From: **B Nichols (Gmail)**
Subject: 1860 State of Missouri vs. James Lewis Gray
Date: October 16, 2024 at 3:03 PM
To:

Bcc:

NB

A transcription of a Platte County Circuit Court file that I recently requested and received from the Missouri State Archives:

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Platte County Circuit Court, May Term 1860

1860 State of Missouri vs. James Lewis Gray “Suspected Runaway Slave”

“Defendant taken while attempting to cross river at Rialto to Leavenworth”
“Includes pass Defendant alleged was from his owner in St. Louis”

Nov. 13, 1859:

Exhibit A “The Pass”

St. Louis MO Nov. 13, 1859: This is to certify that I do hereby permit my Boy Lewis Gray to ship on any steam boat to New Orleans and from thence I permit him to ship on any boat wherever he can find Employment Unmolested.” Mrs. Mary Kane

April 11, 1860

Oath of ?Zebulon? D. Washburn

Before George W. Belt, Justice of the Peace within and for the County and State aforesaid:

Now at this time ?Zebulon? D. Washburn brings before me, Geo. W. Belt, Justice of the Peace as aforesaid, James Lewis Grey who is suspected of being a runaway slave belonging to a person unknown, who represents that he lives in St. Louis some 500 miles from Platte County and makes oath to the following facts:

As I was going down to my place Rialto I saw this boy setting on the ?road? and asked him who he belonged to; he said he did not belong to anybody; He attempted to cross without a proper pass, the pass he had was the one herewith filed marked “A”.

I have a ferry on MO River at Rialto and that is the place where the boy wanted to pass over the Missouri River to Leavenworth City?.

Under these circumstances, I took up the boy up as a runaway and broth him before George W. Belt, Justice of the Peace of Platte County, State of Missouri.

signed Zebulon A Washburn.

April 11, 1860

Whereas Z D. Washburn has this day brought before me, a Justice of the Peace within

Whereas Z.D. Washburn has this day brought before me, a Justice of the Peace within the County and State aforesaid, a Negro boy who is suspected as being a runaway slave and says his name is Jame Lewis Grey and lives in St. Louis MO and is appearing to the satisfaction of the undersigned Justice that the boy is a runaway;

I therefore command Z.D. Washburn to apprehend & take and deliver said boy to the Sheriff of Platte County and State of Missouri to be dealt with according to cause. Witness my hand and seal this 11 April 1860.

April 11, 1860:

No bill found in this. James N. Layton, Foreman of the Grand Jury
Filed April 11, 1860, W.C. Remington, Clerk

Best,
Bill Nichols



1860 Missouri v James...21.pdf