

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION ESTATE OF JAMES COOLEY DEC'D. From the Joint Collection University of Missouri, Western Historical Manuscript Collection – Columbia.

Leonard, Abiel (1796-1863, Collection (1013) 1786-1909

Personal and business papers of the Leonard family of Fayette, Missouri, including correspondence, deed, legal cases, bills, accounts, receipts, and Missouri Militia correspondence. Leonard was a lawyer, farmer, landowner, and prominent Whig, who served on the Missouri Supreme Court. 1) Social Customs and Daily Life 2) Law and Judiciary 3) Politics 4) Women

To the Honorable David Todd Judge of the Circuit Court for the first Judicial Circuit in the State of Missouri setting as a court of Howard and Circuit aforesaid—

Your orator Pleasant Wilson of the County of Howard and State of Missouri administrator of all and singular the goods and chattels rights and credits of James Cooley deceased. Humbly complaining therewith unto your Honor that some time on or about the first day of October in the year Eighteen hundred and twenty one in the County of Howard aforesaid the aforesaid James Cooley died intestate leaving a widow by the name of Elizabeth Cooley and the following heirs and legal Representatives towit Thomas White and his wife Jemima which said Jemima is the daughter and heir of said deceased, William Cunningham and his wife Docia which said Docia is the daughter and Heir of said Deceased and the following sons and heirs all minors towit Demarquis D. Cooley, Isaac N. Cooley, James M. Cooley, Timothy G. Cooley, John H. Cooley, Cornelius Cooley, Benjamin R. Cooley, Matthias M. Cooley and William Cooley who are all prayed to be made parties to this Bill of Complaint. Your Petitioner further represents unto your Honor that on the ninth day of January in the year Eighteen hundred and twenty two he obtained letters of administration on the Estate of said deceased from the clerk of the County Court for the County of Howard aforesaid which are in full force and virtue in law, not set aside or revoked and which are to the Court here thereon and made part of this Bill the date whereof is the same day and year aforesaid. Your orator further represents that the personal Estate of said deceased was appraised to the sum of \$625.43 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents out of which said personal property the widow of said deceased received at its appraised value the sum of \$150. which left a balance of said personal property at its appraised value of the sum of \$475.43 $\frac{3}{4}$ -- Your Petitioner further represents that the above personal property at its appraised value was sold at public sale to the highest Bidder as will appear said Sale Bill for the sum of \$303.01 cent – Your orator further shows unto your Honor that the following demands in amount have been allowed by the County Court for the County of Howard in favour of Creditors against your orator as administrator of the Estate of said deceased towit:

John F. Ryland the sum of -----	\$64.00
To Hardage Lane the sum of -----	20.75
To George Houx the sum of -----	6.87 $\frac{1}{2}$

To Augustus Evans the sum of-----	14.
To Henry Burnum the sum of-----	4.95
To Asaph E. Hubbard the sum of -----	5.00
To William B. Johnson the sum of -----	12.62 ½
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXX
To William Cunningham the sum of -----	13.50
To Henry Burnum the sum of -----	\$06.00
To Peter Kirkindall the sum of-----	50.00
To Eli Casey the sum of -----	7.00
To Phillip Tramell -----	274.86
To John G. Phillips the sum of (exclusive of interest) -----	385.42
To Henry <i>Bouzus</i> ? the sum of -----	
To A.S. McGish the sum of -----	132.42
To Samuel Pool the sum of -----	71.66
To John G. Phillips the sum of -----	48.35
Which makes the total amount of	\$1047.41

As will appear by Copy of Record of the Howard County Court Herewith exhibited marked (G) and is prayed to be made a part Of this Bill—Your orator states that the personal Estate of said Deceased will not pay the debts of said deceased and that he knows of no personal property debts owes monies or demands other than above stated—Your orator further states that he has been informed and believes that in the lifetime of said deceased & before the year Eighteen hundred and twenty one said deceased purchased from the United States in the County of Howard and state aforesaid and obtained a certificate there for the North West quarter of section number twenty one in Township fifty and range sixteen West. That said deceased in his life time had paid to the United States all the payments on said quarter section of land with the exception of about thirty three dollars—Your orator further states that he has been informed and believes that some time in the year Eighteen hundred and twenty one the said deceased asked a certain Robert Brown then and now of the County of Howard and State aforesaid who is prayed to be made a defendant to this Bill of Complaint to enter unto a recognizance of bail for him said deceased in the case of indictment which said Brown did—as will appear by this affidavit or written statement of said Robert Brown that said Cooley some time in the year Eighteen hundred and twenty one assigned to said Brown the aforesaid land certificate for the aforesaid quarter section of land before the aforesaid land was entirely paid for and that said Brown paid on the aforesaid Certificate on (land) about the sum of thirty three Dollars the balance of the money owe the General Government for said quarter section of said land—Your orator further states that it will appear by the aforesaid written statement or affidavit of said Brown that said James Cooley deceased assigned him said Robert Brown the aforesaid land Certificate for the purpose of securing and indemnifying the said Brown in entering or going the Bail as aforesaid for him said Cooley. Your orator further states that it will appear from the aforesaid written statement of said Brown that by the death of said Cooley he the said Brown was released from all liability on account of said recognizance and that he said Brown was not injured thereby and

that he said Brown has been paid all sums of money by him said Brown paid out on said land by this your Petitioner and that the said Brown is ready and willing to convey said quarter section of land to whom this Honorable Court shall direct. Your orator further represents that he has been informed and believes that heretofore towit: on the first day of June in the year Eighteen hundred and twenty five a patent by virtue of the aforesaid assignment of said Certificate by said James Cooley deceased to said Robert Brown was issued by the President of the United States to said Robert Brown & his heirs for said quarter section of land and that said Patent is under the Controll of said Brown which said patent your orator prays the said Brown may be required by rule of this Honourable Court to produced. Your orator prays may be made a part of this Bill of Complaint.

In tender consideration whereof and for that your orator is remediless in the premises by the strict rules of the common law and releasable only in a Court of Equity where matter of this nature are properly cognizable. To the and therefore that said Defendants may respectively full true direct and prefect answers make upon their respective Corporal oaths according to their respective knowledge information and belief. To all and singular the charges and matters aforesaid as fully in every respect as if the same were here again repeated and they thereon to particularly interrogated and more especially that they may respectively set forth and discover according to the best of their knowledge whether the said James Cooley did not die intestate. And that they set forth whether Jemima White is not an heir and daughter of said deceased and whether she did not intermarry with one Thomas White and whether the said Thomas White is not son in law of said deceased. And that they set forth whether Docia Cunningham is not an heir and daughter of said deceased and whether she did not intermarry with the aforesaid William Cunningham. And whether the said Cunningham is not the son in law of said deceased. And that they set forth whether Demarquis D. Cooley, Isaac N. Cooley, James M. Cooley, Timothy G. Cooley, John H. Cooley, Cornelius Cooley are not heir and sons of said deceased. And whether they are not minors under the age of twenty-one years. And that they set forth whether there are any other heirs other than those stated of the said James Cooley deceased. And that the said Robert Brown set forth particularly whether the annexed statement in writing marked (A) is not subscribed by him and whether the facts therein set forth by him are not true. And that the above heir and legal representatives of said deceased may set forth what title they have in & to said tract of and if any they have. And that this Honourable Court will decree all the legal and equitable title which the said Robert Brown has and which the aforesaid defendants have in and to the aforesaid quarter section of land to vest in Pleasant Wilson your orator for the use and benefit of the Creditors of said deceased and that your orator my hereafter be enabled by one course of law to have the same land sold for the benefit and use of said creditors. And that your orator may have such further and other relief in the premises as the nature of his case shall require and as to your Honour shall seem meet. May it please your Honour to grant unto your order the states most gracious writ of subpoena to be directed to the said Defendants thereby _____ them and every of them at a certain day and certain _____ therein to be specified personal to be and appear before your Honour and they are

to answer all and singular the premises aforesaid and to stand to perform and abide such order directed and decree therein as to your Honour shall seem meet.

And your orator shall ever pray.

Pleasant Wilson

Admr. of Jas. Cooley dec'd