

**Probate File for William Conaway, McLean County, Illinois,
August 21, 1832 to Nov. 18, 1834**

Below are images of the pages in the probate file for William Conaway from the McLean County, Illinois Circuit Clerk - Civil Division in Bloomington, Illinois. The images are photos taken in August, 2020 by Chuck Hill, who works in that office.

The loose pages are from probate Box 1-14 and include the bond and oath of office on August 21, 1832 for Amos Conaway to serve as administrator. The pages from books are from: Book 1831-38, page 93 and facing page, Nov. 5, 1833; and Book 1833-49, page 7 and facing page, Nov. 5, 1833 and "final settlement" Nov. 18, 1834.

William Conaway died without a will. The records include lists of people who bought items at an estate sale. Many names on the lists correspond to the names of relatives of William Conaway, including:

- Nancy Conaway (wife)
- Aquilla Conaway (son)
- Amos Conaway (son)
- Chalton Conaway (son)
- William Conaway (son, and also a grandson—son of Amos Conaway)
- Elizabeth Neal (daughter)
- Silas Waters (husband of daughter Christiana)
- Robert Barnett (husband of daughter Matilda)
- Ambrose Hall (husband of daughter Nancy)
- Henry Merrifield (husband of granddaughter Catherine—daughter of Aquilla)

The final value of the estate was \$1399, as recorded on November 18, 1834. A record of the distribution of the money to William Conaway's wife and living descendants would be expected, but was not found.

Bertha B. Watters did extensive genealogical research about William Conaway's family. Her husband Samuel "Fay" Watters was a grandson of William Conaway's daughter Christiana. Bertha's research files are at the Crumbaugh Library in Le Roy, Illinois and include a typed transcription of the probate files below made in November, 1958. She wrote that she did not find a record for the distribution of the final estate and intended to return to the courthouse to pursue the matter with the clerk. She lived in McLean County and presumably did try again, but did not obtain the expected record. In August, 2020 Chuck Hill checked the probate files for Amos Conaway and William H. Conaway to verify that a record for William Conaway had not been misfiled in another Conaway box. He said that it was possible that no record was filed with the court, or that a record was misplaced.

(The images were obtained by Jim Kennedy, who also wrote the introduction above, version of September 6, 2020)

Bond of

Amos Conway

Recorded 19th
Sept 1832

J. S. Sibley
Judge of Prob.

Know all men by these Presents that we Amos
Conaway and William Conaway of the County of
McLean and State of Illinois are held and firmly
bound unto the People of the State of Illinois in the
personal sum of twenty five hundred Dollars current money
of the United States which payment well and truly to
be made and performed we and each of us bind ourselves
our heirs Executors Administrators and assigns jointly
severally and firmly by these presents Witness our hands
and seals this ~~the~~ twenty first day of August A.D. 1832

The condition of the above obligation is
such that if the said Amos Conaway Administrator of
all and singular the goods and Chattels rights and Credits
of William Conaway deceased do make or cause to be made
A true and perfect Inventory of all and singular the goods
and Chattels rights and Credits of the said deceased which
shall come to the hands Possession or Knowledge of him
the said Amos Conaway as such Administrator or to
the hands of any person or persons for him and the same
do make or exhibit or cause to be exhibited in the Court
of Probate for the said County of McLean according
to law and such goods and rights and Credits do well

So made de Exhibit or cause to be Exhibited in the Court
of Probate for the said County of ... agreeable
to law and such goods and rights and Credits do well
and truly Administer according to law and all the rest
of the said goods and Chattels Rights and Credits which
shall be found remaining upon the account of the said
Administrator the same being first Examined and allowed
by the Court of Probate shall deliver and pay to such
person or persons respectively as may legally Entitled thereto
and further do make a just and true account of all his
actings and doings therein when thereunto required by the
said Court and if it shall hereafter appear that any
said will and testament was made by the decedent and the
same be proved in Court and Letters testamentary or of
Administration be obtained thereon and the said Amos
Conaway do in such case on being required thereunto render
and deliver up the Letters of Administration granted
to him as aforesaid and shall in the general do and perform
all other Acts which may at any time be required of
him by Law then ^{this} obligation to be void otherwise
to remain in full force and Virtue
Signed - - -

and sealed
in the presence of
Samuel Simby
Judge of Probate

Amos Conant
William Conant

James Conway

Administrator

Oath

Recorded 30th
August 1882

I do solemnly swear that that I will well and truly administer all and singular the goods and Chattels rights and credits and Effects of William Conaway deceased and pay all Just claims and Charges against his Estate so far as his goods Chattels and Effects shall Extend and the Law charge me and that I will do and perform all other required of me by Law to the best of my Knowledge and Abilities

Anna Conaway

taken and subscribed

before me this 21st day
of August 1832

I Dwyer Judge of

Probate

Recorded 30th August 1832

Appointment
of
Appraisers
for the estate
of M. Conway

Recorded November
the 23rd 1832

J. S. [Signature]

The People of the State of Illinois to
John B. Wells James Merryfield and
Michael Jefferson of the County of McLean
and State of Illinois Greeting
This is to authorize you jointly to appraise
the goods chattels and personal Estate of
William Conway late of the County of
McLean and State of Illinois deceased so far
as the same shall come to your sight and knowledge
each of you having first taken the oath or
affirmation hereunto annexed a certificate when of
you are to return annexed to an appraisement Bill
of said goods chattels and personal estate by you
appraised in dollars and cents and in the said
bill of appraisement you are to set down in a column
or columns opposite to each article appraised the
value thereof

Id

Witness Samuel Dinsley Judge
of Probate for the said County
of McLean at my office in
Bloomington this 21 day of
August 1832

You and each of you do solemnly swear (or affirm)
that you will well and truly without Partisanship or
Prejudice value and appraise the goods chattels and
Personal Estate of ^{*}William Conway deceased so far
as the same shall come to your sight and knowledge
and that you will in all respects perform your duty
as appraisers to the best of your Skill and Judgment

September the 13th 1832
 Bill of Praisment of the personal property of W^m Conm'way De est

one Box of shoe tools	—	x	80	-	75	
Windmill Irons and Riddle	—	x	1	-	0-0	
a lot of old horse shoes and other old Iron	—	x	1	-	0-0	
one pair saddle Bags	—	Correct	1	-	75	
two pair small stretchers	—	x	1	-	50	
two Clevises and 2 Rings	—	x	1	-	00	
one lag Chain	—	x	1	-	25	
one pair of stretchers and single trees	—	x	2	-	00	
one Whistle one auger and one Wedg	—	x	1	-	00	
one Crafts cut Saw	—	x	4	-	00	
one lot of gearing	—	x	16	-	00	
three Blind Bridles	—	x	1	-	50	
two hoes	—	x	1	-	00	
one Sythe	—	x	1	-	00	
one ax	—	one pair of Brest	x	2	-	25
one mat ax	—	1 Day before Chain	x	0	-	75
one hand saw	—	x	1	-	00	
one pair Brest chains	This is to be	x	1	-	00	
one Cary plow and Irons beertfic	—	x	4	-	00	
one plow and Irons	—	Correct	x	5	-	50
one Shovel plow	—	x	2	-	00	
one calf hid	—	x	1	-	75	
one Box Steer specks and shells	—	x	0	-	50	
one pair sheep shears	—	x	0	-	37 1/2	
one Book Westleys Notes	—	x	1	-	00	
one Stone gug	—	x	0	-	37 1/2	
two Battered paper box and Canister	—	x	0	-	56 1/4	
one window Sash	—	x	0	-	90	
one half Bushel and one Bucket	—	x	0	-	37 1/2	
one Bell and one Sickle	—	x	0	-	62 1/2	
one Chain trammel	—	x	0	-	37 1/2	

five pains Window glass	X	9-0-31/4
one Bed sted and Bed With one Cover	X	12-00
one Do - Do - Do	X	12-00
three Coverlets	X	15-00
four Blankets and one quilt	X	12-00
Two Counterpins	V	10-00
one Bureau		15-00
Four Chairs		3-00
one Bag		0-00
one flat Iron		0-25
one Box		0-50
one Drawing knife		1-25
one halter Chain	X	9-75
Five Barrows		17-50
fourteen shot		60-00
fourteen large shot		30-00
one Waggon	X	12-50
one Bay Mare	X	20-00
one Colt	X	33-00
one two year old philly	X	40-00
one gray horse Colt	X	40-00
one sorrel mare	X	40-00
one Black philly	X	8-00
one heffer and Calf	X	12-00
one Cow and Calf	X	15-00
one Wheel stack	X	00-75
one halter Chain	X	2-00
one saddle	X	2-75
two hackles		
one improvement and Clame on one hundred and twenty acres of timber	X	300-00
one improvement and Clame of forty acres of timber	55	00
one Isled	00	75

W Conaway
Bell of Appraisal

~~one basket~~
one basket.
one bull

\$3 1/2
x8

631-75
122-05 3/4
025-33 3/4
032-75/4
8. 11-89 1/2
8. 37 1/2
146.618

541.60 1/2
270-30 1/2
261.30 1/2
211.97

Inventary
de Leonardus

McLean County Ill 22 Oct 1832
an Inventory of the Money on hand also
the notes and accounts belonging to the
Estate of William Conway deceased

one note against A Griddley	\$300. 00
Money on hand	100. 00
Money in Weedmans hands	100. 00
	<hr/>
	500. 00

500
St. Michael
Cape
Whoraway

Worcester 19th March 1833
The Estate of William Conway
To Robert Kewler Esq
To makeing & furnishing me Coffin & so

this Day Personally appeared James
Orendorff and after being duly
sworn says that the above
account is just to his personal knowledge
Sworn to before me this 19th March 1833
David Dwyer J. Prob.

Inventory
M Conaway

Bloomington August 19th 1833
Inventory of ~~Property~~ belonging to
the Estate of William Conway does
not before specified

Interest on a note against A. Pugh	\$23.25
Interest on a note against J. Medman	5.00
an account against William Conway	8.00
	<hr/>
	\$46.25
an account against W. Conway & R. Barnett	3.50
	<hr/>
	\$49.75

Recorded 15 Aug
1833

Sale Bill

W Conway

1

Chalton Conaway 25 bus Corn 6 Dollars 97½
 Henry Haines 25 bus Corn 6 49¾
 William Johnson 25 bus Corn 6 49¾
 Amos Conaway 25 bus Corn 6 49¾
 Silas Waters 25 bus Corn 6 49¾
 Alvin Barnett 25 bus Corn 6 50
 Abner Buckles 25 bus Corn 6 50
 James Vandevanter 25 bus Corn 6 50
 Abner Buckles 25 bus Corn 6 56¼
 William Johnson 20 bus Corn 4 91½
 Chalton Conaway 20 bus Corn 4 92½
 Alvin Barnett 25 bus Corn 9 00
 William Johnson 10 Shocks of Corn 6 18¾
 William Jesse 10 Shocks of Corn 4 50
 William McPherson 10 Shocks Corn 4 97½
 James Merrifield 10 Shocks of Corn 4 50
 Abner Buckles 10 Shocks of Corn 4 50
 Reuben Clearwaters 10 Shocks of Corn 4 62½
 James Vandevanter 10 Shocks of Corn 5 00
 Henry Haines 4 bus wheat 2 99¾
 Reuben Clearwaters 4 wheat 2 87½
 Amos Conaway one Chane severity five Certy
 Thomas Buckles 20 bus Corn at 5 Dollars
 Messrs Barnett alot of oats at 3 dol 50 Cts

\$ 118 - 69½ Cts

Henry Merrifield C^o
 James Vandevanter auctioner

James maryfield one Jug tobacco	..	31 1/4
Silas waters one half bushel	..	31 1/4
Silas waters one bell	..	12 1/2
Amos Conway one sickle	..	6 83/4
Aquila Conway one pot tranel	..	37 1/2
David Cox one bed	15	68 1/4
Samuel maryfield one Bull	8	56 1/4
James Johnson one Bed	19	50
William Johnson one covered	2	50
Amos Wall one	5	60
Robert Barnett one covered	2	50
William Conway one Blanket	2	56 1/4
William Johnson one Blanket	1	68 3/4
Henery mannan one Blanket	x 1	6 1/2
Chalton Conway one quilt	x 3	00
Aquilla Conway one blanket	2	75
Robert Barnett one counterpin	6	50
W ^c Bartee Will Drege one counterpin	+	4 00
William Conway to four chairs	x	00 25
James Rutledge one bag	x	87 1/4
Chalton Conway one flat iron	+	50
James maryfield one Box	..	45 1/4
Daniel Crum baugh one drawing knife	x	1 25
Thomas Buckler one halter chain	+	12 00
Moses Barnett one cow and calf	+	8 37 1/2
Isaac Johnson one cow and calf	+	17 00
Oliver Barnett five hogs	x	16 62 1/2
Chalton Conway fourteen hogs	..	12 6 1/4
Chalton Conway fourteen hogs	..	52 00
Oliver Barnett one waggon	x	27 12 1/2
Samuel maryfield one mare	..	18 75
Cl ^d Britton one bott	..	40 00
Amos Wall one mare	..	35 00
W ^c Bartee Will Drege one Horse	..	42 25
Silas waters one mare	..	22 00
James Rutledge one bott	..	20 25
Elizabeth Neal one wheat stack	x	2 75
Thomas Devenport one saddle	x	2 75

James Maryfield	one	Walter Chain	..	75
Amos Conway	two	Wackles	4	62 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chalton Conway	one	basket	..	43 $\frac{3}{4}$
Amos Conway	one	half of Book	..	25
Elizabeth Seal	one	improvement	x	46 00
Chalton Conway	to	one sled	x	.. 75
				<hr/>
				826 75

Wm H. Hodge Auctioneer
 James Sanderson to Clerk

Call Bull
W Conway

2

A Sail Bill

Naney Conaway	one Bureau	1	15	00
do	five pairs of window glass	1	..	31 1/4
do	one window sash	1	..	90
do	one Improve and claim	1	300	00
Aquila Conway	a Box of shoetools		..	62 1/2
Amos Conway	wind mill iron and riddle	x	..	25
Amos Conway	horn shorn and stumps	x	..	75
James Mullege	one pair of saddle legs	x	..	1 1/2
Aquila Conway	one pair of stretchers	x	..	7
Chalton Conway	one pair of stretchers	x	..	91
Oliver Barnett	one blivian iron	x	..	4 1/4
Chalton Conway	one blivian iron	x	..	16
Henry Maryfield	one log chain	x	1	31 1/4
Chalton Conway	one pair of st. legs	x	1	64
Oliver Barnett	to augers chisels and irons	x	1	00
William Hodge	one cross cut saw	1	4	00
Reuben Clearwater	one pair of gears	x	3	25
Chalton Conway	to one pair of gears	x	..	1 1/2
Chalton Conway	to one pair of gears	x	..	4
Aquila Conway	to one pair of Hairs		1	00
Robert Buckler	two blind bridles	x	..	75
Reuben Clearwater	two Hoses	x	1	25
Chalton Conway	one sythe	x	..	56 1/4
William Conway	one ax	1	2	25
James Maryfield	one ax	x	..	90
Vilas Water	to one saw	1	1	56 1/4
Chalton Conway	to one pair breast chains	x	..	75
Reuben Clearwater	to one plow	x	4	00
Michael Dickerson	one plow	x	4	00
Michael Dickerson	one plow	x	1	75
Samuel Maryfield	one hide	1	1	31 1/4
Daniel Crambough	Spools and sheels	1	..	87 1/2
Reuben Clearwater	one Book	1	..	75
Amos Conway	Box and Bottles		..	37 1/2
James Maryfield	one pair of shears	1	..	37 1/2

C. Amberg

Receipt

5000

Received of Amos Conaway by the
hand of Daniel Surling the full of my
account against the estate of
William Conaway died August 19th 1832
Caleb Kimler

The Estate of William Leaway
To Amos Leaway Sr

To 1 day collecting property	\$1.00
To 2 days tending sale	2.00
To 1 day measuring corn	1.00
To time obtaining letters of adv ^{ts}	1.50
To collecting money	5.00
To percent on sales	56.70
	<hr/>
	67.20

To Richard Mack \$ 30 00
To M S Lovell 8. 00

In Testimony whereof
I have hereunto set my hand
and Private Seal there being no
official seal yet Provided at
Bloomington the day and date
above written Saml Starby
Judge of Probate

November the 5th 1835

This be regular term for the Court of
Probate for the County of McLean MS
Personally appeared Amos
Conaway administrator to the estate of William
Conaway dec^d to exhibit accounts of his Administⁿ
ation for said estate

Amount of Sale Bills of the property sold
belonging to the estate of the said William Conaway

Am't of Sales \$ 945. 58

Am't of Notes ac^d by Cash or hand 500 00

Am't of ac^d by Interest on money 49 75

1495. 33

Demands established against said estate

In favour of Caleb Hunter \$ 6. 00

In favour of James Messyfeldt " 75

In favour of Michael Jackson " 75

In favour of ~~John Dyer~~ " 75

In favour of William St. George 2 00

In favour of James Vandevanter 2 00

In favour of Amos Conaway

for collecting percent on sales 67. 20

In favour of Saml Starby 11. 37 1/2

Bloomington 5th November 1853

To Amos Conaway Administrator
to the estate of William ^{Conaway} late of the County
of McLean and State of Illinois

This is to authorize you to pay of the
moneys which have come in to your hands of
the said estate

To Caleb Kender	\$ 6.00
To James Mansfield	" 75
To Michael Dickerson	" 75
To John Buckley	" 75
To William H. Hodge	2.00
To James Vandewater	2.00
To Amos Conaway	67.20
To Samuel Surley	<u>11.37 1/2</u>

Witness my hand Samuel Surley 9082
Judge of Probate at his office
in Bloomington day and date
above written Samuel Surley
Judge of Probate

Nov. 1854 This day appeared Amos Conaway in
18th the court of Probate to make a final
settlement of the estate of the estate of William
Conaway two years having expired since the
issuing of his letters of administration

Am't of Sales & Cash	\$ 11,953.33
Expenses in estate last year 9082	46.32
Conaway Op. current 1854	5.50
	<u>46.32</u>

There being no further demands established
against the estate is worth the above
sum of thirteen hundred and ninety nine
dollars

93

at a regular term of the court of Probate
for the county of McLean held in the town
of Bloomington on Monday the 4th day of
November 1853 This being the first term of the
Probate Court after the expiration of one year after
the ~~expiration~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~letters~~ ~~of~~ ~~administration~~ ~~granted~~
to Evanella B. Williams on the estate of William
Williams decd. and there being no demands exhibited
against said estate it is Judged that said estate
is entirely solvent

On this ~~the~~ the day of November 1853
Personally appearing Amos Conway Administrator
to the estate of William Conway late of the county
of McLean and State of Illinois to exhibit
accounts of his administration twelve months having
elapsed since the date of his letters of administration
from the amount of sales as appears on record
it appears that the said estate is entirely
solvent therefore it is ordered that the said
Administrator have an order to pay all demands
against said estate

1853

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Bloomington 18th Nov 1854

The estate of William Conaway

To Amos Conaway Dr

To cash pd J. I. Francis for
advertising admⁿ notice \$ 2.00

To cash pd M. L. Covell for
funeral expenses

" 3.50

\$ 5.50

A Conway
AP
Current

Bloomington 18th Nov 1854

The Estate of William Conway

To Amos Conway Dr

To cash p^d Q & S. Francis for advertising
admt^y notice £2 00

To cash p^d M L Covert for funeral expenses \$ 50

\$ 5.50

Bloomington 5th November 1833

To Amos Conaway Administrator
to the estate of William ^{Conaway} late of the County
of McLean and State of Illinois

This is to authorize you to pay of the
moneys which have come in to your hands of
the said estate

To Caleb Hunter	\$ 6.00
To James Mansfield	" 75
To Michael Sickerdon	" 75
To John Buckley	" 75
To William H. Hodge	2.00
To James Vandewater	2.00
To Amos Conaway	67.20
To Samuel Starley	<u>11.37 1/2</u>

Witness my hand Samuel Starley 9082
Judge of Probate at his office
in Bloomington day and date
above written Samuel Starley
Judge of Probate

Nov. 1834 This day appeared Amos Conaway in
18th the court of Probate to make a final
settlement of the estate of the estate of William
Conaway two years having expired since the
issuing of his letters of administration

Am't of Sales & Cash	\$ 112.95.33.
Expenses in estate last year 9082	<u>46.32</u>
Conaway ap. current 1836	5.50
	<u>46.32</u>

There being no further demands established
against the estate is worth the above
sum of thirteen hundred and ninety nine
dollars

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