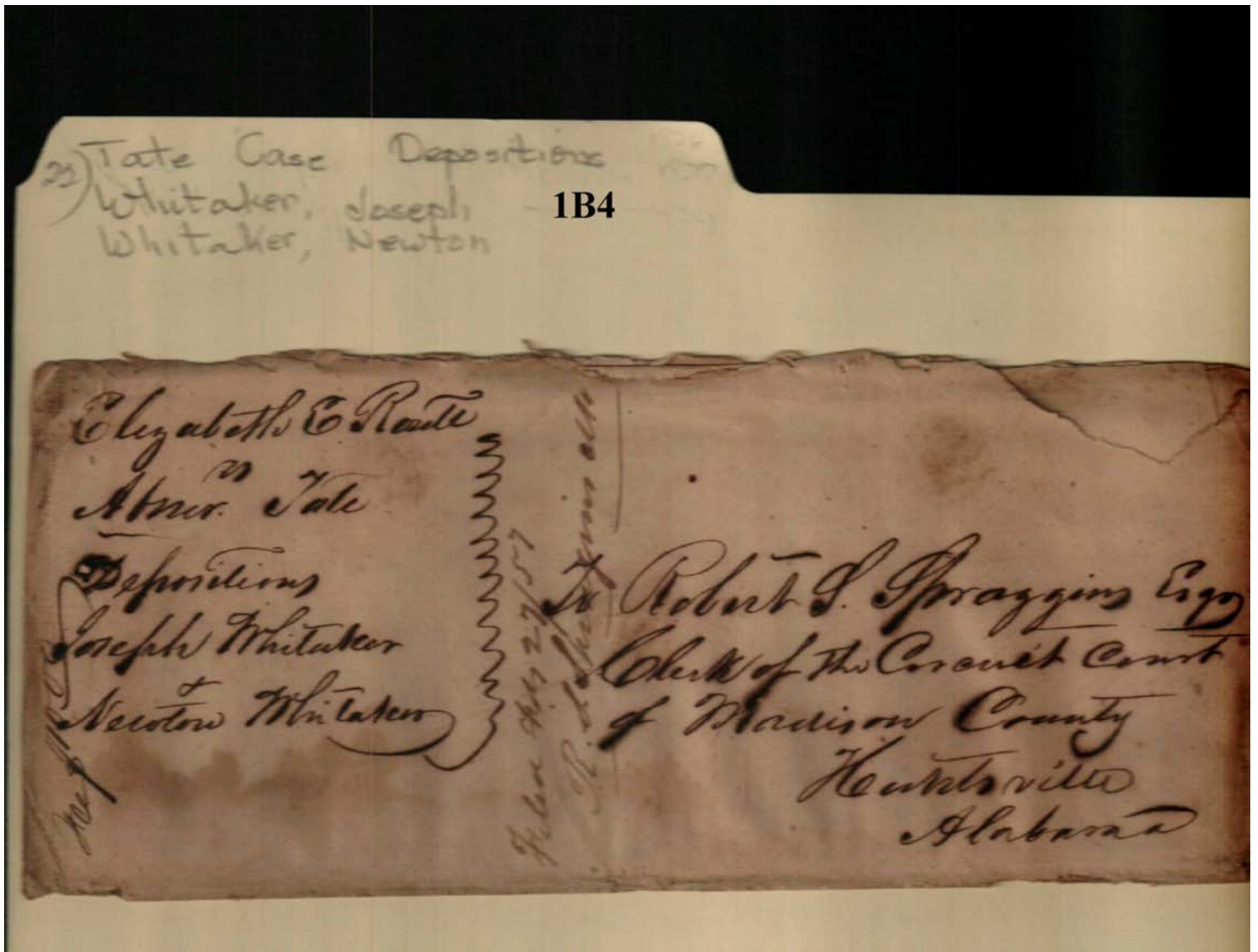


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circuit court

**Names:**

Routt, Elizabeth E.  
Spraggins, Robert S.

Tate, Abner  
Whitaker, Joseph

Whitaker, Newton

**Places:**

Huntsville, Madison,  
AL

Madison Co., AL

**Types:**

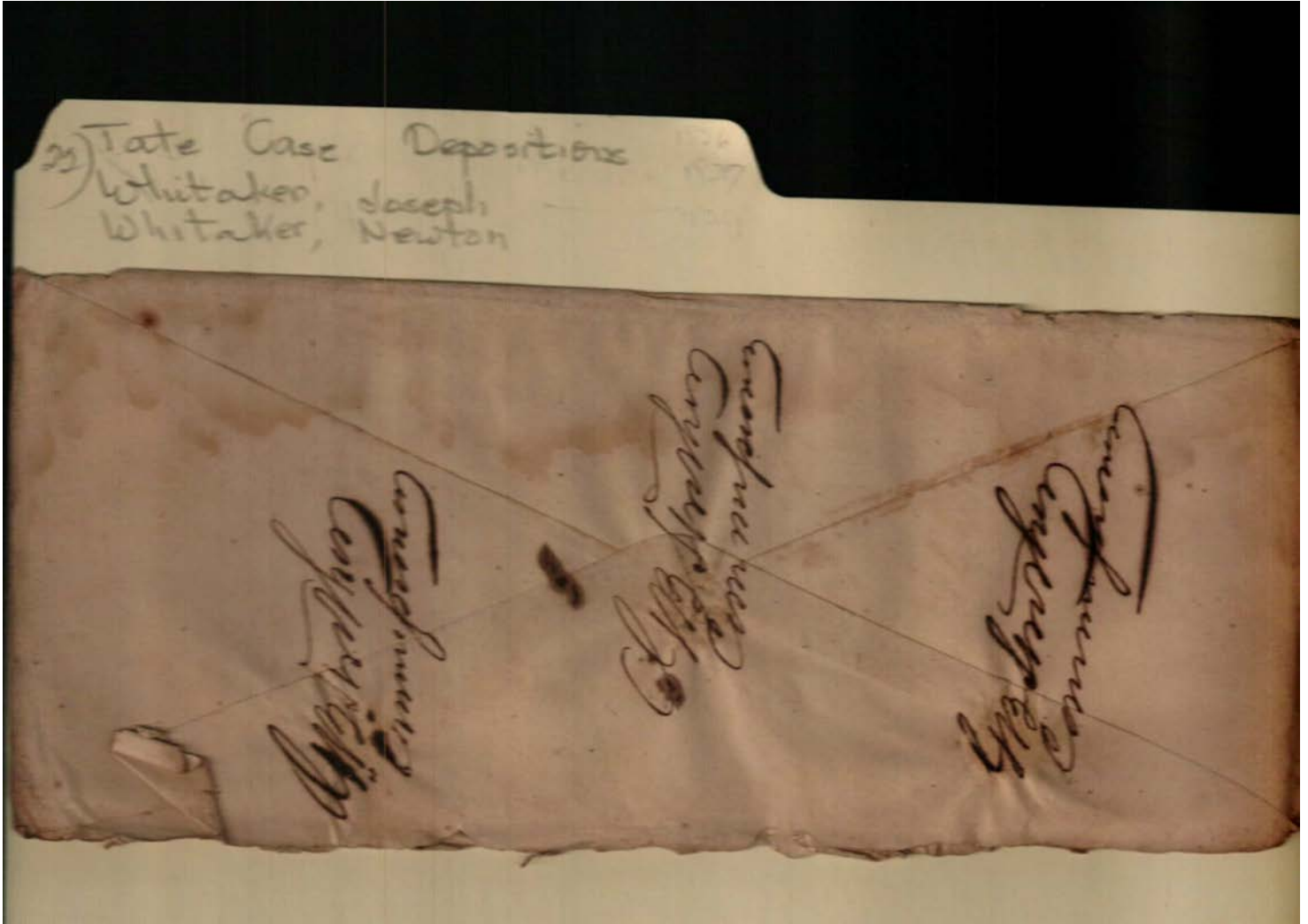
envelope

**Dates:**

Feb 27, 1857

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circuit court

**Names:**

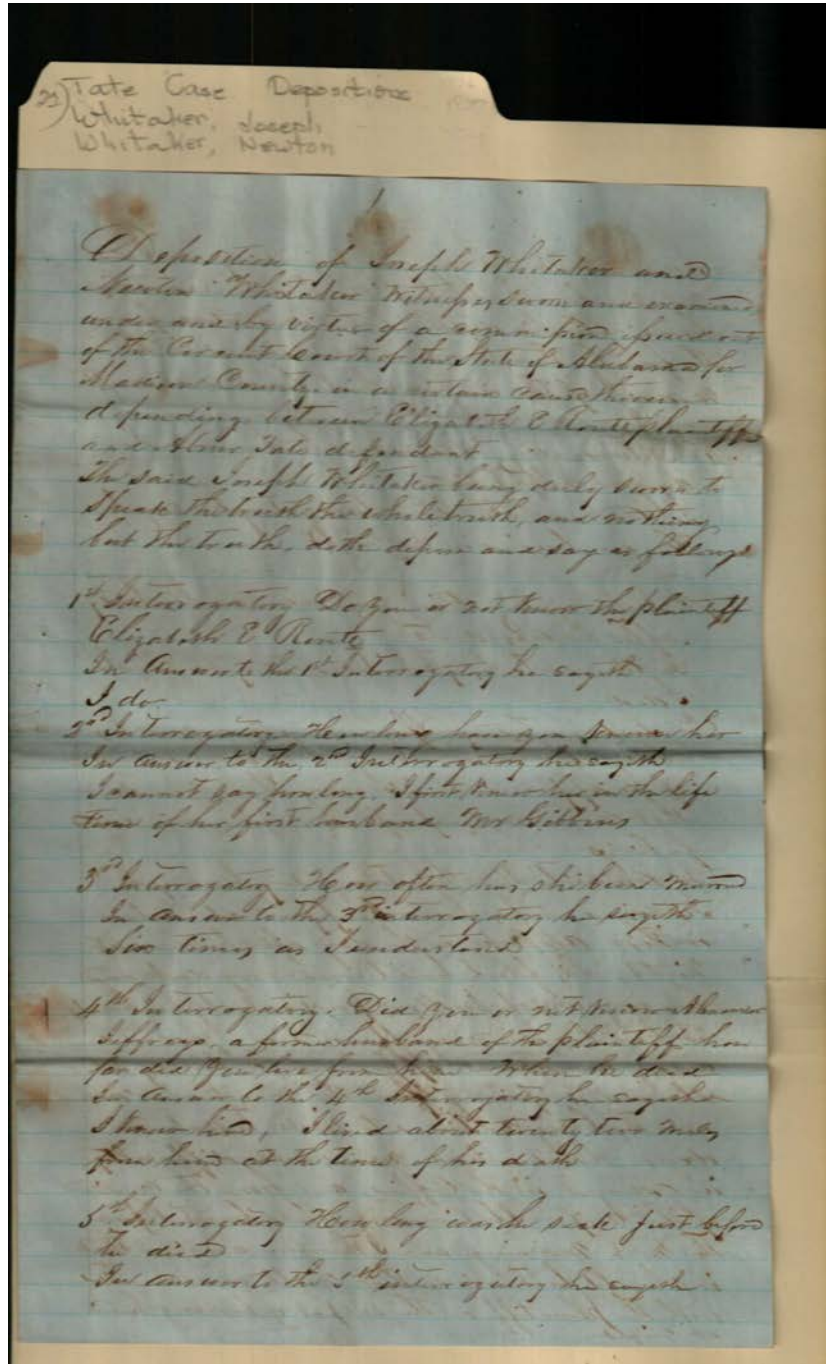
Strother, G. B.

**Types:**

commission

Depositions to Routt vs. Tate (13 of 14)

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circuit court

**Names:**

Gibbins, Mr.  
Jeffreys, Alexander

Routt, Elizabeth E.  
Tate, Abner

Whitaker, Joseph  
Whitaker, Newton

**Places:**

Madison Co., AL

**Types:**

deposition

**Dates:**

Feb 24, 1857

23) Tate Case Depositions  
Whitaker, Joseph  
Whitaker, Newton

I cannot say of my own knowledge, or that  
my son has in his last illness, I arrived at his  
house after his death, but I understand from  
the family that he was as usual in the  
morning of the day in which he died at night  
6<sup>th</sup> Interrogatory What was he doing in the  
day or night time  
In answer to the 6<sup>th</sup> Interrogatory he says  
He was asleep in the night

7<sup>th</sup> Interrogatory Did you or not see his body  
after he was dead  
In answer to the 7<sup>th</sup> Interrogatory he says  
No

8<sup>th</sup> Interrogatory If you say you saw his  
body after his death give a full description  
of its appearance & tell every thing you saw  
that tends in any respect to your mind and  
feelings  
In answer to the 8<sup>th</sup> Interrogatory he says  
I arrived at his house I suppose about twelve  
or three o'clock, on the day after he died at  
night, his flesh had turned very dark and  
was very much swollen, particularly his hands  
it had become very offensive, and presented  
a very unnatural appearance, a bloody  
stained was issuing from the mouth and nose  
and the body continued to swell to such a  
degree, that we had considerable difficulty  
in getting it in the Coffin, and from the condition  
of the Corpse I believe it was buried before  
the next morning, and I therefore advise that  
it should be buried that night and consulted  
with the plaintiff or the subject of business here  
at night.

circuit court

**Places:**

Madison Co., AL

**Types:**

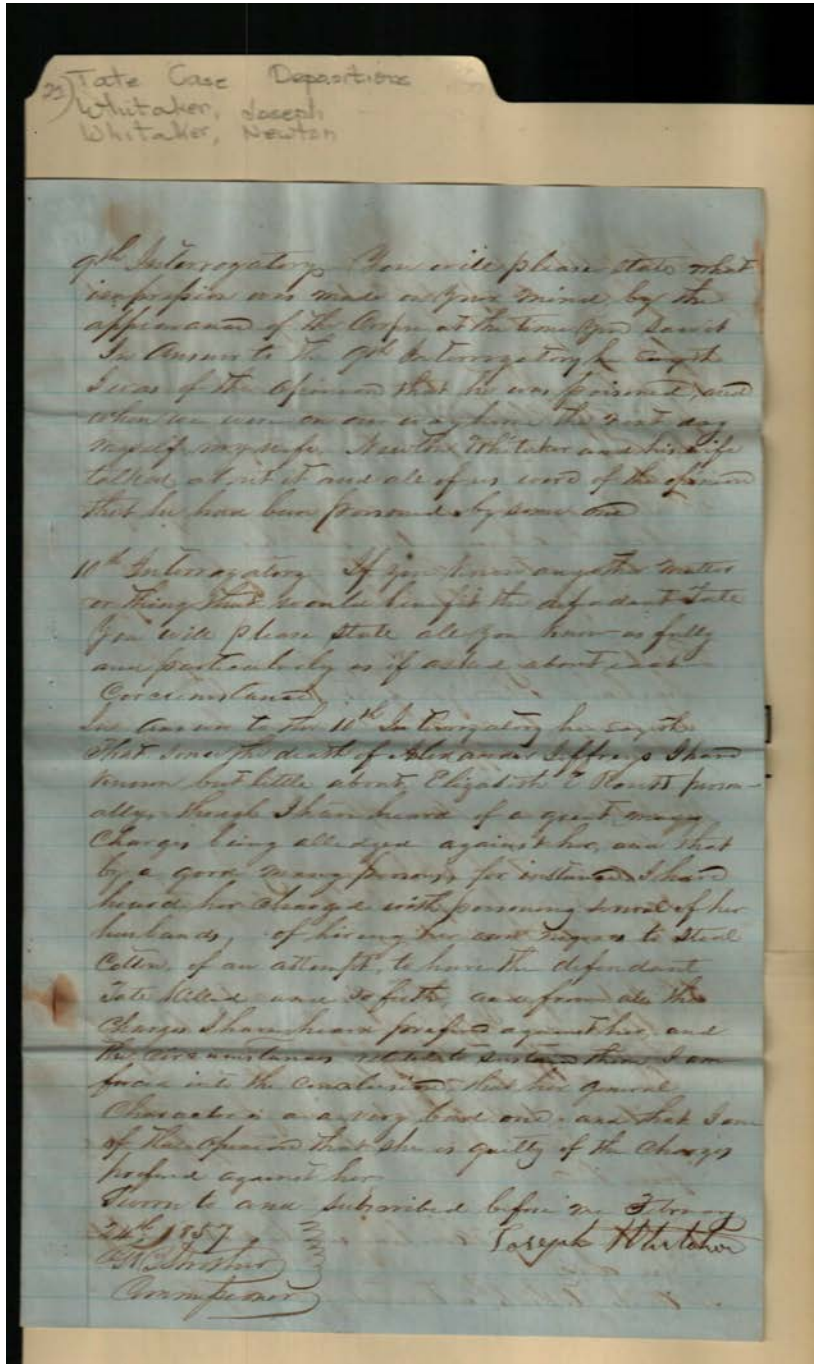
deposition

**Dates:**

Feb 24, 1857

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circuit court

**Names:**

Jeffreys, Alexander  
Routt, Elizabeth E.

Tate,  
Whitaker, Joseph

Whitaker, Newton

**Places:**

Madison Co., AL

**Types:**

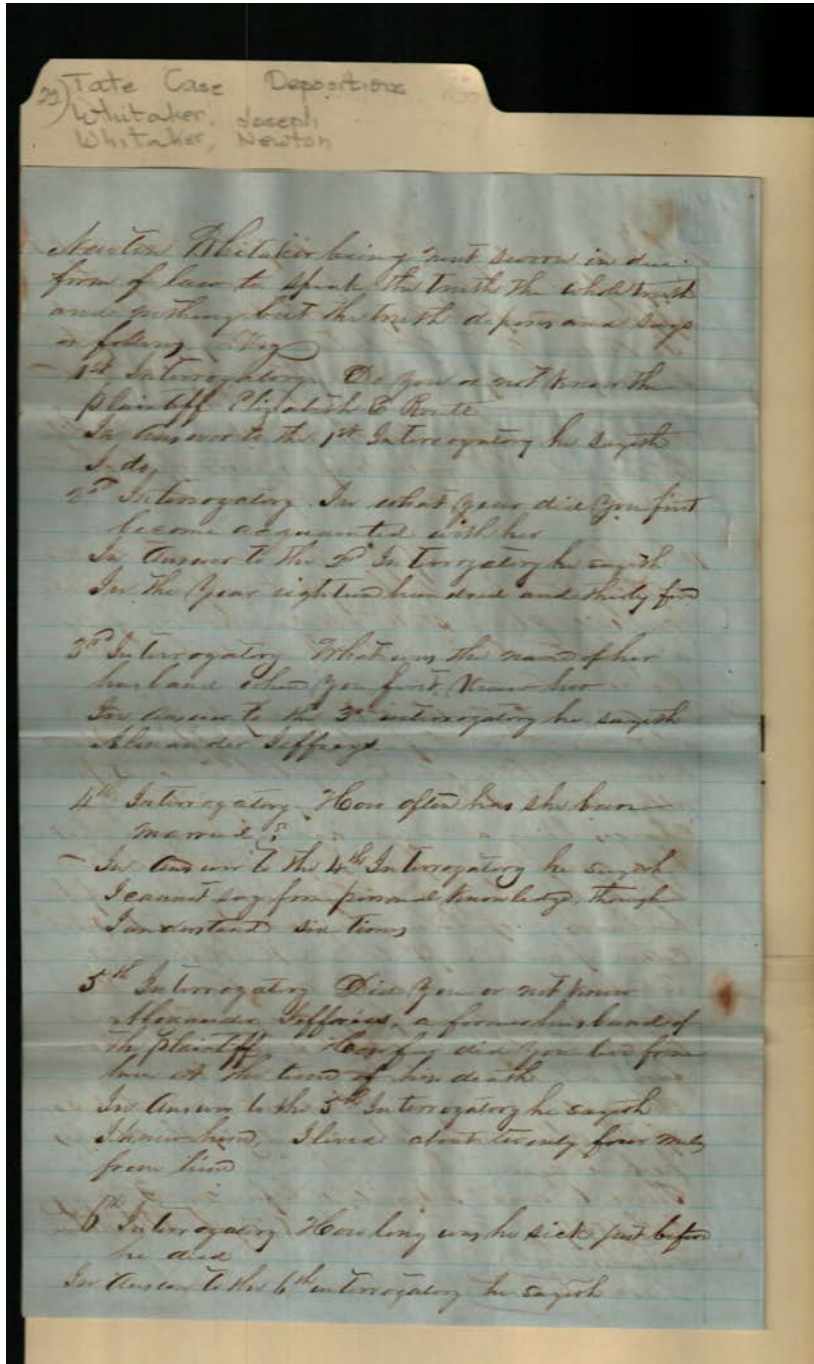
deposition

**Dates:**

Feb 24, 1857

Depositions to Routt vs. Tate (13 of 14)

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circuit court

**Names:**

Jeffreys, Alexander

Routt, Elizabeth E.

Whitaker, Newton

**Places:**

Madison Co., AL

**Types:**

deposition

**Dates:**

Feb 24, 1857

33) Tate Case Depositions  
Whitaker, Jaceph  
Whitaker, Newton

I did not see him until after his death. I learned  
after my arrival at his home that he was taken  
ill in the forenoon of the day and died at night  
7th Interrogatory. When was he buried in the day  
or night time  
He was not to the 7th Interrogatory he says  
He was buried in the night.

8th Interrogatory Did you or not search his body  
after he was dead  
He answers to the 8th Interrogatory he says  
I did not see it.

9th Interrogatory If you say you did give a fair  
description of its appearance, tell every thing you  
saw that was any way peculiar or unusual  
or suspicious  
He answers to the 9th Interrogatory he says  
I arrived at the home of Abraham Jefferys the  
afternoon of the next day after his death the one who  
who I arrived the flesh of the corpse had something  
of a purple color about the face it contained  
less some darker, until it became about black  
the hands were very much swelled, so much so that  
it was with difficulty that we could get hold of  
the coffin this was all very different from what  
the corpse presented a very unusual and unusual  
appearance, which was a deep and lasting  
impression upon my mind, and from what I  
learned while there of his situation while he was  
sick, of the very unusual thirst for water and other  
circumstances related to me. I was of the opinion  
at the time that he was poisoned.

circuit court

**Names:**

Jefferys, Alexander

**Places:**

Madison Co., AL

**Types:**

deposition

**Dates:**

Feb 24, 1857

Depositions to Routt vs. Tate (13 of 14)

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Tate Case Depositions  
Whitaker, Joseph  
Whitaker, Newton

10<sup>th</sup> Interrogatory of your Honor any other matter  
or thing that would benefit the defendant Tate  
from said原告 Tate all from since as of my  
and particularly as if asked about  
each circumstance

In Answer to the 10<sup>th</sup> Interrogatory to say  
I have heard a great deal since about  
the conduct of Elizabeth R. Routt, for several  
years past, charging her with various crimes,  
particularly in regard to destroying the  
loves of her husband, poisoning her mother  
and children her neighbors, and of her  
trying to have the defendant Tate killed;  
of these charges against, I have no personal  
knowledge, but so far as that knowledge of  
her general character, I feel constrained to say  
that it is a bad one, and from all the reports  
that I have heard about her and the circumstances  
related to sustain these reports. I am of the opinion  
that she is a bad woman.

I am to believe to be before me this 24<sup>th</sup> day  
of February 1857  
J. Whitaker  
Commissary

I the Commissary in said Commission  
do hereby certify that the contents  
of the within deposition of Joseph Whitaker and  
of Newton Whitaker, was taken down under  
oath and subscribed by them respectively  
in my presence on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of

circuit court

**Names:**

Routt, Elizabeth E.  
Tate,

Whitaker, Joseph  
Whitaker, N. W.

Whitaker, Newton

**Places:**

Lincoln Co., TN

Madison Co., AL

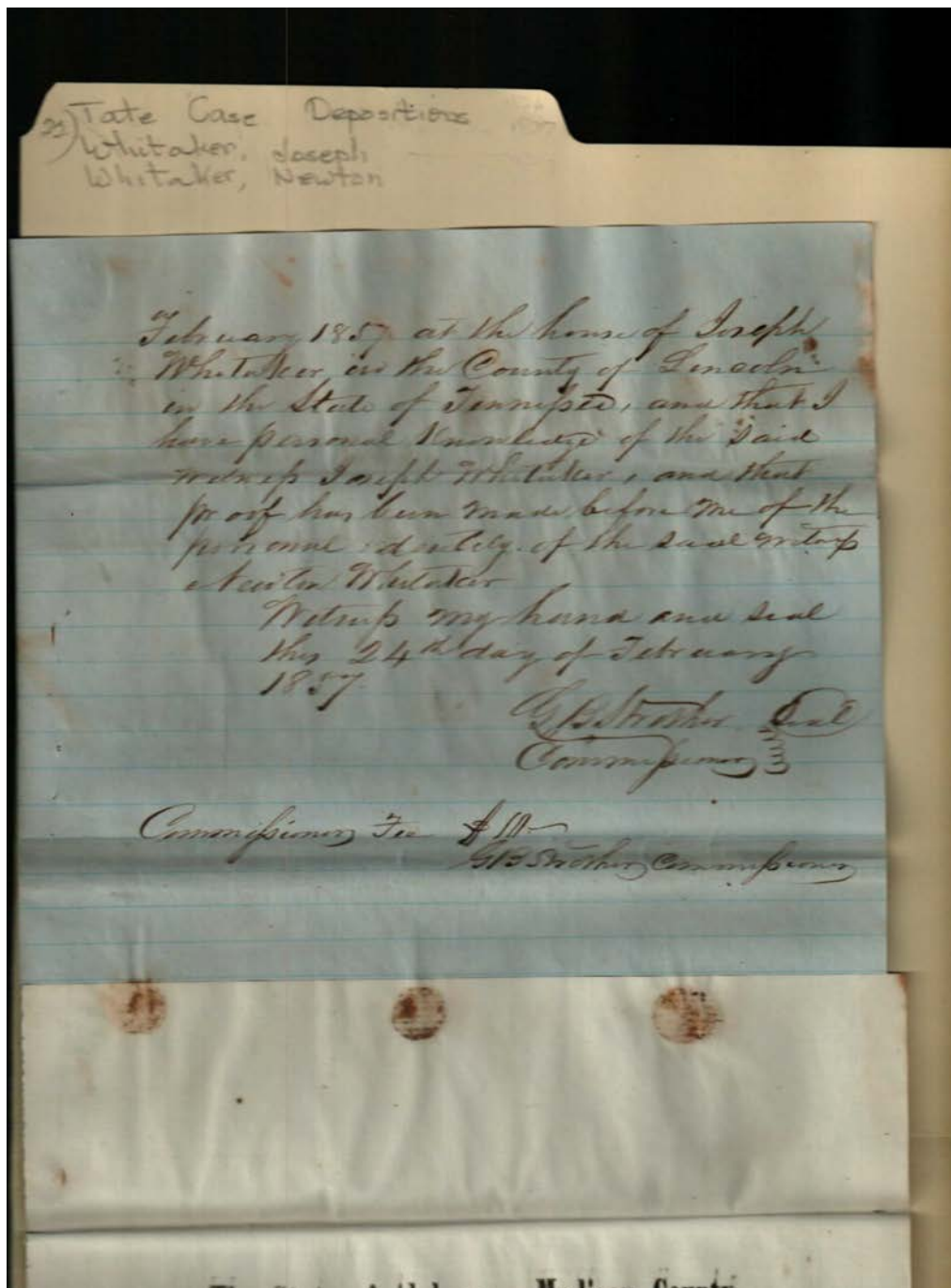
**Types:**

deposition

**Dates:**

Feb 24, 1857





circuit court

**Names:**

Strother, G. B.

**Places:**

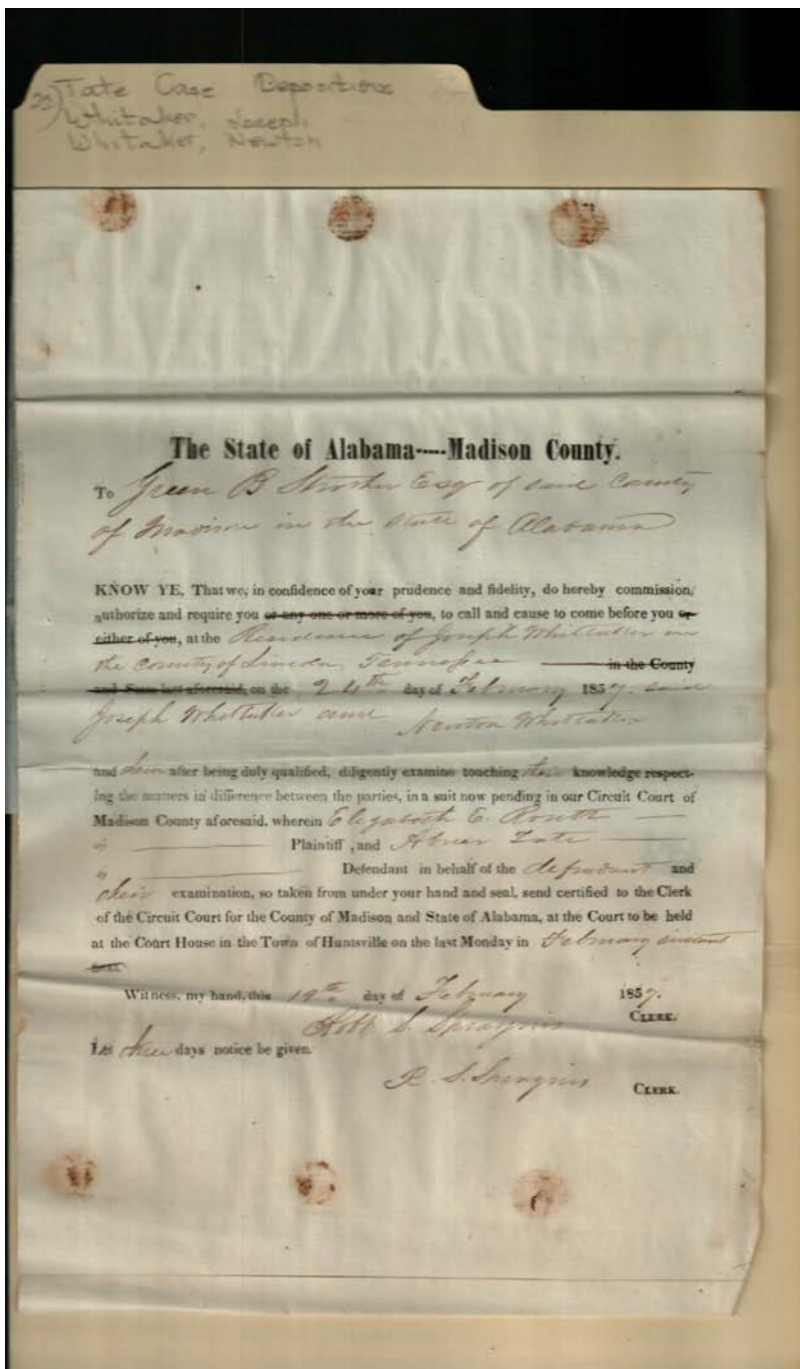
Madison Co., AL

**Types:**

deposition

**Dates:**

Feb 24, 1857



circuit court

**Names:**

Routt, Elizabeth E.  
Strother, Green B.

Tate, Abner  
Whitaker, Joseph

Whitaker, Newton

**Places:**

Madison Co., AL

**Types:**

commission

**Dates:**

Feb 19, 1857

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**Depositions to Routt vs. Tate (13 of 14)**

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# Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

**Preferred Citation:** Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection, Archives and Special Collections, M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.

**Collection Scope and Content:** The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

**Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions:** None

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