From: **B Nichols (Gmail)**
Subject: 1858 Polly Skinner Petition for Sale of Slaves
Date: October 26, 2024 at 10:45 AM
To:

Bcc:

NB

Another interesting Platte County Circuit Court case that I requested from the Missouri State Archives because slaves were named in the document.

Attached is the 1860 Slave Schedule showing Polly Skinner's slave ownership. It'd be hard to match names with the slaves on the census but mote the 3 fugitive slaves and the 2 "houses" provided for the slaves.

Paxton's biography of Phinehas Skinner is also attached.

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Platte County Circuit Court, March Term 1858

Polly Skinner, et al.
"Petition for Sale of Slaves"
"Re: Slaves belonging to Phinehas Skinner, deceased"
"Includes list of slaves and the values of the slaves"

March 13, 1858

In the Circuit Court within and for the county of Platte in the State of Missouri, March Term 1858:

Polly Skinner, widow of Phinehas Skinner; James N. Burnes and Mary his wife; William E Croysdale and Emily his wife; Jane C. Skinner; Adaline Skinner; and Phinehas Skinner; Margaret Skinner; Azubah Skinner; Fanny Skinner and James P Skinner; by Polly Skinner, their guardian and Phinehas S. Woods and Kemp M. Woods, children of Kemp M. Woods, and Sarah his wife who is now deceased and who was late Sarah Skinner, by Kemp M. Woods, their guardian, Plaintiffs:

To the Honorable Judge of the Platte County Circuit Court:

Your petitioners would state that Phinehas Skinner departed this life in Platte County Missouri in the year 1856 leaving the aforementioned parties plaintiffs his legal heirs and representatives; That the following slaves belong to the estate of the said Phinehas Skinner, to wit:

Sam, Lucy, Hannah, Mariah, Lila, Jack, Tom, Harrison, Abe, Clark, Dick, Rachael, Mary, Eliza, Bob, Charles, Bob, Squire, Caroline, Aaron, John, Willis and Lucy

And they further state that letters of administration on the estate of said Phinehas Skinner, decd., have been taken out by Plaintiff Polly Skinner and Kemp M. Woods, and that it is not necessary to sell said slaves for the purpose of paying debts.

Plaintiffs moreover state that Plaintiff James A. Burnes, and Mary Ann his wife, received in the lifetime of Phinehas Skinner, the following slaves: **Melissa** in the year 1848 or 1849 (who was worth at the time of delivery $450); Also **Lucy**(sp?)

year 1845 or 1846 (who was worth at the time of delivery $450); Also **Lucy** (sp?) aged 15 years (worth at the time of delivery $450).

And Kemp M. Hood and Sarah his wife received in the lifetime of Phinehas Skinner, the following slaves: **Sam**(?smeared ink) aged 32 years (worth of $400). Also **Kelsey** at the price of $400.

And Plaintiff William E. Croysdale and Emily his wife received the following slaves: **Mahala** aged 12 years (worth of $500.00) and **George** aged 10 years (worth of $500.00).

And Plaintiff Jane C. Skinner received in the lifetime of said Skinner the following slaves: **Sylva and Dick** worth jointly at the time of delivery the sum of $700.00

Plaintiff further states that Plaintiff Polly Skinner has been appointed guardian of Plaintiffs Phinehas, Margaret, Fanny; and Azubah, James P. Skinner by the Probate Court of Platte County Missouri. And that Kemp M. Woods has been appointed guardian of Plaintiffs Phinehas S. and Kemp M. Woods, by the County Court of Clay County, Missouri, a copy on certificate of which appointments herewith filed.

Plaintiffs further state that Isaac C. Skinner who was one of the children and heir of said Phinehas Skinner, decd., has departed this life in Platte County leaving no issue, therefore, Plaintiffs are entitled to his interest in said estate.

They pray that partition and division of said slaves take place in the following manner:

That 1/3 of said slaves or the value of them (be paid) to Plaintiff Polly Skinner as her dower and that the residue be divided as follows:

- To James N. Burnes and wife Mary Ann his wife: 1/11th the first accounting for the value of the slaves they received in the lifetime of said Phinehas Skinner
- To William E. Croysdale and Emily his wife: 1/11th the first accounting for the value of the slaves they received.
- To Jane C. Skinner: 1/11th the first accounting for the value of the slaves she received.
- To Adaline Skinner: 1/11th.
- To Margaret, Phinehas, Fanny, Azubah and James P. Skinner: each 1/11th.
- And to Phinehas P. Woods and Kemp M. Junior jointly: 1/11th the first accounting for the value of the slaves that their mother Sarah Woods, wife of K.M. Woods, received in the lifetime of said Phinehas Skinner, decd.

And that the interest of Isaac C. Skinner be divided as follows:

- To Plaintiff Polly Skinner: 1/11th part;
- To James N. Burnes and wife: 1/11th;
- To William E. Croysdale and wife: 1/11th;
- To Jane C. Skinner: 1/11th;
- To Adaline Skinner: 1/11th;
- To Margaret, Phinehas, Fanny, Azubah, and James P. Skinner; each 1/11th;
- To Phinehas S. and Kemp M. Woods jointly: 1/12th.

And should the court be of the opinion that said slaves cannot be divided without injury to the owners, then **they pray that said slaves be sold and the proceeds**

injury to the owners, then **they pray that said slaves be sold and the proceeds be divided as set forth and for all other and further relief.**

Signed by:
Polly Skinner;
Kemp M. Woods, guardian of Phinehas S. and Kemp M. Woods;
Polly Skinner, guardian of Phinehas, Margaret, Azubah, Fannie and James P. Skinner
Jane C. Skinner
Adaline Skinner
James N. Burnes and Mary Ann Burnes

J.E. Merryman, attorney for Plaintiffs, makes oath and says that the above parties and XXXXXX. J.E. Merryman. Sworn to and subscribed before me that 13 March 1858, W.C. Remington, Clerk

March 25, 1858

It is adjudged and ordered that Clay McGee, John C. Bywaters and A.P. Reed be and they are hereby appointed Commissioners to make partition and division of the following slaves belong to the estate of Phinehas Skinner, decd., to wit:

Sam, Lucy, Hannah, Mariah, Lila, Jack, Tom, Harrison, Abe, Clark, Dick, Rachael, Mary, Eliza, Bob, Charles, Bob, Squire, Caroline, Aaron, John, Willis and Lucy, as follows:

To Polly Skinner, widow of P. Skinner, 1/3rd as her dower.

And that the residue be divided amongst the parties as follows:

To James N. Burnes and Mary Ann, his wife: 1/11th of the accounting for the sum of $900, the value of the slaves they got in the lifetime of P. Skinner, which amount will be deducted out of the said 1/11th.

To William E. Croysdale and Emily: 1/11th they accounting for the sum of $1000, the value of the slaves they got in the lifetime of said Skinner, which amount will be deducted out of the said 1/11th.

To Jane C. Skinner: 1/11th accounting for the sum of $700 the value of the slaves she got.

To Adaline, Margaret, Phinehas, Azubah, Fannie and James P. Skinner: each 1/11th.

And Phinehas S. and Kemp M. Woods, Junior, jointly 1/11th they accounting for the sum of $800 the value of the slaves their mother got in the life of said Skinner.

And it is further ordered that the interest of Isaac C. Skinner, decd., who was one of the heirs of P. Skinner and in said slaves, which is also 1/11th be divided as follows:

- To Polly Skinner: 1/11th
- To James N. Burnes and Burnes' wife: 1/11th
- To William E. Croysdale and wife: 1/11th
- To Jane C., Adaline, Margaret, Fanny, Phinehas, Azubah, and James P. Skinner: each 1/11th

- To Phinehas S. and Kemp M. Woods, Jr.; jointly 1/11th.

Commissioners are to make their referral to the Court (for the) partition and division XXXXX be made in kind after the assignment of the dower. The Commissioners will exert the facts to the Court. And this case is continued.

A true copy from the Record. W.C. Remington, Clerk by James L. March.

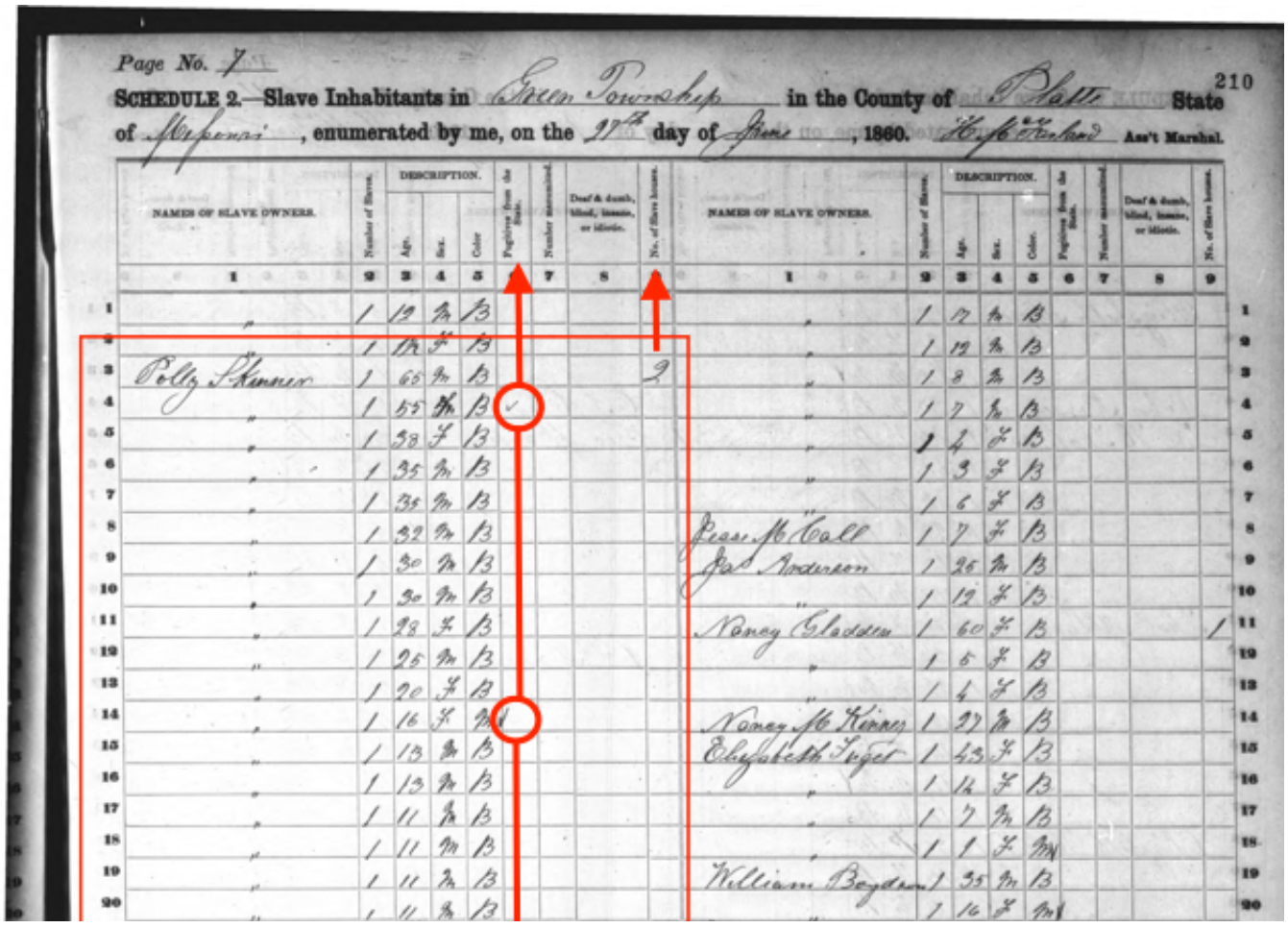
Commissioner's fees = $1.50

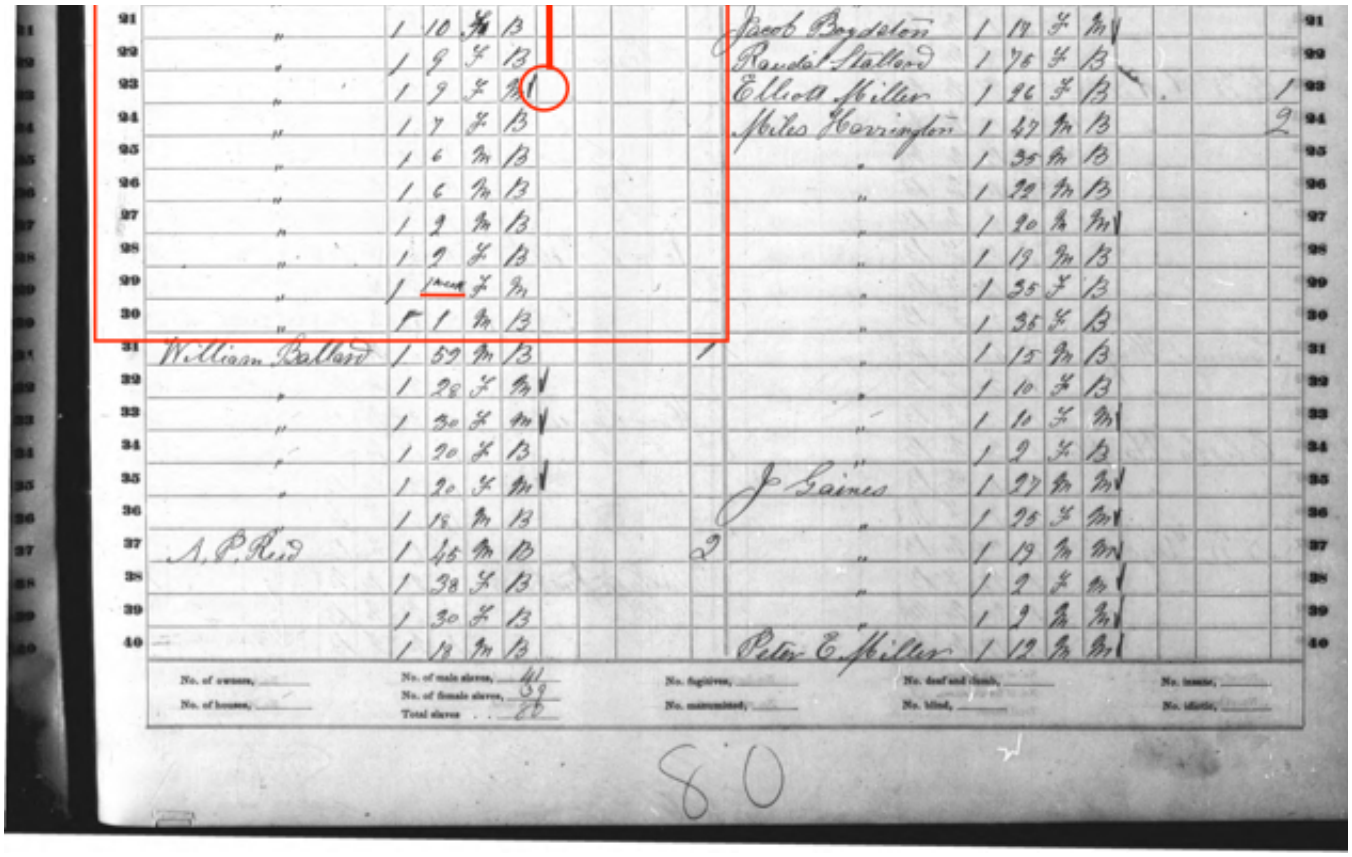
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From Paxton's Annals:

Nov. 8 1883 — H. CLAY McGEE, a former citizen of Platte, after shooting his wife and daughter, takes morphine and dies, in Jackson County, Mo. He lived near Camden Point until the close of the war, returned to Kentucky, was tried for murder, and then settled in Jackson County, Mo. His life was a tragedy. p. 784

Best,
Bill Nichols





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Skinner 1897 Paxton...pdf.pdf