Platte County Circuit Court
Circuit Court
February Term 1858

Box 41 File 92

Bryan, William H.

Settlement of Estate

- Bulk 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

In the matter of the estate of William H. Bryan dec'd

In the Circuit Court of Platte County Missouri.

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 the following Slaves to wit Prince, Minerva Alfred & 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 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 N Bryan is not indebted & that the administrator has made a final settlement & resigned. They therefore 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 share and proportionate part which is one fourth

J Pratt & Merryman,

Jos E Merryman attorney for the parties makes oath & states that he believes the above petition & matters therein stated are true

Jos H. E. Merryman

Sworn to, & subscribed, before me on this 8th day of March A.D. 1858

W. A. Pennington Clerk

In the matter of
the estate of
William H Bryan

Filed March 13/58
W C Remington
Clerk