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Letter from Mims Williams to His Mother

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March 4th.1913.

Dear Mama:-

I have your letter enclosing the one from Dan Banks relative to the death of Billie Douglas.

I know Mama that what Dan Banks says is true. You must understand that Judge Douglas was an old bachelor and a very good and tender hearted man.; that he drank very much and was what you might call a very eccentric person. He naturally felt kindly towards those who personally attended him and did those little cares and attentions that come up in daily life with us all. Those little kindnesses daily rendered are really the greatest things that one gets out of life. While you say that he could have accomplished so much good with his money by aiding his relative who needed it. He thought towards them doubtless like Dan Banks wrote about him,- that since they cared very little for him that he lost nothing by caring so little for them. I admire a big hearted man. I think really that his giving his race horses to his negro kockey was the one real act of kindness of his life. The crowning act of his whole life. The old negro doubtless has been faithful to him in all things, has been his body servant so to speak and had served him faithfully for many years and really he owed more to him from that source than to any one else on earth. He felt that he did surely by his remembrance of the old negro in his will. If he wished to reward the old negro's faithfulness I applaud the act and I dare say that this marks the best single conduct of his whole career. You understand that faithfulness even in a dog is rewarded by any man with a soul and heart worth

the having. There was no particular reason why he should have devised his property to any of his relatives. He had lived away and aloof from them for the whole life he had spent. There could have been little if any feeling of bloodor family ties in his heart. He was more indebted to those among whom he lived for kindnesses and favors and the little pleasures that one gets out of life than to any of his relatives. He owed more doubtless to the old faithful negro who possibly never deceived him; never proved unfaithful or ungrateful and was always his trusted friend in every day life. I appreciate very^{much}/the feeling that prompted the gift and reward to the old negro by his master. Billie Douglas is a better man at heart than I thought he was.

For your satisfaction, Mama, I have written to the County Clerk of Harris County and of Jefferson County Texas to send me copy of the last will and testament of Judge Douglas if same were recorded in their office. The will would have to be recorded or probated if the devisees would take the property under its provisions. When I receive a copy I shall send it to you. This will be the facts as they really exist and no second hand news. I am sure that Tom Haley did not profit from any of the estate of Billie Douglas. He may have owed Douglas some money but I doubt that. I do not think that Douglas' estate was worth much. The Will I am sure will bear me out in this.

With love, Your son,