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National Endowment for the Humanities Grant: Dana Dorsey

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**National
Endowment for
the Humanities
Grant:
Dana Dorsey**



Project Team

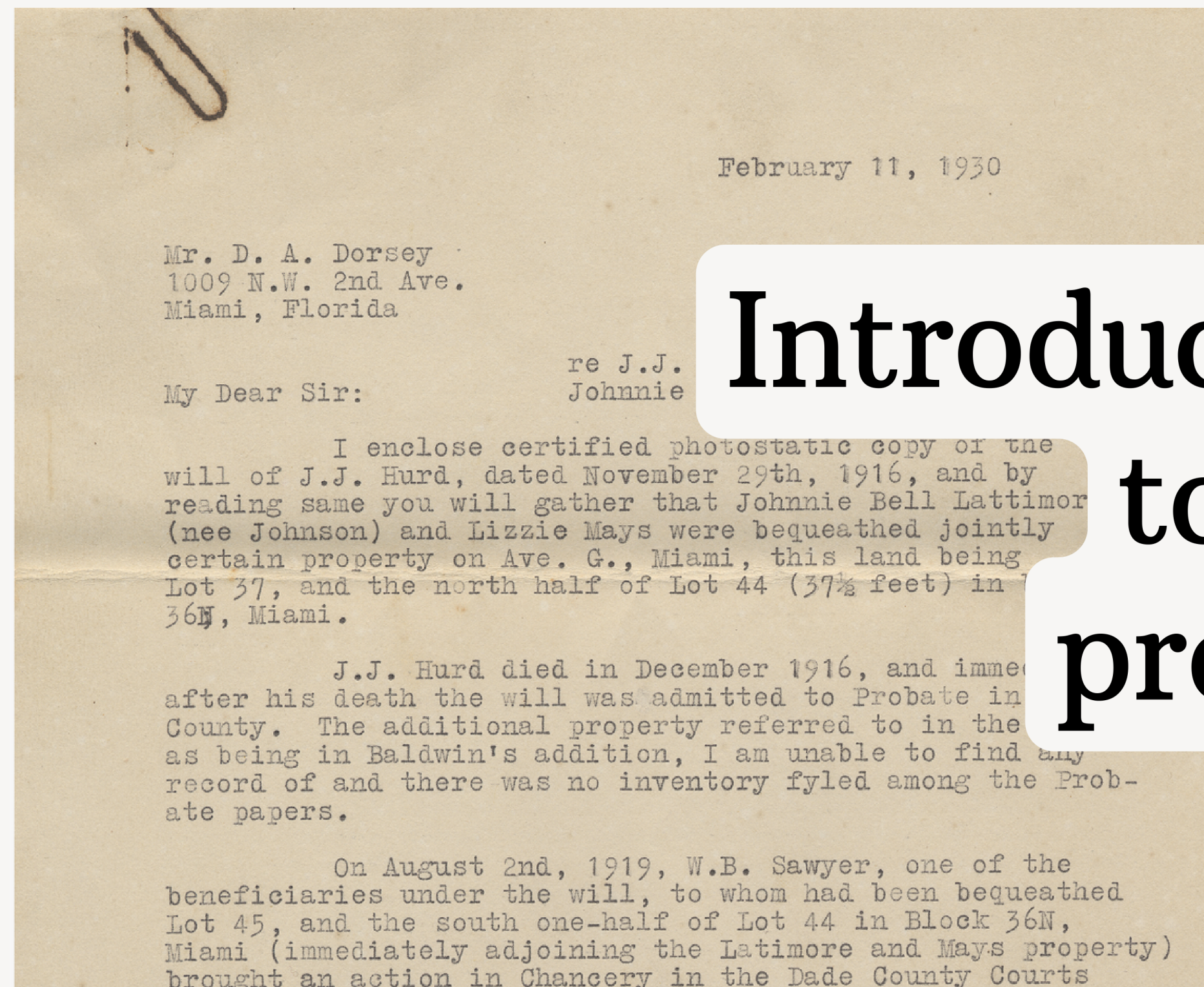
- **Jamie Rogers**, Assistant Director of Digital Collections (Project Director)
- **Rhia Rae**, Digital Archivist, Special Collections and University Archives (Co-Project Director)
- **Rebecca Bakker**, Digital Collections Librarian (Key Personnel)
- **Molly Castro**, Digital Humanities Librarian (Key Personnel)
- **Jill Krefft**, Research and Data Repository Coordinator (Key Personnel)
- **Dr. Diana Ter-Ghazaryan**, GIS Research Associate (Key Personnel)
- **Luis Garcia Falcon**, GIS Specialist

Interns

- **Juan Lopez**, Graduate Student, Department of History, Florida International University
- **Rosemary Toval**, Undergraduate Student, Department of History, Florida International University

Generously funded by
the National Endowment
for the Humanities -
Humanities Collections
and Reference Resources
(HCRR) program, the
goal of this initiative is
to produce a set of open
data resources, based on
the papers of Dana A.
Dorsey (1868 - 1940).

<https://go.fiu.edu/dorsey>



February 11, 1930

Mr. D. A. Dorsey
1009 N.W. 2nd Ave.
Miami, Florida

My Dear Sir:

re J.J.
Johnnie

I enclose certified photostatic copy of the will of J.J. Hurd, dated November 29th, 1916, and by reading same you will gather that Johnnie Bell Lattimore (nee Johnson) and Lizzie Mays were bequeathed jointly certain property on Ave. G., Miami, this land being Lot 37, and the north half of Lot 44 (37½ feet) in Block 36N, Miami.

J.J. Hurd died in December 1916, and immediately after his death the will was admitted to Probate in Dade County. The additional property referred to in the will as being in Baldwin's addition, I am unable to find any record of and there was no inventory filed among the Probate papers.

On August 2nd, 1919, W.B. Sawyer, one of the beneficiaries under the will, to whom had been bequeathed Lot 45, and the south one-half of Lot 44 in Block 36N, Miami (immediately adjoining the Lattimore and Mays property) brought an action in Chancery in the Dade County Courts

**Introduction
to the
project**

- The historical data that we are using in the grant focuses on a collection of papers that belonged to Dana A. Dorsey. Dorsey was regarded as Miami's first Black millionaire, who was known to have amassed wealth through real estate. He moved to Miami in the late 1890's and lived there until his passing in 1940.
- The collection consists of 291 documents which include warranty deeds, mortgages, legal documents, and correspondence, detailing the properties and locations of what were the newly created Miami sub-divisions from around 1900 through 1940.

Overview of Grant



- Transcripts of the papers as unstructured text with full text search and bulk download format in our data repository,
- Derived tabular data,
- A map with geolocation of the Dorsey properties,
- A geo-rectified 1925 map,
- A workshop series and presentations,
- And a white paper



Deliverables of Grant

Help us to better understand the interpersonal networks, community building, and investments and paths of success for Black people in this community during the pre-redlining era.

- How do we extract data from legal documents?
- How do we build personal stories from transactional data?



Human-centered historical data on the Black community

THIS MORTGAGE DEED Executed the _____ day of January, sometimes also known as ROSIE LEE STROMAN, A. D. 1939, by ROSA LEE STROMAN, a single woman, hereinafter called the Mortgagor, to DANA HOLDING COMPANY, a Florida corporation, hereinafter called the Mortgagee,

WITNESSETH, That for divers good and valuable considerations, and also in consideration of the aggregate sum mentioned in the promissory notes of even date herewith, hereinafter described, the said Mortgagor, does grant, bargain sell, alien, remise, release, convey and confirm unto the said Mortgagee, its successors and assigns, in fee simple, all the certain tract of land, of which the said Mortgagor is now seized and possessed, and in actual possession, situate in Dade County, Florida, described as follows, to wit:

½ of Lot 10 in Block 10 of ERICKSON'S ADDITION AMENDED, according to the Plat thereof recorded in Plat Book "B", at page 83, of the Public Records of Dade County, Florida, also,

Lot 8 of Block 3 of ERICKSON'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF Miami, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dade County, Florida, in Plat Book "B" at Page 85.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with the tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances, unto the said Mortgagee, and its successors and assigns, in fee simple.

AND the said Mortgagor, for herself and her heirs, legal representatives and assigns, does covenant with said Mortgagee, its successors and legal representatives and assigns, that said Mortgagor is indefeasibly seized of said land in fee simple as aforesaid; that it shall be lawful for said Mortgagee, its successors and legal representatives, at all times peaceably and quietly to enter upon, hold, occupy and enjoy said land; that the said land is free from all incumbrances; that said

THIS MORTGAGE DEED Executed the _____ day of January, sometimes also known as ROSIE LEE STROMAN, A* D. 1939, by ROSA LEE STROMAN/ a single woman, hereinafter called the Mortgagor, to DANA HOLDING COMPANY!, a Florida, corporation, hereinafter called the* Mortgagee,

WITNESSETH, That for divers good and valuable considerations, and also in consideration of the aggregate sum mentioned in the promissory notes of even date herewith, hereinafter described, the said Mortgagor, does grant, bargain sell, alien, remise, release, convey and confirm unto the said Mortgagee, its successors and assigns, in fee simple, all the certain tract of land, of which the said Mortgagee is now seized and possessed, and in actual possession, situate in Dade County, Florida, described as follows, to wit:

½ of Lot 10 in Block 10 of ERICKSON'S ADDITION AMENDED, according to the Plat thereof recorded in Plat Book "B", at page 83, of the Public Records of Dade County, Florida, also,

Lot 8 of Block 3 of ERICKSON'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF Miami, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dade County, Florida, in Plat Book "B" at Page 85.

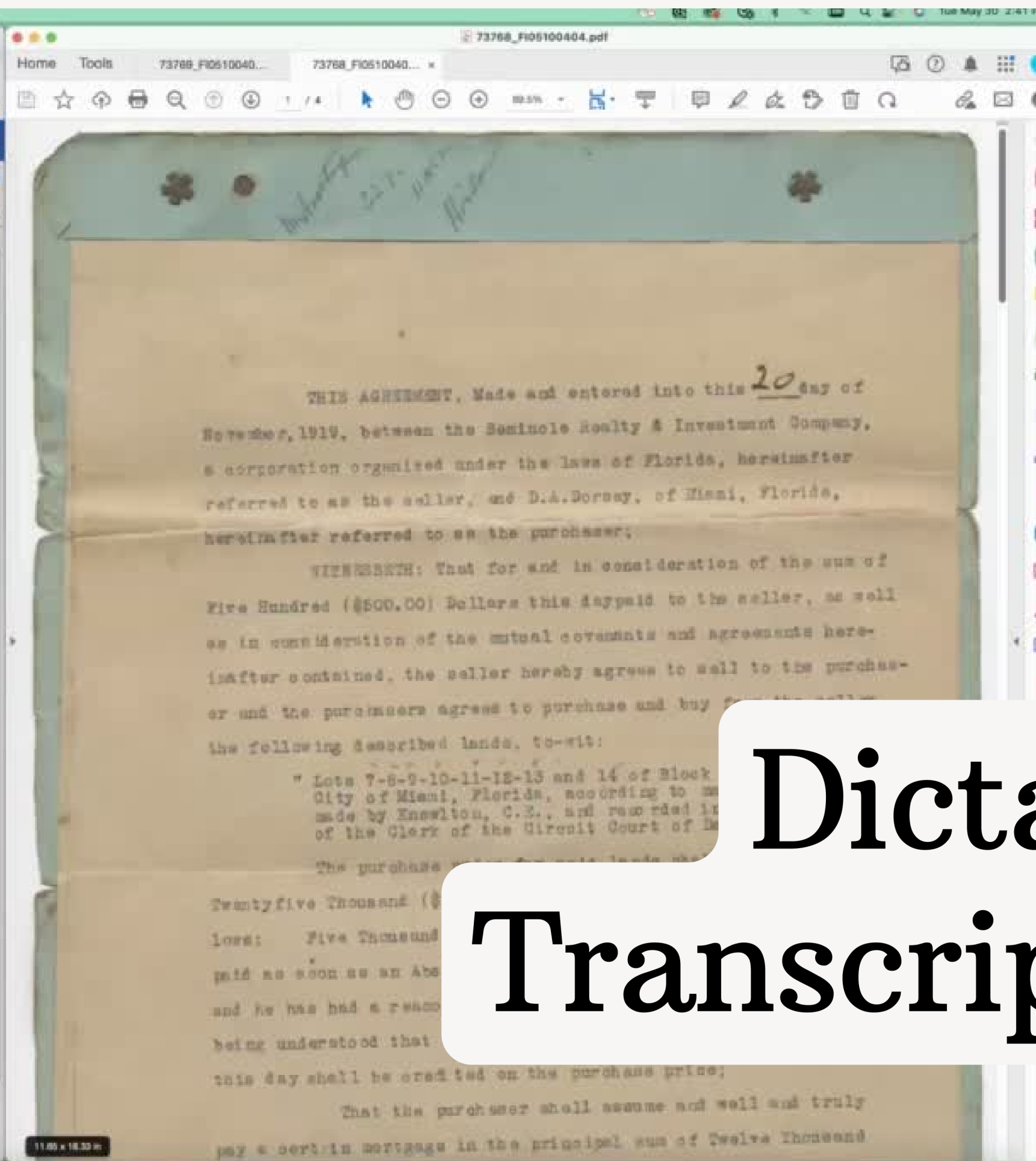
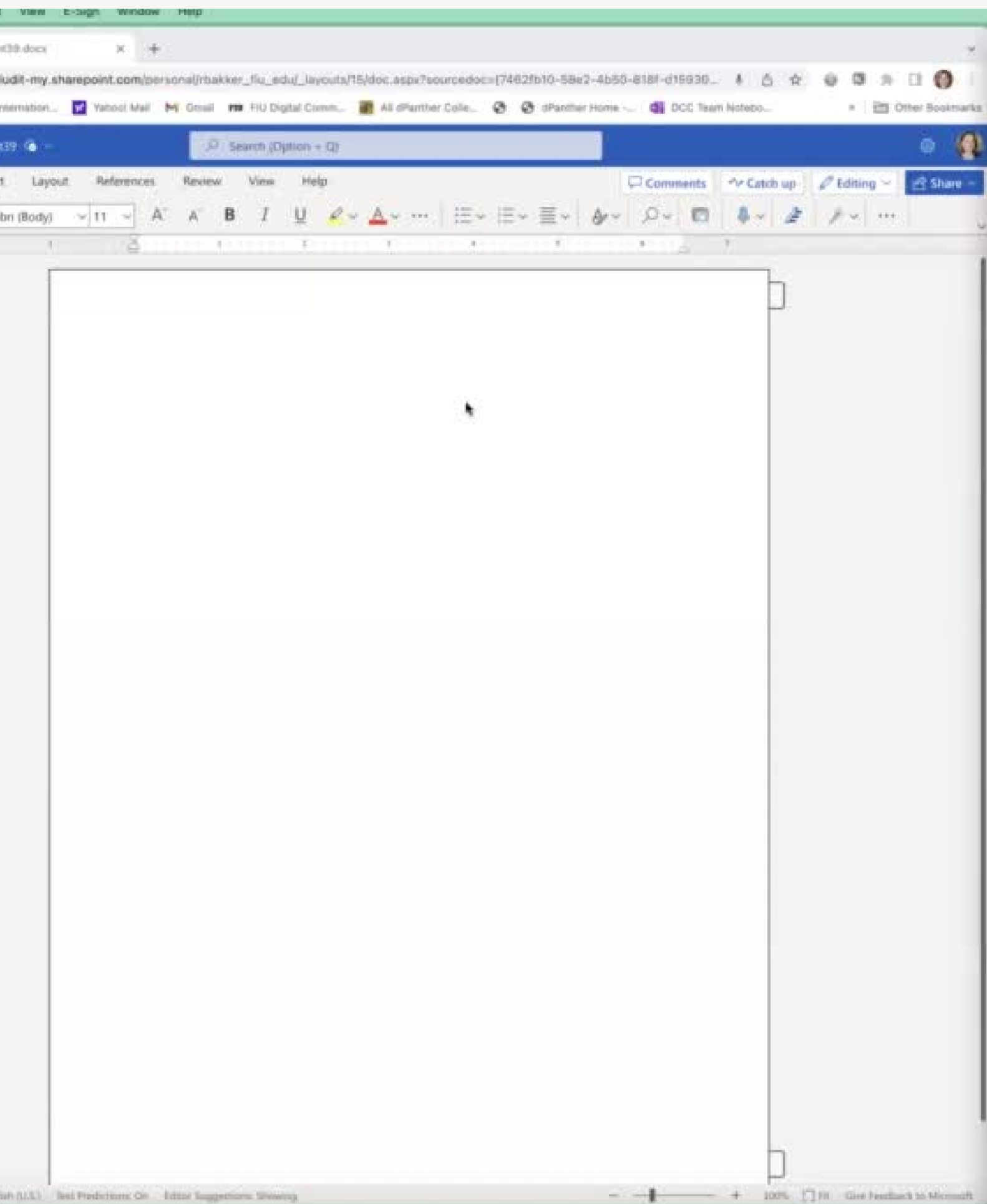
TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with the tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances, unto the said Mortgagee, and its successors and assigns, in fee simple.

AND the said Mortgagor, for herself and her heirs, legal representatives and assigns, does covenant with said

Transcribing Methods

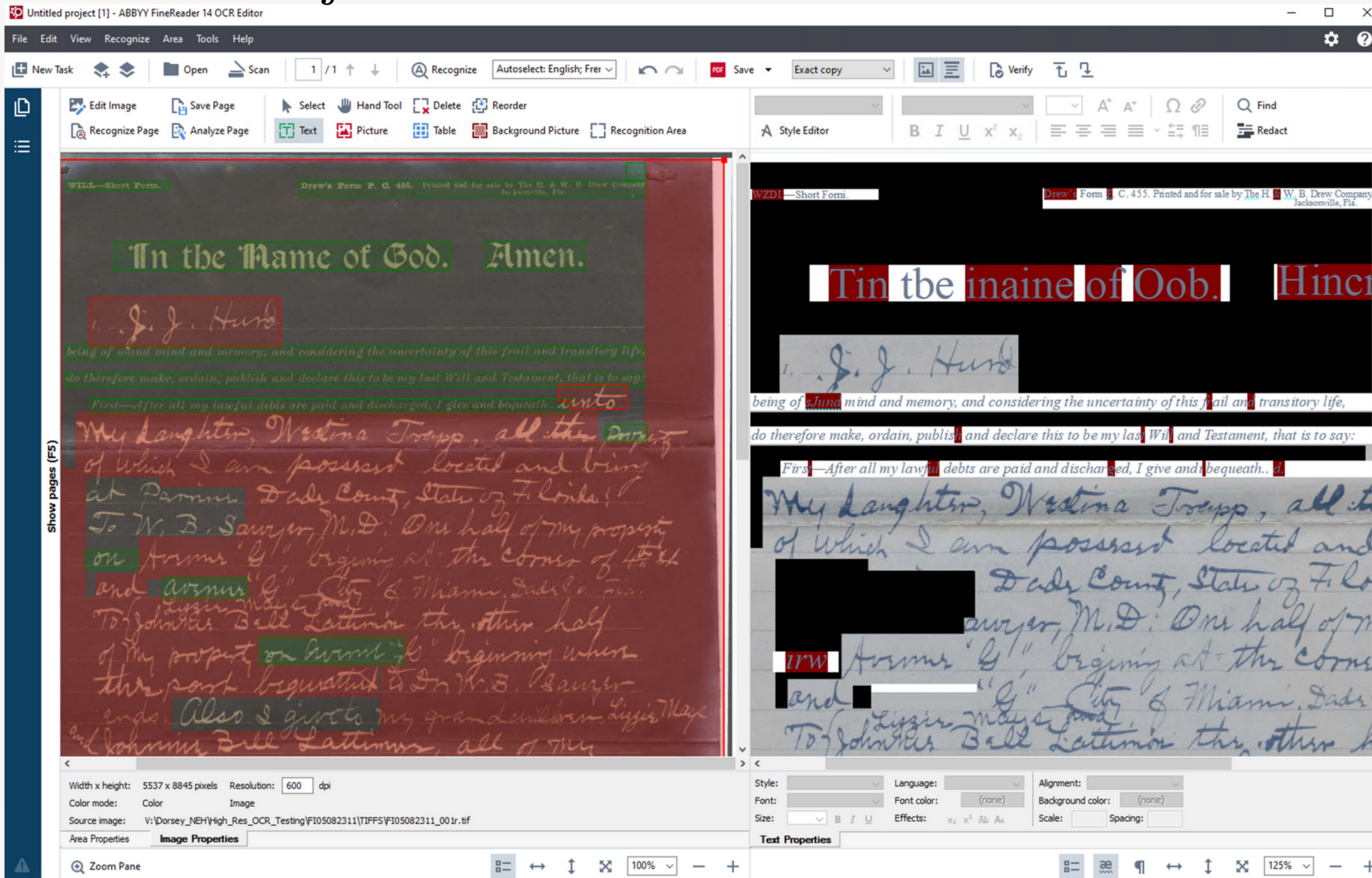
Optical Character Recognition (OCR)

Show pages (F5)



Dictation Transcription

Original



OCR'd

Dictation Transcribed

Will- Short Form,
Drew's Form P.C. 455. Printed and for sale by the H. & W. B. Drew Company Jacksonville, Fla.
In the name of God. Amen
I, J. J. Hurd
being of sound mind and memory and considering the uncertainty of this frail and transitory life,
do therefore make, ordain, publish and declare this to be my last Will and Testament, that is to
say:
First - After all my lawful debts are paid and discharged, I give and bequeath unto my daughter,
Westina Trapp, all the property of which I am possessed located and being at Perrine Dade
County, State of Florida;
To W. B. Sawyer, M.D: One half of my property on Avenue "G" , beginning at the corner of 4th St
and Ave "G" city of Miami, Dade Co., Fla.
To Lizzie May and Johnny Bell Lattimer the other half of my property on avenue "G" beginning
where the pond bequeathed to doctor W. B. Sawyer ends. Also I give to my grandchildren Lizzie
Mae and Johnny Ball Latimer all of my property situated in the part of Miami known as Baldwin's
addition.

Likewise I make, constitute an appoint Alan Stokes and John R Scott junior to be executors of
this my last Will and Testament, hereby revoking all former Wills by me made. In Witness
Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal the 29th day of November in
the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.
J. J. Hurd his mark seal
The above partly written and printed instrument was subscribed by the said J. J. Hurd in our
presence and acknowledged by him to each of us; and he at the same time declared the above
instrument so subscribed to be his last Will and Testament; and we at his request, have signed
our names as witness hereto in his presence and in the presence of each other, and written
opposite our names our respective places of residence.

With data extraction as a goal, textual accuracy becomes even more pressing.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	
1	Last_Name	Full_Name	Alt_Name_1	Alt_Name_2	Alt_Name_3	Gender	Marital Status	Recorded Race	Role	Business_Affiliation	Occupation
2	Allen	Homer B. Allen									
3	Bernard	Ida Bernard									
4	Bernard	Peter Bernard									
5	Bethune	Albert Bethune									
6	Bowen	L. Blanche Bowen									
7	Bragg	H. S. Bragg	H. S. Braggs								
8	Bragg	Julia Bragg									
9	Brickell	Belle G. Brickell									
10	Brickell	Mary Brickell									
11	Broughton	James Broughton									
12	Broughton	Mamie Broughton									
13	Brown	LLoyd Brown									
14	Burdine	R. Burdine									
15	Burnside	Mabel I. Burnside							Notary Public		
16	Cambridge	James Cambridge									
17	Cambridge	Mary Cambridge									
18	Campbell or Campbelle	J. J. Campbell									
19	Carter	A. J. Carter									
20	Carter	Daisy Carter									
21	Caulus	Toney Caulus						Single			
22	Chaille	Carrie K. Chaille				woman	Married to W. H. Chaille				
23	Chaille	W. H. Chaille				man	Married to Carrie K. Chaille				
24	Chapman	William Augusta Chapman									
25	Clarke	James E. Clark									
26	Colville	C. J. Colville				man					
27	Cooley	L. A. Cooley				man	Married to Nannie B. Cooley				
28	Cooley	Nannie B. Cooley				woman	Married to L. A. Cooley				
29	Crawford	Clay Crawford	H. Clay Crawford						Secretary	The State of Florida	
30	Deveaux	John H. Deveaux									
31	Dorsey	Dana Albert Dorsey	Dana A. Dorsey	D. A. Dorsey		man	Married to Rebecca Dorsey				
32	Dorsey	Rebecca Dorsey	Rebecca Livingston	Rebecca L. Dorsey	Rebecca L B Dorsey	woman	Married to Dana Albert Dorsey				

Data Extraction

D. A. DORSEY
REAL ESTATE
1009 N.W. Second Ave.

WE WILL SELL YOU A LOT AND BUILD ON TERMS
YOUR BUSINESS SOLICITED

No of Tile to be furnished

MIAMI, FLA.

No. 151.

March 24, 1926

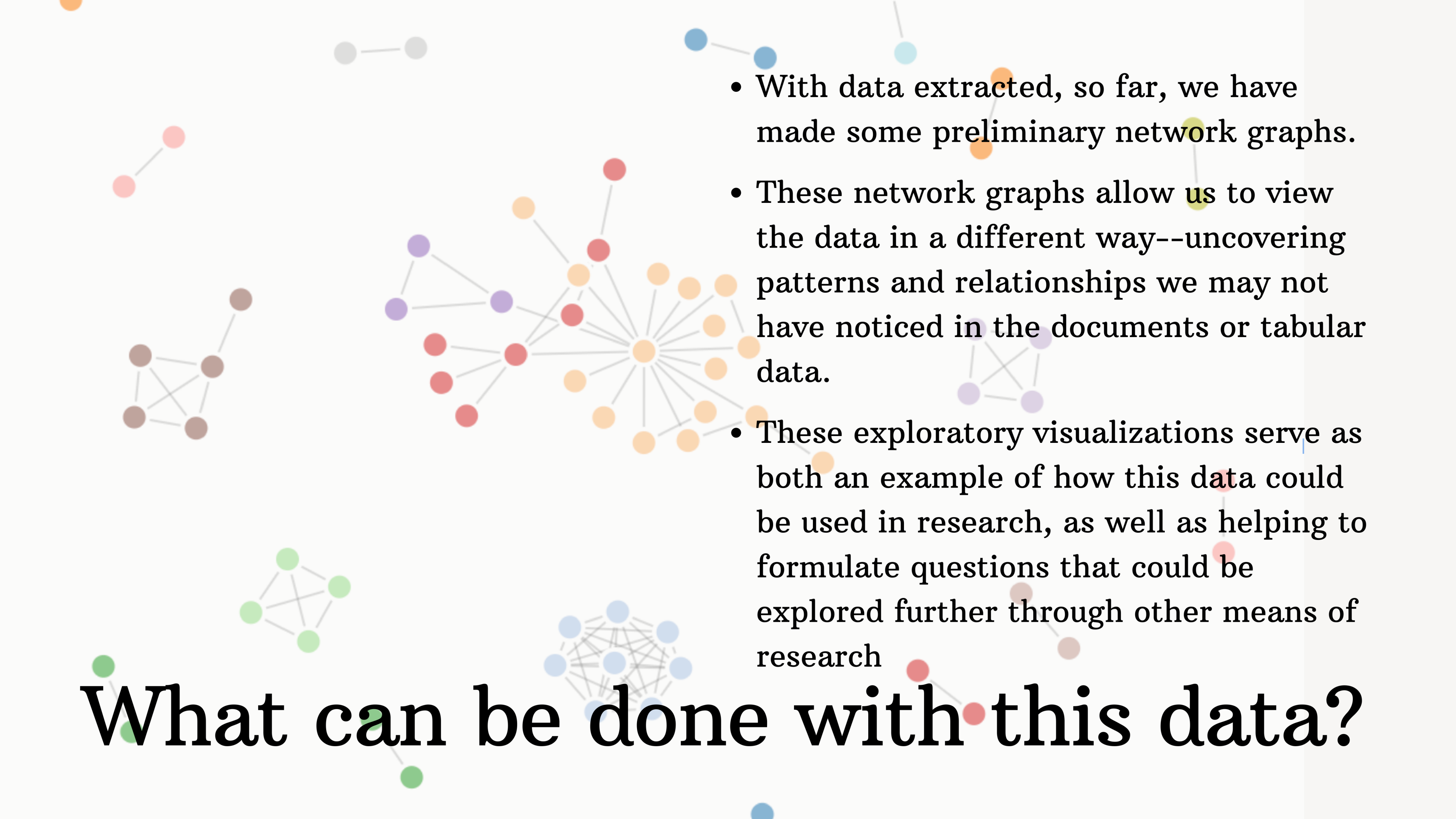
Cuban Tile Co. agrees to furnish floor tile for on
N. W. 2nd Ave. Miami, Fla. for \$ive hundred sixty five and
\$565.60). Cuban Tile Co. Of Havana, Cuba agrees to fu
amount of tile to complete the job in a first class

The Cuban Tile Co. acknowledge receipt of 0
12/100 dollars (\$113.12) as part payment on the job when the job is complete
and accepted by D.A. Dorsey to his satisfaction, D.A. Dorsey will pay to The
Cuban Tile Co the balance of Four hundred fifty two and 48/100 dollars
\$452.48). Should the Cuban Tile Co. fail to complete job for any reason all
moneys will be refunded.

Per Cuban Tile Co.

- 130 transcripts have been created from the Dorsey papers, out of 291 total records and over 620 pages
- Tabular data has been derived from 93 of the 291 records
- 295 individuals and 98 business entities have been identified

Text
& Data

- 
- The background features several network graphs of varying complexity and color. There are small clusters of 2-3 nodes in shades of red, purple, and green. A larger, more complex graph in the center has a central orange node connected to many other nodes in shades of orange, red, and purple. Other smaller graphs are scattered around, including one with blue nodes and one with brown nodes.
- With data extracted, so far, we have made some preliminary network graphs.
 - These network graphs allow us to view the data in a different way--uncovering patterns and relationships we may not have noticed in the documents or tabular data.
 - These exploratory visualizations serve as both an example of how this data could be used in research, as well as helping to formulate questions that could be explored further through other means of research

What can be done with this data?



Analysis

Clustering

- Nodes around Rebecca Dorsey 23% (21)
- Nodes around John J. Hurd 9% (8)
- Nodes around H. S. Bragg 5% (5)
- Nodes around James E. Clark 4% (4)
- Nodes around E. Eichenburg 4% (4)

More

Show cluster labels

Hide all clusters

Labels threshold 3.5%

Most central nodes (degree)

- Rebecca Dorsey 17
- John J. Hurd 7
- Allen Stokes 7
- Elizabeth Mays 7

The Dorsey Network

Graph Commons - Harness the intelligence of your networks
 Graph Commons is a collaborative platform for mapping, analyzing, and sharing data-networks
 graphcommons