From: **B Nichols (Gmail)**
Subject: 1858 State of Missouri vs. Allen Pinx, a Negro
Date: October 24, 2024 at 4:06 PM
To:

Bcc:

NB

Hi All:

The following summary about this Platte County Circuit Court case (attached) is self-explanatory.

What caught my eye, though, is that this is the second Platte County Circuit Court "runaway" slave case with which Zebulon D. Washburn was involved.

You'll recall my previous summary about how Zebulon Washburn brought James Lewis Gray to the Justice of the Peace as a runaway slave even though Gray had a pass from his St. Louis owner. Gray was trying to cross the Missouri River at the Rialto ferry that Washburn operated.

Paxton doesn't say much about Washburn. He was evidently a member of the 1856 Moot Congress and a Weston merchant. He married Jane Smith, the widow of Alex Ross and then John Smith.

Was Washburn a slave catcher? Or just an opportunistic ferry operator? Note below how much money the Court awarded Washburn for bringing in Pinx.

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Platte County Circuit Court, August Term 1858, State of Missouri vs Allen Pinx, a Negro

"Commitment"
"Defendant claims he is free, but is unable to prove it"
"Committed to jail because Court considers him a runaway slave"

Sept. 9, 1858:

State of Missouri, County of Platte

To Zebulon D. Washburn:

You, having brought before me, one of the Justices of the Peace within and for the County of Platte Allen Pinx/Pinoc, a mulatto, as a runaway slave,

And it appearing to the satisfaction of the said Justice that the said Allen Pinx/Pinox is a runaway slave, belonging to some person to me unknown (although he asserts that he is a free person but produced not evidence of that fact),

These are therefor to authorities and command you to convey and deliver the said runaway slave, together with this warrant, to the keeper of the common Jail of Platte County;

And you, the keeper of said Jail, are hereby commanded to receive the said Allen Pinx/Pink/Pinox and him safely keep within your Jail, until he shall thence be discharged by due course of law.

Given under my hand this 9th day of Sept. 1858. E.G. Heriot, Justice of the Peace

Given under my hand this 5th day of Sept. 1858, E.G. Heriot, Justice of the Peace

Costs:

$ 1.00 Justice
$ 1.00 Constable
$19.00 Washburn
$21.00

Filed by W.C. Remington, Clerk

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On Nov. 29, 1860, Heriot enrolled as an attorney practicing in Weston. On Dec. 25, 1860, he married Elizabeth Meek, daughter of Weston resident Richard Meek. Paxton doesn't say much more about Heriot.

Best,
Bill Nichols



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