

The last will and testament of Edward B. Brookings of Hancock County and State of Georgia -

Being thoroughly satisfied of the decaying nature of all earthly objects, and knowing that I must shortly put off this tabernacle, and it be mingled with its mother earth, and being of sound disposing mind do make, and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, to wit, First, having for the greater part of my life, been striving with all my feeble powers, constantly to found in wisdoms ways, and to walk in all the ordinances of the Lord blameless, I have a comfortable hope that when this feeble body, shall be dissolved, that my spirit shall rest in the Paradise of God. - As to my worldly goods I dispose of them in the following manner.

Item. I lend to my oldest daughter Ann to R. wife of John R. the following property to wit, one negro man named Arter, one boy Bob, two young women named Suckey & Lucy and two children named Sarah and Talacca, two feather beds & furniture except blankets, three cows and calves, one yoke of Oxen, six Cows, one Sorrel Mare, and one brown Mare, three sows and eighteen Pigs, all of which property I lend to her during her natural life, and at her death to be equally divided amongst her children if she should have any, if she has no children and her present husband should be living, I give to him John R. one half of said property and half of the increase thereof to do with as he may think proper, the other half of said property & half of the increase thereof to be equally divided between my other children, and their legal representatives - The property when I put it in the possession of John R. and Ann R. his wife I valued after the following rates, to wit, Arter at seven hundred dollars, Bob at five hundred, Suckey & child Sarah at five hundred, Lucy at four hundred dollars. The other child Talacca born after that period - two beds at eighty dollars, three cows & calves at forty five dollars, Sorrel Mare at eighty dollars, brown mare at seventy dollars, six Cows at twelve dollars, three sows and eighteen Pigs at twenty dollars, one yoke of Oxen at fifty dollars. - My further will and desire is that the balance of my

property of every description both real and personal be kept together
 under the management of my beloved wife - the debts that I may
 owe at the time of my death to be paid and as the children may
 come of age or marry, for a like portion of my estate to allotted
 to them as I have allotted to my daughter Ann B. Rice by the same
 rule of appraisement by disinterested persons after being made acquai-
 nted with the quality kind and age of the property allotted to said
 Ann B. Rice, and under the same tenor to hold the said allotted
 property, and under the same provisions in case they should die
 childless, and if they should have children for said allotted &
 loaned property to be at their deaths respectively divided amongst
 their children - and if they die without a child or children
 then if their husband or wife should be living they shall be
 entitled to one half said allotted and loaned property together
 with the one half of the increase thereof, and the other half
 to be divided amongst my other children & their legal repre-
 sentatives - And if at any time when it becomes necessary that
 an allotment should be made out of my estate, that my be-
 loved wife should think it most advisable to purchase a part,
 or the whole of said property, to make up said allotment or
 portion, rather than to take it out of the original stock or
 estate and she may have funds in hand to make such pur-
 chase that she shall have the liberty of doing so, taking care
 to purchase in every respect, and of every kind as valuable
 as the property allotted to Ann B. Rice. The above arrangement
 of my estate I wish to continue unless my wife Abigail A.
 Brooks should marry, in which ^{case} I wish my children that may
 be old enough, to choose guardians, and the Court to appoint
 for the younger children, and for my estate to be equally divi-
 ded amongst all my children, and my wife, all of which shall,
 except this falling to my said wife, I and respectively to my
 children, under the same tenor to hold the said distributive share
 and under the same provisions as is set down in the case of
 Ann B. Rice - And in case it should become necessary that such
 general distribution should be made either by my wife's
 death, or intermarriage, that then all those of my
 children that have received said allotted portions shall

bring said allotted property into such general distribution, and each one of my children receive a full share of all my property real and personal, but under the same tenure to hold it, and under the same provisions as I have named in the case of the partial allotment to Ann B. Rios.

Item. I lend to my adopted daughter Milla Coleman during her life one negro girl named Lilly and one boy named Solomon & one feather bed & furniture and at her death I give said property with all the increase thereof to her children equally. If she should die before marriage then the said property and the increase to revert to my children equally & their representatives, and if said Milla Coleman should marry and die childless and her husband should be living, he shall be entitled to one half of said property and the half of the increase thereof, the other half to revert to my children and be equally divided amongst them and their representatives.

My ^{Further} will and desire is that my brother William Brooking retain possession of the property of mine that he has in possession at this time, as long as his wife shall live, unless he should be discovered to be wasting it, in which case it shall be taken into possession by my wife, as a part of my estate left under her management and control, and in that case my will and desire is that he be allowed a reasonable support out of my estate yearly, and at the death of his wife if he should be the longest lived, for the property then to be taken into my estate and for him to be supported in the house of my wife & family.

My further will and desire is that if my said son in law John Rios shall by his exertions in the management of the property bought and put in his possession, pay over to my executor six hundred dollars with interest thereon from the twenty fifth day of December 1823. with the yearly tax on the land whereon he now lives, that in that year I wish not for said tract of land to be brought into the general distribution of my estate but as the money repaid to my executor will be raised out of the leased property that the said tract of land be

held and possessed by said John Res and Ann B. Res his wife under the same tenure and subject to the same provisions as the aforesaid land and personal property, but if he the said John Res shall fail to make such payment as aforesaid that then the said tract of land shall be subject and brought into the general distribution of my estate.

Lastly, I constitute and appoint my beloved wife Rebecca Ann Brooking my sole executrix to this my last will and testament, and Guardian to my children, seeing they are her children, and knowing she will have the ^{careful} interest in their welfare, but if she should marry again, these appointments are immediately thereupon revoked, and thrown on the Court to make such judicial appointments as they may think proper.

I have tried in the foregoing to express in as plain terms as I can what is my will, but least it may be misconstrued, I will here observe that my object in every instance is not to give my property to my children, but to lend it to them, one at their death it is given to their children, if they have any, and if they have no children or child for such loaned property to revert to my surviving children or their children if any of my children should be dead and left a child or children, but the husband or wife of such of my children that may die childless, if said husband or wife should be living shall be entitled to one half of the distributive, allotted loaned property, and one half of the increase thereof as in the foregoing part of this my will. Signed & sealed this 10th day of April 1824.

Acknowledged 30 Sept 1825.

Int. Fitzguald Bird
Ann Brodnax
Ann H. Brooking

Edw B. Brooking Seal

I Edward B. Brooking, being weak of body but in a sound and disposing state of mind do hereby give and bequeath to my wife Rebecca A. Brooking my negro man Sumner, who is a Christian, to her and her heirs forever in fee simple, to her own sole and separate use specifically, as

I do hereby declare this paper to be a codicil to my last will and testament, which bears date as having been attested on the thirtieth day of September eighteen hundred and twenty five. Signed, sealed and acknowledged }
 this 4th day of October 1825. } Edw B. Brooking Esq.
 in the presence of }
 N. Childers }

Georgia, Hancock County.

Inferior Court sitting for Ordinary purposes, 7th November 1825. Present their Honors.

Hartwell Gary }
 John Turner } Justices
 John G. Gilbert }

The last will and testament of Edward B. Brooking late of this County deceased, together with this Codicil thereto appended being produced in Court by Rebecca Ann Brooking nominated executrix thereof - and the said will and codicil being fully proved to the satisfaction of the Court by the oaths of Ann Brodnax and Ann B. Brooking and Nicholas Childers subscribing witnesses to said will and codicil respectively - It is ordered that the said will and codicil thereto be recorded and filed - and that letters testamentary do issue to the said Rebecca Ann Brooking executrix in the premises - and it is further ordered that John Turner, Andrew Abnerombee, Thomas Haynes, Thomas Coleman and John Secret Esquires be appointed appraisers of the personal estate of said dec^d - and that they or any three of them do make the appraisement of said estate, being first duly sworn according to Law. and return their appraisement to the executrix of said will - Whereupon the said Rebecca Ann Brooking was duly qualified in open Court as executrix of said last will & testament, and received letters testamentary in the premises -