

USING GEORGIA COURT RECORDS IN GENEALOGY

Genealogy Picnic, June 4, 2022

Georgia Archives

COURTS IN GEORGIA

- Superior Court, 1777 (first Constitution of Georgia)
- Inferior Court, 1789-1868 (Judiciary Act of 1789)
- Court of Ordinary, 1851-1974 (Became Probate Court 1974)
- Georgia Supreme Court, 1846
- County Court I, 1866-1868
- County Court II, 1872

Courts constantly evolving as General Assembly passes laws modifying jurisdiction and procedures.

SUPERIOR COURT

- Felony Criminal Cases
- Equity Cases
- Disputes between parties (often lawsuits over debt)
- Divorces (heard and judged evidence until 1833, final jurisdiction after 1833)
- Cases involving land (real property)
- Appeals from lower courts (until 1846)
 - Judicial Review

SUPERIOR COURT RECORDS

- State divided into judicial districts, district judges heard cases in each county in the district
- Two to three sessions per year
- Superior Court heard estate matters concerning:
 - Lawsuits by the administrator to recover debt owed to estate
 - Lawsuits among heirs involving property, usually land
- Minutes may include little information: cases heard, verdicts, and judge's orders
- Look for Writs or Final Record (1881)
 - Petitions, Motions, Pleas, Demurrers, Affidavits, Bonds, Interrogatories, Subpoenas, Verdicts recorded
 - Not kept by all counties prior to 1881 law

SUPERIOR COURT RECORDS

- Minutes (list cases, indictments for criminal cases, bonds for criminal defendants, civil and criminal jury verdicts, sentences)
- Case files: Petitions, motions, pleas, demurrers, affidavits, bonds, interrogatories, subpoenas, warrants, indictments, verdicts, sentences.
 - Georgia Archives Finding Aids
 - FamilySearch (where microfilmed and scanned)
 - Not available for all counties
- Writs (Proceedings, Final Record): documents copied into ledgers. Look for in:
 - Microfilm Card Catalog
 - FamilySearch (where microfilmed and scanned)

CAMDEN COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT
MINUTES,
OCT. 6, 1800

Jacob Cunes Adm. Of Robt.
Harris v. Ralph Thompson &
James Akins

State v. John Gorman: Hog
Stealing

Nancy Blunt v. Reddin Blunt:
Divorce

William Johnston v. Thos.
Norris: Trespass

Francis Sterling: excuse from
jury duty

Richard Gascogne v. John
Hampton

2 Jacob Clarke	12 Edward Hamblenton
3 William Talley	13 John Hall
4 William Neblacks	14 Samuel Sauls
5 Joseph Mills	15 Walter Drummond
6 Burrows Hizingbotham	16 Countis Hizingbotham
7 Charleston Mcargels Junr.	17 David Mcargels
8 Robert Brown	18 Hugh Brown
9 Matthew Motes Junr.	19 Thomas Penon
10 John Bailey	20 Silas Lasley
11 Eli Miller	21 Timothy Hopkins

Jacob Cunes Adm.
of Robt. Harris...
VS
Case.

Ralph Thompson &
James Akins ...
and sworn VS, ...
Jury W. I. Jannillee

1 John Jones & Joseph Mills & Robt. Brown
2 Jacob Clarke & Burrows Hizingbotham & W. Busley
3 William Talley & Charleston Mcargels & Eli Miller
4 William Neblacks & Matt. Motes Junr. & Edw. Hamblenton

Verdict. We find for the plaintiff the sum
of two hundred and sixty five Dollars and twelve
Cents, with Costs of Suit. Return 7th October 1800

William Neblacks
Foreman

The Grand Jury returned the following Bills
The State VS } Indict. Hog Stealing
John Gorman } No. Bill
James Gascogne
Foreman

Nancy Blunt VS } Bills for Divorce
Reddin Blunt } Dismissed.

William Johnston VS } Trespas. Case
Thos. Norris VS } Defendant dead & Case
Dismissed.

Francis Sterling. Offered an Excuse to the Court
on oath, in Writing, stating, that he had been
summoned to attend the present Term as a
petit Juror, and that he had left his wife
in a bad state of health, and without any
assistance; he was Excused.

Richard Gascogne VS } Case.
John Hampton } Refused.

SUPERIOR COURT AND ESTATES JUDICIARY ACT OF 1799

- Superior Court has jurisdiction over any case involving land.
- No suit or action can be issued against any executor or administrator until 12 months
 - After the Will is probated OR
 - After Letters of Administration are granted on intestate estate.

(Executors and administrators must publish notices in newspapers for creditors or debtors to submit their claims)
- Superior Court can compel distribution of intestate estates and payment of legacies.
- If a woman with standing to sue in court (feme sole) is plaintiff in a case and marries while the suit is pending, the suit proceeds in the name of the (new) husband and wife.
 - Example: A woman acting as her late husband's administrator sues

CAMDEN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
MINUTES, 1797-1809: OCT. 8, 1800

Stephen W. More & wife
Admo^r: of Richard Cole. } Case
By }
... Clarke ... } Dismissed. —

Stephen W. More & WIFE?
Administrators of Richard Cole
Why is Stephen More's wife
listed as an administrator?

Richard Cole's widow, remarried
to Stephen W. More?

CAMDEN COUNTY WILL BOOK A

- Mrs. Ann Cole Widow of Charleston petitioned to be named Administratrix for Richard Cole, deceased, died intestate
 - Camden County Will Book A, p. 30. She petitioned in Charleston, SC, her petition recorded here
- Inventory lists land owned by Richard Cole in Camden County
 - Camden County Will Book A, p. 43. Will Book includes Inventories and Appraisements
- Richard Cole is in the index

INFERIOR COURT MINUTES

- **Court Purposes**
 - Concurrent jurisdiction with Superior Court to try cases EXCEPT where Superior Court had exclusive jurisdiction
 - Civil Cases
 - Criminal Cases
 - Crimes of enslaved persons
- **County Purposes** (until 1868)
 - Contracts for bridges, ferries, roads, county buildings, bonds of county officials, payments of county funds for work
 - Overseeing the poor
 - “Poor” school funds
- **Ordinary Purposes** (Probate) until 1851
 - **Orders** for admitting Wills, Letters of Administration, Division of Property, Letters of Dismission
 - Guardianships, Apprenticeships
 - Caveats (protests to will)
 - Lunacy Hearings
- Issue and record Marriage Licenses (1805-1851)

LINCOLN COUNTY INFERIOR COURT MINUTES, 1797-1810, JANUARY 1797

TRANSCRIPT, WPA GEORGIA HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY HANDBOOK, 1940

15

Lincoln County

Minutes Inferior Court

Vol. I. 1797-1810.

Sheet 1

(Book page 1)

January Term
1791

Present Robert Walton Basil Lamar Newil Walton &
Henry Ware Esquires Justices of said Court.

Court opened

The Court was opened in due form & the following Jurors
were called and empaneled

Jury
empaneled

1 Barwell Smith	5 William Carter	9 Kimbro Standard
2 Samuel Freeman	6 John Hardin	10 John Griffin
3 William Arrington	7 John Grice	11 James Markam
4 Francis Maxwell	8 Nicholas Grice	12 Thomas Bond

Various cases

Poter Terrill vs William Graves	Continued & the attending witness dispensed with & judgment acknowledged

John Michael surviving copartner of Michael & Sons vs Stith Barksdale	Case continued by consent

Dennis McLendon vs William Graves	Debt continued by consent

William Cooks vs Minor Winn	Attachment

Petition for
Guardian

Elizabeth Wright came into Court and petitioned for leave to
choose a Guardian & choase Newell Walton

Adjournment

Court adjourned until 10 oclock tomorrow morning

William Dowsing Clerk

(Book page 1 continued)

16		Lincoln County
		Minutes Inferior Court
		Vol. I. 1797-1810
Sheet 2	(Book page 1 continued)	
Tuesday, Jan. 10, 1797	Tuesday 10	
Court opened	Court met according to adjournment Present Robert Walton Henry Ware Basil Lamar and Nowel Walton Justices of the Infr. Court Orded (sic) That Matthew Talbot of Wilkes County Draw twenty dollars from the collector of this County for his services in running a line between this County & the County of Wilkes . . . also for his trouble in drawing a map of the County of Lincoln	
Pay for survey and map		
		(End book page 1.)
Constables appointed	(Begin Book page 2.) Ordered That John Ware be appointed a Constable in Capt Wares District Ordered That William McKinney be appointed constable in Capt Beamans District Ordered That that (sic) Robert Chapel be appointed constable in Capt Wooldridge District Ordered That William Norman be appointed constable in Capt Steals District (Book page 2 continued)	

LINCOLN COUNTY INFERIOR COURT MINUTES, 1797-1810, JANUARY 1797

TRANSCRIPT, WPA HANDBOOK, 1940

IMAGE OF ORIGINAL, FAMILYSEARCH.ORG

15

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Various cases

Peter Terrill
vs
William Graves } Continued & the attending witness dispensed
with & judgment acknowledged

John Michael surviving copartner of Michael & Sons
vs
Stith Barksdale } Case continued
by consent

Dennis McLendon
vs
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William Cooks
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Minor Winn } Attachment

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William Dowsing Clerk

(Book page 1 continued)

Minutes of Lincoln Co's Court January Term 1797

Present Robert Walton Basil Lamar Newell Walton & Henry Ware Esquires Justices of said Court

The Court was opened in due form & the following Jurors were called and empaneled

1 Barwell Smith	5 William Carter	9 Kimbro Standard
2 Samuel Freeman	6 John Hardin	10 John Griffin
3 William Arrington	7 John Grice	11 James Markam
4 Francis Maxwell	8 Nicholas Grice	12 Thomas Bond

Peter Terrill vs William Graves } Continued & the attending witness dispensed with & judgment acknowledged

John Michael surviving copartner of Michael & Sons vs Stith Barksdale } Case continued by consent

Dennis McLendon vs William Graves } Debt continued by consent

William Cooks vs Minor Winn } Attachment

Elizabeth Wright came into Court and petitioned for leave to choose a Guardian & choose Newell Walton Junior

Whom she craved that the said Walton do give security for the faithful performance in this office in the sum of fifteen hundred dollars & that he be appointed Guardian to the said Elizabeth Wright accordingly

Court adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning

William Dowsing Clerk

Tuesday 10

Court met according to adjournment Present Robert Walton Henry Ware Basil Lamar and Newell Walton Justices of the Inferior Court

Craved That Matthew Pollock of Adams County

PROBATE RECORDS

- Be a detective. Start with the assumption that *something* has to be recorded somewhere
- Counties have different recording practices
 - All types of probate records recorded in one volume—early counties, small counties
 - Several types of records in one volume: Inventories & Appraisements, Sales; Annual Returns & Vouchers
 - Divisions of estates might be recorded with either
 - Records recorded in Minutes: Will, Dismissions, Caveats

COURT OF ORDINARY

- Created 1851
- Probate (Ordinary) and marriage functions moved from Inferior Court to Separate Court of Ordinary
- Cataloging in Georgia Archives and FamilySearch often confuses Ordinary Court and Inferior Court
- Check listings of both Inferior Court Minutes and Ordinary Minutes
- Name changed to Probate Court, 1974

UNION COUNTY MISC. PROBATE RECORDS, 1851-1876

for said County and that you
will return the same certified under
your hands. Also a certificate of your
taking the oath thereunto annexed
under said Commission within ten
prescribed by law. Witness the
Honorable and our young one of
the Justices of the said Court of
Ordinary this 7th day of April
1851 J. J. Logan & Co.

Inventory and appraisement of the
Estate of Morgan B. Oweny Decedent
No 1 after a negro boy \$ 600.00
Mary an a negro woman 600 00
Nancy a Negro woman 500 00
Lucy Caroline a girl 250 00
Bird Allen a boy 200 00
Mathew a girl 350 00
Sarah a girl 300 00
Claybank mare 60 00
Black mare 50 00
a guinea 75 00
Brown filly 35 10
one horse colt 20 00
one cart & yoke of workstess 50 00
one Black Cow and calf 12 50
four cows and calves 36 00
three cows 27 00
five head of sheep 21 00
one sow and pigs 6 00
twenty head of sheep 30 10
the wood work of a wagon 25 00
one hundred and fifty bushels of corn 75 00
one Clock 10 00
one horse 12 00
Beds and furniture 100 00
two tables and furniture 10 00
Kitchen furniture 5 00
a part of a library of books 20 00
three saddles 30 00
Harness and sundry farming tools 20 00
7 Bushels of Rye and 6 Bunches
Bunches of fodder one bushel 8 50
a lot of book plank and a beam 10 00
Lard notes on M. S. Smith for
100 hundred bushels corn cash

one School article with 27 scholars
amount to the Sunday School notes and
accounts not here mentioned

Inventory and appraisement of the
Estate of Morgan B. Oweny Decedent
No 1 after a negro boy \$ 600.00
Mary an a negro woman 600 00
Nancy a Negro woman 500 00
Lucy Caroline a girl 250 00
Bird Allen a boy 200 00
Mathew a girl 350 00
Sarah a girl 300 00
Claybank mare 60 00
Black mare 50 00
a guinea 75 00
Brown filly 35 10
one horse colt 20 00
one cart & yoke of workstess 50 00
one Black Cow and calf 12 50
four cows and calves 36 00

1850 (J. K. Duncan Return)

Feb 9th recd of J. M. & V. Hughes two
notes of hand one for twenty
one dollars 14 1/2 etc with the three
credits all making 11
the other for \$7.77 & one of same 5 87
14th recd of Andrew Young
1 prom account 5 00
14th rented out at the highest
bidder the improvable land
belonging to the estate of J. K. Duncan

1 Jan 1st paid W. H. King 25
2 Jan 1st paid J. M. & V. Hughes 4 00
3 Sept 9th paid tax for 1851 as J. M. & V. 3 80
4 Oct 1st paid R. D. Pugh & J. K. Duncan in
discount as per vouchers 570 00
5 16th Paid Andrew Young prom
account as per vouchers 5 00
6 16th Paid J. M. & V. Hughes 5 00
7 16th Paid J. M. & V. Hughes as per vouchers 1 50
8 29th Paid J. M. & V. Hughes as per
vouchers 4 00
9 29th Paid J. M. & V. Hughes 21 00
10 29th Paid J. M. & V. Hughes 2 45
11 29th Paid J. M. & V. Hughes 14 00
12 29th Paid J. M. & V. Hughes 1 00
13 29th Paid J. M. & V. Hughes 14 50
14 29th Paid J. M. & V. Hughes 37 15
15 29th Paid J. M. & V. Hughes 2 00
16 29th Paid J. M. & V. Hughes 1 50

1850 (J. K. Duncan Return)

Feb 9th recd of J. M. & V. Hughes two
notes of hand one for twenty
one dollars 14 1/2 etc with the three
credits all making 11
the other for \$7.77 & one of same 5 87
14th recd of Andrew Young
1 prom account 5 00
14th rented out at the highest
bidder the improvable land
belonging to the estate of J. K. Duncan
for the widow of J. K. Duncan 5 00
March 11th recd of Elisha Hunt for
notes of hand one for 40 00
4 one for 18 00
8 one for 25 00
with a credit of 25 00
5 10

Balance on hand 75 00
Total of Sarah
a cow 3 00
a bed 3 00
with 2 hogs 2 00
a hog 3 00
11 boxes of
7 lot m. b. 145
section m. b.
is the full
and Sarah
6 5th 1851
quid of J. K. Duncan garden
color 0 50
that is
said Sarah
5th 1851
a R. D. Pugh garden
the garden 1851
J. J. Logan & Co.

FLOYD COUNTY COURT OF ORDINARY MINUTES, JANUARY 1895

A. H. Ellis applies for Guardianship of

Radford T. Ellis

William V. Ellis

Elizabeth Ellis

Jackie Ellis

Minor children of Jack L. Ellis of Henderson County, Texas, dec'd, and Sallie Ellis, own property in Floyd County, Georgia.

Ancestry.com: John Lyle (Jack L.) Ellis died July 20, 1881

His father, Radford Ellis, died May 31, 1894

1880 Census lists does not list Jackie Ellis

Alexander Hamilton Ellis is the brother of Jack L. Ellis

Citation

Georgia }
Floyd Co. } To all whom it may concern:
A. H. Ellis having applied for Guardianship of the Property of Radford T. Ellis, William V. Ellis, Elizabeth Ellis and Jackie Ellis, of Henderson County State of Texas minor children of Jack L. Ellis Jr. late of said State of Texas, deceased, and Sallie Ellis of said State of Texas notice is given that said application will be heard at my office at 10 O'clock A. M., on the first Monday in Jan'y, next.
This Dec'r. 6, 1894

John P. Davis
Ordinary

GEORGIA SUPREME COURT

Georgia Supreme Court established in 1845, first cases heard 1846

- Until 1846, Superior Courts had power to “*correct errors*, and grant new trials, in any cause depending in any of the said superior courts” : Judicial review of Superior Court cases
- Parties in Inferior Court cases who “*take exception to any proceedings*,” put the exceptions in writing
 - Put exceptions in writing to the Inferior Court. If overruled by the Inferior Court:
 - Apply to Superior Court judge for review
 - Superior Court judge can order the Inferior Court judge to send up the case for review (Writ of Certiorari)

GEORGIA SUPREME COURT RECORDS

- Published opinions, *Georgia Reports*.
 - Includes a summary of the case from the lower court
 - Includes a summary of the legal questions raised
 - Includes the decision of the Supreme Court, based on the legal questions raised
 - Can also include dissenting opinions
- Supreme Court Case Files, held by the Georgia Archives
 - Includes Bill of Exceptions (list of errors in the trial)
 - Includes case file from lower court

HARGRAVES VS LOTT, 1881 WARE COUNTY

- John Hargraves, born 1797, died Oct. 1, 1857
- Ware County Courthouse burned in 1874, all records destroyed
- John Marcelius Hargraves sued Daniel Lott and Berry H. Tanner in Ware Superior Court, 1878

Georgia Reports, v.67, p. 133

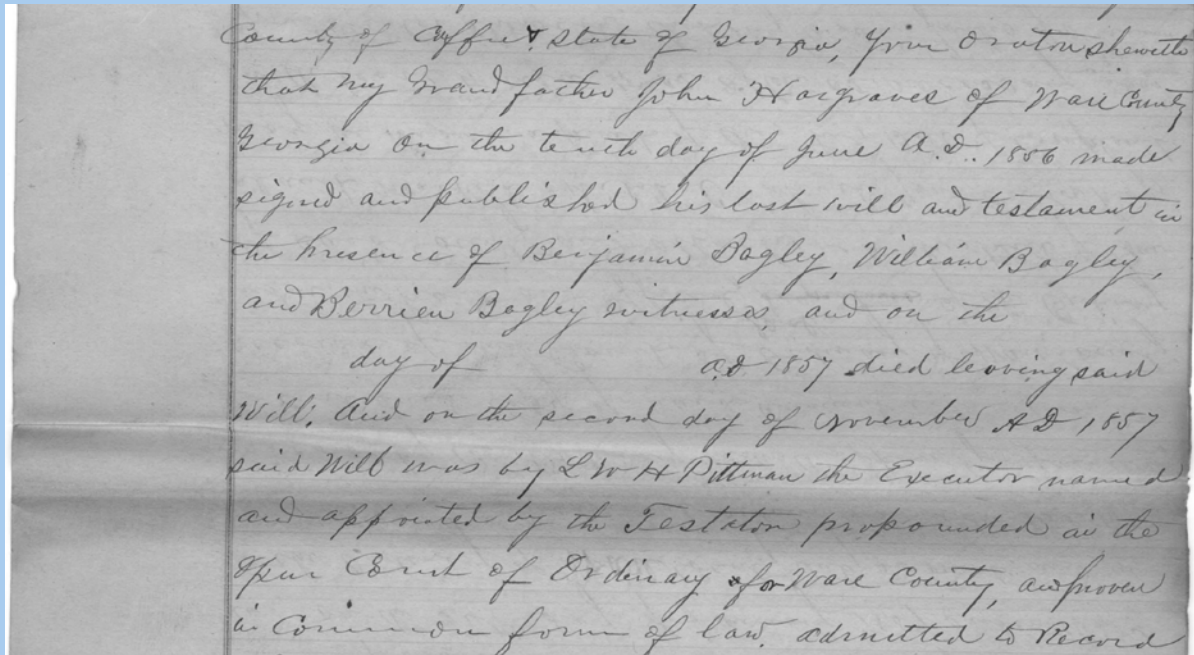
HARGRAVES *vs.* LOTT *et al.*

1. A bequest to a slave which took effect by the death of the testator during the existence of slavery in the state of Georgia, was void.
2. The judgment of the court of ordinary admitting the will to probate does not affect the rights of a legatee under one of the items.

Wills. Estates. Title. Judgments. Res adjudicata. Ordinary. Before C. P. GOODYEAR, Esq., Judge *pro hac vice*. Ware Superior Court. April Term, 1881.

John Hargraves died testate in the year 1857. By his last will, made June 10th, 1856, he devised to J. M. Hargraves his entire estate, and in the event the devisee could not inherit, he devised said estate to John Denton and William Denton. The devisee, J. M. Hargraves, at the time the will was made, and at the death of the testator, was a slave. The will was admitted to probate in 1857. In 1878 J. M. Hargraves filed his bill against Lott *et al.* It alleged that complainant became of age in 1876; that he was entitled to the estate; that defendants had colluded with the executor, and had wrongfully obtained possession of a large part of the estate; and that the executor had died insolvent in 1876, and there was no administration on his estate. The prayer was for account, etc.

HARGRAVES VS LOTT GEORGIA SUPREME COURT GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION

A photograph of a handwritten document, likely a court record or a will, written in cursive. The text is on aged, slightly discolored paper. The handwriting is in dark ink. The text describes a legal proceeding in Georgia, mentioning a grandfather John Hargraves of Ware County, Georgia, who made a will on June 10, 1856. It also mentions witnesses Benjamin Bagley, William Bagley, and Berrien Bagley. The document continues with the date of death (day of [blank] A.D. 1857) and the executor named L.W.H. Pittman, who was appointed by the Testator and approved by the Court of Ordinary of Ware County. The document is noted as being in common form of law and admitted to record.

County of [blank] State of Georgia, your orator sheweth
that my grandfather John Hargraves of Ware County
Georgia on the tenth day of June A.D. 1856 made
signed and published his last will and testament in
the presence of Benjamin Bagley, William Bagley,
and Berrien Bagley witnesses, and on the
day of [blank] A.D. 1857 died leaving said
will; And on the second day of November A.D. 1857
said will was by L.W.H. Pittman the Executor named
and appointed by the Testator propounded in the
Court of Ordinary of Ware County, and proven
in common form of law, admitted to Record

“...your orator (John M. Hargraves) sheweth that my grandfather John Hargraves of Ware County, Georgia on the tenth day of June A.D. 1856 made signed and published his last will and testament ..., and on the [blank] day of [blank] A.D. 1857 died leaving said will.”

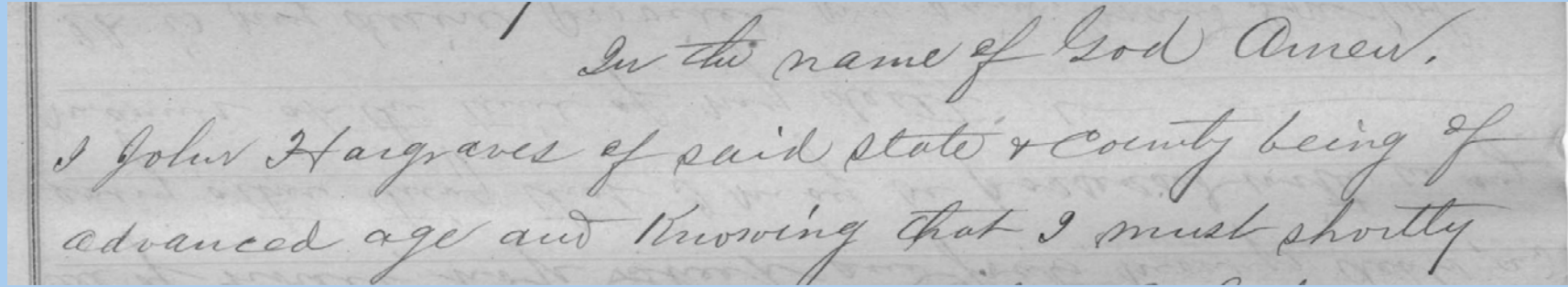
L.W.H. Pittman named executor and will was recorded in court November 1, 1857

HARGRAVES VS LOTT GEORGIA SUPREME COURT GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION

The slave of the testator, to which John Hargraves
Complainant objected, which objection was
overruled by the Court and the witnesses
allowed to testify, as follows, that one
Charlotte was the slave of testator and
that Charlotte was the mother of Caroline
and that Caroline was the daughter of testator
and Charlotte, that Caroline married one
McGill a white man and that complainant
was the issue of said marriage, which
judgment and ruling the complainant excepted and says
now excepts and assigns the same as errors

“...the witnesses allowed to testify, as follows, that one Charlotte was the Slave of Testator (John Hargraves) and that Charlotte was the mother of Caroline and that Caroline was the daughter of testator and Charlotte, that Caroline married one McGill a white man, and that complainant (John M. Hargraves) was the issue of said marriage,...”

JOHN HARGRAVES WILL, 1856

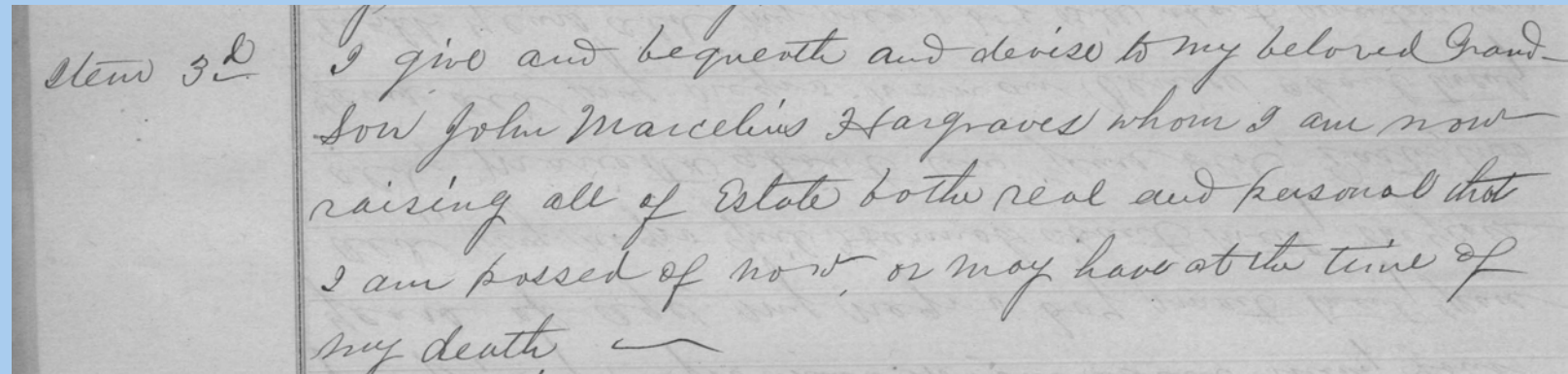


In the name of God Amen.
I John Hargraves of said state & County being of
advanced age and knowing that I must shortly

Left grandson

- All estate both real and personal
- All his land
- All enslaved persons
- All cattle

If grandson dies without issue or heirs,
testator substitutes John Denton and
William Denton (grandsons of his half-
brother)



Item 3^d I give and bequeath and devise to my beloved Grand-
son John Marcellus Hargraves whom I am now
raising all of Estate both real and personal that
I am possessed of now, or may have at the time of
my death.

GEORGIA LAW IN 1857

- Status of enslaved persons is through the mother.
 - Charlotte was the slave of John Hargraves
 - Their daughter Caroline was an enslaved person because her mother Charlotte was enslaved.
 - Caroline's son John M. Hargraves was an enslaved person in 1857. His mother's legal status was an enslaved person under Georgia law
- Enslaved persons cannot inherit
- There is no mention of manumission, of Charlotte, Caroline or John M.

HARGRAVES VS LOTT, 1880 WARE COUNTY

Defendant's plea: the complainant, John M. Hargraves, was a slave at the time of the testator's death, and the devise (bequest) to the complainant was void

Complainant's demurer: the defendant's argument attacked the judgment of the court of ordinary admitting the will to probate.

Went to trial, the Ware County jury found for defendants.

Judgment of Ware County Superior Court affirmed.

Georgia Reports, v.67, p. 134

Opinion of Supreme Court, September Term, 1881

JACKSON, Chief Justice.

1. The controlling question made in this case is whether a slave can take a devise or bequest under a will made and taking effect by the death of the testator during the existence of slavery in the state of Georgia, and prior to the late war.

That question is not open with us. 30 *Ga.*, 161; 46 *Ib.*, 399; 58 *Ib.*, 118. Under the principle clearly ruled in those cases the bequest is void.

2. The judgment of the court of ordinary that the will be admitted to probate, does not affect the question of the right of complainant to the property devised, especially as the testator directs in the will where it shall go in the event that complainant cannot take under the laws of the state.

Judgment affirmed.

COUNTY COURT, 1866-1868

- Replaced Inferior Court functions except those dealing with county business
 - Civil cases under \$100
 - Criminal cases except those punishable by imprisonment in the state penitentiary (Misdemeanor cases)
 - Sentences with jail time served in county jail or county farm
 - Apprenticeship Records (also found in Ordinary minutes)
- Abolished in 1868 when new state constitution was passed
- Re-established in 1872, forty-five counties exempted in the law
- Often cataloged under Inferior or Ordinary Court Minutes, also Criminal Court

CHATHAM COUNTY

COUNTY COURT MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 1866

The State vs Gus Williams (colored): Simple Larceny
 Pled Guilty
 Fined \$200 and court costs OR 5 months work on City of
 Savannah public works

Jacob Rosenband vs Amos L. Bradley, Ac: on Account
 Judgment for Plaintiff

Joseph Sickel v John H. Mehrstens, Ac: on Note
 Judgment for Plaintiff

Hugh Monahan v Richard Scanlan, Ac: on Account
 Judgment for Plaintiff

Louis Saarbach & Schwarz v E & M Brown, Ac: on Account
 Judgment for Plaintiff

57.

In the County Court
 September Term 1866.

The State
 v
 Gus Williams colored } Simple Larceny
 Plea Guilty and throws himself upon the mercy
 of the Court.

In the above case it is considered and ordered
 that the defendant Gus Williams do pay a fine of two hundred dollars and
 be thereafter discharged on payment of costs And in case default shall
 be made in the payment of said fine and costs then it is considered and
 ordered that the said Gus Williams be put to work on the public works
 under the direction of the Corporate authorities of the City of Savannah
 for the space of five months and be thereafter discharged.
 Savannah September 11th 1866.

Lori S. Russell
 County Judge

Jacob Rosenband
 v
 Amos L. Bradley } Ac. on account
 Judgment for Plaintiff

Joseph Sickel
 v
 John H. Mehrstens } Ac. on Note
 Judgment for Plaintiff

Hugh Monahan
 v
 Richard Scanlan } Ac. on account
 Judgment for Plaintiff

Louis Saarbach & Schwarz
 v
 E & M Brown } Ac. on account
 Judgment for Plaintiff

The Court adjourned until tomorrow morning ten o'clock

Court
 Lori S. Russell
 Judge.

TERRELL COUNTY APPRENTICESHIPS, 1866-1920

H.S. Bell Ordinary and James S. Lee
July 5, 1882

“does hereby bind and apprentice to
the said James S. Lee a certain colored
girl named Mat about seven years old
and an illegitimate child of Scilla Jones,
a colored woman who cannot raise
and care for her said daughter”

87
Georgia
Terrell County This Indenture made and
entered into this the first day
of July 1882, between H.S. Bell
Ordinary of said County, of the one part, and James S.
Lee of the other part, both of said County, witnesses:
That the said H.S. Bell Ordinary, as aforesaid,
does hereby bind and apprentice to the said James
S. Lee a certain colored girl named Mat,
about seven years old and an illegitimate child
of Scilla Jones, a colored woman who cannot
raise and care for her said daughter, the said
apprenticeship to continue until the said child
becomes of age, unless sooner dissolved in the
manner prescribed by law.
And the said James S. Lee agrees to fur-
nish the said child with suitable provisions,
clothing and necessary medical attention du-
ring her term of service as aforesaid; and that
said minor child shall be taught the
business of cooking, washing, housekeeping &c,
and that she shall be allowed to attend
the public schools at least long enough
for her to be taught to read the English
language. And the said James S. Lee further
agrees to treat said child in a kind and hu-
mane manner, and use only such degree of force
to compel obedience as a father may use with his
minor child, and to furnish said child, at the expi-
ration of her term of service, with such sum of
money as may be commensurate with the ser-
vice rendered by her to him, and according to
his ability.
Witness our hands & seals this the day & year above written
In presence of J. A. F. Clark, J. S. Lee
C. S. C. J. C. H. S. Bell Ordinary
Recorded July 5, 1882. H. S. Bell Ordinary.

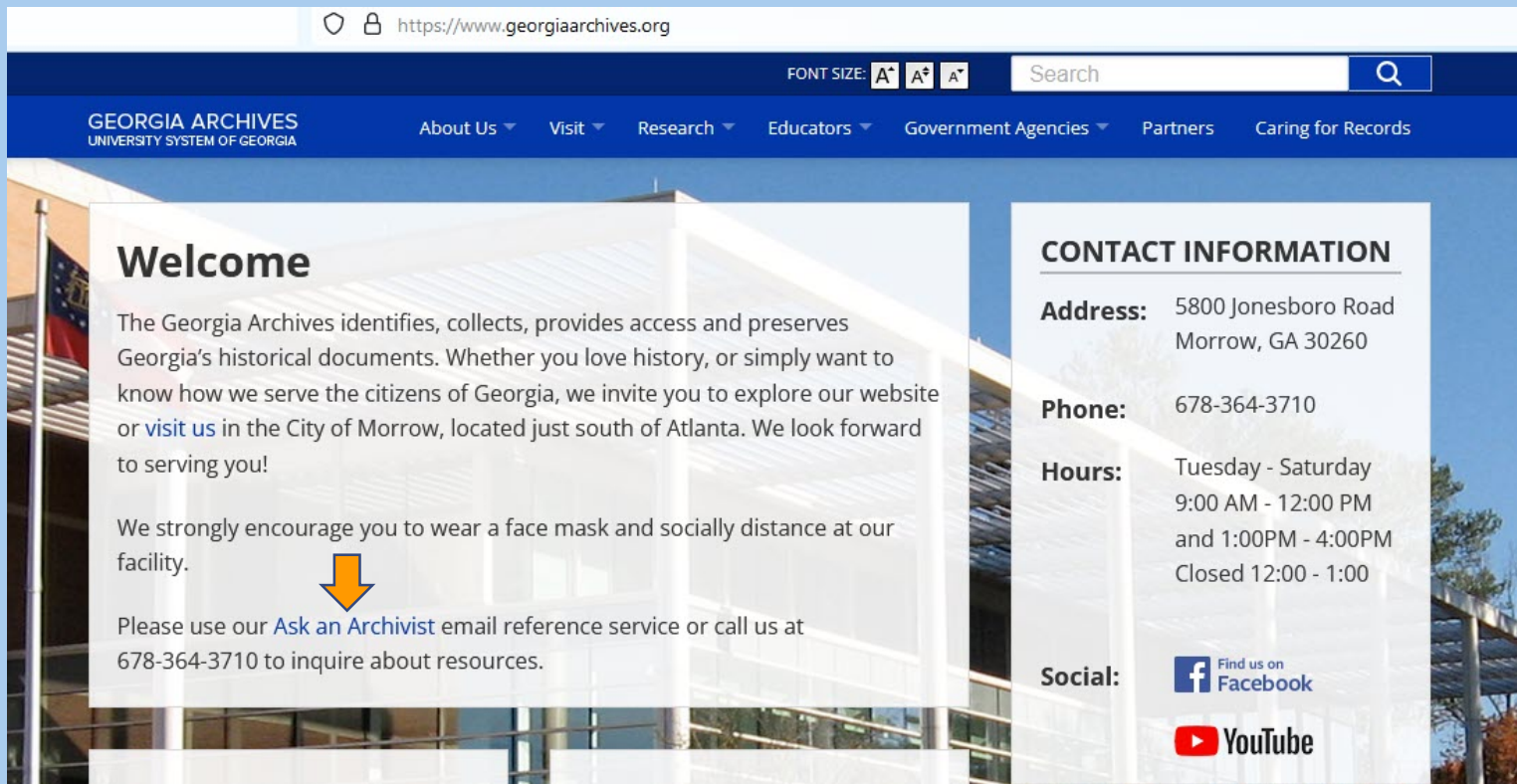
RESOURCES

- County Records Microfilm Index in Virtual Vault: Listing of county records, including court records, held by the Georgia Archives on Microfilm
 - Virtual Vault button on Georgiaarchives.org main page, link to County Records Microfilm Index is on page 2
- Finding Aids @ Georgia Archives: Search for original county and court records held by the Georgia Archives
 - Finding Aids @ Georgia Archives button on Georgiaarchives.org main page, search by keyword
- *The Creation of a Judicial System: The History of Georgia Courts, 1733 to Present*, by Erwin C. Surrency (Reference Library)
- Georgia Legislative Documents: Transcripts of Georgia laws passed between 1799-1998
http://neptune3.galib.uga.edu/ssp/cgi-bin/ftaccess.cgi?_id=7f000001&dbs=ZLGL
- Many resources for legal definitions available online

RESOURCES

- HeinOnline
 - U.S. State Content
 - *Session Laws Library*: Acts passed each year by the state's legislature
 - State Session Laws
 - *State Attorney General Reports and Opinions* (includes U.S. Attorneys!)
 - *State Constitutions Illustrated*—click on the state
 - *State Reports: A Historical Archive*: Published opinions of state Supreme courts
 - State Reports—Click on the state
 - *State Statutes: A Historical Archive*: Digests, compilations, and codes published by the states
 - State—Click on the state

THANK YOU!



Contact us through [Ask an Archivist](#).
We will be happy to assist you in
finding records!