

County of Chatham
State of Georgia

In the name of God Amen.

I, John H. Thoms of the City of Savannah in the County of Chatham and State of Georgia aforesaid.

Do hereby certify the uncertainty of this mortal life being feeble in health though perfect in memory do make and publish this my last will and testament hereby revoking and making void all former wills by me at any time heretofore made I direct that my body be decently interred and my funeral be conducted in an economical manner suitable to my situation in life and as to such worldly estate as it hath pleased God to entrust me with I dispose of the same as follows.

First. I direct that my Executors hereinafter named sell all my personal property not hereinafter specially bequeathed, also vacant Lot Number Fourteen (No 14) Warren Ward fronting South on Bryan Street in the City of Savannah: And after the payment of all my just debts not barred by the Statute of Limitation proceeds of such sales with all monies on hand at the time of my death at interest on the savings Bank -

Second. I direct that my two houses on Lot Number Thirteen (No 13) Warren Ward fronting South on Bryan and East on Cabaniss Street in the City of Savannah be rented to the best advantage and after the payment of all necessary expenses the balance of said rents be applied to the maintenance and education of my two sons John H. and George W. Thoms who are to be kept at school at the North if possible until they successively attain the age of fifteen years at which age they are each to be bound to some Mechanical Trade until they attain the age of twenty one years.

Third. I give and bequeath my two gold watches to my two sons John H. Thoms and George W. Thoms one to each delivered to each on the day he attains the age of Twenty one years.

Fourth. It is my particular wish and desire that Lot and improvements Warren Ward should not be sold under any circumstances but held for the further use of my said two sons.

Fifth. From and immediately after the death or marriage of my third wife Eliza Thoms I am divided and bequeath unto my said two sons John H. Thoms and George W. Thoms all my estate both real and personal to have and to hold

the same to them their heirs and assigns forever and share alike. And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my said wife Clara Stearns Executor and Trustee of this my last will and testament.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this fourteenth day of October 1854

Signed Sealed & Acknowledged before us who have signed our names as witnesses in the presence of the testator and of each other

John H. Stearns

Levi Ambrose
James Daley
R. Raiford J. P.

State of Georgia }
Chatham County } Court of Ordinary
November Term 1854

Present John H. Miller Esq. Ordinary for Chatham County.

Personally appeared Levi Ambrose an subscribing witness to the annexed instrument of writing purporting to be the last will & testament of John H. Stearns late of Chatham County deceased who being duly sworn deposes and testifies that he who is present and did see the said instrument of writing duly executed by the said John H. and deponent further testifies that the said John H. at the time of executing the said instrument of writing was to the best of deponent's knowledge & belief of sound and disposing mind memory and understanding and that Levi Ambrose the deponent and James Daley and Robert Raiford in the presence of each other and of the said John H. and at his request signed their names as witnesses to the due execution of the same.

Sworn to before me this Nov 6th 1854

Levi Ambrose

John H. Miller
C. C. C.

You do solemnly swear that this writing contains the true last will of the within named John H. Stearns deceased so far as you know or believe and that you will well and truly execute the same by paying just the debts & then the legacies contained in the said will as far as his goods & chattels will amount to & the law charges you and that you will make a true & perfect inventory of all such goods & chattels to the Clerk of the Court.

Sworn to before me this Nov 5th 1854
John H. Miller C. C. C.

John Stearns