

SLAVERY IN BUCHANAN COUNTY

by
ROY E. COY



Home for Aged and Dependent Ex-Slaves of the U. S. A.

One hundred years ago, and a few more, slavery was taken for granted in Buchanan County and all of Missouri.

Preliminary report on the Eighth Census of the year 1860 shows Buchanan County having 21,799 whites with 101 free Negroes and 2,011 Negro slaves. The following is a typical letter of bill of sale of that period.

Know all men by these presents that I William Riley of the County of Andrew and State of Missouri for and in consideration of the sum of seven hundred and fifty dollars to me in hand paid by John Corby of the City of St. Joseph County of Buchanan and State of aforesaid at and before the ensembling and delivery hereof the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have given granted bargained and sold and by these presents do give grant bargain

and sell, unto the said John Corby and his heirs. My Negro girl named Ellen aged about nineteen years and her female child named Vina aged about nine months the said Negro girl Ellen being the same that I purchased from John Samuels of the town of Savannah County of Andrew and State aforesaid to have and to hold the said Negro girl and her child unto him the said John Corby and his heirs forever to his and their own use and benefit. And

I the said William Riley do hereby covenant to and with the said John Corby and his heirs for myself and my heirs that the said Negro girl Ellen and her child Vina is free from all diseases and blemishes and is sound in all respects and that the said Negro girl Ellen and her child Vina are slaves for life and that I warrant and defend the said Negroes to him the said John Corby and his heirs against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.

In Testimony whereof I have hereto set my hand and seal this 5th day of April in the year of our Lord Eighteen Hundred and Fifty Three.

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of

James W. Talbot
Wm. Riley

To Whom it May Concern :

We, the following Officials, Clergy, Bankers, Business Men and Citizens of the City of St Joseph, County of Buchanan and State of Missouri, take pleasure in commending The Home for Aged and Dependent Ex-Slaves of the U. S. A. to the charitable considerations of the citizens of the United States and others who may be charitably inclined or in sympathy with the aged and dependent Ex-slaves of the United States of America. The home for aged and dependent Ex-Slaves of the U. S. A. was duly incorporated and chartered under the laws of the State of Missouri as a Benevolent Association, February 6, 1896. C. S. Baker is known as founder, assisted by R. L. Waldron, W. H. Jones, A. J. Love, Rena Clark as incorporators; an Executive Board of Directors with Local Board, James Trent, Abram Quarles, W. A. Morris, Thomas Young, John Jackson, Isaiah Harrison, E. M. Ewing. The first building having been erected on the corner of Seventeenth Street and Highland Avenue in this city, an effort is being put forth to erect the other four buildings by popular subscription. Being in hearty sympathy with the movement and cause, we hope it may receive the hearty approval and support of all nationalities and sympathizers with the aged and dependent ex-slaves of the U. S. A.

Henry M. Ramey, Circuit Judge.
W. G. W. Richie, Justice of the Peace.
Joel E. Gates, Recorder of Deeds.
Wm. H. Croy, Assessor.
J. W. Trice, Police Commissioner.
L. A. Vories, Mayor.
W. E. Jamieson, Councilman.
C. A. Tygart, "
W. J. Robertson, "
F. M. Lemmon, "
Chas. F. Shepherd, "
G. D. Berry, "
D. H. Schmidt, "
Jno. Donovan, Sr. "
S. L. Connett, "
W. L. Buechle, "
E. B. Norris, "
John M. Stewart, "

St. Joseph, Missouri, once had a home for aged and dependent ex-slaves of U.S.A. with offices at No. 1 and 4, 118½ North 5th Street. The year was 1896.

Mr. C. S. Baker, President of this home wrote the following letter to Mr. Thomas E. Tootle, grandfather of Mrs. George Eckel.

St. Joseph, Mo., Dec. 13, 1896

Mr. Thomas E. Tootle Esq.

We mail you a photograph of the Home to be exclusive for old Negroes who must have performed slave labor. This photograph shows what progress we had made up to the time it was destroyed partially by the wind storm in August. Owing to the unfinished condition of the building we had to progress slow with the work as times were hard and contributions have been from

1c to five dollars but the approval of our worthy undertaking has been all that any one could hope for. Any assistance that you might feel disposed to give us in repairing the loss and further completing the Home would be appreciated by us and may be sent to my office as applied in any names you might dictate or direct our social standing in life being identified with the colored race would not permit us to call and consume your valuable time unless so instructed. Therefore we send you this communication and the photograph feeling satisfied that you will do what your judgment dictates best. I am resp.


C. S. Baker, Pres.

MUSEUM GRAPHIC wishes to thank Mrs. George Eckel for the information and picture in this little story.

C. W. Brown.
C. A. Mosman.
C. J. Borden.
E. J. Green, County Collector.
Harry Cox, County Treasurer.
A. B. Duncan, Prosecuting Attorney.
R. M. Nash, County Clerk.
W. M. Stanton, County Judge.
James P. Thomas, Probate Judge.
Peter J. Carolus, Police Judge.
Frank M. Atkinson, Postmaster.
Wm. H. Finch, Councilman.
A. S. Long, M. D.
John T. Chestnut, Circuit Clerk.
Wm. M. Shepherd, Ex-Mayor.
John D. Clank.
Geo. C. Crother, Cong. 4th Dist.
Chas. C. Curtis, Wasnington, D. C.

J. E. Custer, Councilman.
J. M. Cline, "
Hans Neilson, "
J. W. Bruce, "
R. M. Abercrombie, "
R. D. Gilkey, City Treasurer.
A. W. Brewster, State Senator.
E. Lindsay, Pres. State Natl. Bank.
John H. Kelley, Attorney.
Joseph Andriano, Sheriff.
Harry Keene, County Judge.
Edgar Sleppy, County Judge.
E. R. Hartwig, First Natl. Bank.
Rev. F. M. Graham.
G. H. McDaniel.
B. R. Monroe.
E. M. Cahron, Pastor Francis St. Bap. Ch.
J. W. Sexton, Pastor A. M. E. Church.

(OVER)


C. S. BAKER,
President and Founder.
LOCAL BOARD
James Trent
Abram Quarles
W. A. Morris
Thomas Young
John Jackson
Isaiah Harrison
E. M. Ewing
R. L. Waldron
Depository
Central Savings Bank

RENA CLARK,
Secretary.

R. L. WALDRON,
Sup't and Treasurer.

The Home FOR...
Aged and Dependent Ex-Slaves
of the U. S. A.

(CHARTERED)

Offices, Nos. 1 and 4, 118½ North Fifth Street.

ST. JOSEPH, MO., 189.....


W. H. JONES,
Council.
EXECUTIVE BOARD
DIRECTORS
C. S. Baker
R. L. Waldron
W. H. Jones
Rena Clark
A. J. Love
Lula Ireland,
General Solicitor.
Rhetta Ireland,
Assistant Solicitor.

Mr.

We are engaged in an effort to build a Home for Aged and Dependent Ex-Slaves of the United States. Many of those whom we seek to help are more than one hundred years old, have no known relatives living, and are wholly dependent upon the charity of the people.

Although there are hundreds of charitable institutions in the United States, there are none for this class of people. The laws and customs of the people, together with their conditions of life, are such that they cannot peacefully seek and be admitted to such institutions without creating or stirring up race prejudices. This we believe should and can be avoided, and at the same time the helpless ex-slaves taken care of.

We have adopted this method in order to provide such a place for them, and we feel grateful to all who give us any assistance.

We are receiving contributions from the Governors of the several States and from other distinguished statesmen and kind hearted women.

Business men, and women and private individuals, give us such encouragement as your conditions will allow.

In order to secure one brick from the Governors of each State, Communications have been sent them and they have responded, so that one brick has been sent representing each State. The following are a few of the many letters from various Governors. Believing that the faithful years of service of the slaves and the general habits of those threescore years and ten commends them to the charitable consideration of all men and women.

Endorsements of a few of the many Governors of the U. S. A.

State of Missouri, Executive Dept.
Jefferson City, Mo., July 30, 1895.
C. S. Baker, St. Joseph, Mo.
Dear Sir: I will cause a brick to be sent you in accordance with your request.

Respectfully,
WILLIAM J. STONE.

Baltimore, Md., July 30, 1895.
Hon. Frank Brown,
Governor of Maryland,
Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your favor of the 24th inst. inclosing letter from C. S. Baker, President of the Home for Dependent Ex-Slaves, St. Joseph, Mo. I take pleasure in complying with your request, and will express several bricks, which I am sure will maintain the reputation of the State of Maryland.

Yours truly,
ALEX. H. RUSSELL.

Executive Department,
Annapolis, Md. July 31, 1895.
C. S. Baker, St. Joseph, Mo.
Dear Sir: By the annexed communication you will see that I have ar-

ranged for a brick to be forwarded.
Yours very truly,
FRANK BROWN.

Dubuque, Iowa, Aug. 16, 1895.
C. S. Baker, St. Joseph, Mo.
Dear Sir: I have yours of the 2nd inst. relating to Home of Dependant Ex-Slaves. I wish you success in your undertaking, and will at some convenient time be glad to make a small Contribution in aid of your project.

Very truly yours,
W. B. ALLISON,
United States Senator.

State of Kansas, Executive Dept.
Governor's Office.
Topeka, Kas., July 26, 1895.
C. S. Baker, St. Joseph, Mo.

My Dear Sir: In response to your favor of July 20, I today express to you a brick for the building to be erected for the use of ex-slaves. I am in hearty sympathy with the movement, and hope that it will receive a generous support from the people of Missouri and Kansas.

Yours truly,
E. N. MORRILL.

Executive Chamber,
Madison, Wis., Aug. 16, 1895.
C. S. Baker, St. Joseph, Mo.
My Dear Sir: The Governor received your favor of July 27, asking for a donation for a home for dependent slaves. If you will inform him of the cost of one brick, which you wish him to contribute, he will gladly remit.
Sincerely Yours,
WM. J. ANDERSON,
Private Secretary.

State of Iowa, Senate Chamber,
De Moines, Aug. 16, 1895.
C. S. Baker, St. Joseph, Mo.

My Dear Sir: I send you by my friend, Mr. Graham, an engineer on the C. B. & Q. R. R., three bricks to be used in erecting a home for dependent ex-slaves in St. Joseph, Mo., as you requested. One of the bricks is contributed by Mr. D. A. Enslow, a brick-maker and builder of Chariton, Iowa. I bid you God speed in the noble work in which you are engaged.

Your obedient servant,
WARREN S. DUCCAN.