

Challoga Court of Ordinary

November Term 1875

Whereas on the 9th day of October last the last will and testament of John Jones late of this County deceased was produced and read in vacation upon the oaths of C. C. Elkhorn & W. C. Scott two of the Subscribing witnesses and there being no objections filed. It is in Motion ordered that Said Will be admitted to record, and that letters Testamentary do issue to the Executors upon their qualifying as Such.

J. B. Hill Ordinary

Georgia In the name of God, Amen
Hwyd County, I Thomas J. Lawrence of Said State and County, believing from my affliction that I must shortly pass from this world, deem it right and proper both as respects my Self and family that I should make a disposition of the property with which a kind Providence has blessed me; I therefore make this my last will and testament, hereby revoking and annulling all others heretofore made by me.

Item first (1st) I desire and direct that my body be buried in a decent and Christian-like manner, suitable to my circumstances and condition; my Soul I trust shall return to rest with God who gave it, as I hope for eternal Salvation through the blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ whose religion I have professed and as I humbly trust have enjoyed for a number of years.

Item Second (2nd) I desire and direct that my just debts be paid at an early day by my Executors and Executrix, to be hereafter named.

Item third (3rd) I give and devise to my beloved wife Nancy and her Six Children, Thomas J. Ennes, James H. Cleopatra, Blanch and Bennet all that tract or parcel of Land known as the Nelson Allman place, lying and being in Challoga County Georgia containing four Hundred and Sixty five acres more or less bound North by Taylor Wapenport, bound South by William Norfork, East by John Knox and West by Anashabia Johnson; the above located Lands to be rented for the next three years rental date to commence the first day of January one Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy Six, at a certain Price in Money per acre or acreage, except ten acres which my wife Nancy shall have to cultivate in such manner and way as She may choose to do for the next three years, and at the end of three years the lands shall return unto the control

and care of my beloved wife Nancy and her Six Children, and they shall have full possession and control of said lands to cultivate or rent as they may think best to do, to have and to hold and to use the products thereof until my youngest child shall arrive at the age of twenty one years old, at the maturity of the age of such child then tract or parcel of land may then be disposed of and the proceeds equally distributed to my Nancy and her Six Children. Thomas P. Emes, James W. Cleopatre, Blance and Bennett & or they may farm on and cultivate the lands in such manner and way as they may agree to do.

Item fourth (4th) I give and bequeath to my wife Nancy and the above named Six Children for their use until the youngest child shall be twenty one years old one horse such as they may select from my stock of horses; and three Hogs and calves such as they may select from my stock of cattle; and one sow and pigs such as they may choose from my stock of hogs, also all of my household and kitchen furniture, the farming utensils used on and belonging to said farm, of every description whatever which they may have, hold and use without division until the maturity of the age of the youngest child, then there may be a division of said stock of horses hogs cattle and farming implements. This shall be so construed as to mean that all the live stock horses cattle and hogs and their increase shall be common and belong to the farm until such time of division, then each heir to share and share alike.

Item fifth (5th) And I desire that my executrix and executor dispose of the rest of my property both real and personal whenever and wherever it may be, also the crop for the year 1875 except a reasonable supply for the family and stock for one year. I appoint my beloved wife Nancy my Executrix, and my worthy Cousin, Andrew J. Lawrence my Executor to this my last will and testament, giving them power and authority to close up all my unsettled business in as full and ample manner as if I were in life to do the same, give them power to sell and dispose of property without a regular order of Court and to make all deeds and acquittances necessary to be made without having to go through the regular course of application to Court for orders, or advertising, also to be released from making returns to the Court of Ordinary.

In witness whereof I thereto set my hand and Seal, this the 21st day of May, 1875

Thomas Jefferson Lawrence

Signed Sealed declared and published by Thomas Jefferson Lawrence as his last will and testament in the presence of us the Subscribers who Subscribed our names hereto in the presence of Said Testator and each other
This May 21st 1875

J W Holmes
J B Rogers
John H Reese
G J Dykes

Commission to take testimony
Georgia
Chattooga County; By Jas. B Hill Ordinary of Said County

To N. J. Johnson & V. V. V. V. V.

In the matter of the probate of the will of Thomas J. Lawrence: propounded by J. J. Lawrence one of the Executors named in Said Will, J. W. Holmes, J. B. Rogers, J. H. Reese & G. J. Dykes are the witnesses to the execution of Said Will, and cannot attend our Court of Ordinary in person without manifest inconvenience

We know ye that reposing confidence in you, we authorize you to bring before you the above mentioned witnesses, and after swearing them to examine them concerning Said Will and the execution thereof agreeably to the interrogatories hereto annexed; and their answers to the same you are to send to me fixed up under your hands and Seal to be produced in the Court of Ordinary on the first Monday in November 1875 together with this writ. Witness my hand and Seal of office this 21st Sept 1875

Jas. B. Hill Ordinary

Interrogatories

In the probate of Thomas J. Lawrence's will in Chattooga Court of Ordinary. J. J. Lawrence Executor & Propounder —

Interrogations to be exhibited to be J. W. Holmes, J. B. Rogers, J. H. Reese, & G. J. Dykes witnesses to the above mentioned will

First Interrogatory. Where do you reside

Second Interrogatory

Where you acquainted with Thomas J. Lawrence in this lifetime

3rd Interrogatory

Look at the instrument annexed purporting to be the last will & testament of J. J. Lawrence and say if you were present at its execution

4th Interrogatory

What was the condition of J. J.

of Lawrence's mind at the time of executing said will:
Did you think he was in every respect capable of
making a will and disposing of his effects -

5th Interrogatory

Did he declare the said instrument
to be his last will & Testament, and sign the same in
your presence.

6th Interrogatory. Did you sign the same as wit-
nesses thereto at his request and in his presence

7th Interrogatory

If you know of any other fact of
importance in regard to the execution of said will
please state it -

State of Georgia In the matter of the probate of
Floyd County the will of J. Lawrence before
The Court of Ordinary of Chattooga
County Georgia

By virtue of a commission to us directed
from the Court of Ordinary of Chattooga County
Ga. We have caused J. B. Reese & J. B. Rogers two
of the witnesses in said commission named to
come before us and after being duly sworn we
were to give make to certain interrogatories to
said commission attached. They answer as follows

Answer to 1st Interrogatory

We reside in Floyd County.

Answer to 2nd Interrogatory

We were acquainted with Thomas J. Lawrence
in his lifetime.

Answer to 3rd Interrogatory

We were present at the execution of the instrument

Answer to 4th Interrogatory

We think the mind of Testator at the time of the
execution of said will was sound and in every
way capable of making a will disposing of
his property.

Answer to 5th Interrogatory

He declared the instrument to be his last will and
testament & signed the same in our presence & in the
presence of G. W. Holmes & G. Dykes the other two
subscribing witnesses to said will -

Answer to 6th Interrogatory

We signed the same as witnesses thereto at his request
and in his presence

Answer to 7th Interrogatory

We know of nothing else of importance in regard
to the execution of said will

John H. Reese
J. B. Rogers

Witnesses answered Sworn to & Subscribed before
us, this 17th day of October 1875

H. Johnson Comr
H. C. Rogers Comr

Chattanooga Court of Ordinary

November term 17 day 1875

It is ordered that the will of Thomas J. Lawrence
be admitted to record the same having been proven
by the interrogatories of John N. Reese & G. B. Rogers two
of the four Subscribing witnesses to said will, and that
the Executors be allowed to qualify and that letters
testamentary do issue to them upon their so doing

J. B. Hill Ordinary

Georgia
Chattanooga County In the name of God Amen
I, Samuel Finley of said County
and State, being an advanced age
and at this time in feeble health, deem it right and
proper while of sound and disposing mind and memory
to make a disposition of the property with which a kind
Providence has blessed me, I therefore make and declare
the following as my last will and testament, revoking
and annulling all others heretofore made by me

Item 1st I desire my body to be buried in a decent
and Christian-like manner, suitable to my circum-
stances in life. And all my just debts be paid by
my Executors hereinafter named so soon as the same
can be consistently done

Item 2nd I give, bequeath and devise to my
Son Samuel C. Finley the following lots or parcels
of Land, to wit: Numbers two Hundred ^{eighteen} ~~nineteen~~
Two Hundred and ninety ~~acres~~, Two Hundred & forty four
and Two Hundred and thirty one, all in the fourteenth
District and fourth Section of said County and State, also
one Hundred acres off of lot Number Seven in the sixteenth
District and fourth Section of said County and State, also
the Household and Kitchen Furniture, except one Bed, Bed-
stead and Clothing for the same. And one half of my fam-
ily Library. Also all my Farming Tools of every kind
that may be on my place at my death belonging to me
individually and my interest in the same

Item 3rd I give, bequeath and devise to the
Children of my Son James C. Finley, now deceased,
named as follows (or to such of them as may survive
me) Samuel Finley, John Finley, Emma Isabella Finley
and Catharine A. Finley the following