

Washington City August 27th 1840.

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter of the 19th instant requesting information respecting your lots in Washington, the debt due from your brother-in-law, Mr Jones, and the progress made towards a final settlement of the estate of the late Robert Leckie. I shall endeavour to give you information on these three points.

As respects your lots the sale of real estate in Washington is, at present, very dull, still I think your lots could be sold for cash, or on a credit, perhaps of 6, 12, & 18 months, with interest, to safe purchasers, at the valuation placed on them by the City Assessors, three of our most intelligent Citizens, who make their estimates on oath, as to the cash price, which property would, in their opinion, command. Their valuation is \$360 for each lot, or \$1,080 for the three. I paid the taxes in March last. The property has not been under rent since Mr Fuller abandoned it; it was offered to several at ten dollars per annum, and the use of it is now granted to a man merely for taking care of the fences.

With regard to Mr Jones' debt the books and papers which came into my possession as Administrator showed him indebted to the estate, at the time of Mr Leckie's death, in the sum of \$8,927, 78. In the list of debtors, which it was my duty

to furnish to the Orphans' Court I returned him as indebted to that amount. The Orphans' Court did not require any specification of the particulars of this indebtedness. Should the amount, however, be disputed, which it is presumed it will not be, if it shall become necessary in a settlement between you and Mr Jones it may be in my power to afford sufficient and satisfactory explanations of the several items of debit and credit, constituting the debt. But from the connexion which exists between Mr Jones and myself, as well as from an unwillingness to interfere in a matter of difference between him and you, propriety would seem to require that I should take no active part in the case.

I know not how far payments made by Mr Jones since the death of Mr Leckie may exonerate him from his debt to the estate, and entitle him to a credit, as I am not in possession of any vouchers of that character.

As respects your enquiry concerning the progress made towards a final settlement of the estate, I shall, as the means best calculated to give you full information on the subject, procure and transmit to you by next week's mail a copy of my last account settled in the Orphans' Court. sanguine hopes were entertained that the last Session of Congress would have relieved Mr Leckie's estate of some of its difficulties, but, although powerfully aided by the Hon. Mr. Dromgoole, the Hon. Mr. Hoffman, the Hon. Mr. Turney and some other members, unexpected opposition in the Judiciary

Committee of the Senate succeeded in postponing action on a Bill for the relief of the administrators, which had passed in the House of Representatives. Scarcely a doubt is entertained that the Bill will, next session, ^{be} conducted to a favourable issue. No exertions shall be spared on my part to have the whole business brought to a close at the earliest practicable period. Could I have anticipated such difficulties and delays as have occurred no consideration would have induced me to become an Administrator.

With kind regard for Mrs Hendrick and family

Yours respectfully

John Doyle.

William Hendrick Esq
Palmer's Spring

Boyle letter



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FREE

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