

## **Origins of Hanleys and House**

- Martin F Hanley's origins are somewhat mysterious, as the precise location of his birth is not clear, but he came from Virginia with enough money that he could purchase land and start up a plow manufacturing company around 1834.
- Hanley had multiple legal problems, being sued for malpractice in his business and at one point damage to another person's house.
- Franklin married Cyrene Walton, a local woman from a wealthy family whose father gave them more land for building their home, and from whom they inherited the enslaved Jackson family.

## **Civil War**

Various obituaries and sources make competing claims about the Hanleys.

- We have several letters to the Hanleys from friends and relations in the confederate army, especially one who was imprisoned by the union as a POW.
- Obituaries claim that the Hanleys were officially neutral, but that they were hardline democrats.
- At least one obituary claims that Cyrene Hanley (at least) was an "uncompromising sympathizer with the South", and that she aided "poor rebels in hiding" with food from her home. Others claim she was staunchly for the Union.
- Obituaries for Martin Franklin Hanley claim that they were neutral and generally opposed to slavery.

## **Jackson Family and Hanley Enslaved**

- Obituary for Cyrene claims slaves loved the Hanley family and that they had more than a dozen at various points. This is at least partly incorrect, as the Hanleys never had more than four slaves per the census. Her family had many more, her grandfather came with more than 100 from Virginia.
- Jacksons are not named in the census. Only listed as "negro" woman/child and age.
- Our only documentation of the Jackson family comes from census, and Lydia Jackson being mentioned in a letter written between two Hanleys. We have one picture where Lydia seems to be standing in the background.'
- Lydia would have been an important part of the Hanley household. She would get up early to cook and prepare the house for the day, and help care for the children and general housework all throughout her day.

## **Notes on MO Slavery**

- Missouri was an established slave territory prior to statehood. Slave owning was held to be a basic right of a free citizen.
- Despite its historic origin, slavery became especially entrenched in Missouri through the early 1800's, as the population of enslaved people tripled between 1810 and 1820.
- Missouri never established a major plantation economy, and the enslaved population was not proportionally as large as many southern states. But overtime owning several enslaved people as house servants and a source of rental income became a sign of middle class status and respectable White Southern identity.
- Renting enslaved people was a common practice, especially into domestic labor and as hired hands on boats and hauling. While we cannot be sure if enslaved people helped to build Hanley house directly, they certainly helped to move the materials it was built with.
  - In the Hanley Day Book, Martin Hanley records that he hired more than a dozen enslaved people from neighbors to cook and serve at a Barbeque which he was hosting.
- Efforts were made to ensure that enslaved people were not allowed any independence or aspirations towards freedom by enslavers.
  - Enslaved people were legally denied the chance to work for themselves on their own time, and could only be rented out. This was viewed as one of the most dangerous and corrupting practices of enslaved people as they began to act like freemen. (217)
  - Laws tried to make it illegal for enslaved people to live or work off of their legal owner's property. (219) Nevertheless the practice continued.
  - Articles discussing the Hanley's funerals claim that their former slaves attended and that they were well loved by the Jacksons. But it is important to remember what systems of control underlay the system to try and force the enslaved into positions of subservience and dependence.
- Saint Louis was a major slave market, and principally shipped slaves out to the south rather than in. This is important to note as MO slavery apologists claim that MO treatment of slaves was kinder and more domestic. (229)
  - Enslaved people were frequently threatened with being sold to states with brutal plantation economies. Missouri was not separate from or really "better" than plantation economies like Mississippi.
  - Missouri being so close to free states meant that slave owners were very worried about enslaved people running away. This meant that Missouri actually had some especially harsh laws governing penalties for slaves disobeying or running away.
  - In many situations enslaved people were treated as children. Intellectually they were viewed this way, reinforced by and justifying the refusal to educate enslaved people. Sometimes certain "benefits" would be given, such as letting them attend the circus at half price "with the children".

- White people from Missouri, sometimes even anti slavery activists, claimed that the enslaved were well treated. But outsider perspectives (such as european visitors) and testimonies from formerly enslaved people vouch that this was not at all true. Enslaved people in Missouri received “deplorable punishments” just as enslaved people did across the South. “One of our neighbors in Saint Louis, for instance, flogged one of his slaves in the public streets, with untiring arm. Sometimes he stopped a moment to rest, then the punishment began anew.” (Prince Maximillian of Wied, 1833)
- The paradox within slave apologists claims was that they would endlessly say that their slaves loved them, but that they still needed to maintain “discipline,” mostly through brutally violent physical punishments.
- Even beyond ideas of maintaining order, it is clear that enslaved people were often victims of simple sadism. One enslaved man, Eph Sanders, stated that for every kind master, there were two brutes.
- Some former slaves did express that their owner treated them as family or kindly, but the clear norm, even despite laws which purported to prevent abuse, was towards cruelty to the limit of making the enslaved person unable to work.
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- Enslaved people had harsher legal penalties than free, and punishment both legal and domestic most often took the form of physical violence such as whipping or castration. (256-258)
- Enslaved people were denied all forms of education unless specifically directed by their masters. In 1847 all teaching of reading and writing to Black people was banned. (265)
- Families could be broken up at the will of the master, with parents and children, wives and husbands being easily separable through sales or other relocation. (269)