

Court Records

State of South Carolina – District of Fairfield – 10 January 1805

Know all persons whom it may concern that we, Micajah Pickett, Sr. and Kissanah Pickett, the wife of the said Micajah, have this day made a final separation settlement. . . . Know ye that I, Micajah Pickett Senior, of the State of North Carolina and Rutherford Co. have this day given to my said wife, Kissanah Pickett, my Bond of this state for thirty thousand dollars, conditioned and payable to the said Kissanah Pickett in nine thousand eight hundred fifty silver dollars with lawful interest from this day ins. Till paid in the manner following, that is to say, pay to our son Jeptha Pickett fourteen hundred silver dollars with lawful interest until paid, also, pay to our son, Isaiah Pickett fourteen hundred dollars with lawful interest until paid, also pay to our daughter Elizabeth Mobley one thousand dollars with lawful interest until paid; also pay to our daughter Mary Jones four hundred dollars to be paid in a young Negro girl for her use during of the said Mary Jones' life and at the death of the said Mary Jones, said girl to be property of our son, Charles Pickett, to him and his heirs for ever; the lastly pay to my said wife, Kissanah Pickett five thousand, six hundred and fifty seven dollars, with lawful interest from this day until paid. Which, know ye that we the said Micajah Pickett Sr. and Kissanah his wife do hereby constitute and appoint our sons Jeptha Pickett, Charles Pickett, and James Pickett, also Samuel Mobley, either of them as trustees for the use of the said Kissanah Pickett, and that the Kissanah Pickett or the said Jeptha Pickett or Charles Pickett or James Pickett or said Samuel Mobley, or either of them, shall on the day of my death of said Micajah Pickett, all the said amounts is duly paid. And the said five thousand, six hundred and fifty dollars that is due to the said Kissanah Pickett and all of its interest when collected will be retained and kept in the hands of either of the said trustees for the use of the said Kissanah Pickett -?- of her life, and the said trustees is hereby, either of them, required to see that the said Kissanah is comfortable and decently supported in everything that her condition may require, having regard to her station, and that the said trustees is hereby further authorized and empowered to pay all accounts that may be due from this day until the death of the said Micajah that may be for the support and maintenance of said Kissanah, and having regard also to the labor of the two Negroes, viz Jim and Violet as the case may be. And at the death of the said Kissanah Pickett, all the residue of the said five thousand six hundred and fifty seven dollars and all its interest that may be thereon, the said trustees or trustee shall equally divide and pay over to our six sons, to wit, William Pickett, Macajah Pickett Jr., James Pickett, John Pickett, Reuben Pickett, and Charles Pickett, to their use to them and their heirs forever.

As witness hereunto, we doth set our hands and affixed our seals, this tenth day of January in the year of our Lord A.D. One thousand eight hundred and five.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of James Knox – Reuben Starke – William -?-

Micajah Pickett  
Kissanah Pickett

22258

The first tract of land to be sold was that of Mr. J. Henry Gladden, consisting of 334 acres, sold to Joseph Ernest Erwin, who was a representative of the proposed power company. This tract of land was inherited by Mr. Gladden from his grandmother, Mrs. Charlotte Terrell, and brought \$6,000. Lands of Mrs. Boylston, W. L. Roddey, Fannie White, Lou Howze, Fishing Creek and The Catawba River bound it. Mr. Gladden is now a resident of Chester and is the father of Mr. John C. Gladden. This deed was made on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1900.

Another tract of land bought about a year after the above-mentioned tract, was that which was owned by Messrs. J.J. Stringfellow, W.S. Gregg and J. Harvey Smith, all now deceased. This was a tract of 400 acres and was bought by the above named parties from Daniel McCullough on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1879. Mr. McCullough got a deed to this tract in 1844 from the Superintendent of Public Works. Stringfellow, Smith and Gregg paid McCullough \$2,000 for the tract. Mr. Stringfellow, sold his part, commonly known as the Dearborn tract, for \$10,000. Mr. Gregg had died and left six heirs, who sold their shares, or one-third, for \$7,000. Mr. Smith had died and in settling his estate the Clerk of Court sold his part, which was bought by Thomas Gresham, who sold to the power representative for \$7,000. It will be seen that this land bought for \$2,000 in 1879, and which was sold in 1901, brought \$24,000 or twelve times the amount paid.

The deed from the Gregg heirs gives the address of five of them, which was as follows; E.L. Gregg, Rusk, Texas; John H. Gregg, Morristown, Tennessee; Esther E. Suson, Greenville, Tennessee; Anne Chambers and Alice Gregg, Caney Branch, Tennessee.

Another sale of considerable note was that of 397  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres, the property of Jno. L. Agurs, J. Killough Henry, George W. Gage, Thomas G. Patrick and Ferguson H. Barber, which brought \$21,000.

Next I find Davis, one of the representatives who had bought land, deeding it to Erwin, the other representative. Then Erwin deeds a large number of tracts to the American Development Company, a company organized under the laws of New Jersey. Then we come to the Southern Power Company and I find that at one "whack", The American Development Company deeds them a large number of tracts, all of which amounted to 3,808 acres.

In the development of a hydroelectric power plant the acquiring of thousands of acres of land becomes necessary due to the fact that the water backs up for miles. That the power company has paid good prices for land is well known—they have to have it to develop the plants and the landowners know it, hence they are given an opportunity to demand a good price.

To know just how many acres of land is owned up and down both sides of Catawba River and tributaries, and what it cost the power company, would be of interest—it must amount to "big" money.