

deed, will, testamentary instrument, or conveyance whatsoever, or in any other manner whatsoever, and claiming to receive the compensation for such slave or slaves, or any of them, in opposition to the original claimant, shall prefer a counter claim before the Assistant Commissioners in the respective colonies on or before the first day of February one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, or in London, before the Commissioners on or before the first day of April one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five: provided always, that in case no original claim shall have been filed within the time limited by the first rule for that purpose, any person claiming a right to receive the compensation as above-mentioned, or any part thereof, may prefer his claim thereto instead of a counter claim, and such a claim shall be deemed and taken and be made in the same form, and subject to the same rules of proceeding in all respects as a counter claim, and with the same liberty of replying thereto as hereinafter directed, as if an original claim had been preferred.

6. That in cases in which no counter claim shall have been preferred in the colonies on or before the first day of February one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, the Assistant Commissioners within their respective colonies, shall report the amount of compensation which may appear to them to be due upon each of the several claims, on application of the parties, or their agents, and transmit forthwith copies or lists of such several reports to the Commissioners in London; and in cases in which no counter claim shall have been preferred before the Commissioners in London, on or before the first day of April one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, the Commissioners may proceed to award the compensation according to the several claims upon the application of the parties or their agents.

7. That in all cases in which a counter claim for the whole or any part of the compensation shall be preferred, such counter claim shall set forth the estate or interest, right or title, intended to be insisted on, and the dates, parties, and legal effect of the deeds or other instruments under which the counter claim is made, with the date of registration in the proper office in the colony; and in all cases of mortgage, judgment, charge, incumbrance, or lien, such counter claim shall also set forth for what sum the same was granted or recovered, what payments (if any) have been made thereon, and the dates of such payments, and what remains due thereon, whether the same is the prior lien or otherwise, on the property included therein; and also the legal effect of such securities upon slaves, according to the law and usage of the particular colony in which such slaves have been registered or settled; and that in addition thereto, the substance of such counter claim be embodied and arranged in the tabular form hereunto annexed, marked (C).

8. That upon such counter claim being filed within the limited periods aforesaid, notice thereof be forthwith given by the party making the same to the party against whom it is made, or his agent, and a copy thereof be furnished to such party or his agent on application at the office of the Commissioners, or of the Assistant-Commissioners, in the colony.

9. That within three months after such counter claim has been filed, and such notice given, the original claimant may file a replication to the said counter claim before the Assistant Commissioners, or the Commissioners in London, and give notice forthwith of such replication to the counter claimant, or his agent, and a copy thereof be furnished to such counter claimant, or his agent, on application at the office of the Commissioners in London, or of the Assistant Commissioners in the colony.

10. That in case no replication be filed within the time aforesaid, the Commissioners may, on proof of notice of the counter claim having been served on the original claimant, or his agent, proceed to consider the claim and counter claim, and give such further directions and make such award as to them shall seem fit in respect to the compensation to be paid thereon.

11. That in case a replication shall be filed within the time aforesaid, the Commissioners may either upon application of the parties interested, or their agent for such purpose, or if to the Commissioners it shall seem fit, direct proof to be adduced in support of such claim, counter claim, or replication, by the production of deeds or other documents, or by interrogatories on oath or affirmation, to be drawn and exhibited to the parties or witnesses, or by affidavits, or by *viva voce* examination of witnesses, as the case may require.

12. That on such proof as aforesaid being made the Commissioners shall, on the application of any of the parties interested, or their agents, cause a notice to issue to all the claimants and counter claimants in such proceedings named, that the said Commissioners will on a day in such notice to be named, proceed to make their adjudication and award; copies of such notice to be served by the party applying for the same on all such claimants and counter claimants, or their agents.

13. That with the consent of the several parties, the Assistant Commissioners in their respective colonies be authorised to consider and proceed according to the several rules hereinbefore stated, to ascertain and report the amount of compensation appearing to be due to any of the litigant parties, in cases of contested claims, and transmit forthwith lists or copies of their proceedings and reports to the Commissioners.

14. That the Commissioners shall upon such proceedings and reports being received from the Assistant Commissioners, proceed to the adjudication and award of the compensation which shall appear to be due according to such lists, reports, and proceedings.

15. That all persons claiming to act on behalf of any party interested in the said compensation monies shall lodge with the Commissioners, or Assistant Commissioners, as the case may be, a power of attorney, or other authority, under the hand of the party or parties so interested, to be registered in the proceedings of the said Commissioners, or Assistant Commissioners, and no other than the person or persons named in such power of attorney or authority shall be entitled to act in that behalf so long as such power shall continue in force.