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The Lexington Intelligencer (Lexington, Missouri) · Sat, Feb 15, 1902 · Page 1
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IN ANTE BELLUM DAYS.

Slave Secures Liberty and Works for That of Wife and Children.

SUCCESS CROWNED HIS EFFORTS.

The Lexington Historical Society Should Have New Life Put Into It.

It is a great pity that the Lexington Historical Society has lapsed into a condition of seeming inoccuous desuetude and new life should at once be put into the organization. While in active existence this society got together many valuable papers and is now in splendid condition for another beginning of usefulness. Prof. N. E Hopkins and Mr John Chamberlain still feel a deep interest and with the proper work an historical society can be organized here that will not only prove beneficial to this community but to the state at large.

Among the many papers now in the archives of this society the attention of the INTELLIGENCER has been attracted to a lot of papers connected with the history of one Nicolas Carper, a colored slave, who, after securing his own freedom in some way, went to work to purchase the freedom of his wife and children. He enlisted the assistance of a minister of the gospel in Ray county and another in St. Louis, to which city he had removed, and what he accomplished is told in the appended bills of sale, which are self explanatory.

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HE BUYS HIS WIFE.

Know all men by these presents that I William Jack of the County of Ray and State of Missouri for and in consideration of the sum of Three hundred and fifty dollars to me in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, sold and transferred and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell and transfer to the Reverend Nathaniel B. Dodge of Harmony, Missouri, and the Reverend Salmon Geddings, of the City of St. Louis, both of the State of Missouri, all my right and title to, and interest in a certain female mulatto slave named Milley Carper, aged about thirty-five years, bound as a slave for life by the laws of Missouri: and I do furthermore covenant to and with the said Dodge and Geddings the right to the service of the said mulatto slave named Milly Carper during the term of her natural life and I will well and truly warrant and by these presents forever depend,

Given under my hand with my scratch seal thereto annexed this twenty third day of March in the year of Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty seven.

WILLIAM JACK. [SEAL.]

In presence of John Aull and James Aull.

Memorandum: Nicholas Carper, Husband to above woman, has paid Two hundred Dollars of the above money and So Soon as he is able to pay the Balance of One hundred and fifty dollars his wife is to be entirely free.

JOHN AULL.
JAMES AULL.

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SECURES HIS CHILDREN.

Whereas Nicholas, a free man of colour, has now in the possession of William Jack of Lafayette county Missouri two children by his wife Milley, late a slave, both which children are yet slaves to said William Jack and whereas said Nicholas is anxious to take his two children with their mother to St. Louis and said William Jack being willing to yield to the paternal solicitude of said Nicholas, Be it therefore known to whom all these presents shall come: That it is agreed by and between said Jack and the said Nicholas that said Nicholas shall have permission to take his two said children, one named Neely aged about five years, the other is named Mary aged about twenty months, as far as St. Louis in the State of Missouri and there to retain them in his or their mother's possession for the period of Eighteen months from this date, the said Nicholas being bound to take good and sufficient

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care to provide the said children with comfortable food and clothing and to pay attention to the preservation of their health; and if said Nicholas should not return the said children to said Jack at the expiration of the time before stated then he shall be bound and hereby binds himself to pay to Jack the sum of three hundred and twenty dollars current money provided said children should so long live; but if said Nicholas should choose to return said children as before stipulated then said Jack shall pay to said Nicholas the sum of Fifty Dollars current money in consideration of a horse saddle and bridle now delivered to said Jack by said Nicholas.

In testimony of all and singular the stipulations in the foregoing agreement contained the parties have hereto enterchangably subscribed the names at Lexington this 23rd day of March, 1827.

WILLIAM JACK. [SEAL[
NICHOLAS CARPER.]SEAL]

In presence of John Aull.

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