

Deed of Emancipation of William Swinney's Slaves

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Whereas William D[.] Swinney late of Howard County in the State of Missouri made his last Will and testament, wherein he devised certain slaves to his widow Lucy Ann Swinney to hold and enjoy during her natural life, with a reversion to his son Jas O[.] Swinney and his granddaughter Berenice Morrison, and whereas James O[.] Swinney and William M[.] Morrison were appointed the executors of the Last Will and testament aforesaid with authority to divide[,] sell or disperse of any or all the property of said deceased so as to distribute the same between the said son and granddaughter, and whereas a large number of slaves came to the possession of the said executors subject to be sold or divided between the [MS. illegible] aforesaid and whereas it is thought advisable by all the parties interested in said slaves that they be emancipated under certain instructions and that a sale or distribution of the same forthwith will be for the interest of all, and whereas William M[.] Morrison is also the trustee for his daughter Berenice Morrison and is authorized [*text stricken through*] by the said Will, to receive all portions of said Estate to which his daughter is entitled, under the Will, to the intent therefore that the intentions of said testator may be fully carried out, we the undersigned executors have agreed that

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the full value of all of the slaves belonging to the said estate subject to be distributed as aforesaid including the slaves held for life by the widow, amounts to the sum of One thousand dollars to which the said Berenice would be entitled to one half, to wit the sum of Five Hundred dollars, which said sum of money the said William M[.] Morrison agrees to advance to his said daughter to be held in trust for her under the said Will, as other property devised to her. Therefore in consideration of the premises and in full faith and confidence that the said James O[.] Swinney will carry into effect the intentions of the parties, so far as is consistent with humanity to the slaves and the interests of the community, we the said William M. Morrison[,] Executor and trustee as aforesaid and the said Lucy Ann Swinney[,] widow as aforesaid do by there presents [give?][,] sell[,] transfer and [convey unto?] the said James O[.] Swinney all the right[,] title and interest we have in and to said slaves belonging to the said deceased[,] that is to say the said Morrison transfers all rights both as executor and trustee and the said Lucy Ann Swinney her life estate in the slaves devised to her[.] In witness whereof all the said parties have hereto set their

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hands and seals to this agreement, this eighteenth day of August AD 1863.

L[.]A[.] Swinney (seal mark)
Wm. M. Morrison (seal mark)
Exr. & Trustee [MS. illegible]
Berenice Morrison
Jas. O. Swinney Exr. (seal mark)

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We the undersigned hereby mutually pledge ourselves, our heirs and assigns to pay in equal proportion the cost or necessary expense incurred in conveying out of the State of Missouri all the slaves purchased by Jas. O. Swinney from the Executors & widow of Wm. D. Swinney decd.[,] in accordance with the deed of emancipation to be made and recorded by said J.O. Swinney.

L[.]A[.] Swinney
Wm. M. Morrison
Jas. O. Swinney