

**Daviess County, Abstracts of Legal Documents from
the Richard Hyatt Papers, Covering Events from 1831 through 1886**

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Among the manuscript collections of the Indiana Historical Society's library is the Richard Hyatt Papers, 1885–1896 (M 0554). The collection consists of three folders of bound affidavits, transcripts of court cases and wills, certified copies of land surveys and maps, and government land warrants dated between December 1885 to 1896. Much of the material relates to the ownership of land in Steele Township, Daviess County, Indiana.

The Hyatt family was a prominent one in Daviess County. Richard Hyatt's father, Elisha Hyatt, was a wealthy landowner, businessman, and investor who as a child had come to Daviess County from Kentucky with his family. At one time, Elisha Hyatt owned more than eight thousand acres, mostly in Daviess County.¹

In 1870 Elisha Hyatt purchased a controlling interest in the first private bank in the county, located in the county seat of Washington.² The bank failed suddenly in November 1884, and the resulting settlement involved Hyatt's personal estate as well as the bank's assets. A good portion of his personal land holdings were sold, and other assets, including agricultural implements, livestock, machinery, and stands of lumber, were auctioned. Legal proceedings dragged on for well over a year.³ Although his personal assets substantially exceeded the charges of his creditors, the process no doubt took a toll on Hyatt, who grew ill in late 1885 and died on December 31, just as the bank settlement was coming to a close.⁴

Although the collection is named for Elisha's son Richard (d. 1889) and was assumed to have been related to the settlement of Richard's estate, the papers instead may be related to court cases resulting from the bank failure.⁵ Because of their extensive business interests, members of the Hyatt family were regularly parties to court cases throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century, including cases involving the bank failure.⁶ Whichever purpose the court records served, the collection contains a wealth of genealogical information. Affiants in particular attested to family relationships, often for more than one generation; births, marriages, and deaths; and

locations of family lands and homesteads. A few affiants even specified common variations in the spelling of their surnames.

The material included here was abstracted from Folder 1 of this collection. Researchers are encouraged to consult the original documents therein. Quoted sections of the abstracts remain true to the original documents in spelling, punctuation, and so forth, except for additions by the authors, which are placed in brackets. A companion article on the Hyatt family and this collection will appear in the fall/winter 2008 issue of *THG: Connections*.

Notes

1. A. O. Fulkerson, ed., *History of Daviess County, Indiana: Its People, Industries and Institutions* (Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen, 1915), 382.
2. Fulkerson, *History of Daviess County*, 304.
3. The bank failure was first reported in the *Daviess County Democrat* on November 22, 1884. Updates were then provided almost weekly in the newspaper, particularly in notices of the Daviess County Circuit Court proceedings, throughout 1885. Auction and sale notices published in the February 14 and March 14, 1885, editions are only a few examples of how the assets of both Hyatt and the bank were liquidated in order to satisfy creditors.
4. “A Broken Bank: The Bank of Hyatt, Levings & Co. Puts Up Its Shutters,” *Daviess County Democrat*, November 22, 1884; “Failures in Business: A Severe Blow to Newburg—The Washington Bank Schedules,” *The New York Times*, December 26, 1884, online at <http://www.nytimes.com/>; “Elisha Hyatt: Another Daviess County Pioneer Receives the Final Dread Summons,” *Daviess County Democrat*, January 2, 1886; “Ashes to Ashes: Obsequies of the Late Elisha Hyatt—Anecdotes of the Deceased,” *Daviess County Democrat*, January 9, 1886; Death record for Elisha Hyatt dated December 31, 1885, in Indiana Deaths, 1882–1920, database online at Ancestry.com, <http://www.ancestry.com/>.
5. “Sudden Death: Richard Hyatt Dies Surrounded by His Interesting Family,” *Daviess County Democrat*, July 27, 1889. The obituary reported that Elisha’s estate was still being settled at the time of son Richard’s death.

6. The *Daviess County Democrat* published circuit court proceedings weekly when the court was in session. Cases involving the bank, Elisha Hyatt, and other family members regularly appear there throughout the period 1885–96.

Abstracts of Copies of Wills, Clark and Daviess Counties, 1831–68

John Staley, Last Will and Testament, August 3, 1831, [Clark County]

In his will, John Staley gave his son, Eli Staley, “interest in all of [his] lands in Ohio where [Genl?] Joseph Carr and [himself] are concerned [and] all of my wearing apparel either made or unmade which I have bought for that purpose. Also two beds and bedding being the best in my house. One of the best bureaus. Two card tables. One Gunn case and two decanters Cut Glass. One large looking Glass. One pr Brass and Iron fender and Tongs. One set of Silver Spoons. One large silver soup spoon. One pr of large Sugar Tongs and a set of Silver Tea spoons.” To Cornelius Burkshire, he gave “two hundred acres of land in the state of Indiana. Out of a lot of land No. one hundred and fifty eight.” To his daughter-in-law, Polley Staley, he gave his farm in Jackson County, Indiana, under the condition that if she married the land would be conveyed to the children of her deceased husband, Jacob Staley. Signed, sealed, and witnessed by Thos. Wilson, John Weathers, and Isaac Cox on August 3, 1831. On December 26, 1885, Richard C. McGill, Clerk of the Clark County, Indiana, Circuit Court, certified the above as “a full true and complete copy of the last will and testament of John Staley deceased.”

Elizabeth Scudder, Last Will and Testament, December 24, 1845, Daviess County

In her will, Elizabeth Scudder of Daviess County, Indiana, gave to her son, Henry Scudder, “all the rents and profits . . . and all appurtenances thereunto belonging for the term of seven years” of the 160 acres located at “the North West quarter of Section No nine (9) in township No two (2) North of Range No Seven (7) West” in Daviess County, Indiana. To her daughter, Eleanor, she gave a black horse. “The remainder of any estate [she] wished divided equally amongst all [her] children and heirs at law.” She named her son, John Scudder, as executor. Signed and sealed on December 24, 1845. Witnessed by Caleb P. Chapman and Wm. S. Chapman. On July 14, 1848, Caleb P. Chapman attested to her “sound[ness] of mind and memory.” Subscribed and sworn to John Vantrees, Clerk of Daviess County, Indiana, Probate Court, and E. Vantrees, “Depy.” of the same county.

John Hawkins, Last Will and Testament, August 8, 1846, Daviess County

In his will, John Hawkins of Daviess County, Indiana, granted to his sons William Hawkins and Amos Hawkins a total of eighty acres: “twenty four acres to be taken off of the North side of a certain tract of land containing fifty nine and one fourth acres, conveyed to [John Hawkins] by Jesse Lucas and wife by deed” dated October 2, 1823; “seventeen acres to be taken off of the West side of a forty acre tract of land patented to me by the General Government by the description of ‘the lot number five of fractional section eighteen, in township three North, of range seven West.’ also nine acres adjoining the above described seventeen acres, and lying immediately West of the same . . . twenty acres to be taken off of the North side of location number two hundred and seventy four; and also ten acres to be taken out of location number two hundred and seventy six.” To his son Moses Hawkins, he gave the remaining acreage with the condition that Moses then give one hundred dollars to each of John Hawkins’ daughters: Polly Meredith, Nancy Lee, and Eliza Ann Thomas, and fifty dollars to his granddaughter, Mary Ann Graham. John Hawkins also requested that sons William and Amos give the following sums of money to John’s remaining heirs: one hundred dollars each to daughters Peggy Chancellor and Sarah Right; and fifty dollars to Christiana Hawkins, George Hawkins, and Sarah E. Hawkins, all the children of his deceased son, Isaac Hawkins. He named Elias Chancellor, his son-in-law, as his executor. Signed and sealed on August 8, 1846. Witnessed by Emmanuel Van Trees, Kinneth Dye, and Jno. Van Trees.

Samuel J. Kelso Sr., Last Will and Testament, July 3, 1849, Daviess County

In his will, Samuel J. Kelso Sr. of Washington, Daviess County, Indiana, gave to his son, Samuel Jackson Kelso, “all that certain tract of land lying on the state road east of Washington in said county, containing one hundred acres and described as the east end of Location number one hundred and thirty-four; also the two lots of ground with the improvements in that part of Washington formerly called Liverpool being lots numbered forty-nine and one hundred and twelve; also [his] Bank stock, consisting of five shares of fifty dollars each in the Vincennes Branch of the State Bank of Indiana; also my wagon, gears, and farming utensils; subject however, to the provisions hereinafter made in favor of my wife and two daughters.” He gave to his two daughters, Dorcas Nelson and Betsey Ann Kelso, “in equal proportions, all that certain tract of land, with the appurtenances containing sixty-nine, more or less, and situate in said county and described as the West half of the North East fractional quarter of Section twenty-six, in township three, North, of range seven West; also one bed, bedstead and the necessary bedding to each.” To his grandchildren, Samuel J. Ritchey, William L. Ritchey, Hiram H. Ritchey, and Elam M. Ritchey, he gave “the following lots and parcels of ground with the improvements now owned in common by John Aikman & myself, to wit: Lot number ninety-one, and one half of Lot number ninety-two, and one half of Lot number ninety-three, in Washington . . . being the same deeded to said Aikman and myself by Joseph

Warner.” To his wife, Betsey, he granted personal property and “the interest on my Bank stock, the entire control and management, and rents issues and profits of the lands hereinbefore willed to my said son and daughter, and Lots of ground willed to my said son and grand children as aforesaid.” He requested that this money be used to pay the taxes on this land as well as “the lands I hold in common with Elisha Hyatt” and to support his heirs. Upon his wife’s remarriage or death, the son would then take possession of the land. He directed his son “counsel and assist [his] wife in the management of the property,” paying the annual taxes on the land out of the interest made on the Bank stock. He also asked that the land he had purchased with Elisha Hyatt from John Cawood’s estate be sold by his wife or son and daughters. Signed and sealed on July 3, 1849, in the presence of Jno. Van Trees and Alfred Davis. On April 23, 1853, the witnesses appeared before R. A. Clements, “Judge C.C.C.P.,” and the will was entered into the Daviess County Will record books by Jno. Van Trees, Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, and E. Van Trees “Depy.” of Daviess County, Indiana.

Abraham Lester, Last Will and Testament, September 27, 1850, Daviess County

In his will, Abraham Lester of Daviess County, Indiana, gave to his son Abraham Addison Lester the following six parcels of land located in Daviess County, Indiana: “The South East qr of the South East qr of section No. nine (9) in township No. four (4) North, of range No. seven (7) West. Also the one undivided third part of the East half of the South West quarter of section No. three (3), in township No. four (4) North, of range No. seven (7) West. And also the South West quarter of the South East quarter of section No. three (3) in township No. four (4) North, of range No. seven (7) West. And also the North West quarter of the South East quarter of section No. nine (9), in township No. four (4) North, of range No. seven (7) West. Also two acres of ground deeded to me [Abraham Lester] for a building place by Joseph & Rachel Lester dated 31st Dec^r 1841. And also the South East quarter of South East quarter of frac¹ section No four (4) in township No four (4) North, of range No. seven (7) West, reserving the use, occupancy, rents and profits of all of said lands for the support of me [*sic*?] & my wife Jenny E. Lester durin[g] our life time.” Signed and sealed with his mark on September 27, 1850. Attested by Franklin F. Sawyer and Robert Lester.

Alfred Bicknell/Becknall, Last Will and Testament, March 20, 1852, Daviess County

In his will, Alfred Bicknell of Daviess County, Indiana, asked that his body be interred in a Christian-like manner and funeral expenses be paid out of his estate first. He requested his debts be paid from the estate. To his son Samuel Bicknell and his three granddaughters, Cynthia Ann Hulen, Mary E. Hulen, and Eunice Hulen, he gave each one dollar. The remainder of the estate he divided between his daughter Emily Maria Bicknell, who received one-third, and his son William A. Bicknell, who received two-thirds.

Alfred named his friend Benjamin F. Ruby, Knox County, Indiana, as his executor. Signed by Alfred Bicknell's mark in the presence of David [T.] Zaliff, B. F. Ruby, and Mumfred Becknall on March 20, 1[8]52.

Adison Lester, Last Will and Testament, September 8, 1855, Daviess County

In his will, Adison Lester of Steel Township, Daviess County, Indiana, requested that his estate be appraised by three unnamed neighbors. He requested his "stock trad [sic] & personal property be sold at public auction." He gave his son, Abraham Lester, his real estate, and his wife "receive[d] her legal share" of the money acquired from the sale. The rest of the money would go to support his parents, wife, and son. He appointed Ebenezer Lester, Knox County, Indiana, as guardian to his son. He named Thomas P. McCormick and Ebenezer Lester as executors. Signed and sealed on September 8, 1855. Witnessed by Robert Barr, John Lester, and Thos. R. Lester.

Francis Cassidy, Last Will and Testament, August 14, 1856, Daviess County

In his will, dated August 14, 1856, Francis Cassidy of Daviess County, Indiana, named his son, John Cassidy, as executor. To his wife Ann he granted "the sole use of the house and grounds, where I now live, including the lot of ground South of the rail road." At her death, he bequeathed this property to his daughters, Julia Cassidy and Henrietta Cassidy. To wife Ann, he also granted "the household and kitchen furniture and provisions." To his son John Cassidy, he gave the Coal Bank tract, where John currently lived. To his son Francis Cassidy, he gave "two lots numbered thirty (30) and thirty one (31) in the town of Washington [Daviess County, Indiana] with the buildings fronting the Court House." He required the sale of "sixty five (65) acres of land in the river bottom and two (200) hundred acres on the canal, near Sprink & Brett's mill" within five years of his death, from which he gave the following monetary gifts: to his daughter Anne Cassidy, wife of Samuel Anderson, \$500; to his daughter Jane Cassidy, widow of David Raleigh, \$200; to his daughter Mary Cassidy, wife of Christopher Bell, \$200; to his daughter Sarah Cassidy, wife of Henry Raymond, \$200; to his grandson James Cassidy, son of Patrick Cassidy, \$200. If the money from the sale was insufficient to cover all of the bequests, then all of the gift amounts would be pro rated, excluding grandson James' gift, which amount would be paid from the sale of the house and grounds after wife Ann's death. To sons John and Francis, he also gave whatever was leftover from the land sales if the amount exceeded the monetary gifts above, as well as "the money coming from Turner at my wife's death." Signed and sealed by Francis Cassidy in the presence of William S. Turner and John Mattingly.

Hiram L. Williman/Willemin, Last Will and Testament, August 24, 1857, Daviess County

In his will, Hiram L. Williman gave to his wife, Margary Ann Willemin, “all of [his] property, Real and personal, goods, chattels and affects,” and he requested that she pay his debts from this bequest. Signed and sealed on August 24, 1857, in Daviess County, Indiana. Witnessed by Levi L. Willemin and Andrew M. Coleman. On November 26, 1857, Levi L. Williman attested that Hiram L. Williman was of “sound mind and memory and under no coercion or restraint” when he signed his will. Subscribed and sworn to Jno./John Van Trees, clerk, and E. Van Trees, “depy.,” both of Daviess County, Indiana.

Jacob Hawkins, Last Will and Testament, December 18, 1863, Daviess County

In his will, Jacob Hawkins asked his executor to pay his debts and funeral expenses first. At the death of his wife, Ellen Hawkins, he gave to his daughter Harriet Howard and her heirs “twenty acres of land out of the South East corner of the South half of the North East fractional quarter of the North fractional section twenty five (25) township three (3) North of range eight (8) West.” To his daughter Elizabeth Burress and her heirs, he gave “the residue of the South half of the North East fractional quarter of the North fractional section twenty five (25) township three (3) North of range eight (8) West, containing forty acres more or less.” He acknowledged that the rest of his heirs had already received deeds as their portion of his estate. To his wife Ellen Hawkins, he gave the rest of his estate after his debts and funeral expenses had been subtracted. Lastly he appointed his son Charner Hawkins as his executor. Signed by Jacob Hawkins’ mark in the presence of R. N. Read and John S. Kershire on December 18, 1863.

Joseph J. Lacy, Clerk of Circuit Court, Daviess County, Indiana, certified that the above was “a true, complete, and correct copy” of Jacob Hawkins will.

Joseph W. Cruse, Last Will and Testament, March 18, 1864, Daviess County

In his will, Joseph W. Cruse of Washington, Daviess County, Indiana, wanted the funeral and burial to be performed by the Masonic fraternity, and for his funeral expenses to be paid before the rest of the bequests. He allowed his brother, John R. Cruse, the use of “the plat of ground in Washington [Daviess County, Indiana] formerly Liverpool in Western subdivision & known on the plat of said town as Market Space.” Upon John’s death, the property would be given to the “Charity Lodge No. 30 of Free and accepted Masons in Washington.” He also bequeathed to this same lodge several hundred acres in Daviess County, Indiana: 200 acres, “part of Old Donation lot number one hundred and fifty eight (158) in township No. three (3) north of Range No. Eight (8) West”; 50 acres, “part of old Donation No. one hundred and fifty nine (159) in the same township and range”; and several city lots, “forty feet off the West side of lot No. thirty five (35) in the part of Washington formerly called Liverpool”; “twenty feet

(20) off the East side of lot No. thirty four (34) in Washington formerly called Liverpool”; “lot No. fourteen (14) in Washington formerly called Liverpool”; and “twenty (20) feet off of the East side of lot No. fifteen (15) in that part of Washington formerly called Liverpool.” The lodge also received the remainder of Joseph Cruse’s personal estate, with the exception of an iron safe and a gold watch, which went to his brother, John R. Cruse “during his life.” Joseph requested that the gold watch, a gift from his deceased brother S. H. Cruse, go to a member of the Seth Roddick family upon John’s death. John also received Joseph’s “double barreled shot gun and revolver and fishing tackle.” To his father, Philip Cruse, he gave “two notes which I hold against Jones & Cruse one for two hundred and thirty five dollars, and the other for something over five hundred dollars” as well as the remaining household furniture. Cruse gave the land so that a Masonic lodge would be built in Washington, naming building specifications and appointing as building committee trustees his friends Dr. Samuel W. Peck, William Helphinstine, William Meridith, Joseph E. Thompson, and John S. Berkshire. He named Alfred Jones his executor, signing the will on March 18, 1864. Witnesses were John S. Berkshire and S. W. Peck.

Ellen Hawkins, Last Will and Testament,

February 21, 1865, and February 11, 1868, Daviess County

In her will, Ellen Hawkins, “a free woman of color” and the widow of Jacob Hawkins, asked that her daughters, Elizabeth Burress, Harriet Howard, and Eliza Ann Cottee, receive equal shares of the remaining estate after her personal debt and funeral expenses were paid. She then granted to Elizabeth Burress “twenty acres off the North end of the East half of the North West quarter of section twenty eight; in township three North of range seven West.” To her son Levi Hawkins, she gave “the dwelling house and farm on which I now reside, being part of the East Half of the South East quarter of section twenty nine in township three North, of range seven West, containing sixty seven acres, except one and one half acres in the North East part of said last named tract on which is situated a small frame church, and a burial place for persons of color.” To her two sons, Charner Hawkins and Amos Hawkins, she gave “the residue of said last named tract of land, except the twenty acres herein before willed and devised to Elizabeth Burress.” Ellen also asked that these bequests transpire without the need for letters of administration or bonds. Signed by Ellen Hawkins’ mark in the presence of J. M. Van Trees and Richard Bruner on February 21, 1865.

In an accompanying codicil, Ellen revoked her bequest of twenty acres to Elizabeth Burress because Burress had previously sold her stake in this land to Amos Hawkins. Signed in the presence of J. M. Van Trees and Watson Williams on February 11, 1868.

Joseph J. Lacy, Clerk of Circuit Court, Daviess County, Indiana, certified that the above was “a full, true and complete copy” of Ellen Hawkins will and codicil.

Abstract of Guardianship Case in Jackson County Involving Daviess County Real Estate, 1885

On Wednesday, May 21, 1862, Judge Ralph Applewhite heard case No. 92 in which Phebe Scott petitioned to have John Scott of Jackson County, Indiana, declared “a person of unsound mind and incapable of managing his own estate.” She requested that a guardian be appointed. The Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, Daniel H. Song, filed an answer to Phebe Scott’s petition, stating that he “[denied] each and every allegation” presented in the petition. Phebe Scott then filed her petition in writing. Being present in court, Song filed his [John Scott’s] denial of the facts stated in the petition. Daniel H. Brown, Charles D. Crabb, Thomas Robertson, Jacob Brown, Villonous Wray, William C. Hall, John P. Miller, Abraham C. Halstead, and Travis Carter were empanelled and sworn in as the jury. Carter was named jury foreman, and Joseph M. Atkiss was the sworn baliff. The jury declared John Scott “a person of unsound mind and incapable of managing his Estate.” The court then appointed Frank Emerson as John Scott’s guardian.

On October 23, 1862, Emerson filed a bond that qualified him to serve as John Scott’s guardian.

On February 29, 1864, Emerson, filed his report. Emerson stated that John Scott’s personal property in Illinois (worth \$500) was under the guardianship of George [Intircan], of Illinois. Scott also owned land in Daviess County, Indiana, which he had obtained from John Staley. This land was “an equal one half of the two hundred acres of land in lot number 159 which was granted to one Joseph Staley . . . by an act of Congress passed prior to the year 1783, lying on the West Fork of White River . . . Beginning at the East corner of said Lot No. 159; thence running South 45 degrees west 320 poles, thence North 45 degrees west 100 poles; thence North 45 degrees East 320 poles; thence South 45 degrees East 100 poles to the place of beginning.” Scott’s real estate also included “one eighth part of the remaining half of said donation Lot number 159, being one eighth part of the tract of land conveyed by said John Staley to Emily Scott [deceased] a sister of said John Scott.” Emerson further stated that the land was not being rented and that he had been informed that someone else [name left blank] had been in possession of the land, and believed they had title to the land, as it was conveyed by someone claiming to be the heir of John Scott, who at one time was supposedly dead. Emerson stated that he planned “to invest the proceeds of the sale of said real Estate by loaning the money at interest or if an opportunity offers to purchase other real estate,” and that John Scott was living with his guardian in Illinois at the time. Emerson then

requested the court to appoint appraisers to determine the value of the land and to authorize him to sell it. Subscribed and sworn to John B. Robertson, clerk, Jackson County, Indiana.

On October 17, 1864, Emerson came before the Jackson County Court of Common Pleas with an application to sell real estate. In it, he petitioned the court to appoint John Hyatt and William Helphenstine as appraisers for the previously mentioned land and have them make their report in the next term.

On October 19, 1865, Emerson, as John Scott's guardian, filed a petition to sell real estate in the Jackson County Court of Common Pleas. The appointed appraisers appraised "the probable value" of the real estate at \$1,350. Emerson also filed a \$2,700 bond. The court granted Emerson permission to sell at a private sale the previously mentioned land in Daviess County, Indiana, and required that prior to the sale he must publish his intentions to sell in a weekly newspaper in Daviess County for three successive weeks and post a notice in three public places during this same time. The court stipulated that "the purchaser . . . pay one half of the purchase money in hand on the day of sale and the remainder within twelve months of the day of sale with interest." The purchaser would then receive a certificate of sale and give Emerson a note bearing interest.

On May 30, 1866, Emerson returned to the Jackson County Court of Common Pleas to file his report. Because no bids were received in the private sale and the land remained unsold, the court allowed him "to sell said lands at public sale, at the door of the court House in Washington, Daviess County in the State of Indiana," with the provision that he post in writing the impending sale "in five public places . . . in said county for three successive weeks before the time of Sale" and require the purchaser to pay "one third of the purchase money . . . on the day of Sale; one third in twelve months from day of Sale and the remainder in Eighteen Months thereafter," paying interest and providing "notes with surety for the deferred payments." The court asked Emerson to report back in the next term.

On October 20, 1866, Emerson returned to the Jackson County Court of Common Pleas to report on the sale of John Scott's land. He stated that on July 28, 1866, in Washington, Daviess County, Indiana, Theodore Hyatt purchased John Scott's land for \$900, his bid being the highest one. Hyatt paid three hundred dollars in cash and the remainder to be paid with "two note[s] each for the sum of three hundred dollars with Elisha Hyatt as surety." Subscribed and sworn to John B. Robertson, clerk. When the guardian received the remaining six hundred dollars, he was instructed to convey a deed to the purchaser.

On February 21, 1877, Emerson returned to the Jackson County Court of Common Pleas to file his final report. Emerson stated that the final settlement of his ward's estate "wherein [Emerson] charge[d] himself as to the Estate . . . in the sum of \$366.88; Guardian claim[ed] credits as per vouchers, \$409.11; Excess of expenditures \$42.23." Emerson then asked to be released as John Scott's guardian, since Scott no longer had any property.

On December 24, 1885, J. Frank Burrell, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Jackson County certified that the above statements "contain[ed] a full true and complete transcript of all the proceeding orders decrees and Judgements of the Jackson County Court of Common Pleas in relation to the Inquest of Insanity of the said John Scott and appointment of a guardian of his person and estate; and also of the sale of the real estate of said John Scott by his guardian appointed by said court and also in relation to the final settlemen[t] of said guardian and his discharge from his said trust as such guardian by the Jackson Circuit Court in the state of Indiana." Signed by Burrell.

Abstracts of Affidavits, Daviess and Knox Counties, December 1885 and January 1886

Taylor Lyons Affidavit, December 18, 1885, Daviess County

Taylor Lyons swore that he knew Winnie Bradford, a widow over 21 years old, "who purchased one acre of land [in Daviess County, Indiana] from Elisha Hyatt and wife on December 30th 1873," and then "reconveyed the same to Elisha Hyatt" on August 28, 1875. Attested by M. F. Burke. Subscribed and sworn to J. W. Burton, notary public.

Lucinda Allen Affidavit, December 22, 1885, Daviess County

Lucinda Allen identified herself as the current wife of Moses Allen Sr. and the widow of John D. McCleskey. She was familiar with the McCleskey family history and swore to the identity of Joseph Hall McCleskey's heirs, naming his widow as Martha McCleskey and their seven children as: John D. McCleskey, who married the affiant; William D. McCleskey, who married Mary L. Ward in Daviess County, Indiana; David A. McCleskey; Margaret S. McCleskey, who never married; Hiram H. McCleskey, who never married; Ira M. McCleskey; and Joseph H. McCleskey. She noted that the following were deceased: John D. McCleskey ("over forty years ago") and his only child, Martha Jane McCleskey ("some 30 or 35 years ago"); Hiram H. McCleskey; Margaret S. McCleskey; William D. McCleskey. She confirmed that William McCleskey, who married Rachel, was Joseph Hall McCleskey's brother. She also stated that all of this McCleskey family once owned land on the west fork of the White

River in Steel Township, Daviess County, Indiana, which was purchased by Elisha Hyatt, and did not own land in the vicinity afterward. Attested by and subscribed and sworn to James [W.] Ogdon, notary public, Daviess County, Indiana.

Joseph Marlatt Affidavit, December 23, 1885, Daviess County

Joseph Marlatt, who was over 32 years old, swore that his father was Joseph Marlatt, who first married Mary Dobbins, daughter of William and Elizabeth Dobbins. Although the affiant's mother was Joseph Marlatt's second wife, the affiant claimed to be familiar with the Dobbins family history. He stated that William and Elizabeth Dobbins had three children: Sarah (d. before 1852), wife of Charles Burrese; Mary (d. before 1852), wife of Joseph Marlatt; and Stephen D. Dobbins. William Dobbins died in 1852, leaving as heirs his widow and son, along with the children of his two deceased daughters. The children of Sarah Burrese were: Elizabeth, wife of William Hilliard; Amanda, wife of Greenbury Judkins; and Narcissa Burrese. The children of Mary Marlatt were: William Marlatt, Caroline McCluskey, and Narcissa Marlatt. William Dobbins' widow, Elizabeth, died ca. June 1866. Son "Stephen D. Dobbins died . . . in 1867, leaving as widow, Angeline Dobbins and one child, Fanny Dobbins." Signed by affiant. Subscribed and sworn to John Downey, notary public.

Joseph H. McCleskey Affidavit, December 23, 1885, Knox County

Joseph H. McCleskey swore to the identity of the persons considered heirs to William McCleskey who purchased sixty-three acres ("South fractional section 33, town 5 North, range 7 west . . . along and bordering on the West fork of White river") in Steel Township, Daviess County, Indiana. On June 6, 1846, William McCleskey and his wife, Rachael, conveyed a portion of these sixty-three acres to the heirs of his brother, Joseph Hall McCleskey (d. November 1845). The affiant confirmed that his father, Joseph Hall McCleskey, died without a will. He then named the heirs of Joseph Hall McCleskey, explaining each one's relationship to the decedent and when they died. The heirs listed were Joseph Hall McCleskey's widow, Martha (d. April 25, 1859), and children: William D. McCleskey (d. 1876), who married Mary L. Ward ca. 1862/63 and left and no heirs; John D. McCleskey (d. Dec. 2, 1845), husband of Lucinda (married a second time to Moses Allen Sr.) and father of one child, Martha Jane McCleskey (d. 1852/53); David A. McCleskey (d. aft. 1885); Margaret S. McCleskey (d. Mar. 23, 1861), who neither married nor produced any children; Hiram H. McCleskey (d. Sept. 4, 1860), who neither married nor produced any children; Ira M. McCleskey (d. aft. 1885); and Joseph H. McCleskey, the affiant. McCleskey also mentioned land purchases made by his uncle, father, and brother Hiram H. McCleskey. He further confirmed the identity of the two siblings whose last name was misspelled in a Daviess County law suit in 1847. In reference to this suit, the affiant mentioned Samuel J. Kelso, commissioner, and the Trustees of

the Wabash and Erie Canal. Signed by affiant. Subscribed and sworn to John T. Willis, notary public, Knox County, Indiana.

Thomas P. McCormick Affidavit, December 23, 1885, Daviess County

Thomas P. McCormick swore that he was the son of John McCormick, who once owned land in Daviess County, Indiana (“the West Half of the South West quarter and the North East quarter of the South West quarter of Section No. Four (4) in Township No. Four (4) North of Range No. Seven (7) West”). John McCormick died “about the year 1841,” leaving his widow, Minerva McCormick, and five children: Louisa A. McCormick, wife of Samuel Allen; Thomas P. McCormick; Sarah J. McCormick, wife of William Ward; Martha F. McCormick (d. 1857), wife of George Ward; Margaret M. McCormick, who died “about six years of age”; and Nancy E. McCormick, wife of Barton Major. John McCormick’s widow, Minerva, died in 1859. Thomas P. McCormick later sold this land to Elisha Hyatt in 1865. Signed by affiant. Subscribed and sworn to James W. Ogdon, notary public, Daviess County, Indiana.

Hugh Barr Affidavit, December 24, 1885, Daviess County

Hugh Barr swore that he was the same person “who executed a deed to Elisha Hyatt on the 19th day of May 1883” in Daviess County, Indiana. Barr claimed to be unmarried and a widower on that day, and claimed that he remained single until December 5, 1884. Barr also stated that “he knew Oliver R. Dougherty who executed a Deed to [Barr] on the 28th day of April 1875” and that Dougherty was unmarried at that time. Signed by affiant. Subscribed and sworn to James W. Ogdon, notary public, Daviess County, Indiana.

Sarah Jane Bray Affidavit, December 24, 1885, Daviess County

Sarah Jane Bray swore “that she was formerly the widow of James C. Lucas” (d. ca. February 6, 1853), “who owned 50 acres of land in sections 18, town 3 North, range 7 West and section 13, town 3 North range 8 West.” She stated that when she married Lucas in 1848, he was in possession of the land although his father, Jesse Lucas, held legal title of it. Before his death Jesse gifted this land to James, and upon both Jesse’s and James’ deaths the remaining heirs acknowledged James’ legal claim to it. When Bray disposed of the land as guardian for her two children, Sarah Louisa Lucas and James Lucas, none of Jesse’s heirs made claim to it. As the widow and guardian of James Lucas’ children, Bray “sold the [children’s] undivided 2/3 of said land” as well as “her undivided one third to . . . Eli Hawkins.” Bray’s son, James Lucas, died around 1881, leaving his widow, [S]ina Lucas, who then married Thomas Briddle, and one child who died at 5 months of age. Bray’s daughter, Sarah Louisa Lucas, married James Garten. The affiant further stated that she re-executed the deed to Eli Hawkins in 1858 after her marriage to

John H. Bray (d. before 1885). Attested by M. F. Burke. Subscribed and sworn to John Downey, notary public.

Joseph Cabel and George Kauffman Affidavit, December 24 and 29, 1885, Daviess County

Joseph Cabel and George Kauffman both swore that on February 11, 1869, they deeded to Elisha Hyatt “the undivided one fourth of the South West quarter of the North West quarter of section 31, town 4 north, range 7 West, in Davies County, Indiana.” Both also stated “that on said day neither of them was a married man, the said Joseph Cabel being a widower at that time, and the said George Kauffman never having been married up to that time.” Signed by affiants. Subscribed and sworn to John Downey and James W. Ogdon, notaries public, Daviess County, Indiana.

Andrew J. Hart Affidavit, December 24, 1885, Daviess County

Andrew J. Hart swore that Ralph Hart (d. ca. 1854) was a former landowner in Steele Township, Daviess County, Indiana, who never married. The affiant remembered Hart’s heirs as Hart’s sister Margaret Clenny, wife of Alexander Clenny; Margaret Myers, wife of John Myers; Sarah Jane Bray, wife of John H. Bray; the children of Ralph Hart’s brother, James Hart (d. before 1854): Andrew J. Hart, James C. Hart, and George W. Hart; the children of Ralph Hart’s niece (James Hart’s daughter), Lucinda Hart (d. before 1854), wife of James Killion: Shelby Killion and Margaret Buckner, wife of James Buckner; the children of Ralph Hart’s sister, Ellen McCracken (d. before 1854): Robert McCracken; Lucy Denny, wife of Walter Denny; Elizabeth Street, wife of James Street; and Mary Dolton, wife of William Dolton; the children of Ralph Hart’s sister, Betsey King (d. before 1854): Alvis King, Lucy King, Anderson King, William King, Mangrurn King, and Sarah Hyatt, wife of Frederick Hyatt; and the deceased children and surviving grandchildren of Ralph Hart’s sister, Nancy Goodman (d. before 1854): Lucy Murray, whose heir was her son Samuel Murray; and Downey Goodman (d. before 1854), whose own heirs included: Nancy J. Goodman, wife of Joseph Reader; Julia Ann Goodman; and Alexander Goodman. The affiant also mentioned that “in a partition suit in the Daviess Circuit Court between the heirs of Ralph Hart and Grantees of some of said heirs, Lucy Moneyhon, David Moneyhon, and James R. Killion were parties of said suit, but as to what interest they had in the estate of Ralph Hart if any and as to what kin they were to said Ralph if any [the] affiant cannot...state.” The affiant stated that Downey Goodman’s widow, Mary, had married Henry Reader. Signed by affiant. Subscribed and sworn to James W. Ogdon, notary public, Daviess County, Indiana.

Samuel J. Kelso Jr. Affidavit, December 24, 1885, Daviess County

Samuel J. Kelso Jr. swore that he was the same person who granted to Elisha Hyatt and wife on July 19, 1852, the land recorded in the Daviess County, Indiana, deed book volume H, page 587. He also confirmed that his father was Samuel J. Kelso Sr. (d. March 29, 1853). Kelso Sr.'s heirs were his widow, "Elizabeth Kelso, who died March 29th, 1857, and . . . three children . . . Samuel J. Kelso Jr., Elizabeth Kelso, and Dorcas Van Trees, wife of Emanuel Van Trees." These same people "conveyed the land acquired by the deed aforesaid to Thomas E. Meads" as recorded in the Daviess County, Indiana, deed book volume K, page 29, on January 13, 1857. Signed by affiant. Subscribed and sworn to James W. Ogdon, notary public, Daviess County, Indiana.

Matilda Meredith Affidavit, December 24, 1885, Daviess County

Matilda Meredith swore that she knew James Williams (d. ca. March 8, 1843), owner of the land located at "the South West quarter of the North West quarter of Section No. Thirty-one (31) in Township No. Four (4) North of Range No. Seven (7) West" in Daviess County, Indiana. His second wife and widow, Elizabeth Williams (d. ca. 1883), married James Jarnell. James Williams' heirs by his first wife were his four children: James A. Williams (aka "Archibald Williams"); Edward F. Williams (aka "Fayette Williams" and "La Fayette Williams"); Mary Jane Williams, wife of William R. Baker; and Adah Williams, wife of George Ruminer. Adah Ruminer died around 1871, leaving as heirs her husband and child, Harriet M. Ruminer.

Meredith also stated that William Williams (d. ca. 1841) owned land in Daviess County, Indiana, located at "the South East quarter of the South West quarter of Section No. Thirty (30) in Township No. Four (4) North of Range No. Seven (7) West." His heirs included his widow, Emily Williams (d. ca. 1847), and his children: Martha Williams, wife of John W. McAdams; and George Williams (d. ca. 1850).

The affiant confirmed that James Williams and William Williams were brothers, and that both men were her uncles. Signed by affiant. Subscribed and sworn to James W. Ogdon, notary public, Daviess County, Indiana.

Josiah C. Palmer Affidavit, December 24, 1885, Daviess County

Josiah C. Palmer swore that his father-in-law was Hiram L. Williman Sr. (d. 1856), the owner of land located at "the North West quarter of the South West quarter of section three (3) Town 3 North, range seven (7) west." Williman left "all his estate to his wife Margery Ann Williman" (d. ca. 1858), "for the term of her natural life." His heirs included his children: Eli M. Williman (d. ca. 1858), who never

married; James C. Williman, who was “unmarried April 11th 1857”; Elizabeth A. [Williman], wife of affiant; Sarah J. [Williman], wife of George Keith; Maria Williman (d. ca. 1863), who never married; William H. Williman (d. ca. 1861), who never married; John C. Williman (d. ca. 1858), who never married; and Hiram L. Williman Jr. Signed by affiant. Subscribed and sworn to J. E. Williams, notary public.

Isaiah Henry Affidavit, December 25, 1885, Daviess County

Isaiah Henry swore that his father was John Henry (d. July 12, 1849), the “one time . . . owner of the North Half of East fractional Section No. Thirty-six (36) in Township No. Four (4) North of Range No. Eight (8) West in Daviess County[,] Indiana.” John Henry’s heirs included his widow, Sarah (died July 13, 1849), and five children: James Henry, “a single man on the 3rd day of March 1858”; the affiant; William [N.] Henry; Amelia Henry, wife of George Brown; and Mary Henry, wife of John Holtz. The affiant confirmed that he deeded his interest in the aforementioned land to Elisha Hyatt on February 25, 1857. Signed by affiant. Subscribed and sworn to James W. Ogdon, notary public, Daviess County, Indiana.

Mary (Ellen) Wright Affidavit, December 25, 1885, Daviess County

Mary (Ellen) Wright swore that her father was James Wilkins, who died on December 25, 1837, leaving his widow, Eliza Wilkins (d. February 1848), and his four children: the affiant, Nancy Ann Wilkins, William Wilkins, and James Wilkins. Subscribed and sworn to James W. Ogdon, notary public, Daviess County, Indiana.

John Harrington Affidavit, December 26, 1885, Knox County

John Harrington swore that “the Katharine Harrington to whom William Buckles [a widower] conveyed 34 acres . . . in Daviess County, Indiana, [on] August 9th 1839 . . . was his mother.” Katharine Harrington, a widow, died ca. 1847, leaving as heirs four children: John Harrington; George Harrington; William Harrington; and Peter Harrington; and the children of her daughter, Martha Buckles (d. before 1847): John Buckles, who “when last heard from” resided in Wisconsin; Van Buren Buckles (d. ca. 1877), whose widow, Mary Buckles, resided near Edwardsport, Knox County, Indiana, in 1885; Jackson Buckles (d. ca. 1874), whose wife died before him and whose son, John Buckles, resided in Becknell, Knox County, Indiana; and Martha Buckles, who married Levi Chambers and was reported residing in Texas in 1885.

John Harrington confirmed that although the surname is spelled “Herrington,” he, his wife, William Harrington, and George Harrington and wife conveyed the previously mentioned Daviess County land to John T. Freeland on March 2, 1848. Freeland and his wife then conveyed this same land to Merdock/Murdock McRae on June 30, 1857, who along with his wife then conveyed this land to Elisha Hyatt on April 13, 1860. Subscribed and sworn to James L. Keith, notary public, Knox County, Indiana.

John Hawkins Affidavit, December 26, 1885, Daviess County

John Hawkins swore that his father was William T. Hawkins (d. September 18, 1873), “the same person who entered Lot No. Four (4) on the West Half of the North West quarter of Section No. Eighteen (18) in Township No. Three (3) North, of Range Seven (7) West containing 56.48 acres” in Daviess County, Indiana. His heirs were his widow, Sarah Hawkins, and two children: Laura J. Hawkins and the affiant, to whom “William T. and Sarah [Hawkins] conveyed the above Real Estate . . . in the year 1861.” He stated “that said Sarah and Laura J. [were] now and have been single and unmarried ever since the death of . . . William T. [Hawkins].” The affiant stated “that he [was] forty-six years old and [had] always resided in Daviess County[,] Indiana. He acknowledged that he “knew but one Rachel Hawkins and she was the wife of Amos Hawkins who with Amos conveyed certain Real Estate to affiant in 1861” at which time he paid Rachel “her money for the Real Estate conveyed” and he received a deed. He stated that John Hawkins was his grandfather and that his “father was known by both names of ‘William Hawkins’ and ‘William T. Hawkins.’” Signed by affiant. Signed and sworn to James W. Ogdon, notary public, Daviess County, Indiana.

John Hoover Affidavit, December 26, 1885, Knox County

John Hoover swore that he knew Thomas Hulen, who died in 1846. Thomas Hulen’s heirs were his widow, Rebecca Hulen (d. ca. 1860); his children: “Eliza Hulen, wife of Tyre Hulen[;] Nelson Hulen[;] James Hulen[;] Ambrose Hulen[;] and Polly Hoover, wife of Nicholas Hoover”; and the children of his daughter, Mahaal Coonrod (d. before 1846): Commodore E. Coonrod; Gideon Coonrod; and Mary Ann Coonrod, wife of Hamilton McCain. Polly Hoover died in 1846, leaving her husband (d. 1857) and three children: the affiant John Hoover; Rebecca Hoover, wife of William Hulen; and James Hoover (d. 1877). James Hoover’s widow, Amanda Hoover, later married and divorced Henry Wampler and resided in Knox County, Indiana, in 1885.

Hoover confirmed that the “Tyre ‘Huland’ who, with Eliza, his wife, executed a deed on October 8th 1849 to Elisha Hyatt and William Helphenstine, and [the] Nelson Huland who executed a deed to said Hyatt and Helphenstine September 8th 1849 are the same Tyre, Eliza, and Nelson” named as Thomas

Hulen's heirs. He confirmed that "Nelson Hulen was unmarried September 8th 1849"; that he himself "John Hoover, was unmarried January 24, 1852"; that the "Rebecca Hulen who with James Hulen, executed a deed to Ira M. McCluskey January 10th 1852, was the wife of said James [Hulen;] that Ambrose Hulen was unmarried March 9th 1853[;] that Commodore P. Coonrod was unmarried December 29th 1854[;] and that Gideon Coonrod was unmarried January 11th 1859."

Hoover stated that he knew Edmond Hulen (d. 1848), whose widow was Nancy Hulen (d. 1849). Edmond Hulen's heirs included his children: Simpson Hulen; William Hulen; James Hulen; and John Hulen, who died leaving two children: Nancy Jane Hulen and Delila Hulen. He explained that in "a certain partition proceeding in the Daviess Probate Court in 1847 . . . the family name is given as 'Huland.'"

Hoover confirmed that he knew Milton Hinkle (d. 1858), whose heirs included "his widow Nancy Hinkle, who afterwards married Daniel Rector, and three children": John S. Hinkle, Malinda Hinkle, and Robert L. Hinkle, all under the age of twenty-one. Subscribed and sworn to James L. Keith, notary public, Knox County, Indiana.

Eliza Hulen Affidavit, December 26, 1885, Knox County

Eliza Hulen swore that her father was the Thomas Hulen (d. ca. 1845), who conveyed on July 22, 1834, fifty acres in Daviess County, Indiana, to Nathan Ashby, an unmarried man. She confirmed that at his death her father left as heirs his widow, Rebecca Hulen (d. ca. 1854/55), and his surviving children: "this affiant . . . the wife of Tyre Hulen[;] Nelson Hulen[;] James Hulen[;] Ambrose Hulen[;] and Polly Hoover, the wife of Nicholas Hoover"; and the children of his daughter, Mahala Coonrod (d. before 1845): Commodore Coonrod; Gideon Coonrod; and Mary Ann Coonrod, who later married Hamilton McCain. The affiant stated that Polly Hoover died before May 6, 1853, leaving her husband (d. before 1885) and their three children: John Hoover; Rebecca Hoover, who married William Hulen after 1853; and James Hoover (d. ca. 1876/77), whose widow later married a man with the surname "Wampler" and resided in Edwardsport, Indiana, in 1885. The affiant confirmed that the family spelled their last name as "Hulen" and sometimes "Huland."

Eliza confirmed that she knew Edmond Hulen, a Daviess County landowner, who died leaving his widow, Nancy Hulen ("who has since died"), and children: Simpson Hulen, William Hulen, James Hulen, and John Hulen, and that this family sometimes spelled their surname as "Hulen" and "Huland." She stated that John Hulen died leaving two children: Nancy Jane Hulen and Delila Hulen. Subscribed and sworn by James L. Keith, notary public, Knox County, Indiana. Attested by M. F. Burke.

Alfred Simonson Affidavit, December 26, 1885, Knox County

Alfred Simonson swore that he knew John Cawood, whose widow, Lucinda Cawood, “conveyed to Elisha Hyatt all her right of dower in the lands of [her husband]” in Daviess County, Indiana. The affiant also stated that he knew Alfred Bicknell and Bicknell’s two children: Emily M. Bicknell, wife of Green Lucas (d. before June 25, 1866); and William A. Bicknell, who died during the Civil War, leaving a widow, Lucinda Bicknell, and a daughter, Emma Jane Bicknell. Emily M. Bicknell Lucas and Lucinda Bicknell executed conveyances to Isaiah Simonson on June 25, 1866, and on July 30, 1866, respectively. Alfred’s brother [the affiant does not describe which lands were conveyed by the Bicknell heirs]. Isaiah Simonson died August 1876, leaving as heirs his children: Annie C. Daut, wife of Henry M. Daut; Martha Killion, wife of William Killion; Rosetta Passwater, wife of William Passwater; Sarah Gerten, wife of Thomas Gerten; Benjamin F. Simonson; and the children of his [Isaiah Simonson’s] deceased daughter, Mary Summers: James Summers, Benjamin Summers, Nancy Summers, and Thomas Summers.

The affiant stated that he knew the deceased Thomas McCormick, who did not have any surviving children. After his death McCormick’s widow, Jane, married Abe Miller (d. before February 1869). This Jane Miller sold to Elisha Hyatt “certain lands in Daviess County, Indiana,” on February 27, 1869. Signed by affiant. Subscribed and sworn to James L. Keith, notary public, Knox County, Indiana.

Lewis Harrison Lester Affidavit, December 28, 1885, Daviess County

Lewis Harrison Lester, the son of William Lester, a landowner in Steel Township, Daviess County, Indiana, swore that his father died in January 1856, leaving a widow, Julia Ann B. Lester, and three children: Rhoda Jane [Lester], wife of Jarch/Jaret Keith; Louisa Ann [Lester], wife of Nathan R. Allen; and the affiant, who was unmarried at this time. Lester stated that on March 22, 1860, his father “owned the whole of the South West quarter of Section No. Thirty-four (34) in Township No. Five (5) North of Range No. Seven (7) West” in Daviess County, Indiana. The affiant also stated that his grandfather, Abraham Lester Sr., in his lifetime owned “the South East quarter of the South East quarter of Section No. Four (4) in Township Four (4) North of Range Seven (7) West” in Daviess County, Indiana, and that this grandfather had intended to give this land to his son, Abraham Addison Lester, who died before Abraham Lester Sr.’s death (between 1856 and December 1861). Affiant listed Abraham Lester Sr.’s seven children as: John Lester; Joseph Lester, unmarried as of February 6, 1862; Robert Lester; William Lester; Minerva McCormick; Ebenezer Lester; and Abraham Addison Lester. Of Abraham Sr.’s seven children, Robert, William, Ebenezer, and Abraham Addison died before their father’s death. Robert Lester’s heirs were (by his first wife): Rachel F., wife of Alfred Johnson; Adam Lester; Nancy, wife of William H. Lucas; (by his second wife): James C. Lester, who was unmarried before January 9, 1872; and

(by his third wife): Robert H. Lester, who was unmarried before August 21, 1875. Ebenezer Lester's daughters were: Sarah Jane, wife of Job McMurry; and Nancy, wife of Calvin Hicks Frost. Abraham Addison Lester's only son, Abraham Lester Jr., died before 1860. The widow of Abraham Addison Lester, Eliza, survived and was still single on February 26, 1862. Abraham Lester Sr.'s daughter, Minerva McCormick, died after her father, and her heirs were: Thomas P. McCormick; Elizabeth [McCormick], wife of Barton Major; Louisa Ann [McCormick], wife of Samuel M. Allen; Sarah J. [McCormick], wife of William J. Ward; and Martha F. [McCormick], wife of George Ward. Signed by affiant. Subscribed and sworn to James W. Ogdon, notary public, Daviess County, Indiana.

James Aikman Affidavit, December 29, 1885, Daviess County

James Aikman swore he knew John Eagle, who owned "the North East quarter of the South West quarter and the North West quarter of the South East quarter of section 19, town 4 North, range 7 West." Affiant further stated that Eagle had never married. Signed by affiant. Subscribed and sworn to James W. Ogdon, notary public, Daviess County, Indiana.

William Hiam Affidavit, December 29, 1885, Daviess County

William Hiam swore that he knew William Johnson (d. before 1869), the owner of 160 acres ("the North West quarter of Section 34, town 4 North, range 7 West") in Steele Township, Daviess County, Indiana. Johnson's daughter Elizabeth and her husband, Benjamin Moore, "conveyed 40 acres of said land to one Samuel Osman and the remaining 120 acres thereof to [the] affiant." Signed by affiant. Subscribed and sworn to James W. Ogdon, notary public, Daviess County, Indiana.

Alexander Killion Affidavit, December 29, 1885, Daviess County

Alexander Killion swore he knew Thomas English, John English, and Alexander English. These three men conveyed to Nathan R. Allen 79.84 acres ("the North West quarter of South fractional section 34, town 5 North, range 7 West") in Daviess County, Indiana, on June 9, 1857. Killion stated that the three men were single and unmarried at the time of conveyance. Subscribed and sworn to James [W.] Ogdon, notary public, Daviess County, Indiana.

Clement Lee Affidavit, December 29, 1885, Daviess County

Clement Lee swore he knew William H. Wells, the owner of 115 acres ("the South West fractional quarter of Section No. Five (5) in Township No. Four (4) North of Range No. Seven (7) West") in Daviess County, Indiana, when he died in April 1853. William H. Wells and Louisa Wells, his widow and second wife, produced no children, but with his first wife, Wells had six children: Laura Wells; Warren F.

“Franklin” Wells; Lucinda Wells, wife of George F. Kel[ly]; George D. Wells, who served in the army and died during the Civil War; Charles T. “Theodore” Wells; and Sarah Wells. On July 14, 1866, Warren F. Wells and Laura Wells were both unmarried and more than twenty-one years old. The affiant believed Wells’ widow to still be alive at this time. Lee also mentioned George A. Buzan, a single man, who executed a deed to Lee on April 17, 1863. Signed by affiant. Subscribed and sworn to James W. Ogdon, notary public, Daviess County, Indiana.

James W. Ogdon Affidavit, December 29, 1885, Daviess County

James W. Ogdon swore that he knew Lewis Clifton, “who executed a deed on October 2nd 1879, to Melissa Walkins for one fourth of the North East quarter of the North West quarter of section 18, town 3 North, range 7 West.” He stated that Clifton “on said day was a single man.” Signed by affiant. Subscribed and sworn to John Downey, notary public.

Paulina White Affidavit, January 4, 1886, Daviess County

Paulina White swore that “she knew one Henry Clifton who formerly owned forty acres of land about five miles North West of Washington in Daviess County, Indiana.” Clifton died ca. 1866, leaving his widow, Emily Clifton (d. ca. 1878/79), and children: James (d. between 1866 and 1878/79), who never married; Charles Henry (d. between 1866 and 1878/79), who never married; Anna Martha (d. between 1866 and 1878/79), who never married; Emma; Lewis; and Melissa , wife of James Walkins. The affiant mentioned that Emily Clifton left as heir at her death “an illegitimate daughter Winnie who married . . . Thomas Hodge.” The affiant was Henry Clifton’s niece. Attested by and subscribed and sworn to James W. Ogdon, notary public, Daviess County, Indiana.

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