

Record of the last Will and Testament of James P. Holmes

Georgia Clay County - In the name of God Amen
I James P. Holmes of the County and State aforesaid being of sound body & mind knowing that I have to die. While blessed with health and the proper exercises of my mind do make and establish this my last Will & Testament hereby revoking every other will by me made previous or to the date hereafter to be affixed to this instrument.

Item 1st That all my just debts be paid - And that my lawful body shall not be buried in a coffin worth or costing more than five dollars

Item 2nd It is my will and desire that the mulatto boy Bradford (called Bradford Alexander) the son of my servant girl Sarah shall be placed under some good & competent person or persons to learn the trade of a barbour and when so learned shall be permitted under the protection of my executors hereinafter to be named follow his said trade when a profitable opening shall present and the money which he may realize shall accrue to his benefit and use above save only his paying to my daughter Mrs Fredonia C Watson one half of the nett proceeds of his shop or wages during her life time and it is also my express will and desire that the said boy Bradford shall not be appraised valued sold or divided as a part of my personal estate among my heirs. But shall be provided and set apart to the trade or profession of a barber as above specified. And that my executors will so far as in their power prevent imposition hard treatment or oppression that may come to their knowledge relative to said boy Bradford during his apprenticeship. My executors acting as his trustee & guardian shall out of my estate pay him Bradford one hundred dollars to commence business in his profession on

Item 3rd Should it be the desire or pleasure of my daughter Mrs Fredonia C Watson to keep house, in that event I set apart my town property in Fort Gaines with the whole or such part of my household or kitchen furniture as she may desire to have & enjoy the same without let or hindrance together with a fine pair of horses and carriage such as she may select valued at the sum of Eight hundred dollars the above named part of my property to be over and above the division of my property to be hereafter bequeathed equally.

Item 4th Presuming my daughter Mrs Fredonia C Watson will never marry I give and bequeath on that presumption to her to be disposed of at her death as she may desire the property specified in the third item of this my last Will & Testament together with the following negroes to wit Mattie a boy about twenty five years old down along about eighteen years old

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such a boy about twenty years old Sarah a mulatto girl about twenty eight years old Mahala a woman about twenty five years old together with her three children, William a boy about ten years old Edward a boy about eight years old and Charlie a boy about six years old, Nancy a woman about twenty one years old and her two children Betty a girl about three years old and an infant child not named together with all their issue & increase with the exception of Milton & Sarah which is as follows to wit In the event that at the death of my daughter Mrs Fredonia C Watson should the said girl Sarah still be living then it is my will & desire that the said Sarah shall be sold or disposed of to whom she the said Sarah may select as an owner provided such person will give a fair and valuable consideration for her as may be determined by three disinterested persons. In the event that my daughter Mrs Fredonia Watson shall at any time hereafter move away from the state of Georgia or any other part of the Country so far that the above named boy Milton cannot visit his wife and children at least as often as once a year It is my will and desire that he shall be sold and disposed of for a valuable consideration to be determined by three disinterested persons the said Milton having a chance of retinding an owner But that my said daughter Fredonia shall have the right to sell and dispose of him the said Milton at any time she may desire to do so.

Item 5th I give and bequeath Calladonia A Russell wife of Thomas B. Russell now of Tuskegee in the state of Alabama & the children now born or hereafter may be born of her body the following negroes to wit Mary a girl about thirty years old and her three children to wit William a boy about thirteen years old Crawford a boy eleven years old and Jane a girl about four years old Catharine a girl about eighteen years old and her daughter Mary Bell about one year old Julia a girl about fourteen years old Warren a boy about nineteen years old Mark a boy about twenty two years old Eliza a girl about four years old Chloe a woman about forty five years old & Jimma a girl about twelve years old with the issue & increase that may hereafter accrue. The above named negroes and increase thereof is set apart for the use and benefit of my said daughter and her husband Thomas B. Russell without being subject in any way or manner or form to sale or disposition of her husband the said Thomas B. Russell I also give and bequeath to my said daughter Calladonia one Peanna Forte to be purchased as she may direct or agreed at the factory to be worth the sum of four hundred dollars.

Item 6th I give and bequeath Cordelia P Troutman wife of John H Troutman of Crawford County State of Georgia to be born or to be gotten of her body the following negroes to wit

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Manah a woman about forty five years old and her four children twitt Reuben a boy about sixteen years old Ben a boy about fourteen years old Cynthia a girl about twelve years old Augusta a girl about eight years old Harriet a girl about twenty two years old Leonard a boy about thirty five years old Ann a girl about fifteen years old & Bessie a girl about four years old with the issue and increase that may hereafter accrue the above named negroes and increase thereof is set apart for the use and benefit of my said daughter Callidonia & her husband John H. Troutman without being subject in any way manner or form to sale or disposition or liable for the debts of her husband the said Troutman

Item 7th I give and bequeath to my dear Grand son James Holmes Troutman the representative of his departed Mother Victoria J. H. Troutman My Gold Watch and the following negroes twitt Sam a boy about twenty two years old Mary a woman about twenty four years old and her daughter Emma a girl about six years old Charity a woman about thirty five years old and her six children Worthy a boy twenty years old Caroline a girl about sixteen years old Israel a boy about twelve years old Dave a boy about seven years old Susan a girl about three years old Leahy a girl about thirteen years old with the issue and increase thereof also a mulatto boy named Charles about twenty two years old now in the possession of John H. Troutman his father, In the event that my grandson the said James H. Troutman shall die before arriving at age or without issue then the foregoing property mentioned in this item shall be equally divided between the heirs of James P. Holmes I also appoint John H. Troutman the father of said James H. Troutman his guardian I further declare it my will that the increase of the property heretofore mentioned in this instrument Commence with the said heirs

Item 8th It is my will and desire that my Executors shall lay and apportion of my fresh land with a sufficient number of mules forming cotton bolls and corn & fodder for one years supply and place upon the said land under the direction of some judicious person as overseer the negroes on a portion thereof given to Mrs Fredonia C. Watson and James H. Troutman the net proceeds of the crop made by said negroes shall be equally divided between the said Fredonia C. Watson and the guardian of said James H. Troutman If this course should prove impracticable then to be discontinued

Item 9th It is my desire that in the division of the remainder of my negroes that special regard be had to families to permit as far as possible their separation and that the old ones who have labored & toiled with me shall be specially cared for in clothing and food to their passage to the grave Take care of my faithful old servants & Ed will be

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Item 10th It is my will and desire that my faithful servant Annis who has ~~always~~ been a mother to my children shall have her time given her and that she be supported and comfortably maintained the balance of her days out of my estate this item I trust will be faithfully executed by my executors

Lastly with a sure trust and confidence that the desire and items of this my last Will & testament composed of five pages will be faithfully executed I do hereby constitute my sons in law John F Fruitman and Thomas B. Russell my executors In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name and affixed my seal this thirteenth day of December eighteen hundred and fifty four

Signed Sealed and acknowledged

James P Holmes



in presence of

William Mount

George H Tuttle

Alexander Marshall

Georgia Clay County

Court of Ordinary February Term 1855

The within last will and testament of James P Holmes having been duly proven at this regular term in Open Court upon the oaths of William Mount George H Tuttle & Alexander Marshall was admitted to record in terms of the law

John H Jones ordinary