

Georgia In the Name of God. Amen.  
Clarke County

I James B. Branch of the County and State  
aforesaid, being in dispo<sup>se</sup>, but of sound Mind and disposing  
Memory, do Make Certain Constitute and declare this to  
be My last Will and Testament.

Item 1<sup>st</sup>

I Recommend my soul to God, and my body to my family  
and friends, to be by them buried in a plain decent Manner.

Item 9<sup>th</sup>

Item 2<sup>nd</sup>

I Wish my just debts paid.

Item 3<sup>rd</sup>

I have given to my daughter Scott Lett property as per  
Schedule in a Book amounting to Nine Thousand Seven hundred  
and Sixty Six <sup>25</sup>/<sub>100</sub> Dollars, which I declare in full of her share.  
I have given to Sarah A. Ball My daughter in trust as per  
Schedule in Book property amounting to Nine thousand  
Eight hundred and fifty Nine Dollars which is in full of her  
part. I have previously give to my son John James Branch  
property (including lands which will hereinafter be mentioned)  
amounting to Nine thousand Nine hundred and Eighty five  
Dollars. I have previously loaned to David R. Richardson the  
husband of my daughter Jane as per Schedule property amount-  
ing to Ten thousand Two hundred and seventy four Dollars  
in which amount is included land in Clarke County herein-  
after mentioned the whole of those amounts to each are  
respectively being in full of Each of their respective shares

Item 4<sup>th</sup>

I give and bequeath unto my beloved Wife Leah W. Branch  
absolutely and to dispose of she pleases a certain Negro  
man called Henry or Robs.

Item 5<sup>th</sup>

At My death it is My Will and desire that all My Estate  
Not herein before and hereinafter bequeathed, of every  
description remain in the hands custody and control of  
my beloved Wife during her Natural life No sale of any  
of my Estate to take place unless it is impossible to  
pay my debts without it No appraisement of My Estate  
or reduction to be made

Item 6<sup>th</sup>

At the death of my Wife I wish My Estate Equally divi-  
ded by Sale & distribution amongst all my Grand children  
then in life Each Grand child to receive precisely the  
same Amount.

Item 7<sup>th</sup>

For the purpose of perfecting title I hereby give and be-  
queath to my son John James Branch Eight hundred Acres  
of Land more or less in Clarke County Georgia being all  
that lies North West of Freeman's Creek and including the  
place whereon he now lives and being the land previously  
mentioned.

Item 8<sup>th</sup>

For the purpose of perfecting title I hereby give and be-  
queath to David R. Richardson Eight hundred and Eight

and three fourth Acres of land in Clarke County Georgia, whereon he now lives. This land to be held by him in fee simple forever. And the land to my son John James Branch to be held in the same manner as fully as though I had made them each a Deed of Homage in fee simple.

Item 9<sup>th</sup>

I hereby Nominate Constitute and Appoint my beloved Wife Leah W. Branch and my friend John Walter Johnson Executors and Executor of this my last Will and Testament.

In Testimony Whereof I the said James H. Branch have hereunto set my hand and seal this Fifth day of November Eighteen hundred and Sixty One.

Signed, Sealed, Published  
Acknowledged and declared  
in our presence, who sign  
in the presence of each  
other and of the Testator

James H. Branch

Seal

Martha P. Price  
Cynthia S. Price  
J. P. Lynum  
John Walter Johnson

State of Georgia In the name of God: Amen.  
Clarke County

I James H. Branch of the County and State aforesaid, do hereby make ordain, publish and declare this to be a Codicil to my last Will and Testament.

Item 1<sup>st</sup> Having only loaned, and never given to David R. Richardson any property absolutely (except in contemplation of my death, as expressed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Item of the within Will) and circumstances now rendering it imperatively necessary, I hereby absolutely and forever revoke the bequest to said David R. Richardson, and in lieu thereof give the property therein mentioned to my daughter Jane C. Richardson and the children born of her body, and all hereafter born (except the land herein before mentioned which I have sold for her use and the use of the children, and the proceeds of the sale of the land I apply to her benefit & if land is hereafter bought with money, it shall be and considered a part of the bequest to her, which I hereby place in trust for her and her children born or hereafter to be born as aforesaid, and hereby appoint my son in law Arthur J. West Trustee for her & her children. Wishing the family to have the use of the property, but restraining said David R. Richardson from selling or disposing of any part thereof. The other provisions of my Will to remain unchanged and unrevoked.

In Witness Whereof I the said James H. Branch have

Hereunto set my hand and seal this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June 1863.  
 Signed, Sealed, published and  
 declared in our presence, who  
 sign in presence of each other  
 and of the Testator. — James H. Branch  
 John Hannis  
 W. A. Wynn  
 Walton H. Booth  
 Wm. J. Ashford.

Georgia  
 Clarke County  
 In the Court of Ordinary of said County.  
 I John Calvin Johnson of said County —  
 Appointed an Executor of the last Will and Testament of  
 James H. Branch late of said County Deceased, do hereby  
 renounce my said Appointment as such Executor and  
 do refuse now and forever to qualify as such. And I do  
 declare on oath that I have not interfered or intermed-  
 dled with the Estate of said Deceased by Virtue of my  
 said Appointment or otherwise.  
 Sworn to and Subscribed  
 before me this 9<sup>th</sup> day  
 of August 1869,  
 Asa M. Jackson  
 Ordinary John Calvin Johnson

Georgia  
 Clarke County  
 Court of Ordinarys Regular Term  
 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1869.  
 Personally Appeared in Open Court John Calvin  
 Johnson one of the subscribing witnesses to the annexed  
 Will of James H. Branch late of said County Deceased  
 bearing date the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November 1861. Having  
 first in writing Renounced his Appointment as an Ex-  
 ecutor of said Will who on oath saith that he saw  
 said Deceased sign and seal said instrument and heard  
 him acknowledge the same to be his last Will and Tes-  
 tament that at the time of so doing said Testator was  
 of sound and disposing mind and memory that he offi-  
 ant Samuel D. Humphkin and Eugenia M. Price the two  
 last named now deceased, and Martha J. Price all signed  
 said Will as Witnesses in the presence of each other and  
 of the Testator and at Testator's Request.  
 Sworn to & Subscribed  
 in Open Court  
 Asa M. Jackson  
 Ordinary John Calvin Johnson

Calvin  
the annexed  
County, Deceased  
Marriage  
as an Ex-  
that he saw  
and heard  
Wife and De-  
testator was  
the affi-  
the two  
all signed  
h. other and

Recorded 6<sup>th</sup> August 1869