

The State of Alabama----Madison County.

To *Thomas H. Dunn Esqr.*, of the County of  
*Noxubee* in the State of *Mississippi*

KNOW YE, That we, in confidence of your prudence and fidelity, do hereby commission,  
authorize and require you ~~or any one or more of you~~, to call and cause to come before you ~~or~~  
~~either of you~~, at the *Counting room* *Bush Dunn & Co*  
*in the town of Macon* in the County  
and State last aforesaid, on the *10<sup>th</sup>* day of *February* 1857.

*Gabriel S. Davies*

and *him* after being duly qualified, diligently examine touching *his* knowledge respect-  
ing the matters in difference between the parties, in a suit now pending in our Circuit Court of  
Madison County aforesaid, wherein *Elizabeth E. Rowtt*

*is*

Plaintiff, and *Abner Tate*

*is*

Defendant in behalf of the *Defendant* and

*his*

examination, so taken from under your hand and seal, send certified to the Clerk  
of the Circuit Court for the County of Madison and State of Alabama, at the Court to be held  
at the Court House in the Town of Huntsville on the last Monday in *February*  
next.

Witness, my hand, this *27<sup>th</sup>* day of *January* 1857.

*Robert S. Sprague*  
CLERK.

Let *ten* days notice be given.



Robt. S. Spraynis

CLERK.

The

State of Mississippi }  
Noxube County }

I Thos H Dunn  
Commissioner

~~named in the~~  
~~his name and place~~ ~~integrated in~~  
the annexed Commission. Gabriel S. Davie witness for Defendoant in a certain suit now pending and undetermined in the Circuit Court of Madison County State of Alabama wherein Elizabeth E. Roubt is Plaintiff and Abner Wato is Defendant

Gabriel S. Davie of Noxube County and State of Mississippi being by me duly sworn to speak the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth, doth depose and say as follows

Inty 1<sup>st</sup> Do you or not know Elizabeth E.

" " Roubt the Plaintiff, If so how long

" 2<sup>nd</sup>

" " How often has she been married,

" 3<sup>rd</sup>

" " State the name of each husband

" 4<sup>th</sup>

" " Did you or not as a Physician attend

" " Absolom Brown in his last illness

" 5<sup>th</sup>



- May 1<sup>st</sup> " Do you or not know Elizabeth O.  
" " Roubt the Plaintiff, If so how long  
" 2<sup>nd</sup>  
" " How often has she been married,  
" 3<sup>rd</sup>  
" " State the name of each husband  
" 4<sup>th</sup>  
" " Did you or not as a Physician attend  
" " Absolom Brown in his last illness  
" 5<sup>th</sup>  
" " If so, of what disease did he die  
" 6<sup>th</sup>  
" " Pleased to give as fully & as much in detail as you  
" " Can the various stages of his disease and the  
" " symptoms of each stage, How long  
" " was he sick  
" 7<sup>th</sup>  
" " Did you or not attend Willis Roubt  
" " in his last illness - If so, of what  
" " disease did he die  
" 8<sup>th</sup>  
" " Pleased to give as fully & as much  
" " in detail as you can the various stages  
" " of his disease & the symptoms attending  
" " each stage, How long was he sick  
" 9<sup>th</sup>  
" " If there was any differences in the  
" " cases of the two men please to state



" " Differenced in the symptoms manifesting  
" " the same disease  
" 11<sup>th</sup>

" " Did you or not see the body of Alexander  
" " Jeffries after his death, if so how long  
" " after, and describe its appearance and  
" " condition fully

" 12<sup>th</sup>  
" " When was he buried in the day or  
" " night time, if in the night at what  
" " hour & how long after his death

" 13<sup>th</sup>  
" " How far from Elizabeth Roub's did  
" " you live, and how long did you  
" " live at that distance

" " 14<sup>th</sup>  
" " When did you move from ~~Allegan~~  
" " or bads

" 15<sup>th</sup>  
" " Was or not she suspected by her  
" " neighbors of having poisoned  
" " one or more of her several husbands  
" " or aided in doing so

" " Exist before you left

" 19<sup>th</sup>  
" " Did or not Richard Jeffries charge  
" " her with having poisoned his father  
" " did he or not do this often and  
" " in publick.

" 20<sup>th</sup>  
" " Did he or not threaten to have an  
" " examination of his body made  
" 21<sup>st</sup>



" 16<sup>th</sup>  
" " If so was that reputation good  
" " or bad

" 17<sup>th</sup>  
" " Was or not she suspected by her  
" " neighbors of having poisoned  
" " one or more of her several husbands  
" " or aided in doing so

" " Exist before you left

" 19<sup>th</sup>  
" " Did or not Richard Jeffries charge  
" " her with having poisoned his father  
" " did he or not do this often and  
" " in publick.

" 20<sup>th</sup>  
" " Did he or not threaten to have an  
" " Examination of his body made

" 21<sup>st</sup>  
" " Had or not the ladies ceased  
" " to visit her & to receive her visits

" 22<sup>nd</sup>  
" " Did she or not tell you  
" " that if her husband Deigh  
" " lived till a certain suit was  
" " tried that her share in Jeffries  
" " property would be taken to pay  
" " Deigh's debts

" 23<sup>rd</sup>  
" " State any thing else you  
" " may know



Ans 1st. - I do, About twenty two or three  
" years  
" 2nd. Six times  
" 3rd. Rev. Saml. Gibbons, Fitznager, Alex  
" " and Jeffries, R. A. Heigh, A Brewer,  
" " and Willis Rottle  
" 4th. - I did  
" 5th. - From the symptoms manifest, I was  
" " induced to believe that he died of infla-  
" " mation of the stomach and perhaps  
" " the bowels to some extent were in-  
" " volved  
" 6th. - I can not from memory attempt  
" " to give his symptoms in detail as  
" " they occurred. The symptoms in his  
" " case were such as usually denote infla-  
" " mation of the stomach (say) tender-  
" " ness in the epigastrium, nausea, retching,  
" " vomiting, pain, thirst, depression of  
" " spirits, prostration of strength. In  
" " the absence of my Book of 1846 I am  
" " unable to state positively how long he  
" " he was sick, but my impression is that  
" " he was sick some six or eight weeks  
" 7th. - I did. He died of inflammation  
" " of the stomach. The bowels (particularly  
" " the duodenum) was involved. I may



Ans. — he supposes for me to say here that the consult-  
ing Physician pronounced it a case of <sup>of</sup> *Mania*  
*apota*, which in a large majority of cases pre-  
supposes inflammation of the stomach,

8th — I did not keep a Diary of my cases and  
consequently am unable to state every  
anomalous symptom; but his symptoms  
were those; which generally indicate infla-  
-mation of the stomach. I do not re-  
-member the precise time; but I suppose  
some six or eight weeks,

9th — Brown was all anxiety about his condition  
and continued rational until his death.  
Pottle appeared indifferent, had more bil-  
-ious derangement, and was delirious for  
about thirty six or forty eight hours before  
he died.

10th — The difference in symptoms I attribute  
to their temperaments and grade of infla-  
-mation and not to difference in disease.

11th — I did not see the body of Alexander Jef-  
-fries after he was shrouded. I aided in  
shrouding him and saw nothing un-  
-usual in the appearance of his corpse,

12th — I was not at his burial; but was informed  
that he was buried between midnight  
and day. If he was buried before <sup>at</sup> that  
time I think he must have been dead  
at least thirty hours before interment.



Ans-13th- About one mile and three quarters  
from March 1834 until December 1841 and  
from that time until September 1835 some  
four miles and a half.

14th- In September 1835 "

15th- I was "

16th- Generally bad "

17th- She was "

18th- From the death of her husband Alexander  
Jeffries (or shortly after) which was either  
in the year 1838 or 1839.

19th- He did, He said to me that he be-  
lieved she poisoned his father and I have  
heard several persons say that he so ex-  
posed himself to them.

20th- He did, "

21st- After her intermarriage with Mr Brown  
many of her female friends discov-  
erred their visits to her house and after  
the shooting of Defendant by her boy  
Jacob. I heard that none 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 correctness.

G. J. Davie



all of the above and foregoing answers to  
the above and foregoing interrogatories  
were reduced to writing by the said  
witness, Gabriel & Devick in my pres-  
ence at the time and place aforesaid, and  
fully assented to by him, and I do cer-  
tify that I am not of kin or counsel  
to either party in said suit, and wholly  
disinterested in the event thereof  
and I do further certify that this dep-  
osition is taken in conformity to  
the laws customs and usages of Mis-  
sissippi in such cases made  
and provided, Given under  
my hand and seal this the 10<sup>th</sup>  
of February 1857

Geo H. Drennon Seal