# MOSES BRINTNAL ROBBINS

1797-1840

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# Moses Brintnal Robbins—1797-1840

Moses Brintnal Robbins, third son and fourth child of Moses and Abigail Cook Robins, was born January 26, 1797, in Voluntown, New London, Connecticut.[1] Moses has sometimes been confused with his uncle, Brintnal, who left Voluntown after the Revolutionary War to settle and die in western Pennsylvania. Moses also has been confused with his father and grandfather, both of whom were named *Moses* as well. Moses B. was often used to distinguish this Moses from these other men.

Moses B. grew up in the developing state of Connecticut. The American Revolutionary War had drawn to a close more than a decade before his birth. On January 9, 1788, Connecticut became the 5th state to make up the new United States. While milling became a more dominant industry in Connecticut, and while, in 1794, Eli Whitney of New Haven patented his cotton gin, life in Connecticut and life for Moses B. remained agrarian. Schools were established in the growing state of Connecticut; however, how much schooling Moses B. experienced in Connecticut cannot be determined beyond his ability to sign his name. No books were listed in an inventory of his estate upon his death. Nevertheless, in Pennsylvania and in Missouri, he proved to be an astute buyer and seller of land.

Sometime between 1804 and 1810, Moses B.'s parents moved their family to Butler County in western Pennsylvania. Moses B. would have been between 7 and 13 years old. Pennsylvania had entered the union in December 1787; Butler County was formed in 1800. The Robins' family would have moved into an area less developed than New London, Connecticut. A primary motivation for the parents would have been 'opportunity'—to purchase and own land. Moses B.'s older brother, Thaddeus, purchased 400 acres of land in Middlesex township, Butler County, in 1806.[2] Moses B.'s father purchased 400 acres of land in Middlesex township in 1810. This Robins' family perhaps lived and worked on Thaddeus' newly purchased land until the time came for the father to purchase his own, after which the family worked to develop and live on his newly purchased land as well. Thaddeus improved his purchase by building a cabin, clearing, fencing, and cultivating at least 80 acres. Moses B. certainly could have helped with this work. After Moses' father improved his purchase by building a livable house about 18 feet square, and clearing, fencing, and cultivating at least 30 acres. Moses B. could very well have, and most likely did, help to erect a cabin and work to cultivate this land during his early adolescence and

teen years. By the time that patriarch Moses moved the family to Missouri in 1816, he had purchased 1000 acres. Moses B. no doubt worked alongside his siblings and parents so that the family's circumstances were greatly improved.

Moses Robins relocated his family to St. Charles County in the Missouri Territory. As revealed in the sale of their assets in the spring of 1816 in preparation for the move, the Robins' family was wealthy. Stills, and apparatus for the distilleries, mills, livestock (cows, hogs, sheep, poultry) and horses were inventoried. All was sold except for the horses for $5000.[3] Moses B. was 19 years old when he moved to the Missouri Territory. He would have been considered 'a man'. No doubt he had worked for the family enterprise ever since he had been old enough to work alongside his older brother, Welcome A. to improve Thaddeus' investment and their father's. He may have sat in on an informal schooling session with an itinerant teacher or some adult resident of the county capable of teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic who would convene a class and teach it. While the first school in the Middlesex township had been established in 1796 on the farm of Thomas Denny, Moses B. probably lacked formal schooling.[4] Moving to the Missouri Territory would have interrupted any schooling he received but the resettlement must have been an adventure for him. His family most likely went down the Ohio River to its confluence with the Mississippi, at which point the family would have gone up the Mississippi to its confluence at St. Louis with the Missouri River, then up the Missouri to St. Charles. This route is 'most likely'. No details of the family's move have been discovered. However, in 1816 few roads existed between Pennsylvania through Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois to the Missouri Territory. Therefore, the river route was the most likely.

Frontier St. Charles County of 1816 could have discouraged the Robins' family once they arrived. Land problems were particularly vexing to new settlers. The difficulties derived from the Spanish governor when, in 1798-1799, he granted tracts of thousands of acres to family and friends without legal formalities. Claims were sold and resold but without clear titles. Eventually, in 1870, Congress settled the matter.

Moses Robins appeared to escape these land difficulties. On May 16, 1816, the earliest date locating Moses in the Missouri Territory, Moses and his two eldest sons, Thaddeus and Welcome, purchased from Henry Hight and Ebenezer Ayres 400 arpens of land for $800.00 on the waters of the Missouri River in St. Charles County.[5]

In another deed dated June 2, 1816, Moses and his son, Welcome A., jointly purchased from John and Samantha Ritchy a lot in St. Charles town described as "a

lot bonded northwardly by the commons of said town, east by the Missouri River, South by a cross street separating it from a lot claimed by Francois Resseau, and westwardly by the Main Street, measuring two hundred and forty feet, French measure, from Main Street and three hundred feet in depth. John and Samantha had purchased the lot from Francois Pressecur.[6]

In August 1816, Moses purchased from Rufus and Abel Easton 640 acres of land of New Madrid land situated in the Bayou of Big Lake New Madrid County for $1120.00.[7]

Lastly, In October 1816, Moses and his son, Thaddeus, purchased 200 arpens from Matthew Kerr. This land, situated in Portage des Sioux, St, Charles County, was bounded on the north by Congress lands, on the west by lands of William Thompson, on the south by lands of Michael Keeny, on the east by lands of Forgus Morehead. By the end of 1816, after about six months in the county, Moses owned extensive farmland and a town lot.[8] Finally, in August 1817, Moses purchased for $250 about 100 acres of land from Elijah and Merinda Mallerson bounded north of the tract where Ebenazer Ayres lived, south by a tract owned by Thomas Gilmore, and east by land of James Griffin.[9]

What Moses B's activities were at this time, when his father and two older brothers were accumulating extensive land holdings in the county, cannot be determined. He could have been improving the land skills he developed in Butler County, Pennsylvania by erecting buildings, planting and harvesting crops and caring for livestock. The bill of sale of the estate of his father, Moses Robbins, deceased, dated December 1,1818, revealed he had accumulated extensive holdings of farm animals, grains, farm implements, household items, all acquired or established since the family arrived in 1816. Moses died about September 23, 1818,[10] at the age of 51, slightly more than two years after he removed his family to the Missouri Territory from Butler, Pennsylvania. While his death may have been premature, he had anticipated it. Moses Robins' will was filed in probate court on October 15, 1818.[11]

**Death and Disease in St. Charles County**

Moses' death two and one-half years after the family had arrived in 1816 in the Missouri Territory must have been devastating; he was only 51 years old. His longevity might have been normal in that year and in that place. His family history for males, however, differed. His father, Moses, died in 1814 at age 95. His father's brothers died older as well—Samuel in 1839 at age 90; Brintnal in 1836 at age 80; Loren in 1849 at age 89; and Gilmore in 1850 at age 87. Within this context, Moses' death was premature. Did the characteristics of St. Charles County in the Missouri Territory contribute to this earlier death?

While the county was attractive to settlers--it possessed good soil, good well water, and luxuriant vegetation that extended into the shallow areas of the numerous lakes and ponds--this 'land between the rivers' had deep dangers for public health, as described by Leo Twyman M.D., a native of Kentucky who moved to Missouri from Illinois and who began practicing medicine in St. Charles in 1829.Twyman wrote that many of the streams in the county emptied into the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers were "from the level nature of the land, they spread over an immense space, and remain until evaporated or absorbed by the ground. This bottom abounds in sloughs, or strips of land lower than the common level, in which the water collects after heavy rains, and remains during the greater portion of the year. These extend in every direction over the bottom."[12] The town of St. Charles was situated near where small ponds or marshy spots, in wet weather, would connect with each other for a distance of two miles and was also near river bottoms that were covered with mud and exposed decomposing vegetable and animal matter. These bottoms across from the town flooded in 1824, 1826 and in 1837. Portage des Sioux was no drier. Twyman wrote that "the streets of the town are generally so muddy as to render it difficult to pass from house to house in wet weather."[13]

Twyman concluded that St. Charles County contained abundant material to produce 'fever.' He went on to observe "…persons living on or near these bottoms and those, also, who live upon the upland immediately at the head of such ravines as communicate within a short distance with the large bottom, were frequently the subjects of malarious (sic) disease, while those residing on the hills, at a distance from the ravines, were healthy. Indeed, scarcely a case of autumnal fever has been known in families residing on the great dividing ridge, at a point where no ravine came near the house."[14] Portage des Sioux, Twyman observed, was more healthy than the other bottoms in the area, but those living on the bluff, or the opposite side of the Mississippi, were free of fever.[15] (By examining the Robbins' family sales and purchases of land in St. Charles County, we can conclude that the family lived and worked in the affected bottoms.)

Immediately after he arrived in 1829, Twyman treated several cases of 'inflammatory disease, modifications of pneumonia. The greater number of cases occurred in the bottom below St. Charles, which was then the most thickly settled part of the county, and in the village of Portage des Sioux. In July he treated cholera and, by July, dysentery.

Today we know that cholera is spread by contaminated water and food. Dysentery is also spread by food and water contaminated by overburdened or nonexistence sanitary conditions, a situation which developed in St. Charles as the population grew but the facilities did not. In 1838, heavy summer rains left the lowlands of St. Charles County covered with water that slowly dried, leaving behind mud and decaying animal and plant matter. The year was unusually a sick one; 'congestive fever' was endemic.[16]

We have no death records for Moses (d September 23, 1818), or for Abigail Cook (d November 7, 1829), or for Thaddeus C. (d October 10, 1823) or for Samuel H. (d June 12, 1826). Their deaths, seemingly untimely, may have been evidence of the prevalence of disease that Dr. Twyman observed or from some other cause. Records of disease from other causes identify additional health dangers. According to Borromeo burial records, throughout the 1800s one to six persons a year died of

consumption in St. Charles County. Cholera was epidemic in May 1849.[17] Later records indicated that diphtheria was prevalent as well.[18]

Before he died on September 23, 1818, Moses deeded over to Moses B. one hundred arpens of land earlier conveyed to Moses by Rufus Easton, containing in all 640 acres.[19]

September 4, 1818

On September 4, 1818, Moses Robbins, of the County of St. Charles and Territory of Missouri, gave to Moses B. Robbins, Jr. one hundred arpens of land--the third lot from the north part of a Madrid claim conveyed to Moses Robbins by Rufus Easton containing six hundred forty acres and bounded by lands of Henry Hight, the said lots of 100 arpens being bounded as follows to wit: Beginning at a stake there running along the said land of Welcome A. Robbins North 381/2 N 320 Rods thence S 511/2 W 421/2 rods to the beginning. Moreover, I do relinquish all my right and title to the above premises to him, the said Moses B. Robbins.

Moses Robbins, Seal

In December 1818, at the Moses Robins' estate sale, Moses B. bought 1 rifle, 1 musket, 1 red steer, 1 red heifer, 1 skiff, 1 yoke of oxen, and 15 bushels of corn.[20] Consequently, by the end of 1818, Moses B., age 21, owned land and farming supplies; he was set to establish an independent life in St. Charles, Missouri Territory. The 1819 Missouri Enumeration listed Moses B. as a single male, age between 18-45, living in Portage des Sioux township. He was one of 981 whites, 124 slaves, and five free Blacks residing in the county.[21] From 1818, at the time of his father's death, until his marriage to Mary Best about 1825, Moses B. appeared to be an independent, single man living in a developing territory. These two strands—Moses' life and Missouri's development-- seemed to exist but move independently of each other rather.

When Meriwether Lewis arrived in St. Charles in 1804, he wrote in his journal that the settlement had about 450 people, one church, and about 100 houses 'generally small but illy (sic) constructed.'[22] Meriwether Lewis also wrote: A great majority of the inhabitants are miserably poor illiterate and when at home excessively lazy, tho' they are polite hospitable and by no means deficient on point of natural genious.(sic).[23] Many who settled early in St, Charles were from southern slave states who brought their slaves with them. Wanting to move on from Kentucky and Tennessee where too often land claims were disputed, many of these southerners would not move to the Northwest Territory because the United States government had outlawed slavery in that region. Next best was west. In 1805 the population of St. Charles was 765 with 55 slaves.[24] Even as late as 1816, when the Robins' family

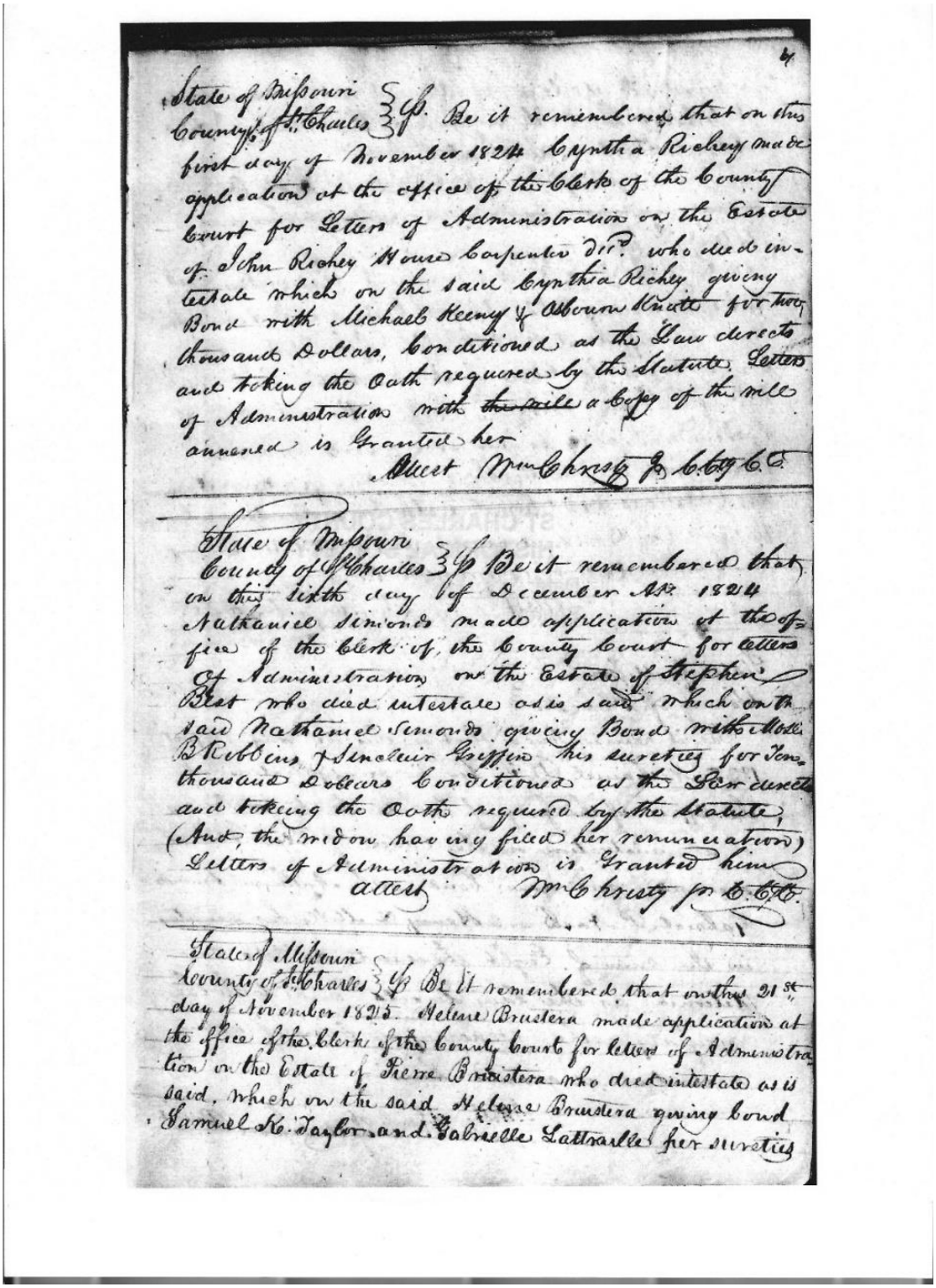
arrive, one Timothy Flint, Presbyterian minister, who also arrived in 1816, said that St. Charles was filled with hoodlums from Kentucky.[25]

By 1819, St. Charles had several brick buildings standing with more under construction. Expansion of the tax base was evidence by the increases in revenue—in 1816, $34.45; in 1817, $210,82; in 1818, $254.09.[26] Ferry traffic was also a leading indicator of growth. In 1816, three ferries operated on the Missouri River, one from St. Charles and the other two from the opposite bank.[27] Inns and taverns became more numerous; at least three operated by 1817 with the number growing during the decade.[28]

Early in 1820, with the population of the Missouri Territory above 60,000, an act "authorizing the inhabitants of that Territory to take the proper steps to form a Constitution and State Government" was passed and approved by President James Monroe. Missouri was admitted to the union on August 10, 1821, as the 24th state. Statehood came with the Missouri Compromise which allowed Missouri to enter as a slave state and Maine as a free state, retaining the equal balance of slave to free states in Congress. By 1821, St. Charles had exchanged its dominant French-Canadian character for American attitudes and customs. Local inhabitants would worship God, drink liquor, or buy and sell slaves just as easily as they could have in Virginia or Kentucky.[29] By 1825, St. Charles College was founded by Catherine Collier and her son, George. In 1826, the Missouri state capitol moved from St. Charles to Jefferson City. In 1827, Lindenwood College was established by George S. Sibley. In 1830, St. Charles City was incorporated. In 1832, cholera struck. In 1837, Elijah P. Lovejoy visited St. Charles to preach against slavery. A mob forced him to leave the next morning.[30]

No voter registrations, petitions, court documents or any other extant records have surfaced to indicate that Moses B. played any role in the development of St. Charles County or the Missouri Territory writ large. He bought and sold land, farmed, and helped his family. The one extant record of any social or community activity came from the Presbyterian Church of St. Charles. Moses B. was examined and baptized and joined that congregation on May 6, 1832. Mary also was examined and baptized and joined the congregation on May 6, 1832. A comment noted that Mary never attended church because she was ten or eleven miles distant. A note for Moses B. declared that he had 'gone back to the world, since died'.[31] Mary's comment may have indicated just how isolated this Robbins' family might have been from the town of St. Charles, an isolation which prevented Moses B. from a fuller participation in the civic life of St. Charles or political life of the Missouri Territory.

When and where Moses B. married Mary Best, daughter of Stephen and Mary Kienny/Keeny Best of Kentucky, is difficult to determine; no church or municipal records have surfaced. Their son, Franklin Jefferson, was born in St. Charles, on February 28, 1827. To the best of our knowledge, Franklin was their first child. His birth could place their wedding date early in 1826. About seven months before Franklin's birth, Moses B. and Mary Robbins deeded over to Frederick M. Robbins on July 28, 1826, a one-acre piece of their land to be used for a cemetery; that cemetery is the Black Walnut Cemetery near Portage de Sioux.[32] Mary would have been pregnant at the time of that transaction, so, by inference, the couple may have married early in 1826. What exactly was the couple's motivation to deed over this one-acre plot at this point is unknown. Samuel H. Robbins, Moses B.'s brother, had died unexpectedly about six weeks prior to the transfer. While Samuel's burial location remains unknown, Samuel's death could have prompted the couple to establish a family cemetery, particularly since the family patriarch, Moses, died in 1818, and Thaddeus C, the elder son, died in 1823. The location of their graves is unknown. On November 26, 1824, about eighteen months before this deed transfer, Mary's father, Stephen Best, died, in St. Charles County. His gravesite has not been identified. Because Stephen died intestate, Nathaniel Simonds, along with Moses B. Robbins and Sinclair Griffin, put up a $2000 bond for surety of the estate.[33] On November 27, 1826, Moses B. Robbins hired four black slaves belonging to Stephen Best's estate for four months. Stephen's widow and executor of his estate, Mary Kienny/Kenny Best, signed the deal.[34] Consequently, we know that Moses B. was associated with this Best family by 1824 and continued into 1826. Moses B. and Mary Best could have been married at the time of Stephen Best's death or shortly afterwards. Mary would have been about nineteen years old in 1825. Her marriage would have relieved her recently widowed mother of her care.



State of Missouri
County of St. Charles } ss. Be it remembered that on this first day of November 1824 Cynthia Richey made application at the office of the Clerk of the County Court for Letters of Administration on the Estate of John Richey House Carpenter dec'd. who died intestate which on the said Cynthia Richey giving Bond with Michael Keeny & Osborn Knotts for two thousand Dollars, conditioned as the Law directs and taking the Oath required by the Statute. Letters of Administration with the will annexed is Granted her.

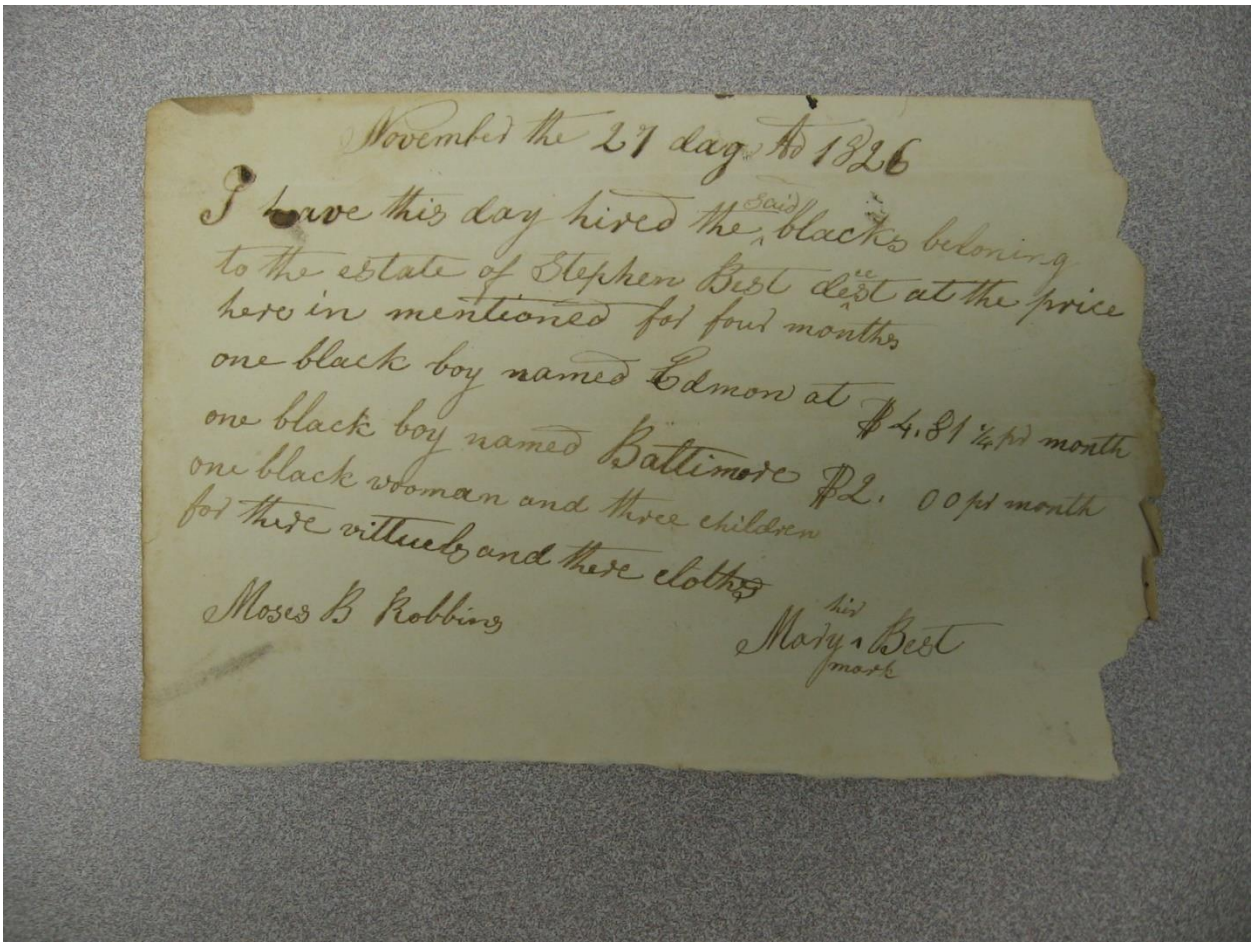
Attest Wm Christy for T. Hempstead C.C.

State of Missouri
County of St. Charles } ss. Be it remembered that on this sixth day of December A.D. 1824 Nathaniel Simonds made application at the office of the Clerk of the County Court for Letters of Administration on the Estate of Stephen Best who died intestate as is said which on the said Nathaniel Simonds giving Bond with Moses B. Robbins & Sinclair Griffin his securities for Two thousand Dollars conditioned as the Law directs and taking the Oath required by the Statute, (And the widow having filed her renunciation) Letters of Administration is Granted him.

attest Wm Christy for T. Hempstead C.C.

State of Missouri
County of St. Charles } ss. Be it remembered that on this 21st day of November 1825. Helene Brustera made application at the office of the Clerk of the County Court for letters of Administration on the Estate of Pierre Brustera who died intestate as is said. which on the said Helene Brustera giving bond Samuel K. Taylor and Gabrielle Lattraille her securities

**Moses B. Robbins *et al* Gave Bond for Stephen Best's Estate**
**December 6, 1824**


November the 27 day Ad 1826

I have this day hired the said blacks belonging to the estate of Stephen Best dec'd at the price here in mentioned for four months

one black boy named Edmon at $4.81¼ pr month

one black boy named Baltimore $2.00 pr month

one black woman and three children

for there victuels and there cloths

Moses B Robbins

his
Mary ✕ Best
mark

**Moses B. Hired Blacks Belonging to the Estate of Stephen Best**
**November 27, 1826**

**A Black Walnut Cemetery Question**

Is the one acre that Moses B. and Mary Robbins deeded to Frederick M Robbins for a cemetery the Black Walnut Cemetery? If the transaction was July 28, 1826, how is it that George Stovin Spencer, who died on Feb 1, 1826, was considered the earliest burial since it occurred five months before the deed transaction? Was the acre being used as a public burial ground on the Robbins' place before Moses B. and Mary deeded over the land? Is that activity the motivation to deed over the acre? Samuel H. Robbins died Jan 12, 1826, about three weeks before George Spencer. Where is Samuel buried? Why wouldn't he be buried in Black Walnut since George was?

In 1830 Moses B. and his family continued to live in St. Charles. The U.S. census listed him as M.B. Robbins and living with him were two males under the age of five (Franklin Jefferson and one other unidentified male), one male 30-40 (Moses B.) and one female 20-30 (Mary). As published below, Moses continued throughout the decade to buy and sell land. He and Mary continued to increase the size of their family as well. Mary Z. was born about 1831; Abigail about 1834; Louisa Ann on

September 15, 1834; Welcome F. about 1837; and Celia E.E. on February 6, 1840, just three weeks before Moses B. died on February 27.

### Patents—Moses B. Robbins

| Number | Date | Location | Acreage |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5074 | April 1, 1837 | St. Charles, MO | 28 45/100 |
| 6466 | September 20, 1838 | St. Charles, MO | 80 |
| 13498 with Frederick, Welcome, Thomas | April 1, 1839 | St. Charles, MO | 50 64/10--island in Mississippi |
| 13614 with Frederick, Welcome, Thomas | April 1, 1839 | St. Charles, MO | 90 59/100--island in Mississippi |
| 6961 | October 1, 1840 | St. Charles, MO | 160 |
| 6916 with Frederick | October 1, 1840 | St. Charles, MO | 115 |
| 13275 with Frederick, Welcome, Thomas | February 10, 1870 | St. Charles, MO | 125--island in Mississippi |

## Land Transactions—Moses B. Robbins 1818—1840

March 12, 1819

On March 12, 1819, Moses B. and Welcome A. purchased from Timothy and Abigail Hurt/Flint (?) for $750 a lot with a house, and other appurtenances on it, in the town of St. Charles described as follows—beginning on the main street in St. Charles on the road separating it from the lot of Antoine Janis and turning north on the main street seventy feet until it strikes land of Elias Flint, etc.

May 6, 1820

Thaddeus, Welcome, and Moses B. bought from Joseph and Betsy Evans for $320 a town lot on Main Street in the town of St. Charles with a fence and other appurtenances and extending to the southwest corner on Main Street and running East to a stream of water, etc.

June 14, 1824

Moses B. bought a piece of land from Michael and Temperance Keeny consisting of 87 and 3/10 acres, a fractional part of Section 33, Town 48 North, Range 6 East of the 5th Meridian.

July 28, 1826
Moses B. and Mary deeded to Frederick M. 1 acre for a cemetery and church in Black Walnut.

December 8, 1838
With his brothers, Welcome A., Frederick M., Thomas J., Moses B. secured land from Elijah Mallerson in the amount of $10,000 to guarantee Elijah's court appearance on a murder charge.

January 5, 1839
Moses B. and Mary sell 87 acres for $80 to Frederick M. Robbins.

August 24, 1839 (original Nov 7, 1834)
For $180, Moses B. bought land containing 85 acres on the point (the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers) from his sister, Zeuriah Phillips, whose late husband, Walter, had inherited along with Zeuriah from the partitioning of Moses Robbins estate.

**That 115 Acres of Land**

Moses Robins, on August 17, 1816, (St. Charles' Clerk's Office, Book D, page 352) purchased from Rufus Easton and his wife 640 acres of land, the New Madrid claim #2442 granted to Eleazer Patterson. Moses Robins, by deed or by last will, conveyed portions of this land to his several children except for 115 acres on which the mansion house was situated, which was reserved for himself and Abigail so long as they should live, and then was to go to Samuel H. Robbins. However, Samuel H. Robbins died before Abigail died; consequently, no title was given to Samuel. The land still belonged to the estate of Moses Robins and remained as part of the undistributed property of Moses. Since a partition would leave each child with only a small portion of land, Moses and Abigail's children asked the court in May1832 to sell all 115 acres to the highest bidder.[35]

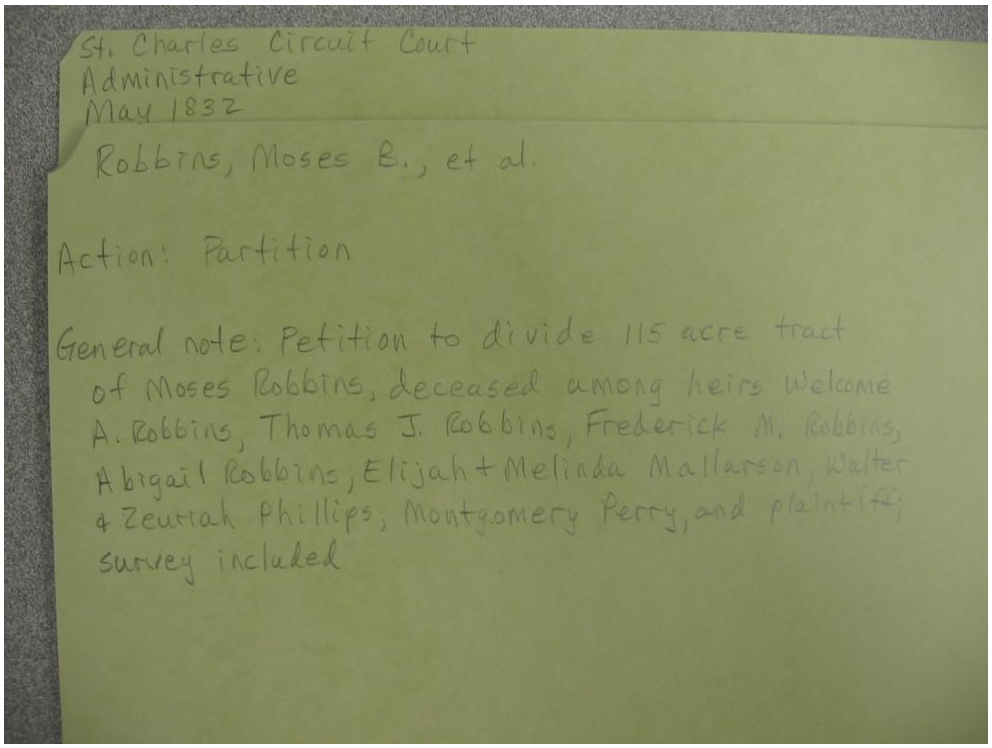
The court appointed Ebenezer D. Ayres, Daniel Griffith, Simeon Rice, Osborn Knott and Wilson B Overall to dispose of the partition. On the 4th Monday in November,1832, these men held a public sale of the 115 acres. Elijah Mallerson and Walter Phillips bought the piece for $240.[36]

On February 27, 1833, Walter and Zeuriah Phillips sold their portion of the 115 acres to Elijah and Merinda Mallerson for $130.[37]

On May 10,1839, Elijah Mallerson used the 115 acres as a portion of his assets as collateral for his $10,000 bond imposed upon him by the circuit court to guarantee his appearance in his murder trial and underwritten by Welcome A. Robbins, Frederick M. Robbins, Moses B. Robbins, and Thomas J. Robbins.[38]

In a suit for partition, dated December 20, 1870, between the heirs of Elijah and Merinda Mallerson in which Moses N. Mallerson, John C. and Lucinda Mittalberger, and Amy Shue were plaintiffs and Nickolas and Francis Ficken were deponents, the sheriff of St. Charles county on March 18, 1871, sold to the highest bidder their real estate. The 115 acres was a portion of the land sold on this day to John C. Mittalberger and Moses N. Mallerson[39]

On September 20, 1880, John C. Mittalberger, Moses N. and Margaret Mallerson, divided the 115 acres between the two families, John C. receiving the eastern half measuring 60 and 82/100 acres, and Moses N. and Margaret Mallerson receiving the western half. (NOTE: the court filing ascertained that the 115- acre tract was measured 121 and 67/100 acres.)[40]

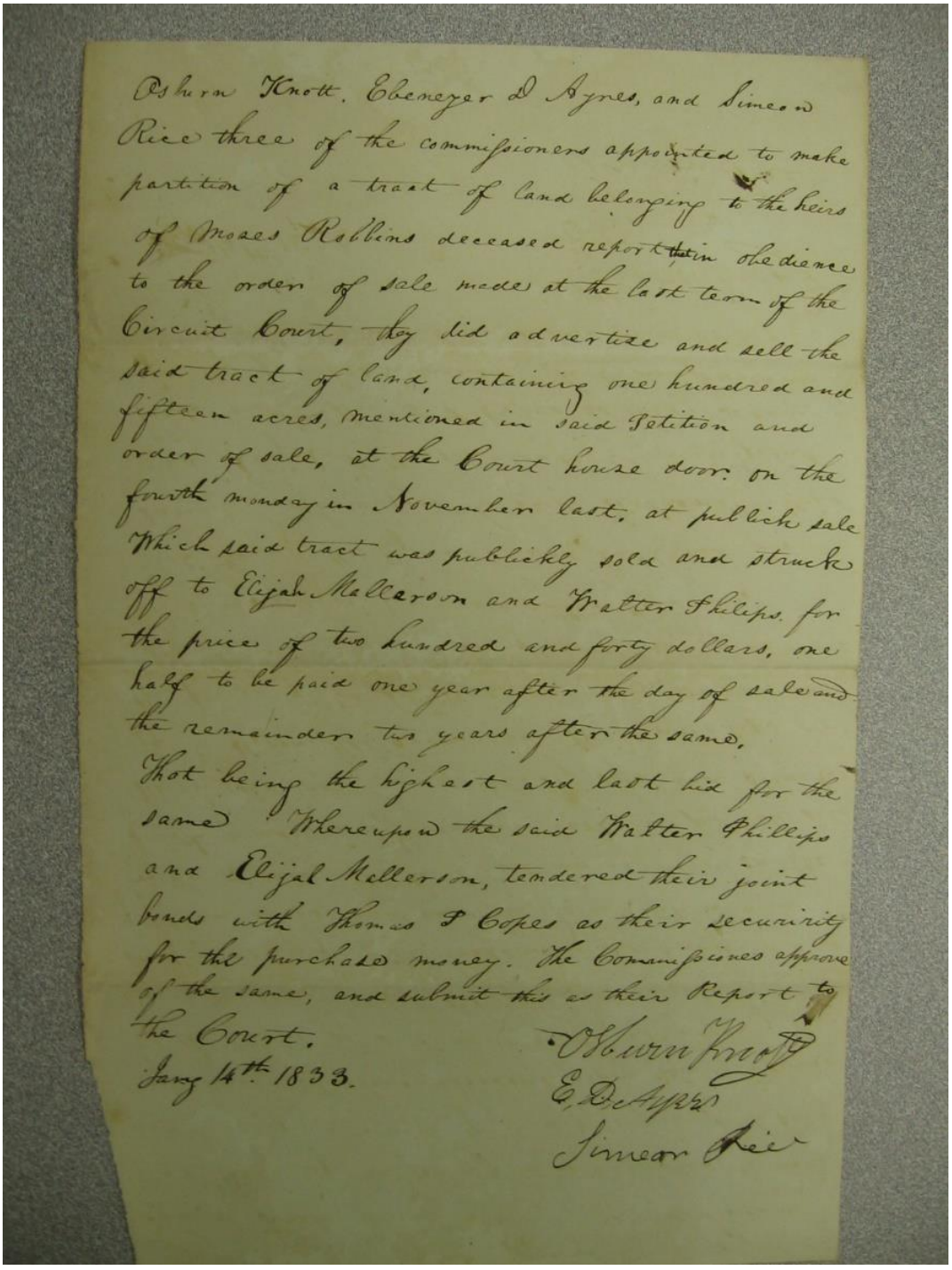

St. Charles Circuit Court
Administrative
May 1832

Robbins, Moses B., et al.

Action: Partition

General note: Petition to divide 115 acre tract of Moses Robbins, deceased among heirs Welcome A. Robbins, Thomas J. Robbins, Frederick M. Robbins, Abigail Robbins, Elijah + Melinda Mallarson, Walter + Zeurrah Phillips, Montgomery Perry, and plaintiff; survey included

**Partition 115 Acre Tract**
**May 1832**

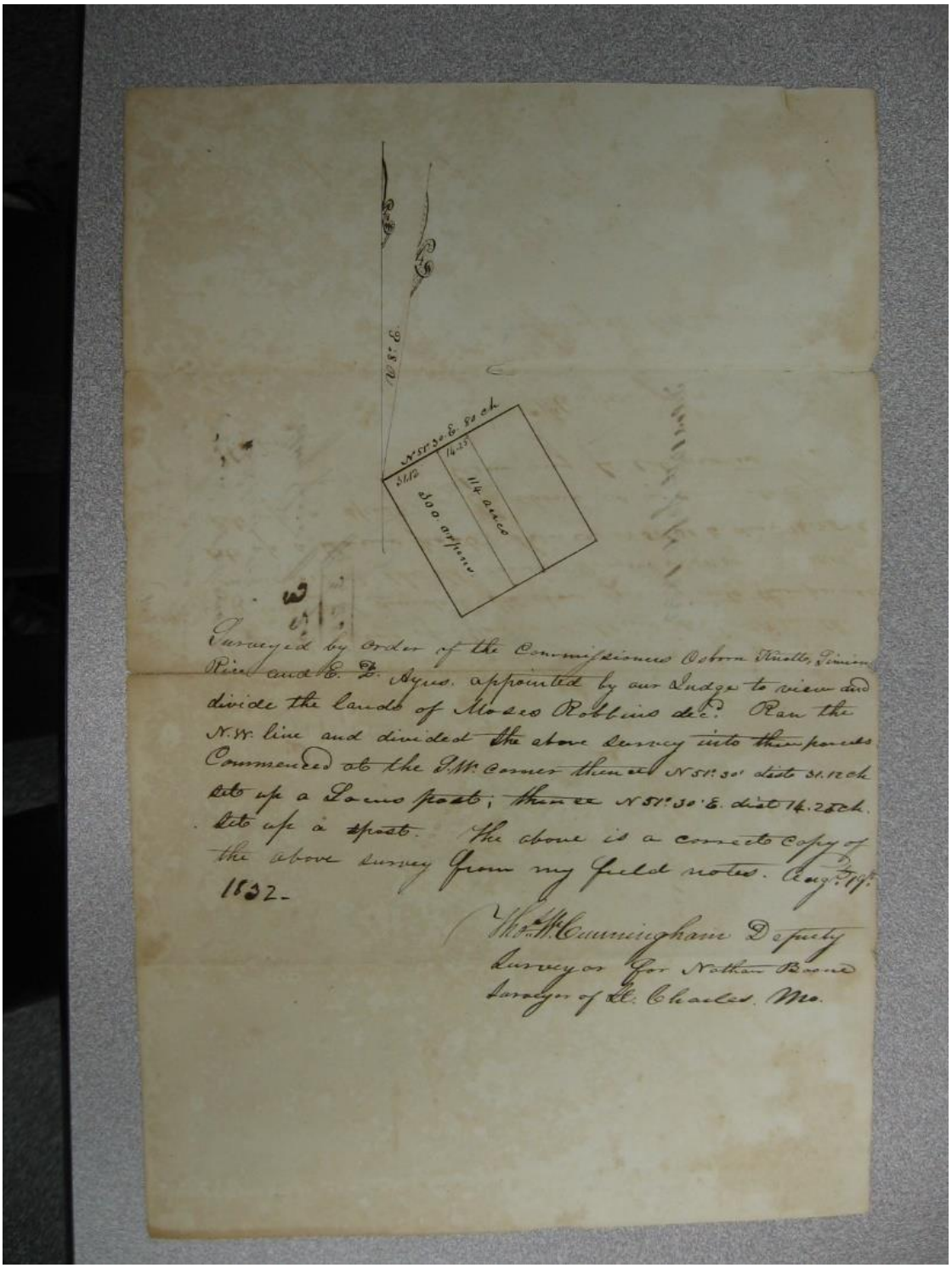


Osburn Knott. Ebenezer D Ayres, and Simeon Rice three of the commissioners appointed to make partition of a tract of land belonging to the heirs of Moses Robbins deceased report that in obedience to the order of sale made at the last term of the Circuit Court, they did advertize and sell the said tract of land, containing one hundred and fifteen acres, mentioned in said Petition and order of sale, at the Court house door on the fourth monday in November last, at publick sale which said tract was publickly sold and struck off to Elijah Mellerson and Walter Phillips for the price of two hundred and forty dollars, one half to be paid one year after the day of sale and the remainder two years after the same. That being the highest and last bid for the same. Whereupon the said Walter Phillips and Elijah Mellerson, tendered their joint bonds with Thomas F Copes as their security for the purchase money. The Commissiones approve of the same, and submit this as their Report to the Court.

Jany 14th 1833.

Osburn Knott
E. D. Ayres
Simeon Rice

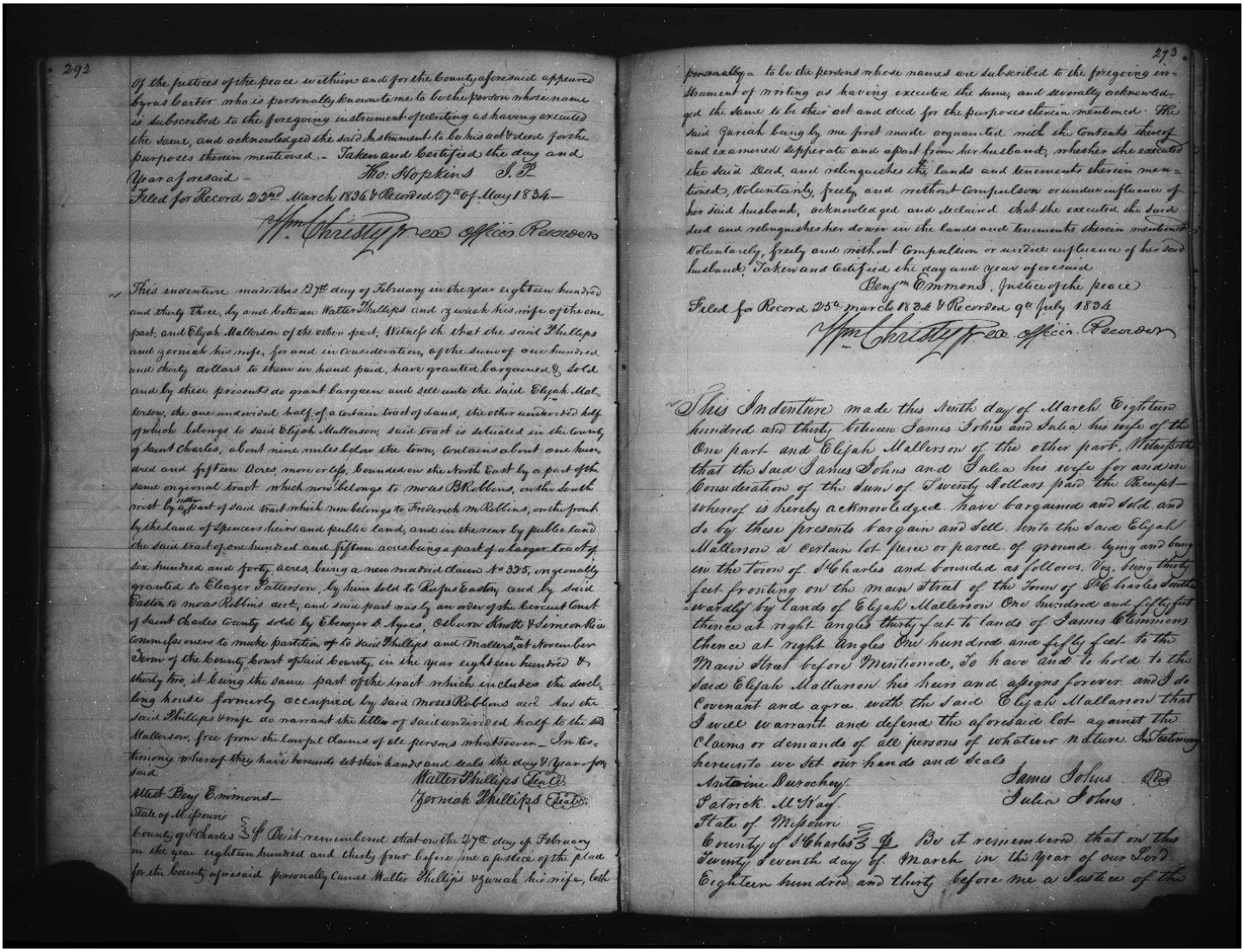
**Report of the Sale of the 115 Acres Instead of Partition**
**November 1832**




Surveyed by order of the Commissioners Osborn Trusty, Simeon Rice and E. D. Ayres. appointed by our Judge to view and divide the lands of Moses Robbins dec'd. Ran the N.W. line and divided the above survey into three ponies Commenced at the S.W. corner thence N 51° 30' dist 81.12 ch to a Locust post; thence N 51° 30' E. dist 14.25 ch. to a post. The above is a correct Copy of the above survey from my field notes. Aug. 7th 1832.

Wm. M. Cunningham Deputy Surveyor for Nathan Boone Surveyor of St. Charles Mo.

**Survey of the 115 Acres**



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of the Justices of the peace within and for the County aforesaid appeared Byrus Carter who is personally known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument of writing as having executed the same, and acknowledged the said Instrument to be his act & deed for the purposes therein mentioned. Taken and Certified the day and Year aforesaid — Tho. Hopkins J. P.

Filed for Record 23rd March 1836 & Recorded 27th of May 1834

Wm Christy Pro. Offic. Recorder

This indenture made this 27th day of February in the year eighteen hundred and thirty three, by and between Walter Phillips and Zurich his wife of the one part, and Elijah Mallerson of the other part, Witnesseth that the said Phillips and Jermiah his wife, for and in Consideration, of the sum of one hundred and thirty dollars to them in hand paid, have granted bargained & sold and by these presents do grant bargain and sell unto the said Elijah Mallerson, the one undivided half of a certain tract of land, the other undivided half of which belongs to said Elijah Mallerson, said tract is situated in the County of Saint Charles, about nine miles below the town, Contains about one hundred and fifteen Acres more or less, bounded on the North East by a part of the same original tract which now belongs to Moses B. Robbins, on the South west by the part of said tract which now belongs to Frederick M. Robbins, on the South by the land of Spencers heirs and public land, and on the rear by public land the said tract of one hundred and fifteen acres being a part of a larger tract of six hundred and forty acres, being a new madrid claim No 325, originally granted to Eliezer Patterson, by him sold to Rufus Easton, and by said Easton to Moses Robbins sen., and since past mesne by an order of the hereunto Court of Saint Charles County sold by Ebenezer B. Ayres, Osburn Knotts & Simeon Rice Commissioners to make partition of the said Phillips and Mallers, at November Term of the County Court of said County, in the year eighteen hundred & thirty two, it being the same part of the tract which includes the dwelling house formerly occupied by said Moses Robbins sen. And the said Phillips & wife do warrant the title of said undivided half to the said Mallerson, free from the lawful claims of all persons whatsoever. In testimony whereof they have hereunto set their hands and seals the day & year aforesaid.

Walter Phillips (Seal)

Attest Benj Emmons — Jermiah Phillips (Seal)

State of Missouri }
County of St Charles } Be it remembered that on the 27th day of February in the year eighteen hundred and thirty four before me a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid personally Came Walter Phillips & Jermiah his wife, both

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personally — to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing Instrument of writing as having executed the same, and severally acknowledged the same to be their act and deed for the purposes therein mentioned. The said Jermiah being by me first made acquainted with the Contents thereof and examined apperate and apart from her husband, whether she executed the said deed, and relinquishes the lands and tenements therein mentioned, Voluntarily, freely, and without Compulsion or undue influence of her said husband, acknowledged and declared that she executed the said deed and relinquishes her dower in the lands and tenements therein mentioned Voluntarily, freely and without Compulsion or undue influence of her said husband. Taken and Certified the day and year aforesaid.

Benj Emmons Justice of the peace

Filed for Record 23rd march 1834 & Recorded 9th July 1834

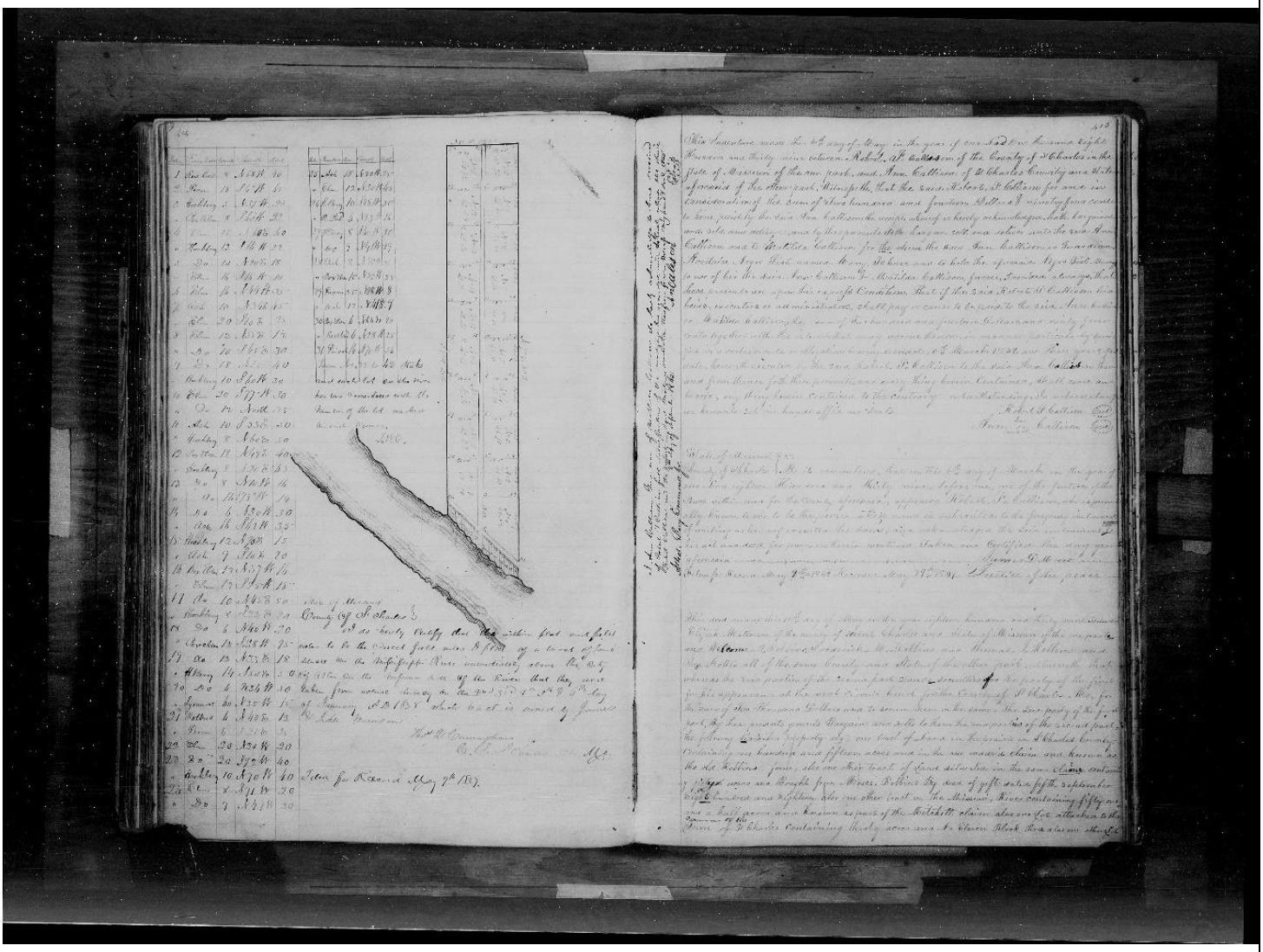
Wm Christy Pro. Offic. Recorder

This Indenture made this Ninth day of March Eighteen hundred and thirty between James Johns and Julia his wife of the One part and Elijah Mallerson of the other part. Witnesseth that the said James Johns and Julia his wife for and in Consideration of the Sum of Twenty Dollars paid the Receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have bargained and sold and do by these presents bargain and Sell unto the said Elijah Mallerson a certain lot piece or parcel of ground lying and being in the Town of St Charles and bounded as follows, Viz. Being thirty feet fronting on the main Street of the Town of St Charles South wardly by lands of Elijah Mallerson One hundred and fifty feet thence at right angles thirty feet to lands of James Simmons thence at right Angles One hundred and fifty feet to the Main Street before Mentioned, To have and to hold to the said Elijah Mallerson his heirs and assigns forever and I do Covenant and agree with the said Elijah Mallerson that I will warrant and defend the aforesaid lot against the Claims or demands of all persons of whatever nature. In Testimony hereunto we set our hands and seals

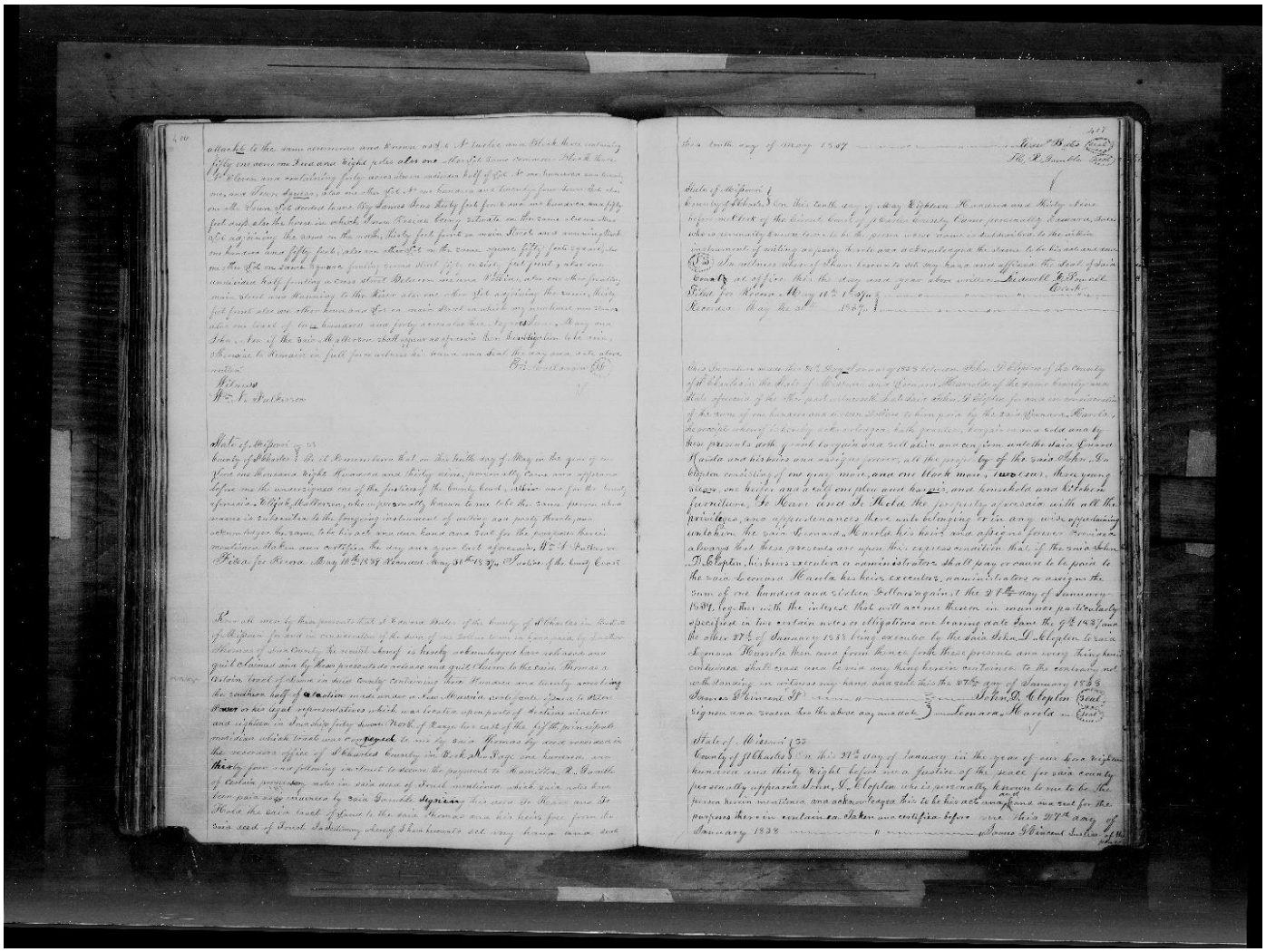
Antoine Durochey — James Johns (Seal)
Patrick M'Kay — Julia Johns

State of Missouri
County of St Charles } Be it remembered that on this Twenty Seventh day of March in the Year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and thirty before me a Justice of the

**Walter Phillips Sells his portion of the 115 Acres to Elijah Mallerson**
**February 27, 1833**

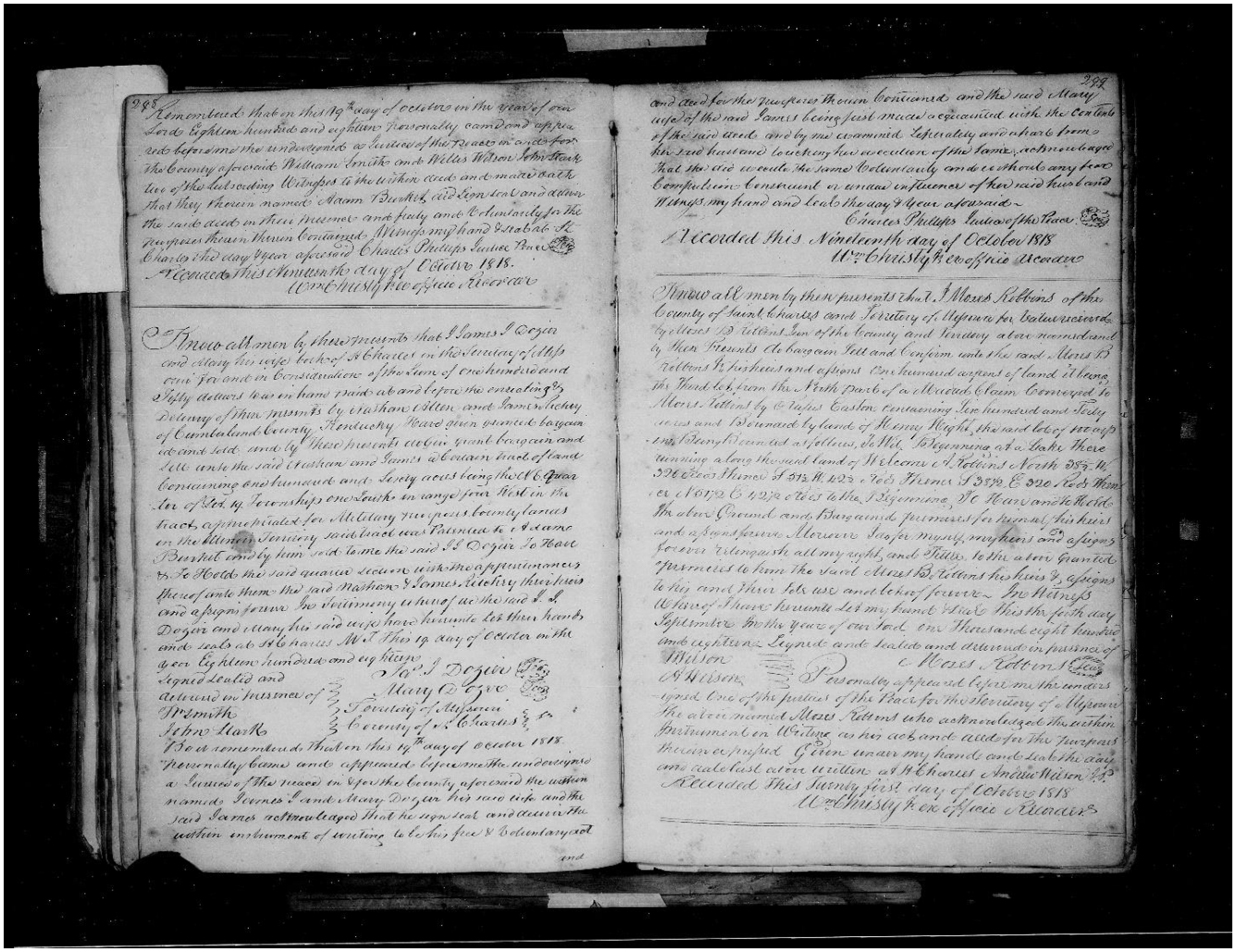


**To Satisfy His $10,000 Bail Bond, Elijah Mallerson Used the 115 Acres and More as Collateral-1**
**May 10, 1839**

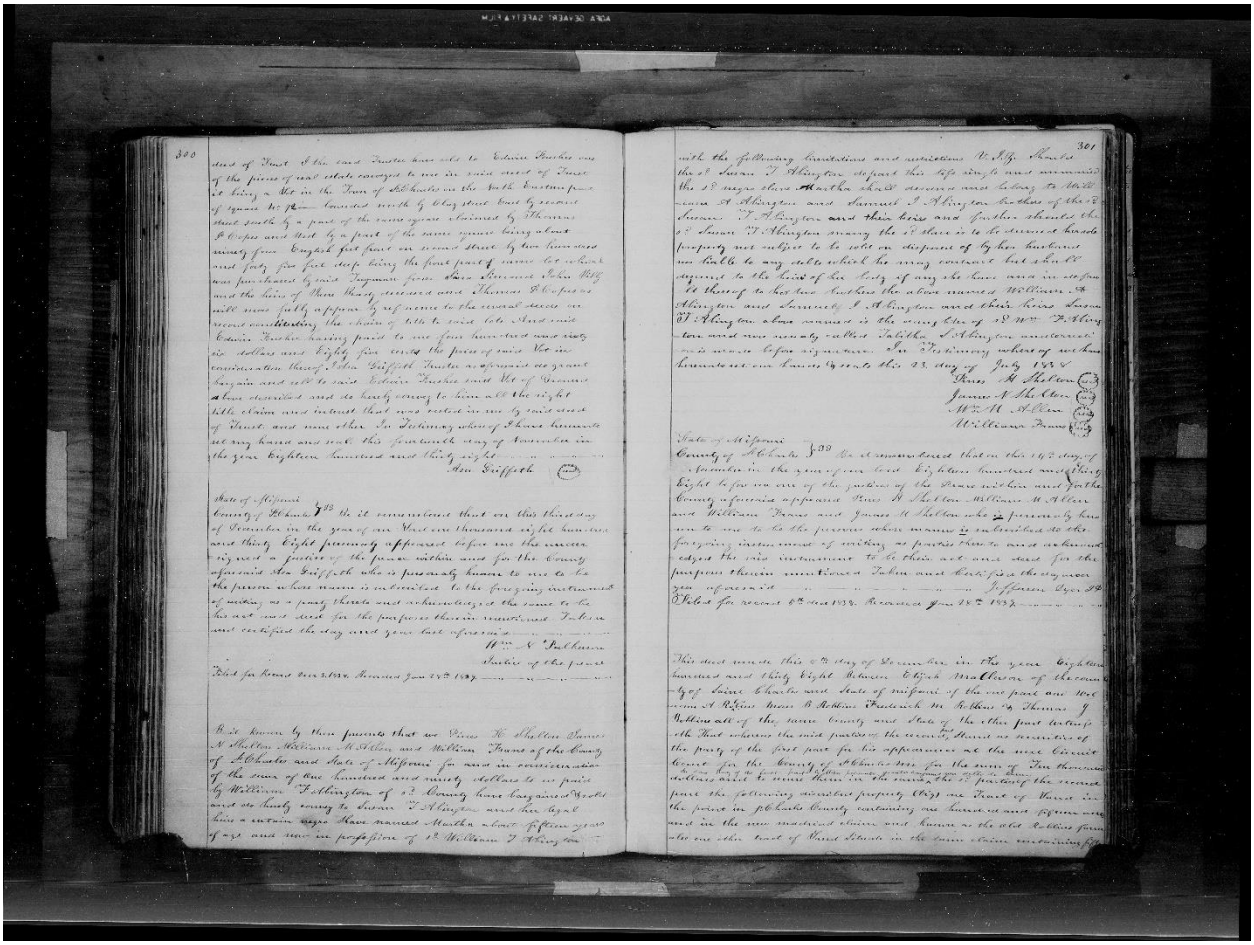


**To Satisfy His $10,000 Bail Bond, Elijah Mallerson Used the 115 Acres and More as Collateral-2**
**May 10, 1839**

Moses Robins transferred to Moses B. 100 arpens of land (the third lot from the North part of the Madrid claim containing 640 acres) on September 4, 1818. This gift was Moses B.'s inheritance from his father.



**Will--Moses Robins -1**
**October 1818**



**Will--Moses Robins-2**
**October 1818**

Moses B. died at age 43 on February 27, 1840. Later that year, in the 1840 U.S. Census, a Mrs. M.B. Robbins was listed in Portage, St. Charles, Missouri; household included 1 male under 5; 2 females under 5; 2 females 5-10; 1 female 30-40. Mary Best Robbins was 34 years old, a widow with Mary Z, age 9; Abigail, age 6; Louisa, age 5; Welcome F, age 3; Celia, age 4 mos. All the children were minors. Franklin's whereabouts is not known.

Moses B. left an estate. Mary was appointed administrator on April 17, 1840. On May 27, 1840, she sold off his personal property. About eighteen months later, on February 28, 1842, in St. Charles, Mary married Cushman Bassett, age 38, a local

single man[41]. Scattered receipts from that period showed Mary providing for her children:

- Tuition payment in January 1841 for 'her children'
- Tuition payment in 1844 to St. Charles College for Franklin
- Medical care in January 1845 in the form of 'bitters and pills,' doctors' visits, and prescriptions and medicines.

In April 1845 Mary died of an unknown cause. Cushman Bassett, a man who had no children, was now 'parent' to her children and administrator *de bonis non* of Moses B. Robbins estate. A few scattered pieces of information about these children between the years 1845-1850 are in estate records and court filings.

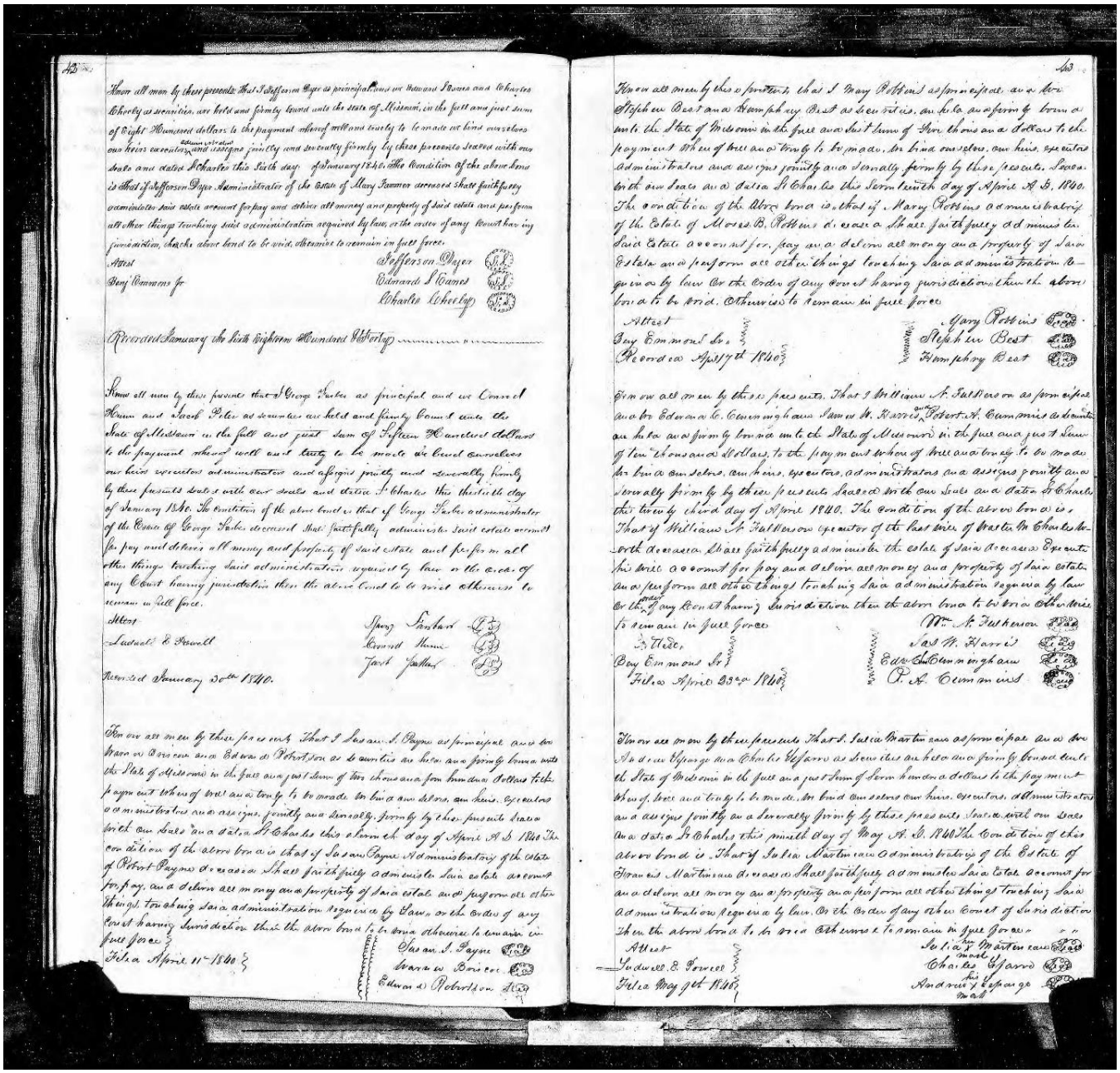
- On March 5, 1847, Frederick M. Robbins received $200.00 from Moses B.'s estate as guardian of Louisa and Mary
- On April 16, 1847, Thomas J. Robbins received $100.00 from Moses B.'s estate as guardian of Selah (Celia) Robbins
- February 28, 1851, Frederick M. Robbins received support of $33.32 from Moses B.'s estate as guardian of Louisa and Mary Z.
- On February 28, 1851, Welcome A. Robbins received $16.66 from Moses B.'s estate as guardian of Welcome F. Robbins

In 1850, the U.S. Census listed three of the children living with Zeuriah and John Boyer in Rock Island, Illinois—Welcome F., age 14; Mary, age 19; Celia, age 10. On the other hand, Franklin had married Martha Kersey on November 15,1849 in Andrews County, Missouri[42]; Abigail had married John L. Johnson on July 12,1849 in St. Charles.[43] No record has surfaced as to where Louisa was living.

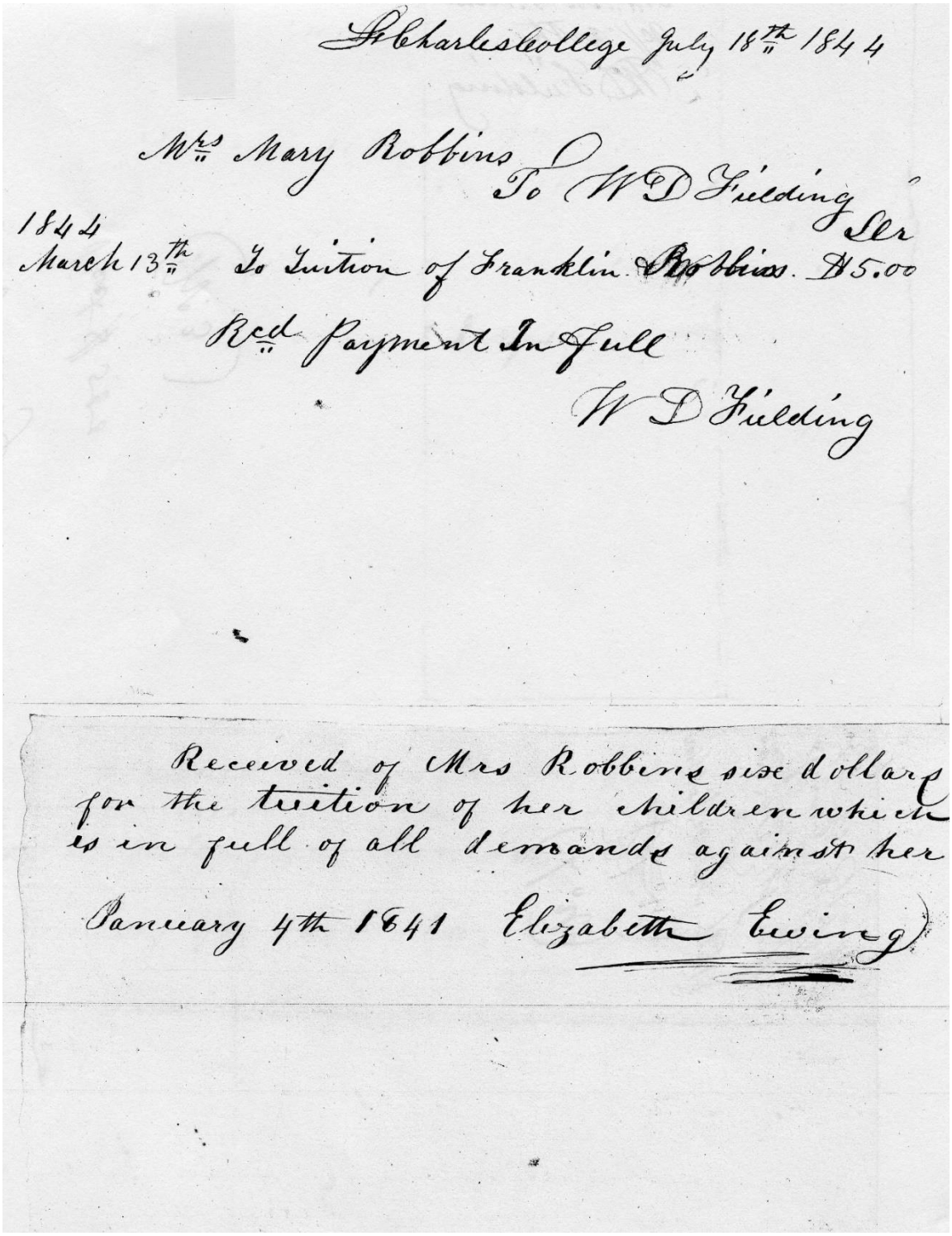
During the 1850's, the Robbins' children became their own persons. Franklin and Martha Kersey Robbins started their family and moved in 1855 to Brown County, Kansas. Mary Z. married William W. Dugan about 1851 and remained in St. Charles County. She died in the late 1860's, perhaps giving birth to Ida Jane, the last of her six children. Abigail and John Johnson remained in St. Charles County. Abigail died about 1862 when her seventh child, Stephen Evans, was born. By then four had died and, in 1864, Stephen had died as well. Louisa Ann married Jacob Mittelberger on November 11, 1852, in St. Charles County. After Jacob's death in the 1870's, Louisa married Henry C. Barney and moved to St. Louis where she died in 1924 of gangrene. Welcome F. remained single until he married Elizabeth Preston in 1872 in St. Charles County. She died several years later; they had no children. By 1880 Welcome was listed as a widow who farmed in Portage des Sioux. Then he

disappeared. Celia married Grafton Stonebraker on May 3, 1855, in St. Charles city. They had six children together, but Grafton died on January 10, 1864. By 1870 she had married George W. Carroll and lived in St. Louis, where she died on October 11, 1912.

Except for Franklin, all the children remained in the St. Charles area for the remainder of their lives. Not so for succeeding generations. They scattered from Florida to California as they established their lives.



**Mary Robbins Appointed Administrator of Moses B. Robbins' Estate**
**April 17, 1840**



St Charles College July 18th 1844

Mrs Mary Robbins
To W D Fielding Ser

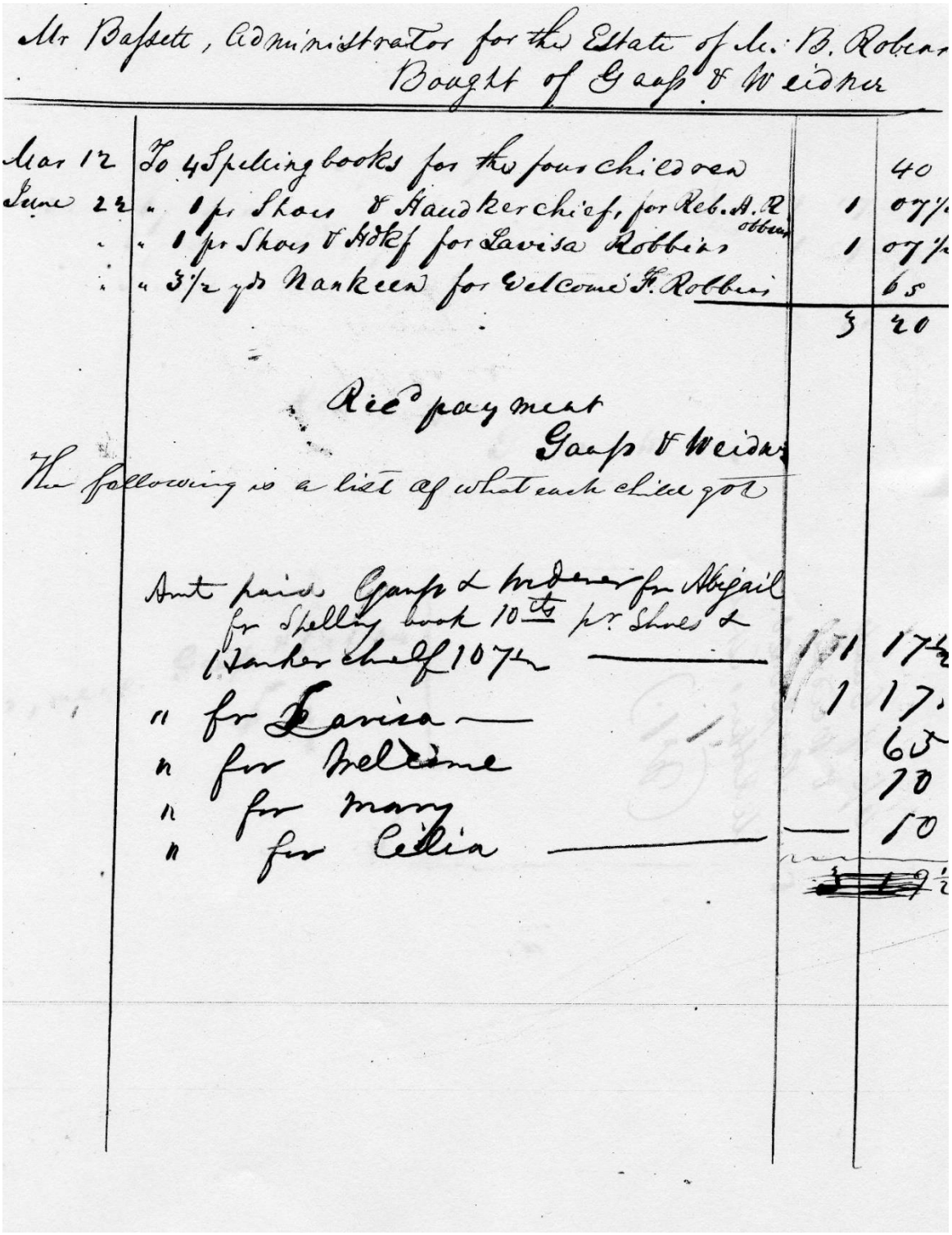
1844
March 13th To Tuition of Franklin Robbins. D5.00

Rcd Payment In Full
W D Fielding

Received of Mrs Robbins six dollars for the tuition of her children which is in full of all demands against her

January 4th 1841 Elizabeth Ewing

**Receipts For School Expenses for the Children**



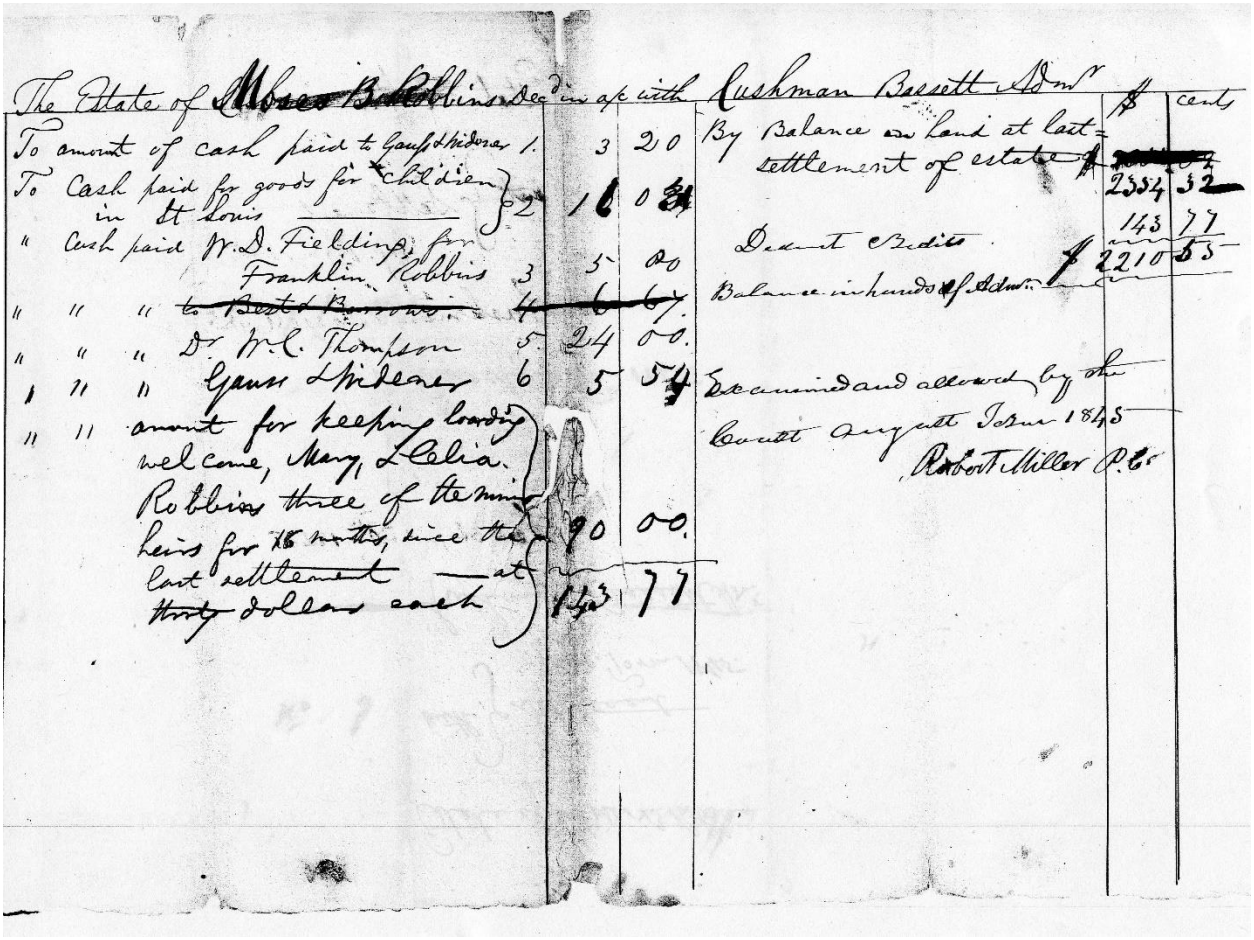
Mr Bassett, Administrator for the Estate of M.: B. Robbins
Bought of Gaaps & Weidner

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mar 12 | To 4 Spelling books for the four children | | 40 |
| June 22 | " 1 pr Shoes & Handkerchief, for Reb. A. Robbins | 1 | 07½ |
| " | " 1 pr Shoes & Hdkf for Lavisa Robbins | 1 | 07½ |
| " | " 3/2 yds Nankeen for Welcome F. Robbins | | 65 |
| | | 3 | 20 |

Rec'd payment
Gaaps & Weidner

The following is a list of what each child got

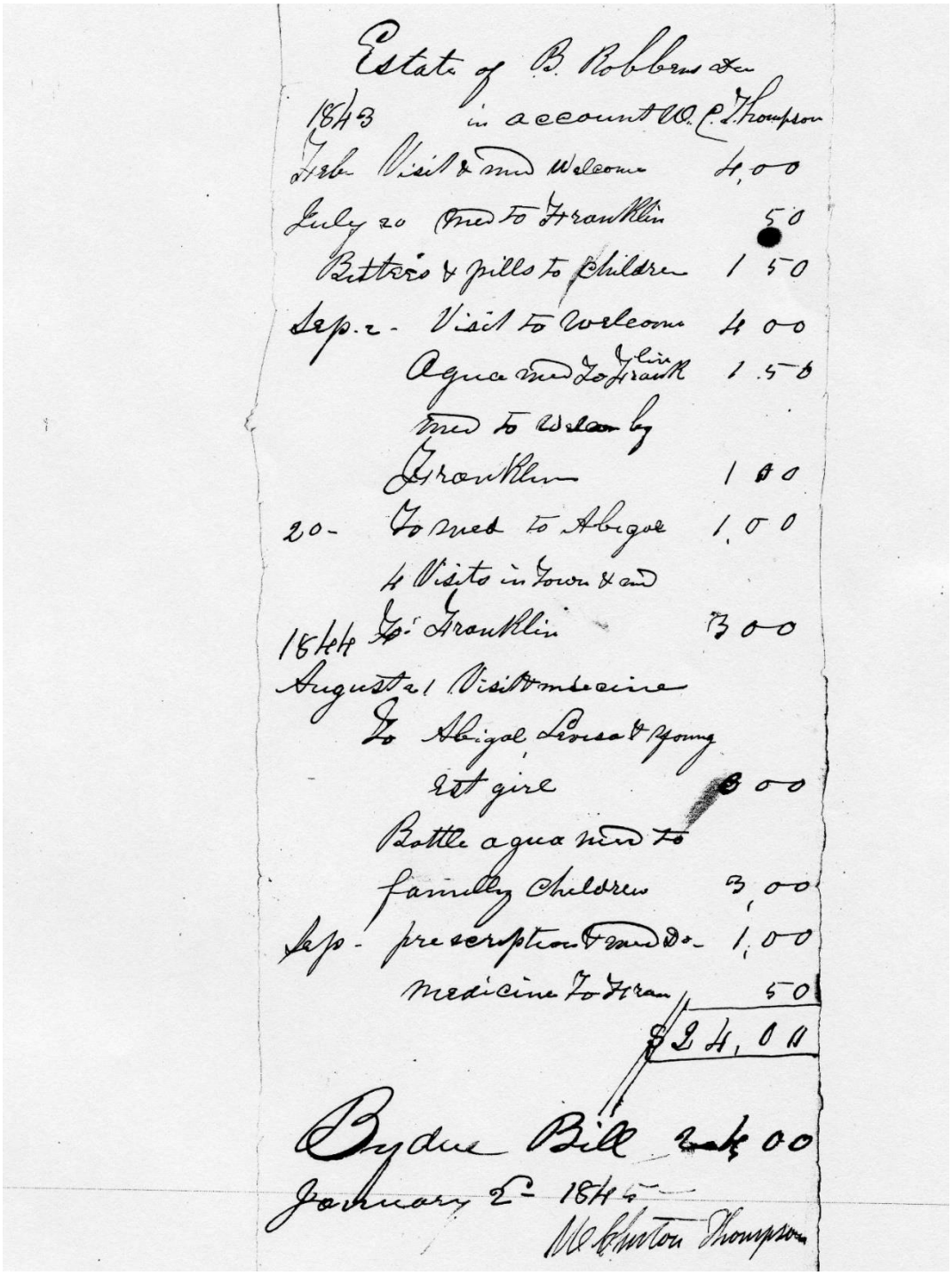
Amt paid Gaaps & Weidner for Abigail
for Spelling book 10cts pr Shoes &
1 Handkerchief 10½ ——— 1 17½
" for Lavisa ——— 1 17½
" for Welcome 65
" for Mary 10
" for Celia ——— 10



The Estate of Moses B. Robbins dec'd in ac with Cushman Bassett Adm'r

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| To amount of cash paid to Gauss & Hideaway | 1. | 3 | 20 | By Balance on hand at last settlement of estate | | |
| To Cash paid for goods for children in St Louis | 2 | 10 | 84 | | 2334 | 32 |
| " Cash paid W. D. Fielding for Franklin Robbins | 3 | 5 | 00 | | 143 | 77 |
| " " " ~~to Bertel Bowman~~ | ~~4~~ | ~~6~~ | ~~67~~ | Amount Credits | $ 2210 | 55 |
| " " " Dr. W. L. Thompson | 5 | 24 | 00. | Balance in hands of Adm'r | | |
| " " " Gauss & Hideaway | 6 | 5 | 54 | Examined and allowed by the Court August Term 1845 | | |
| " " amount for keeping boarding welcome, Mary, Lelia. Robbins three of the minor heirs for 18 months, since the last settlement at thirty dollars each | | 90 | 00. | Robert Miller P.C. | | |
| | | 143 | 77 | | | |

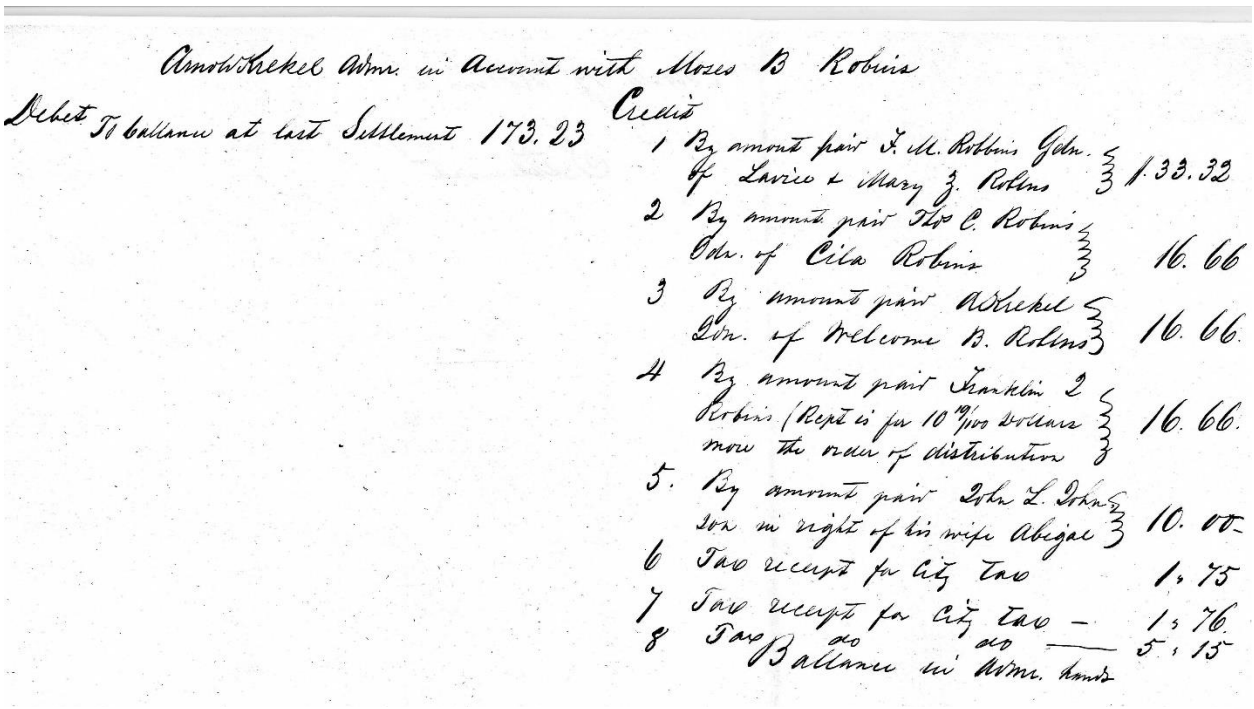
**Reimbursement for Child Care while in St. Louis**



Estate of B. Robbins dec'd
1843 in account W. C. Thompson
Feb. Visit & med. Welcome 4,00
July 20 Med. to Franklin 50
Bitters & pills to Children 1 50
Sep. 2 - Visit to Welcome 4 00
Aqua med. to Frank 1.50
Med. to Welcome by
Franklin 1 00
20 - Do med. to Abigal 1,00
4 Visits in Town & med.
1844 to Franklin 3 00
August 21 Visit & medicine
to Abigal Louisa & young
girl 3 00
Bottle aqua med. to
family Children 3,00
Sep - prescription & med. do. 1,00
medicine to Fran 50
$24,00

Bydue Bill 24 00
January 2nd 1844
W. C. Thompson

**Medical Care Expenses for the Children**



Arnold Krekel Admr. in Account with Moses B Robins

Debet To ballance at last Settlement 173.23

Credit

1 By amount pair J. M. Robbins Gdn. of Lavica & Mary J. Robins 133.32

2 By amount pair Thos C. Robins Gdr. of Celia Robins 16.66

3 By amount pair Krekel Gdn. of Welcome B. Robins 16.66

4 By amount pair Franklin J Robins (Rept is for 10 19/100 dollars more the order of distribution 16.66.

5. By amount pair John L. Johns Son in right of his wife Abigal 10.00

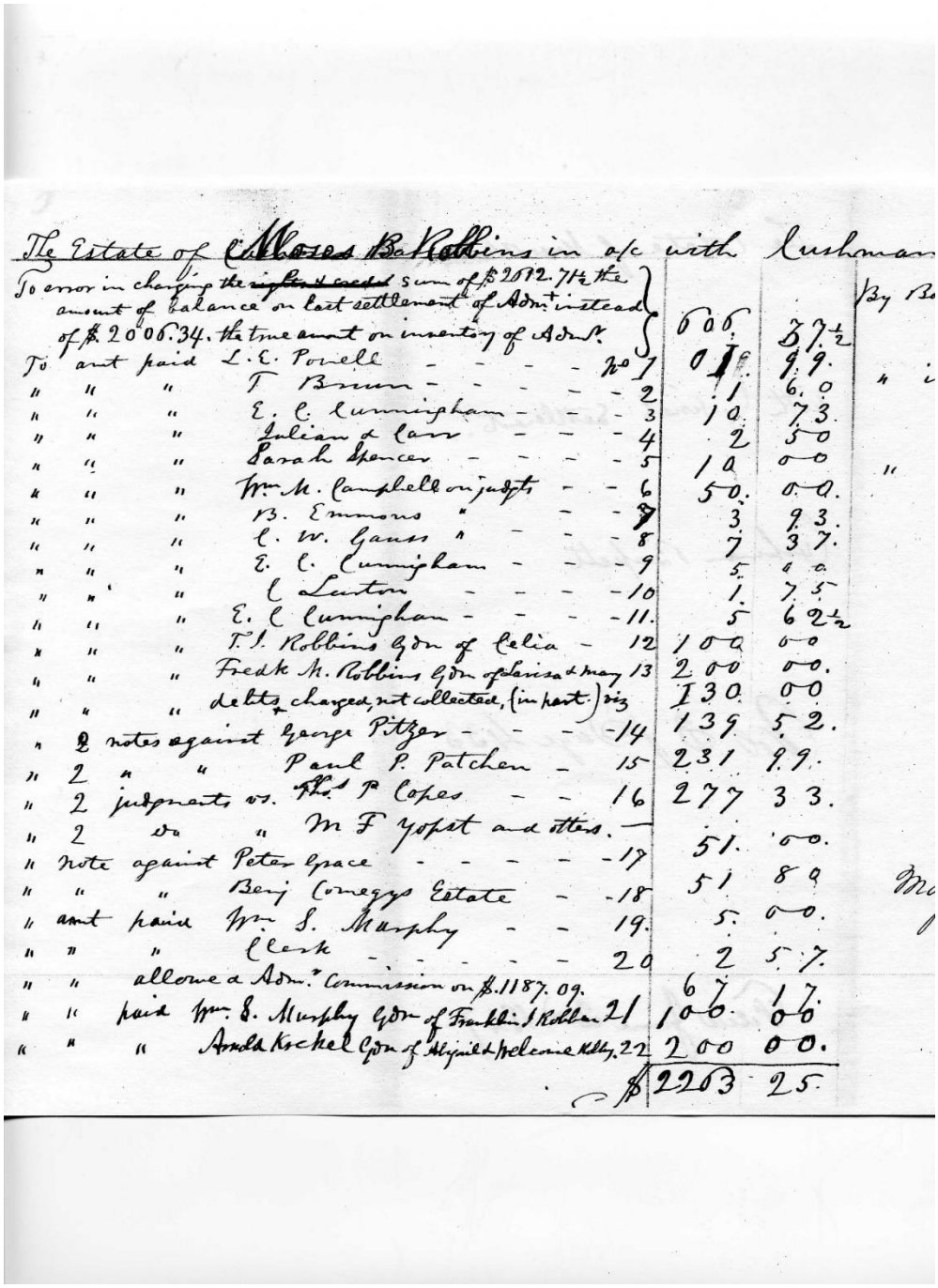
6 Tax receipt for City Tax 1.75

7 Tax receipt for City Tax — 1.76.

8 Tax do do — 5.15

Ballance in Admr. hands

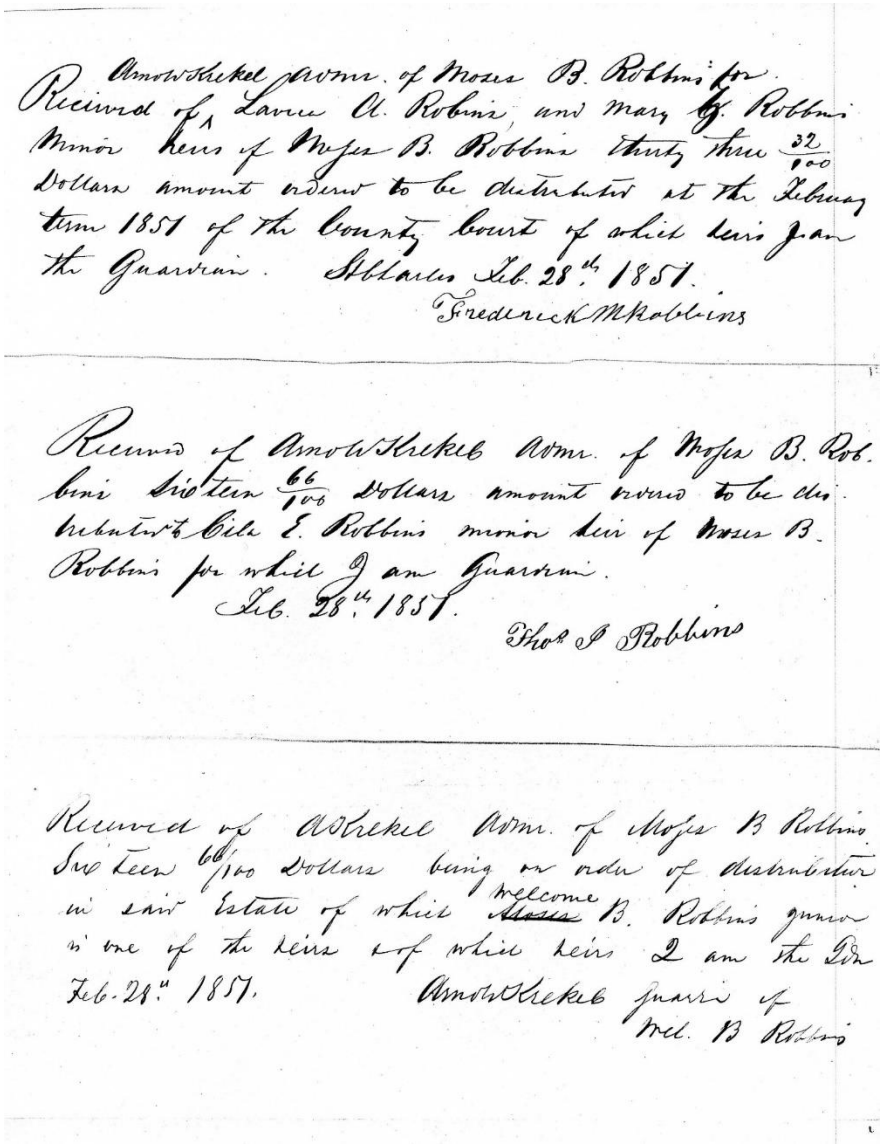
**Reimbursements to the Children's Guardians from Moses B. Robbins' Estate**



The Estate of Moses B. Robbins in a/c with Cushman

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| To error in charging the ~~right & credit~~ sum of $2012.71½ the amount of balance on last settlement of Adm.t instead of $2006.34. the true amt on inventory of Adm.t | | | 6 | 06. | 37½ |
| To amt paid | L. E. Powell | No 1 | 0 | 1 | 99. |
| " " " | T. Brown | 2 | | 1 | 60 |
| " " " | E. C. Cunningham | 3 | | 10 | 73. |
| " " " | Julian & Carr | 4 | | 2 | 50 |
| " " " | Sarah Spencer | 5 | 1 | 0 | 00 |
| " " " | Wm. M. Campbell on judgt | 6 | | 50. | 00. |
| " " " | B. Emmons " | 7 | | 3 | 93. |
| " " " | C. W. Gauss " | 8 | | 7 | 37. |
| " " " | E. C. Cunningham | 9 | | 5 | 40 |
| " " " | C Lenton | 10 | | 1 | 75 |
| " " " | E. C Cunningham | 11 | | 5 | 62½ |
| " " " | T. J. Robbins Gdn of Celia | 12 | 1 | 00 | 00 |
| " " " | Fredk M. Robbins Gdn of Clarissa & Mary | 13 | 2 | 00 | 00. |
| " " " | debts charged not collected, (in part) viz | | 1 | 30 | 00 |
| " 2 | notes against George Pitzer | 14 | 1 | 39 | 52. |
| " 2 " " | Paul P. Patchen | 15 | 2 | 31 | 99. |
| " 2 | judgments vs. Thos P Copes | 16 | 2 | 77 | 33. |
| " 2 | do " M F Yoest and others | | | 51 | 00. |
| " note against | Peter Grace | 17 | | | |
| " " " | Benj Conergys Estate | 18 | | 51 | 89 |
| " amt paid | Wm S. Murphy | 19 | | 5 | 00. |
| " " " | Clerk | 20 | | 2 | 57. |
| " " | allowed Adm.r Commission on $1187.09. | | | 67 | 17. |
| " " | paid Wm S. Murphy Gdn of Franklin J Robbins | 21 | 1 | 00 | 00 |
| " " " | Arnold Kochel Gdn of Abigail & Helen M Kelly | 22 | 2 | 00 | 00. |
| | | | $ | 2203 | 25. |

**Reimbursements to Guardians for Child Care**



Received of Arnold Krekel Admr. of Moses B. Robbins for Lavice A. Robbins and Mary E. Robbins Minor heirs of Moses B. Robbins thirty three 32/100 Dollars amount ordered to be distributed at the February term 1857 of the County Court of which heirs I am the Guardian. Stollard Feb. 28th 1857.

Frederick M Robbins

Received of Arnold Krekel Admr. of Moses B. Robbins sixteen 66/100 Dollars amount ordered to be distributed to Ella E. Robbins minor heir of Moses B. Robbins for which I am Guardian.

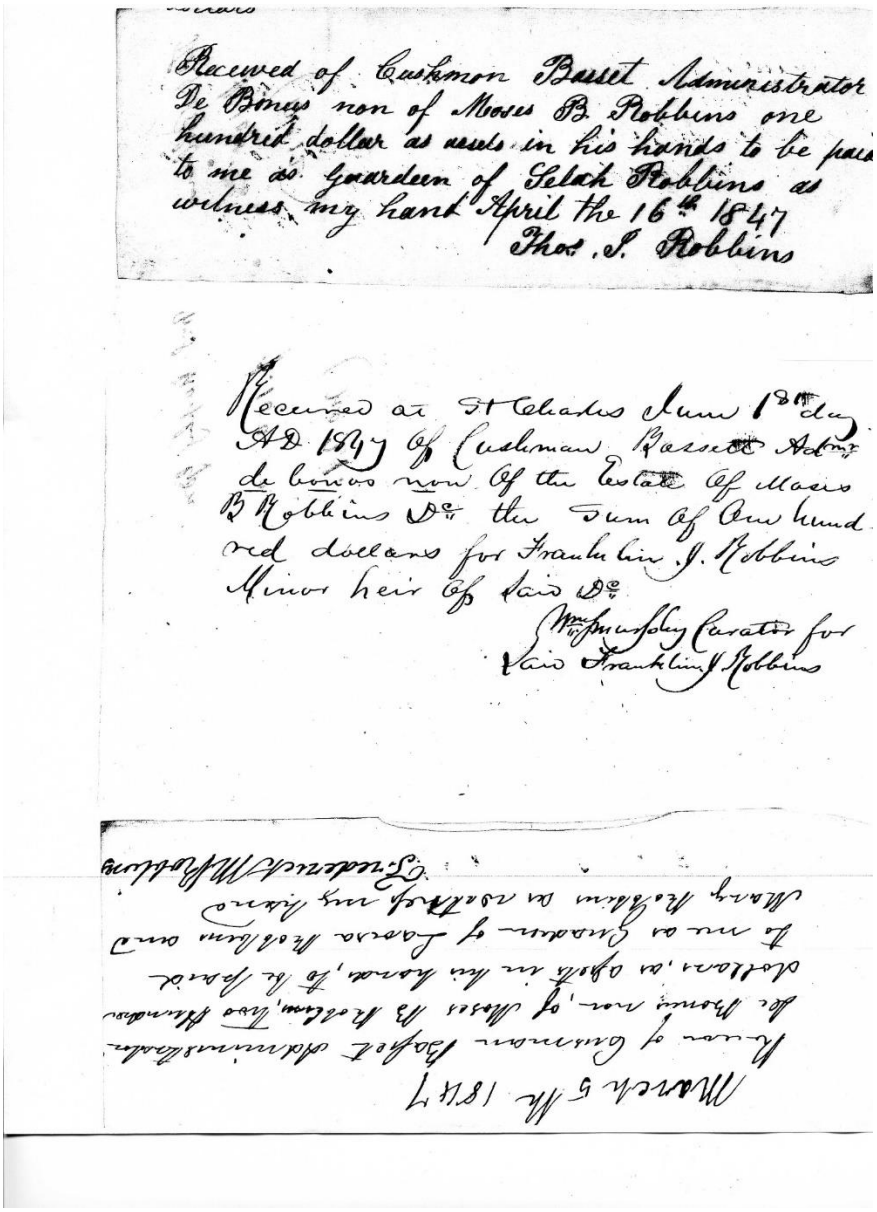
Feb. 28th 1857.

Thos J Robbins

Received of A Krekel Admr. of Moses B Robbins Sixteen 66/100 Dollars being an order of distribution in said Estate of which ~~Moses~~ Melcome B. Robbins junior is one of the heirs of which heirs I am the Gdn Feb. 28th 1857.

Arnold Krekel guard of Mel. B Robbins

**Reimbursements to Guardians**



Received of Cushman Bassett Administrator De Bonis non of Moses B Robbins one hundred dollar as assets in his hands to be paid to me as Guardeen of Selah Robbins as witness my hand April the 16th 1847
Thos. S. Robbins

Received at St Charles June 1st day AD 1847 of Cushman Bassett Admr de bonis non Of the Estate Of Moses B Robbins Dc the Sum of One hundred dollars for Franklin J. Robbins Minor heir of said Dc
Wm Mumsley Curator for said Franklin J Robbins

[1] Barbour Collection. Connecticut Vital Records—Voluntown. Hartford, CT: Connecticut State Library, 1919.
[2] Pennsylvania, Butler County. Land and Property, Film #894174. Familysearch.org.
[3] *Democratic Republican*, Vol 1, Issue 13, Chambersburg Pennsylvania.
[4]*History of Butler County, Pennsylvania. With Illustrations and biographical sketches of some of its prominent men and pioneers*. Chicago: Waterman, Watkins & Company, 1883. Internet Archive.
[5] Book "D", pp. 276-277. St. Charles County Recorder-Deeds. St. Charles County Courthouse, St. Charles, Missouri.
[6] Book "D", pp. 293-295. St. Charles County Recorder-Deeds. St. Charles County Courthouse, St. Charles, Missouri.
[7] Book "D", pp. 352-352. St. Charles County Recorder-Deeds. St. Charles County Courthouse, St. Charles, Missouri.
[8] Book "D", pp. 450-451. St. Charles County Recorder-Deeds. St. Charles County Courthouse, St. Charles, Missouri.
[9] Book "D", pp.365-366. St. Charles County Recorder-Deeds. St. Charles County Courthouse, St. Charles, Missouri.
[10] Ruble, Funeral Expense Sheet. September 24, 1818. St. Charles County Historical Society, St. Charles, Missouri.
[11] Will—Moses Robbins. Missouri, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1766-1988. Ancestry.com
[12] Bob Shultz. "On the Medical Topography of St. Charles County," *St. Charles County Heritage: The Bulletin of the St. Charles County Historical Society*, Vol 34, No. 4, October 2016. Midwest Genealogy Center, Independence MO.
[13] Bob Shultz. p. 140.
[14] Bob Shultz. p. 140.
[15] Bob Shultz, p, 140.
[16] Bob Shultz, p. 143.
[17] J.C. Holmes. "Early History of St. Charles and St. Charles County for the St. Charles Banner News." Familysearch.org
[18] Cleta Flynn. "Sister Mary Elizabeth Becker, Founding Mother Superior of St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Charles, Mo, 1873-1890," St. Charles County Heritage: The Bulletin of St. Charles County Historical Society, Volume 22, No. 1, January 2004. Midwest Genealogical Center, Independence, MO.
[19] Book "F", p. 299. St. Charles County Recorder-Deeds. St. Charles County Courthouse, St. Charles, Missouri.
[20] "Robbins File," St. Charles County Historical Society. St. Charles, St. Charles, Missouri.
[21] Ray Donald Cook. *History of St. Charles, Missouri, 1816-1840*. Unpublished M.A. Thesis. The Graduate School of Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, 1965. P.4.
[22] Mark Poindexter. "A Right Smart Little Town, An Anecdotal History of St. Charles, Part II". *St. Charles County Heritage*. The Bulletin of the St. Charles County Historical Society, Vol 19, No. 3, July 2001.
[23] Mark Poindexter.
[24] Theodosia Rauch. *St. Charles, Missouri Bicentennial Celebration*. St. Charles, MO, 1969, p. 58.
[25] Leslie Gamblin Hill. "A Moral Crusade," *Missouri Historical Review*, XLV, pp. 16-19.
[26] Ray Donald Cook.
[27] Ray Donald Cook.
[28] Ray Donald Cook.
[29] Mark Poindexter.
[30] "Local History Timeline," St. Charles City-County Library. www.mylibrary.org/local-history-timeline
[31] *Records of the Presbyterian Church of St. Charles, MO: From Sept. 1818 to Jan 1, 1842*. St. Charles County Historical Society. St. Charles, Missouri.
[32] St. Charles, Missouri. Land and Property Records, July 28, 1826, p. 297. Familysearch.org
[33] "Stephen Best—Letters of Administration," *Letters and Wills, 1815-1828*. St. Charles County Historical Society.
[34] "Stephen Best—Letters of Administration," *Letters and Wills, 1815-1828*. St. Charles County Historical Society.
[35] Office of the Recorder of Deeds, St. Charles (MO) County, Book "D", p. 352.
[36] Film #008196755. Deeds, v. H-K, 1824-1837. St. Charles County, Missouri. Familysearch.org
[37] Film #008196755.
[38] Film #008196755
[39] Office of the Recorder of Deeds, St. Charles (MO) County, Book "N", pp. 371-374.
[40] Office of the Recorder of Deeds, St. Charles (MO) County, Book "N", pp. 442-444.

[41] *St. Charles County Marriages, 1836-1844*. St. Charles County Historical Society, St. Charles, St. Charles, Missouri.
[42] *Marriage Records for Andrew County, Missouri*, Book "A". Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, Missouri
[43] Edna McElhiney Olson. *St. Charles County Marriages, 1844-1853.* Mid-West Genealogy Center, Independence, Misssouri

- Philip Lawrence Rhea is a third great-grandson to Moses Brintnal Robbins rheajp@sbcglobal.net

- Susanne V. Paradis' husband, Jim Eggleston, is a third great-grandson to Moses Brintnal Robbins