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Montgomery County, Texas Probate Records

Black Box Documents 1903-1906 Volume VII

Black Box Documents are those original documents which were created in probating a will or settling an estate. A typical estate settlement may include Application for Probate or Will, a Will, Application for Letters of Administration or Guardianship, Administrators Bonds and Guardianship Bonds, Inventories, Citations, Requests for Partition, and the invoices, vouchers, receipts, notes, etc. presented in each case.

These documents are placed in individual envelopes or packets and numbered. The number corresponds to the probate case. The packets then are filed in metal boxes which are dark in color - therefore, the name Black Boxes. These boxes are housed in the Montgomery County Court House.

Most of these documents are handwritten which presents a problem. Some of the clerks had very legible handwriting, while others were extremely difficult to read. It would be prudent for the researcher to check all spelling variations. Sometimes names were spelled two or three different ways in one document.

Some documents are very brittle and falling apart. Some very large or thick-folded documents are hard to flatten to be able to read them without taking a chance of damaging the document. Extreme care was taken at all times to protect the document.

The only documents which are not strictly abstracted or summarized are the wills. They are copied verbatim as closely as they are able to be deciphered. And—the only documents abstracted are those which showed some kind of a relationship or those that are of genealogical interest. The vouchers & receipts are merely mentioned to show they are there unless there was one which may have given a death date, etc.

The dates of each document as given are the dates the document was created, signed or filed for record. Documents for each case are presented in chronological order.

The Judges, Clerks, County Clerks, District Court Clerks are not shown in each case.

If a record is shown to have been recorded, it is recorded in the Probate Court Minutes unless otherwise noted.

If a researcher should like a photocopy of any of these documents, please contact Mr. Mark Turnbull, County Clerk, Montgomery County Courthouse, Conroe, Texas 77301. The researcher must provide the packet number, name, date and title of each document and a self-addressed stamped envelope.

—Vera Meek Wimberly, abstractor and Elva Smallwood Wilson, indexer and proofer

Packet #929 **COLLINS**, Delainey, et al, minors
 COLLINS, W. L., guardian

Filed 16 April 1903, Book 18, page 119. Application for Letters of Guardianship of the person and estate. Applicant W. L. Collins shows Delainey Collins is a girl age 15-1/2; that Willie Lee Collins is a girl age 13; and Walter Collins is a boy age 11, all residents of Montgomery County, Texas. These minors are without legal guardianship and entitled to an estate of estimated value of \$60.00. Their mother is dead. W. L. Collins is the father. He prays for notice of application to be given and he be appointed guardian. Signed: J. L. M. Pirtle, Atty.



#929 COLLINS. Filed Book 18, page 129, 6 April 1903. Notice in Probate.

Citation to be posted regarding Collins minors estate. Citation posted according to law. Signed: M. A. Anderson, Sheriff, by F. W. Pitts, Dept.

#929 COLLINS. Filed 20 May 1903, Book 18, page 121. An acceptance and waiver of service of Delaney Collins.

The minor Delaney Collins selects W. L. Collins as her guardian of her person & estate. Signed: Dee Collins.

#929 COLLINS. Filed Book 18, page 121, 20 May 1903. Decree to Enter.

W. L. Collins is appointed to be guardian of Delaney, Willie Lee and Walter Collins. Letters of administration will be given to him upon his posting bond for \$120.00, and taking oath. W. D. Earthman, F. E. J. Saunders and Fulton Smith appointed appraisers.

#929 COLLINS. Filed 23 May 1903, Book 18, pages 121-122. Bond and Oath.

Bond. W. L. Collins, principal [sureties not named but this document was signed by: W. L. Collins, C. L. Saunders, Surety, ?Paten West, Surety.]

Oath. W. L. Collins swears to fulfill duties as guardian according to law for the minors, Delaney, Willie Lee and Walter Collins. Signed: W. L. Collins before J. T. Rucks, County Judge.

#929 COLLINS. Filed 23 May 1903, Book 18, pages 122-123.

Inventory and Appraisalment. Presented by W. L. Collins: There are no lists of claims due.

Real Estate: 1/3 interest in 40 acres consisting of 13 1/3 acres appraised for value of \$60.00.

No Personal Property.

Personally appears and signed W. B. Earthman, Fulton Smith and T. J. Saunders that this is a true and accurate appraisalment of the Collins minor's estate.

#929 COLLINS. Filed 2 June 1903, Book 18, pages 123-125. Application to sell land belonging to the estate of Delaney, William Lee and Walter Collins, minors.

W. L. Collins shows the necessity of selling land belonging to Collins minors for their upkeep and education. Names mentioned in land description of 1/3 interest in 40 acres out of the W. S. Allen league; boundaries: M. S. Cooper, Hutchinsons. Asks sale to be private and for cash and that notice be given. Signed: J. L. M. Pirtle, Attorney.

#929 COLLINS. 17 August 1903 County Court. Decree.

It is ordered that W. L. Collins, guardian, sell the land as requested for the maintenance and education of his wards.

#929 COLLINS. Filed 17 August 1903. Citation.

Posted to inform all persons interested in the Estate of the Collins minors of the proposed sale of land. Writ was posted according to law. Signed M. A. Anderson, Sheriff.

#929 COLLINS. Filed 19 August 1903. Report of sale of land.

Guardian, W. L. Collins of Delaney, Willie Lee & Walter Collins, minors, reports he sold at private sale on 18 August 1903 to R. H. Haude for \$4.50 an acre equal \$60.00 cash for the entire 13 1/3 acres. Signed: W. L. Collins before J. T. Rucks, County Judge.

#929 COLLINS. 26 August 1903. Second Decree.

Court accepts the sale of the land for the Collins minors by W. L. Collins and orders proper conveyances prepared for purchaser, R. H. Haude.

#929 COLLINS. 26 August 1903. This is a bill of the Probate Court Costs in the Collins minors estate cause presented to W. L. Collins, guardian of minors, in the amount of \$19.65.

Packet #930 **CHATHAM**, Pearl & Irion, minors
 CHATHAM, Imogene, guardian

Filed 7 May 1903, Book 18, page 224. Application for Letters of Guardianship.
Application of Mrs. Imogene Chatham for Letters of Guardianship of the estate and person of Sue, Irion and Pearl Chatham. Applicant, Mrs. Imogene Chatham shows that Sue Chatham is a girl and of unsound mind. Pearl Chatham is a female and Irion Chatham is a male. They have no lawful guardian and are entitled to an estate of estimated value of \$500.00. The father of the minors is dead. Applicant is the mother of minors. She prays that notices will be issued and she be appointed guardian. Signed: Nugent & Foster, attorneys.

#930 CHATHAM. Filed 28 September 1903, Book 18, page 225. Bond of Guardian.
Mrs. Imogene Chatham as principal, and C. W. Nugent & J. T. Turlow, post bond of \$1,000.00. Imogene Chatham has been appointed guardian of Pearl Chatham & Irion Chatham, minors, and Sue Chatham who is a person of unsound mind.

#930 CHATHAM. Filed Book 18, page 226. Notice in Probate.
Notice for citation to be posted for all interested parties in the estate of Sue Chatham of unsound mind, Pearl Chatham and Irion Chatham, minors, to answer application of Mrs. Imogene Chatham for guardianship.

#930 CHATHAM. Filed 29 September 1903, Book 18, page 227. Oath of Guardian.
Mrs. Imogene Chatham swears to perform duties of guardianship of Pearl Chatham and Irion Chatham, minors, and Sue Chatham, a person of unsound mind. Signed: Emogene Chatham before R. H. Dunn, Justice of the Peace. [Note: She signs her name as Emogene and also Imogene in different records].

Packet #931 **STEED**, Willis, estate
 LONG, Jessie, administrator

Filed 8 May 1903, Book 18a, page 41. Application of Surviving Wife for Community Administration.
Petitioner, Jessie Steed Long [Steed marked through and Long added], wife of Willie Steed, deceased, shows her former husband died 20 May 1897 in Montgomery County, Texas. Willis Steed left minor children: Welsh Steed, male, age 14; Bettie Steed, female, age 11; Jesse Belle Steed, female, age 8; and Willis Carter Steed, male, age 6. That there is a community estate between Willis Steed and petitioner, and requests Court to appoint appraisers. Signed: R. J. Sullivan, Attorney.

#931 STEED. Filed 4 June 1903, Book 18a, page 42. Inventory, Appraisalment and List of Claims.
Real Estate
60 acres valued \$300.00; house and lot in Montgomery, Texas, valued \$200.00. Total value \$500.00.
Mrs. Jessie Long signs that this is a complete list of real estate and there are no claims due this estate. Signed: Jessie Long [written there: surviving wife of Willis Steed, deceased] before W. G. Stampley, Notary Public, Grimes County, Texas. Appraisers: N. H. Branch & W. S. Pinchback, also sign saying this is a fair appraisalment before F. McDonald, Notary Public.

#931 STEED. Filed 4 June 1903, Book 18a, page 43. Bond of Survivor.
Jessie Long, principal, with W. L. Long, surety, post bond of \$500.00 Signed: Jessie Long, W. A. Long, W. J. Long, W. B. Bracewell.

Packet #932 NICHOLS, Mattie, minor
THOMASON, J. W., guardian

Filed 9 May 1903, Book 18, page 428. J. W. Thomason Application for Letters of Guardianship.

J. W. Thomason shows Mattie Nichols is a girl, age 15, residing in Montgomery County, Texas and has no lawful guardian. She is entitled to an estate of estimated value \$250.00. Both parents of Mattie Nichols are deceased. Joe Nichols, father, survived the mother. Court asks that Mattie appear and select a guardian for her person and estate. Signed J. W. Thomason by S. A. Crawford, attorney.

#932 NICHOLS. Filed 9 May 1903, Book 18, page 428. Selection of J. W. Thomason as guardian. Mattie Nichols appears and chooses J. W. Thomason as guardian of her person and estate. Signed: Mattie Nichols.

#932 NICHOLS. Filed 26 May 1903, Book 18, page 429. Appointment of guardian. J. W. Thomason has applied for guardianship, Mattie Nichols has selected J. W. Thomason, and it is ordered that he be appointed guardian of her person and estate upon his giving bond of \$500.00 and oath. W. J. Goff, D. B. Williamson and John Hulon are appointed appraisers.

#932 NICHOLS. Filed November 1904, Book 18, page 357. This is a group of accounts presented by guardian for administrative expenses for the years 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904.

#932 NICHOLS. Filed 18 May 1905, Book 18, page 429. Motion to substitute papers.

Now comes J. W. Thomason, guardian to Mattie Nichols, a minor, and shows to the Court that in this cause, some of the papers have been misplaced, to wit: the oath of the guardian, inventory and appraisement of the minor's estate, and that same being among the papers of this Court and in this cause, and that the bond also of the guardian has been misplaced, and that petitioner desires the substitution of said papers at this term of the court, and ask that same be substituted in lieu of the originals and that they be filed and entered of record in this cause.

Signed: S. A. Crawford for J. W. Thomason.

#932 NICHOLS. Filed 18 May 1905, Book 18, pages 429,430. Request for substitution of papers.
The guardian also asks for substitution of papers.

#932 NICHOLS. Filed 20 April 1905, Book 18, page 430. Application to sell Real Estate.

J. W. Thomason shows it is necessary to sell all the real estate of his ward, Mattie Nichols, for education and maintenance. All personal property has been sold. Petitioner also shows that minor has an undivided 1/5 interest in the Nichols place about five miles west of Willis, consisting of 200 acres out of the Timothy Cude survey. Asks for citation, and an order authorizing him to make sale of said land.

#932 NICHOLS. Filed 17 May 1905, Book 18, page 431. Court acknowledges J. W. Thomason asks for permission to sell land, and decree by Court that the sale be so made.

#932 NICHOLS. Filed 20 May 1905, Book 18, page 432. Court orders notation be posted to enable J. W. Thomason to sell land.

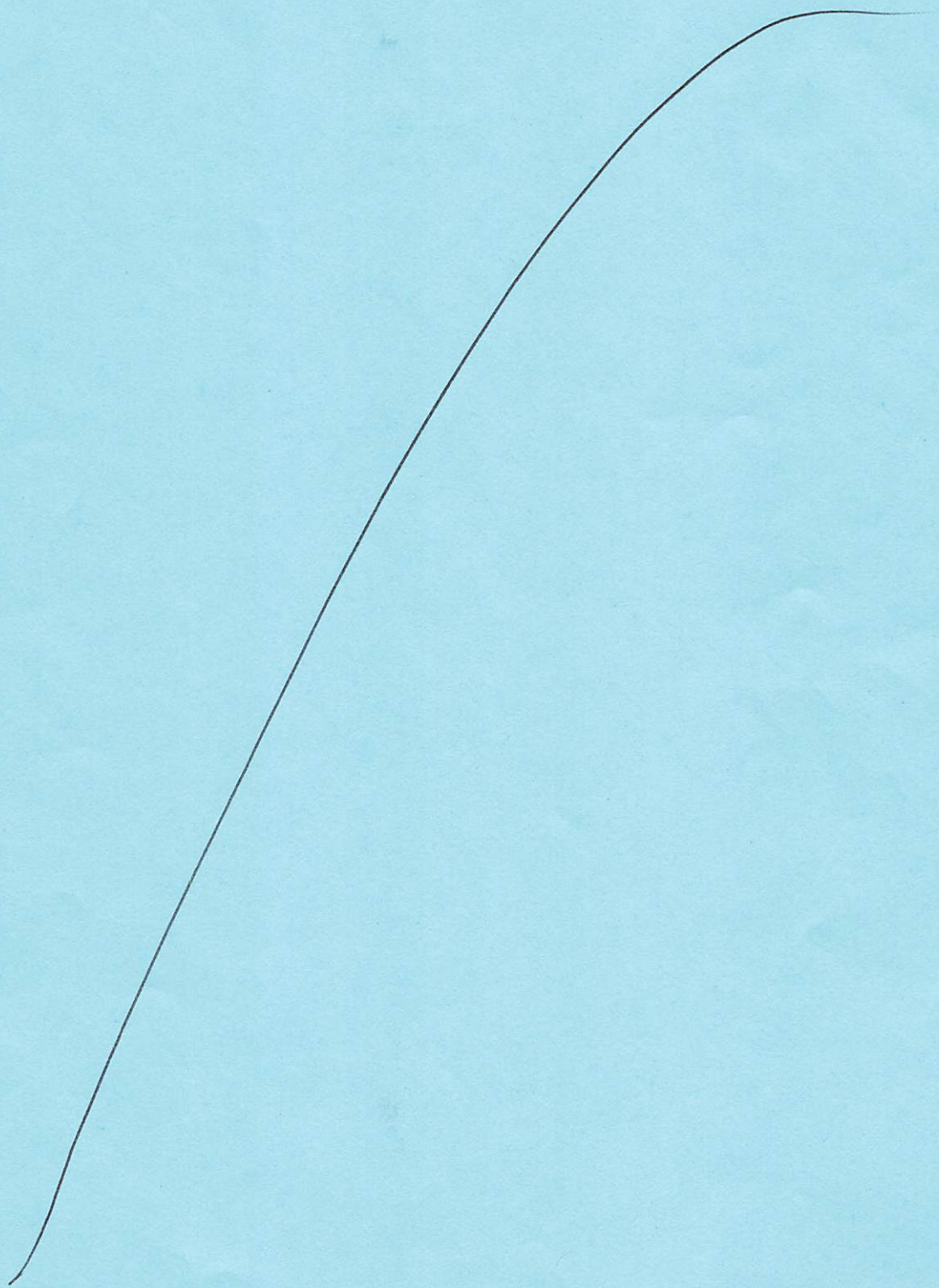
Citation was posted according to law 20 May 1905 by M. A. Anderson, Sheriff.

#932 NICHOLS. Filed 24 May 1905, Book 18, page 447. Report of Sale.

J. W. Thomason reports sale of land on 23 May 1905 to Mrs. Kate D. Hubbard for \$400.00 cash at private sale.

#932 NICHOLS. Filed 3 June 1905, Book 18, page 507. Oath & Bond.

J. W. Thomason as principal and W. J. Goff and J. S. Hulon as sureties, post bond of \$600.00. J. W. Thomason signs oath.



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Hickory Grove Cemetery

Montgomery County Texas

transcribed by Jane Sanford Keppler

January 24, 1999

From Conroe take FM 1484 (Airport Road.) out about 9 miles. Cemetery is on the right. The cemetery is in fairly good condition, . On the gate is a sign to contact Martha Welschhans at 409-756-3610 before a grave can be dug, so I am assuming she is the caretaker.

I started the transcriptions as you walk into the gate and go to the right corner. I tried to go row by row, but there are numerous graves that are unmarked or not legible.

NAME	BIRTH	DEATH	NOTES
Phyrne Evangel Christian	10-18-1894	01-12-1994	
Paul Richard Christian Jr.(Rickey)	06-23-1948	11-22-1997	
Linwood Law	10-12-1899	10-10-1986	-
Frankie B. Hudnell	05-25-1904	06-13-1987	beloved wife & mother
George W. Hudnell	03-15-1895	12-01-1967	Tx-PVT CO A360 Inf.WWI
Mildred E. Meador Moore	08-06-1921	10-28-1993	Mother
Denzil Little	10-16-1917	04-30-1997	A Man of Honor
Louise Hill Little	08-15-1920	03-31-1988	-
Mollie Little	07-03-1895	06-14-1975	-
Otis Law	01-04-1902	03-04-1920	-
Baby Law	06-04-1904	06-04-1904	-
Morris M. Law	10-31-1846	01-26-1914	CPL-6BTRY Maine-LT ARTY-Civil War
Vada Law	03-01-1874	05-04-1963	-
Nellie Little	08-06-1892	04-22-1980	-
Gladys Jones	01-16-1916	12-19-1985	-
E. C. Copeland	11-25-1884	10-19-1894	-
Paul Anton Christian	1894	1979	-
Dick Rigby "Poppy"	12-09-1915	05-16-1993	Beloved husband & Daddy
Samuel R. Redmon	01-01-1841	04-26-1912	-
Sally C. Redmon	03-06-1848	02-19-1929	-
Mattie Meador	1906	1909	
Lewis Meador	1904	1995	
Florence Hales	11-10-1899	01-06-1916	-
Mollie Hales	09-15-1865	12-22-1950	-
John Allen Redmon	12-26-1883	08-14-1932	Father



Katie Redmon	05-25-1885	11-04-1965	Mother
Mary Magaline Nichols Collins	06-08-1910	09-08-1969	-
Jack Shipp	1910	1980	-
James M. Baldwin	10-21-1916	08-07-1981	-
Vernie N. Baldwin	05-16-1919	n/a	-
Georgie Marie Hanson	10-25-1900	11-16-1900	daughter of W.C. & Ada Hanson
?? Hanson	??	??	not legible
Sarah Hanson	??	??	not legible
Carrie Few	1877	1959	-
W. J. Few	1882	1950	-
Dorothy Roach	06-16-1928	na	-
Bob Roach	08-25-1926	11-30-1991	-
J. R. Beakley	??	??	not legible
Lora Beakley	09-30-1882	11-30-1914	-
Betty Pauline McClain	10-21-1911	09-24-1997	-
Stella O. McCrorey	10-31-1880	03-22-1971	-
William S. McCrorey	08-29-1885	04-18-1966	-
Jackie Leon Roach	05-07-1934	12-09-1954	TX CPL-US Marine Corp. Res
Gordon D. Roach	02-29-1904	07-22-1981	md. 07-25-1923
Bernice W. Roach	11-03-1903	08-05-1997	-
??King	1878	1880	-
L. Jewell Chambers Wood	12-06-1896	07-25-1985	Mother
Cudindy Chambers	1849	1919	-
G. W. Chambers, SR.	1851	1921	-
Benjamin Silvias Sweet	1826	07-21-1910	CSA-CoG-FLA born in GA
Susan Rebecca Sweet	1834	6-1903	born in SC
William Anderson	04-06-1873	12-01-1933	-
Ella Mae Hibbard	1900	1964	-
Percy Hibbard	01-06-1890	01-31-1936	Pvt-315 Mil-Police Co-90 Div
William Earl Jezek, JR	10-15-1872	09-05-1968	-
W. C. Yawn	10-15-1872	09-05-1968	-
Mattie Lee Martin	03-10-1909	12-01-1910	daughter of J.R. & Carrie Martin
Lee Martin	10-30-1891	09-11-1892	son of J. R. & C.A. Martin
??Thomas	1882	1891	-
Charlie P. Thomas	08-04-1867	12-05-1941	-
Irene A. Thomas	06-02-1875	03-09-1954	-
Mamie H. Thomas	08-04-1893	01-26-1896	-
Baby Joel Jeffcoat	11-04-1934	??	-

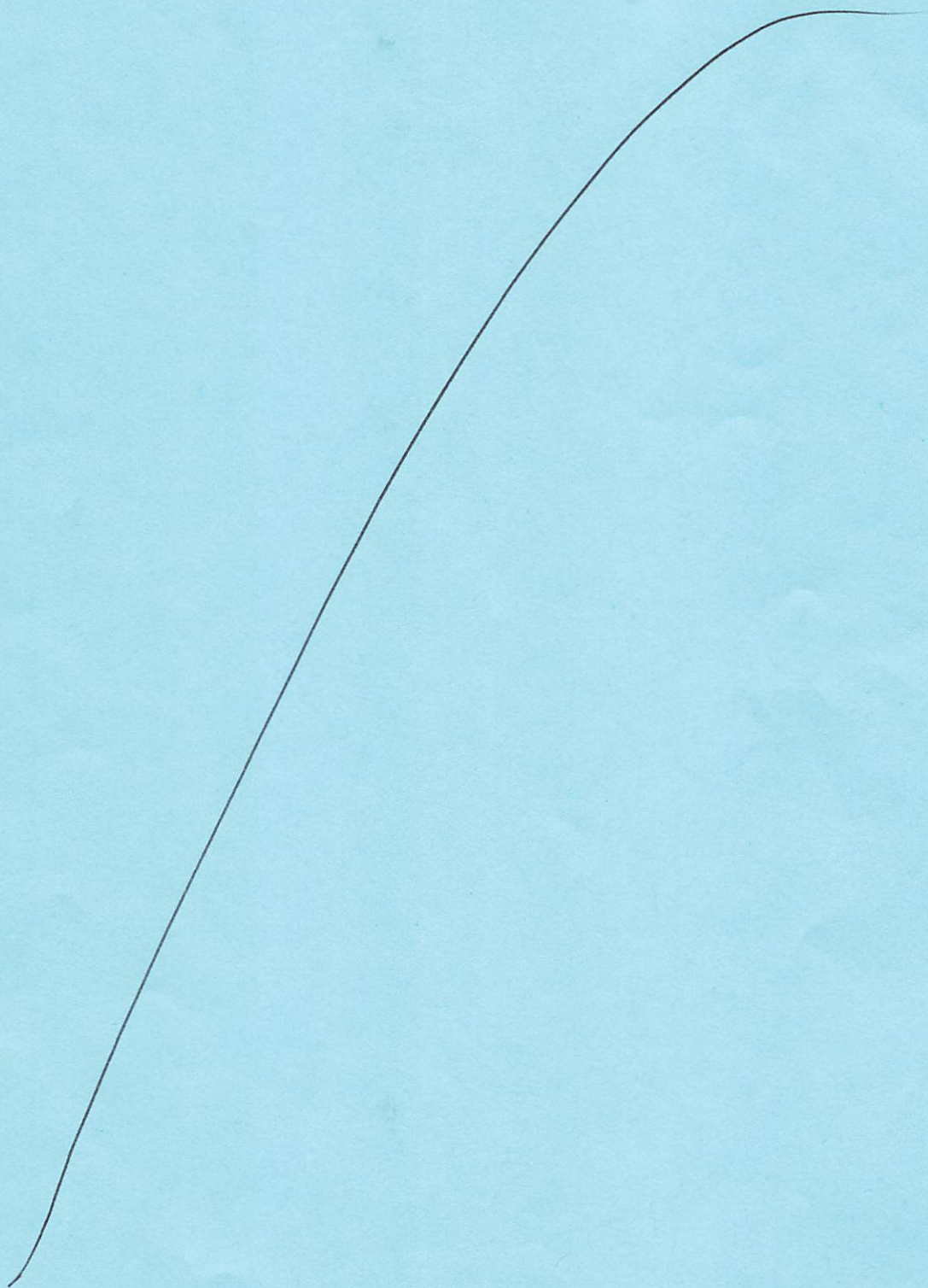


Exhibit #3: Austin County Probate – "Old Probate Files"

In the Name of God Amen

I Owen Shannon being weak of body yet strong of mind make and establish this my last will and testament. I will & bequeath all my property real and personal to my wife Margaret to dispose of use through life to will bequeath or in any way to dispose of that she may wish or think by mete.

The personal property mentioned in the following enumeration. Six Negroes name and ages as follows Nancy age forty five years=, Lydia age twenty three, Thomas age nineteen, Marinda age sixteen, Joseph age eight, Luis age six years, Two horses Thirty head of comon stock cattle of cow farm with what hogs I have together with all of our house hole and kichen furnature. The Real or Landed property as follows One Quarter league of Land being in the neighborhood of Lake Creek. A part of which tract I have agreed to let Wm. Clarke have for so much as I wish for from him of the tract on which I now live and have improved say not more than two hundred acres=. Now to the intent that this my will may have full Effect I have unto set my hand and seal this 12 April 1835.

Witnesses
his
Henry X Goff
mark

OWEN SHANNON

Seal

her
Mary X Corner
mark

Matthew Hubert

James J. Foster

William C. Clark

his
Benjamin X Rigby George Allen
mark

Exhibit #3: Austin County Probate – “Old Probate Files”, Continued

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Personally appeared before me, R. M. Williamson only alcalde of Austin James J. Foster who on oath says that he signed as a witness of the last will and testament of Owen Shannon now before him in the presence of the testator who requested him so to do and acknowledged his signature to the same.

This deponent further says that he saw William C. Clark, Benjamin Rigby, and George Allen sign the same.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th of June 1834.

JAMES J. FOSTER

R. M. WILLIAMSON

William C. Clark on oath swears to the same facts sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th of June 1834.

WM. C. CLARK

R. M. WILLIAMSON

The foregoing Probate Records on Owen Shannon were obtained from the Office of the County Clerk Dorothy Himly, Austin County Courthouse, 1 East Main, Bellville, Texas 77418-1551. This particular record is stored in what office refers to as the “Old Probate Files.” These records were transcribed by Harry G. Daves, Jr. and Kevin Ladd in July 1999. [Nine Pages, only first two printed]

