

Will of William S. Hopkins

GEO. 1860

In the Name of God: Amen.

William S. Hopkins of the State of Georgia and County of Camden, do hereby make and publish his my last will and testament hereby bequeathing all of mine realty by me at any time heretofore made. As to make worldly estate as it has pleased God to entrust me with. I die of the same as follows.

First, I devise and bequeath the following property (viz) plantation negroes with their future issue and increase named Old Peter, Old Caliseen, Jack, Sarah (called Sarah Briggs), Caliseen, George, Richard, Abner, Sally, Jack, Beulah, Malinda, Philise, Eliza, Anna, Charlotte, and I make, called Sarah Page, also my dwelling house on Cross Hill plantation together with the out-buildings attached to same, also my carriage, horses, and a house, also one eighth part of all my stock of every description, also one eighth part of all my plantation tools and utensils, also one tenth part of all my ready money, and one tenth part of all my crop which may be raised at the time of my death unto my Wife & Elizabeth S. Hopkins to her and to hold the same during her natural life with the exceptions of the one tenth part of my ready money which I give her absolutely for her own use; it being understood that the devise and bequest is made to my Wife in addition the sum now all right of her own one eighth part of my estate, and from and after the death or marriage of my said wife it is my desire and intention that the property herein bequeathed and devised shall

immediately pass in the lifetime of my daughter Susan Anna Hopkins her heirs and assigns and to end for the time being for a special life. It is also my desire, and I desire that my said wife attempt to transfer any portion of the property herein bequeathed to her from the County of Camden, any of the Trustees of my said daughter, or any one else in her behalf to demand and receive from my said wife, I give with her, but residing in the County of Camden, Camden and for the foregoing and a delivery of said property to the person authorized to receive the same on the death or marriage of my said wife. It is also my desire, and I desire that my said wife, shall during her lifetime have the use of as much of my cleared land as she may require for the purpose of raising, but in no instance shall she be permitted to cut timber, or permit timber to be cut on her tract of land, and it is my desire and I direct that my said wife shall during her lifetime have the use of as many plantation buildings as may be required in getting out the crops for planting. I desire of my said wife that she pay any claim for taxes on the property herein devised, and bequeathed, shall become due on the death of my daughter hereinafter mentioned, to and for the use and benefit to be specified.

Second, I give, devise and bequeath my dwelling house and lot & number land, given to situate in the Town of Milledgeville, also my tract of land on South side of Satilla River known as the McQueen tract, also my stock of hogs and cattle (excepting one eighth part thereof) which

by me given for the use of my wife, son
John Bassett and George Lang. It is
said to hold the same unto them and the
descendants of them in trust to and for the use
and benefit of my daughter Susan Anne
Stephens you and during, and for the term
of her natural life, and from and after the death
of my daughter to and for the use and benefit
of the issue ^{of her body} (legitimate
or illegitimate) the said property to be held
free from the debts and engagements of any
trust and of my said daughter, and when
my said daughter should depart this life
without issue (lawful or unlawful) then
I direct that the property devised and beque-
athed in this will shall remain vested in
said John Bassett and George Lang in
trust to and for the use of Elizabeth S.
Stephens and her issue (lawful or unlawful)
on the trust and for the purposes specified
in the immediately preceding item of this will.

I direct and bequeath my dwelling House
and lot in the town of Effusion, Rowden
County, also one acre lot fronting the town
also one quarter lot opposite to the dwelling
also one tract of land on the North Side
of Satellite river, also a tract of land near
St. Marys Bay on the Cottage tract, with
the said John Bassett and George Lang ^{and}
and the descendants of them, or their heirs
to hold the same in trust for the use
and benefit of Elizabeth S. Stephens during
her natural life, free from the debts of any

husband of said Elizabeth S. Stephens, and
from and after her death, to and for the use and
benefit of her issue (lawful or unlawful) and
in case of the death of the said Elizabeth S.
Stephens without issue (legitimate or illegitimate)
then I direct the property herein devised
to remain vested in said John Bassett and
George Lang on the descents of them or their
heirs and for my daughter Susan Anne Stephens
on her issue (lawful or unlawful) from on the
trust, and for the use specified in the immediately
preceding item of this will.

I request my Executors to give my dear son
one suit of good brown cloth as a token of
my regard.

I request my Executors to give to Humbert Hill
and Lazarus, being the first slave owned by
my father, one suit of fine Sabbath cloth for
the said, on each of your behests while that
cost the same amount.

I give on bequest unto my friend John Bassett
the sum of One thousand dollars, I have and
to hold the same for his use and benefit of
his.

I give and bequeath unto Emma Lang only
Lang, George Lang, and to their living
children of my friend George Lang the
sum of five hundred dollars to be
paid immediately after my death.
I give and bequeath unto my friend John
Bassett, the sum of One thousand dollars,
to have and to hold the same for the use
and benefit of his children.

Eight I desire that the largest business bequeathed to me
all my debts shall be charged upon, and
paid out of the residue of my estate, and
begin before my property divided and
begin the

Nine I give devise and bequeath the one moiety
of the residue of my estate of whatever kind
and whatsoever situation, not herein before
disposed of unto John T. Bassett and George
Livingston, To Have and to Hold the same
unto them, and the survivors of them in whole
I want to and for the sole use and benefit
of my daughter Susan Anna Hopkins
during her natural life, from from the death
of any husband of my said daughter,
and from and after her death, to and
for the use and benefit of the issue
(lawful or unlawful), of my said
daughter, and in the event of the death
of my said daughter, without such
issue, then I desire, such property shall
remain vested in said John Bassett and
George Livingston in trust for the use of
Elizabeth C. Hopkin for life, and after
her death, for the use of her issue
(lawful or unlawful), on the trusts
and uses expressed in the third item
of this will.

Ten I give, devise and bequeath the other
moiety of all the residue of my estate of
whatever kind, not herein before disposed
of unto said John T. Bassett and George
Livingston To Have and to Hold the same
with them or the survivors of them in

trust to and for the use and benefit of
Elizabeth C. Hopkin during her life, from from the
death of any husband of the said Elizabeth,
and from and after her death, to and for the
use and benefit of the issue, lawful or unlawful,
and in case said Elizabeth should depart
this life without issue, then in trust for
the use of my daughter Susan Anna Hopkins
and the limitations and trusts expressed
in the second item of this my will.
I give devise and bequeath the fourth part,
mentioned in the first item of this my will
after the passing of or death of my wife,
Elizabeth C. Hopkin to John T. Bassett and
George Livingston and the survivors of them
to hold same in trust for my daughter
Susan Anna Hopkin upon the trusts and limita-
tions expressed in the second item of this
my will.

I nominate and appoint George Livingston
Stephen McCull, Elizabeth C. Hopkin
John T. Bassett and George W. Howard my
Executors and Administrators.

In witness whereof I the
said William C. Hopkin have hereunto
set my hand and seal at Varnum on the
third day of December 1851
One thousand eight hundred and fifty three
William C. Hopkin

Signed, sealed and delivered
by the testator as and for his
last will in presence of us the
above bearers and witnesses on

named as witnesses in his pen-
ency, and in the presence of
each other

Mr. Hall McAllister
John J. Lewis

J. H. Goodrich

A Commission bearing upon the
Seal of the Court of Ordinary of Camden
County to examine Robert Lewis a subor-
ning witness to the last will and
Testament of Mrs. J. Shapkins late of
said County, deceased, residing
in the City of Savannah, and upon
the same being perused the Court
and the Court of Ordinary being fully
satisfied with the private mode thereof
It is ordered for Record

Wm. Colson J. J. C. C.
W. J. Cole J. J. C. C.
Geo. Tompkins J. J. C. C.

Test
Henry R. Port
cl R.

In the matter of the application of George
Thomas and George Long to prove the will
of William T. Stephens.

Georgia.

We the undersigned, commissioned
by virtue of the annexed Commission. have
this day caused the said Robert Lewis
the witness therein named to come before
us in the City of Savannah, and after
duly swearing him upon the holy Bible perma-
ned to examine him upon the annexed
interrogatories; and the said Robert Lewis
being duly sworn did state and depose as
follows.

To the first Inty. the witness answers and says
he did know in his lifetime the said William
T. Stephens late of Camden County Georgia.
Witness says he has looked at and examined
the annexed instrument of writing purporting
to be the last will of the said William
T. Stephens, that he the witness saw the
said testator William T. Stephens sign
seal execute and publish the said inst-
rument of writing as and for his last
will and testament in the presence of
the witnesses and of Matthew Hall McAllister
and J. A. Gordrick and that the said
Matthew Hall McAllister and J. A. Gordrick
and this deponent in the presence of each
other and of the said testator, and at
his request subscribed the same as
attesting witnesses thereto, and this
deponent further says, that the said
testator at the time of signing, declaring

and publishing of said bill case of
second and disposing said, and
thereupon

5th Wherefore he shows nothing further

(Inscribed, Subscribed by John of Lewis
known to be on the

2nd day of June 1858

Wm Law Comptroller
Mr. Law Comptroller

Georgia

To His Honor Archibald R. Orr
of the District of Columbia of the
County of Washington

To Wm Law and Maria Robt. Law
Greeting. Whereas there is a certain
matter of controversy now depending in the
Court of the application of C. W. Thomas &
George Lang to prove the Will of Wm. L.
- Chap. R. and whereas John A. Lewis
a material witness in said Court is now
cannot attend on said Court is now
without manifest inconvenience
Rev. Knowl. That we, referring to your
trust and confidence in your friend
and fidelity have appointed you and
you may be or more of you are
heavily authorized and desired to
cause the said John A. Lewis to
be called before you, and after being
advised sworn to examine him
concerning the said said questionably

to the interrogations herein suggested, and
the answers to them are being placed, and
directly sent, you are to send the same
closed up containing no names or initials, to
our said Court, to be taken on the fifth day
of June next together with this writ.

Witness the Hon. Archibald R. Orr
of the District of Columbia this 20th
day of May 1858.

Henry R. Port
Att.

The Commissioned Author

You shall accordingly to the best of your skill
and knowledge, bring forth fully and without
falsifying to any or either of the parties in the
case, take the examinations and depositions
of all and every such persons who are present
and examine of either of the other Comptroller
upon the interrogations now presented
and left with you.

And you shall not publish or disclose
to any person or persons, or publish
whatsoever, written or printed, or otherwise
if you employed, and under penalty
in the event of the commission of
the contents of all or any of the depositions
of the witnesses made of them to be taken
by you, or the other Comptroller in the
said case upon demand made, or upon
the 5th of June of the said Commission, or the
publication shall be paid to the order
of the said Court C. S. 1858, 20th day
of May 1858

Wm Law
Wm Law

The Operation of this Commission appears
from the Schedule herewith composed
71% Law } Commission
29% R. Law }

In the matter of the application of John
W. Thomas & George Lang two of the
Executors named in the last will and
testament of William S. Hop River
late of Camden County, Georgia to open
the last will.

Antisocial looks to be perpended in the
S. Line; a substantial, unperpended line.
Will be a perpended in an and span
on the ^{way} of application. Social antisocial looks
in the City of Iowa and in Chatham County.

July 14th Now you agree with me and ask you know in his life time the late William J. McPherson of Camden County is the State of Georgia?

Look at the awfully distressed part of
writing, pure poetry, to be the last will
and testament of the said William
T. Hopkings; and look at your name
subscribed thereto as an attesting
Witness, and be pleased to sign with
your name as your genuine, signed
over & your own hand writing, whether
the same was subscribed by yourself
as a witness to said instrument
who subscribed with your own hand
did you see their signs and seal
in the said testament William's

Hopkins signs such operating publishes the
said instrument of writing, as and for his
last will and testament.
If you know any other, further, state the
same fully.

State of Georgia,
Cowan County, To all whom it may concern.

This is to certify that George Day John Bassett and E. H. Hopkins Executors and Administrators of William T. Hopkins of said County having fully administered the estate of W. T. Hopkins while come into their hands as such Executors and Administrators, and as it appears from the Examination of the proceedings by the proper authority, acted in the discharge of the duties faithfully and carefully having been properly wound up, signing all who may come to object to the discharge of said Executors and Administrators from their respective offices, and no valid objections being hereafter made, and the Court of Ordinary of Camden County at its having a still regular term on the 3^d day of December 1846 by order discharge the said George Day John Bassett and E. H. Hopkins from their respective offices of W. T. Hopkins estate and order a letter of dismission from such Executors and Administrators to them that said George Day John Bassett and E. H. Hopkins are discharged from all liabilities from and on account of said Estates and their letters are to show the discharge, where

and whereas they my full power
 have in an my hand even seal
 of Office this 34 day of December 1869
 Malcolm A Crawford
 of Office Clerk of the Court
 of County of Camden County

Examined & Recorded
 this 22^d November 1869
 A B Ransom Clerk
 & Act. Ordinance