

It is therefore ordered adjudged and decreed that the said Administrator upon the purchasers complying with the terms of the sale shall execute and deliver to said purchasers a conveyance of the property sold fully divesting said property out of the estate and investing it in the purchaser or purchasers

Sterling C. Robertson
Chf Justice B. Co.

Estate of Joseph Bishop Dec'd 3 The Report of the Commissioners appointed to partition the estate of Joseph Bishop Dec'd continued until the next term of the court

Court adjourned

Sterling C. Robertson
Chf Justice B. Co.

Estate of John P. Blackburn Dec'd 3 In Vacation Aug. 4th 1858
The adm^r of said Estate having presented his acct. for final settlement It is ordered that legal notice be given that said acct. will be acted upon at the August Term next. of the Probate Court in & for the County of Bell Texas

Sterling C. Robertson
Chf Justice B. Co.



339

Estate of John P.

State of Texas } Probate Court
County of Bell } January Term 1856

Application
for letters of
Administration

To the Hon J. N. Houston

Your Petitioner William

A Rickett would respectfully represent
unto your Honor that John P. Blackburn
departed this life in the Spring of 1855.

That he has large property in this county
which is liable to waste wherefore he prays
your Honorable Court to grant Letters of
Administration to your Petitioner of all and
Sundry the goods and chattes belonging to
said Estate and as in duty bound will ever
pray &c.

John J. Flint
Atty for Pet.

The State of Texas }
County of Bell } Know all men by
these presents that we William A Rickett
as principal and

as Sureties, are held and
firmly bound unto the Chief Justice of the
County of Bell in the sum of Five Thousand
dollars for the payment of which well and
truly to be made unto the said Chief Justice
we bind ourselves, our heirs executors and
administrators, jointly and severally firmly
by these presents - Signed with our hands,
and sealed with our seals the seals being
scraps the day of A. D. 1856.

The condition of the above obligation
is such that whereas the above bound
William A. Rickett, has been appointed
Administrator of the Estate of John P.
Blackburn Dec'd by the Chief Justice of
Bell County. Now if the said William
A Rickett shall well and truly perform all

Filed Jan. 14 1856.

Bond.
Filed
Feb. 13 1856.

Blackburn Deceased

the duties required of him under said appointment then this obligation shall be null and void; otherwise to remain of full force and effect

Wm A. Ricketts *CB*
 Jas A. Grimes *CB*
 L. P. Grimes *CB*
 David Gray *CB*
 David M. Elms *CB*

Approved 13th Feb. 1856.

John N. Houston
 Chief Justice, Bell Co.

Copy of Notice of Administrators Notice
 Letters of Administration having been granted to William A. Ricketts upon the Estate of John P. Blackburn Deceased at the January Term 1856. of the Probate Court of Bell County all persons indebted to said estate will please come forward and pay up, and those persons holding claims against said estate will present them to the undersigned for allowance within twelve months or they will be postponed,
 Belton February 15th 1856.

William A. Ricketts
 Administrator

I do hereby certify that I posted a copy of the above notice at the Court House door in the town of Belton County of Bell this 15th day of February 1856.

D. J. Chamberlain, clk.

State of Texas
 County of Bell
 Inventory Filed Feb 25th 1856. We the undersigned appraisers appointed by the Hon Probate Court of said county for the Estate of John P. Blackburn Deceased do inventory and appraise the property belonging to said Estate as follows: to wit: The Real Estate first

- No. 1. Three hundred acres of land situated on Nolands creek (Homestead) in Bell County at \$2.50 per acre \$750.00
- " 2. Seventy acres of land @ 1\$ per acre in Bell County \$ 70.00

The personal property as follows:

- " 3. One Negro man 36 years old at \$250.00
- " 4. One Sp. Girl 12 years old at \$650.00
- " 5. One hundred and Seventy five bushels of Corn at 80 cts per bush more or less \$140.00
- " 6. Fifty four head of Stock hogs \$ 105.00
- " 7. Eleven head of Cattle \$ 75.00
- " 8. Six Mules @ 12.50 per head \$ 750.00
- " 9. One waggon at \$ 65.00
- " 10. one Do at \$ 30.00
- " 11. one Lot of plows + utensils \$ 15.00
- " 12. one Crop Cut saw + Sundry articles \$ 31.00
- " 13. one Lot of gearing \$ 30.00
- " 14. one Lot of Irons at 2.50
- \$2943.50.
- No 15. Two rifle guns at \$ 20.00
- " 16. Two beds + furniture at \$ 45.00
- " 17. Two trunks at \$ 6.00
- " 18. Table furniture + Cooking utensils at \$ 15.00
- " 19. one Lot of Books \$ 3.00
- " 20. One clock at \$ 8.00
- \$ 3,040.50.

And that the same is Community property

We do solemnly swear that the foregoing is a full and complete Inventory and appraisement of all of the Estate of John P. Blackburn D.C. as far as the same has come to our knowledge

C. B. Roberts

James M. Croft.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18th day of February 1856.

Witness my hand and seal of office at office in Belton the date above

Wm. J. Hunt
Notary Public
Bell Co. Texas

I, William A. Ricketts Admr of the estate of John P. Blackburn dec^d, do represent that the following claims are due and owing the said estate -

No. 1. James H. Casey's note due the 10th day of January 1855, for \$77.50.

" 2. J. P. Blackburn's note due January 1st 1853, for \$20.00

and that the same are community property and that the said inventory and list is a full and complete inventory and list of the property and claims belonging to the estate of the said John P. Blackburn Dec^d. as far as the same has come to my knowledge

W. A. Ricketts
Admr &c

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25th day of February A. D. 1856.

D. J. Chamberlin, clk

The State of Texas

Bell County To the Hon. John N. Houston Chief Justice of Bell County;

Petition
Filed

March 31st
1856.

Your petitioners Merriweather W. Blackburn & Richard J. Blackburn would respectfully represent unto Your Honor, that they are the legal and bonafide owners of eighteen head of Hogs, which are included in the inventory of the Estate of John P. Blackburn deceased, Your Petitioners pray your Honor to set aside said eighteen head of Hogs from the Estate of said Blackburn dec^d and that they be decreed to us your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray &c

M. W. Blackburn
Richard J. Blackburn

The State of Texas To the Hon. Chief Justice
 Bell County of said County
 application
 for Sale. The undersigned Administrator
 Filed of the Estate of John P. Blackburn Dec. repre-
 March 31st sents that it would be for the interest of said
 1856. Estate that the following described property
 belonging to said Estate; To wit, Five head
 of Mules, Six head of Cattle - one waggon -
 a lot of hogs - a lot of gearings - two Rifle
 guns - + a small lot of Books - should be
 sold at as early a period as practicable -
 The Mules + the other stock are of great
 expense to the Estate + liable to be scattered
 + estrayed, and that the balance of the prop-
 erty above named is perishable property.
 Your Petitioner further represents that there
 are claims against said Estate which have
 already been allowed by him to the amount
 of \$257.⁰⁰/₁₀₀ and that there are other valid
 Claims which have not been presented -
 He further represents that there is no money
 on hand belonging to said Estate with which
 to pay said debts or to pay the expenses of this
 Administration which he believes will be
 about one hundred dollars. The premises
 considered he prays your Honor that he be
 authorized to sell said property on a credit
 of twelve months and that the necessary
 order of Sale be made + such other + further
 relief be granted as the equity of the case may
 require - as in duty bound will ever pray &c
 W^m A. Ricketts, Admr

Estate of John P. Blackburn Dec.
 Probate Court March Term 1856.
 Petition and To the Hon. John A. Houston Judge of said
 choice of widow Court
 Filed Your petitioner Nancy Blackburn rep-
 March 31st sents to your Honorable Court that she
 1856. chooses the following property as executed
 under execution and set off to her at
 the February Term of your said Court
 to wit: Twenty head of hogs - five

Milk Cans - one Mule in lieu of Oxen (there being no horses or Oxen inventoried) -
 Two beds + furniture - Two trunks Table furniture and cooking utensils - one clock and the following implements of husbandry - one Lot of plows + utensils as inventoried \$15.00
 one Wagon as inventoried \$30.00
 Two pair plow gearing worth as inventoried 5.00
 Implements of Husbandry ^{Chosen} amounting to \$50.00

She farther Chooses one Negro Girl 12 years old as inventoried at \$650.00 in lieu of the \$623.00. Cash allowed her at the last Term (February Term) of your said Court and tenders in Court to the Administrator of said Estate the sum of twenty seven dollars the difference between the appraised value of the said Negro girl, and the said sum of \$623.00. to be paid her in cash by the said order of your said Court at its said February Term, and prays that the said Administrator of said estate may be required to accept the said sum of Twenty Seven dollars and that the said Negro Girl may be set of to her in lieu of the said cash allowed her as aforesaid, and as in duty bound will ever pray &c.

Nancy Blackburn

The State of Texas
 County of Bell Probate Court
 April Term 1856.

Application for Hire of Negro
 Filed April 28th 1856.
 Estate of John P. Blackburn Dec^d
 To Hon John N. Houston Judge of said Court

Your petitioner William A. Ricketts Administrator of said Estate prays your Honor to grant an order for the hire of the Negro man named Bill belonging to said Estate to the highest bidder for the term of until the 1st day of January next and as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

Jno. S. Hunt
 Atty for Petitioner

State of Texas Probate Court
 Bell County 3 April Term 1856.
 Return of Sale
 Estate of John P. Blackburn Dec^r
 Filed April 28th 1856.

In obedience to the order of Sale made by your
 said Court at its last March Term 1856, I,
 did (after giving legal notice of the same as
 the law requires) expose to sale on a credit of
 nine months at public outcry to the highest
 bidder between the hours of 10 o'clock A.M.
 to 4 o'clock P.M. on the 19th day of April 1856
 on the premises of the said John P. Blackburn
 Dec^r in said County the following described
 property for the prices set opposite of the names
 of articles sold and purchased to wit;

1 pair of Stretchers	to John G. Blackburn	(Note) \$1.00
1 Do. Gears	to Do	(Note) 75
1 Lot of Tools	to Nancy Blackburn	(Note) 5.00
3 Axes. Syndries	to W ^m B. Chalk	(Note) 27.00
1 pair Gears	to John G. Blackburn	(Note) 50
1 Saddle & Rifle	to Nancy Blackburn	(Note) 10.60
1 Brown Mule	to R. B. Halley	(Note) 33.00
1 Do	to Do	(Note) 40.00
1 Sorrel Mule	to George D. Richards	(Note) 41.00
1 Do	to Do	(Note) 57.00
1 Set Gearing	to Do	(Note) 4.00
1 Mule	to Richard Holdsworth	(Note) 104.00
1 Wagon	to R. S. Stubblefield	(Note) 30.00
1 Lot of cattle	to Nancy Blackburn	(Note) 21.00
1 Sow & pigs	to Do	(Note) 5.00
1 Lot of Hogs	to John G. Blackburn	(Note) 10.00
1 Rifle Gun	to Do	(Note) 5.00
1 pair chains	to R. S. Stubblefield	(Note) 1.00
30 bushels corn	to Nancy Blackburn	(Note) 15.00
Total amt of Sale		\$ 831.65

I did also expose the Negro man (Bill) to hire
 to the highest bidder at the same time and
 place for the term of nine months and Nancy
 Blackburn being the highest bidder and
 bidding the sum of one dollar per month
 for the hire of the said Negro the same was
 hired to her for the said term for the sum
 of nine dollars - (Note) \$ 9.00

all of which said sums of money are payable at nine months from sale day Notes with Securities.

I do solemnly swear the foregoing return of Sale is true and correct and that Sale made in accordance with Law, So help me God,
Wm A. Ricketts

Sworn to and Subscribed before me this 28th day of April A. D. 1856,

John N. Houston
Chief Justice, &c, &c, &c.

The State of Texas Probate Court
County of Bell 3rd June Term 1856.
Estate of John P. Blackburn Dec^d.
Return of
hire of
Negro.
Filed this
13th June
1856

In obedience to an order made by your said Court at its said Term 1856, requiring me to hire the Negro named Bill belonging to said estate I did expose the same to hire to the highest bidder at the residence of the Late J. P. Blackburn Dec^d at Public auction after giving Public Notice of the same for the period of ten days one notice of which was posted at the Court House door in the town of Belton and two other notices at two other and separate public places not in the town of Belton in the County of Bell between the hours prescribed by law on the 17th day of May 1856, and Nancy Blackburn being the highest and best bidder for the hire of the said Negro for the term and period commencing on the said 17th day of May 1856, and ending the 1st day of January 1857, and bidding the sum of five dollars for the said term the same was knocked off to her and hired to her for that period which return is respectfully Submitted and asked to be approved
Wm A. Ricketts, Adm^r &c

Sworn to and Subscribed before me this 13th day of June A. D. 1856. Witness my hand this 13th day of June 1856. D. J. Chamberlin
Clerk.

The State of Texas Probate Court Jan,
 Application County of Bell 3 Term 1857.
 for hire of Estate of John P Blackburn Dec^r
 Negro, Bill To the Hon. John A. Houston Judge
 of said Court
 Filed January Your petitioner Wm A. Ricketts, adm^r
 26th 1857. of said Estate prays your Hon to grant
 an order for the hire of the Negro man named
 Bill, belonging to said Estate to the highest
 bidder, until for 3. months and as in duty
 bound will ever pray &c.
 Wm A. Ricketts
 Adm^r

Estate of John P. Blackburn Dec^r To the Hon Chief Justice
 of Bell County, Texas
 Return of The undersigned Wm A. Ricketts adm^r of the
 the hire of Estate of John P. Blackburn represents
 Negro, (Bill) that in obedience to an order of your Honors
 Court at the Jan, (1857) Term thereof he offered
 Feb. 1. Feb. for hire to the highest bidder for the term of
 23rd 1857 Three months at the residence of Mrs Black-
 burn on the 7th day of February 1857. (Legal
 notice first being given) the Negro man Bill,
 belonging to said Estate, when Mrs Black-
 burn bid the sum of one dollar & the same
 being the highest bid made the said Mrs
 Blackburn was declared to be the hire of
 said Negro man, Bill for the term of Three
 months, for the sum of one dollar.
 Wm A. Ricketts
 Adm^r

Sworn to and the signature acknowledged
 before me on this 23rd day of February 1857
 J. C. Caddell, Clerk
 Approved and ordered to be recorded
 John A. Houston
 Chief Justice, C. C. B. C.

Exhibit
Filed
March 30th
1857.

The State of Texas } County Court for the
County of Bell } transduction of Probate
business - March Term 1857

To the Hon John W. Houston, Chief
justice of said County.

Now at this term of said Court comes
William A. Ricketts adm^r of the Estate
of John P. Blackburn Dec^d and makes the
following exhibit of said condition of said
Estate to wit:

That C. B. Roberts presented his claim
of Four Dollars for services as appraiser
of said Estate Jan. 26th 1857. & G. W. Shanks
~~and~~ Feb. 16th 1857. presented a note for ten
Dollars, due Jan. 10th 1855. both of which
have been allowed; that no claims have
been rejected.

He represents that of the Sale Notes he
has collected about \$377.⁰⁰ - that the bal-
lance of the Sale Note, amounting to about
\$459.⁶⁵ are still due & uncollected -

He represents that he has collected
\$60. on the James H. Casey Note for \$77.⁵⁰
returned in the inventory of Claims due
said Estate - that the Note for \$10. on
John G. Blackburn remains uncollected

He further represents that he has
paid to Whitfield Chalk the balance due
for the Homestead, the same amounting Nov.
10. / 56. to \$249.⁰⁰, and the further sum
of \$685 costs of suit - suit having been
instituted by said Chalk against the widow
of said John P. Blackburn Dec^d.

He represents that although the Bond
to said ~~Homestead~~ Homestead was executed to the
Widow of said John P. Blackburn Dec^d,
and the Notes for a part of the purchase
Money were executed & delivered by her
to said Chalk the said Homestead belo-
nged to said Estate a part of the purchase
money having been paid by said intestate and
that it became necessary to pay the balance
of the purchase money due in order to secure

the title to the said Homestead

He further represents that further time will be necessary for him to settle & close up said State.

The premises considered Petitioner prays that this his exhibit may be approved in all things and the necessary order confirming the same may be entered of record as in duty bound will ever pray
 &c. Wm A Ricketts Adm

Sworn to and Subscribed before me
 this 30th day of March 1857

J. C. Caddell, clk

Amended
 Exhibit
 Filed Aug.
 31st 1857

The State of Texas } Sub Probate Court
 County of Bell } August Term 1857

At this Term of the Court came W. A. Rickett admr of the Estate of John P. Blackburn Dec^d. leave of the Court first being had, and amends his exhibit & application filed at the March (1858) Term of said Court and, for amendment says & represents that the three hundred acres of land described in the inventory of said Estate, was purchased by the intestate during his life time, of Whitfield Chalk, - that said Intestate paid a part of the purchase consideration, down To wit:-

Two hundred & twenty three dollars and that he agreed to pay the said Chalk the further sum of \$257.⁰⁰ the balance of the balance of the purchase money for said land -

Petitioner further represents that said Intestate during his life time made valuable improvements on said Land - that after the death of said Intestate & before this Administration was opened, Mrs. Nancy Blackburn the widow of said Intestate in order to secure the title to said Land to the Estate of her Deceased Husband & to save that portion of the purchase money that had been paid for said land, executed & delivered to the said Chalk her certain

promissory notes for the ballance of the purchase money, and took Bond for title to said land in her own name but for the use & benefit of said Estate. Petitioner further represents that the said Chalk brought suit on the said notes executed by the said Nancy Blackburn as aforesaid & to enforce the vendors lien on said land & your Petitioner believing that said land belonged to said Estate & to save further costs, & to save the same for the benefit of the same, dismissed said suit instituted by the said Chalk as aforesaid by paying the amt. of said notes, to wit; 249²⁶ and the further sum of \$6.85, costs of suit, out of money in his hands belonging to said Estate. The premises considered, Petitioner prays that this his appended exhibit may be approved, - that his act in paying the ballance of the purchase money due on said land, may be approved & said amt. & costs of suit be allowed him & that he may be further authorized to secure a deed to said land for the benefit of said Estate as in duty bound will ever pray &c.

W. A. Ricketts

Adm^r of J. P. Blackburn^d

Sworn to and Subscribed before me on this 31st day of August 1857. J. C. Cadden clk.

The State of Texas
County of Bell To the Sheriff of
Bell County

Citation to
Adm^r
Issued
October 29th
1858.

Greeting. At the October Term 1857 of the County Court of Bell County held for the transaction of Probate business, It was ordered by said Court that the Administrator of John P. Blackburn Dec^d. be required to file his account for final settlement of said Estate at the next Term of the court or show cause why he should not

This therefore is to command you to cite W^m A. Ricketts Administrator of said Estate to be and appear at the next Term of said

Court to be held at the Court house in the Town of Belton on the last Monday of November next with his account for final settlement or to show cause why said account should not be filed

Herein fail not and serve the said Ricketts with a copy of this writ and make due return hereof according to law

J. C. Caddell

Witness J. C. Caddell clerk of the County Court of said County and the Seal thereof affixed at office in Belton this 28th day of October 1857.

J. C. Caddell, clk. Co. Bell
 Came to hand October 29th 1857 and returned November 27th 1857. not served for want of time
 Joseph Cater Deputy
 Shff Bell County

Filed Nov. 27th 1857
 J. C. Caddell, clk.

The State of Texas
 County of Bell To the Sheriff
 of Bell County.

Citation to
 Adminr
 Issued Dec.
 3rd 1857.

Greeting.

at the November Term 1857
 of the County Court of Bell County held for transaction of Probate business.

It was ordered that alias Citation issued to Administrator of Estate of John P. Blackburn Dec^d to file his account for final settlement of said Estate at the next Term of the Court or show cause why he should not

This therefore is to command you to cite W^m A Ricketts Administrator of said Estate to be and appear at the next Term of said Court to be held at the Court House in the Town of Belton on the last Monday in December 1857. with his account for final settlement or to show cause why said account should not be filed

Herein fail not and serve the said W^m A Ricketts with a copy of this writ

and make due return hereof according to Law.

J. C. Caddell

Witness J. C. Caddell clerk of the County Court of said County and the Seal thereof affixed at office in Belton this 3rd day of December A D 1857.

J. C. Caddell, CLK
 Came to hand December 8th 1857, and returned not served December 28th 1857. The said Ricketts not to be found in this County.
 Joseph Cates Deputy Sheriff Bell County

Exhibit
 Filed Mar.
 26th 1858

The State of Texas In Probate Court
 County of Bell March Term 1858.

To the Hon. Chief Justice in & for said County of Bell
 Now at this term of said Court comes William A Ricketts administrator of the Estate of John P Blackburn Dec^d and makes the following Exhibit of the Condition of said Estate

He represents that the following claims due said Estate have not been collected

To wit

Geo. D Richards note	\$302.00
John G. Blackburn note	" 17.55
" " "	20.00
W. R. Chalk " "	27.00
Naney Blackburn " "	61.60
Do amt. due on acct. of Negro Lira taken by her	27.00
Amt	\$455.15

and that he has used due diligence in the collection of said claims.

He represents that Mrs Naney Blackburn is entitled to a credit of Three Dollars on acct of the hire of the Negro man Bill - she having executed her Note including nine dollars for the hire of said Negro, when in fact as will be seen by reference to the papers of said Estate, said Note should have included

only \$5.00 for negro hire and she hired
 said negro at a subsequent time for \$1.00
 for three months which makes an error of
 three dollars to be placed to her credit and
 also the credit of Exhibitor.

He prays that this his exhibit may be
 approved, that further time be extended to
 him ^{in which} to close up said estate; that said
 amt of Three Dollars be allowed him as in
 duty bound well ever pray
 Wm A Ricketts
 Admr

Shewn to before me on this 26th day of
 March A. D. 1858.
 J. C. Baddie
 Clerk, C. Bell Co

Account for John P Blackburn
 Final Settlement
 Filed Aug. 4th 1858.

In Probate Court
 Aug. Term 1858.
 To the Hon Chief Justice in &
 for the County of Bell State of Texas.

The undersigned admr of said estate
 presents the following as his acct. for final
 Settlement To wit:

amt. of Inventory of Property	\$ 3040.50
" " " " " " " " " " " "	\$ 3040.50
" " " " " " " " " " " "	97.50
" " " " " " " " " " " "	\$ 3138.00

amt of Property set aside to the
 widow at the appraised value \$948.05.

ap^r value of Hogs set aside to
 Mr W. & C. J. Blackburn " 35.00.

Land appraised at 820.00

amt. collected on acct. of
 Claims due as per Inventory 85.50.

Claim vs John G. Blackburn
 as per Inventory not col. 20.00 \$ 105.50

Negro man appraised at " 250.00

amt. due from Mrs Blackburn
 on acct. of Negro Girl " 27.00

amt. of acct. of sales as per return
 \$ 831.65 of which was collected \$ 433.15.

amt. not collected 399.50 \$ 831.65.

Difference between the apprais
 ment of property sold & the return of sales \$ 120.80 \$ 3138.00.

He represents that he has collected in
 cash as above To wit
 on acct. of a claim as per inv. \$85.50.
 on acct. of sale notes 433.15 \$518.65.

He represents that he has paid
 the following claims vs. Estate
 To Whit Chalk + costs of suit \$256.05.
 To several aunts as per vouchers
 No's 1-2-3-4-5 & 6 & 7. " 69.51
 amt. claimed by Admⁿ for services " 50 " \$375.56.

He represents that he has paid all
 of the claims vs. said Estate that have come
 to his knowledge, except the costs of admin-
 istration that he has collected all of the
 claims due that he thinks can be collected -
 that with the exception of the claim vs.
 Richards + Pendleton, the claims not collect-
 ed are due from the widow + heirs at law
 of said Intestate.

He prays that the foregoing acct. may
 be allowed - that he may be discharged
 as in duty bound will ever pray +
 Wm A Ricketts

Adms

Sworn and Subscribed to before me on
 this 4th day of Aug. 1858. J. C. Caddell.
 clk, C. C. Bell, co