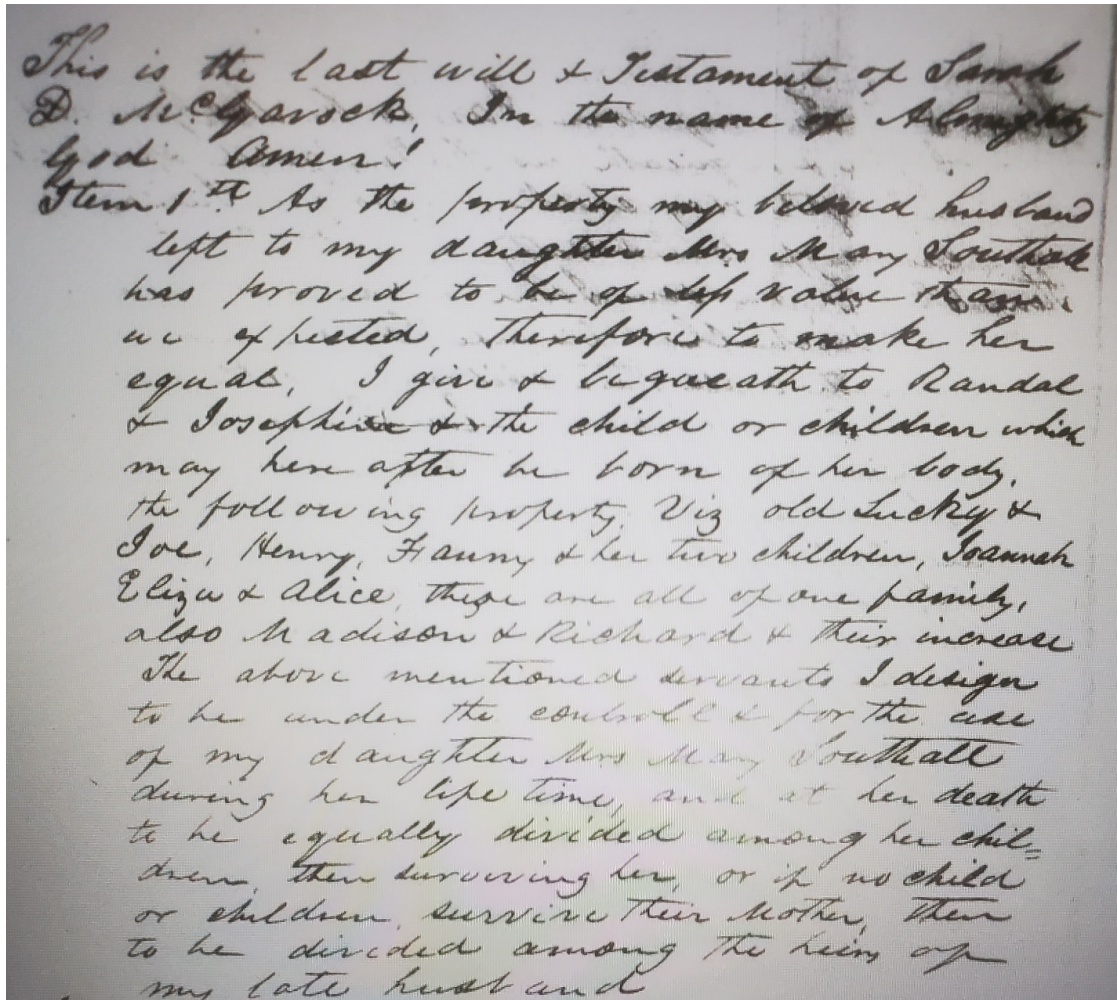


Felix H. Southall
1844 -1917
Enslaved at Carnton

- 1844 May 2: Felix H. McGavock was born to Fannie McGavock at Carnton. Fannie was a slave owned by Sarah McGavock.
- 1846 Sarah McGavock wrote a will distributing all of her human property amongst her four children and one grandchild. "Fannie and her two children" were bequeathed to Sarah's daughter Mary Southall and her children Josephine and Randal. Sarah's will is quite different from her husband's because it gives family units. "Old Suky, Joe, Henry, Fanny and her children, Joannah, Eliza and Alice, they are all of one family." Felix was Fanny's oldest child, not mentioned by name in the will. Felix used the surname Southall after this and for the rest of his life.



This is the last will & Testament of Sarah D. McGavock, In the name of Almighty God Amen!

Item 1st As the property my beloved husband left to my daughter Mrs Mary Southall has proved to be of less value than we expected, therefore to make her equal, I give & bequeath to Randal & Josephine & the child or children which may here after be born of her body, the following property, Viz old Suky & Joe, Henry, Fanny & her two children, Joannah Eliza & Alice, these are all of one family, also Madison & Richard & their increase

The above mentioned servants I design to be under the control & for the use of my daughter Mrs Mary Southall during her life time, and at her death to be equally divided among her children, then surviving her, or if no child or children survive their mother, then to be divided among the heirs of my late husband

¹ William Hicks Jackson Papers, Special Collections, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, TN, Box 4, Folder 26

- 1865 Felix Southall was listed in the Freedman's Savings and Trust Co., Nashville as having an account.
- 1869 Felix Southall was listed in the Fisk Catalog as being a student, his home location was listed as "Franklin, Tenn."
- 1876 Felix's step-father, Oscar, gifted Felix land in Williamson County.
- 1885 Felix sold land he owned in Williamson County.
- 1889 Felix's brothers Charlie and Hillard, also porters at the Maxwell House, were in a fight at the hotel. Hillard tried to escape. He dressed as a woman and fled on the train but was captured. Although there was a hearing, it was put off for another day and then interestingly never tried in court.

DANGEROUSLY HURT.

Hildred Southall, Colored, Assaults Hill Hines With a Hammer.

About 3:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon Hill Hines, carpenter at the Maxwell House, was struck with a clawhammer by Hildred Southall, a colored servant of the hotel, and received a very dangerous wound upon his forehead, breaking the skull. Hines was working in a corridor on the second floor, as also were some painters. Hildred Southall and his brother, Charles Southall, were at work in the corridor at the time. Harry Cartwell, a painter, asked Hines to lend him his step-ladder. Hines told him to get it from Charles Southall and Cartwell went to do so. Southall told him Hines would have to get the ladder himself. Hines went and got it and some words passed between him and Chas. Southall. The latter finally grabbed Hines around the neck and at this time Hildred Southall came up and struck Hines with the blunt end of a hammer, inflicting a dangerous wound.

The affair was not made known to the police at once and Hildred Southall escaped. Charles was arrested by Chief of Detectives Porter and Detectives Sidebottom and Turner on the charge of assault and battery with intent to murder.

Dr. Richard Douglas attended Hines, whose life is in great danger.

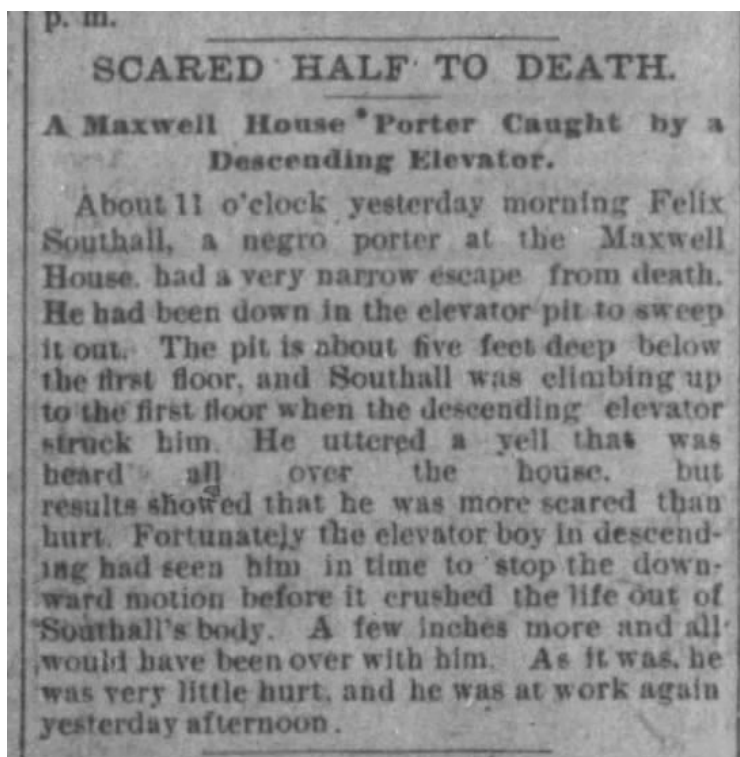
1892 Felix was hit by an elevator at the Maxwell House while he was sweeping out the shaft!

Slightly Bruised.

Felix Southall, a porter at the Maxwell House, was caught under the elevator this morning and slightly bruised.

² Nashville Banner, Nashville, TN, Friday, 23 Aug 1889, pg. 3 (accessed newspapers.com)

³ Nashville Banner, Nashville, TN, Saturday, 23 Apr 1892, pg. 7 (accessed newspapers.com)



1894 Nashville City Directory

1900 June 5: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Nashville, Davidson, TN showed Felix, a porter⁵, living with his sister Clara. Clara was a dress maker.

1901 December 26: Felix married Mary A. Williams, a talented artist, graduate of Tennessee Central College. They were joined in marriage by her father, Rev. A.N.C. Williams.

1902 November 18: Mary gave birth to son Felix Williams Southall.

1904 June 20: Son Felix died of infant cholera.

1905 June 5: Mary gave birth to son Fredrick Ostranda Southall.

1910 April 27: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Nashville, Davidson County, TN showed Felix, a porter at the Maxwell House Hotel, living with Mary and their son Fred, who was four-years-old.

⁴ The Daily American, Nashville, TN, Sunday, 24 Apr 1892, pg. 6 (accessed newspapers.com)

⁵ Could possibly have been listed as a "painter."

1914

A matter worthy of special mention in connection with the history of the famous hostelry is that many of its present employes have been in continual service with the hotel since its opening or shortly thereafter. Others have been with the house for years that reach into the score. Among the eldest in service are Jim Walker, who is now a waiter, and Felix Southall, the head porter. The former was one of the hodcarriers when the Maxwell House was being built, and entered service in the dining room when the hotel was opened. He has been there ever since. Felix Southall was the first bell hop. He became head porter eight or ten years ago at the death of George Porter, who was for twenty-five years in the service of the hotel.

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1917 September 12: Felix Grundy Southall died. He was buried in Toussaint L'Ouverture Cemetery in Franklin.



⁶ Nashville Banner, Nashville, TN, Wednesday, 8 Apr 1914, pg. 14 (accessed newspapers.com)