

At Roanoke August Court 1856

The last Will and Testament of Joseph Wright deceased was produced in Court, proved according to law by the oath of John M. Henderson and John Hively, subscribing witnesses thereto, and is ordered to be recorded

Juris

Thos. L.

Sarah Betts.

I Sarah Betts, of the County of Roanoke and State of Virginia being in impaired health but of unimpaired mind, after acknowledging with becoming gratitude the many blessings I have received of an all-wise and beneficent Providence, and desiring to commit to that Providence the spirit he gave, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament to wit.

1. I desire my body after my death to be buried with decent Christian burial, and I dispose of my property as follows, viz-
2. I desire to, and do hereby confirm the conveyance made by my late husband and myself to Alexander Marshall for land lying in Prince Edward County, Virginia, and willed to me by my father.
3. I give to my nephew Thomas S. Walton (son of Thomas Walton decd) Five Hundred dollar to be paid to him by my Executors.
4. I give in trust to John B. Dupuy and John D. Edmunds, for the sole use and benefit of my niece Elizabeth Dupuy, free from any liability for the debts or claims of the husband of the said Elizabeth and the said Elizabeth shall have unrestricted possession of the same, and shall be permitted to dispose of all of said negroes and money as she may desire or wish during life, or may devise at her death, viz my slaves Juba, Cephas, and Ishmael, and the proceeds of my negro man Royal also my Executors are hereby directed to sell and pay the proceeds of aforesaid to the said Elizabeth or the said Trustees for her.
5. I give to my nephew Thomas S. Yarbrough Five hundred & dollars to be paid to him by my Executors.
6. I give to my niece Martha Ann Hardy (daughter of my late niece Mary A Hardy) One thousand dollars - also to my nephew John Joshua Hardy (son of the said Mary A Hardy) Five hundred dollars, to be paid to them by my Executors.
7. I give to my niece Martha Terry (formerly Martha Yarbrough) Five hundred dollars to be paid to her by my Executors.
8. I give to my nephew Elisha Betts McClasahan (son of Col. James and my late niece Mrs Elizabeth McClasahan) the following slaves, and the future increase of the female - viz Caesar, the elder, and Venus his wife, and their children Nathan, Milly and George, a bed & furniture, my piece of furniture called a wardrobe, also a certain tract or parcel of land situated lately purchased of Woodson in the County of Potomac V. containing about twenty acres, be the same more or less, but which will more fully appear by reference to the deed conveying the same to me.
9. I give to James M. McClasahan Jr, Elizabeth W. McClasahan

and Mary Scott Word (late Mary Scott M^cClasahan) children of Col. James, and my late niece M^c Elizabeth M^cClasahan each a bed and furniture

10. I give to the following children of Col. James, and my late niece M^c Elizabeth M^cClasahan - viz. Blanche M^cEdson (formerly Blanche M^cClasahan), Edward R. M^cClasahan, James M^cClasahan Jr., Elizabeth W. M^cClasahan, Mary Scott Word, formerly Mary Scott M^cClasahan, and Thomas A. M^cClasahan the following slaves and their future increase viz. Charles, John, W. Morris, Edward, Jeffery, and Fella his wife, and by Samuel - I furthermore desire and require that my Executor, and my slave, Marion and her children Julia, Maria and Caroline and their future increase, the proceeds of said slaves as well as the foregoing slaves in this item mentioned, to be equally divided between the parties as aforesaid in this item.

11. I give in trust to Paul Jones for the sole use and benefit of my niece Sally Betts Parkey, (formerly Sally Betts Jones, [daughter of my said Paul and my late niece Mary W. Jones] during the natural life of said Sally, ^{but if she leave no issue then to revert to the heirs of her body} and at her death to the heirs of her body if her the said Sally's brother and sister, my mulatto girl Betty and her future increase.

12. I give in trust to Paul Jones for the sole use and benefit of my niece Josephine W. Jones, (daughter of said Paul and my late niece Mary W. Jones) during the natural life of the said Josephine, and at her death to the heirs of her body, but if she have no issue, then to revert to the heirs of the bodies of her the said Josephine's brother & sister, my niece girl Blanche and her infant child Josephine and their future increase.

13. I give in trust to Paul Jones, for the sole use and benefit of the following children of the said Paul and my late niece Mary W. Jones viz. Warren P. Jones, Sally Betts Parkey, formerly Sally Betts Jones, Josephine W. Jones, and Paul Jones Jr. to be equally divided between them, and to hold their respective shares during the natural life of each, and at the death of either of said children the aforesaid negroes falling to their share shall descend to the heirs of his or her body, but in the event that either shall die without lawful issue, then such portion of the aforesaid negroes as shared by such child shall revert to the heirs of the bodies of his or her mother, and sister viz. Joseph and Martha, Mary and Children Henry, Gabriel & Isaac, Minerva and Children Martha Ann, Patrick and Laura.

14. It is my desire that my slave Claiborne and his wife Ann and their infant child Sally Betts shall have an opportunity to purchase themselves that they may be free; or to choose some person to free them as slaves who will guarantee to them their freedom whenever so desired by said slaves. I therefore direct, that if my friend Charles L. Cook or some other person in case of his death a refusal or inability to act, to be chosen by said Mrs. Claiborne if he can do so legally, otherwise to be chosen by my Executor, shall

pay to my Executor the value of said slave and their future increase, to be ascertained by the award of two or more disinterested persons, duly sworn for the purpose, but in no event shall the sum so ascertained exceed the sum of twelve hundred dollars for the slaves, and their future increase, and shall guarantee to said slave their freedom whenever so desired by them; then my Executor shall deliver said slave to said Cook or other person chosen or aforesaid; otherwise my Executor shall hire out said slave to said Cook or person or person chosen or aforesaid, and shall keep a regular account of the same, and when the heirs shall have assented to a sum sufficient to pay the sum of the award of their value as above, with legal interest thereon from the time of my decease, together with the expense attending the execution of this bequest. - And furthermore I require that if the laws of Virginia shall require that to render legal the manumitting of a slave, the Master or mistress shall give to said slave or slaves any certain amount of money or other benefit, then such sum or sum shall be paid as aforesaid in the payment for the aforesaid slaves, and not to be a charge on my estate. And after the foregoing shall be complied with and the money sum actually paid into the hands of my Executor, I give to said slave their freedom, or leave them at liberty to choose their own master or mistress in whom the right to said slave shall vest without further confirmation. If however, the foregoing provisions are not complied with in ten years after my demise, then my Executor shall sell said slaves at valuation; and the proceeds of the sale of said slaves, and all claims arising from their sale, I desire shall be paid to my niece Emma M^cClasahan, daughter of Charles Betts M^cClasahan - as a widow, as provided by said Executor, which I give to her.

15. I desire that my Executor sell the following slaves viz. Bill Williams, Adam, William Lawson, Spator and Caesar, the young and all other of my slaves, not otherwise devised and the residue of my property of every kind and species not otherwise devised or provided for in this Will to be sold by my executor. And I desire that in the sale of my negroes devised by me to be sold, they shall be permitted to select their master and ~~their~~ names, provided that in the payment of my executor such persons as the said negroes shall select will pay the value for said negroes. I however hereby give to my executor in the furtherance and execution of my Will the right to sell the negroes and other property devised to be sold, at either public or private sale, and on such limited terms and stipulations as they may deem best or proper.

16. I desire and require that out of the money coming into the hands of my executor (always excepting such as herein before specially devised) after paying the expense of executing this Will, as well as all my just debts, that they pay off all the special legacies devised to be paid in money in this Will if there be money sufficient - if there be not money sufficient I wish cash,

Special legacy devised to be paid in money at no rate
20. as the deficit may be ratably deducted from each. If
however any money shall remain after the above legacies
shall have been complied with, I give the residue to all following
persons to be paid to them in equal parts by my Executors - viz
Blanche M. Lydon, Edward M. Claiborne, Elisha Bett M. Claiborne
James M. Claiborne Jr., Elizabeth W. M. Claiborne, Mary Scott Wood
and Thomas A. M. Claiborne

17. I desire as one of the conditions of the several legacies to Paul
Jones, as Trustee in this will, he cause to be secured by the parties
beneficiaries a comfortable support to my old woman Mitty, as
long as she shall live

18. I do hereby constitute and appoint Elisha Bett M. Claiborne
and Colin Bapp Executors of this my last Will & Testament, and
having confidence in their integrity, desire that no security
be required of them. And I do hereby declare this my last
Will and Testament, hereby revoking and annulling all other
Wills or Wills by me made at any time. Witness my Signature
and seal the 6th day of January One thousand Eight hundred
and fifty seven - Subscribed before signed
Signed in the presence of us
both being present at same time

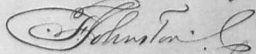
Sarah Bett 

Dipton B. Evans

Alfred N. Overstreet

At Roanoke March Court 1857 - The last Will and
Testament of Sarah Bett, dec^d may this day produced in
Court and affirmed by the oath of Dipton B. Evans and Alfred
N. Overstreet subscribing to said will and is ordered to be
recorded. And a motion of Elisha B. M. Claiborne & Colin
Bapp, the Executors therein named, who made oath to the Court, and
entirely into and acknowledged a Bond in the penalty of \$32,000
with caution according to law, (the said Executors not
being required by the said Will to give security) they and
appointed Executors of said Will

Teste



Time. I, William D. Sims residing for the time being within
my relative Betty Read of the County of Roanoke and State
of Virginia, being of sound mind and memory, of feeble health,
do make, ordain, publish and declare this to be my last Will
and Testament, hereby revoking all former Wills by me made
1st. After all my debts are paid, which are but few, the residue
of my Estate I give, bequeath and dispose of as follows to wit -
I give to my servant Billy Howard and Stephen fifty dollars
a year or less a day or other of them may live, with the hope
that my relative Betty Read and David I. Read will permit
them to remain on their plantation, that they may be taken care
of when sick. But should my relative not desire them to

remain on the plantation, or should Billy Howard and Stephen or either
of them not desire to stay on the said plantation, I give to each
of them five hundred dollars to enable them to go where they
please. I give to my servant Lavin who is now hired to B. L.
Green near Richmond five hundred dollars.

2^d. My property consists entirely of certificates of stock of the
State of Virginia, and of Bonds, given me by Benj. W. Green of the
County of Henrico and State of Virginia for the purchase of
Westham. After my Executors have after same shall have
paid my debts, and provided for the legacy to my servants I
give and bequeath to my beloved cousin Betty Read the entire
of all bonds now in my possession, and the dividends on all stocks
now in possession, or which may hereafter come into my possession
or of my Executors, also my horse and watch during her natural
life to do with as she pleases.

3^d. After the death of my beloved cousin Betty Read, I give and
bequeath to her son David I. Read and to my nephew John D.
Readly all the bonds, and all the stock upon which my beloved
cousin Betty Read received interest and dividends, to be equally
divided between them share and share alike. The Bonds are now
deposited in the Farmers Bank of Virginia for collection, and the
certificates of stock are left with Bacon, Backus & Co. for safe keep-
ing. It is my wish that as soon as the Bonds of B. W. Green are paid
my Executors shall invest the money in some safe stock, and should
any of the stock now held by me be deemed unsafe by my Executors,
or be paid off, it is my wish and will that he re-invest the same
as soon as possible that my beloved cousin may have the benefit of the
dividends. I hereby give to my Executors full power to sell and
re-invest any stock belonging to my Estate that may come into his
possession.

4th. Should my relative and friend David I. Read die without
children born by mother, I give, devise and bequeath to my
nephew John D. Readly all the stock and Bonds, and other property
on which my beloved cousin may be receiving dividends, and interest
or may have in possession. Should my nephew die before my
beloved cousin Betty Read, and without children, I give, be-
queath, and devise to my niece Virginia Sims, wife of James B.
Sims of Lodi, Parrish, Louisiana, all and every interest he may
or might have had under this my Will.

I hereby make constitute and appoint my relative and friend
David I. Read my sole executor of this my last Will & Testament
and having perfect confidence in him, request and declare it
my wish that no security be required of him.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and
affixed my seal the 20th day of December 1856

W. D. Sims 

At Roanoke June Court 1857

A Paper purporting to be the last Will & Testament of William
David Sims, was this day produced in Court, and the said