

RECORD OF WILLS.

In the matter of the proof probate and Executorship of the last Will and Testament of Joshua Melvin deceased in the District Court of the Parish of Bienville State Louisiana.

To the Honorable Judge of the 17th District holding session in and for the Parish of Bienville State of Louisiana.

The Petitioners of Jacob Crane, James Bryan, and James F. Vickers, Esq. all residing within the Parish of Bienville respectfully represents unto your Honor that Joshua Melvin late a resident of your said Parish and State, departed this life on the 23rd day of November of the present year leaving within your said Parish and State a considerable amount of property, consisting of moveables and immovables.

Your Petitioners further represent that said Joshua Melvin had before his death made and executed a last Will and Testament in which nominated your Petitioners Executors thereof, which said Will is herewith presented and made a part of this petition.

The premises Considered your Petitioners pray that said Will be probated by your said Court, that it be regularly registered and executed and that Letters Testamentary be issued to your Petitioners.

Your Petitioners further represent that said Joshua Melvin deceased left within your Parish and State two children George W. and Eliza Jane Melvin, who are his presumptive heirs. Petitioners represent that said presumptive heirs are minors and have no legal representatives upon whom notice of probating of said Will can be served.

Therefore your Petitioners pray that some suitable and discreet person be appointed a special Tutor to represent said minors at the probating of said Will and that said Tutor be notified to attend the probating thereof.

Your Petitioners further pray for an order of Inventory and Appraisement and for all necessary orders and about the premises and for general relief and as in duty bound to sign
 Filed Nov 23rd 1854 J. F. Stephens Clerk

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State of Louisiana }
 Parish of Bienville } Clerk's Office. Sparta November the
 23rd 1854.

On reading the foregoing Petition. It was ordered that the annexed will of Joshua Melvin deceased be probated, or proved upon this the 23rd day of November 1854 by those of the subscribing witnesses to said Will to wit. James J. Vickers H. M. S. Canthow and Letti Albritain and it is further ordered that James J. Vickers Jr. be appointed special Tutor to represent the minors George W. Melvin and Eliza Jane Melvin, at the probating of said Will. This done and signed by me officially on the day and date above written.

J. F. Stephens Clerk
 Dist Court

It is further ordered that an Inventory and Appraisement of all the property both Real and Personal rights and Credits belonging to the succession of Joshua Melvin deceased be made and taken according to Law and that a Commission issue to H. B. Stewart a Notary Public in and for said Parish and State authorizing him to make and take the same. Ordered on this the 23rd day of Nov 1854.

J. F. Stephens Clerk

Character -

J. F. Stephens Clerk -

State of Louisiana. Parish of Bienville,
 I Joshua Melvin resident of the State and Parish aforesaid minded of the uncertainty of life and being of sound and disposing mind do ordain and establish this my last Will and Testament.
 I will all my just debts paid after which I give and bequeath unto my son George W. Melvin and my daughter Eliza Jane Melvin. My Son and daughter

First

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in Cash and two thirds of the balance of my Estate.

I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Elizabeth Melvin, one third of my estate after deducting the Six hundred as given extra to my son George W. Melvin and my daughter Eliza Jane Melvin, which is above described in the first item of my estate.

It is my will that the property herein given to Red should revert to my son George W. Melvin and my daughter Eliza Jane Melvin, and their heirs, finally having confidence in my friends Jacob Bryan, James J. Vickers, and James J. Vickers, I appoint them my Executors of this my last will and Testament.

In witness whereof I have caused this will to be read aloud to me and in the presence of the undersigned witnesses this 8th day of November 1854. Declaring the same to be my last will and Testament. This done and signed in the Parish of Bienville and on the day aforesaid

Witness, W. M. D. Caruthers Signed Joshua Melvin
Signed, John Edwards
Signed, C. D. Caruthers
Signed, J. D. Caruthers
Signed, Harold C. Brittain
Signed, James J. Vickers
Signed, Luke C. Brittain.

Cherishment J. D. Stephens Clerk.

State of Louisiana
Parish of Bienville

The last will and Testament of Joshua Melvin deceased was opened and proved before me the undersigned Clerk of the District Court in and for the Parish aforesaid and State aforesaid, in the following manner to wit.

The will was at read and was proved by the

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undersigned Clerk of the District Court in and for the State and Parish aforesaid on the 23rd day of November 1854 in presence of three of the subscribing witnesses to said will, and upon the petition of James Bryan, James J. Vickers and Jacob Evans.

The proof was made by W. M. D. Caruthers, James J. Vickers, Jr. and Luke C. Brittain three of the subscribing witnesses to said will who after having been duly sworn upon Holy Evangelist of the night of God, testified under oath that the Testator Joshua Melvin, is dead, that the will was written by James J. Vickers, Jr. and was signed by the Testator Joshua Melvin deceased in his own hand in presence of all the subscribing witnesses after said will had been read in an audible and distinct voice to the said Testator, and in presence and hearing of the subscribing witnesses, that it contained his last will and Testament, and that they said witnesses recognized the signature of the Testator, the legatures of themselves and those of the other subscribing witnesses to said will shown to them and marked off as genuine.

The will was read by the undersigned Clerk in distinct and audible voice, to the witnesses and other persons present, after the proof had been made by reason of the Law and the evidence and by reason of the said will of Joshua Melvin deceased appearing to be in due form of Law it is ordered and adjudged and decreed that the said will be duly executed and recorded, in the office of the Clerk of the District Court of the Parish of Bienville and State aforesaid, and that James J. Vickers, Jr. and Jacob Evans be confirmed as Executors of said will.

This done and signed at Sparta officiously by me in said Parish, and State on this the 23rd day of November A.D. 1856.

John J. Stephens Clerk
District Court.

Filed and annexed to the will this 23rd day of November A.D. 1856.

John J. Stephens Clerk
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And after the foregoing proceedings were had as before stated. before me the aforesaid Clerk of the District Court in and for the Parish of Bienville and State aforesaid. at my Office at the Town of Spanish, in said Parish and State aforesaid. The same being the proper Office for the Probate, Execution registry and record of Wills, in and for said Parish and State. James J. Vickers, Jacob Evans and James Bryan, Executors nominated in said Will took and subscribed the following oath.

State of Louisiana }
Parish of Bienville }

We, James J. Vickers Senr. Jacob Evans, James J. Bryan do solemnly swear that we will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all and singularly the duties incumbent on us by Law, as Executors of the last Will and Testament of Joshua Melvin deceased, according to the best of our Knowledge and abilities. So help us God.

Signed

"

{ James J. Vickers.
Jacob Evans
James Bryan

Sworn to and subscribed
before me this 23rd day of
November A.D. 1854.

J. J. Stephens Clerk.

State of Louisiana }
Parish of Bienville }

I, James J. Vickers, Jr. do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on my by Law as special Tutor for George W. Melvin and Eliza Jane Melvin children of Joshua Melvin deceased, according to the best of my Knowledge and abilities. So help me God.

Sworn to and subscribed Signed James J. Vickers Jr.
before me this 23rd day of Novr A.D. 1854
J. J. Stephens Clerk.

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State of Louisiana }
Parish of Bienville }

District Court

Whereas Jacob Evans has been appointed, Executor of the last Will and Testament of Joshua Melvin of said Parish and State deceased

Now therefore the said Jacob Evans is hereby fully authorized and empowered to do and perform all and singular the duties incumbent on him in said Capacity.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of my office, this 23rd day of November A.D. 1854.

John J. Stephens Clerk

State of Louisiana }
Parish of Bienville }

District Court

Whereas James J. Vickers Sr. has been appointed Executor of the last Will and Testament of Joshua Melvin of said Parish and State, deceased, and taken oath as prescribed by Law.

Now therefore the said James J. Vickers Sr. is hereby fully authorized and empowered to do and perform all and singular the duties incumbent on him in said Capacity.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of office this 24th day of November A.D. 1854.

John J. Stephens Clerk

Now Clerk