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Presley N. Hicks Papers, 1876-1909

7 folders

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REPOSITORY

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DONOR INFORMATION

Collection was donated by Robert J. Stratton in October 1997.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Presley N. Hicks was born circa 1829 in Bowling Green, Kentucky. He worked as a steamboat engineer for many years, and in 1902 he invented and patented a steamboat propeller. His brother Milton Hicks was killed by Indians circa 1839. Presley N. Hicks resided primarily in St. Louis, Missouri, from the 1870s until his death on September 3, 1919.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Collection consists primarily of legal papers and correspondence relating to the claim of the heirs of Milton Hicks to bounty lands in Texas. Also includes legal papers relating to the claim of Eliza Langlais to bounty land in Texas due to her deceased husband, Ferdinan Louis Langlais.

Folder 1

- 1876 June 26 Application of Presley N. Hicks for record evidence of land titles vested in Milton Hicks, deceased, late of the Republic of Texas. Hicks appoints Wm. A. Clark [William A. Clark], commissioner of the state of Kentucky at St. Louis, to locate this record evidence. Application includes biographical data regarding Presley N. Hicks' brother who was killed by Indians circa October 1839. Document mentions James W. Hicks, Albert Silsby, Sarah A. Hicks, Rebecca Hicks, Catharine M. Hicks, Joseph Hicks, and Mary Hicks.
- 1876 July 10 Document signed Wm. A. Clark [William A. Clark], commissioner of deeds for the state of Ohio for the state of Missouri, ordering the record evidence of all titles vested in the name of Louis Ferdinan or Louis G. Langlais by virtue of his military service or emigration to the Republic of Texas.
- 1876 July 10 Affidavit of Eliza Langlais, St. Louis, Missouri, given to William A. Clark, a commissioner of the state of Ohio for the state of Missouri. She states that she is 62 years old and the widow of Louis Ferdinan Langlais (or Louis G. Langlais), who was a soldier in the army of the Republic of Texas. Includes biographical information regarding Louis Ferdinan Langlais (died 1848), and mentions his surviving children: Maria Louise Langlais and Joseph Ferdinan Langlais. The affidavit further states that Eliza Langlais believes that her husband had bounty lands due him by reason of his military service and citizenship in the Republic of Texas.

Folder 2

- 1877 Power of attorney from Joseph Hicks and other heirs at law of Milton Hicks, deceased, to Presley N. Hicks of St. Louis, Missouri. Presley Hicks is appointed by the heirs to recover any land, money, etc. that may be due to them as heirs of the late Milton Hicks. Heirs include Joseph Hicks (brother of Milton Hicks and resident of Floyd County, Indiana), Mary Rakestraw (niece of Milton Hicks and resident of New Albany, Floyd County, Indiana), William A. Rakestraw (husband of Mary Rakestraw and resident of New Albany, Floyd County, Indiana), Amanda E. Jackson (niece of Milton Hicks and resident of Clark County, Indiana), Ellen Robertson (niece of Milton Hicks), Charles M. Robertson (husband of Ellen Robertson), Emma Neighbors (niece of Milton Hicks), Theresa Ann Hall (niece of Milton Hicks), Thomas Jefferson Hall (husband of Theresa Ann Hall), Chas. Sublett (nephew of Milton Hicks), John Frederick Walthall (nephew of Milton Hicks), Columbia B. Burch (niece of Milton Hicks), John B. Burch (husband of Columbia B. Burch).

Folder 3

- circa 1877 Petition of Eliza Langlais, widow of Louis Ferdinan Langlais, to the Senate and House of Representatives of the state of Texas, requesting to obtain the grants of land due to her late husband. Mentions that her maiden name was Eliza Wesland, and that she married Louis Ferdinan Langlais in New York City on October 25, 1831.

1877 June 29 Declaration of William E. Bust (age 49) of St. Louis, Missouri, stating that he knows Eliza Langlais and that she is the widow of Louis F. Langlais. Declaration taken by Wm. A. Clark [William A. Clark], commissioner of deeds for the state of Ohio for Missouri at St. Louis.

1877 Oct 27 Declaration of Abner H. Shaw (age 58) of St. Louis, Missouri, in the matter of claims for bounty land due Eliza Langlais, widow of Louis Ferdinan Langlais. He states that he knows Eliza Langlais and that she is the widow of Louis Ferdinan Langlais. Also notes that he knows the two surviving children of Eliza Langlais: Maria Louisa and Joseph Langlais. Declaration taken by Wm. A. Clark [William A. Clark].

Folder 4

1878 Deed between Presley N. Hicks, Joseph Hicks and wife, William A. Rakestraw and Mary R. Rakestraw, his wife, Charles M. Robertson and Elen J. Robertson, his wife, Thomas J. Wall and Theresa Ann Wall, his wife, Amanda E. Jackson and Thomas Jackson, her husband, Charles Sublett and his wife, John F. Walthall and Emma Neighbours, John B. Burch and Columbia B. Burch, his wife, heirs and heirs surviving of Milton Hicks, deceased, parties of the first part, and John H. Terry of St. Louis, Missouri, party of the second part. Sale to John H. Terry of real estate entitled to the late Milton Hicks.

1878 Apr 18 Letter signed C.M. Robertson and Joseph R. Hicks, New Albany, Indiana, to Presley N. Hicks, St. Louis, Missouri. "We have given you the power to bind the entire estate for the faithful carrying out of your contracts and obligations &c. So far as we now see or know, that is power enough for an agent." Also includes their responses to several points regarding the disposition of the Hicks estate.

Folder 5

1878 May 9 Declaration of Presley N. Hicks and John H. Terry and Robert W. Gibson before the clerk of the Probate Court of St. Louis, Missouri.

1878 Aug 15 Letter signed C.M. Robertson, New Albany, Indiana, to his uncle P.N. Hicks, St. Louis, Missouri, regarding the deed disposing of the estate of Milton Hicks. ". . . . The heirs in this part of the country have asked that Uncle Jo and myself correspond with you. There seems to be very hard feelings between you and Uncle Jo, so by common consent the burden of writing falls on me. The heirs desired information from you—Something thing that you are bound by law to give. I address you a kind letter asking this information from you. How do you treat me? In silence. . . . The present business demands "Manly" action on your part, not the action of a spoilt child. If you an Uncle Jo have differences, for the respect you have for the heirs of your lamented Bro Milton, keep them out of this business. . . ."

Folder 6

1878 Sept 4 Agreement between Presley N. Hicks for himself and as attorney for the heirs of the estate of Milton Hicks, parties of the first part, and John H. Terry of St. Louis, Missouri, party of the second part. Agreement offers compensation to John H. Terry for his services and expenses in locating the property and assets of the late Milton Hicks.

Folder 7

- 1879 Mar 21 Letter signed Duncan G. Smith, attorney, Georgetown, Texas, to Presley N. Hicks, 2610 Menard Street, St. Louis, Missouri. “. . . I should like to see a copy of the Power of att[orney] you gave him [Perry] also the copy of the Power of att[orney] you have from the heirs. . . .”
- 1889 Sept 27 Letter signed R.C. Walker, attorney, Austin, Texas, to P.N. Hicks, 1918 Newhouse Ave., St. Louis, Missouri. “. . . We have today sent Interrogatories for you to the Ten Broek Agency No 364 N. 8th St.—Turner Bldg your city. Please call on them at once and let them take your deposition. Please send us J.R. Hicks address as soon as you can get it.”
- 1889 Nov 21 Letter signed R.C. Walker, attorney, Austin, Texas, to Presley N. Hicks, St. Louis. “. . . I have already found J.R. Hicks and taken his deposition. . . . The other Milton Hicks land 1476 acres in Williamson Co was sold by your mother and father. What was the name of your Batchellor uncle? Give me all the information you can about the matter—when he died and where and where the land was situated and I will look it up and if any thing can be recovered for you I will get it.”
- 1889 Dec 28 Letter signed R.C. Walker, attorney, Austin, Texas, to Presley N. Hicks, St. Louis, Missouri. “The next time I go to Georgetown I will send you data relative to the sale of the Milton Hicks 1476 acres in Williamson Co, which will be in two or three weeks. I examined the records there some time ago and concluded that nothing could be done and made no memoranda.
- 1895 Apr 20 Photocopy of *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* clipping titled “The Battle of San Jacinto. The Event to Be Fittingly Celebrated at Houston To-Day—List of Its Survivors.”
- 1895 Apr 21 Handwritten roster of survivors of the Battle of San Jacinto on the occasion of the celebration of the 59th anniversary of the battle at Houston, Texas. Roster includes the names of 21 survivors with their ages and cities of residence.
- 1896 Oct 3 Letter signed N.A. Rector, Austin, Texas, to Presley N. Hicks, Houston, Texas. Mentions that he will be in Houston next Wednesday if Hicks would like to meet. Also notes, “Nothing to report in our land matter.” Letter is written on stationery of Rector & Rector, attorneys.

- 1896 Nov 26 Letter signed Rector & Rector, Austin, to Presley N. Hicks, Houston, Texas. "We have been unable to get any body to do any thing at the other end of the line in your land matters & hereby return to you the power of atty [attorney] canceled by us. We think there is nothing in the Abraham Bowman Est[ate] for you. We can't say as to the Milton Hicks Est[ate], but it is likely there is nothing in it. . . ."
- 1897 May 14 Letter signed John N. Powers, Logansport, [Louisiana], to Presley N. Hicks, 4217 Norfolk Ave., [St. Louis, Mo.?]. Mentions that he intends to build a larger boat for the lower river when the water goes down, and that he hopes to have a job for him. Letter is written on stationery of the Austro-American Stave & Lumber Co., Shreveport, Louisiana.
- 19-- Apr 24 Postcard signed J.W. Armstrong, assr [assessor], Georgetown, Texas, to T.M. Dilworth, Waco, Texas. "All of Hicks survey is rendered & I think fenced. I give you names of parties that own it on other side. . . ."
- 1901 Nov 27 Typescript letter signed Hinton E. Carr, attorney, Hunter Realty Company, Birmingham, Alabama, to Presley N. Hicks, 1407 Missouri Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri. Asks Hicks how he is entitled to all of the estate of Milton Hicks. Mentions his old law partner, Judge Asa E. Stratton, who now lives in Montgomery.
- 1901 Dec 14 Typescript letter signed Hinton E. Carr, attorney, Birmingham, Alabama, to Presley N. Hicks, St. Louis, Missouri. Discusses getting a railroad pass to allow him to visit St. Louis and meet with Hicks. Mentions that he will send Hicks a contract to sign empowering him to act as Hicks' attorney.
- 1901 Dec 30 Typescript letter signed Hinton E. Carr, attorney, Birmingham, Alabama, to Presley N. Hicks, St. Louis, Missouri. Encloses contract for Hicks to sign. Mentions that he has secured railroad transportation to Austin, Texas, and will go there soon.
- 1901 Dec 31 Typescript agreement between Presley N. Hicks of St. Louis, Missouri, and Hinton E. Carr of Birmingham, Alabama, in which Hicks hires Carr as his attorney to reduce to possession certain lands in Texas. Document mentions Joseph Delaney (or Joseph Delana).
- 1902 Jan 8 Typescript letter signed Hinton E. Carr, Birmingham, Alabama, to Presley N. Hicks, St. Louis, Missouri. ". . . I have made all the financial arrangements that will be necessary to properly prosecute the land matter. In fact I have made arrangements already to go to Texas about the 15th of next Month, but should you feel any hesitancy about the matter in any way I would not have you to sign the Contract under any circumstances, but I could not proceed without authority from you to do so and that is the full purport and intent of the Contract."

- 1902 Jan 14 Typescript letter signed Hinton E. Carr, Birmingham, Alabama, to Presley N. Hicks, St. Louis, Missouri. “. . . When I go to Texas it would be very nice and convenient for you to be there, you could then see just what we were doing and advise in connection therewith. And I will certainly keep my eye peeled to get you a position there as engineer if possible. . . .”
- 1903 Nov 30 Typescript letter signed Hinton E. Carr, Birmingham, Alabama, to Presley N. Hicks, St. Louis, Missouri. “. . . I have been studying very hard on the Texas [Texas] Land matter and will want to see you about it when I come to St. Louis. . . . P.S. Mr. W.E. French, left Michigan and has gone to the City of Mexico old Mexico, Mr. George Castle is still in Michigan and is running a house in Racine.”
- 1904 Feb 20 Letter signed Hinton E. Carr, Austin, Texas, to Presley N. Hicks, St. Louis, Missouri. “I have been here in Austin the last two days looking up your land matter and will leave in a few minutes for Williamson County to examine into the lands there. I am now, however, almost convinced that we are barred by the statute of limitations. . . .” Letter is written on stationery of The Driskill, Austin, Texas, which includes an image of the hotel.
- 1904 Mar 29 Typescript letter signed Hinton E. Carr, Birmingham, Alabama, to Presley N. Hicks, St. Louis. “. . . I have waiting the decision of the brother lawyer to whom I submitted all the facts in the Texas matter before I would give you our joint opinion on the question. He still has the matter under advisement and promises to let me know real soon. It is best, however, for me to inform you that I have gone over the whole question since writing you again and am now convinced that we have no show, the Statute of Limitations barring us. But am of the opinion that you had better dismiss the whole thing from your mind and let it go. . . .”
- 1909 Apr 28 Letter signed Jos. R. Hicks [Joseph R. Hicks], New Albany, Indiana, to Mrs. Hicks. “Mrs Hicks let me say that your husband and former wife conspired to defraud to defraud all other heirs by obtainin a will making him Sol heir to the Milton Hicks estate and untill that is canceled no help from me I cant take part in a Shame [scam?] to rob my Self If you was here I wold like to tell you Some things perhaps you don’t under Stand now I will not write further own this Subject but If you wish to come to See me I will treat you write with kind regards to you I close for this time write if pleasth.”
- no date Business card of Jas. B. Simpson [James B. Simpson], attorney, Dallas, Texas.
- no date Fragment of a deed signed Presley N. Hicks and Jno. H. Terry [John H. Terry].
- no date Handwritten note on stationery of the Missouri Pacific Railway Company, St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway Co. “(The will & papers) I will want this drawn up in the shops of sale . . . so as to cover all unknown land. . . . Milton Hick [Milton Hicks] . . . were killed by Indians near Austin Texas he was a land locator for State Pay . . .”

no date Page with eight typescript questions: (1) When were Lydia Brookheart and John Tharpe married? (2) Are they living or dead? (3) If either or both are living, where do they live? (4) If both are dead, when and where are their heirs? (5) When were you born? (6) When were your parents married? (7) What was the name of Abraham Bowmans sister who married Joseph Reese, and when were they married? (8) When did she die?

no date Return envelope of Jno. Bookhout [John Bookhout], Dallas, Texas, addressed to Wm. A. Clark, St. Louis, Mo. Postmarked Dallas, Texas, Aug. 19.