purdy on the first Monday in April, 1894 and a notice is to be published for four consecutive weeks in the McNairy Independent.

Deposition of Mary Parlee Rimmer: Mary states she is 19 years old and resides in McNairy County, Tenn. She states she married John Rimmer the last of February 1892. (Above says march 1892 - Actual marriage records say Feb 28, 1892.) They lived together about seven months and he left her with any explanation. He has not provided for her and she has not seen him since he left. Signed Mary Parle Rimmer, April 13, 1894.

Deposition of Eliza Bias: Name is Eliza Adaline Bias, she is 38 years old and resides in McNairy County. Mary Parlee Rimmer is her daughter and she has known John Rimmer since he was a little boy. John Rimmer told her 'he would not live with Parlee another day. Mary Parlee is now living with her mother. Dated April 13, 1894. Eliza Adaline Bias could not sign her name.

Notice was given on the second Monday in October 1898, to the Sheriff was to summons John Rimmer into court for court cost of \$14.70. R M Carroll, Sheriff, stated he could find anything in the county upon which to levy this execution on Feb 25, 1899.

Mary P rimmer was granted an absolute divorce from John Rimmer and John rimmer is to pay the court cost, dated June 18, 1894.

Apparently May P Rimmer took her maiden name back Bias.



JAMES MCNATT, ETALS VS CAN FORESYTHE
McNairy County, Tennessee, Chancery Court
1894 - 903
ISHAM FORSYTHE Descendants
Compiled by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

PLEASE SEE CASE 641 FOR MORE DETAILS

Names mentioned in these files:

Adams, Armstrong, Basham, Bell, Bizzell, Boatman, Cottrell (?), Chambers, Chamness, Curry, Dancer, Davis, Dunaway, Fisher, Forbes, Forsythe, Garrett, Gibson, Glass, Henderson, Jones, Lakey (?), Lawson, Leath, Leeper, Manley, Matlock, McCoy, Melton, Monroe, Moore, Morris, Nickels, Nickles, Prince, Sanders, Tate, Vanstory, Wallace, Wren

(Note: please allow for errors in transcribing names.)

This information is drawn from two lawsuits in McNairy County, Tennessee Chancery Court:

#641 George Parry, etals VS James Dunaway, etals 1886

#903 James McNatt, etals VS Can Foresythe, etals 1894

This case shows that James Forsythe departed this life intestate in McNairy County, State of Tennessee some time in the month of April 1884, without issue, leaving surviving heirs only

Martha Forsythe, his widow, who since intermarried with complainant George Parry. (Note: Martha Forsythe Parry died in 1892.)

At the time of the death of said James Forsythe, intestate was the owner of a large personal estate which has been fully administered and left to his widow, Martha Forsythe. (Apparently, his personal wealth, which Martha Forsythe inherited was gleaned by her new husband George Parry.) However, at the time of her death, James Forsythe's siblings and legal heirs, filed the lawsuit to obtain title to the land. The first lawsuit was filed in 1886 and the second filed in 1894, after Martha's death.



**LOUIZA WARDLOW VS HENRY S WARDLOW
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CHANCERY COURT**

1896 - No 1026

Divorce

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Louiza Richards and Henry S Wardlow married Jan 26 1896 and lived together until about April 28, 1897 when she left and went home to her daddy. She had a child, Amanda, born May 28, 1897 which Henry S denied.



Alfred McCuller VS W H Stone & John Wolfe, Adm of W W McCuller, Dec'd

McNairy County, Tennessee, Chancery Court

Filed Aug 8, 1902 - No 1087

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Alexander McCullar Estate

Alfred McCuller, S H McCuller, Wm McCuller, Henry McCuller, J T McCuller, C L McCuller, T A Hipps, and wife Harriette Hipps, residents of McNairy County, Tenn; W L Riley and wife Missouri Riley, residents of Hardin County, Tenn; Sargent Johns and wife Elizabeth Johnson, residents of Chester County, Tenn; Wm Chatman and wife Polly Ann Chatman, residents of Texas; Neeley McCuller, a resident of State of Arkansas, Complainants:

Against

W H Stone and John Wolfe, Administrators of W W McCuller, deceased; H A Hunter (security for W W McCuller as Adm of A Alexander estate) John McCuller, Mary Jane Mulder, Marth Phillips, Manda Hill, Mrs Mary Hefley, all residents of McNairy County; G C McCuller, a resident of Mississippi; James McCullar and the unknown heirs of William McCuller, deceased, a son of A J McCuller, and whose names cannot be ascertained, residents of Arkansas; The unknown heirs of Mrs Martha Houston, a daughter of Alexander McCuller, deceased, whose names and ages are unknown, residence unknown; John Hill and Jeff Miller and his wife Martha Miller, residents of Texas; Massey Hill, a resident of Louisiana; Defendants.

David McCuller did not qualify as executor of Alexander McCuller estate, but W W McCuller qualified on Sept 3, 1888, with \$700 bond and H A Hunter as his security. On Dec 23, 1889, W W McCuller made a settlement with the County Court Clerk for \$316.71. That report was not final and there never was a final settlement made by executor.

Some of the items sold and not accounted for were: two mules \$100, one mare \$50, one gin head \$100, one thrasher \$20, one note on W W McCullar \$160, and other misc items which make the amount about \$500. Land sold not accounted for: Jan 7, 1890 one tract to N A Erwin \$240; Oct 8, 1885 one tract to G C McCuller \$500; Sept 1896, one tract to N A Erwin \$100.

Complainants allege that all of said sums from both the personal property and the real estate sold by said W W McCuller, were truly and legally was well in fact, the property of the estate of said Alexander McCuller and were in the hands of said W W McCuller only as Executor of Alexander McCuller and should have been accounted for him. (W W McCuller was appointed guardian of Alexander McCuller because he was not capable of taking care of his own business. See Chancery Court File # 652).

Complainants further show unto the court that under the will of said Alexander McCuller, David McCuller, their ancestor, and his sisters, Mrs Elizabeth Simmons, Mrs Missouri McCuller Martha Houston, and his brothers W W McCuller and A J McCuller, children of Alexander McCuller were sole heirs of the Alexander McCuller estate. Complainants allege that Mrs Elizabeth Simmons, W W McCuller, and A J McCuller has received their full share. Mrs Missouri McCuller, died intestate without issue and before the death of Alexander McCuller. The other two shares, those of Mrs Martha Houston and of David McCuller, the ancestors of the complainants, are still in the hands of said executor, W W McCuller's representatives or in his estate. Does not mention Mary Hefley, a daughter of Alexander McCuller.

W W McCuller died intestate in McNairy County about the — day of May, 1901, and W H Stone and John Wolf qualified as administrators of his estate in June 1901.

The complaints Alfred McCuller, William McCuller, J T McCuller, S H McCuller, C L McCuller, Henry McCuller and Neeley McCuller are sons of David McCuller, deceased (died Nov 1889.) Daughters of David McCuller are: Martha E Johnson, and she married S W Johnson on April 10, 1870; Emily Harriett Hipps, and on Dec 23, 1869, she married Thomas Hipps; Missouri Riley and on March 11, 1883, she was married to W L Riley. Polly Ann Chatman who married William Chatman on July 28, 1870.

A J McCuller, one of the sons of Alexander McCuller, died intestate in McNairy County and left surviving him, G C McCuller, John McCuller, James McCuller and the heirs of a deceased son William McCuller, whose names and residences are not known.

Mrs Elizabeth Simmons, a daughter and legatee under the will of Alexander McCuller is dead and left surviving her as her children and sole heirs: Mrs Mary Jane Mulder, Mrs Martha Phillips, John Mill, Massey Hill and Mrs Manda Hill.

Mrs Martha Houston was a daughter and died leaving two children, but their names and residences are unknown.

Mrs Mary Helfy is a daughter and a legatee under the said will is to receive only \$1.00,

Complainants state they are entitled to the whole interest of David McCullar, deceased, son of Alexander McCuller.

It is alleged that deceased W W McCuller mixed his individual property with that of his father, the said testate Alexander McCuller and that said W W McCuller failed to register deeds for lands which he sold. It also alleges W W McCuller kept the matter of his trust estate fraudulently concealed. Apparently the heirs waited a long time to file a bill of complaint.

Public notice to be published for four weeks in "The Weekly Post" a newspaper published in Selmer for those not residing in McNairy County.

Will of Alexander McCullar:

I, Alexander McCuller do make and publish this my last will and testament, hereby revoking and annulling all other wills by me at any time made.

I will my body to its mother earth and my soul to God who gave it.

I will that my sons, David and William McCuller act as my Executors and that they pay all just debts presented against my estate out of the first monies that come into their hands.

I will and bequeath to my beloved wife, Levina and my son William, the tract of land upon which I now live and bounded as follows: viz: In the State of Tennessee, McNairy County, Range 3 and Section 2, 3, beginning at a stake 64 poles north of the north east corner of entry no 1170 in the name of Jessie Williamson and others, running east 112 poles to a stake, then south 64 poles to a black-oak, white oak and hickory prs; then east 38 poles to a hickory; then South 21 poles to a spanish oak, then east 54 poles, to a stake, black-oak and two post oak prs; then east 156 poles to a stake, then south 160 poles to a white oak gum and white oak prs; then west 200 poles to a gum, white oak and two hickory prs; then south 20 poles to a stake; hickory and 2 gum prs; then west 160 poles to a stake, white and three black oak prs; then north 357 poles to the beginning, containing by estimation 361 acres, including and excluding 81 acres conveyed to David McCuller.

I give these lands to my wife and my son William jointly, but at the death of my wife, they are to become the property of my son William absolutely

I will that all the balance of my property, both real and personal be sold by my executors at private sale, upon such terms as they may deem best, and that they collect all debts due my estate as soon as possible, and the money arising from the sale of property and debts collects, I desire shall be distributed as follows: after my debts are paid, to my son David, my daughter Elizabeth, my daughter-in-law Missouri, my son A J, my son Martha and my son William are to share equally and in making the distribution shares equal my executors will take into account any advancements heretofore made, and any debts by me paid for any of the distributees, so that what they have already and what they may receive shall be equal.

I will that my daughter Mary, shall have one dollar, \$1.00, as she already had one thousand dollars in the tract of land upon which she now lives.

I will that my executors shall see that my wife is well provided for during her lifetime and that she may not suffer for anything she may need in her old age.

Dated October 2, 1800. Signed A. McCuller.

Witnesses: S L Warren, J C Berryman, A J Powell.

Answer of John Wolf and W H Stone, appointed administrators of the Alexander McCuller estate after the death of W W McCuller, former administrator.

They state, William McCuller and C L McCuller were appointed and qualified as administrators of the estate of David McCuller but they took no steps against these defendants in any reasonable or proper time. Mary Hefly should not be a defendant in this case. H A Hunter, security for W W McCuller as administrator of Alexander McCuller estate, should not be accountable because of statute of limitations. Wolfe and Stone also state they are not liable because of the statute of limitations.

Depositions:

J A Moore, age 25, lives at Selmer and at present Clerk of McNairy County Court.

States he has examined his files and is very little on the estate of Alexander McCuller. One record in Settlement Book page 426 and pages 94, 95 in Administrators Settlement.

Mary Hefly states she is 66 years old last July. She is a daughter of Alexander McCuller and a sister to David McCuller. She lived with Alexander McCuller from 1884-1888 and he died in August after she left. She stated her father was not crazy but was addled and was perfectly helpless. After he got helpless he looked to brother William to keep up everything. Apparently Alexander McCuller owed Dave McCuller 8 or 9 hundred dollars. "One thing I do know and that is when my man died, I had about \$800 and I went to brother Dave McCuller and asked him if he would let me pay that debt and have his lien and hold what he held and he said no, that he would rather let it stay just like it was." All her father had was land. "He had nothing that was worth picking up. His stock was so old it was no account. One old horse died with old age while I lived there. My father got broke up during the war, his property took from him and black one token from him and he was robbed of \$1700.00 and there was no body there to work but brother

William except my father could work a little but not much.” She stated Billy (William) mortgaged his own land to pay off that debt to Dave McCuller and sold two tracts to pay himself back. One horse was so old he could not eat corn and fodder to keep his body together. One mare was sold for \$50 but the mare died right after the sale and the money was refunded. One old cow, 20 odd years old, which Billy kept and allowed \$5.00 for her. Alexander McCuller gave Mary Helfy, before the war, about 80 acres. He also gave Dave McCullar some land. He gave every child he had land, except Elizabeth Simmons, her never had given her any at his death. He did not give Martha Houston land, he gave her money. He wanted William to have the home place for taking care of him most of his life. Mrs Simmons got land for her share after Alexander McCuller’s death. Date Sept 2, 1903. Signed Jane Hefley

Deposition of Mrs M E McCuller, age 40 , widow of W W McCuller and she lived at the old homestead that Alexander McCuller gave his son, W W McCuller. W W McCuller died April 15, 1901. She states W W McCuller mortgage to N A Erwin the home tract to get money to pay Dave McCuller’s heirs the money Alexander McCuller had owed David McCuller before they both died.. Her husband told her he had paid William and Charlie McCuller, administrators of Dave McCuller. She married W W McCuller Oct 6, 1888, soon after his father’s death. Signed M E McCuller, Sept 2, 1903.

The complainants prayed for appeal to Supreme Court, Sept 9, 1903.

This was in the file, but as to the importance to this case is unknown:

Settlement with William and C L McCuller, Administrators of the Estate of David McCuller, July 17, 1902, shows these people received \$22.90: – McCuller, C L McCuller, Missouri Riley, Alfred McCuller, J T McCuller, Henry McCuller, S W Johnson, Wm & Polly Ann Chatman, T A Hipps, Neal McCuller, S H McCuller

These people received \$11.00: Alfred McCuller, S H McCuller, J H McCuller, I W Johnson, C L McCuller, Wm McCuller, Polly Ann Chatman, J T McCuller, Missouri Riley, Neal McCuller, Henry McCuller.

These people received \$33.85: Alfred McCuller, W L Riley, J T McCuller, S H McCuller, C L McCuller, G W Johnson, P A Chatman, Henry McCuller, J T McCuller, Wm McCuller.

These people received \$18.25: S W Johnson, Henry McCuller, J H McCuller, Alfred McCuller, J T McCuller, Neal McCuller, W L Riley, C L McCuller, Wm M McCuller, Harriett Hipps by Henry. (Note: these may be the same people but the Johnson man is listed as S W Johnson, I W Johnson and G W Johnson.



ADA EARNEST VS T M EARNEST
McNairy County, Tennessee Chancery Court
1903 - No 1115 - Divorce
Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy

Ada and M H Earnest were married in married County Aug 1893 in McNairy County and lived together continuous until about the day of October 3, 1903, when the complainant, Ada, was forced to leave the home and lived at the residence of her father.

About March 1903 , the couple were still living together and one Lilly Kennedy, who afterwards became known to complainant as a woman of bad character and when she learned of the Kennedy's bad character she as the defendant to make the woman to leave to no avail.

Ada states she saw Lilly Kennedy in her husband's presence without any clothes on and other divers acts of lewdness. Mr Earnest brought Miss Kennedy into the house for the purpose of cohabiting with her. Mrs Ernest knew one date of actual adultery on July 20, 1903.

They lived in the 13th district and since Ada Earnest left M H Earnest has lived opening with Lillie Kennedy.

Complainant also states that Mr Ernest has let another lewd woman, Annie Franks, live in a tenant house, not 100 yards from his home since July 1903. She charges they committed adultery on said premises.

When Ada pleaded with her husband on Oct 2, 1903 to make these women leave, he became abusive, called her vulgar names and cursed. He also stated he had arranged to dispose of his property and move to Texas. One time he threatened to kill her. She awakened on the night of Oct 7, 1903 and saw him with a razor in his hand, and he stated he meant to kill her while she slept. She left the house on Oct 9, 1903.

M H Earnest owns land in the 13th district, bounded on the north by Weatherford and Ruleman, on the south by Perkins and Miller, on the east by Perkins and the west by Wardlow, and is worth about \$350.00, with about 20 acres in corn and about 8 acres of cotton, not gathered. He also owns several hundred dollars of personal property: one bay horse about nine years old, or sorel mare about 11 years old, one red cow about 7 years old and one black cow about 5 years old, one frosty colored muley heifer about 2 years old, one dark red heifer, about 3 years old, one red heifer about 1 yr old; 4 pork hogs and six pigs, 4 beds and bed clothing, 1 two horse wagon, a lot of good furniture such as a dresser, wash stands, cooking stove, safe, tables, dishes, wearing apparel.

The couple have five children: Bessie age 8, Nora age 6, Cecil age 4, R-----, a daughter 2 years old, and a baby girl 3 months old. The oldest children are still living with their father and she has the two youngest children. She states Mr Earnest is not the proper person to have custody of the children and she requests custody of all the children. She asks for alimony and claims the crops will rot in the fields if not ordered by the court to gather.

Complainant dismissed this case - date not given - court cost paid March 2014.



J C TAYLOR VS TROY TAYLOR
McNairy County, Tennessee, Chancery Court
1911 - No 1266
B H Stanton estate - Petition to sell land.

J C Taylor and wife, Hillary Nethery and wife, Harry Coleman and wife, Icy Kirk and Flossie Kirk by next friend Sam Kirk, all residents of McNairy county.

VS

Troy Taylor, Vesta Stanton, Myrtle Stanton, minors and resident of McNairy County, Tenn and Troy Stanton, resident of Virginia.

B H Stanton, a resident of McNairy County, Tenn, died in said county about August 1910. Stanton owned 300 acres, about 15 miles from Selmer and 4 miles from Pocahontas, bounded on the north by Obe Richardson, on the south by Boyett, on the east by Mark Roberson and on the west by the lands of Ben Kennedy, Jo Kirk, Elizabeth Kennedy.

The land has not been taken care of for several years, the fencing is gone and the fields that used to be in cultivation is growing up. It mostly woodland and hills. The house is a box house, a plank house, an ordinary house. Two rooms with a hall between and only one, chimney, there was two but one fell down. One room is ceiled or paper. House built about 12 or 15 years ago. Barn is out of pine poles. No well, just two springs or seeps.

B H Stanton left to no widow, his wife having died about a year before he died. There are no encumbrance on the land as far as complainants know.

B H Stanton left children and heirs-at-law the following children:

1. Lula who intermarried with J C Taylor
2. Bell who intermarried with Hillary Nethery
3. Pearl who intermarried with Harry Coleman
4. Minnie who intermarried with Sam Kirk, died leaving her only heirs, Icy age 10, Flossie age 8
5. Ronie who intermarried with Columbus Taylor, died four years ago, heir Troy Taylor
6. Terry Stanton age 16
7. Myrtle Stanton age 18
8. Vesta Stanton age 14

Minors, Icy and Flossie Kirk live with their father, and Troy Taylor lives with his uncle and aunt, J C Taylor and wife, as do Myrtle and Vesta Stanton. Terry Stanton is in the United States Army in Virginia.

The heirs wish to sell the land and divide the proceeds since the lands can not be equitably divided.

W W Eaker wanted to buy the land, but it had to be sold at public auction. B C Carr purchased the lands September 9, 1912 at a public auction at the front door of the courthouse in Selmer, for \$591.00. He paid cash down \$197.00 and executed a note for the balance of \$394.00 due Nov 9, 1913.

There was no delinquent taxes on the land.

Depositions of; W M Roberson, age 46 lived about one mile from B H Stanton.
Lee McAlpin, age 45 lived about 3 miles.



MARY J NIXON VS JIM HUNTER, ETAL

McNairy County, Tennessee, Chancery Court

#1370 - date 1915

Transcribed by Nancy Kennedy

Mary J Nixon vs Jim Hunter, Sim Hunter and Forest Hunter.

This was a long read case and very interesting, very typical of how widow women were treated during this time.

On Jan 8, 1908 John H. Nixon, now deceased borrowed or was somehow indebted to Hunter Bros for \$198.45. The reason for the indebtedness was never given. John H Nixon signed the note on Jan 15, 1908 and mortgaged the place where he resided.

J E Dunaway, made the note for Hunter Bros and went to the Nixon home where Mr Nixon signed it. Mrs Nixon refused to sign the note so Dunaway left. After Dunaway left John Nixon told his wife Mary if she did not sign the note he would burn the house down. So when Mr Dunaway came back in the late afternoon she signed the note.

At that time, the wife was supposed to give permission, outside of the presence of her husband, for any notes he made. Her sons, Dolp and Bunk and Dolp's wife Mary testified that they were at the home at the time she signed. When they arrived, she was outside crying, saying she did not want to sign the note. When Dunaway arrived they all went into the house and she signed it. However Mr Nixon never left the room as he was supposed to do.

John H Nixon died May 12, 1909. And on Aug 22, 1914, W R Nickles, agent for Hunter Bros instituted a replevin suit Mrs Nixon for a mule and one 2.75 Studebaker wagon. The case went to court and Mary Nixon claimed they had paid all was due to Hunter Bros. (I think somewhere she claimed the mule and wagon was not on the original note. At the place this is listed, it could have been added later.) Hunter Bros won the suit and received the wagon and mule and Mary Nixon had to pay the court cost

Sometime after this Mary Nixon heard Hunter Bros was going to file suit to obtain her land. She claimed she and/or her sons went by several times to the store to settle up and Hunter

would always say 'we are about even - don't have time to see about it now.) Her sons also testified to this fact. She told when paid on the account, such as money, two bales of cotton, etc.

Women had no rights about their land, once they married it became their husband's land. Mrs L E King deeded three tracts of land to Mary Nixon: 35 ac, 35 ac and 75 ac. It was the 75 acres that had the house and the tract Mr Nixon mortgaged, when in fact it was hers to begin with.

When Dunaway and Nickles testified for the defendant, they were very positive about everything but when cross examined, they didn't remember some things or didn't know.

The strange part of this case is Hunter Bros never testified in this case, or if they did it is not included.

The case was won by Hunter Bos and Mary Nixon had to pay \$31.25 plus court cost, but they didn't take her land.