

State of Georgia In the name of God Amen
Richardson County I William H. Crane of the County of Burke
and State aforesaid being weak in body sound in
mind do make relation and publish this as my last
will and Testament

I commit my soul to God who gave it and my body
to the dust from whence it sprang
My debts are chiefly friends whom I desire to
desire to discharge it is my wish that my debts
shall be paid as soon as possible with reference
to such convenience of those who owe me as may
be compatible with the interest of my Estate
I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Mathew
Crane for and during her natural life with remainder
to my children at her death my summer residence house
now at Pine Hill including the land thereto attached
together with the ^{Burke Co. GA Wills 1855-1858} and kitchen furniture
^{www.georgiapioneers.com} thereunto belonging The above mentioned property to be
appraised at the general distribution of my Estate as
hereinafter provided for and its value as so appraised
to be reckoned to that extent as a portion of my said
wife's distributable share of my estate I further desire
that a sufficient sum of the earliest convenience shall
be placed at her disposal for the purchase of a Carriage
and horses for her own use should she deem them necessary
It is my wish and intention that my property shall
remain as it is subject to such contingencies as may
be hereinafter ascertained until my dear Sonas. Son
Crane shall arrive at Twenty Years of age or until the
sum Eighteen Hundred and Sixty shall my said Son not
be living at the time above mentioned. At the time aforesaid
I desire that all my property except my land and
money and such other property as may be hereinafter

divided shall be sold at public sale and as soon after
such sale as may be convenient, my remaining property
consisting of Negroes, my land in Purple Gentry and money
or evidences of debt if any shall be divided as follows
my my Negroes and money or evidences of debt equally
share and share alike between my wife Mahala Evans
and my children Leonidas W Evans Mary Ephrosina Evans
sons Floyd Evans Sarah Eleanor Evans and Claudia Virgin
in Evans or each of them or their representatives as may
be living at the time of such division with such res-
trictions in relations to the portions of my daughters
as may be hereinafter recited. At the same time my
plantation in Purple is to be divided as nearly equally as
possible according to its appraised value between my
sons Leonidas W and sons S Evans and as this with my
sons equal shares of my other property will exceed
their proper distribution, inasmuch it is intended that
the difference shall be made up to my wife and
daughters as above named from the money which may
fall to the share of my said sons and if that be not
sufficient then shall my said sons be indebted to my
wife and Daughters to the amount of such deficiency
it being my intention that each of the Persons above
named shall receive an equal share of my entire
Estate according to its appraised value. Should however
either of my sons be dead at the time of such division
of such division the survivor under the conditions
or specified shall make choice of such half of said
plantation as he may prefer the remaining half to be
sold for the benefit of my wife and the surviving
children or their legal representatives. And if both my
said sons be dead at the time of such division then
the land to be equally divided between my surviving
children or their legal representatives they paying such
an amount to my wife as may be necessary to equal-
ize the shares.

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I further desire that if either or any of my daughters
to wit, Mary S Evans Sarah E Evans or Claudia W Evans
shall marry before the time herein appointed for
a general distribution of my Estate, and after my Estate
shall be free from debt and not before
then such daughter or daughters so marrying shall
at the time of such marriage or as soon thereafter
as my Estate shall be free from debt shall have
allotted to her or them so marrying her or their
distribution share of my Estate provided always that
such share or shares shall be taken out without
conflicting with my wishes as above expressed in
regard to such division, should this be the case
then my daughter or daughters so marrying shall
be entitled to receive only her or their distribution

share of the Negroes to wit: namely the general distribution for their portions of my other property. In either event however either or their property is to be held subject to the instructions hereinafter imposed.

I give and bequeath to Amos W. Wiggins and Benjamin B. Miller in Trust for the use benefit and behoof during their natural lives of my daughters Mary Sophronia Evans, Sarah O. Evans, and Rebecca B. Evans all the property with future natural increase to which they my said daughters shall under any the provisions of this will become entitled: And in the further trusts that if any or either of my said daughters shall die leaving a husband then for the use and benefit of said husband during his natural life with remainder at his death to the children of my deceased daughters if any and if none then for the use and benefit of her surviving sisters and in the same manner of the property of my said daughters if any who may die unmarried and without issue. I furthermore desire that whatever money shall fall to the distributive shares of my said daughters shall if in the discretion of the Trustees above appointed it shall be necessary be invested in such property as the said Trustees may deem most proper.

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I desire that my son Amos W. Wiggins should be treated kindly and have ample room and opportunities allowed him to visit his wife and children. It is further my wish that the said Negro man Lee shall in the division of my Estate become the property of my son Leonidas W. Evans. Also that my Negroes Eliza Wiggins and Hampton shall in like manner become the property of my wife Mahala Evans. Also that my woman Patty shall in like manner become the property of my son Amos W. Wiggins. This can be arranged by my Executors and Executors herein after appointed making such exchanges in the different lots of Negroes as will effect the object desired.

I give to my son Amos W. Wiggins Evans my Gold watch

I hereby appoint my beloved wife Mahala Evans my Executors and Amos W. Wiggins my Executor to carry into effect and execute the above provisions of this my last Will and Testament.

I do solemnly publish signed and sealed the above and foregoing as my last Will and Testament. This the eighth day of June Eighteen Hundred and fifty three.

Published signed and sealed

in presence of us and each other

William S. Evans

J. W. Crosswell
J. R. Anderson
A. C. Walker

of Georgia appeared in Open Court. John W. Carrawell &
Burke County Augustus M. Anderson who being duly sworn
deposed and say that they were present & did see Will
Evans late of said County decedent sign and pub-
lish & declare the aforesaid proper writings of his proper
to be his last Will & Testament that the said William
J. Evans signed the same in the presence of deponents
and of Alexander C. Walker who signed said Will as
witnesses thereto with these deponents and in presence
of the testator and of each other and that testator
at the time of the publication and execution of his
said will was of sound and disposing mind and memory
Sworn to in Open Court
7th Novr 1853
Edward Garlick C.R.C.

J. W. Carrawell
A. M. Anderson

The Will of William Evans having been this day
in open Court ^{duy} proven in due form of Law It
is ordered on motion that the same be admitted
to record that a warrant of appraisement do issue
to Alexander C. Walker, William Ryne Robert Walls, Thomas
A. Ryne, and William J. Rhodes to appraise the Estate
of said decedent in terms of the Law & that Letters of
Fiduciary be awarded to Mrs. Mahalan Evans & Miss
W. Higgins the Executors & Executor by the will of said
deceased appointed.

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State of Georgia
Burke County
Office Court of Ordinary Novr 1853
I Edward Garlick Ordinary for said County do
hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct
copy of the last will and Testament of William J.
Evans decd as appears of file & of Record in this Office
In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand
and affixed the seal of office at Waynesboro the
Day and date mentioned above.
Edward Garlick C.R.C.

Georgia
Burke County
Ordinary Office, June 30th 1856
I do hereby certify the foregoing to be a
true copy taken from a duly certified Copy of the
will of William J. Evans Decedent of said County,
made out by me before the late fire on the 24th
January last which destroyed the Court Records of
said County and with it all the Records of the
Court of Ordinary of said County.
In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand
& affixed the seal of office of said Court of Ord.
Edward Garlick
Ordinary C.R.C.

It appearing to the Court that the original will
& testament of William S. Cross deceased of Burke
County together with the affidavit of John W. Cross
& Augustine W. Anderson, two of the subscribing wit-
ness thereto and the order of probate admitting the
same to record - were destroyed by fire in the Court
house of said County on the night of the 24th of Jan-
uary 1856 and James W. Higgins Executor & Mahala Cross
Executrix appeared thereon appearing in open Court & produ-
cing a true copy of ^{Burke Co. GA Wills 1855-1858} said papers (taken from
^{www.georgiablog.ears.com} a certified copy thereof in the possession of said Executor
& Executrix, - & now here to this Court shown for
its inspection) - it is therefore - on motion of James &
Theresa Cross for said Executor and Executrix ordered
that a true copy will and testament - Copy affidavit
and Copy order of probate herunto annexed be and are
hereby established in lieu of said original papers
destroyed as aforesaid that the same be again admitted
to record & filed in this Office

Recorded 19th July 1866