

From Debbie Cloud: This is a document, dated March 19th 1866, binding a freed slave, Jerry Hall, to Dr. Nathaniel Barber Hall. Prior to his freedom, Jerry was owned by Dr. Hall. His name was Jeremiah and according to Dr. Hall's bible he was born Jan. 2, 1854. His mother, Rose, died just a couple of weeks after giving birth on January 24, 1854. The following is a transcription of a court document that assigned guardianship of Jerry to Dr. Hall.

State of Georgia  
Webster County

Whereas as the fact having been brought to my knowledge that Jerry Hall a freed boy of the age of twelve years is without father or mother or any legal agent to protect him in his rights and the law requiring that minors so situated should be bound to some suitable person until they arrive at lawful age. Therefore I C. R. Moore Ordinary of Webster county by the authority vested in me do hereby bind unto N.B. Hall of said county the said freed boy minor on the following terms viz that the said N.B. Hall doth obligate himself to furnish said free boy with good and wholesome quarters food [??] and clothing and medical and other necessary attention in sickness and protect the said minor in person and property during his minority and when he arrives at the age of twenty one years pay him the sum of one hundred dollars with to good suits of clothes extra with a pr of shoes hat and blanket. The said freedman is to live with and serve the said Hall during his minority and obey all lawful orders of the said Hall or his agent they using such means to cause his obedience as a father would to cause the obedience of his child.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and official signature this March 19th 1866.

C. R. Moore, Ordinary