

Names:

Curry, Daniel

Routt, Elizabeth

Tate, Abner

Types:

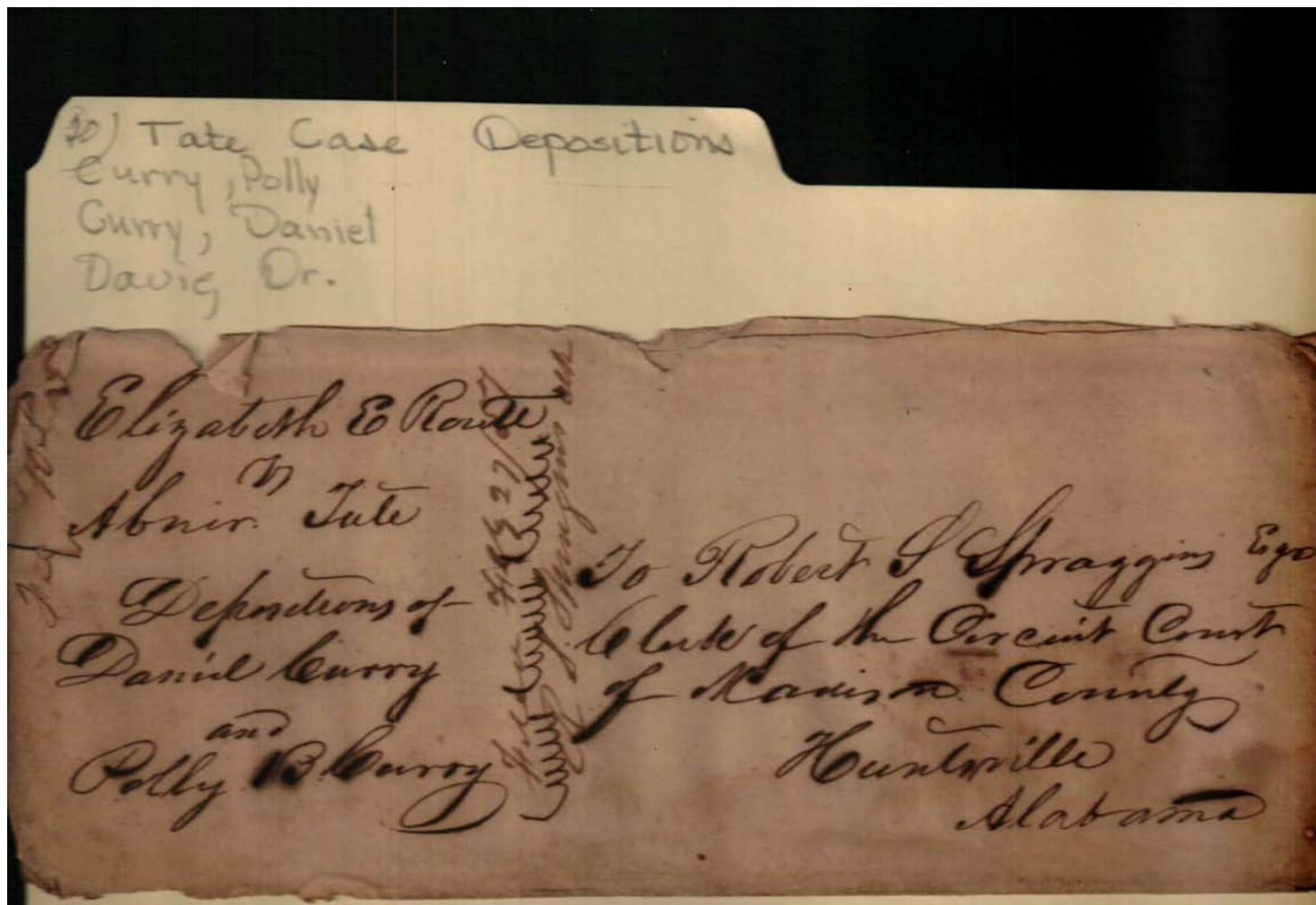
memo

Dates:

1857

Depositions to Routt vs. Tate (11 of 14)

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Names:

Curry, Daniel
Curry, Polly B.

Routt, Elizabeth E.
Spraggins, Robert S.

Tate, Abner

Places:

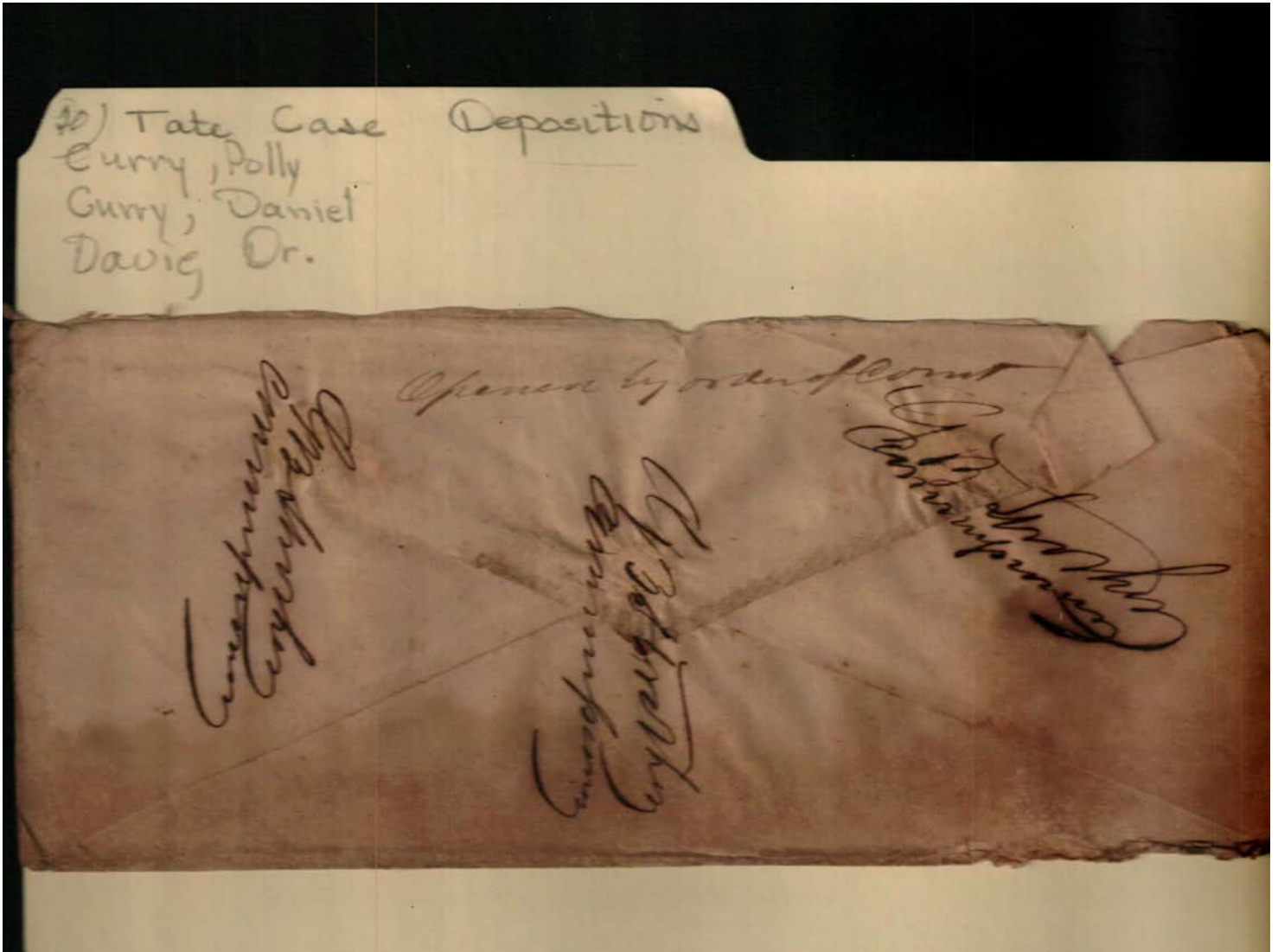
Huntsville, Madison,
AL

Types:

envelope

Depositions to Routt vs. Tate (11 of 14)

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Names:

Curry, Daniel

Curry, Polly

Davie, Dr.

Types:

envelope

to) Tate Case Depositions
Curry, Polly
Curry, Daniel
Davis, Dr.

Deposition of Daniel Curry and Polly
1st Curry sworn and examined under
and for value of a Commission issued out
of the Circuit Court of the State of Alabama
for Madison County on a certain cause
then depending between Elizabeth E.
Routt plaintiff and Abner Tate defendant
The said Daniel Curry being first sworn
to speak the truth the whole truth and nothing
but the truth, do the depose and say as
follows
1st Interrogatory. Do you or not know the
plaintiff Elizabeth E. Routt
In answer to the 1st Interrogatory he says
do
2nd Interrogatory. In what year did you first
get acquainted with her
In answer to the 2nd Interrogatory he says
I became acquainted with her from the time
she married Alexander Jeffries I do not
remember what year
3rd Interrogatory. How often has she been
married?
In answer to the 3rd Interrogatory he says
Six times
4th Interrogatory. Did you or not know Alexan-
der Jeffries a former husband of the plaintiff
how far did you know him when he
died
In answer to the 4th Interrogatory he says
I knew him well I lived about two miles
from him at the time of his death

circuit court

Names:

Curry, Daniel
Curry, Polly

Jeffries (Jeffries),
Alexander

Routt, Elizabeth E.
Tate, Abner

Places:

Madison Co., AL

Types:

deposition

Dates:

Feb 23, 1857

20) Tate Case Depositions
 Curry, Polly
 Curry, Daniel
 Davis, Dr.

Neighborhood visited her for several days after
 his death they commenced stopping off from
 visiting her with security any business visited her
 excepting her relatives and some corner of
 the neighborhood she does write for her

15th Interrogatory If you know state whether
 known visiting her
 In answer to the 15th Interrogatory he says
 It was on account of her general base
 Character in her neighborhood, and opinion
 on account of the belief that she was guilty
 of poisoning and sent to the lives of her husbands

16th If you know any other matters or things
 that would benefit the Defendant state
 you will please state all you know, as fully
 and particularly as if asked about each
 Circumstance

In answer to the 16th Interrogatory he says
 I lived eleven years in his town a half
 mile of the place called Elizabeth C. Routt
 After her marriage to Alexander Jeffrey
 My business called me almost every day
 by her house gave me her house and
 from the circumstances under which I was
 placed, I had an opportunity of knowing
 circumstances that took place which tended
 to confirm me in the opinion given in answer
 to the foregoing interrogatories, and to fix in
 my own mind the conviction that she was
 not only guilty of destroying the lives of
 her husbands, but that she was in the habit
 of indulging her carnal propensities
 in an unbecoming manner & vice related

circuit court

Names:

Jeffreys, Alexander

Routt, Elizabeth E.,
Mrs.

Places:

Madison Co., AL

Types:

deposition

Dates:

Feb 23, 1857

Depositions to Routt vs. Tate (11 of 14)

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20) Tate Case Depositions
 Curry, Polly
 Curry, Daniel
 Davig, Dr.

5th

a circumstance that came under my own observation, I do not recollect the year, but it was while she was the Widow Brown that on Sunday I was riding in the creek bottom down on a carryage about an hour and a half from the river in a thick place of bushes I saw a person. The door of the carryage was closed, on passing by, the door of the carryage was opened and I saw her negro man Jackson step out and left her standing in the carryage. I saw no person but her and the boy Jackson. I have also seen other circumstances, including other persons, which confirm in the opinion that she was not a virtuous woman.

I have also been charged in the neighborhood with concealing stolen property and appropriating it to her own benefit. I will relate circumstances that occurred while I lived in her house. Some bales of cotton were stolen from a plantation that I have charge of, situated on the bank of the river, and placed in the garden when the cotton was stolen, up to her garden and some the print on frames where the cotton was found, under this canopy, to believe this had respect to be true, and further this.

As witness my hand and seal this 23rd day of February 1857.

Daniel Curry
 Commissioner

his mark
 Daniel + Curry

circuit court

Names:

, Jackson

Brown, Mrs.

Curry, Daniel

Places:

Madison Co., AL

Types:

deposition

Dates:

Feb 23, 1857

20) Tate Case Depositions
 Curry, Polly
 Curry, Daniel
 Davis, Dr.

Polly B. Curry being next sworn in due form of law to speak the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth, doth depose and say as follows.

1st Interrogatory. Do you or not know Elizabeth C. Routt?
 In answer to the 1st Interrogatory she says she do.

2^d Interrogatory. In what year did you first see her acquainted with her?
 In answer to the 2^d Interrogatory she says she do not know the year, it was the year she married Alexander Jeffries.

3^d Interrogatory. How often has she been married?
 In answer to the 3^d Interrogatory she says she has been married once.

4th Interrogatory. Do you or not know Alexander Jeffries a former husband of the plaintiff, and how far did you live from him when he died?
 In answer to the 4th Interrogatory she says she knew him well, at the time of his death she was two miles from him, though I lived several years within half a mile of her.

5th Interrogatory. How long was she sick just before she died?
 In answer to the 5th Interrogatory she says she was taken sick some time in the day and died on the night of some day.

6th Interrogatory. Where was he buried in in the day or night time?

circuit court

Names:

Curry, Polly B.

Jeffries, Alexander

Routt, Elizabeth E.

Places:

Madison Co., AL

Types:

deposition

Dates:

Feb 23, 1857

20) Tate Case Depositions
 Curry, Polly
 Curry, Daniel
 Davig, Dr.

In answer to the 1st Interrogatory she says
 He was buried after night

7th Where did said Elizabeth C. Routt live when
 you know her
 In answer to the 7th Interrogatory she says
 In Madison County Alabama on the place
 where said Jeffries died

5th How you or not acquainted with her grand
 Character in the neighborhood in which she
 lived by this we mean do you know what
 people said about her
 In answer to the 5th Interrogatory she says
 I was

9th Was there Character good or bad
 In answer to the 9th Interrogatory she says
 In the life time of Alexander Jeffries she was
 very well thought of. After his death she
 seemed to lose her respectable standing

10th What was said by the neighbors about the
 death of her husband
 In answer to the 10th Interrogatory she says
 It was the common opinion of the neighbors
 that she gave them something to kill them
 I mean Absalom Jeffries. Mattat High
 Absalom Brown and Willis Routt

11th Interrogatory Do you or not know whether
 said said
 In answer to the 11th Interrogatory she says
 In the lifetime of Alexander Jeffries they were
 after his death, but they have visited her and
 they continued to drop off until some winter

circuit court

Names:

Brown, Absalom
 High, Robert A.

Jeffries, Alexander
 Routt, Elizabeth E.

Routt, Willis

Places:

Madison Co., AL

Types:

deposition

Dates:

Feb 23, 1857

10) Tate Case Depositions
Curry, Polly
Curry, Daniel
Davis, Dr.

her except some of her relatives, and some
women of the neighborhood, that she went
to work for her.

12) If you know state why they ceased to visit
her
In answer to the 12th Interrogatory she says
she was charged and believed to be
guilty of so many crimes that they thought
her unfit to associate with.

13th Interrogatory. If you know any other
matter or thing that would be in belief of the
defendant Tate, you will please state
it if you know as fully and particularly
as if asked about each circumstance
In answer to the 13th interrogatory she says
she heard her say after the death of her
husband Robert A. Tate that she was glad
that he was dead. Tate heard her say
that she wished Mr. Routt her last husband
was dead and out of her way that she might
live in peace. During the last illness of
Mr. Routt he occupied a room up stairs
she lived near by and went over quite early
one morning to see how he was. I went to
his room which was below stairs on
approaching I opened the door without knocking
and as I entered the room I saw a man
go out at the other door hastily I could not
tell who he was. There was no fire made
in that room and I saw no preparation for
one. This last mentioned circumstance
confirmed me in the belief of a perfect
I had often heard that ~~that~~ she was not

circuit court

Names:

High, Robert A.

Routt, Mr.

Tate,

Places:

Madison Co., AL

Types:

deposition

Dates:

Feb 23, 1857

20) Tate Case Depositions
 Curry, Polly
 Curry, Daniel
 Davis, Dr.

5th

a circumstance that came under my own observation, I do not recollect the appearance of the woman while she was the Widow Brown, that on Sunday I was riding in the Creek bottom I saw in a carriage about ten minutes and fifty years from the time in a thick place of bushes I saw a person. The door of the carriage was closed, on passing by, the door of the carriage was opened and I saw her steps and I saw her step out and left her, mistaking in the carriage I saw no person but her and the boy Jackson I have also seen other circumstances, including other persons, which confirm in the opinion that she was not a virtuous woman.

I have also seen her charged in her neighborhood with appropriating stolen property and appropriating it to her own benefit. It is well known that she occurred while I lived in her four bags of cotton were stolen from a plantation I had charge of, I recollect an old man from her place to the plantation when the cotton was stolen, and he gave her and saw the prints on ground where the cotton was found cut. This caused me to believe this last report to be true, and further this.

Deposition of Daniel Curry
 Taken at Jackson, Ala. Feb 23, 1857.
 W. B. Fisher
 Commissioner

Daniel Curry
 make

circuit court

Names:

, Jackson

Brown, Mrs.

Curry, Daniel

Places:

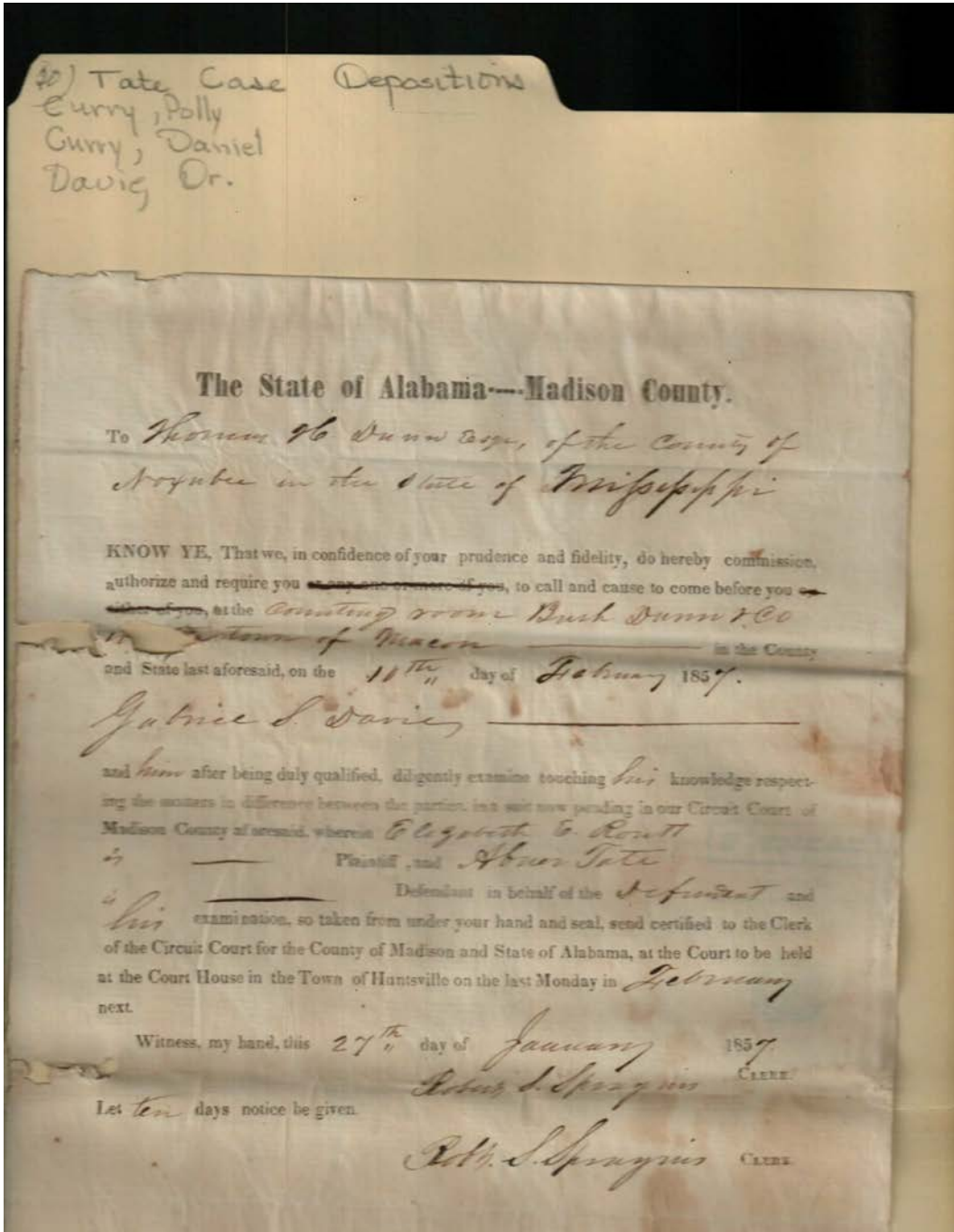
Madison Co., AL

Types:

deposition

Dates:

Feb 23, 1857



circuit court

Names:

Bush, Dunn & Co.
Davie, Gabriel S.

Dunn, Thomas H.
Routt, Elizabeth E.

Tate, Abner

Places:

Macon, MS

Madison Co., AL

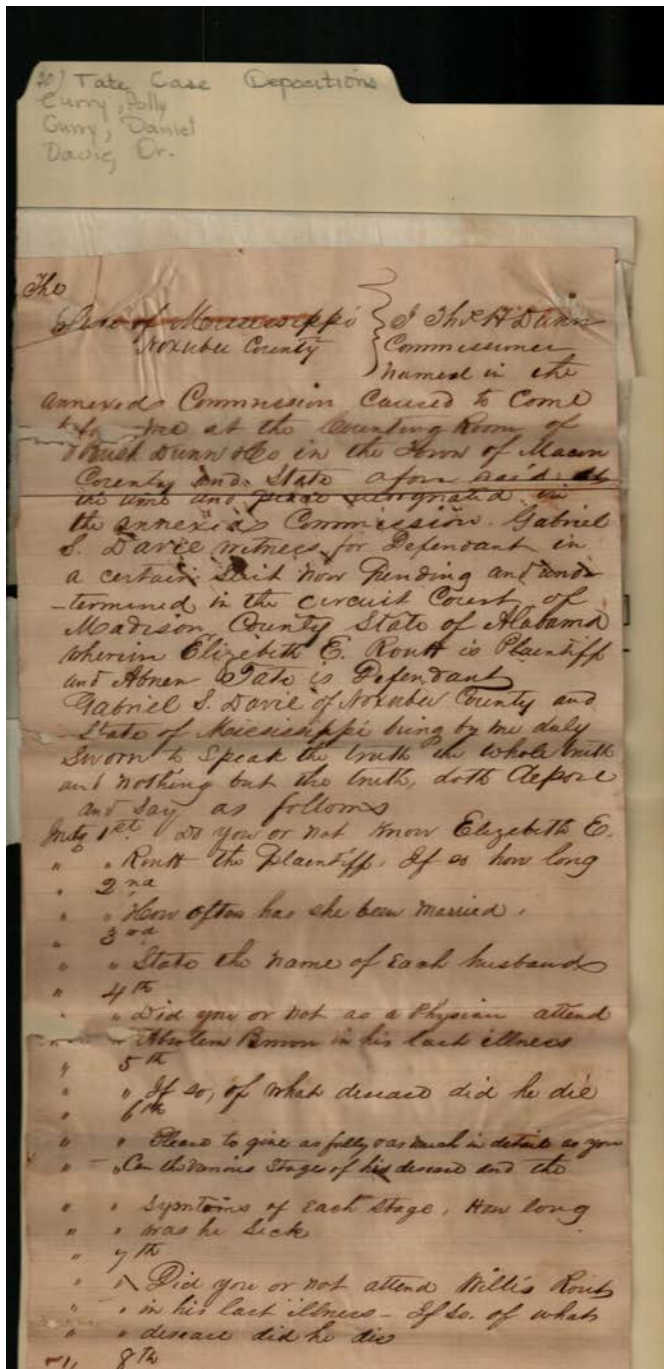
Noxubee Co., MS

Types:

commission

Dates:

Jan 27, 1857



circuit court

Names:

Brown, Absolom
 Bush, Dunn & Co.

Davie, Gabriel S.
 Dunn, Thomas H.

Routt, Elizabeth E.
 Routt, Willis

Tate, Abner

Places:

Macon, MS

Madison Co., AL

Noxubee Co., MS

Types:

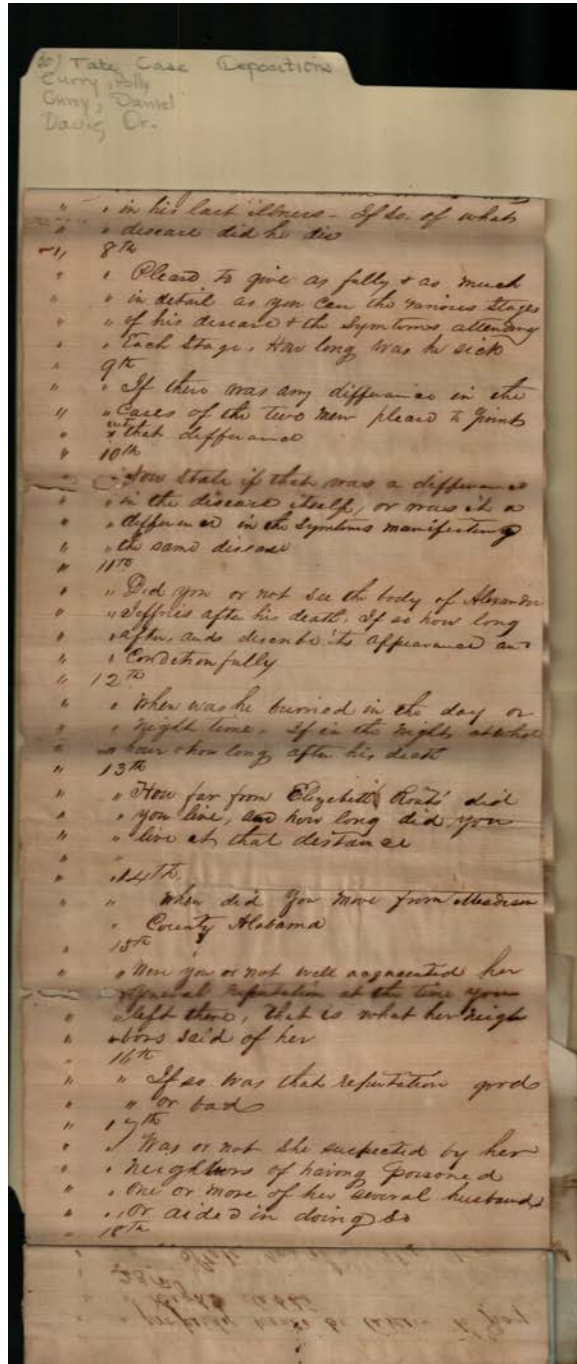
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Dates:

Feb 10, 1857

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circuit court

Names:

Jeffries, Alexander

Routt, Elizabeth

Places:

Madison Co., AL

Types:

deposition

Dates:

Feb 10, 1857

20) Tate Case Depositions
Curry, Polly
Curry, Daniel
Davis, Dr.

" " or bad
" 17th
" Was or not she suspected by her
" neighbors of having poisoned
" one or more of her several husbands
" or aided in doing so
" 18th
" If so, how long did those suspicions
" exist before you left
" 19th
" Did or not Richard Jeffries charge
" her with having poisoned his father
" did he or not do this often and
" in public
" 20th
" Did he or not threaten to have an
" examination of his body made
" 21st
" Had or not the ladies ceased
" to visit her & to receive her visits
" 22nd
" Did she or not tell you
" that if her husband & Eliza
" lived till a certain suit was
" tried that her share in Jeffries
" property would be taken to pay
" Eliza's debts
" 23rd
" State any thing else you
" may know

circuit court

Names:

High,

Jeffries, Richard

Places:

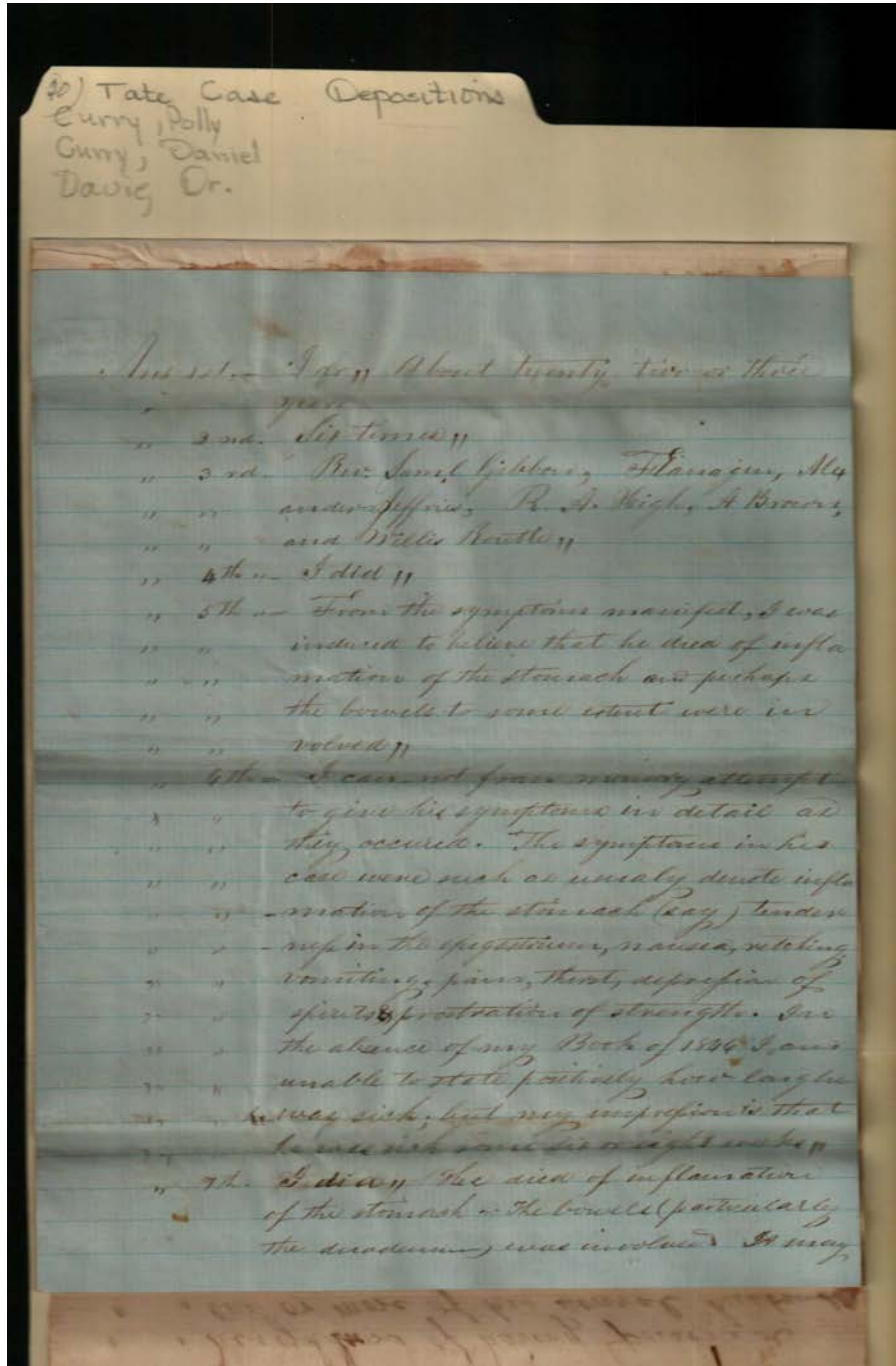
Madison Co., AL

Types:

deposition

Dates:

Feb 10, 1857



circuit court

Names:

Brown, A.
Flanagan,

Gibbons, Samuel,
Rev.

High, R. A.
Jeffries, Alexander

Routt, Willis

Places:

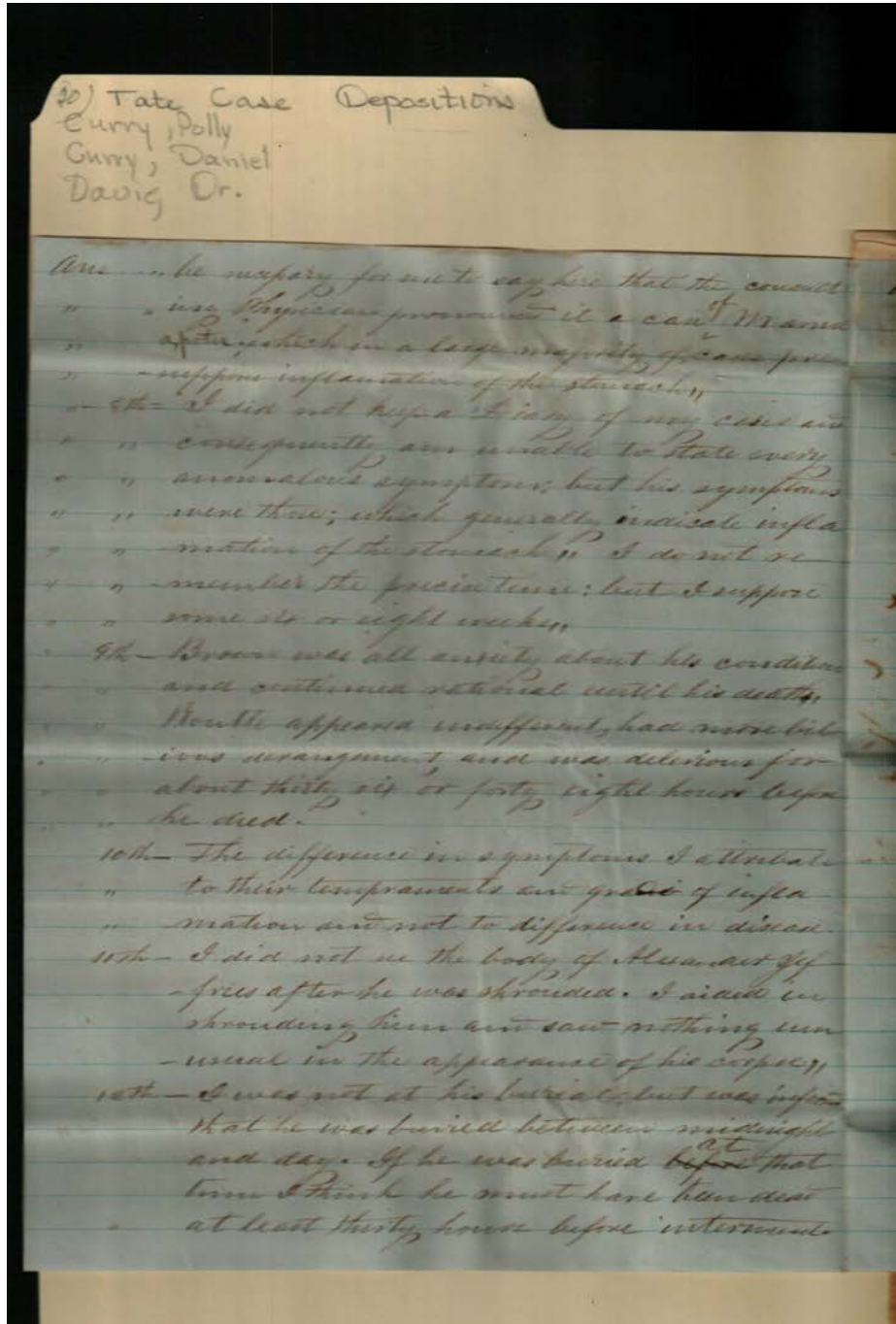
Madison Co., AL

Types:

deposition

Dates:

Feb 10, 1857



circuit court

Names:

Brown,

Jeffries, Alexander

Routt,

Places:

Madison Co., AL

Types:

deposition

Dates:

Feb 10, 1857

20) Tate Case Depositions
Curry, Polly
Curry, Daniel
Davie, Dr.

13th - About one mile and three quarters from
from March 1834 until December 1841 and
from that time until September 1846 season
of fresh malarial and a half.
14th - In September 1835 //

15th - I was //

16th - Generally bad //

17th - She said //

18th - From the death of her husband Alexander
Jeffers or shortly after, which was either
in the year 1835 or 1839 //

19th - He did // He said to me that he be-
lieved he poisoned his father and I had
heard several persons say that he so ef-
fectually poisoned himself to them //

20th - He did //

21st - After her intermarriage with Mr. Brown
many of her female friends discon-
tinued their visits to her house and after
the shooting of a squaw by her brother
Jacob I heard that some of the ladies
of the neighborhood visited her //

22nd - She did not //

23rd - I know nothing more // I have heard
various defamatory reports in circula-
tion but I know nothing of their
truth or veracity //

G. S. Davie

circuit court

Names:

, Jacob

Brown, Mrs.

Davie, G. S.

Places:

Madison Co., AL

Noxubee Co., MS

Types:

deposition

Dates:

Feb 10, 1857

all of the above and foregoing answers to
the above and foregoing interrogatories
were subscribed to written by the said
witnesses, Gabriel S. Davie & Louis in my presence
at the time and place aforesaid and
fully assented to by him, and I do hereby
certify that I am not of kin or allied
to either party in said suit and wholly
disinterested in the event thereof
and do further certify that this depo-
sition is taken in conformity to
the laws customs and usages of Mis-
sissippi in such cases made
and provided, to-wit, under
my hand and seal this the 10th
of February 1857.

Thomas H. Dunn

30 Tate Case
Depositions
Gunn, Polly
Gunn, Daniel
Davis, Dr.

circuit court

Names:

Davie, Gabriel S.

Dunn, Thomas H.

Places:

Noxubee Co., MS

Types:

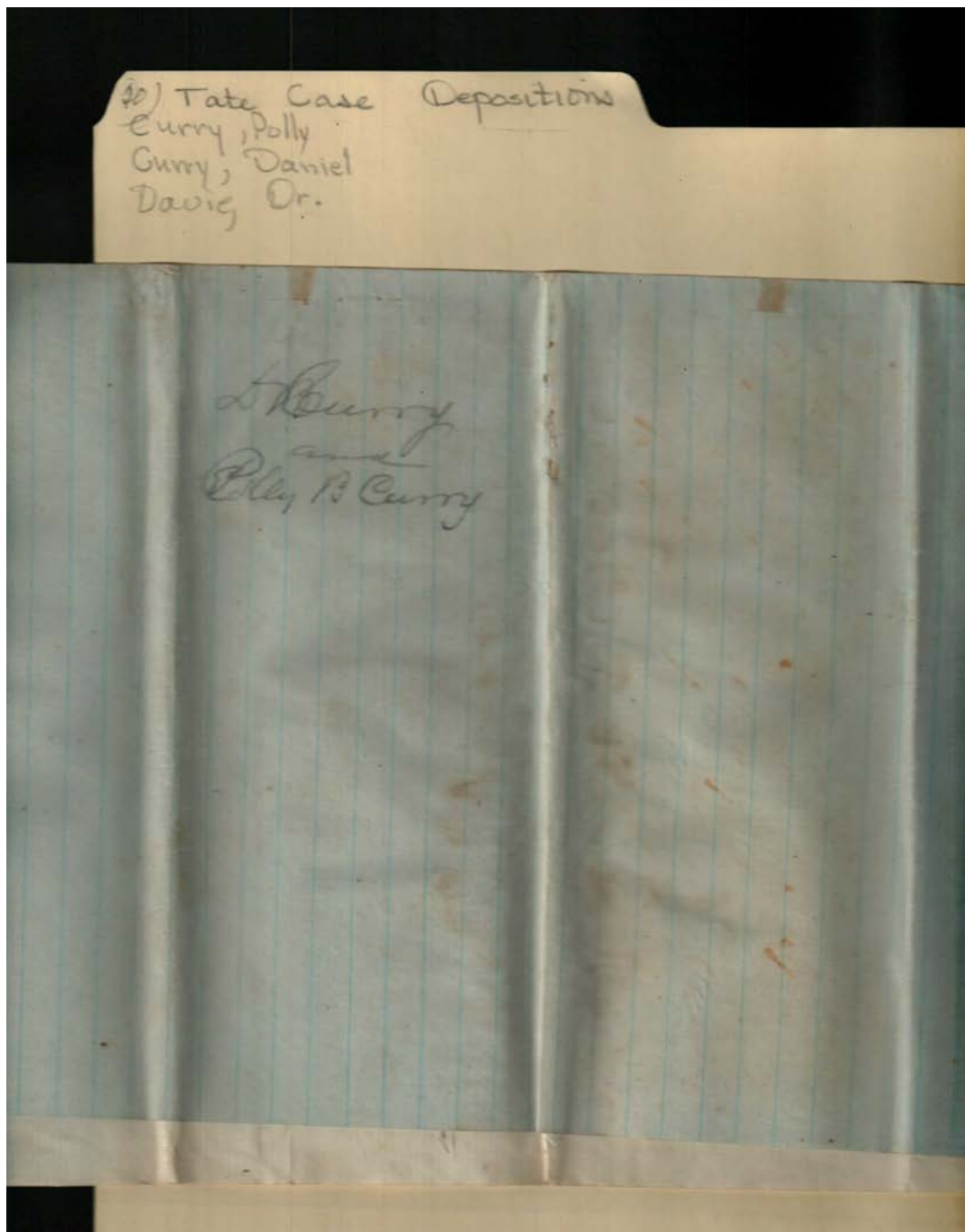
deposition

Dates:

Feb 10, 1857

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circuit court

Names:

Curry, D.

Curry, Polly B.

Types:

memo

20) Tate Case Depositions
 Curry, Polly
 Curry, Daniel
 Davig Dr.

9

a virtuous woman, it was a common report in the neighborhood that she was too intimate with her fellow boy Jackson and on one occasion showed Mr. Routt her late husband charge her with sleeping with two of her negro men Jackson and Jacob in his absence. It was a general talk of the neighborhood that she would get her negro to steal and that she would conceal the property thus stolen.

One further this Deposition says that Routt and Strother before me this 23rd day of February 1857

G. B. Strother
 Commissioner

Polly B. Curry
 X
 Mark

I the Commissioner in said Commission named do hereby Certify that the evidence of the witness Daniel Curry and Polly B. Curry was taken down under oath and subscribed by them in my presence on the 23rd day of February 1857 at the house of Daniel Curry in the County of Lincoln in the State of Tennessee and that I have personal knowledge of said witness Witness my hand and Seal this 23rd day of February 1857.

G. B. Strother Seal
 Commissioner

Commissioner Fee \$10
 G. B. Strother Commissioner

circuit court

Names:

, Jackson
, Jacob

Curry, Daniel
Curry, Polly B.

Routt, Mr.
Strother, G. B.

Places:

Lincoln Co., TN

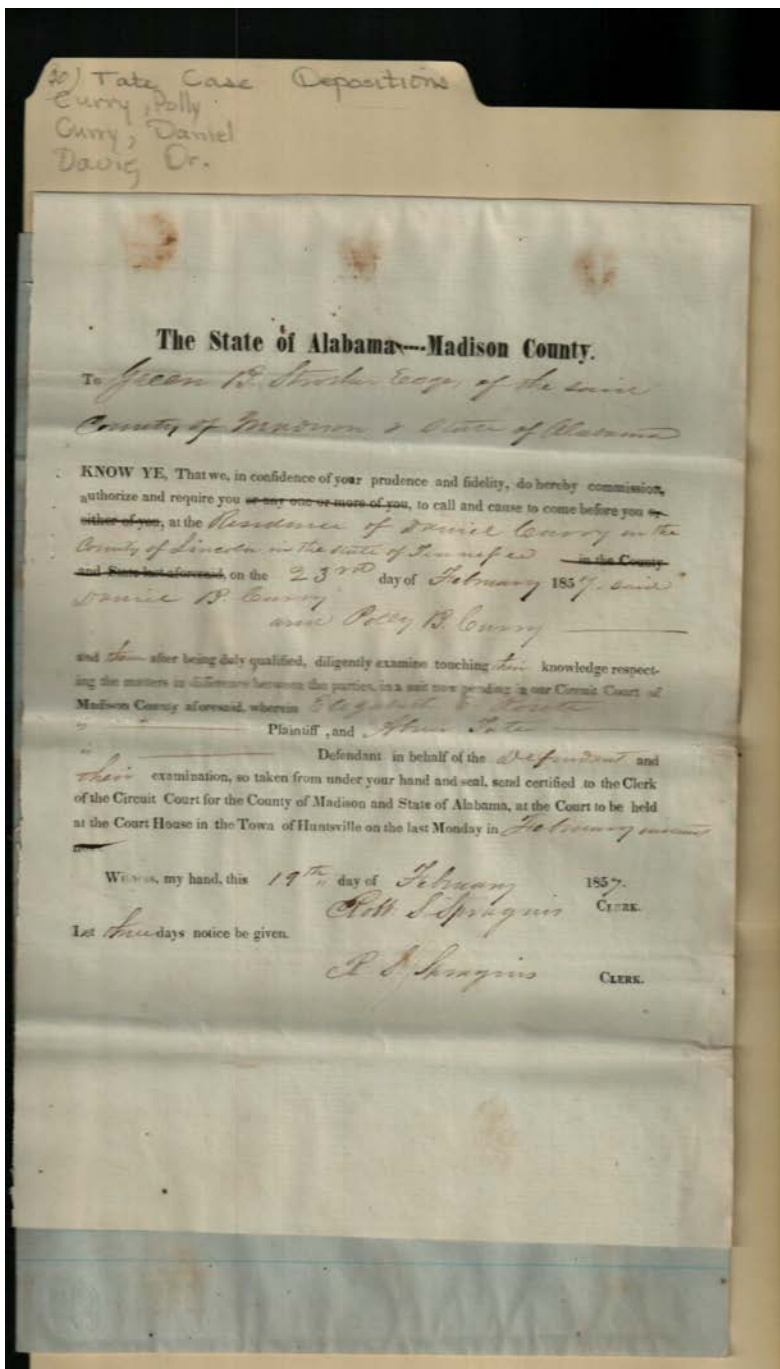
Madison Co., AL

Types:

deposition

Dates:

Feb 23, 1857



circuit court

Names:

Curry, Daniel
Curry, Polly B.

Routt, Elizabeth E.
Strother, Green B.

Tate, Abner

Places:

Lincoln Co., TN

Madison Co., AL

Types:

commission

Dates:

Feb 19, 1857

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 1, Subseries B, Box 4, Folder 20
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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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