# The State of Alabama----Madison County.

To Green B. Strother Esq. of said County and State

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 Residence of Joseph Whitaker in Lincoln County Tennessee ~~in the County and State last aforesaid~~, on the 7th day of February 1857. Mrs Nancy Whitaker

and her after being duly qualified, diligently examine touching her knowledge respecting the matters in difference between the parties, in a suit now pending in our Circuit Court of Madison County aforesaid, wherein Elizabeth E. Routt is Plaintiff, and Abner Tate is Defendant in behalf of the Defendant and her 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 27th day of January 1857.

Robert S. Sprague CLERK.

Let six days notice be given.

R. S. Sprague CLERK.

Deposition of Nancy Whitaker, sworn and examined, under and by virtue of a commission issued out of the circuit Court of the State of Alabama for Madison County in a certain Cause therein depending between Elizabeth E Routt. plaintiff and Abner Tate defendant.

The said Nancy Whitaker a witness on the part of the plaintiff being first duly sworn to speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth doth depose and say as follows

1st Interrogatory by Plaintiff
Did you or not know Alexander Jeffreys who formerly lived in Madison County Alabama
In answer to the 1st Interrogatory she sayeth
I did

2nd Interrogatory
Did you know him at the time of his death
In answer to the 2nd Interrogatory she sayeth
I did

3rd Interrogatory
What relation did you bear to him
In answer to the 3rd Interrogatory she sayeth
He was my father

4th Interrogatory Who was his wife at the time of his death
In answer to the 4th Interrogatory she sayeth
Elizabeth E. Jeffreys. who is now Elizabeth E. Routt.

5th Interrogatory & Did she or not marry again
In Answer to the 5th Interrogatory she sayeth
~~She sayeth~~ she did

6th Interrogatory & How often did she marry and who was her last husband
In Answer to the 6th Interrogatory she sayeth
After the death of my father she first Married Robert A High. her next husband was Absalom Brown. and after his death she Married Willis Routt. who was her last husband

7th Interrogatory & Did you see your fathers body after his death
In Answer to the 7th Interrogatory she sayeth
I Did

8 Interrogatory & When was he buried, in the day or night time
In Answer to the 8th Interrogatory she sayeth
In the night.

9th Interrogatory & If you say in the night then say about what hour on the night
In Answer to the 9th Interrogatory she sayeth
I suppose he was burried about ten Oblock in the night

10th Interrogatory & How many white persons were present, when he was buried, State all that you can recollect

In Answer to the 10th Interrogatory she sayeth
From my best recollection I do not think
there were more than five or six white persons
present.

11th Interrogatory: What was said or suspected
to be the cause of his death
In Answer to the 11th Interrogatory she sayeth
It seemed to be the opinion of the relations of
my father who were present that he was poisoned

12 Interrogatory: Did he linger or did he die
suddenly.
In Answer to the 12th Interrogatory she sayeth
I was not present at his death, but I was sent
for and on my arrival at his house I found him
dead, and was informed that he ate his breakfast
as usual in the morning walked out in his farm
and returned to the house, and went to bed and
died on the night of the same day. this was on the
day before I arrived at his house

13th

13 Interrogatory: ~~The was suspected~~ it was Was it not
said or suspected that he was poisoned
In Answer to the 13th Interrogatory she sayeth
It was.

14th Interrogatory: Who was suspected of poison
ing him or having a hand in it
In Answer to the 14th Interrogatory she sayeth
My own impression was that his wife
either done it herself or caused it to be
done, and some others of the family believed
the same as I did, and I believe all the

relations that I have conversed with believe the same way

15th Interrogatory: What was said by the Neighbors to be the cause of his death

In answer to this Interrogatory she sayeth I did not live in the neighborhood at the time and cannot say what public opinion was in the Neighborhood at that time

16 Interrogatory: State any thing you may know

In answer to the 16th Interrogatory she sayeth When I arrived at my fathers I suppose he had been dead twelve or fifteen hours, I found the bowels of my fathers corpse greatly swollen his flesh about his face turned very dark before he was buried, so as to present a very uncommon and very unnatural appearance which caused me to believe that some foul means had been used to put an end to his life. Since the death of my father I have heard many foul crimes alledged against her from time to time which of themselves if true were sufficient to destroy the reputation of any one, and which have confirmed me in the opinion I have long held in regard to her guilt of my fathers death

As to her character Judging from the reports I have heard, I have considered it to be bad for several years past

Sworn to & subscribed before me February 1857

Ann Whitaker

G. B. Strother
Commissioner

I the Commissioner in said Commission named, do hereby certify that the evidence of the witness Nancy Whitaker, was taken down under oath, and subscribed, by her in my presence on the 7th day of February 1857. at the house of Joseph Whitaker, in the County of Lincoln in the State of Tennessee, and that I have personal knowledge of said witness

Witness my hand and seal
February 7th 1857.

Green B. Strother (Seal)
Commissioner

Commissioner Fee $2.0.

G B Strother
Commissioner

**The State of Alabama----Madison County.**

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**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 Residence of Joseph Whitaker in Lincoln County Tennessee ~~in the County and State last aforesaid,~~ on the 7th day of February 1857. Mrs Nancy Whitaker

Elizabeth E Routte
vs
Abner Tate

Deposition of
Nancy Whitaker
for defendant

Rec'd by the hands of Comm. & filed July
16. 1857. R. S. Spraggins Clk

Robert S. Spraggins Esqr
Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Madison County
Huntsville Ala

File $20.00

Opened by order of Court
Feb by 23/57 R. Hargrave

Commissioners
Saml Walker

Commissioners
W B Starke

Commissioners
W B Starke