

BLOCK 1

January – December 1854

Albert G. Foster (Block 1 Lot 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5)

William Smothers (Block 1 Lot 6)

Thomas Simons & Son (Block 1 Lot 7)

Murchison Lodge (Block 1 Lot 8)

1854 August 29: Sale from executors of McDermott estate to Layton and Bennett was fraudulent; the executors had no power to sell said house and lot. The sale, the bond and the note should all be void. Dismissed.

Reference:

John M. Bennett and Abner K. Foster vs. Lewis W. Layton, M.B. Bennett and John W. Kelly Lavaca County Civil Case #198 A/271

BLOCK 2

January – December 1854

Thomas H. Hawks (Block 2 Lot 1)

1854 July 1: M.B. Bennett to Thomas H. Hawks Lot 1 in Block 2 front 40 varas on Second Street and 20 varas on Front Street.

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/161

1854 July 3: Thomas H. Hawks to Robert Kelly for collateral for mortgage Lot 1 in Block 2

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/175

A.W. Hicks (Block 2 Lot 2 – 7)

C.C. & W.C. Dibrell (Block 2 Lot 8)

1854 May 18: A.W. Hicks to C.C. & W.C. Dibrell Lot 8 in Block 2 it being the lot on the SW corner of said block on which block said Hicks Tavern and other improvements are situated and lot fronting 20 varas on the public square and running back westward 40 varas.

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/113

1854 October 4: Collatinus & Mary Jane Ballard to C.C. & W.C. Dibrell Lot 8 in Block 2 in the town of Hallettsville being the block on which A.W. Hicks tavern is located and being the same lot conveyed by A.W. Hicks and wife Fredonia A. to Dibrells fronting 20 varas on the public square and running back westward 40 varas.

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/253

Crocket and William C. Dibrell, brothers formerly of Tennessee, located in the town of Hallettsville in 1854 on the SW corner of Block 2 fronting 20 varas on the square and established a mercantile firm of considerable size and reputation. The firm was one of the few to survive after the Civil War. In December 1865, Joshua E. Martin joined the firm. In March 1867, the Dibrell's sold their interest in the store and livery stable, located on the S side of Block 7.

Reference:

Free State of Lavaca p. 163-4

BLOCK 3

January – December 1854

A.W. Hicks (Block 3 Lot 1 – 8)

William Smothers (Block 3 Lot 1 & 3)

Robert Sanford and William Smothers, both active in supplying offices for county officials and records in 1852, had storehouses in town. Smothers had property on the NW ¼ of Block 3 fronting 20 varas on the north margin of Third St.

Reference:

Free State of Lavaca p. 164

BLOCK 4

January – December 1854

Josiah Dowling and John W. Kelly (Block 4 Lot 1, 3, 4, 5, & 6)
Josiah Dowling (Block 4 Lot 2)

1854 January 1: J.W. Kelly to Josiah Dowling Lots 1 & 2 in Block 11, Lots 6 & 8 in Block 10, Lots 3, 5, 7 & 8 in Block 8, Lot 2 in Block 4 also all my title to the lower half of the town tract that lies east of Mitchell Branch.

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/22

Wilhelm H. Hoffmann (Block 4 Lot 7 & 8)

1854 April 7: J. W. Kelly to Josiah Dowling Lots 7 & 8 in Block 4; Lot 7 in Block 12.

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/82

1854 November 24: Josiah Dowling to Wilhelm H. Hoffmann Lots 7 & 8 in Block 4

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/401

In April of 1854, Robert Sanford sold his property in Block 10 to C. Hoffmann, who had established his residence on the SW corner of Block 4 (Lot 7) fronting to Fifth St.

Reference:

Free State of Lavaca p. 163-4

BLOCK 5

January – December 1854

Albert G. Foster (Block 5 Lot 1, 2 & 4)
Collatinus Ballard (Block 5 Lot 3, 5 & 7)

1854 January 27: Dorothy McDonald to Collatinus Ballard Lot 3 in Block 5.

Reference:
Lavaca County Deed C/16

John W. Kelly (Block 5 Lot 6 & 8)

1854 January 1: Josiah Dowling to John W. Kelly Lots 6 & 8 in Block 5, Lots 1 & 2 in Block 10, Lots 6 & 7 in Fractional Block 4 and my title to the upper north half of the town lying east of the Mitchell Branch

Reference:
Lavaca County Deed C/201

John W. Kelly Store House

Kelly, second only to Ballard in promoting the town's progress and an active sponsor of many civic projects, had his storehouses on the E ½ of Block 5, on the north side of the square. He dealt primarily in dry goods and carried a large stock of ready clothing, hats, boots, shoes and dress goods, but he also stocked stoneware, saddles, stationery and school supplies. Kelly, like Ballard, went bankrupt in 1866.

Reference:
Free State of Lavaca p. 164

BLOCK 6

January – December 1854

Lavaca County Courthouse (Block 6 Lot 1 – 8)

1854 January 7 – T. H. Hawks to William Tate (trustee of Collatinus Ballard) ½ of Lots 6 & 8 in Block 6. Hawks owed Ballard money and put the lots up as collateral.

Note: The following entry is for a deed involving property on Block 6. Since Block 6 is the location of the Lavaca County Courthouse, the deed is either fraudulent or incorrect, but I have included it for reference purposes.

Reference:
Lavaca County Deed C/14

BLOCK 7

January – December 1854

Collatinus Ballard (Block 7 Lot 1 & 3)

1854 September 2: Josiah Dowling and John W. Kelly to Collatinus Ballard Lots 1 & 3 in Block 7

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/215

In August of 1854, Ballard formed a three year partnership with William Pearce, a native of Kentucky, in the business of saddlers and harness makers. Ballard supplied the capital and furnished the building (E ½ of Lot 1 & 3) free of rent while Pearce was “to diligently employ himself,” could employ a journeyman, and could draw \$12.50 per month. Pearce, to Ballard’s credit, followed the trade. He remained in Hallettsville for years, and in 1858 was in the saddlery shop of C. Davenport, a native of Ohio, located near the town.

Reference:

Free State of Lavaca p. 163)

John W. Harrell (Block 7 Lot 2, 4 & E ½ 6 & 8)

1854 April 7: Josiah Dowling and John W. Kelly to John Harrell Lots 2 & 4 in Block 7.

Mr. John Harrell has put up a fine hotel, two story high, and he has a very large bell. When completed, the hotel will look like a whale among the little cabins.

Reference:

Free State of Lavaca p. 150

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/58

1854 May 14: Thomas H. Hawks to John Harrell E ½ of Lots 6 & 8 in Block 7 being the block immediately south of and adjoining the square on which the courthouse stands.

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/130

John R. Whited/Charles C. Dibrell (Block 7 Lot 5 & 7)

Charles C. Dibrell (Block 7 W ½ of Lot 6 & 8)

1854 September 13: Josiah Dowling and John W. Kelly to Charles C. Dibrell W ½ of Lots 6 & 8 in Block 7 being the same lots sold by Thomas H. Hawks to John K. Whited and Whited to Dibrell

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C219

BLOCK 8

January – December 1854

Thomas A. Hester (Lot 1, 2, 3 & 4)

Josiah Dowling (Lot 5, 6, 7 & 8)

1854 January 1: J.W. Kelly to Josiah Dowling Lots 1 & 2 in Block 11, Lots 6 & 8 in Block 10, Lots 3, 5, 7 & 8 in Block 8, Lot 2 in Block 4 also all my title to the lower half of the town tract that lies east of Mitchell Branch.

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/22

1854 January 1: Josiah Dowling and John W. Kelly to Abner K. Foster Lots 2, 4 & 6 in Block 8. This property lies north and west to the three-acre tract on which Dowling now resides.

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed B/515

1854 September 27: Abner K. Foster to Josiah Dowling Lots 2, 4, & 6 in Block 8

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/252

1854 October 28: Josiah Dowling to Thomas A. Hester Lots 2, 3 & 4 in Block 8

Reference:
Lavaca County Deed C/263

1854 November 17: Josiah Dowling and John W. Kelly to Thomas A. Hester Lot 1 in Block 8

Reference:
Lavaca County Deed C/286

BLOCK 9

January – December 1854

1854 December 2: Josiah Dowling to John W. Kelly, Dowling interest in ½ of Block 9.

Reference:
Lavaca County Deed E/72

Note: The above deed from Dowling to Kelly is unclear. Nothing in the deed specifies which lots in Block 9 Kelly received. Investigation into other deeds and tax rolls did not provide any clarity. So far now, until additional information is discovered, the entire Block 9 will remain in the names of Dowling and Kelly.

BLOCK 10

January – December 1854

John W. Kelly (Block 10 Lot 1 & 2)

1854 January 1: Josiah Dowling to John W. Kelly Lot 6 & 8 in Block 5, Lot 1 & 2 in Block 10, Lots 6 & 7 in Fractional Block 4 and my title to the upper north half of the town tract lying east of the Mitchell Branch

Reference:
Lavaca County Deed C/201

August Seidel (Block 10 Lot 3 & 4)

1854 August 10: Josiah Dowling and John W. Kelly to August Seidel Lots 3 & 4 in Block 10 front the public square on the east side and lying on the north and joining the lot now occupied by Charles Hoffmann as a grocery and provisions store.

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/393

Charles Hoffmann (Block 10 Lot 5 & 6)

1854 March 21: Josiah Dowling and John W. Kelly to Robert A. Sanford Lots 5 & 6 in Block 10

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/48

Robert Sanford and William Smothers, both active in supplying offices for county officials and records in 1852, had storehouses in town. Sanford's place was in Block 10, fronting 20 varas on the east side of the square. In April 1854, he sold the property to Charles Hoffmann.

Reference:

Free State of Lavaca p. 163 - 4

1854 April 3: Robert A. Sanford to Charles Hoffmann Lots 5 & 6 in Block 10

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/56

Josiah Dowling (Block 10 Lot 7 & 8)

1854 January 1: John W. Kelly to Josiah Dowling Lots 1 & 2 in Block 11, Lots 6 & 8 in Block 10 Lots 3, 5, 7 & 8 in Block 8, Lot 2 in Block 4 and my title to the lower half of the town tract that lies east of the Mitchell Branch

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/22

1854 September 29: Collatinus Ballard to Josiah Dowling Lot 7 in Block 10

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/255

1854 December 2: Josiah Dowling to Benjamin Hoyt 33 feet of Lot 7 & 8 in Block 10

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/417

BLOCK 11

B.H. Foster (part) and William Smothers (part) (Block 11 Lot 1)

1854 January 1: John W. Kelly to Josiah Dowling Lots 1 & 2 in Block 11, Lots 6 & 8 in Block 10, Lots 3, 5, 7 & 8 in Block 8, Lot 2 in Block 4 also all my title to the lower half of the town tract that lies east of the Mitchell Branch

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/22

1854 September 16: Josiah Dowling to William Smothers Lot 1 in Block 11 ½ of my interest in 20 feet of Lot 1 fronting on Main St. and Third St. of ½ of the above 20 ft front and 40 varas back.

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/228

Robert Sanford and William Smothers, both active in supplying offices for county officials and records in 1852, had storehouses in town.... Smothers had property on the NW ¼ of Block 3 front 20 varas on the N margin of Third St. He also had the S 22 feet of the corner lot at the intersection of LaGrange and Third Streets, (Lot 11 Block 1) the SE corner of the square, where he operated a store house.

Reference:

The Free State of Lavaca p. 164

1854 September 27: Josiah Dowling to B. H. Foster Lot 1 in Block 11 35 ½ ft front and 40 varas back

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/258

Josiah Dowling (Block 11 Lot 2)

1854 January 1: John W. Kelly to Josiah Dowling Lots 1 & 2 in Block 11, Lots 6 & 8 in Block 10, Lots 3, 5, 7 & 8 in Block 8, Lot 2 in Block 4 also all my title to the lower half of the town tract that lies east of the Mitchell Branch

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/22

Thomas H. Hawks/William Tate (Block 11 Lot 3 & 4)

Wiley T. Rogers and Bluford B. Walker (Block 11 Lot 5 – 8)

1854 January 30: Josiah Dowling and John W. Kelly to Wiley T. Rogers and Bluford B. Walker Lots 5, 6, 7 & 8 in Block 11. These lots are where the office of Rogers & Walker now stands.

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed B/511

BLOCK 12

Josiah Dowling & John W. Kelly (Block 12 Lot 1 – 6 & 8)

Josiah Dowling (Block 12 Lot 7)

1854 April 7: John W. Kelly to Josiah Dowling Lot 7 in Block 12 and Lots 7 & 8 in Block 4

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/82

BLOCK 13

A.W. Hicks (Block 13 Lot 1 – 8)

1854 June 23: Josiah Dowling and John W. Kelly to A.W. Hicks Block 13
Lots 1 – 8

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed E/237

BLOCK 14

Lavaca County Jail (Block 14 Lot 1)

Josiah Dowling & John W. Kelly (Block 14 Lot 2 – 8)

1854 April 7: Josiah Dowling and John W. Kelly to John Harrell. Block 14 except for lots on which the jail stands (Lot 1) and one which the house of Joseph F. Allen stands (Lot 8)

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/58

1854 September 9: John Harrell to Josiah Dowling and John W. Kelly the lots deeded to me by Dowling & Kelly on 7 April 1854 except lots on which the jail stands and on which houses built by Joseph F. Allen stands.

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/227

On February 16, Joseph F. and Sarah Allen sold to William Smothers the houses and other improvements that we have in the town of Hallettsville near the Lavaca River in which we now live. The ground on which said houses stand we have no claim to and only sell the improvements.

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed B/519

BLOCK 15

John W. Harrell (Block 15 Lot 1, 2, 5 -8)

1854 September 9: Josiah Dowling and John W. Kelly to John W. Harrell Lots 1, 2, 5 – 8 in Block 15.

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/224

Josiah Dowling & John W. Kelly (Block 15 Lot 3 & 4)

BLOCK 16

Rebecca Jones (Block 16 Lot 1)

1854 February 16: Josiah Dowling and John W. Kelly to Rebecca Jones Lot 1 in Block 16

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed B/510

Josiah Dowling & John W. Kelly (Block 16 Lot 2 – 8)

BLOCK 17

Josiah Dowling & John W. Kelly (Block 17 Lot 1 – 8)

BLOCK 18

Collatinus Ballard (Block 18 Lot 1, 3, 5 & 7)

1854 September 2: Josiah Dowling and John W. Kelly to Collatinus Ballard Lots 1, 3, 5 & 7 in block 18 west ½ of the block where the Alma Institute stands

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/214

Alma Male & Female Institute (Block 18 Lot 2, 4, 6 & 8)

BLOCK 19

Abner K. Foster (Block 19 Lot 1 – 8)

1854 January 1: Josiah Dowling and John W. Kelly to Abner K. Foster Lots 1 – 8 in Block 19.

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed B/515

BLOCK 20

Masonic College (Block 20 Lot 1 – 8)

FRACTIONAL BLOCK 1

Josiah Dowling & John W. Kelly

FRACTIONAL BLOCK 2

Collatinus Ballard (Fractional Block 2 Lot 2 & 3)

FRACTIONAL BLOCK 3

Dr. Nathaniel Chambliss (Fractional Block 3 Lot 4 & 5)

FRACTIONAL BLOCK 4

John W. Kelly (Fractional Block 4 Lot 6 & 7)

1854 January 1: Josiah Dowling to John W. Kelly Lots 6 & 8 in Block 5, Lots 1 & 2 in Block 10, Lots 6 & 7 in Fractional Block 4 and my title to the upper north half of the town lying east of Mitchell Branch.

Reference:

Lavaca County Deed C/201

FRACTIONAL BLOCK 5

Wilson Brooks (Fractional Block 5 Lot 8 & 9)