

Thomas R. Bayne to Zu Adams

Mr. Bayne wrote from Williamstown, Kansas, describing slaves that he had owned. He also listed a number of other families who owned slaves in Kansas during the territorial period in southern Jefferson and northern Douglas counties. He offered a southerners' perspective on owning slaves. This item is from information collected by F. G. Adams and Miss Zu (Zoe) Adams in 1895. They contacted a number of early Kansas settlers requesting information about slaves brought to Kansas Territory. While all of the information collected was based on reminiscences, it still provides useful information that is difficult, if not impossible, to find elsewhere. Miss Adams and her father F. G. Adams were employees of the Kansas State Historical Society.

Creator: Bayne, Thomas R.

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KANSAS
HISTORICAL
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Slavery
Bayne, T. R.

Wellington Kas Sept 11/96
Mip. Joe Adams

In reply to your inquiry in regard
to Kansas Slaves in and near LeCompton
in our County we had three and James
Skeggs had 2 & Thos Skeggs had
one and Swier at Osawatie had
one and ^{that} all that I knew in our
County in Douglas Co Parish. Ellson
at the old ^{town} of Douglass had two
and John Wallis had one that was
all that I knew Judge Ellmore had
some Slaves but I don't know
how many James Skeggs took
his Slaves to Texas in 60 took them
all from here and one of ours with
him he had ten thousand dollars
in specie and all of the Slaves knew
it they was furnished with guns

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stood guard every night-in going
 out-of kas They had bin threatened
 by the free State thieves that they
 would be robbed and the slaves
 liberated before they could get out
 but it would have bin a risky
 job for any party to carry out
 Milt McLee had no slaves in
 Kansas to my knowledge nor
 any McLee of my acquaintance
 James McLee was a settler but had
 no slaves My Grandfather Bayne
 owned about 40 slaves some of his
 children lived in Illinois they got
 Land and money we that lived
 in the South got slaves I am not
 ashamed of having owned slaves
 of course we knew that we had a
 great responsibility on our hands but
 was willing to meet it we was not
 like northern people concerned solely by
 profit and gain it was not of great
 profit but was rather convenient to have
 your own labour



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but it is of no use to write on this
subject - The northern people dont
now under stand what slavery was
and never will respectfully yours
Thos R Bayne