

Georgia
Newton County

In the name of God Amen
I Robert Rakestraw of the County and
State aforesaid being in feeble and declining health
and of sound disposing mind and mind and being
not enabled one to accumulate in my own way and manner
do hereby publish and declare the following to be my
last will and testament hereby revoking all other bequests
fore made by me

Item 1st It is my will and desire that all my just
debts be paid by my Executor as soon after my death
as possible.

Item 2nd I do hereby leave to my Wife Martha
Rakestraw during her natural life or widowhood all of
my lands that I may be possessed of at my death and
she is to prevent the timber from being cut or wasted
only a sufficiency for firewood and keep up fences
on the farm that she may cultivate and I also leave
to my Wife during her natural life or widowhood
the following negroes slaves to wit Minney a woman
Irene a woman and all of her children which she
now has or may hereafter have during my life time
and Polly a young woman and her mistress and Major
a man and Henry a man I also leave to my Wife as
aforesaid all the household and kitchen furniture also
three of the first choice of the mules two cows and
calves and plantation tools sufficient to commence
the farm the first year and provisions sufficient

[illegible]

In open Court personally appeared John Franklin A. Belcher and

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Wm J Wright that of the subscribers witness to the
 instrument in writing who being duly sworn depose and
 sayeth that they saw Robert Rakestraw sign and publish
 and execute the same to be his last will and testament
 and that at the time of said signing and publication
 was in the opinion of deponents of sound disposing mind
 and memory - that he executed the same freely and with
 compulsion so far as they know or believe - that they sub-
 scribe the same as witnesses in the presence of the testator and
 of each other & that they saw said Rakestraw the other sub-
 scribing witnesses do so likewise.
 Sworn to and subscribed in
 open Court September
 8th 1868

John Franklin
 J. Delcher

Wm J Wright

Wm D Luckie
 Orday

Georgia }
 Newton County } I do solemnly swear that this writing be-
 lieves the true last will of the within
 named Robert Rakestraw deceased, so far as I know or be-
 lieve, and that I will well and truly execute the same in
 accordance with the law of this State. So help me God
 Sworn to and subscribed
 before me September 8th 1868
 Wm D Luckie Orday

Thomas W Rakestraw

Admitted to record September term 1868
 Wm D Luckie
 Orday