

administrator of the Philbrook estate. The effects of the deceased were widely scattered and varied in form. A portion of them was sold at Little Rock at public auction October 20, 1824 at a total of \$61.62½. The administrator himself bought a pair of pistols, a trunk, and a liquor case. Silas T. Toncray purchased the late sub-agent's horse, ten fans, sealing wax, toothbrush, and a book called YANKEE ORATIONS. Matthew Cunningham picked up a shirt for fifty cents, and "Bill", probably a slave, acquired a shirt, handkerchief, and two pairs of worn pantaloons for seven bits.

From Thomas W. Newton the administrator obtained a list of papers which Philbrook had left with Newton "in the fore part of March, 1824," for collection or safe keeping. W. Quarles turned over to Woodruff a list (dated March 19, 1824) of bank notes which Philbrook had left with him, returnable to Philbrook if a certain transaction was not carried out. Enough personal effects had been assembled to make another auction sale advisable. Items in the second sale were evidently the remainder of a stock of goods. Included in quantity were green "ribband", white and figured lustring, gauze, satin, merino trimmings, figured silk, shawls, ladies gloves, ostrich plumes, a trunk, and a few books. The proceeds of the second sale was \$77.28½.

Among the evidences of indebtedness turned over to Woodruff were several notes in favor of Philbrook made in New England, the earliest dated March 13, 1813. These papers Woodruff forwarded to Eliphalet Philbrook, Wakefield, New Hampshire. J. H. Lucas, Post of Arkansas, settled Philbrook's accounts there and shipped to Woodruff some personal effects. Lucas insisted that he have an allowance for his trouble, for he had measured every yard of ribbon in the stock of goods.⁶

Thus in outline is the story of the "settlement" of the estate of Nathaniel Philbrook in 1824-1825. Cost of administration had consumed most of the proceeds.

About fifty years later the heirs of Philbrook set up a claim to much of the land on which Little Rock had grown up. The claim of course was based on the old New Madrid claims of Nathaniel Philbrook. D. Eldridge, 162 North Street, Boston, in 1873, listed in print fifty-one heirs of the "Philbrook property in Arkansas and New Hampshire."⁷ Attorneys for the heirs found an inclination among officials at Washington to favor the claim. Augustus H. Garland, United States Senator at the time, was advocate for the citizens of Little Rock whose land was in question by the Philbrook claim. In preparation of his brief Garland naturally turned to Woodruff who was still alert and of sound mind though eighty-two years old. Woodruff had formed the habit from the time he came to Arkansas of keeping and filing every paper he considered important. When Garland called on him for help he had more than memory to serve him, although he seems to have depended on memory alone on immaterial points, as for instance the exact date of Philbrook's death. The final settlement of the Philbrook suit was of course against the heirs of Philbrook.