

William Bowdoin Estate Suit, 1821–1839

Lawsuit in the Estate of William Bowdoin (born circa 1740, died 1821)

With index.

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from images on FamilySearch and Ancestry.

FamilySearch, “North Carolina Estate Files, 1663-1979,” Randolph County, Estate records, 1781-1928. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99CD-196M-B>;
Ancestry.com, “North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998,”
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9061/images/007672824_00711

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Editor's note

This lengthy estate case contains 70 images, many of which are legal formality. I originally transcribed every image, but for this article have attempted to distill the portions of genealogical relevance and interest. I have arranged the relevant documents in the case by chronological and logical order, not the order they appeared in the original microfilm. In most cases, I have retained the original spelling and punctuation, but not the formatting and pagination of the original images.

I believe the intended, correct spelling of the surname is *Bowdoin*, but this spelling only appears in several of the documents, depending probably on the scribe. Elsewhere in the case it is spelled *Bowdown* or *Bowdon*. I have retained the original spelling of the name in each individual document.

Any note or other insertion by me is denoted by square brackets [].

—JTR

Genealogical abstract

William Bowdoin (born about 1740) raised his family in Randolph County, North Carolina. He had five sons and three daughters. The sons (listed in apparent birth order) were **James Bowdoin**, **John Bowdoin**, **Travis Bowdoin**, **Josiah Bowdoin**, and **Pleasant Bowdoin**. The daughters (also apparently listed in birth order) were **Elizabeth (Betsy)**, who married **John Macon**; **Martha (Patsy)**, who married **Isaac Odell**; and **Mary (Molly)**, who married **Gideon Macon** [*Answer of John Bowdoin*].

About the year 1818 or 1819, **William Bowdoin** left North Carolina and removed to Georgia; and about 1820, removed to Alabama. He settled in Conecuh County, Alabama, where his youngest son **Pleasant** had settled. At the beginning of 1821, **William's** health was failing. **William's** son **John Bowdoin**, hearing of his father's illness and wishing to bring him home to care for him, set out for Alabama from his home in Richmond County, North Carolina. Unbeknownst to **John**, his father **William** had already passed away, eleven days prior to his leaving (31 January 1821), at **Pleasant's** home in Conecuh County. Also unbeknownst to him, **William** had married an older woman named **Mary** in the final months of his life [*Answer of John Bowdoin; Bill of complaint*].

William Bowdoin died intestate, and the matter of contention in this estate case was what property he had given to each of his children prior to his death, and what became of his

property following his death. In particular, a group of grandchildren, led by **John Hendrix** and **Jacob Craven**, brothers-in-law who had married daughters of **Mary (Bowdoin) Macon**, sued **John Bowdoin** and other members of the family, alleging that **John** had taken possession of **William Bowdoin**'s land, slaves, and livestock, and had auctioned them and taken the proceeds for his own use. **John** responded that he had in fact taken only three of **William**'s slaves, together with a wagon and horse, back to North Carolina with him—one old and decrepit slave man whom he felt sorry for, and a slave boy and the wagon and horse intended as property for his brother **Travis** [*Answer of John Bowdoin; Bill of complaint; Depositions*].

The suit, begun in 1833 and going on until 1839, includes numerous, repetitive depositions, mostly of North Carolina witnesses, seeking their knowledge about **William Bowdoin**'s gifts of property to his children and their valuation of the slaves and property John Bowdoin brought home. In the end, for reasons not explained, the judge found for the plaintiffs and ordered John Bowdoin to pay damages to the complainants [*Award*].

We can glean these other facts of genealogical value:

- **John Bowdoin** had lived in Richmond County, North Carolina, about 35 miles from his father's home, since 1802 [*Answer of John Bowdoin*].
- **Travis Bowdoin** was likewise living in the vicinity of Randolph County or Richmond County, North Carolina, in 1821 [*Answer of John Bowdoin; Depositions*].
- **William Bowdoin** gave land in Montgomery County, North Carolina, to his son **Josiah Bowdoin** [*Answer of John Bowdoin*].
- **Pleasant Bowdoin**, **William**'s youngest son, lived with him in Randolph County until shortly before William's move to Georgia and Alabama [*Answer of John Bowdoin*].
- **Mary (Bowdoin) Macon**, daughter of **William Bowdoin**, and her husband **Gideon Macon**, had both died prior to the initiation of this suit in 1833. They had these children [*Bill of complaint*]:
 - **Nancy Macon**, who married **John Hendrix** (complainants).
 - **Martha (Patsy) Macon**, who married **Isaac Lawrence** (complainants).
 - **Sarah Macon**, who married **Jacob Craven** (complainants).
 - **Thomas Macon** (complainant).
 - **William Macon** (complainant).
 - **Elizabeth (Betsy) Macon**, who married **Charles Johnson** (defendants).
 - **Mary (Polly) Macon**, who married **William Johnson**, and died prior to this suit, leaving children:
 - **Barzillan Johnson** (complainant).
 - **James Johnson Jr.** (complainant).

- **Jane Johnson** (complainant).
 - **Alston Macon**, who died prior to this suit, leaving three children whose names were unknown to the complainants.
- **Elizabeth (Betsy) Macon**, daughter of **William Bowdoin**, and her husband **John Macon**, had both also died prior to the suit, leaving children [*Bill of complaint*]:
 - **Nathaniel Macon** (complainant).
 - **John Macon** (complainant).
 - **William Macon** (defendant).
 - **Henry Macon** (defendant).
 - **Pleasant Macon** (defendant).
 - **Gideon Macon** (defendant).
 - **Nancy Macon**, who married **John Lane** (defendants).
- **Martha (Patsy) Odell**, daughter of **William Bowdoin**, also died prior to the suit (no further mention is made of **Isaac Odell**, whether he was alive or dead), leaving children [*Bill of complaint*]:
 - **James Odell** (complainant).
 - **Mary (Polly) Odell**, married **William Hudgen** (defendants).
 - **Martha (Patsy) Odell** (defendant).
- By the time of the lawsuit in 1834, a majority of the case's defendants were no longer residents of the state of North Carolina. The suit does not state their whereabouts [*Order of publication*]:
 - **James Bowdoin**.
 - **Travis Bowdoin**.
 - **Josiah Bowdoin**.
 - **Pleasant Bowdoin**.
 - **Charles Johnson** and wife **Betsy**.
 - Unnamed children of **Alston Macon**.
 - **William Macon**.
 - **Henry Macon**.
 - **Pleasant Macon**.
 - **Gideon Macon**.
 - **William Hudgen** and wife **Polly**.
 - **Patsy Odell**.

Bill of complaint, September 1833¹

John Hendrix & wife & others
vs. **John Bowdown** & others.

Original Bill

To Fall Term 1833

Filed 28th September 1833

J. Worth CME

State of North Carolina
Randolph County

In Equity

To the Honorable the Judge of this court of equity for the county aforesaid,

The Bill of Complaint of **John Hendrix** and **Nancy** his wife, **Isaac Lawrence** & **Patsy** his wife, **Jacob Craven** & **Sarah** his wife, **Thomas Macon**, **William Macon**, **Hanah Macon**, **Nathaniel Macon**, **John Macon**, **James Odell** – And **Barzillan Johnson**, **Jane Johnson** & **James Johnson Junr.** by their Guardian & next friend **James Johnson**; against **John Bowdown**, **James Bowdown**, **Travis Bowdown**, **Josiah Bowdown**, **Pleasant Bowdown**, ~~William~~ **Charles Johnson** & **Elizabeth** his wife, **William Macon**, **Henry Macon**, **Pleasant Macon**, **Gideon Macon**, **William Hudgen** & **Mary** his wife, **Patsy Odell**, And the children of **Alston Macon** dec'd —²

Humbly complaining sheweth unto your Honour your Orators & Oratrixes, **John Hendrix** & **Nancy** his wife, **Thomas Macon**, **William Macon**, **Hanah Macon**, **James Odell**, **Barzillan Johnson**, **Jane Johnson** & **James Johnson Junr.** all of Randolph County & **Nathaniel Macon** and **John Macon** of Montgomery County, state aforesaid—

¹ Begins at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99CD-19DB-8> (Image 7);

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9061/images/007672824_00717 (Image 717).

² Inexplicably, this bill of complaint reverses the names and spouses of the daughters Elizabeth (Betsy) Bowdoin and Martha (Patsy) Bowdoin. The document states in two different places that Patsy married John Macon and Betsy married Isaac Odell; but two other documents in the case, including the answer of John Bowdoin and the separate depositions of Lucy Waddell and Olive Pearce, state that *Betsy* married John Macon and *Patsy* married Isaac Odell. Presumably the bill of complaint was written by attorneys or clerks while the other documents were based on more direct testimony, especially the depositions. For clarity of reading, I have corrected the errors in the bill of complaint.

That **William Bowdown** formerly of Randolph County being a man of considerable property had five sons and three daughters that before he left Randolph County the said **Wm. Bowdown** made large advancements to all of his sons both in real and personal estate, that he gave to each of his sons, **James Bowdown, John Bowdown, Travis Bowdown, Josiah Bowdown & Pleasant Bowdown** a valuable tract of land and a negro slave besides horses & other valuable property. That **Mary Bowdown** one of the daughters of the said **William** intermarried with **Gideon Macon, [Elizabeth] Bowdown**³ intermarried with **John Macon & [Patsy] Bowdown**⁴ intermarried with **Isaac Odell**—

That the said **William Bowdown** gave a very small portion of his property to his daughters or to their husbands, that about the year 1819 the said **William Bowdown** removed from this state to the State of Alabama and carried with him a large amount of property in negroes money &c. that the said **William Bowdown** purchased lands in the State of Alabama when he continued to live and improve his property until the year 1821 when the said **William Bowdown** died leaving a large estate in lands negroes money and other valuable property—

That the defendant **John Bowdown** who then resided & now resides in the County of Richmond in this State went to the State of Alabama in a few months after the death of his father the said **William Bowdown** and took into his possession the whole of his father's estate consisting of from ten to fifteen likely & valuable negroes, lands & money to a large amount and other valuable property—

That said **John Bowdown** disposed of the negroes and lands and appropriated the proceeds to his own use, that the said **John Bowdown** likewise had a large sum of money (to wit) ten thousand dollars or other large sum which he has appropriated to his own use—

That the said **John Bowdown** likewise took into his possession the stock and farming interests of the said **William Bowdown** made sale of the sum and appropriated to proceeds of them to his own use—

Your Orators and Oratrixes **John Hendrix** and **Nancy** his wife, **Isaac Lawrence & Patsy** his wife, **Jacob Craven & Sarah** his wife, **Thomas Macon, William Macon** and the defendants **Charles Johnson & Betsy** his wife are the children of **Mary Macon** a daughter of the said **William Bowdown** dec'd—

³ Original *Patsy*; see note 2.

⁴ Original *Elizabeth*; see note 2.

That the said **Mary Macon** had two other children (to wit) **Polly** who intermarried with **William Johnson** who is now dead leaving your Orators **Barzillan Johnson & James Johnson Junr.** & your Oratrix **Jane Johnson** his children & hers at law—

That **Alston Macon** a son of the said **Mary Macon** is also dead leaving three children whose names are unknown to your orators and oratrixes—

That the said **Mary Macon** and her husband **Gideon Macon** are both dead—

That **John Macon** & **[Betsy]**⁵ his wife are both dead leaving your Orators **Nathaniel Macon** and **John Macon** and the defendants **William Macon, Henry Macon, Pleasant Macon, Gideon Macon & John Lane & Nancy** his wife, their children & heirs at law—

That **[Patsy] Odell**⁶ also died before her father leaving your Orator **James Odell**, and the defendants **William Hudgen & Polly** his wife and **Patsy Odell** her children and heirs at law—

Your Orators and Oratrixes charge that the said **John Bowdown** holds the said negroes and money in trust for your Orators and Oratrixes and others the distributes of the said **William Bowdown** dec'd and not in his own right as he presents—

And forasmuch as your Orators and Oratrixes are remediless in the premises shown duly in this Honorable Court when matters of trust and confidence &c. are cognizable and deliverable. To the end therefore that the said defendants may on their corporal oaths full true and perfect answers make to all and singular the premises in as full and ample a manner as if the same was here again repeated by way of interrogatory. And that the said **James Bowdown, John Bowdown, Travis Bowdown, Josiah Bowdown, & Pleasant Bowdown** may be required particularly to set forth & state what advancements and to what amount their father **William Bowdown** made to them and each of them in his lifetime, and what amount of the estate of their father **William Bowdown** dec'd has come to their possession or the possession of any of them since the death of the said **William Bowdown**—

And that the said **John Bowdown** be further required to state in his corporal oath—

- What number of negroes belonging to the estate of his father **William Bowdown** has at any time come to his possession or to the possession of any person in trust for him
- How he has disposed of said negroes and what was their value
- At what time said negroes came to his possession

⁵ Original *Patsy*; see note 2.

⁶ Original *Betsy*; see note 2.

- Whether he did not sell the lands of the said **William Bowdown** in the State of Alabama or Georgia & receive the proceeds of sale and to what amount, and when
- Whether he did not take into his possession the stock & other personal property of the said **William Bowdown** and to what amount and at what time & how he has disposed of the sum
- Whether he did not receive a large sum of money belonging to the said **William Bowdown** dec'd, to what amount and at what time he had the sum

And that he be required to render a full fair account of all the negroes money and other valuable effects which he used at any time belonging to the estate of the said **William Bowdown** dec'd.

And that the said **John Bowdown** may be decreed to account with and pay over to your Orators and Oratrixes their distribution shared in the estate of the said **William Bowdown** dec'd which has at any time come to his possession—

And that your Orators and Oratrixes have such other and further relief in the premises as to your Honour may seem agreeable to equity & good conscience – May it please your Honour to grant to your Orators & Oratrixes the state writ of subpoena to be directed to the said **John Bowdown** and the other defendants commanding them and each of them to appear before your Honour in this Honorable Court to be held for Randolph County on the fourth Monday in March next then and there to plead answer or demur to this your Orators & Oratrixes bill of complaint—

And your Orators & Oratrixes as in duty bound will ever pray &c.

Jno. M. Dick, Sol. [**John Mathew Dick**, Solicitor]
for Complainants

Prosecutors' bond, September 1833⁷

Know all men by these presents that we **John Hendrix, Jacob Craven & Thompson Craven** are held firmly bound to **John Bowdown** in the sum of one hundred pounds to which payment well and truly to be made we bind ourselves and each of us jointly & severally and firmly by their presents sealed with our seals & dated this 26th day of September A.D. 1833.

⁷ Begins at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-99CD-19D1-D> (Image 60);
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9061/images/007672824_00770 (Image 770).

The condition of the above obligation is such whereas the above bondsmen **John Hendrix, Jacob Craven** & others have filed their Bill of Complaint in the Court of Equity for Randolph County against the above named **John Bowdown** & others now if the said complainants shall prosecute their suit with effect and shall pay all such costs as shall be awarded against them then this obligation to be void.

Witness our hand & seals this day and year above written.

John Hendrix {Seal}

Jacob Craven {Seal}

Thompson Craven {Seal}

Test. **Jno. M. Dick**

Order of publication, 1834⁸

John Hendrix & wife & others

vs. **John Bowdown** & others

In Equity

In appearing to the court that the Defendants **James Bowdown, Travis Bowdown, Josiah Bowdown, Josiah Bowdown** [sic, Josiah listed twice], **Pleasant Bowdown, Charles Johnson & Betsy** his wife – The children of **Alston Macon** dec'd, **William Macon, Henry Macon, Pleasant Macon, Gideon Macon, William Hudgen & Polly** his wife & **Patsy Odell** are not inhabitants of this state, it is ordered by the court that publication be made for six weeks in the *Raleigh Register* for the said defendants to appear at the next term of the Court of Equity to be held for Randolph County on the 4th Monday in March next to plead answer do demur to the complaint bill otherwise judgment *pro confesso* will be entered against them and each of them and the said cause will be heard *ex parte* as to them—

The clerk & master will put a copy of the bill and subpoena to **John Bowdown** et al who resides in Richmond County N. Carolina.

⁸ Begins at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89CD-19F9-8> (Image 6); https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9061/images/007672824_00716 (Image 716).

Subpoena, March 1834⁹

State of North Carolina

To the Sheriff of Richmond County, Greeting.

We command you to make known to **John Bowdown** that he laying aside all manner of excuse do personally be & appear at our next court of Equity to be held for the county of Randolph at the court house in Ashboro on the 4th Monday of September next then and there to answer the Bill of Complaint filed against him and others by **John Hendrix** & wife and others and to stand to, abide by & perform such order and decree as the said court shall make therein: and this they shall in as wise omit under the penalty of one hundred pounds. Herein fail not and make due return how you have executed this writ.

{Seal}

Witness **Jonathan Worth**, clerk & master in Equity for said County of Randolph at office in Ashboro the 4th Monday of March A.D. 1834.

Jonathan Worth, C.M.E.

Issued 5th April 1834

Answer of John Bowdoin, September 1834¹⁰

State of North Carolina, Randolph County

John Bowdown maketh oath that the several matters of fact set forth in the foregoing answer to the bill of complaint of **John Hendricks** & wife & others against himself and others and stated to be of his own knowledge are true and those state not as of his own knowledge he believes to be true.

Jno. Bowdon

⁹ Begins at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9CD-198F-7> (Image 29); https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9061/images/007672824_00739.

¹⁰ Begins at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-99CD-196S-M> (Image 20), preamble at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q5Q-G9CD-198L-K> (Image 4); or https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9061/images/007672824_00730 (Image 730), preamble at https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9061/images/007672824_00714 (Image 714).

Sworn to and subscribed before me at Ashboro

This 25th day of September A.D. 1834

Jonathan Worth CME

State of North Carolina

Randolph County

In Equity

Fall Term 1834.

The separate answer of John Bowdown to the Bill of Complaint instituted against him and others by **John Hendrix** and wife and others—

The defendant saving and reserving to himself all benefit of exception to the many errors, untruths and imperfections in complainants bill contained for answer thereunto or to so much thereof as he is advised is material for him to make answer unto answering saeth—

That **William Bowdown** formerly of Randolph County he admits had five sons and three daughters to wit: **James, Travis, Josiah, Pleasant** and this defendant. **Elizabeth** who intermarried with **John Macon. Patsy** who intermarried with **Isaac Odell** and **Mary** who intermarried with **Gideon Macon.**

This defendant admits that said **William** before he left Randolph made an advancement to his son James a negro slave named tom, being a small boy, but gave James no land or other estate known to this defendant between 20 & 30 years since.

That said **William** gave to his son **Travis** a horse creature, a bed & furniture, a cane, and bought for him a tract of land in Randolph for about \$500.

That said **William** gave to his son **Josiah** a tract of land in Montgomery [County, North Carolina] that cost \$750, a mare and a small negro boy named **George**, a bed & furniture & a cane.

That **Pleasant** was the youngest son and lived with said **William Bowdown & William** gave him a mare, negro boy named **Philip**, a bed & furniture, & some cattle.

That said **William** paid towards the purchase of a tract of land for this defendant the sum of \$550 & gave him a very small negro boy named **Daniel** that scarcely weighed 50 pounds if that much. Also a cold & a sow & pigs & bed.

And the defendant left in said **William's** possession six head of cattle which were appropriated to his **William's** use worth about \$40.

This defendant does not know that his father gave either of his daughters either land or negroes but believes he gave them other property when starting to keep house, and was informed by his father that he assisted **Gideon & John Macon**, the husbands of **Elizabeth & Mary** in payment for their land.

Defendant admits that in 1818 or 1819 said **William** his father removed to Georgia and afterwards perhaps in 1820 removed to Alabama and when said **William** left the state he carried with him about 12 negroes & some other property and perhaps some money, the amount not known to this defendant.

This defendant does not know of his father having purchased or owned any land in Alabama or Georgia.

That in 1821, said **William** died intestate leaving a widow, and left little or no other property or estate to this defendant's knowledge or belief but what he took from this state.

This defendant resided in Richmond County when his father left this state & had done from 1802 about 35 miles from his father's residence in Randolph. That early in 1821 he heard his father then in dotage was likely to suffer in Alabama. This defendant on the 11th of February 1821 set out for Alabama to bring his father home with him and treat him well the remainder of his life. This defendant not having heard of his father's second marriage which had taken place in Georgia, nor of his death, which happened as he found on arriving then Eleven Days only before defendant set out from home.

On arriving at **Pleasant Bowdown's** in Alabama where said **William** had lived after removing to that state up to the time of his death. This defendant found said **Pleasant** in possession of all the property said **William** had left at his death, most of which was claimed by **Pleasant**.

Defendant also found said **William's** widow in the neighborhood an old lady his father had married in the state of Georgia. Said **Pleasant** & his family having differed with the widow, she had left & was living with one of the neighbors. Said widow was living among strangers between 300 & 400 miles from where her friends resided, and she much desired to return to her friends in Georgia but had not money sufficient to have hired a person to remove her which would have required \$100 as was stated there in Alabama.

This defendant endeavored to prevail on his brother **Pleasant** to administer on his father's estate which he refused to do, and no administration was ever granted on his father's estate to the knowledge or belief of this defendant.

The defendant further states that his brother **Pleasant** told him if he would remove their stepmother back to Georgia, defendant might take a negro man named **Peter** upwards of

50 years old, and an old negro named **Ben** 60 or 70 years old, quite decrepit. The solicitations & past services of **Ben** alone induced this defendant to allow **Ben** to come to this state with him. Also an old mare and Jersey waggon both nearly worn out. This defendant informed **Pleasant** that he would take the above named negroes mare and waggon and remove his father's widow back to her friends in Georgia and on his return to this state would deliver the negro boy **Silas** and mare and waggon to his brother **Travis** provided their stepmother would relinquish her claim on said **William's** estate to this defendant. Accordingly the widow who had been but a few months before married said **William**, did execute a power of attorney and deed of relinquishment to this defendant. A copy of which is hereunto appended marked "A". as part of this answer.

This defendant took said property and removed the widow at considerable expenses and with much trouble and care back to her friends in Georgia and brought the three negroes and mare and waggon to this state and was at considerable expenses on the journey. And on arriving in this state in the spring of 1821 this defendant did deliver over as understood between him & **Pleasant** to **Travis Bowdown** in Randolph County the negro boy **Silas** and mare and waggon. This defendant retained the old negro **Peter** in his possession who was and still is able to perform some services. Also the older negro **Ben** from humanity only. **Ben** is now dead. This defendant offered his brother **Travis** and also **Gideon Macon** the said **Ben** but they refused to take & support him & defendant believes he offered said **Travis** \$50 to take **Ben** off his hands but he declined taking him.

This defendant further states that said **John Hendricks** and a **Mr. Johnson**, two of complainants something about a year or two ago applied to him about said **William Bowdown's** estate and defendant not being disposed to be troubled or even have any hard thoughts in regard to any property that he had ever received from his father which was altogether less by far than a child's part thereof, offered the negro **Peter** to them if they would make him safe in anyway in giving over to them any property which came from his father's estate, but said **Hendricks** said he did not want the negro.

The defendant further answers that he received no money of his father's estate, sold no land, received no proceeds of any land, sold nor does he know of any, that he sold no stock, nor in fact had not received any other property or estate from the estate of his father since his death than he already set forth. Nor did he receive any other property or estate by way of advancement or otherwise in his father's lifetime to his knowledge recollection or belief other than that which has already set forth, nor did ever at any time receive any money from his father as he recollects – nor has any person any money property or other estate in trust for this defendant or in any other way to his knowledge or belief of said **William's** estate.

This defendant further answers that all the property and estate real and personal he ever received from his father by way of advancement and that he received since his death from said **Pleasant** is not in defendant's estimation and belief equal to a child's part and the proper amount thereof he should and ought to have received and would be justly entitled to on a fair and equal distribution thereof.

This defendant therefore denies that he is in any matter accountable to complainants or any of them for anything whatever, and alleges that if any of complainants who are the children or heirs at law or next of kin of said **William Bowdown** have not received as much by way of advancement or otherwise of said **William's** estate as this defendant yet that he is advised he is not accountable to them and bound to divide or account to them any or any of them for what he has received as above stated when in fact and truth the whole he has received is not equal to a proper & just share of his father's property and estate. And this defendant would further submit whether in any event he can be made accountable directly to complainants or any of them as next of kin of his father there as yet being no administration on his estate.

The defendant further states that the complainant and the defendants are the next of kin and heirs at law as he believes of **William Bowdown** deceased but that the complainants are incorrectly set forth in the bill nor are they entitled to any estate in the order they stand as will appear by a former part of this answer.

This defendant having answered the several allegations contained in the bill which he is advised are at all material for him to make answer unto, hopes to be dismissed with his reasonable costs and prays that complainants bill may be dismissed with costs.

George C. Mendenhall

Solicitor for Defendant

Widow's power of attorney and deed of relinquishment, 1821¹¹

"A."

State of Alabama, Conecuh County

Know all men by these Presents that I **Mary Bowdown** of the County and State aforesaid for divers good causes and considerations me hereunto moving have made ordained

¹¹ Begins at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9CD-19DM-J> (Image 3); https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9061/images/007672824_00713 (Image 713).

authorized constituted appointed and by these presents do make constitute & appoint **John Bowdown** of the State of North Carolina and County of Richmond my true and lawful attorney for me and in my name to ask demand sue for and recover and to dispose to his own exclusive use all my right title and intent to the estate of **William Bowdown** deceased and to use all lawful means in my name or otherwise for the recovery thereof and to do all lawful acts and things whatsoever concerning the premises as fully and in every respect as perfectly as I myself might or could do if I was present personally and or attorney or attorneys under him for the purpose aforesaid to make that his pleasure to revoke truly ratify allowing and confirming all & whatsoever my said attorney shall in my name lawfully do or cause to be done in and about the premise – witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the 20th March 1821.

Mary (her X mark) **Bowdoin** {Seal}

In the presence of

J. T. Mobly JP

Joseph P. Clough JP

Depositions of Lucy Waddell and Olive Pearce, September 1835¹²

[This is the first document in the folder in which the surname is consistently spelled *Bowdoin*.]

State of North Carolina

Randolph County

September 22nd, 1835

Pursuant to the annexed commission to us directed at the house of **John K. Armistead** in the county aforesaid on the day appointed both the parties being present namely, **John Hendricks** and wife and others, plaintiffs against **John Bowdown**, Defendant.

We proceeded to take the following depositions of **Lucy Waddell** and **Olive Pearce**, both being elderly women who having been first sworn upon the Holy Evangelist to depose the

¹² Begins at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89CD-19F9-F> (Image 14); https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9061/images/007672824_00724 (Image 724).

truth and nothing but the truth, between he said parties named in the commission, deposeth and saith as follows, viz.—

First **Lucy Waddell** deposeth:

Question by Plaintiff.— Have you or were you acquainted with the late **Wm. Bowdoin** Decd.

Answer. Yes I was well acquainted with him having lived a near neighbor to him for many years.

Question 2. How many daughters had he and what were their names.

Ans. He had three daughters, viz.: **Betsy, Molly** and **Patsy**.

Question 3^d. Who did each of them marry.

Ans. **Betsy** married **John Macon**. **Molly** married **Gideon Macon**. And **Patsy** married **Isaac Odle**.

Question 4th. Do you or do you not know whether he ever gave his daughter **Molly** any property and if any what was it.

Answer. I never knew him to give her anything of any consequence, but believe he gave her one feather bed.

Question 5th. Do you or do you not know whether he ever gave his daughter **Patsy** and property and if any what was it.

Ans. I don't know that he ever gave her any thing.

Question put by the Defendant.

Quest 1st. Was you acquainted with my father **Wm. Bowdoin** Dec'd previous to and at the time my sister **Molly** was married to **Gideon Macon**.

Ans. I was not, but was acquainted with all the family shortly after **Molly** was married.

Question 2nd. Do you or do you not know whether my father ever gave my sister **Molly** any property before your acquaintance with the family.

Ans. I don't know that he did.

And further this deponent saith not.

Lucy (her X mark) **Waddell**

Secondly, **Olive Pearce** deposeth and saith.

Question 1st by Plaintiff. Were you or were you not acquainted with the late **William Bowdoin** Dec'd.

Answer. Yes, I was well acquainted with him having lived a near neighbor to him for many years.

Question 2. How many daughters had he and what were their names.

Ans. He had three, viz. **Betsy**, **Patsy**, and **Molly**.

Question 3. Who did each of them marry.

Ans. **Betsy** married **John Macon**, **Patsy** married **Isaac Odle** & **Molly** married **Gideon Macon**.

Question 4th. Do you or do you not know whether he ever gave his daughter **Molly** any property and if any what was it.

Ans. I don't know that he ever did, **Molly** was married before she came to this section of country, but came here shortly afterward.

Question 5th. Do you or do you not know whether **Gideon Macon** and his wife **Molly** had any property when they moved into this neighborhood, if any what was it.

Ans. They had one bed and some other little household property of not much value.

Question 6th. Were you or were you not acquainted with **Patsy Bowdoin** previous to her marriage to **Isaac Odle**.

Ans. I was.

Question 7th. Do you or do you not know whether her father ever gave her (**Patsy**) any property or not.

Ans. I don't know that he did, or did not.

Question 1st by the defendant.

Do you know what length of time **Molly** had been married before she & her husband **Gideon Macon** came to this section of country.

Ans. I do not.

Question 2nd. What property had my father, when he came to this section of country.

Ans. He had several negroes, viz. **Ben, Peter,** and **Amy.** Several horses & household property & when he came, he moved in a waggon but I don't know whether it was his or not.

Question 3rd. Do you or do you not know whether my father, **Wm. Bowdoin** Dec'd, gave his daughter **Betsy** and property and if any what was it.

Ans. I don't know that he gave her any thing.

Question by Plaintiff.

Had **Molly** a child or children when she and her husband, **Gideon Macon,** came to this neighborhood.

Ans. They had none, but had her first child after she came here, as they said.

And further this deponent saith not.

Olive (her X mark) **Pearce**

Sworn to and subscribed before us this day and state aforesaid. Given under our hand and seals.

Jno K. Armistead {Seal}

J. Moffitt Jr. {Seal}

Opened by me

J. Worth, CME

Passed upon & allowed to be read

April 1st 1836, **J. Worth,** CME

Deposition of Britton Chappel and Robert Powell, September 1835¹³

State of North Carolina, Richmond County

We **Alfred Baldwin & P. M. Powell,** two of the justices of the peace for the County & State aforesaid, have pursuant to a commission, to us directed, from the Court of Equity in the County of Randolph & State aforesaid proceeded to take the deposition of **Robert Powell &**

¹³ Begins at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L9CD-198Z-Q> (Image 38);
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9061/images/007672824_00748 (Image 748).

Britton Chappel, to be read as evidence, in a suit depending in said Court of Equity in favor of the plaintiffs **John Hendricks** & wife and others, against **John Bowdon** & others.

Britton Chappel, Witness, after being duly sworn deposeth—

Interrogatory 1st by the plaintiff.

Were you called upon by Mr. **John Bowdon** to value some property which he brought from the State of Alabama belonging to his father **William Bowdon**, and if so at what time.

Answer 1st. I did, but at what time I do not recollect but believe it's something like twelve or fourteen years ago.

Interrogatory 2nd. What kind of property was it that you were called upon to value and what was the valuation.

Answer 2nd. The property consisted of three negroes, (viz) **Ben, Peter** & a boy that I do not recollect the name of. I do not recollect the valuation, of either only Ben, he was valued at fifty dollars. Peter I think was valued at between three, and four hundred and the boy between 2 & 3 hundred.

Interrogatory 3rd. Was there not a waggon and a horse also.

Answer 3rd. I believe there was.

Interrogatory 4th. What do you believe the waggon and horse were worth.

Answer 4th. I believe they might be worth fifty or sixty dollars, perhaps a little more or perhaps a little less.

Interrogatory 5th. What do you believe **Peter** and the boy were worth, at the time they were valued.

Answer 5th. I believe **Peter** was worth three hundred or three hundred & twenty five dollars and the boy about two hundred and fifty dollars.

Interrogatory 6th. Did you ever hear **Mr. Bowdon** the defendant say any thing about a compromise, if so state it.

Answer 6th. I did, **Mr. Bowdon** told me that he would compromise with **Mr. Hendricks** if there were no other legatees but that if he compromised with he **Mr. Hendricks** there were other legatees that would be coming & he would let the law take its course.

Examination of the same witness by **Mr. Bowdon** the defendant.

Interrogatory 1st by the defendant.

When you became acquainted with **Ben** what did you think him to be worth.

Answer 1st. After I became acquainted with him I did not believe him to be worth any thing.

Interrogatory 2nd. Do you know what went with the boy, waggon and horse alluded to.

Answer 2nd. I understood his the defendant's brother **Travis Bowdon** was to have them, and I never have seen them since.

Interrogatory 3rd. Did you ever hear me lay any claim to the small boy, waggon & horse.

Answer 3rd. I did not.

Interrogatory 4th. Did you hear me mention **Mr. Hendricks'** name, in the conversation, alluded to in the 6th question by the plaintiffs.

Answer 4th. I did not but he **Mr. Hendricks** was the only suitor I had any knowledge of.

Further the deponent saith not.

Done on the 18th of Sepr. in the year A.D. 1835.

B. Chappell (Seal}

P. M. Powell, JP

Aldred Baldwin, JP

No exception taken on my part as to the time of receiving this notice.

John Hendricks

Deposition of Robert Powell, October 1835¹⁴

State of North Carolina

Richmond County

¹⁴ Begins at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99CD-196H-M> (Image 47); https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9061/images/007672824_00757 (Image 757).

We **Alfred Baldwin** and **James Williams** two of the justices of the peace for the county and state aforesaid have pursuant to a commission to us directed from the Court of Equity in the County of Randolph and state aforesaid proceeded to take the deposition of **Robert Powell** to be read as evidence in a suit depending in same Court of Equity in favour of the plaintiffs **John Hendrix** and wife and others against **John Bowdoin** and others.

Robert Powell witness after being duly sworn deposeth and sayeth as follows—

*Interrogatory 1st by the plaintiff **Hendricks***

Were you called upon by **Mr. John Bowdoin** to value some property which he brought from the State of Allabama belonging to his father **William Bowdoin** and if so at what time.

Answer. I was and it was about twelve years ago.

Interrogatory 2nd. What kind of property was it and what was the valuation.

Answer. Three negrose viz. **Ben, Peter** and a small buoy which he said he got from his father's estate. And **Ben** was valued at fifty dollars but I do not recollect the valuation of the other two.

Interrogatory 3rd. What do you believe **Peter** was worth at that time.

Answer. Three hundred and twenty five dollar.

Interrogatory 4. What do you think the buoy was worth at that time.

Answer. Two hundred and fifty dollars.

Interrogatory 5th. Did you ever hear **John Bowdoin** say any thing about a settlement or a compromise with **John Hendricks** one of the complainants and if so what was it.

Answer. He said after there was a chat that **John Hendricks** was about to sue him that he was at considerable expense in mooving his Step Mother from Alabama to the State of Georgia and had to give her fifty dollars he did not bring as much property as his own and his other part of the estate and said he was willing it should be settled but as there was other legatees and it not lawfully settled that he had rather it should go through a course of law and be finally settled.

Interrogatory 6th. What is the buoy worth at this time (18 or 19 years old).

Answer. A buoy of his age of sensible smart and well grown would be worth seven hundred dollars.

Examination of the same witness by **John Bowdon** the defendant.

Interrogatory 1st. After you became acquainted with **Ben** what did you think he was worth.

Answer. I think we valued him at that time at a fare price fifty dollars.

Interrogatory 2nd. What would you gave for **Ben**.

Answer. Nothing, for I would not have such a negro in my family without I had some of his connection.

Interrogatory 3rd. What do you think it was worth to fetch them negrose from the Alabama here.

Answer. I think about seventy five dollars.

Interrogatory 4th. Did you understand my brother took the buoy.

Answer. I did.

*Interrogatory by the Plaintiff **John Hendrix***.

If a man was there what would it be worth to fetch them negrose to this country.

Answer. About fifty dollars.

Interrogatory 5th [sic]. Did or did you not understand from **Mr. John Bowdon** that he never knew his father was ded until he got there.

Answer. I did heare him say he never knew it.

Interrogatory 6th. Did you or did you not hear **Mr. Bowdon** say whether there was an administration on his father's property.

Answer. I under stood from **Mr. Bowdon** that there was not when he left Alabama.

Interrogatory 7th. Did you under stand from **Mr. Bowdon** that his father dyed with out a will.

Answer. I did not understand that there was a will ...

... and further the deponent sayeth not.

Dun on the 17th of October 1835.

Robt. Powell {Seal}

James Williams JP

Alfred Baldwin JP

Opened by me

J. Worth CME

Passed upon & allowed to be read

April 1st 1836

J. Worth CME

Depositions of Britton Chappel and Samuel Crouch, May 1836¹⁵

State of North Carolina

Richmond County

We **James Williams** and **Pleasant M. Powell**, two of the justices of the peace for the county and state aforesaid, have pursuant to a commission to us directed, from the Court of Equity for the County of Randolph, proceed to take the depositions of **Britton Chappel**, **Samuel Crouch**, **David Hudson**, & **Robert Powell** to be read as evidence in behalf of the defendant in a suit depending in said Court of Equity, wherein **John Hendricks** & wife and others are plaintiffs and **John Bowdon** & others are defendants. The witnesses, being sworn in due form of law, depose and saith as follows.

Britton Chappel 1st witness. Examined by the defendants.

Interrogatory 1st. Have you been acquainted with **Peter** ever since he came into my possession, if so what do you believe to be his present value.

Answer 1st. I have, and don't believe at this time he is worth more than fifty dollars. \$50.

Interrogatory 2nd. Have you any knowledge of the value of the mare and waggon at the time they came into my possession.

Answer 2nd. The mare and waggon were valued, at the time but I have no distinct recollection of their valuation.

Interrogatory 3rd. Do you know whether **Ben** is dead if so how long since he died.

¹⁵ Begins at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9CD-1986-V> (Image 51);
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9061/images/007672824_00761 (Image 761).

Answer 3rd. He is dead, and died I believe about two years ago.

Interrogatory 1st by the plaintiffs. What do you think the services of those three negroes, **Ben**, **Peter**, and the boy were worth to **Mr. Bowdon**, since they came into his possession.

Answer 1st. I do not believe **Ben** was worth more than his victuals and clothes, and **Peter**, about two hundred and eighty dollars, and as to the boy he went out the possession of **Mr. Bowdon** and I do not think he was worth any thing to him.

Interrogatory 2nd. If the boy had remained in the possession of **Mr. Bowdon** and had lived and done well what do you think he would have been worth to him up to this time.

Answer 2nd. I believe if he had lived, and done well he would have been worth about two hundred and sixty dollars \$260.

Further the deponent saith not.

B. Chappell {Seal}

Examination of **Mr. Crouch** by the defendants.

Interrogatory 1st. Have you been acquainted with **Peter** ever since he came in to my possession.

Ans. 1st. I have.

Interrogatory 2nd. What do you believe to be his present value?

Ans. 2nd. I should not think he was worth more than his victuals and clothes.

Interrogatory 3rd. Do you believe he has good sense.

Ans. 3rd. I do not believe he has.

Interrogatory 4th. Do you recollect what length of time the boy stayed at my house.

Ans. 4th. He only stayed a few days.

Interrogatory 5th. Did you ever understand that I claimed to boy mare or waggon.

Ans. 5th. I do not.

Interrogatory 6th. Did not **Travis Bowdon** carry away the boy mare and waggon.

Ans. 6th. I understood they belonged to him & that he carried them away.

Examination by the plaintiffs.

Interrogatory 1st. Do you think **Peter** had sense enough to perform labour as a hand in the field.

Answer 1st. I think he had, to be with him and instruct him.

Interrogatory 2nd. How did you understand from **Bowdon** the defendant, that the boy mare and waggon belonged to **Travis Bowdon**.

Ans. 2nd. I heard **Bowdoin** the defendant say that it belonged to his bro. **Travis**.

Further this deponent saith not.

Samuel Crouch {Seal}.

Examination of **Mr. Hudson** – by the defendants.

Interrogatory 1st. How long since I brought those negroes from the Alabama.

Ans. 1st. Fifteen years the latter part of last April.

Interrogatory 2nd. Had you been acquainted with **Peter** ever since that time.

Ans. 2nd. I have more or less.

Interrogatory 3rd. How long did you work with **Peter**.

Ans. 3rd. About two years and six months.

Interrogatory 4th. Do you believe he had common sense.

Ans. 4th. I do not.

Interrogatory 5th. Have you not worked with him the most part of the time for the last fifteen months from this date.

Ans. 5th. I have.

Interrogatory 6th. What do you believe he is now worth.

Ans. 6th. I do not believe he is worth more than his victuals and clothes.

Interrogatory 7th. Do you recollect that I brought a small boy and old mare and waggon.

Ans 7th. I do.

Interrogatory 8th. What do you think the man and waggon were worth at the time.

Ans. 8th. I don't think they were worth more than thirty five or forty dollars at most.

*Interrogatory 9th. Don't you know that Bro. **Travis** came in a few days and took the boy mare and waggon away as his property.*

Answer 9th. He did.

Interrogatory 10. You now heard me lay any claim to the boy more and waggon, as my property.

Ans. 10. I never did.

*Interrogatory 11. Did **Peter** have sense enough to do his business about the plantation without there was attention paid to him.*

Ans. 11. He did not.

Examination by the plaintiffs

*Interrogatory 1st. How far did you live from **Mr. Bowdon** at the time he brought three negroes home.*

Ans. 1st. I lived in the house with him, having been bound to, and raised by him.

Further this deponent saith not.

David Hudson {Seal}

The foregoing depositions were taken at the house of **Pleasant M. Powell**, on this the 28th day of May 1836. And after taken were read correctly in their hearing and subscribed to my them, in our presents given under our hands &c. this day and date first above written.

P. M. Powell

James Williams

Opened by me

allowed to be read **J. Worth**

Depositions of Britton Chappel, Samuel Crouch, and David Hudson, March 1837¹⁶

State of North Carolina
Richmond County

March 24th 1837.

We **James Williams** and **Pleasant M. Powell** two of the acting justices of the peace for the County of Richmond and state aforesaid have this day (at the dwelling house of the said **Pleasant M. Powell**) pursuant to a commission to us directed from the Court of Equity for the County of Randolph and State aforesaid proceeded to take the depositions of **Britton Chappel, Samuel Crouch, & David Hudson** to be read as evidence in behalf of the defendants, in a suit depending in said Court of Equity wherein **John Hendricks** and others are complainants, and **John Bowdon** and others are defendants—

The witnesses being sworn in due form of law depose and saith as follows, (viz)—

Britton Chappel's evidence

Interrogatory 1st. Were you acquainted with a negro man **Ben** which I brought from the State of Alabama, if so what did you think he was worth at that time.

Answer 1st. I was, and after I became acquainted I did not think he was worth anything.

Interrog. 2nd. Do you recollect how long since **Ben** died.

Ansr. 2nd. Either two or three years.

Further this deponent saith not.

B. Chappell

P. M. Powell JP

James Williams JP

David Hudson's Deposition

¹⁶ Begins at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-89CD-19XL-Q> (Image 54);
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9061/images/007672824_00764 (Image 764).

Interrogatory 1st. Were you not living at my house at the time I brought an old negro man named **Peter** from the State of Alabama.

Ansr. 1st. I was.

Interog. 2nd. Have you been acquainted with **Peter** from that till the present time, and how long since I brought him.

Ansr. 2nd. I have, and it is sixteen years some time this spring.

Interog. 3. What do you believe he was worth, when you first saw him.

Ansr. 3rd. From the best recollection I have, I think he was worth about two hundred and fifty dollars.

Interog. 4th. Do you believe **Peter** to be a negro possessed of common sense.

Ansr. 4th. I do not think he had the sense of common negroes.

Interog. 5th. What do you believe to be **Peter's** present value.

Ansr. 5th. I do not think he is worth more than victuals and clothes.

Interog. 6th. Were you acquainted with the old man **Ben** and if so, what do you believe he as worth at the time I brought him from the State of Alabama.

Ansr. 6th. I was, and don't think he was worth more than his victuals and clothes.

Interog. 7th. From the time **Ben** came into my possession untill his death do you not believe he was an expense to me.

Ansr. 7th. I do.

Interog. 8th. Do you recollect an old mare & waggon and if so what do you believe they were worth.

Ansr. 8th. I do & believe they were worth about thirty five or forty dollars.

Interog. 9th. Do you recollect a small negro boy I brought from the State of Alabama at the time I brought **Peter** and **Ben**.

Ansr. 9th. I do.

Interog. 10. Did not you hear me say, that the negro boy mare and waggon belonged to brother **Travis** and that he came in a few days and took them away.

Ansr. 10. I do, and he came and took them away.

Further this deponent saith not.

David Hudson

P. M. Powell JP

James Williams JP

Samuel Crouch's Deposition

Interog. 1st. Do you know how long since I brought **Ben, Peter**, and the boy, from the State of Alabama.

Ansr. 1st. I think it is sixteen years some time this spring.

Interog. 2nd. Have you been acquainted with **Peter** and **Ben** from this till the present time.

Ansr. 2nd. I have, until **Ben's** death which was two or three years ago this spring.

Interog. 3rd. What do you think **Ben** was worth when you first knew him.

Ansr. 3rd. I think he was worth about his victuals & clothes.

Interog. 4th. Do you believe **Peter** is a negro of common sense.

Ansr. 4th. I do not.

Interog. 5th. What do you think **Peter** is worth at this time.

Ansr. 5th. I do not think he is worth more than his victuals and clothes.

Interog. 6th. Do you know what went with the boy the waggon & mare.

Ansr. 6th. I understood they were the property of **Travis Bowdon**, and that he came & took them off and they have never been in the possession of the defendant **John Bowdon** since.

Further this deponent saith not.

Samuel Crouch

P. M. Powell JP

James Williams JP

Opened by me **J. Worth CME**

Passed upon & allowed to be read

J. Worth CME

Depositions of David Hudson & Samuel Crouch, September 1837¹⁷

State of North Carolina

Richmond County

In obedience to the annexed commition to us directed we on this day being the 2nd day of September 1837 at the store house of **James & Stephen Williams** proceed to take the deposition of **David Hutson & Samuel Crouch** by the concent of the parteyes that is to say **John Bowdon** as defendant and John Hendrix and **Jacob Craven** plantiff. Each partey being present.

The said **David Hutson** and **Samuel Crouch** being duly sworn and sayeth

1st **David Hutson** deposition by the defendant

Interrogatory 1st. Were you not living at my house at the time I brought an old negro man by the name of **Peter** from the State of Alabama.

Ans. 1. I was.

Interrogatory 2nd. Have you been acquainted with **Peter** from then up to the present time.

Answer 2nd. I was.

Interrogatory 3rd. How many years since.

Ans. 3rd. Sixteen years last spring.

Interrogatory 4th. What do you believe he was worth when you first saw him.

Ans. 4th. I believe he was worth two hundred and fifty dollars.

Interrogatory 5th. Do you believe **Peter** to be a negro possessed of common sense.

Ans. 5th. I do not.

¹⁷ Begins at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89CD-19X2-Y> (Image 42);
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9061/images/007672824_00752 (Image 752).

Interrogatory 6th. What do you believe to be **Peter's** present value.

Ans. 6th. I do not believe him to be worth more than his vituals and cloths.

Interrogatory 7th. Were you acquainted with an old negro by the name of **Ben** that I brought from Alabama.

Ans. 7th. I was.

Interrogatory 8th. What do you believe him to be worth at the time I brought him from Alabama.

Ans. 8th. Not more than his vituals and cloths.

Interrogatory 9th. From the time **Ben** came into my possession until his death do you not believe he was an expense to me.

Ans. 9th. I do.

Interrogatory 10th. Do you recollect an old mare and waggon and if so what do you believe they were worth.

Ans. 10th. I do and believe they were worth thirty five and forty dollars.

Interrogatory 11th. Do you recollect a small negro boy I brought from Alabama by the name of Silas at the same time I brought **Ben** and **Peter**.

Ans. 11th. I do.

Interrogatory 12th. Did you not hear me say that the negro boy **Silas** and mare and waggon was for brother **Travis Bowdon** and that he came in a few days and took them away.

Ans. 12th. I did and he came in a few days and took them away.

Interrogatory 12th [sic]. What do you believe the hire of **Peter** to be worth since he came into my possession.

Ans. 12th. I do no think that he has been worth more than two hundred and sixty dollars.

Interrogatory 1st by the plaintiff.

Were you not bound to the defendant **Bowdon** at the time he brought the negroes from Alabama.

Ans. 1st. I was.

Interrogatory 2nd. Was not **Peter** a constant hand in the field at work with the other hands with the exception of sickness.

Ans. 2nd. He was.

David Hudson {Seal}

Deposition of **Samuel Crouch**

Interrogatory 1st by the defendant Bowdon.

Do you recollect how long since I brought **Ben** and **Peter** and the negro boy **Silas** from the State of Alabama.

Ans. I do and it was about sixteen years last spring.

Interrogatory 2nd. Have you been acquainted with **Peter** and **Ben** from then up to the present time.

Ans. I have until **Ben**'s death which is between three and four years ago.

Interrogatory 3rd. What do you think **Ben** was worth at the time I brought him from Alabama.

Ans. 3rd. I do not think he was worth more than his vituals and cloths.

Interrogatory 4th. Do you believe **Peter** a negro possessed of common sense.

Ans. 4th. I do not.

Interrogatory 5th. What do you think **Peter** to be worth at this time.

Ans. 5th. I do not think him worth more than his vituals and cloths.

Interrogatory 6th. What do you believe **Peter**'s hire to be worth since I had him in possession.

Ans. 6th. About two hundred and fifty dollars.

Interrogatory 7th. Have you not good reason to believe that **Travis Bowdon** came in a few days and took the negro boy **Silas** waggon and mare.

Ans 7th. I have.

Interrogatory 1st by the plaintiff.

Do you believe **Peter** to have been a constant hand in the field with the exception of sickness.

Ans 1st. I do.

Interrogatory 2nd. Did you see a waggon and mare that the defendant **Bowdon** brought from Alabama.

Ans 2nd. I did.

Interrogatory 3rd. What do you believe the mare and waggon to be worth at the time he brought them to this county.

Ans. To the best of my recollection about forty dollars.

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this 2nd September 1837.

Samuel Crouch

James Williams JP

Alfred Baldwin JP

Opened by me & allowed to be read

J. Worth CME

Award, 1839¹⁸

To Fall Term 1839

Ashboro, June 27th 1839

John Hendricks & wife & others

vs. **John Bowdon** & others

The Hon. Judge of the Court of Equity to behold for the county of Randolph at Fall Term 1839.

To the order of reference in this case, the undersigned have this day examined the evidence, on file among the records in this suit and have been attended by two of the complainants, **John Hendricks** & **Jacob Craven**, and the defendant **John Bowdon**, and

¹⁸ Begins at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89CD-19XL-6> (Image 31);
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9061/images/007672824_00741 (Image 741).

after hearing the allegations of the parties present and considering the bill and answer and depositions, we award that the defendant **John Bowdon**, pay to the complainants as follow. (Viz),

• To James Odell	\$103.20
• To John Hendricks and wife Nancy	\$34.40
• To Hannah Macon	\$34.40
• To Isaac Lawrence & Patsy his wife	\$34.40
• To Jacob Craven & Sarah his wife	\$34.40
• To Thomas Macon	\$34.40
• To William Macon	\$34.40
• To Barzillan Johnson	\$11.46
• To James Johnson Junr.	\$11.46
• To Jane Johnson	\$11.46
• To Nathaniel Macon	\$44.23
• To John Macon	\$44.23
	\$432.44

We award that the Defendant pay the above amount of four hundred and thirty two dollars and forty four cents unto the office of the clerk & master in Equity for Randolph County to be by him paid to the complainants as above set forth. We further award that he pay interest on the aforesaid same from the date of this award and the costs of this suit.

J. Worth

P. M. Powell

Elisha Coffin

Petition and decree as to Nathaniel Macon, 1844¹⁹

North Carolina

Randolph County

In Equity

Fall Term 1844

¹⁹ Begins at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99CD-196H-W> (Image 18); https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9061/images/007672824_00728 (Image 728).

John Henrix and **Jacob Craven** make oath that some where about ten years ago they commenced at suit at the instance of the next of kin of **William Bowdown**, against **John Bowdown**, who had taken all the effects of the said **William** into his hand.

That in prosecuting said suit they were at much expense and trouble, and lost a great deal of time in traveling and taking testimony. That among others of said next of kin there was one **Nat. Macon** who left the state before said suit was brought to a close, and whose residence is now unknown if alive. That his share of the recovery had in the above mentioned suit has been paid unto the office of the clerk & master of this court, and has been there many years, unproductive & without interest. That before the commencement of said suit the said **Macon** agreed with your petitioner **John Henrix** to bear his rate able part of the expenses of prosecuting the same and that his portion of the said bill of expenses is ten dollars.

They pray your Honor for an order for the clerk and master of this court to pay out to them the sum of ten dollars out of the share of the said **Nat.** now in his office and to loan out the balance upon interest.

John Hendricks

Jacob H. Craven

Sworn to & subscribed
before me this 27th Sept 1844
J. Worth, CME

North Carolina
Randolph County

In Equity
Fall Term 1844

It is ordered by the court on the hearing of the within petition now had, that the clerk and master pay to the petitioners **Hendricks & Craven** the sum of ten dollars out of the money now in the office belonging to **Nathaniel Macon** and that the he loan out the balance of said money upon interest and take bond & surety for the same subject to the orders of this court hereafter to be made in the premises.

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