

A. Lincoln Esq.

New Orleans Sept. 28. 1849

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 14th inst. came to hand today.

Judge James E. Davis for several years furnished his brother W. W. Davis means to purchase & attend to the securing titles to Lands in Texas, for this joint account. Judge Davis furnished the means & W. W. Davis gave his personal attention to the business or pretended to do so. W. W. Davis spent several years in Texas used all the means that Judge Davis could get & pretended to acquire a large amount of land, among the rest a great deal of land on the Sulphur Fork. Whether he got good titles or not I don't know I think the probability is that with regard to many of his purchases he did not get good titles, for I believe he was utterly incompetent to manage such an affair. All the purchases were made in the name of W. W. Davis, or at all events the legal title was intended to have been vested in him, for he was a citizen of the Republic of Texas & Judge Davis was

not — and the laws of Texas before it was
admitted into the Union did not permit
an alien to hold real property there.

After Texas was admitted into the Union
Judge Davis was very anxious to have a
settlement with H. W. & to have the legal
title to his share of the land out of the
control of H. W. and to accomplish this
purpose Judge D. procured upon
H. W. to convey all the Texas lands
to Chas. M. Randall, Judge Davis's
son in law, in trust, ^{to convey} to sundry persons
interested in those lands, their portions
of the lands, not specifying persons or
the extent of their interest and leaving it
to Mr. Randall to convey to any person
whomsoever whom he thought proper.
It was intended that Mr. Randall
should execute a counter letter, stating
that after satisfying the claims of all
third persons to portions of the land the
balance was to be held for the account
of H. W. Davis & Judge Davis. Mr.
Randall died last Spring without
executing such a counter letter, although
one was prepared. And therefore the legal
title to all the Land is now in his heirs

This is what I have heard & believe about
this matter. I have in my possession the
deed to Randall & have seen two unexecuted
drafts of the counter letters among his papers.
My wife is a daughter of Judge Dury,
but I have so little faith in the titles
to these lands - & they have been neglected
so long, while perhaps adverse titles have
been attended to & perhaps fortified by posses-
-ion - that I have resolved to waste no
time labour or money about the matter.
It appears to me as the thing now stands
necessary to have a suit with
representatives to get the title
the heirs to the property, considering
as his mother or brother &
sister all living in Hamilton County Ohio
I believe.

Very Respectfully

Yours etc. etc.

Geo. Finney



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