

Will of John Edmonson Deceased.

Georgia In the name of God Amen. I John Brooks County Edmonson being of advanced aged, but of sound and disposing mind and memory, knowing that I must shortly depart this life deem it right and proper both as respects my family and myself that I should make a disposition of the property with which a kind Providence has blessed me. I do therefore make this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking and annulling all others by me heretofore made.

I desire and direct that my body be buried in a decent and Christian like manner suitable to my circumstances and condition in life. my soul I trust shall return to rest with God, who gave it, as I hope for salvation through the merits and atonement of the blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. My body I desire that it should be buried in the family burying ground at Bethel Church in said County. If I should depart this life in any reasonable distance of the same, and I desire to dispose of my worldly affairs as follows

I desire and direct that all my just debts be paid without delay by my Executors. I give bequeath and devise to my beloved Wife Martha Edmonson for and during her natural life only, over and above an equal share with any children the following property, to wit, one third part of my lands leaving it to her to select one third part, when she may please so to do, said third part of lands to be selected ~~where~~ in a body to itself in full extinguishment of her whole right of dower in my real estate and one Negro Girl by the name of Hester, and one horse such as she may choose from my stock of horses and my buggy during her natural life, free and exempt from any debt, contract or liability of any husband that she may hereafter have, and immediately after her death the so given or bequeathed property to pass to my children and be disposed of as I shall hereinafter direct in the distribution of my estate.

I give and bequeath to my beloved Wife Martha Edmonson for and during her natural life only an equal share with any children the following property, to wit, one third part of my lands leaving it to her to select one third part, when she may please so to do, said third part of lands to be selected ~~where~~ in a body to itself in full extinguishment of her whole right of dower in my real estate and one Negro Girl by the name of Hester, and one horse such as she may choose from my stock of horses and my buggy during her natural life, free and exempt from any debt, contract or liability of any husband that she may hereafter have, and immediately after her death the so given or bequeathed property to pass to my children and be disposed of as I shall hereinafter direct in the distribution of my estate.

Will of John Edmonson (Deceased).

Ellen, my wife to hold said share during her natural life free and exempt from any debt, contract or liability of any husband, that she hereafter have, and immediately ^{after} the death of my said wife, the so given share, or bequeathed property to pass to my children and be disposed of as I shall herein after direct the distribution of my Est.

Fifthly I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter Virginia L. over and above an equal share of all the rest of my heirs, and negroes held by the name of Ellen to hold during their natural life free and exempt from any debt liability or contract of any husband that she may hereafter have, and should she have a child, or children, the right to inherit the same from, and if no child or child, or children the right of said property to revert back at her death to her brother and sister, or representations of brother and sister.

Sixthly I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter for and during their natural lives only one equal share and she shall remain in my estate both real and personal ^{free} from the debts, contracts or liabilities of any present husband, or any husband that either of them may hereafter marry and the right and title thereof to rest in their child, or children, and should any or either of them die without child, or children then said share, or shares or property to revert back to their brother and sister, or representations of brother and sister.

Seventhly I give and bequeath to each of my beloved sons an equal share and share alike in my Est. both real and personal.

Eighthly It is my will and desire that should my wife hereafter have any posthumous child or children that the same shall share and share alike with the balance of my children, and if child, or children shall come under the provisions of my will, then ^{sixth}.

Ninthly I do make, ordain and appoint my beloved son, James H. Edmonson my worthy friend, my executor to carry out the provisions of this my last Will and Testament to the true intent and meaning of the same.

Tenthly It is my Will and desire that my estate both real and personal shall be sold at public sale by the highest bidder immediately after my death without any reserve, only such as I have herebefore divided in the premises. In witness whereof I John Edmonson have to this my last Will and Testament set my hand and affixed my seal, this May 12th 1863. John Edmonson Signed Sealed by the said Executor, at his request.