

Descriptive Summary:

Creator:	Travis County Registrar
Title:	Fred Bell Papers
Inclusive Dates:	1867
Bulk Dates:	1867
Abstract:	The Fred Bell Papers consist of one manuscript, an enfranchisement oath for African-American Fred Bell, living in Travis County, Texas.
Accession #:	3802
Extent:	0.45 linear feet (1 box)
Language:	Collection is in English.
Repository:	The Texas Collection, Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Biographical Note:

The Fred Bell Papers, containing an enfranchisement oath for Fred Bell, is an important piece of Reconstruction history for Travis County, Texas.

Fred Bell, an African-American living in Travis County, signed the enfranchisement oath in the collection on 1867 July 1. At that time, he had lived in Texas ten months, though perhaps not all that time in Travis County. Fred Bell is not listed in the Reconstruction-era census records for Texas.

The enfranchisement paper is signed by James Robinson, attested by Z.W. Collins, and certified by W.C. Phipps, registrar for Travis County. Over the entire paper is written diagonally that the document was cancelled by Colonel C.C. Moore. A James Robinson appears in the 1870 census for Travis County, who was a twenty-eight-year-old farmer at that time. Collins, Phipps, and Moore do not appear in the Reconstruction-era census records for Texas. Despite the lack of information about the document, this enfranchisement oath is an important piece of Reconstruction Texas history because of the social changes going on at the time, allowing African-American men to vote for the first time.

Scope and Content:

The Fred Bell Papers were acquired by purchase in one transaction from Jordan Antiques and Antiquarian Books in 2012 March.

The collection of one document begins and ends in 1867. The document is an enfranchisement oath certifying Fred Bell to vote in Travis County, Texas.

Organization and Arrangement:

The Fred Bell Papers are arranged in one series: I. Literary Productions.

Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

Literary Rights Statement:

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Index Terms:

African Americans--History--1836-1877.

African Americans--Suffrage--History.

Election law--United States--History.

Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877).

Travis County (Tex.)--History.

Related Materials: None.

Separated Materials: None.

Custodial History:

Acquisition:	Collection was acquired in one purchase in 2012 March.
Citation:	Fred Bell Papers, Accession #3802, Box #, Folder #, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.

Processing Information: Finding aid completed by Paul Fisher, 2012 April 23.

Container List:

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
1	1	Literary Productions: Broadside	1867