From: **B Nichols (Gmail)**
Subject: 1858 Estate of William H. Bryan - Sale of Slaves
Date: November 5, 2024 at 4:11 PM
To:

Bcc:

NB

Transcription of another Platte County Circuit Court case regarding the sale of slaves (case file attached).
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Platte County Circuit Court, February Term 1858

In the Matter of the Estate of William H. Bryan

“Settlement of Estate”
“-Bulks of heirs residing in Illinois and complain they can not profit from slaves Bryan left because in Illinois slavery is not tolerated and slave property is unsafe in Platte County."
“-Asks that following slaves be sold: French, Minerva, Alfred, Martin Vanburen"

March 8, 1858 - Petition

Thomas R. Bryan, George Bryan, and James A. Bryan by their guardian Thomas R. Bryan and Mary Bryan by Benjamin Thompson, her guardian by way of supplemental petition, would respectfully represent that William H. Bryan departed this life in Platte County, Missouri, leaving your petitioners Thomas R. Bryan, George Bryan and James A Bryan and Mary Bryan his legal representatives:

That among other property the said William H. Bryan died seized and possessed of (were) the following slaves, to wit, **French, Minerva, Alfred and Martin Vanburen;**

Shortly after the death of the said William H. Bryan, petitioners Thomas, George, and James Bryan removed to the County of McClain in the State of Illinois;

And after their arrival in the State of Illinois the said Thomas R. Bryan was appointed by the County Court of McClain County which has jurisdiction of such matters their guardian, entered into bond according to law a copy of the record of his appointment and the bond is made part of this petition;

And the said Mary Bryan removed to the County of Jackson in the State of Missouri and the said Benjamin Thompson was then appointed her guardian by the proper court;

They further state that the said petitioners as above named as residing out of this state have no guardian or curator in this State;

They state that one of the slaves, to wit, Minerva, is growing old and in a few years will be worth*(sp? worthless?)* but that she would now sell for a good price and that the other slaves are yielding but little profit;

They further state that in consequence of their locality they cannot enjoy their property;

That the petitioners above named except Mary Bryan have located in the State of Illinois permanently ***where slavery is not tolerated and that said slaves being in the County of Platte, the locality of which renders slave property unsafe, all of which renders the property unsafe;***

They moreover state that the Estate of William H. Bryan is not indebted and that the administrator has made a final settlement and resigned;

They therefor pray judgment for the sale of said property and that the Court will make such disposition of the money as is right giving to each one of the petitioners his or her proper shared proportional part which is one fourth (1/4).
signed Spratt & Merryman

Joseph. E. Merryman, attorney for the parties, makes oath and states that he believes the above petition and matters therein stated.
signed Joseph E. Merryman

Sworn and subscribed before me on this 8th day of March, A.D. 1858.
signed W.C. Remington, Clerk

March 13, 1858 - filed by W.C. Remington, Clerk

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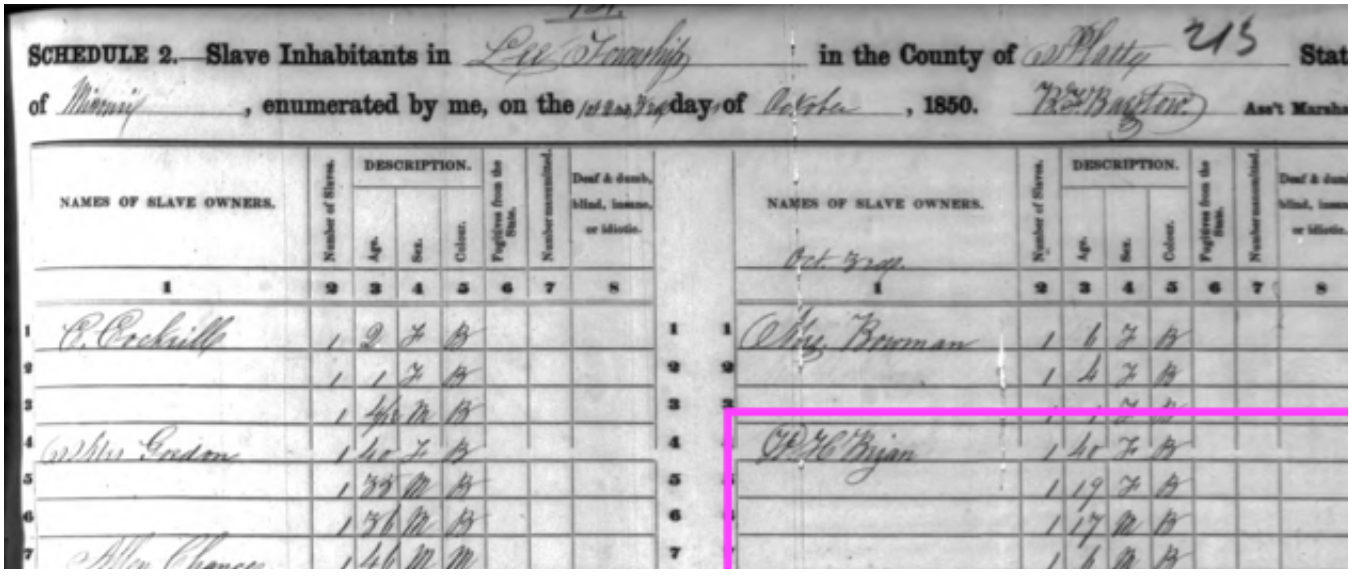
The 1850 Slave Census (see attached) shows that as of Oct 1850 William H. Bryan owned 6 slaves. The oldest slave, a 40-year old Black female, is quite likely Minerva.

Apart from Minerva, Bryan owned a 19-year old Black female and four Black male slaves aged 17, 6, 4, and 1 year old. Alfred and Martin Vanburen are likely 2 of the male slaves aged 1, 4, and 6 year old. It is hard to determine whether “French” was a female or male.

Paxton’s Annals says:

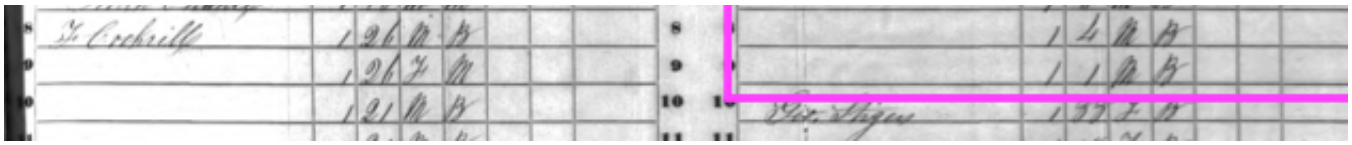
April 5, 1854 — W. H. Bryan died at Ringold. He was a partner of Phinehas Skinner in the mercantile business, and was highly esteemed. His children have all left the county. p. 176

Best,
Bill Nichols


SCHEDULE 2.—Slave Inhabitants in Lee Township in the County of Watts 215 Stat
of Murray, enumerated by me, on the 1st day of October, 1850. W.E. Baxter Ass't Marsh

NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	Number of Slaves.	DESCRIPTION. Age.	Sex.	Colour.	Fugitives from the State.	Number manumitted.	Deaf & dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
R. Cockrill	1	2	F	B			
	1	1	F	B			
	1	46	M	B			
Wm Gordon	1	40	F	B			
	1	35	M	B			
	1	36	M	B			
Wm Clarke	1	40	M	M			

NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS. Oct 1850.	Number of Slaves.	DESCRIPTION. Age.	Sex.	Colour.	Fugitives from the State.	Number manumitted.	Deaf & dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Chas Brannan	1	6	F	B			
	1	4	F	B			
W.H. Bryan	1	40	F	B			
	1	19	F	B			
	1	17	M	B			
	1	6	M	B			





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