

Sworn Statement: William F. Powell

The State of Missouri Plaintiff } June 25th 1855
vs } In an action
Celia a slave defendant } for Murder
before D M

White and Isaac P. Howe

William F. Powell being produced & and sworn on the part of the State de-
posed and saith, hearing on the 24th day
day of June 1855 that Mr Robert Newsom was
missing, I went over to his house with other
neighbors to assist in searching for him, after
looking about for him, I asked his negro Boy
George where he thought he was, he stated that
he did not know believe it was worth while
to hunt for him any where except close around
the house, for he had reasons to believe he was
not far off. I told him he had better go and
show us where the old man if he knew where
he was, he stated he believed the last walking
he done was along this path, pointing to the path
leading from the house to the Negro Cabin,
from the statements of George I believed he had
been destroyed in the negro Cabin, I went ~~to the~~
to the Cabin with others to search, but we made
no discovery, after searching we called up
Mr Robert Newsom's Negro woman named
Celia and asked her if she knew where her
master was she first denied knowing any
thing of him, but finally acknowledged that
she had struck him on the head ~~with~~ with
a stick and knocked him down and then
struck him ~~over~~ after he was down she said
she found out she ~~was dead~~ had killed him
and thought she would throw him out at the
door, but got afraid she would be hung for

it, and concluded she would try
and burn him up so that he could
not be found, she said she burnt him
in the negro cabin with one stick of wood
and some boards, she said she found
she could not entirely consume the bones
she burnt them to pieces and got Coffey
Waincott Mr Newsoms Grandson to help
her carry the contents of the fire place out
and empty them by the side of the path
running from the Negro Cabin to the stable
myself and others then went and examined
the said ashes and contents and found
bones, the bones here presented was parts
of them that I saw in the said ashes
which I believe to be the bones of Mr Robert
Newsom as we found them where she
said she had put them, she said there
was no person at the Cabin that night
but Mr Robert Newsom and his children
and that she had no assistance in kill-
ing him

Subscribed }
before us this 25th day of }
June A D 1855- }
I M W J P }
Isaac P. Howe J P }

Wm H. Powell