

## Accounting of debts for Mr. Jessa Butler

### Accounting of debts for Mr. Jessa Butler

This is a portion of a document that was used to track the amount of money owed by Jessy (also spelled Jessa) Butler to Charles R. Miller. Jessy Butler was a tenant farmer on the land of Miller. Along with this accounting of debt is a chattel mortgage, where Butler promises to Miller that he will pay off his debt, and if he does not, then Miller may sell his horse to pay the debt.

The system of sharecropping ensured that the sharecropper -- in this case, Jessy Butler -- remained poor and in debt to the owner of the land, and therefore would never be able to farm indepedently and earn a profit for themselves.

These documents are from the W. R. Miller Papers, North Carolina State Archives.

The image shows a handwritten document titled "Accounting of debts for Mr. Jessa Butler". It is a ledger-style record with two columns: a text column on the left and a numerical column on the right. The entries are as follows:

| Text  | Amount |
|---|--------|
| Principal   | 88.20  |
| Interest from march the 3 1883 to feb 26 1884 (11 mo 23 da)     | 6.92   |
| Paid on hand  | 95.12  |
| Ant for a new principal   | 30.41  |
| Interest on \$4.71 from feb 26 1884 to oct 29 1890 (6 yrs 8 mo) | 64.81  |
| Ant due on hand   | 94.51  |
| Witness fee at Greensboro.                                      | 99.22  |
| Ant. Due C. R. Miller   | 2.00   |
|   | 106.22 |
|   | 106.04 |
| Sett Between C. R. Miller and Jessy Butler. (Balanced)          |        |

**Citation (Chicago Style):**  
[Documents of contracts between Charles R. Miller and Jessy Butler.]W. R. Miller Papers, PC.1437, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC.

Finding aid: [https://axaem.archives.ncdcr.gov/findingaids/PC\\_1437\\_W\\_\\_R\\_\\_Miller\\_Papers.html](https://axaem.archives.ncdcr.gov/findingaids/PC_1437_W__R__Miller_Papers.html)

**Read the related article:** The Struggles of a Tenant Farmer  
**Transcript:**

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Principal                                      | 88.20 |
| Interest from march the 3 1883 to feb. 26 1884 | 6.92  |

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| (11 mos 23 da)   | 95.12    |
| Paid on bond   | 30.41    |
| Amt for new principal  | 64.71    |
| Interest on \$64.71 from feb. 26 1884 to Oct. 26 1890 (6 yrs 8 mo)         | 34.51    |
| Amt due on bond.   | \$99.22  |
| Witness fee at Greensboro  | 7.00     |
| Amt. Due C. R. Miller  | \$106.22 |
| [Surplus money credited to Mr. Butler after he paid back a different debt] | 0.18     |
|  | \$106.04 |

Acct Between C. R. Miller  
and  
Jessy Butler. (Colored)

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