

ITAWAMBA COUNTY

MISSISSIPPI

Slave Data

1837-1864

including

A CONCISE HISTORY OF EARLY ITAWAMBA COUNTY

Compiled & Edited by Bob Franks



Over the past three decades when transcribing old county records, I came across various records pertaining to the slave inhabitants of Itawamba County, Mississippi. The abstracts below represent just a small portion of data available in Itawamba County, Mississippi local records pertaining to the slave population. Itawamba County was a small slave-holding county in Mississippi with a slave population of only 4,068 slave inhabitants during 1860. The data below gleaned from old records through research during the past thirty-one years represents just a small portion of the county's slave population documentation. It is my sole desire that the records in this small volume may help someone with their Itawamba County, Mississippi family research. There is an index of given names and associated surnames at the end of this volume.

James Whitesides Estate

Source: Estate Book 5, Pages 372-406

*Appraisement of Slaves and Personal
Property*

\$66,414.91

Signed the 26th day of December 1860

By A. McCrow, R.M. Borum, W.R.

Burdine

Slave Appraisal:

Amy and family

Samuel

Isom

John

Malverda

Linda and family

Ansi

Abb

Will

Elec

Adaline

Willis

Seth the younger

Emily

Lizie

Lindey the younger

Rob, Naris's child

Jane and child

Seth

Lena

Andy

Ellen

Levi

Lamira

Visa

William

Caroline

Avizilla

Adison

Leonard

Lindsey

Hiram

Edney

Abb, Edney's child

Clancy

Elic, Edney's child

Shorlot

Jerry

Deanna

Jane, Shorlot's girl

Elic, the blacksmith

Nancy

George, Elic's boy

Elizabeth

Harriet

Lewis

Henry

George, Caroline's boy

Sinthia

Easther

General

Mary and child

Burnel

David

Elvira

Foit

Farris

Bob

Jimberry

Donothon

Clark

White

Lucy

Last Will and Testament

The State of Mississippi

Itawamba County

I James Whitesides of the county and state aforesaid being of sound and disposing mind and memory, knowing the uncertainty of life and that it is appointed once for all men to die do on this 30th day of February One Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty

Eight make ordain and publish this my last will and testament.

1st I give and bequeath unto my wife Sarah the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the section of land on which I now reside, also the southwest quarter of Section thirty in Township Ten of Range Eight East, all of the northeast quarter and also all that part of the southeast quarter of Section Thirty Six in Township Ten of Range Seven East lying west of Bogue Fala. To have and to hold the same for and during the term of her natural life and after her death to be divided among my children as herein after provided.

I also give bequeath unto my said wife the following named slaves together with their increase to wit - **Seth** and his wife **Leaner** and **Luener's children** except **Ann** and **Ellen** namely. Also **Levi**, **Lomira**, **Vicey**, **William** and **Jane's baby**. Also **Leonard** and **Addison**, **Malinda** and also **Lindsey** and **Powell** and **Charlotte** and her three children to have and to hold the above named slaves and their increase of them unto my said wife for and during her natural life and after her death to equally divide between my children.

2nd I give and bequeath unto my son Thomas Whitesides and his heirs forever the following named slaves with their increase to wit: **Aupsey**, **Mary** and her two children, **Burrel** and **Syntha**, **Jonathan** worth \$4,800.

3rd I give and bequeath unto my daughter Isabella wife of David Shumpert and unto her children forever the following named slaves

and their increase to wit: **Will**, **Jane**, **Lewis**, **Harry** and **Emily** worth about forty five hundred dollars to have and to hold unto her the said Isabella and for her sole separate use and benefit free and exempt from all debts contracted and disposed of her husband for and during the term of her natural life and after her death unto her children in equal shares forever.

4th I give and bequeath unto my daughter Catherine, wife of Nathaniel Ward, the following named slaves with their increase: **Ellick**, **Amy** and her four children and **Ellen** valued by me to be worth four thousand five hundred dollars to have and to hold the above named slaves unto my said daughter to her sole and separate use free and exempt from the debts contract and disposal of her said husband for and during the term of her natural life and after her death to the children of her body forever in equal shares.

5th I give and bequeath unto my daughter Jane, wife of Joshua Ward the following named slaves and their increase to wit: **Ellick the blacksmith** and his wife **Fanny** and her two children and **Anda**, worth about forty five hundred dollars to have and to hold to her sole and separate use in her sole right free and exempt from the debts and contracts of her husband for and during her natural life and after her death to the children of her body in equal shares.

6th I give and bequeath unto my son James Whitesides and to his heirs forever the following slaves to wit:

Elick (Malinda's son), Norcessa and her two children, Rachal and child, Hiram the younger and Lee worth about Five Thousand five hundred dollars .

7th I give and bequeath unto my daughter Mary Ann and to her bodily heirs forever in her sole and separate right the following named slaves to wit: **Hiram the older, Elvira and child, George, Lucy and White and Clark and Esther,** worth about four thousand eight hundred dollars.

8th I give and bequeath for the benefit of my grand children Thomas, Rebecca Ann, and Robert McMaster the children of my daughter Margaret, deceased, the following named slaves and their increase to wit: **Edna and her four children, Adaline and her child and Abe** valued at about five thousand one hundred dollars. It is my will and desire that my son Thomas take charge of the share of property allowed to my said grand children and what may here after be allotted to them and from the income there of and the proceeds of the labour of said slaves to raise and educate them and when they arrive at the age of twenty one years respectfully or marry then each is to be put in to possession and hold forever an equal share thereof.

I give and bequeath unto my said wife one wagon, two yoke of oxen, 2 mules and 2 horses, all my house hold and kitchen furniture and what she may need of the farm utensils and cattle.

It is my will and desire that after my decease that all the balance of my property both real and personal should be sold (except slaves) for the best possible price and be divided among my said children given my said grand children the same of their mother so as to make each one equal according to the valuation hereinbefore contained and that equal justice may be done.

Each of my said children shall be charged with several sums charged against them for advances made in my life time in a book kept by me and after the death of my wife should she out live me, I desire that all the slaves shall be divided between my said children equally according to the valuation to be made.

I hereby nominate and appoint my sons Thomas Whitesides and James Whitesides executors of this my last will and testament.

Signed, sealed and published by me as my last will and testament this 30th February A.D. 1858 in the presence of R.O. Beene, R.M. Borum and T. E. Chilcoat.

James Whitesides S E A L



George Shumpert Estate

*Source: George Shumpert Probate Packet
234*

To the sheriff of Itawamba County, Mississippi, Greetings,
 You are hereby commanded to summons Rody Shumpert, admx of the estate of George Shumpert dec'd of Itawamba County, Mississippi...to the courthouse of said county in the town of Fulton on the first Monday in January next ... to answer the petition of Wiley Burdine etal, heirs at law of said decedant and to show cause if you can why the petition of the said Wiley Burdine etal for distribution of the slaves of said dec'd should not be granted...

Listing of slaves 26 July 1853:

David, a man 65 years old
Leigh, a man 30 years old
Jim, a man 34 years old
Abe, a man 28 years old
Jack, a man 24 years old
Rube, a man 22 years old
Jinny, a woman 20 years old
Nancy, a woman 18 years old **and her child** 11 months old
Ritty, a woman 17 years old
Dave, a boy 15 years old
Hanah, a deformed girl 13 years old
Sam, a boy 11 years old
Harriet, a girl 8 years old
Zena, a woman 52 years old
Jeptha, a boy 4 years old
Sally, a girl 2 years old
Wade, a boy 3 years old
Levi, a man 35 years old
Violet, a woman 33 years old
Amos, a boy 14 years old
Elijah, a boy 11 years old
Noah, a boy 9 years old
Rob, a boy 7 years old
Joel and Joseph, twins 4 years old
Londa, a girl 2 years old

Sarah, a woman 41 years old and child **Morris**, 5 months old
Mary, a girl 9 years old
Rachel, a girl 7 years old
Lewis, a boy 4 years old
Ann, a girl 2 years old



Parrot Evans Estate

Source: Parrot Evans Probate Packet 192

This is to authorize you jointly to appraise the goods and chattels and personal estate of Parrot Evans deceased, late of Itawamba County...R.G. Perkins, John C. Christian and Benj. Wise...that they will well and truly...appraise the ...estate of Parrot Evans...20 June 1860...

1 Negro man named **Sikes**
 1 Negro man named **Offe**
 1 Negro man named **Clark**
 1 Negro man named **Reuben**
 1 Negro man named **Scott**
 1 Negro man named **Bluff**
 1 Negro man named **Robert**
 1 Negro man named **Wash**
 1 Negro man named **Richard**
 1 Negro girl named **Mary**
 1 Negro girl named **Angeline**
 1 Negro girl named **Dora**
 1 Negro girl-named **Manda**
 1 Negro girl named **Phebe**
 1 Negro girl named **Camiller**
 1 Negro girl named **Vicey**
 1 Negro girl named **Miriah**
 1 Negro girl named **Sarah**
 1 Negro girl named **Martha**
 1 Negro girl named **Ann**

1 Negro girl named **Lucretia**



Wiley Daniel Clifton Estate

Source: Wiley Daniel Clifton Probate Packet 845

Report of A.W. Clifton and E.G. Betts, administrators of the estate of W.D. Clifton, deceased. Amount of property sold to the highest bidders on 5, 6, 7 days of February AD 1856:

F.F. Freeman: 1 Negro man **Isom** and wife **Mary**

Josiah Prates: 1 Negro man **Jordon** and wife **Rachel**

G.B. Merritt: 1 Negro girl **Margaret** and child **Belle**

S. Gholson: 1 Negro man **Garlin**

J.W. Justice for E.G. Betts: 1 Negro man **Thomas** and wife **Malinda** and child **Henry**

J.W. Justice for E.G. Betts: 1 Negro man **John**

G.B. Merritt: 1 Negro man **Henderson**

H. Waldrop: 1 Negro man **Adam**

F.F. Freeman: 1 Negro girl **Laura**

W. Thornton: 1 Negro girl **Helen**

J.W. Bradley: 1 Negro boy **Richard**

Samuel Gholson: 1 Negro boy **Monroe**

F.F. Freeman: 1 Negro boy **Dave**

F.F. Freeman: 1 Negro boy

Mrs. J.F. Clifton: 6 Negroes, **Jacob, Mary and 4 children**, 1 Negro boy, **Henry**, 1 Negro girl **Jershua**, 1 Negro girl, **Ellen**, 1 Negro girl **Jabe**



Azell Marcy Estate

Source: Azel Marcy Probate Packet

State of Mississippi

Itawamba County

To Robert F. Shannon, Thomas M. Carothers and J.S. Bourland

This is to authorize you jointly to appraise the goods, chattels and personal estate of Azell Marcy deceased, late of Itawamba County ...

List of Slaves

1 man named **Richard**

1 boy named **Lindsey**

1 man named **Edmond**

1 man named **Gorge**

1 boy named **Franklin**

1 boy named **Zedack**

1 boy named **Alfred**

1 boy named **Henry**

1 girl named **Louisa**

1 woman named **Caroline**

1 woman and child, **Tabb** and **Harry**

A List of property sold by E.H.

Dabbs, administrator of the estate of Azel Marcy, dec'd. the 27th and 28th days of February 1857 at Van Buren, Mississippi:

Mrs. E. McKimble: Negro man **Dick**, wife and child

Eliza Robinson: Negro man **Edmond**

W. Marcy: Negro woman **Lucy**

J. Varner: Negro boy **Alfred**

M. Marcy: Negro boy **Frank**

Jas. Whitesides: Negro boy **Lindsey**

J. Varner: Negro boy **Zedick**

Mrs C. Payne: Negro girl **Caroline**

E.H. Dabbs: Negro boy **George**



Wren-Thomas Deed

Source: Deed Book 1, Page 157

Trust Deed from John Wren to E. G. Thomas in trust for Randolph Wren and Thomas G. Wren: Between John R. Wren of the first part and Edwin G. Thomas of the second part ... doth sell and deliver unto the said Edwin G. Thomas ... a Negro girl named **Lydia** aged sixteen years, also a Negro girl named **Rose** aged ten years, and a Negro girl named **Lucy** aged ten years... the rights and title to the said property and that the said Negroes are sound and healthy and slaves for life, unto the said Edwin G. Thomas ... twelve hundred dollars: 28 December 1837



Thomas-McFadding Deed

Source: Deed Book 1, Page 172

E.G. Thomas of Itawamba County sold to William McFadding of Itawamba County for the sum of seven hundred sixty two dollars: one Negro woman by the name of **Mariah** aged about forty or forty five years and slave for life.: 12 July 1837



Blakeley-Downs-Cummings-Hodges-Murrill Deed

Source: Deed Book 2, Page 26

This indenture of three parts made ... this 22nd day of November 1838 between William Blakeley and William Downs, merchants trading under the firm of Blakeley and Downs of the county of Itawamba of the first part and M.C. Cummings of the second part and David Hodges, John W. Hodges and Thos. Murrill of the firm and stile of D. Hodges & Co. of the county of Franklin, Alabama ... for ... the sum of Five dollars in hand paid by M.C. Cummings to said Blakeley and Downs ... the said Blakeley and Downs have sold unto M.C. Cummings (as security, the following): one Negro girl named **Anaky**, eleven years, five head of horses, waggons and gear, one spring machine, twenty head of hogs, 1 bureau, 1 cupboard, five feather beds, furniture of the household and kitchen furniture, farming utensils, the above described property of William Downs and rifle gun, cotton gin, two head of horses, forty head of hogs, one set of blacksmith tools, forty barrels of corn, one bureau, four feather bedsteads and furniture of all my household and kitchen furniture that I now have or may have, one ox waggon, two pair of oxen, all of my farming utensils, thirty head of sheep, one man's saddle, one rifle and one shotgun, one pair of mill stones, 1 pair balances, forty barrels of corn of William Downs, the west half of Section 16 in Township 9, Range 11, merchantile books including all the amounts and notes ... amounting to twenty five hundred dollars or more, William Downs' interest in the southeast quarter of Section 12 in

Township 8, Range 10 East, one spinning machine of William Blakeley's, thirty head of cattle ... to have and to hold unto the proper use of M.C. Cummings (as security) in trust .. the said Blakeley and Downs is indebted to said D. Hodges & Co. in the amount of \$4,430 ...



McClain-Gaither-Robbins-Cummings Deed

Source: Deed Book 2, Page 42

This indenture made ... on the 30th day of November 1838 between Charles McClain of the County of Walker, state of Alabama of the first part, and Wiley W. Gaither and Jephtha Robbins of the second part and Malachi C. Cummings of the third part all of the county of Itawamba ... the party of the first part is justly indebted t the said parties of the second part in the sum of \$215 ... now for the sum of \$5 (paid by Cummings), to Charles McClain, McClain has sold unto Cummings (in trust) the following: a certain Negro boy by the name of Ned between 9 and 10 years (for a promise to pay the note)



McVay-Owen-Smith-Gwennett Deed

Source: Deed Book 2, Page 88

This indenture made ... 10th day of July 1838 between Lancaster C. McVay of the first part, Isaac N. Owen of the second part and Joshua Smith and John McVay of the third part ... Lancaster Mcvay is justly indebted to the parties of the third part towit: \$1,500 to Joshua Smith and \$1,156 to John McVay on a note given to Samuel Henderson, administrator of Benjamin Gwennett, deceased, due the first of March 1837 ... Lancaster McVay is desirious of securing all of said debts and to secure the said John Mcvay against any liability as his surety ... has sold to Isaac N. Owen (in trust) 5 beds and bed steads and furniture, 4 bee stands, 6 Windsor chairs, 6 common chairs, one bureau, 1 candle stand, 1 folding leaf table, 1 small walnut table, 1 sugar chest, 1 wooden clock, 1 wagon and 8 pair of gear, 8 head of horses ... 40 head of hogs, 4 cows and calves, 5 heifers, 1 harness, 2 chests, 2 pair castors, 2 looking glasses, 2 pair andirons, 2 smoothing irons, 1 pot rack, 2 tea kettles, 2 ovens, 4 pots, 3 skillets, 1 set knives and forks, 1 doz. plates, set of candle sticks, 1 spinning wheel, 1 axe, 1 Negro girl, **Ann**, 12 years old, 1 mulatto woman slave named **Maria and her three children Cintha**, six years old, **Mara**, 3 years old, and **Liva**, an infant, also, 1 lot in the town of Moulton (Alabama) lying north of the lot on which the Male Academy is situated...



McMien-Livingston Deed

Source: Deed Book 2, Page 98

This indenture of two parts made this 18th day of November, 1835 between Mary A. McMien and her infant daughter, Sarah Margaret of the district of Abbeville, State of South Carolina of the first part and John C. Livingston of the same district and state of the second part. Whereas the said Mary A. is possessed of her own right, a Negro man slave named **John** and is desirous of making provisions for her said infant daughter ... witnesseth that in consideration of the natural love and affection of the said Mary A. for her said daughter and of one dollar by the said John C. to the said Mary A. in hand paid ... Mary A. hath bargained and sold unto John C. the said Negro man slave **John** ... to the sole separate use of the said Mary A. and Sarah Margaret for and during the natural life of the said Mary A. and at the deceased of the said Mary A., if the said Sarah Margaret shall survive her, then the said Negro to best absolutely in the said Sarah Margaret ... said John C. shall yearly receive and apply the hires and profits of the said Negro to the maintenance of the said Mary A. and Sarah Margaret...



Devan-Garth-Nelson-Thomas-White-Prewit Deed

Source: Deed Book 2, Page 168

The State of Alabama, Franklin County: This indenture made the 16th day of July 1839 between Jerry W. Thomas, William Devan and Barnard Devan of the first part, Jesse W. Garth of the second part and Stephen O. Nelson Cashew of the third part ... that Jerry W. Thomas & Co., John S. White and James Prewit are owing the branch of the Bank of the State of Alabama at Decatur \$5,550 ... for and in consideration of the promises ... and \$5 ... the parties of the first part has granted (in trust) unto the parties of the second part the following property towit: also 4 Negroes, **Joe** 40 years, a girl **Milly** 18 years in possession of Jerry W. Thomas and living in Itawamba County, Mississippi, also a Negro boy **Smith** 15 years old, **Elvira** 7 years old in possession of W. Devan ... also the store house in Moulton in which Hodges Store is located ... also the following Negroes, **Nelly** 60 years old, **Vincent** 50, **Harry** 35, **Sally** 30 years of age, **Lewis** 12, **Dennis** 5 and **Scott** 2 years of age...



Peacock-Peacock Deed

Source: Deed Book 2, Page 179

This indenture made the 16th day of July 1839 between John Peacock of the one part and William Peacock, Alfred Peacock, Atlas Peacock, Cynthia Moore, Brantley T. Peacock, Christian Peacock and John C.C. Peacock, children of the said John Peacock ... John Peacock, for the natural love and affection which he has, has sold to his children for their better maintenance and support the following property: to William Peacock and Brantley Peacock all that portion of land known and designated as Section 36 in Township 10, Range 7 lying south and west of the Boguefala Creek to John C.C. Peacock all that portion of Section 36 in Township 10, Range 7 north and east of the Boguefala Creek ... to Alfred Peacock all the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 11 in Township 13, Range 16 and the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 10 in Township 13, Range 16, also the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 22 in Township 13, Range 16, also the northwest quarter of Section 27 in Township 13, Range 16, all of said parcels lying in Marion County, State of Alabama ... unto Atlas Peacock all the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 19 in Township 13, Range 15 in the District of Huntsville and State of Alabama, also the east fourth of the northwest fourth of Section 13 in Township 13, Range 15 in the District of Huntsville ... unto William Peacock, one Negro boy named **Willis** about fourteen years old ... unto Alfred Peacock, one Negro girl by the name of **Eliza** about 13 years old ... unto Atlas

Peacock, one Negro girl by the name of **Rose** about 12 years of age; unto Cinthia Moore, one Negro woman about 15 years of age named **Dice** and one Negro child a girl by the name of **Sarah** about 8 months old ...unto Brantley T. Peacock, one Negro boy by the name of **Milton**, about 8 years of age ... unto Christian Peacock, one Negro girl by the name of **Jane** about 5 years of age and one Negro boy by the name of **Henderson** about 3 years of age ... unto John C.C. Peacock, one Negro boy named **Tom** about 15 years of age ... and unto Christian and John C.C. Peacock jointly, one Negro woman by the name of **Milly** about 32 years of age...



Whitton-Patton-Beene Deed

Source: Deed Book 2, Page 258

This indenture made the 9th day of January 1840 between George Whitton of the first part and John Patton of the second part and William Beene of the third part all of Itawamba County ... the party of the first part is justly indebted to the party of the second part in the sum of \$200 ... for and in consideration of the sum of \$5 Whitton has sold (in trust) unto the party of the third part ... a certain Negro girl named **Prudence** about sixteen years of age ... until the debt is paid ...



Lindsey Deed

Source: Deed Book 2, Page 258

Bill of Sale: This indenture made the 9th of June 1838 between Holland Lindsey of Itawamba County and Bazel L. Lindsey of said county ... for and in consideration of \$1,200 paid by the part of the second part, Holland Lindsey sold ... Three Negroes: 1 woman about twenty five years old named **Sally**, one sucking child female five months old named **Lucinda** and one girl about eight years old named **Matilda** all of which I warrant to be slaves for life...



Levi Galloway Estate

Source: Levi Galloway Probate Packet

Estate Sale
Levi Galloway Estate

22 Day of Devenber AD 1851

Thomas Gillespie: 1 Negro woman
N.J. Galloway: 1 Negro girl **Mary Ann**
N.J. Galloway: 1 Negro girl **Irena**
A.D. Galloway: 1 Negro girl **Nelly**
S.B.C. Galloway: 1 Negro boy **Sterling**
Stephen Johnson: 1 Negro woman and 2 child
A.T. Sisk: 1 Negro man **Isaac**
A.T. Sisk: 1 Negro girl **Mary**



Hiram Crayton Estate

Source: Hiram Crayton Probate Packet 436

The State of Mississippi
Itawamba County
To the Honorable A.S. Warren, Judge of the Probate:

The petition of John Crayton, over twenty one years of age, shows to your honor that Hiram Crayton, late of said county, who died intestate, left surviving him, seven children to wit, your Petitioner and Margaret Cummings, the wife of Ezekiel Cummings and Elizabeth E. Tynes, the wife of William D. Tynes, and Hiram G. and Lucinda C. and Martha C. and Roena K. Crayton, who are heirs of law ... 32 Negroes which your petitioner is informed have increased since the death of decedant to the number of 36. That said Negroes are now in the hands of James W. Crayton ... List of Negroes: **Rafe, Eliza, Robert, Lewis, Charlotte, Jemima, Nelson, Parker, Martha, Jim, Caroline, George, Phil, Hampton, Daphne, Zacharia, Gocher, Mary, Elvira, Charles, Florence, Jane and her 2 youngest children, Fanny, Ann and her child, Elsey, Scinda, Henry, Dicey and her child, Louisa, Lizza, Jane and Andy.** Division of Slaves
Lucinda C. Crayton: **Nelson, Scinda, Louisa, Lizzie, Charlotte**
Hiram G. Crayton: **Phil, Dicy and child, Elvira**
Roena Crayton: **Parker, Ann and**

child, Elsy, Charles

Mrs. M.M. Cummings: **Daphne and Zacharia, Caroline and George, Gocher**

John Crayton: **Rafe, Mary and child, Jemima, Jane**

Mrs. E.E. Tynes: **Lewis, Jane and two children, Fanny, Hampton**

Martha C. Crayton: **Eliza and Robert, Martha, Jim, Florence, Henry**

Sworn to and subscribed to in open court Feb. 22nd. 1858

A.D. Warren, Probate Judge

J.W. Crayton, Administrator



S. John Warren Estate

Source: S. John Warren Probate Packet 168

S. John Warren's Will

In the name of God Amen

I, S. John Warren of the County of Itawamba and State of Mississippi being of sound disposing mind, memory and understanding and knowing the uncertainty of human life do make this my last will and testament, hereby revoking and making void all other and former wills by me made towit:

Art. 4th: I will and bequeath to my beloved wife Sarah Warren during her natural life a Negro slave named **George** and his wife **Mary** and their four children named **Reuben** and **Elizabeth, Jacob** and **Eli**. All my blacksmith tools, farming tools sufficient to cultivate as much land as will be necessary for the support of

herself and family. Also one yoke of oxen and one wagon, one horse or mare, two cows and calves, ten head of pork hogs and ten heard of stock hogs. Also the cleared land that may be necessary to cultivate for a support for herself and family said land to be selected by my said wife. Also all of my household and kitchen furniture. All of said property hereby bequeathed to be owned, enjoyed and controlled by my said wife for and during her natural life or widowhood, but after her death or marriage, I direct that my executors take possession of all of said property with its increase and dispose of it as the balance of my property hereinafter directed....

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the 22nd day of November AD 1862.

S. John Warren

Signed and sealed in the presence of Wm. Patton

Wm. H. Moore

Eli Phillips



Mary Jackson Estate

Source: Mary Jackson Probate Packet 144

The State of Mississippi

Itawamba County

Probate Court

Mary Jackson Estate Sale

February 3, 1854

E. Shurfield: **Tom and Lucinda**
R. Wiygle: **Jinney**
Evaline Jackson: **Mary**



J.H. Ruff Estate

Source: John Ruff Probate Packet 126

To G.W. Harris, G.W. Stovall, Owen Williams and Thos. Crayton:
This is to authorize you jointly to appraise the goods and chattels, and personal estate of J.H. Ruff, deceased, late of Itawamba County...

A Negro man slave **John** aged 22
A Negro boy slave **Jim** aged 14
A Negro girl slave **Sal** aged 20
A Negro girl slave **Mandy** aged 25
and 5 children
2nd Day of August 1862

On or before the 1st day of January 1863, we or either of us, promise to pay W.W. and A.C. Gaither or bearer, Seventy Five Dollars for the hire of the Negro boy **Martin** for the year 1862. We are to furnish said boy with 3 suits of clothes, that is 2 summer and one winter suit, 2 pairs of shoes, 2 pair socks, 1 woold hat and blanket of good size and pay the tax on said boy (state and Confederate) for that year, the term to commence on the 1st day of January and end the 24th day of December of that year.
This the 26th Dec. 1861

M. Edwards
John H. Ruff

Richmond
The State of Mississippi
Itawamba County
Probate Court December Term 1863

R.W. Palmer, administrator of the estate of J.H. Ruff deceased, would respectfully prays your honor to allow him to make an inventory of the increase of the slave property belonging to the estate of said decedent which is as follows: In the month of July of this year, 1863, was born a Negro child, a male named **Simeon**. Orator prays you to accept the inventory, being the first and only increase of the property of estate

...
29th day December 1863
R.W. Palmer
by J.D. Barton, attorney

The State of Mississippi
Itawamba County
Probate Court November Term 1866

The petition of the undersigned administrator of the estate of J.H. Ruff deceased, would respectfully pray your honor to allow him a credit for the Negroes which belonged to said estate and which were appraised as such by the appraisers to wit:

John
Jim
Mandy and 5 children
Sally
Lee
Em
Reuben
Green
Katy

**Beck
Price
Henry**

... said slaves have all been emancipated since their appraisal, by the United States government...

*R.W. Palmer
Administrator*



Lewis Johnson Estate

Source: Lewis Johnson Probate Packet 150

Sale Bill of the Estate of Lewis Johnson, dec'd. by J.Q. Adams, Admn. March 1st 1861
Wm. J. Smith: 1 Negro woman, **Gillie and 2 children** by note with S.D. Smith and Nancy Smith, security
Singleton Hughes: 1 Negro girl named **Jane** by note J.A. Hughes and J. Woodard, security



Martha Laura Whitesides Guardianship

Source: Mattie Laura Whitesides Guardianship Packet 279

The State of Mississippi
Itawamba County
To: V.J. Duncan, E.G. Thomas and A. McCraw
This is to authorize you jointly to appraise the goods and chattels and

personal estate of Martha Laura Whitesides of Itawamba County ...
Eli Phillips

24th day of October 1864

Inventory of Slaves:

1 Negro man **Aleck**

1 Negro man **Hiram**

1 Negro boy **General**

1 Negro woman **Norcus** and her 5 children: **Elijah, Malinda, Robert, Jacob, Jane**



Jesse Sparks Estate

Source: Jesse Sparks Probate Packet 332

Division of Slaves into seven shares respectfully allotted to James R. McMillian, Isaac B. Spence, Stephen Sparks, Joseph R. Sparks, Isaac E. Sparks, John B. Sparks and Virginia Sparks:

Share and lot No. 1 to James R. McMillian: Negro woman **Louiza and child** valued at \$1,300

No. 2 to Isaac B. Spence: Negro woman **Francis** valued at \$1,300

No. 3 to Stephen Sparks: **Hannah** valued at \$1,200

No. 4: Negro girl **Margaret** allotted to Joseph R. Sparks valued at \$1,000

Share and Lot No. 5 to Isaac E. Sparks: Negro girl **Harriet** valued at \$800

Share and Lot N. 6 to John B. Sparks: Negro boy **Alfred** valued at \$800

Share and Lot No. 7 to Virginia Sparks: Negro boy and girl valued at \$950

This the 21st day of December 1859
J.R. Wren
A. Thomason
W.L. McGaughy



Seamon Moore Estate

Source: Seamon Moore Probate Packet 137

On the first day of January next after date for value received we or either of us do promise to pay to the order of Saml. N. Morrow, executor of the last will and testament of L.D. Story dec'd. the sum of One Hundred Dollars for the hire of a Negro girl (Nancy) and furnish said Negro with two summer suits of cloths and one pair of shoes. In case of protracted sickness we are to have the time deducted from the wages and also to be exempt from all medical charges on account of said Negro and deliver her to said Morrow at the expiration of the present year.

Witness our hand and seals February 16th 1857

S. Moore
Thomas Deaton
Jacob N. Rogers



Thomas M. Carothers Estate

Source: Thomas M. Carothers Probate Packet 283

Guntown, Mississippi Feb. 20th 1862
Amount allowed Mrs. Carothers as her part of the estate of T.M.

Carothers dec'd to wit: all household furniture, also what bacon on hand, farming tools for one hand, one barrel molasses, 4 cows and calves, what corn on hand and fifty dollars to buy more, one Negro woman named **Jenna**, one yoke of steers and cart, one horse

Appraisal of slaves:

1 Negro girl **Harriet**

1 Negro girl **Dosia**



John Walker Estate

Source: Estate Book 5, Pages 120-145

In the name of God, amen. I John Walker of the county of Itawamba, State of Mississippi, do make and ordain this my last will and testament revoking any and all testamentary dispositions by me heretofore made. My funeral expenses including those testamentary and those of my last illness are first and promptly to be paid and then my other just debts. To that end my personalty not herein specifically bequeathed except provisions on hand is charged to be

first applied and then if needed, pecuniary bequest then other bequests and lastly real estate. All provisions on hand at my decease are to be consumed by use by my family and on my plantation without be carried into inventory or account by my executors.

I give and devise to my wife Catherine for and during her natural life my home plantation including my land adjoining thereto consisting in all of eight hundred acres with the appurtenances which plantation and lands are situated and lying in the aforesaid county of Itawamba and state of Mississippi namely the north half of Section two in Township Eight of Range Eight, also the South half of Section Thirty Five in Township Seven of Range Eight, and the northeast quarter of Section Thirty Five in Township Seven of Range Eight East. Also ten slaves being part of those now in service in the family mansion, and on the said plantation namely one man slave named **Jack**, aged about 34 years of a slight copper color, one named **Alfred**, aged about 22 years, dark complexion, and a boy named **Cornilius** aged about 18 years of a copper color, also one female slave named **Rose**, aged about 30 years of black complexion, together with five children of said servant **Rose** towit: one named **Jasper**, one named **Silviann**, one **Nicy**, one **Marian** and one named **Martha**, all children of said slave named **Rose**. Also **Harriet**, a servant girl aged about 9 years of black color with the future increase of such of the said slaves who are

females, also all the household and kitchen furniture with the privilege of giving to my sons John L. and Noses L. Walker such bedding and bedclothes and other household furniture as she may think proper, and so much of the plantation stock and utensils which shall be necessary for my wife to use in carrying on the operation of said farm which at my decease may be in about or on my homestead at the decease of my said wife Catherine then and thereupon the realty and personalty in this item devised and bequeathed her for life are to belong to my bodily heirs hereafter to be mentioned as tenants in common of the realty and as joint and equal owners of the said slaves then to be in being and the increase and the increase and what may remain of the other personalty not consumed by use or otherwise lost with the increase.

I devise to my bodily heirs the following slaves namely, to Marthy Ann Lowery, wife of John B. Lowery and her heirs, I give the servant girl named **May** aged about 10 years and slightly of a copper color. To Francis Parker, wife of Elijah Parker and her heirs I give the servant girl named **Fanny**, aged about 13 years, and slightly copper colored, To Catherine J. Warren, wife of John F. Warren and her heirs I give the servant girl named **Jane**, aged about 13 years of a dark yellow color, to Benjamin F. Walker and his heirs I give the servant boy named **Anderson**, aged about 13 years of black complexion, to George B. Walker and his heirs I give the servant girl named **Matilda**,

aged about 13 years of a slightly copper color. To John L. Walker and his heirs I give the servant boy named **Thomas**, aged about 10 years of copper color, to Moses L. Walker and his heirs I give the servant boy **Jack**, aged about 10 years of black complexion, that are my bodily heirs and all of age. All my property real and personal not herein bequeathed I direct that it remain on my plantation the present year and that the same be employed in the cultivation of the said farm and the gathering of the present year's crop, after which I desire the same to be cultivated and sold on a twelve month credit to the highest and best bidder desiring that my heirs have the preference in bidding for the same.

I desire that my heirs shall share finally equally in my estate taking into consideration what they have received in the way of land and Negroes heretofore. My executors are to keep the slaves and furniture and stock as bequeathed to my said wife on said plantation to be used and employ to the best advantage for the constant and comfortable support of my said wife and permit her as own for life to use manage enjoy and control the same as to her may see best. Nevertheless should any of the said slaves herein bequeathed to my said wife become so unruly and unmanageable as my said wife cannot control them, then and in that my said executors may by the consent of my said wife sell the same and nothing herein shall be so construed as to prevent said executors from making title to the

said slave or slaves becoming unmanageable as aforesaid provision, such sale shall be with the consent and advise of my said wife. I nominate and appoint Benjamin F. Walker and George B. Walker of the county of Itawamba and State of Mississippi, executors of this my last will. In witness whereof I here set my name and seal this the second day of march AD 1860.

John Walker S E A L

The within last will and testament was signed, sealed and published by the testator as his last will and testament in our presence at his request and in the presence of each other and so by us witnessed on the day of the date thereof.

E.S. Grissom
John M. Grissom
W.J. Rodgers



Bill of Sale

John R. and Mary A. Wren to Elizabeth Eckford
Deed Book 5, Pages 396-397

Know all men by these presents that we John R. Wren and Mary A. Wren my wife of the county of Itawamba and State of Mississippi for and in consideration of the sum of Six Hundred Dollars to us in hand paid by Elizabeth Eckford of the County of Lowndes, and state aforesaid do hereby ...bargain and sell unto

the said Elizabeth Eckford a certain Negro woman named **Sall** about twenty three or four years of age and her child **Ellen** about fifteen months old. To have and to hold the said Negro named **Sally** and her child **Ellen** to the said Elizabeth Eckford...we do hereby warrant said Negro woman **Sally** and her child **Ellen** to be healthy and sound both in body and mind and a slave for life..In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals this the 4th day of April AD 1846.

John R. Wren
Mary A. Wren



Bill of Sale

*John Betts and Isaac Betts
Deed Book 5, Page 400*

This day received of John Betts, twenty seven hundred and fifty dollars, the receipts of which is hereby acknowledged in full payment of nine Negroes as follows namely **Pearse**, aged about 28 years, **Tom**, aged about 18 years, **Winey** aged about 26 years, **Elvary** aged about 6 years, **Mary** aged about 21 years, **Amanda** aged about 2 years, **Sarah** aged about 13 years, **Jane**, aged about 15 years, **Sabra** aged about 65 years all of which Negroes I warrant slaves for life. I also warrant said Negroes sound both in body and mind. In witness whereof I have set

my hand and seal this 18 April AD 1845.

Isaac Betts
Attest: J.C. Ritchie



Bill of Sale

*John R. and Mary Wren to William
McFaddin
Deed Book 5, Pages 412-413*

Know all men by these presents that we John R. Wren and Mary Ann Wren my wife of the county of Itawamba and State of Mississippi for and in consideration of the sum of Five Hundred Dollars to us in hand paid by William McFaddin of the county and state aforesaid have this day granted, sold ... unto the said William McFaddin... a certain Negro woman named **Easter** about eighteen years of age, to have ... We do hereby warrant said Negro woman to be healthy and sound in both mind and body and a slave for life... In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hand and affixed our seals this 29th day of December AD 1845.

John R. Wren
Mary A. Wren



Deed of Gift

*James Moore to Mortimer H. and Lucy H. Hinds
Deed Book 5, Page 476*

The State of Alabama
Bibb County

Know all men by these presents that I James Moore of the county and state aforesaid for and in consideration of the natural love and affection I bear towards my two grand children Mortimer H. and Lucy H. Hinds, and also one dollar to me in hand paid by Claiborne Hinds... have this day bargained and sold Unto the said Claiborne Hinds two certain Negro children to wit: **Marshall**, about six years of age and **Jenny** about four years of age with their future increase To hold by Claiborne Hinds, **Marshall**, only until the said Mortimer H. arrives at the age of twenty one years and of **Jenny** only until the said Lucy H. is lawfully married or in case she does not marry, then until she arrives at the age of twenty one years at which time the legal title to **Marshall** is to best absolutely in the said Mortimer H. and the legal title to **Jenny** is to vest absolutely in the said Lucy H....

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 29th day of November AD 1845

James Moore



Bill of Sale

*John Bennett and wife to N.J. Duncan
Deed Book 5, Page 511*

Know all men by these presents that we John Bennett and Nancy Bennett my wife of the county of Itawamba and State of Mississippi, for an in consideration of the sum of nine hundred and fifty dollars to us in hand paid by Virgil J. Duncan of the county and state aforesaid...have this day granted....unto the said Virgil J. Duncan... a certain lot of Negroes (viz) **Ann**, a woman about twenty three years old, **Sam**, a boy two years old and one infant girl, and **Jane**, aged 4 or 5 years old...we do hereby warrant said property to be healthy and sound both in body and mind...

In testimony whereof we have set our hands and seals, this 12th day of September AD 1846

Jno. Bennett
Nancy Bennett



Mary Ann Wren Schedule of Property

Deed Book 5, Pages 353-354

The State of Mississippi
Itawamba County

Schedule of the real and personal estate of Mary Ann Wren, wife of John R. Wren, a married woman possessed by her in her separate right under the provision of the Legislature of the State of Mississippi... and also the following personal property (to wit): one dark complected Negro man slave named **Jerry**, aged about nineteen years, also one black complected Negro woman slave named **Harriett**, aged about twenty eight years, also the children of said Harriett - one boy about ten years old named **Albert**, and a girl about six years old named **Angelina**, both black and also a black woman slave about eighteen years old named **Lucy** and also a woman named **Lila**, aged about thirty-eight years black complected and also a Negro, daughter of the **Lila** aged about fifteen years named **Peggy**, black complected and also a woman named **Lydia** aged about twenty fours years, black complected and also **Lydia's** four children, the oldest a girl named **Anne** aged about eight years, mulatto complected and the next oldest a boy named **Charles**, mulatto complected aged about six years and the third of said children a boy named **George** about three years old, black complected and also a boy child about six months old black complected...

*This 25th day of August 1846
Witness the hand and seal of said Mary Ann Wren the day and date above written.*



Eliza Lawson Schedule of Property

Deed Book 5, Page 357

The State of Mississippi
Itawamba County

The schedule of property possessed by Eliza Lawson, wife of William T. Lawson under the provisions of an act of the Legislature of the State of Mississippi for the protection and preservation of the rights and property of married women... (to wit): One Negro girl mulatto slave named **Rhode** about seventeen years of age...

This 26th day of August 1846
Witness the said Eliza Lawson has herunto subscribed her name and set her seal the day and date above written.

Eliza Lawson X (her mark)



Deed of Gift

*Solomon Johnson to Lewis Johnson and William Barnett
Deed Book 5, Page 358*

Solomon Johnson to his son Lewis Johnson and his son in law William Barnett. Know all men by these presents that I Solomon Johnson of the County of Itawamba and State of Mississippi for and in consideration

of the natural love and affection which I have and bear for my son Lewis Johnson of the County of Cherokee, State of Alabama and for my son in law William Barnett I the said Solomon Johnson have givenunto the above mentioned Lewis Johnson and William Barnett the following named property (to wit) to Lewis Johnson four Negroes, **Joe, Harry, Liza and John** To the said William Barnett, my son in law I give the Negroes named as follows: **Rhody, Gilly and Hudson**....

I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 11th day of April 1846.

Solomon Johnson



Deed of Gift

*James Lynn to Jefferson Lynn
Deed Book 6, Page 109*

This indenture made and entered unto this 19th day of February in the year of our Lord 1847 by and between James Lynn of the county of Itawamba and State of Mississippi and Thomas Jefferson Lynn of the county and state aforesaid...that for an in consideration of the natural love and affection that I have for my grandson Thomas Jefferson Lynn, I the said James Lynn have this day given..unto my grandson Thomas Jefferson Lynn one mulatto man slave about thirty five years of age named **Frank**....

In witness whereof I the said James Lynn have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the date and date above written.

*James Lynn
In the presence of Russell O. Beene*



Trust Deed

*James Carothers to James L. Carothers
Deed Book 6, Page 151*

Know all men by these presents that I James Carothers of Williamson County in the State of Tennessee in consideration of the natural love I bear to my daughter Volantia J. Cook, wife of Thomas J. Cook of Itawamba County in the State of Mississippi and in consideration of the trust herein after named ... and for the sum of one dollar to me in hand paid by my son James L. Carothers of said County of Williamson, have given ...unto the said James L. Carothers...five slaves towit: **Adeline**, aged about twenty two years old and her three children **Mary**, five, **William** two, and **Mariah** infant and **Stephen** aged about sixteen and their increase to have and to hold the same ...in trust ... for the sole and separate use and maintenance of the said Volantia J.

In testimony whereof I the said James Carothers have hereunto sent my hand and seal this 31st July AD 1847.

James Carothers



Deed Upon Trust

*William H. Kyle and wife to Sam L. Watt
Deed Book 6, Page 169*

This indenture made this 17th day of June 1847 between William H. Kyle and Nancy his wife of Itawamba County and State of Mississippi of the first part and John T. Weatherall of Pontotoc County and State of Mississippi of the second part and Sam L. Wall of the county and state last mentioned of the third part, whereas the said William H. Kyle is indebted to the said Sam L. Watt in the sum of seven hundred and fifteen dollars...have bargained and sold ... unto said John T. Weatherall...certain Negro slaves (viz) One woman **Family** aged twenty six years, one boy **Henry** aged six years and boy **Panis** aged four years and one girl **Julia** aged one year...in trust...

In testimony whereof the said Wm. H. Kyle and Nancy his wife have huereunto set their hands and affixed their seals the day first set forth.

*Wm. H. Kyle
Nancy Kyle
John T. Weatherall*



Deed

*Elizabeth M. Taylor to Swepson T. Taylor
Deed Book 6, Page 209*

The State of Mississippi
Itawamba County

Know all men by these presents that Elizabeth M. Taylor for the love I have for my son Swepson T. Taylor, I give and bequeath to him all the Negroes I was possessed of before my marriage to wit: **Buck**, about thirty eight years old, **Hannah** about thirty four, **Dave** about thirty five, **Henry** about eighteen, **Bet** about forty eight and **March** about fifty five together with **Nancy** about six and **Isom** about four years of age which Negroes I wish appropriated as aforesaid to my son Swepson T. Taylor after my death . I case he should not live to have heirs to inherit the Negroes it is my desire that my husband Swepson Taylor should have the use of them and their labour during his life but after his death to be equally divided between William L. Marsh my son and Mary E.H. Hussey my daughter and Ann E. Beal, my niece or their heirs.

In witness whereof the Elizabeth M. Taylor hath hereunto set her hand and affixed her seal the 23rd day of November 1846.

Elizabeth M. Taylor



Deed in Trust

*J.T. Stockton to J. Robins, Trustee
Deed Book 6, Page 414*

This indenture made and entered into this 7th day of April 1848...Joseph T. Stockton of the first part and Albert James of the second part and Jephthah Robins of the third part all of the county of Itawamba and State of Mississippi... whereas the party of the first part is justly indebted to the said party of the second part in the sum of one hundred dollars.... Now witnesseth that for and in consideration of the recited promises and the further sum of Five Dollars to said party of the first part in hand paid by the said party of the third part...hath granted...the following described property...one Negro man named **Theophilus**, one Negro woman named **Mary**, one Negro girl named **Angeline**, one Negro boy named **Reuben**...to hold in trust...

In testimony whereof the parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals the day and date above written.

*J.T. Stockton
Albert James
J. Robins*



Deed

*Mason Cummings to Mary Cummings etal
Deed Book 6, Page 420*

This indenture made and entered into on this 11th day of July 1848 by and between Mason Cummings of the County of Itawamba and State of Mississippi of the first part and Nancy Ann Howard, wife of James Howard and Mary Cummings and Martha Cummings of the other part. Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the love and affection which I have towards my said daughters Nancy Ann Howard, wife of Doctor James Howard and also my daughters Mary Cummings and Martha Cummings, I the said Mason Cummings have this day given, granted and transferred...unto each of my said daughters as following to wit: unto my said daughter Nancy Ann Howard, one Negro girl named **Chaney** about twelve years old...for and during the term of her natural life and after her death then to the heirs of her body...and unto my said daughter Mary Cummings I do hereby give, grant, transfer and convey one Negro girl named **Charlotte**, aged about eleven years and unto my said daughter Martha Cummings one Negro girl named **Mariah**, about seven years old...

In testimony whereof I have set my hand and affixed my seal the day and date above written.



Bill of Sale

*Edward S. Grissom to J.M. Grissom
Deed Book 6, Page 471*

Know all men that I Edward S. Grissom have this day bargained, sold and delivered unto John M. Grissom one Negro man slave named **George** for the sum of Six Hundred Dollars which sum I acknowledged the receipt of before the delivery...and warrant the title here of said Negro unto the said John M. Grissom his heirs and assigns and warrant said slave to be a slave for life and sound of body and mind...

In Testimony whereof I set my hand and seal this 23rd day of August 1848.

Edward S. Grissom.



Deed of Gift

*Alexander Copeland to Arminda Copeland
Deed Book 6, Page 496*

The State of Mississippi
Lowndes County

Know men by these presents that I Alexander Copeland of the county and state aforesaid for and in consideration of the natural love and

affection I have for Arminda Copeland, wife of Lemuel J. Copeland of Itawamba County...I do give, grant, bargain and sell unto the said Arminda Copeland the following described property towit: One Negro man about nineteen years of age named **Nathan** to her the said Arminda Copeland and her heirs or the children which she now have or many hereafter have by her present husband Lemuel J. Copeland...which said Negro I warrant to be sound in body and mind and a slave for life.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the 14th day of October AD 1848.

Alexander Copeland.



Deed of Trust

*Samuel Henderson to J. Robins, Trustee
Deed Book 6, Page 503*

This indenture made and entered into this 20th day of November 1848 between Samuel Henderson of the first part, D.N. Cayce of the second part and Jephthah Robins of the third part, all of the county of Itawamba and State of Mississippi. Witnesseth that the said party of the first part is justly indebted to the said party of the second part in the sum of one thousand and eleven dollars and twenty nine cents...the party of the first part hath granted and sold....unto the said party of the third part forever in trust the

following described property to wit: one Negro man named **Isaac** about thirty years old, one Negro woman names **Sinda** about thirty three years old, and child named **Martin** about one year old....

*Samuel Henderson
D.N. Cayce
J. Robins*



Deed

*Andrew McWilliams to Emily
McWilliams
Deed Book 6, Page 519*

Know all men by these presents that I Andrew McWilliams of the county of Limestone and State of Alabama for and in consideration of the natural love and affection which I have for and bear unto Emily McWilliams of the county of Itawamba and State of Mississippi, ...hath granted, bargained and sold...unto the said Emily McWilliams, one Negro girl slave for life called, named, and known as **Hannah**, of the age of thirty seven years, dark copper color, together with the issue of said slave...

I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this the 21st day of November AD 1848.

Andrew McWilliams



Trust Deed

*Elisha D. Prewitt to Austin L. Prewitt
Deed Book 6, Page 575*

This indenture made and entered into this 25th day of January 1843 between Elisha D. Prewitt of the county of Monroe, State of Mississippi of the first part and Austin L. Prewitt of said county and state of the second part. Witnesseth that the said Elisha D. Prewitt for and in consideration of the sum of ten dollars ... and also for the love and affection which he has and bears for his daughter Mary Ann Boggan, wife of James Boggan of said county, the said Elisha D. Prewitt doth bargain and sell unto the said Austin L. Prewitt the following described property to wit: One Negro woman named **Dacey** aged about thirty years, **Harriett**, a girl aged about ten years, **Green**, a boy aged about eight years, **Dashia Jane**, a girl aged about four years, **Sarah**, a girl aged about ten years, **Lydia** a girl aged about four years, **Lucy** a woman aged about eighteen years, **Jefferson**, a man aged about twenty years, **Henry**, a boy aged about one year, with their increase to have and to hold in trust for the use and purposed...for the benefit and support and maintenance of the said Mary Ann and her children during the life of said Mary Ann...

*Elisha D. Prewitt
Austin L. Prewitt*



Bill of Sale

*William Barnett to J.W.W. Barnett
Deed Book 6, Page 590*

State of Mississippi
Itawamba County

Know all men by these presents that I William Barnett for and in consideration of the sum of Five Hundred Dollars in hand paid by Joseph W.W. Barnett ..I have granted...the following described property towit: One Negro girl **Sarah**, fifteen or sixteen years old, sound in body and mind and slave for life....

Witness my hand and seal this the 16th day of September 1848.

William Barnett



Deed of Gift

*James Moore to Sophia Hinds
Deed Book 4, Page 2*

The State of Alabama
Bibb County

Know all men by these presents that I James Moore of the county and state aforesaid for and in consideration of the natural love and affection which I have and do bear to my daughter Sophia Hinds now wife of Josiah Hinds...have given and granted unto my said daughter Sophia Hinds for

her separate use...during her natural life and at her decease to the legal heirs of her body which she may have by the said Josiah Hinds....to take effect and be of binding force from and after my death and not before...also the following named slaves viz: one Negro man named **Bill** or **William** aged about twenty-eight years, a Negro girl named **Hally** age about four years, a Negro woman about twenty five years old named **Peggy** and her five children **Mary Jane, Cordelia, Adayoc, Emanuel, Jefferson**. It being expressly understood and worded that said slaves and all their natural increase shall be and remain subject to my control during my life and after my death said gifts and grants to take effect...

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this April 1st, 1841.

James F. Moore



Trust Deed

*J.A.M. Devall to James Eckford
Deed Book 4, Page 270*

This indenture made and entered into this 22nd day of November 1844 between J.A.M. Devall of the one part of the county of Itawamba and State of Mississippi and James Eckford of the county of Lowndes and state aforesaid of the other part. Witnesseth the said J.A.M. Devall in

and by a certain obligatory writing ... stands bound unto the said James Eckford in the sum of Seven Hundred and fifty Dollars ... hath ... assigns two Negro slaves for life towit: A Negro man named **Bill** between fifty and sixty years of age and **Jim** a Negro boy about six or seven years of age... in trust...

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year above written.

J.A.M. Devall



Marriage Contract

James W. Crayton to Permelia E. Thomason
Deed Book 4, Page 280

The State of Alabama
Lawrence County

This indenture made and entered into this 23rd day of August 1843 between James W. Crayton of the one part, Parmelia E. Thomason of the second part and George C. Thomason, Archibald Thomason of the third part, whereas marriage is intended to be shortly had and solemnized by and between the said James W. Crayton and Parmelia E. Thomason and whwhereas the said Parmelia E. Thomason is possessed of a personal estate consisting of a Negro boy named **Phil** and a Negro woman named **Francis** and whereas the said Parmelia E. Thomason being

aware of the many ... misfortunes which occur to the most prudent and considerate... is willing and desirous of having said property settled and secured has assigned.. unto the said George C. Thomason and Archibald Thomason... in trust...

In witness whereof the said parties hereto have interchangeably set their hands and seals the day and year first above.

James W. Crayton
Parmelia E. Thomason



Deed

Russell O. Beene etal to Nancy Morgan
Deed Book 7, Page 356

The State of Mississippi
Itawamba County

Whereas Lemuel Beene late of said county deceased, by his last will and testament bequeathed unto his daughter Nancy Morgan during her natural life and after her death to the children and heirs of her body one Negro girl named **Jane** and whereas by said will it is further provided that after the youngest child shall arrive at the age of eighteen years, that all the balance of his property not therein specifically bequeathed should be equally divided among his children without sale, if possible and whereas that event has happened, and the said children and heirs having met together and agreed to a

division of all the slaves of the said Lemuel Beene not by said will specially bequeathed, and upon valuation thereof it is agreed that they are worth three thousand eight hundred and fifty dollars, which being divided among eight children, being the number of said heirs, leaves for each said children, four hundred and eighty one dollars and twenty five cents, and whereas it is agreed that the said Nancy shall have a Negro girl about four years of age named **Harriet** at the valuation of two hundred dollars, and the balance being secured to her by the said heirs. Now therefore in consideration of the premises we Russell O. Beene, Robert M. Beene, Obadiah F. Beene, William Beene, Anna foster and her husband Edwin Foster, Martha Jane Warren and her husband Reuben Warren, being the heirs of said Lemuel Beene deceased, in consideration of the premises do hereby bargain sell transfer and convey unto said Nancy Morgan the said slaves **Jane** and **Harriet** to have and to hold unto her the said Nancy for an during her natural life, subject to her control and after her death then to her children and heirs of her body forever.

Witness our hands and seals this 14th November AD 1849.

Russell O. Beene
Robert M. Beene
Obadiah F. Beene
Reuben Warren
Martha Jane Warren
Edwin Foster
Anna Foster

William W. Beene



Deed of Gift

*Alexander Copeland to Rachel Copeland
Deed Book 7, Page 492*

State of Mississippi
Itawamba County

Know all men by these presents that I Alexander Copeland of the county and state aforesaid for an d in consideration of the natural love and affection that I have for my daughter Rachel Copeland of the county and state aforesaid and for the further sum of five dollars to me in hand paid...do sell unto the said Rachel Copeland, the following property towit: one Negro girl about eleven years of age named **Harriett** to her the said Rachel Copeland and her heirs or the children which she may hereafter have in case she should hereafter marry...

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the 16th day of October AD 1848

Alexander Copeland



Trust Deed

*Jeptha Richards and Wife Helen to
Christopher Hussey
Deed Book 8, Page 73*

This indenture made and entered into this the 17th day of August 1850 between Jephtha Richards and Helen Richards his wife of the county and state aforesaid of the first part and Owen Williams of the second part and Christopher Hussey of the third part. Witnesseth that the said party of the first part is indebted to the said party of the third part in the sum of Three Hundred and Sixty Dollars ...hath this day...sell and convey to the part of the second part ... one Negro boy by the name of **Peter** and one Negro girl by the name of **Huldy**, the daughter of **Jane**...to have and to hold..in trust..

Given under our hands and seals the day and date written above.

Jephthah Richards
Helen Richards
Owen Williams
Christopher Hussey



Gift Deed

*John Cook to Sarah Ann Whitten
Deed Book 8, Page 155*

Know all men by these presents that I John Cook of the County of Pontotoc in the State of Mississippi for an in consideration of the love and affections which I have for my daughter Sarah Ann Whitten wife of James M. Whitten have this day given ... unto my said daughter a certain Negro girl aged about twenty one years of age by the name of **Lucinda**....

I have hereunto set my name and affixed my seal this October the 21st, 1850.

John Cook



Trust Deed

*John C. Ritchie to E.B. Harbour
Deed Book 8, Page 281*

This indenture made and entered into this the 4th day of April 1851 between John C. Ritchie of the first part and E.B. Harbour of the second part and James S. Bourland of the third part...hath by these presents sell unto the said E.B. harbour... a certain Negro man by the name of **Terry**, aged twenty three years old, one Negro woman by the name of **Syle**, aged twenty one years old... in trust...whereof the parties aforesaid have here unto set their hands and seals the day and date in this deed mentioned above.

J.C. Ritchie
E.B. Harbour
James S. Bourland



Rebecca F. Tisdale Schedule of Property

Deed Book 8, Page 302
The State of Mississippi
Itawamba County

Schedule of Personal Property of Rebecca Tisdale of said county and state a married woman, wife of Achelous Tisdale owned and possessed by her in her own separate right...towit One Negro woman named **Amy** about thirty years of age...

For record in the office of the clerk of the probate court of said county...this 4th day of April 1851.

Rebecca F. Tisdale



Trust Deed

*Wm. Wall to A.B. Bullard
Deed Book 8, Page 321*

This indenture made and entered into this 30th May 1851 between William Wall of the first part, Arthur B. Bullard of the second part and John Williams of the third part. Witnesseth that the said William Wall being indebted to the said John Williams in the sum of thirty five hundred dollars...the said Wall hath sold....unto the said Bullard the following described property to wit: one cotton gin and gear, one Negro man named **Gabriel** aged about twenty five or thirty years, a Negro woman named **Violet** aged twenty yeas and her **Robert** aged four years...

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals the date above written.

Wm. Wall
A.B. Bullard
John Williams



Laura J. Phipps Schedule of Property

Deed Book 8, Page 358

The State of Mississippi
Itawamba County

Schedule of personal property of Laura J. Phipps of said county and state aforesaid, a married woman wife of Dr. B.T. Phipps owned and possessed by her in her own and separate right...to wit: **Minerva**, 19 years of age, **Margaret**, 8 years of age, **Frank**, 4 months old...

Filed for record in this office of Probate court of said county this the 16th day of July AD 1851.

Laura J. Phipps



Gift Deed

*Oran A. and Sarah Richardson to Children
Deed Book 8, Page 368*

The State of Mississippi
Itawamba County

Know all men by these presents that we O.A. Richardson and Sarah L. Richardson of the county and state aforesaid for and in consideration of the natural love and affection which we bear to our children George Byron, Presley Cox, Irby Smith and Isabella Florida have given...unto our said children...the following named slaves towit: One Negro woman named **Patty** about thirty five years of age and her girl child named **July Ann** about five years of age...

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seal this 14th day of August AD 1851.

O.A. Richardson
Sarah L. Richardson



Gift Deed

*Jacob Holland to Hannah Rogers
Deed Book 8, Page 394*

The State of Alabama
Pickens County

Know all men by these presents that I Jacob Holland of the state and county aforesaid for and in consideration of the good will and affection which I have for my daughter Hannah Rogers I give unto Alfred L. Love of the state of Alabama and County of Tuscaloosa my Negro woman **Sofa**

and her child appraised to seven hundred and fifty dollars for the use and benefit of my daughter Hannah Rogers during her natural lifetime and after her death to the heirs of her body which Negroes keep to wait on my wife Sarah Holland during her lifetime ...and at the death of my wife Sarah Holland the said Negroes to be delivered to said Alfred L. Love ...in witness whereof I have set my hand and seal this 30th day of January 1844.

Jacob Holland



Trust Deed

*G.W. Howard to William Patton
Deed Book 8, Page 451*

This indenture made and entered into this 12th day of November AD 1851 between George W. Howard of the county of Itawamba and State of Mississippi of the first part and William Patton of the second part and John Patton of the third part. Witnesseth that whereas the said part of the first part is indebted to the said John Patton in the sum of One Hundred Dollars... and by these presents do bargain, sell, transfer and convey unto the said William Patton all my entire interest and claim...in and to a certain Negro girl slave named **Eliza** of yellow complexion, aged about twenty years....in trust...

Witness our hands and seals the day and date above written.

George W. Howard
 William Patton
 John Patton



Deed in Trust

*James E. Murdock to W.W. Gaither
 Deed Book 4, Page 517*

This indenture made and entered into this the 11th day of April 1845 between James D. Murdock of the first part, D.N. Cayce of the second part and W.W. Gaither of the third part, all of the county of Itawamba and State of Mississippi. Witnesseth that whereas the said party of the first part is justly indebted to the said party of the second part in the sum of

three hundred and seventy five dollars...the said party of the first part doth grand, bargain and sell unto the party of the third part a certain Negro woman slave by the name of **Martha** about nineteen years old....in trust...Said Negro is to remain in the possession of the said party of the second part until said first day of January 1846...

In testimony whereof the parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and seals the date and year first above mentioned.

J.D. Murdock
 D.N. Cayce
 W.W. Gaither

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APPENDIX

A CONCISE HISTORY OF EARLY ITAWAMBA COUNTY BY BOB FRANKS

Pre-county Days

A true history of Itawamba County predates the organization of the county by nearly 300 years. Most all of the published histories of Itawamba County claim that settlers first came to Itawamba County during the 1830s. It is true that the 1830s saw the largest influx of settlers to this country, but according to historical research, many settlers were here as early as the 18th century.

According to historical research, the first Europeans to come into present-day northeast Mississippi were the Spanish, when in 1540, Hernando Desoto entered this area near Columbus. He and his men spent the winter of 1541 near present-day Pontotoc.

The next record of Europeans in northeast Mississippi was in 1736 when the French, under the leadership of Bienville, came to this area. He and 600 soldiers passed through Cotton Gin Port, on their way to the Chickasaw town of Ackia, three miles northwest of Tupelo. When the French arrived at Ackia, the British flag was displayed by the Indians. This shows that the British were here as early as the 1730s, most probably British traders who had commerce with the Chickasaws.

In the later 1700s, middle Tennessee and the Natchez area were quite settled. An old Indian trail was used by the settlers as a link between the two areas. This trail was cleared in 1802 by the Federal government and became known as the Natchez Trace. This link between the two settlements cut through much of Itawamba County. The Federal government encouraged stands (inns) to be constructed along the trail in the Chickasaw lands, to make traveling easier.

Prior to the organization of Itawamba County, the Chickasaw Nation was divided into four districts. Present-day Itawamba County was in William McGilvray's district. McGilvray, known as Coahoma, lived six miles southwest of present-day Fulton. In a letter from J.N. Walton to Harry Warren, dated Aberdeen, Mississippi, 5 May 1881, Mr. Walton wrote: "*McGilvray was a very old man, had served under Washington, and was commissioned by him as a captain in the United States Army and stationed at Fort Pitt - now Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in the old war (American Revolution).*"

Another prominent English name in the pre-county days was Colbert. James Logan Colbert came into the Chickasaw Nation with British traders around 1736. He married a Chickasaw. One of his sons, Levi, became the acting chief of the Chickasaws sometime after 1750.

When Levi was a young man, some Indians from other tribes (possibly the Choctaw) intended to invade the Chickasaw country. Young Colbert heard about this and banded together some Chickasaw warriors. They surprised the enemy and defeated them. Upon returning, a council of the nation was called and a new name and crown were awarded to Levi. Instead of sitting him flat on the ground (as was the custom), they furnished him with a small bench, and the new name Itte-wamba Mingo, or "Bench Chief" was given to him.

The Colbert family became quite prominent in the Chickasaw Nation. Most of the Colberts moved with other Chickasaws west to the new Chickasaw lands in 1835-36 but some stayed after Itawamba County was organized.

Atop Baptist Church Hill in present-day Mantachie, a gentle breeze blows through the granite monuments in Mantachie Cemetery. These monuments stand watch over the fertile Mantachie Creek bottom lands to the west where the monuments to Itawamba's first people have been located for hundreds of years. The monuments to the mighty Chickasaws are in the form of burial mounds in the rich bottom lands covered in cotton and soybeans.

In these rich bottom lands, one of the largest Chickasaw villages in northeast Mississippi was settled hundreds of years ago. This village was located near a creek, which was named Man-at-chee, in honor of a Chickasaw chieftain. Nearly a mile below the village, a creek ran into Man-at-chee from the hills to the east. This creek was named Ches-ta-na, in honor of the Chickasaw who farmed the land in 1832 when the Federal government surveyed the Chickasaw Nation.

Who were these first inhabitants of Itawamba County? One European observer in the 18th century called the Chickasaws the "Spartans" of the lower Mississippi valley, for "*martial virtue, and not riches.*" Before exposure to European ways, Chickasaw men were fighters and hunters. Only occasionally did they take part in agriculture. Their slaves and the women performed the menial work of clearing the land, caring for crops and gathering firewood. These people were "*tall, well-built people with reddish-brown skin, dark black hair and large dark eyes.*" The older men and women wore their hair long. The warrior shaved the sides of his head, leaving a crest which the wearer soaked in bear grease. Both women and men plucked all hair from their faces and bodies with tweezers made of wire, the color and design indicating their family association. They wore nose and ear ornaments and decorated their heads and shoulders with eagle feathers.

The men in the village wore a breechcloth and in the heat of the summer their only clothing was a shirt made of dressed deer skin. Many of the hunters in the Mantachie Creek bottom lands wore deerskin boots reaching to the thigh to protect against thorny thickets and brambles. The women of the village wore dresses made from skins sewed together with fish bone needles and deer sinews. After cloth was introduced to the Chickasaw Nation, native women made a loose petticoat, fastened with a leather belt and brass buckle.

The Chickasaw Nation population ranged between 3,500 and 4,500, making it a relatively small Indian community when compared to the Choctaws to the south. Most of the Chickasaws lived near the headwaters of the Tombigbee River where their settlement remained until the Federal government removed the tribe to Indian Territory in the 1830s.

As early as the 1700s, white men including traders and missionaries were pushing into the Chickasaw Nation of northeast Mississippi. These white people introduced their culture to the Chickasaws and this changed the lifestyle of the Chickasaw over a period of time. The new Chickasaw society of the late 1700s and early 1800s consisted of Indians, white and Negroes (African slaves were introduced to the Chickasaws during the 1750s by British traders). By 1810, white settlers were entering the Chickasaw Nation in staggering numbers. During the year of 1810, the Chickasaw agent reported four to five thousand white intruders were scattered in settlements on Chickasaw lands. For the next 20 years, the white man became more than a problem to the Indian - he was a threat to actual existence. As late as 1830, agents revealed that for several years intruders had planted corn and cotton on Chickasaw land and that each winter they had pastured herds of cattle in the Indians' territory. Intruders poached prime timber and were accused of stealing Indian cattle, horses, slaves, and other property. They were also accused of carrying on a whiskey trade with the Indians. Only occasionally did the

Federal government act to protect the Chickasaws. In 1828 a Chickasaw was tied to a tree by several white settlers who "*whipped him most unmercifully*" in a dispute over livestock. The situation was so bad that the Chickasaws signed a treaty in 1830, but it was never ratified by the senate. This treaty served as an entering wedge for the white people who began pressing into the Chickasaw country of Mississippi. The government became impatient to meet the wishes of the white man and to convince the Indians that their best interests required immediate removal.

Finally, on 20 October 1832, the Treaty of Pontotoc was signed at the Chickasaw Council House on Pontotoc Creek. The preamble of the treaty showed the sentiments of the Chickasaws: "*The Chickasaw Nation find themselves oppressed in their present situation by being made subject to the laws of the sates in which they reside. Being ignorant of the language of the laws of the white man, they cannot understand or obey them. Rather than submit to this great evil, they prefer to seek a home in the west where they may live and be governed by their own laws.*"

The treaty called for all Chickasaw land to be surveyed. The white people continued to overrun the Chickasaw country and destroy the peace and happiness of the Indians long before the survey was completed, or plans made for their removal. The United States Marshall for Mississippi posted notices warning white squatters to remove from the Chickasaw Nation by 15 November 1833. Not one person obeyed that command as no steps were taken by the government to enforce the order, more settlers began moving to the Chickasaw Nation.

James Colbert, brother of Chief Itawamba, tried to induce the United States Secretary of War to protect the Chickasaws. In his letter to Washington, DC, he wrote: "*The fate of the Chickasaw people requires that some person should interpose in their behalf...A host of speculators are going over the country and have fired all the half breeds to interpret for them and give them five or ten dollars for each contract they make; they used every stratagem they can devise and practice every imposition on their ignorance...they have signed deeds, most of them blank ones and receive from five to ten dollars in advance...I beseech you to have care over our red children; the white men are cheating them out of their land.*"

Before the Indian removal period of the later 1830s, most Chickasaws continued to live on the tribe's drastically reduced territory in northeast Mississippi. They relied upon agriculture for a living. The full bloods seemed content to subsist from the production of beans, corn, squash, pumpkins and melons tended by the women and children. An economic survey of the Chickasaw Nation was taken in 1827. The survey revealed that the typical full blood household contained five members and owned two horses, two cows, five hogs and a small flock of poultry. The Chickasaws lived in frontier log cabins, consisting of walls formed by hewed timbers placed horizontally and sealed against the weather with mud daub, a puncheon floor, and gable roof covered, with split shakes. The fireplace was located against an end wall. The chimney was made of split sticks placed in a square and plastered inside and out with clay found in the area.

The period 1834 to 1837 was a busy time for the Chickasaws. Speculation companies were formed to negotiate for vast blocks of tribal land. These companies bought most of the Chickasaw land, paying anywhere from \$1.25 to \$1.60 an acre. By early 1837, when

the Chickasaw leaders finally made an decision about their people's new western home, much of their lands were already occupied by white settlers, and the year before, the state officials in Mississippi had organized Itawamba County, as well as nine other counties from the Indian lands.

During the summer and autumn of 1837, Federal officials enrolled 4,000 Chickasaws and concentrated them in four emigration camps in northwestern Alabama and northern Mississippi. William McGilvray's district, which included most of Itawamba County, was very much opposed to removal.

Records reveal that the Chickasaw migration to their new Indian Territory west of the Mississippi continued until 1850. As late as April 1841, Federal officials in Mississippi reported that over 500 Chickasaws remained to be relocated in the new Indian Territory. Small parties, sometimes consisting of a single family, continued to move into the new Indian Territory as late as 1850.

The rattling of wagons, and voices of the drivers announced the approaching caravan that was to take these native Itawambians to their new homes in the west. Giving a last look at their humble cabins and the beautiful hills and valleys of Itawamba, they turned towards the caravan and loaded all of their meager belongings into the wagons. The women and children mounted their ponies and with sad hearts the families joined the procession leaving the land of their forefathers headed for a distant and strange land. It was truly a trail of tears.

The land for Itawamba County and nine other counties was secured from the Chickasaws by the Treaty of Pontotoc on 12 October 1832, but the Chickasaws were given time to move and could decide for themselves when they would leave for Indian Territory. Most of them left during the years of 1835 to 1839.

The Organization of Itawamba County

On February 9, 1836, the Mississippi Legislature divided the land secured from the Chickasaws into counties. On February 14, 1836, the Legislature appointed commissioners in each of the ten newly created counties to get the counties organized. The commissioners appointed for Itawamba County were James Rowland, William Coats, Lewis Gideon and David Walker. As instructed by the Legislature, these commissioners called for an election and five men were elected: James Spears Bourland, Alfred G. Lane, John Beene, S.S. Spearman and Eliba Allen. These men were known as the Board of Police.

The Board of Police called an election and the following men were elected as officers for the new county of Itawamba: Charles Warren, sheriff; C.H. Ritchie, probate judge; Lewis Gideon, probate clerk and Russell O. Beene, circuit clerk.

With the organization of the county came a large influx of trans-Appalachian settlers. The 1836 tax list of the county shows there were approximately 280 families living in Itawamba County.

The Board of Police were empowered by the Legislature to select the site of county government, which was to be in the center of the county, if a suitable location, and to acquire this location either by purchase or donation.

A deed recorded in Deed Book 1, Page 53, shows that a Chickasaw sold Section 25, Township 9, Range 8 East to Kenneth Clark, John Miller and Robert Miller, land speculators living in adjoining Pontotoc County. They, in turn, donated 50 acres of this land to the Board of Police for the site of county government on July 17, 1837. The new site of county government was named Fulton and by 1838 lots were being sold in this new town. John Thompson was the first postmaster for the site of county government. Some of the first lot buyers in the new village of Fulton were John M. Cox, David Patrick, Wiley W. Gaither, James C. Wright, Edward Moore, John R. Wren, William Peacock, John L. Collins, David Files, William Files, Lemuel Beene, Joseph Calvin Clark, William Eckford, Wiley D. Clifton and John Thompson. Before Fulton was organized, county government affairs were conducted in private homes and stores including the store house of Elisha Thomas at Van Buren on the Tombigbee River and the home of James Spears Bourland in the Cardsville community.. After Fulton was organized county government business was conducted in private stores and residences in Fulton. As late as January of 1838, circuit court was held in the "ward house" of Duncan Clarke, Esq. in the new village of Fulton. It is not known when the first courthouse was built in Fulton, but records show that there was a courthouse in Fulton before 1843. More than likely it was a typical pioneer wooden structure.

Pioneer Days in the New County

Most of the early settlers in Itawamba County were from the hill regions of Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Many of these people were from places where slavery was practically non-existent. Consequently few slaves were in Itawamba County as compared to the remainder of Mississippi. Circuit Court records show a man being tried in 1837 for "bringing a Negro woman, Tabby, into the county and selling her. He was not convicted because slavery, even though unpopular with many Itawambians, was legal in Mississippi.

Upon entering Itawamba County from long-settled areas, many people had a hard time adjusting to the new territory. In 1839, Josiah Hinds of Itawamba County wrote in his diary: *"We are among strangers in a strange land, and in a wilderness, where but a short time since, was heard the yell of the savage, and where the hoot of the owl and prowl of the wolf is still heard. We are almost in the woods - one cabin only to shelter us and our little ones and a rail pen for a smoke house and kitchen...no churches for the worship of God."*

Henry Wiygul came to Itawamba in 1832 from Cotton Gin Port in neighboring Monroe County. On 11 November 1925, William Wiygul wrote: *"In 1832 Granpa Wiygul decided he would move up into the wild woods where Itawamba County now is. He got him an ox and a sack of something to eat and started on an ox to blaising out his road wright up the ridge. He went back and got his family. He had a yoak of stears and a waggon and put his household stuff on it. He was living in Monroe County then. It was a county. In the early fall of 1832 he started. he soone got out of Monroe County into the wilderness where no one lived but Indians. He got to the end of his*

road and settled. He lived there in a Indian hut about two yeares. he then built a house out of logs."

In 1841 members of the Tannahill family of Scotland immigrated to the new county of Itawamba. After coming down the Tennessee River they landed at Easport in the new county of Tishomingo. A letter dated January 19, 1842 from Fulton to England recollects the journey to Itawamba County: "...on a Sunday night we landed at the town of Easport (containing four log cabins) and the next day we started through the Forest Track for Fulton, Mary mounted on horseback and Robert and I on foot. I carried my gun, but got no chance to shoot. We saw some deer, but they did not allow us to get near them. It was a most awful night at Easport. By the help of poles to steady us, Mary and I got up the bank and got lodging that night in a cabin. The people said they had never seen such a thunderstorm. We did not sleep much. There was in the same room, three men and two females. This is the universal practice here -- no separate sleeping appartments. We lay and listed to the thunder rolling overhead and the lightning flashing through a hundred chinks in the cabin...When we got to Mr. T's (Joshua Toomer in Fulton), we found all our people well except Mother... There is very little money current here. Mr. T. is glad to have the yearly accounts of the farmers settled by the cotton which can be turned into specie at Mobile...I wrote this in my own log cabin, which barring a few chinks is not a bad one...The country here is but thinly settled as it is only six years since the Indians left it...We live on bread of Indian corn which is the only kind used here. Their hogs are excellent being fed in the woods on nuts and acorns...All men here are not merely nominally but really equal. The other day a man was taken up here for going to shoot a neighbour. The sheriff allowed him to go at large about the town...he rode about the town, whooping, crowing like a cock and dared the officer at the point of a knife to lay a hand on him...Two men have been shot in Mr. Toomer's store.

As illustrated above, life in pioneer Itawamba County was indeed primitive and harsh. On October 21, 1843, Josiah Hinds wrote in his diary: "Two of our candidates for representative took a little too much firewater at court last week and one of them concluded to call of the dogs and quit the drive and has left the field in disgust. One of the drunken candidates took the sand in the courthouse on Monday, and after abusing one of our preachers at a dreadful rate, left the courthouse and made his way to the doggery and got as drunk as Bacchus." Hinds writes in his diary three months later: "Was at Fulton yesterday. Had to wade through Bigby Swamp. Got wet and don't feel well. They were swilling down the devil's firewater; saw one poor drunken fellow with his face very much scratched and bleeding. Had been fighting..."

Houses in pioneer Itawamba County were generally built of logs and hewn with the broad ax after being raised. Sometimes the logs were lined on the ground and hewn, if the builder wished to make an extra nice house. Poplar trees were widely used for pioneer house building in Itawamba County. The floors were made of puncheons, which were logs split the whole width of the tree and then dressed off with the adz. The coverings for the houses were usually four feet boards usually made of cypress or oak.

Lighting in the home during pioneer days was very primitive. Lights for the kitchen and dining table were made by dipping a piece of cloth cut into a string, into an earthen vessel with a small lip, where the end of the wick rested. The vessel was filled with lard and the end of the cloth was set afire. Tallow candles were also used for lighting.

During the 1840s very few pioneer women worked in the fields. They worked in the house spinning thread, weaving cloth and cooking for the usually large families. The women made all clothing for the family. The men in the household worked in the fields, where everything needed for home consumption was raised. Wheat was raised in abundance during the 1840s. Most farms during the early 1840s were subsistence crops and cash crops like cotton were not raised on a wide scale until the later 1840s.

Social functions in pioneer Itawamba County were very limited. Besides church, there were very few social functions. "Corn Shuckings" were customary during the 1840s. It was customary for each neighbor to make a "corn shucking." Neighbors were invited and they would come in crowds, to shuck all the neighbor's corn. The women usually quilted while the children played around the house. These functions usually lasted well into the night.

During the early 1840s as more settlers moved into the county, stores, blacksmith shops, doctor's offices and lawyer's offices opened up, mainly in Fulton and in Van Buren on the Tombigbee River. Also introduced during this time was the liquor traffic. Fulton and other communities in the county had "groceries" as they were then called, where liquor was sold by the drink or could be bought by the gallon. During this era at many crossroads in the county, liquor was the only item sold. During the early 1840s, a gallon on whisky cost forty cents in Itawamba County.

One institution in pioneer Itawamba County was the stage coach. A stage line ran through Itawamba County from Aberdeen through Fulton, continuing north through the present-day Ryan's Well community. When the stage coach arrived in Fulton, it created quite a stir among the people. As the driver neared the Fulton village square, he would sound his bugle, crack the whip and make a fast and grand entrance into the town. The driver would stop the stage at the town inn or tavern where fresh horses would be supplied by the innkeeper as the driver took his drink and meal in the inn.

The County Develops

By 1845, Fulton had become the center of commerce in Itawamba County, surpassing the town of Van Buren on the Tombigbee River. The town square in Fulton was used for many public events and celebrations. A description of one such celebration is found in a copy of the 10 July 1845 edition of the *Fulton Herald*: "*The celebration was for the purpose of doing honor to the memory of General Andrew Jackson, seventh president of the United States, who died on June 9, 1845 and also in recognition of the day. It came off in a highly creditable manner. There were about 2,000 persons present, and fully one-third of the number were ladies. All stores were closed until after three o'clock in the afternoon and the doors were hung with mourning. At ten o'clock the procession formed on the public square where there was a stand erected for the speakers. Seats were provided for the ladies and Revolutionary soldiers, also for other soldiers who had served under General Jackson. The order of the day was then read by Mayor Cayce after which the Rev. S. Adair, chaplain of the day, offered the prayer. Russell O. Beene delivered the eulogy on the death of General Jackson. The flag was stripped of its mourning and the celebration in honor of the Fourth, a day of remembrance by all Americans, was opened with appropriate address by Mayor Cayce after which, the Declaration of Independence was read by G.B. Gaither. Thomas E. Wren was then introduced and he delivered the oration of the day. Mr.*

Wren was a young hand at the blacksmith's bellows, but judging from his speech, one would have taken him to have been an orator of many years' practice. The dinner was then announced and if you had been there and cast your eyes over the tables and had seen the luxuries in the way of pound cakes, pies, tarts, prepared by the ladies of the town and county, and the abundance of everything else that was palatable, you would no longer be heard to cry 'if we do not have rain in a few days we will not have anything to eat.' In fact, after all present had satisfied their appetites plenty was left for many more."

Fulton developed socially during the 1840s. The trappings of harsh pioneer life in the wilderness was slowly replaced by order and organization. As early as 1843 Fulton boasted a Methodist and Baptist Church, more than a dozen businesses and several organizations. One such organization in early Fulton was the Fulton Temperance Society. Its officers during 1844 were: Josiah Hinds, president; Mr. Ellis, first vice-president, E.G. Thomas, second vice-president; Jephtha Robbins, secretary and Will Cage, treasurer.

By the end of the 1840s decade, Itawamba County had begun to lose most of her pioneer characteristics as more settlers came into the county. However, during the 1850s the majority of Itawamba County citizens were small farmers who were proud, upstanding and independent. These hard working Itawambians had immigrated, for the most part, from the southern highlands of Appalachia. Because of the hilly terrain of the county, Itawamba County was not suited for large plantations, therefore there were few large slave owners in Itawamba County. The majority of the larger farms during the 1840s and 1850s were "middle class" plantations, which did not produce enough surplus for the owners to travel or reside elsewhere. These plantations had from 100 to 400 acres under cultivation and from 10 to 40 slaves. Usually, these Itawamba County planters were self-made pioneers, ex-overseers or professional men.

By 1850 Fulton had developed to become the center of commerce in Itawamba County. Fulton boasted several businesses during 1850 including: Francis Jones Carriage Maker, Abel Warren Merchantile, B.J. Morris Saddlemaker, Zachariah Phillips Blacksmith Shop, Tannahill Merchantile, Garrett Christopher Grocery, Joseph & Andrew Brown Grocery, James C. Wright Tailor, John G. Kohlheim Merchantile, Joshua Barnard Brick Mason, James Basham Shoemaker, Mayburn Allen Carpentry, Josiah Harrison Merchantile, Thomas Rhea Merchant and Gaither Merchantile, James Duggar Shoemaker, and The Fulton Herald Newspaper owned by John Massinger. The bustling village also included five attorneys: Arthur B. Bullard, Jephtha Robins, Robert O. Maupin, John W. Downs, and Benjamin Owen. The village was served by four physicians including John Fletcher Booth, Samuel Vernon, John Moore, and George W. Booth. Fulton boasted two private schools, the Fulton Female Academy run by Louisa Maupin (located at present-day corner of Beene and North Cummings St.) and the Fulton Male Academy (located on the present-day Fulton Cemetery lot). Fulton was served by two inns run by Reubin Wiygul (present-day corner of Wiygul and Clifton streets) and Albert James. The mayor of Fulton during 1850 was William Beachum who served the village's 200 citizens.

During the early 1850s to 1860, an Itawamba County planter class had developed, especially in southwestern Itawamba County and along Twenty Mile Creek in northwestern Itawamba. During this era, more social functions were held, usually in the town of Fulton. Socials took the form of barbecue picnics. Men in the town would hunt in

the Tombigbee bottom lands below the town for squirrel and wild turkey. After a day of hunting they would bring their game back to the town square where slave men and women would prepare the food for the scores of people who attended the social.

The members of Itawamba County's planter class enjoyed much more leisure time than other settlers in the county. Their spare time was devoted to hunting, reading and writing. During the 1850s, fox hunts were popular in Fulton. The head of Itawamba County's planter class was probably Malachai Crawford Cummings. He was a self-made planter who lived about one mile north of the Fulton town square. He had interests in farming, milling, stock raising and trading. Cummings and his wife, Sarah, immigrated to Itawamba County during the 1830s and in 1839 he was elected probate judge. In 1841 he was elected to the State Legislature and was a member of the Secession Convention of 1860. In 1861 he represented his district in the state senate. Cummings' home was a large two-story Greek Revival mansion that featured a large gallery and an open balcony. During Cummings' lifetime in Itawamba County, his estate grew to include more than 10,000 acres.

Other members of Itawamba County's planter class included the Dabbs, Hussey, Whitesides, Clifton, Owen, Trice, Traylor, and Taylor families, among others.