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Last Will and Testament of Rodman E. Church

Georgia

Bibb County

I Rodman E. Church of the City of Macon and State and County aforesaid, feeling apprehensive that my dissolution is near at hand, and wishing to avoid the necessity of a settlement of my Estate and making provision for my children through the usual course of law in this State, do make, ordain and publish this my last Will and Testament there having no former one made.

First I direct that as soon after my burial as may be consistent, there may be procured such a monument for myself and my dear Maria (who has just preceded me to the tomb) as may be most proper and suitable for us both - I would further direct that a neat, substantial, and plain fence be erected around the three graves after the same plan and construction as the one around the grave of Charles A. Jones excepting that the brick work be not quite so high. I would further direct that as soon after my decease, as may be consistent, my Executor will cause to be made a full and complete inventory of the Stock in trade of Church & Strong, also all debts and bills, receivable, and the value of the negroes belonging to said Estate, with all other goods and chattels, considered to be of value, also get as clear and exact an inventory of all debts payable that it may satisfactorily ascertain as near as is practicable to do so, what may belong to my Estate, which said property I direct may be equally divided between my two sons, Lewis Sheldon and Rollen Rodman Church. I also direct that a fair valuation be made of all my personal effects, furniture, and what is hereafter sold, will be sold expressly for the benefit of my children, my bed & bedding, linen, handkerchiefs and kept for the use of my children without regard to value.

I also direct that a small piece of Real Estate situated on Walnut Street the vacant half acre lot next above the house, separated by an alley lately owned and occupied by A. C. Freeman and known as lot no 8 Square 47 in plan of the City of Macon which lot I devise or procure the said lot may be sold as soon as it can be to advantage and the proceeds be placed in the hands of the guardian of my children for benefit.

I do also hereby appoint, and cause my brother in law Lewis L. Strong to be constituted the legal and proper Guardian of my two only sons Lewis Sheldon & Robert Rodman Church, having the fullest confidence in his honor and capacity to administer all their temporal wants for the present comfort and well being and future

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 entrance on the stage of life, as given and experienced
 I also direct that the Guardian of my children in my
 course them at proper age to be instructed in all the
 plain and useful branches of an English education
 which will fit them for all the wants and expansion
 of active life. Let them not be denied any of those
 branches of education which will fully prepare their
 minds and habits for the Counting room, Mechanics
 shop - or manufacturing & at the same time such as
 may (their exertion added) bring them into after life as
 ornaments to society and honor to themselves and
 friends, in a word to clear my desire is that they
 be possessed of all valuable information and sufficient
 Education to render this information valuable to them
 in after life. Further do I direct that the L. P. Strong
 shall have the knowledge over any other person
 whatever to the use and benefit of my said Estate, he
 allowing to the Estate the legal annual rate of interest
 and also he as Guardian of said children will
 keep an account with them, charging them with
 all paid away for them, and crediting them with
 such effects as may come into their hands, also
 charging the Estate for his trouble as Guardian.
 I do also direct that on as much as my brother L. H.
 Church has well provided for my dear mother
 in her declining years, and incurred expenses on
 her account I do therefore in justice to him give
 and bequeath to him such portion of the Estate
 of Sarah Church, as may fall to my share at her
 decease, said property being involving in the Town of
 Beethen State of Connecticut.
 Lastly - That my wearing apparel may be disposed
 of in such a manner as may be best for the
 safe keeping of the same and benefit of my children
 also all the personal effect of my wife to be
 appropriated in the same manner. And I do
 hereby make and ordain my brother in law Louis
 P. Strong and my much esteemed neighbor John
 L. Jones Executors of this my last will and
 Testament. For witness whereof I Codman E.
 Church, the testator have to this my will
 written on one sheet of paper, set my hand
 and seal this fourteenth day of December
 of our Lord one thousand eight hundred &
 thirty nine
 witness.

Codman E. Church

E. B. Mead
 Henry Williams
 Jas H. Wallis

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Bibb County } Before us personally came Edwin
 D. Weed one of the subscribing witnesses
 to the within last will of Rodman E. Church, who
 being duly sworn deposes & says that he saw
 Rodman E. Church, sign, seal, publish & declare
 the within to be his last will and Testament that
 he signed the same as a witness in the presence
 of the testator, that at the time Rodman E. Church
 was of sound disposing mind & memory &
 executed the within instrument free without
 compulsion, and he saw Henry Williams and
 James A. Wallis subscribe said last will &
 Testament as witnesses in the presence of the
 testator.

Sworn to & Subscribed
 May 21 1840

A. E. Ernest J. L.
 Jacob Johnson J. L.
 Myron Bartlett J. L.

E. D. Weed

Georgia

Bibb County } Court of Ordinary May Term 1840
 The within last will & Testament
 of Rodman E. Church having been duly
 proven at this regular term, in open Court
 upon the oath of Edwin D. Weed one of the
 subscribing witnesses, ordered that the same
 be admitted to record & that Geo. A. Kimberly
 James H. Bishop, Charles A. Ellis & Horace Fitch
 be appointed appraisers

Myron Bartlett J. L.
 Jacob Johnson J. L.
 A. E. Ernest J. L.