

Record Series #: 1121-126

Name: Bills of Sale for Enslaved People
Dates: 1826, 1836, 1841-1859, 1863, no date
Extent/Size: 4 legal sized folders; 1 oversized folder (0.5 cubic feet)
Language: English

Name of Creator(s):

Davidson County, Tennessee
Henry County, Tennessee
Warren County, Tennessee
Washington County, Tennessee
Williamson County, Tennessee

Scope & Content:

Bills of Sale for enslaved people were used during the domestic slave trade in the United States of America. The Act Prohibiting the Importation of Slaves was passed by Congress in 1808, while this deterred the international slave trade, it created a place for the domestic slave trade to thrive. Bills of sale in this collection detail the transfer of ownership of enslaved people. The bills of sale typically name the seller, the buyer, names of the enslaved being sold sometimes with a physical description and/or age, amount of the sale, location and date of the sale. These documents are some of the few instances that enslaved people were detailed in history. The bills of sale in this collection come from various counties in Tennessee.

System of Arrangement & Ordering:

The Bills of Sale for Enslaved People are arranged alphabetically by location recorded.

Conditions Governing Access:

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Access Points:

Bills of Sale

Enslaved persons

Tennessee-Mill Creek (Williamson County and Davidson County)

Sponsors/Funding:

Chatham County, Georgia, Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funding.

Preferred Citation:

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Processed by:

M. Kerkhoff, February 2023.

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Inventory:

All items have been digitized and are [available here](#).

Box #

Folder #

Item #

Location of Sale

Details, Date

Box 1121-000-0005

Folder 1121-126-0001 Davidson County, Tennessee, 1826

Item #1121-126-0001_0001 Bill of sale, Henry Ewing paid four hundred dollars to Christopher Robertson, for a negro woman slave named Amy of a bright mulatto color, aged about 21 years, July 1, 1826.

Folder 1121-126-0002 Henry County, Tennessee, 1842

Item #1121-126-0002_0001 Bill of sale, Benjamin C. Brown paid five hundred dollars to William Fowell [sp?] for one negro woman named Grace aged about 20 years, September 5, 1842.

Folder 1121-126-0003 Warren County, Tennessee, 1863

Item #1121-126-0003_0001 Bill of sale, E. H. Hearn paid fourteen hundred and fifty dollars to M. P. Hearn for three negroes: Ann aged thirty-six years, Polley aged seven years, and Joe aged about four months, February 2, 1863

Folder 1121-126-0004 Williamson County, Tennessee, 1841-1849, 1855-1859, no date

Item #1121-126-0004_0001 Conveyance of slave, Samuel and Jane Allen, deceased, to William Andrews, for two hundred dollars, negro girl slave Martha, about eighteen years old, September 5, 1859

Item #1121-126-0004_0002 Bill of sale, Robert L. Andrews paid eight hundred and fifty dollars to John Haley for a negro woman named Martha, age twenty-one years old, and her child, Jiles, July 3, 1847

Item #1121-126-0004_0003 Bill of sale, John C. Bostick paid eleven hundred dollars to Thomas Revy [sp?], for two negro slaves named Minerva, a woman of copper complexion and her child, Robert, four months old, June 15, 1855

Item #1121-126-0004_0004 Bill of sale, Sidney B. Aden and Harvey E. Aden, executors of the Bennett Aden estate, sold a negro man named Nelson aged about 24 years for eighteen hundred dollars to Josephine Cunningham, February 10, 1858.

Item #1121-126-0004_0005 Bill of sale, John Hughes sold a negro slave named Lewis for five hundred dollars to Thomas Bennett, January 1, 1844.

Item #1121-126-0004_0006 Bill of sale, B. B. Andrews paid Holcomb Harvey two thousand dollars for the following slaves: Mandy, about 16 years, Sam 13

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- years, James about 9 years old, and Jesse about 7 years,
November 12, 1849
- Item #1121-126-0004_0007 Bill of sale, William Chandler [sp?] paid seven hundred dollars to Josiah Fleming, for a negro woman, Agnes [sp?] and her child, one year and two months old named Caroline, October 22, 1841.
- Item #1121-126-0004_0008 Complaint on issues of a sale, James A. McCue purchased from Allen, a slave woman named Judy, no date.

Box 1121-000-0004 [oversized]

Folder 1121-126-0005 Washington County, Tennessee [oversized]

- Item #1121-126-0005_0001 To Samuel Logan letter of complaint from John Meek about a slave woman Judy, August 5, 1836 [difficult to read, possibly related to Item #1121-126-004_0008]
- Williamson County, Tennessee [oversized]
- Item #1121-126-0005_0002 T. F. Atkinson, Executor of A. B. Caldwell, deceased, should sell away slaves, a negro woman named Edy about twenty-nine years old and her child William Henry about eight months old at public sale. They were sold off to H. Petway, as Trustee for Susan D. Petway wife of Thomas M. Petway, at the price of six hundred and fifteen dollars, being the highest bidder, July 5, 1847.
- Item #1121-126-0005_0003 Joseph Hunter of the town of Franklin in the state of Tennessee for the sum of six hundred and forty-five dollars paid by Philip G. S. Perkins of Williamson County in said state, sold a certain mulatto slave named June or Jimmy about fifteen years of age, December 26, 1849.