

**American Slavery Collection, 1796-ca.1870 (1 Folder)**

Processed by Chuck Hill, March 2005

**Restrictions**

None.

**Scope and Content Note**

The American Slavery Collection is an artificial collection compiled from a variety of sources including donations of individual documents and purchases. The 13 items in this collection consist of ten bills of sale, one receipt, one document relating to manumission and the autobiography of a former slave who lived in Madison County, KY as a “free black” prior to 1850. The collection provides primary source material to researchers and documents the slave trade in Kentucky.

The provenance of this material is not currently known [03/18/2005]. Several of the items appear to have been purchased for the Townsend Room Collections as there are clippings that describe the document and give a price. These documents will be indicated as [Purchase] after the description and the clippings will be found in the accession file. These documents have been added to this collection for ease of access and because they have no relevance as part of a larger collection.

**Donor Information**

Unknown (0010-020).

## Folder List

- 1796 Oct 6 Bill of sale, Caleb Lindsey, Newberry County, SC to Matthew Scott, Madison County, KY, for “one country born negro girl named Prissillah.” The document indicates that the sale price is 75 pounds “lawful money of Kentucky” and that Prissillah is twenty years old.
- 1819 Jul 31 Agreement between Thomas McClean and Samuel G. Whyte, George Rankin and John McComb (trustees for the “United Society called Shakers”) regarding the manumission of “a black boy named George,” at South Union, Logan County, KY. [From the J.T. Dorris Museum Collection. 76.1.1] **Filed oversize.**
- 1830 Mar 26 Bill of sale, William Henry to Benjamin Powell, Scott Co., KY, for “a negro girl by the name of Maryetta about three years old.” The sale price was \$150, and an endorsement on the back indicates that Powell then sold the girl to Benjamin McDaniel on 27 Jan 1831 for \$175. [From the J.T. Dorris Museum Collection. N.22]
- 1833 Feb 17 Bill of sale, William Hunt, MS to John G. Taylor, KY, for “a negro man named John.” The sale price is \$300 and John is about 22 years old.
- 1833 Apr 3 Bill of sale, John W. Anderson, Mason County, KY to D.P. Jackson for “three negro men named and described as follows, Tom Kemper about 26 years, Tom Wall aged twnty-eight, and George aged about twenty-four; for and in consideration of the sum of nineteen hundred dollars.” [Purchase]
- 1835 Bill of sale, J.P. Sapeen (?), Christian County, KY to D.P. Jackson for “a negro girl slave for life, named Jane aged about ten years,” for \$375. [Purchase]
- 1835 Mar 2 Bill of sale, Morton A. Rucker, Caldwell County, KY to D.P. Jackson, Adams County, MS for “a negro woman named Eliza.” The document indicates that Eliza is about 30 years old and the sale price is \$500. [Purchase]
- 1836 Apr 16 Bill of sale, Joseph P. Puryear to John G. Taylor for “one negro woman forty-five years of age named Peggy,” for \$220.
- 1838 Oct 31 Receipt, Richard White to Bailey Richardson, for “a negro boy named James about eight years old.” The sale price was \$400 and the receipt was witnessed by A. Batterton. [From the J.T. Dorris Museum Collection. N.68.4]
- 1855 Sep 18 Bill of sale, Caroline R. McConnell to Samuel G. Wurts for “two negroes one a boy named Perry aged about 17 years and my girl Rhena aged about fifteen years.” The sale price \$1400 with \$200 being paid down and the other \$1200 due in one year at 6% interest. A receipt for the \$200 is written below the bill of sale and indicates that it is “by C.L. McConnell.” [From the J.T. Dorris Museum Collection. N.109]

- 1862 May 5 Bill of sale, S. Parish [Deputy Sheriff of Madison County, KY] “under execution in favor of John B. Walker against Albert Stagner and T.R. Stagner” to John G. Taylor for “a negro girl Milly” at a sale price of \$381.
- 1863 Feb 2 Bill of sale, Harrison Perkins to John G. Taylor for “a negro woman named Martha aged twenty years and also her child named Nancy aged two years” for \$550.
- ca.1870 *A Sketch of the Life and Experiences of George White, a Colored Man, and born a Slave - written by himself. (A lesson to his children).* An autobiographical letter about his life as a slave born in Maryland in 1790, where he was the property of Benjamin Burgess, and in Madison County, Kentucky, where he was the property of John White. He states that he had this autobiography written for him when he was a “very old man” in hopes that it would benefit his children and grandchildren as well as “all others, in lowly condition.” He mentions that since obtaining his freedom, he has also been able to “purchase the several members of my family who were born slaves.” [From the J.T. Dorris Museum Collection. N.58] Note: *Madison County: 200 Hundred Years in Retrospect*, p.114, states that George White “a free man of color” set his children & servants free in 1850. The Madison County census for 1860 lists a George White (black) as being 70 years old and born in Maryland as well as another George White (black) as being 43 years old and born in Madison County. **Filed oversize.**