

COPY OF LETTER

GALLATIN, TENN.  
DEC 16th 1848

Isa Garrett, Esq.

Dear Sir:

I must acknowledge your kindness for past favors and beg of you to give me some additional information relative to the administration of the Estate of Wm. Goolsby.

I am now in the act of preparing Letters of Attorney from the several heirs who reside in this county for the purpose of instituting suit against the Administrator of the said Wm. Goolsby for that portion of his estate coming to the children of SARAH THURMOND, wife of JOHN THURMOND now decd. was before marriage SARAH GOOLSBY, daughter of the said Wm. Goolsby, Decd.

The further brief on these - the said SARAH THURMOND died before the said Wm. Goolsby, her father, some four or five years, and JOHN THURMOND her husband it is said secured of the the Administrator the portion coming to the children of his deceased wife and afterward married the second time, still retaining the said property as his own and having other children by his last wife bequeathed all of the said property to them and thereby defeating the rights of his children of his first wife.

Our object is to hold the Administrator responsible for the distribution ? whatever it may be, in as much as they paid the same wrongfully to the said JOHN THURMOND, which we are advised is no payment to the children of his first wife.

From this statement of facts I wish you to inform me whether there are any legislative acts in Virginia which will prevent us recovering, for which I will pay you when I come to your state.

You wrote me relative to the Negroes, nine I believe. I wish to know what disposition if any was made of the negroes - is there an order for their sale or any ? of division. Was there an order for the sale of land, or what was done with the same, and if no disposition was made of it who has it in possession and what amounts had it yielded, etc.

Inform me of the law relating to charging Administration with interest, whether compounded or not, and if they are bonded for such interest when was the act passed.

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Letter from Lawyer Key

I have been informed that there existed in Virginia a law to this effect - that when several heirs were interested in an estate and one of them wished to commence suit, if he gave the co-heirs information of such, his intention to bring suit and they failed or refused to come forward and make themselves parties to the proceedings he who had them given notice and pro ? the suit if he could recover at all, might recover the entire amount due the whole of their heir - is this the fact or not?

JOHN THURMOND brought to this country a negro girl named JUDY who we understand when given to SARAH THURMOND by her father Wm. Goolsby and that the said THURMOND executed a receipt for the said girl, in answer? with some old regulation of your state, which perhaps exists there yet. Can you give me any information about said receipt, or doesn't it appear on record, among the papers on file of the said Wm. Goolsby, Sr. or has the administrator got possession of it? This point is of very great importance to the heirs. If it does not appear either of the file or record in your office, can you ascertain from some of the family where it can be found and procure us a copy as soon as convenient.

You have been troubled considerably at my request already and this will cause you more, and addition to my being under lasting obligation to you, I will amply compensate you for your trouble when I come out in the spring. Please answer this immediately and I remain yours, very respectfully,

JAMES KEY

Bonded 5 April 1820 Penalty \$1000

Adm. Joseph Harlan

Sec. F. B. Dyer

Wm. ?

James Harland

Note: Gallatin, Tenn is in Sumner Co.