

In the name of God Amen
 I George W. Merritt do make and order this to
 be my last will and Testament
 1 I desire my body to be entored in a decent and Christian
 like manner
 2 I desire all my real Estate to be sold to the best advan-
 tage
 3 I direct all my just debts to be paid as early as the State
 of my affairs will permit
 4 I give and bequeath unto my Executors hereinafter
 named or either of them, if one declines to act the
 following Negro Slaves to wit Cesar, Stagar, Lewis
 Khadys, and Harry, in trust for the use of my Brother
 Frederick B. Merritt free from his debts or contracts
 for and during the Term of his natural life, and after
 his death, in Trust, to convey said Negroes to his children
 and grand children, living at the time of his death, such
 grand children if any, only to represent their Parents
 deceased, in interest, and if my said Brother Frederick
 die without such children and none be born in the
 usual time of Gestation after his death, who I heretofore
 include as living at the time of his death, then in Trust
 to convey said Negroes absolutely to the children of my
 sister Comfort Reeves, living at the death of said Freder-
 ick, and those born within the usual time (or nine
 months, of Gestation after his death, Grand Children
 in the latter event, to be represented in like manner
 as in the former
 5 I give and bequeath unto my wife One Hundred Dol-
 lars in money.
 6 I give and bequeath the residue of my Estate unto
 Kathy Ann E. Hampton the widow of John Hampton
 now deceased.
 7 I constitute and appoint my friends Riley Reeves
 and John T. Shewmaker Executors to this my last
 will and Testament. In Testimony whereof I have
 hereunto set my hand and Seal this 21st of May in
 the year 1853.
 In presence of
 John T. Shewmaker
 Henry Lewis
 Wm. M. Wood

George W. Merritt

Georgia
 Burke County 3 The last Will and Testament of George W. Merritt
 deceased having been produced in open Court by
 Riley Reeves one of the Executors named therein &
 the other Executor John T. Shewmaker having renounced his
 Executorship, Personally appeared in open Court the said
 John T. Shewmaker & Henry Lewis two of the subscribing
 Witnesses to said Will and being duly sworn depose that
 they saw the said decedent sign the same as his

last last will and Testament and that she was at the time of
said and disposing mind memory and understanding and
signed the said Will without any compulsion or influence
whatsoever; and that William M. Woods, together with three
deponents signed the same in presence of said Testator and
at his special instance and request.

sworn to in Open Court
this 4th Day of September 1854
Edward Parlied Ordinary

John J. Shewmake
Henry Lewis

In last Will and Testament of George W. Merritt deceased having
been produced in open Court by Riley W. Reeves one of the
Executors therein named (the other John J. Shewmake having
renounced his Executorship) and the same having been duly
proven by the oaths of John J. Shewmake and Henry
Lewis two of the Witnesses thereto and offered for record
It is Ordered that the same be admitted to Record and that
Testamentary be granted to said Riley Reeves, on his qual-
ification in terms of the Law and that a warrant of
Appraisement be issued to Isaiah Carter, Will Shandford
Dennis Perry, Elisha Watkins & Henry Charles
Riley Reeves qualified as Executor. Let this Testamentary
warrant of Appraisement be issued.

It appearing to the Court that the last will and Testament
of George W. Merritt and together with the record thereof
were destroyed by fire in the burning of the Court
House of this County on the night of the 14th Day of
January 1856, and that the Copy will & probate now
presented are substantial Copies of said instrument
It is Ordered that the same be re-established & again
recorded in the Book of Wills of the Ordinary Office.
Recorded 11th July 1857