

James Dowdell Will. — Copy

I James Dowdell Sr. of Chambers County, State of Alabama, do hereby make, declare and publish this writing, to be my last Will and Testament. After the payment of my just debts out of the debts due me, I dispose of my Estate in the following manner to wit:

I give to my wife, Caroline Dowdell, all the property that came from her Father and Brother's estate, to wit: negroes named Nelson Lucy, Ollie, Jerry, Joanna, Amy, Fanny, and her two children Robert and Rachael, John, Patience and Eli as her own property in fee simple, to use and dispose of. She may see fit and proper.

Also I give my said wife, the following, negroes for and during her natural life, for her own separate use and benefit; during her natural life after her death, to be equally divided among my children to wit: Jesse, Sophia, Henry, Anderson, Mary Robt. Jp, Lucy, Little Mary Joe, Ann, Martha, Pomp, Jacob, Fiances, Stephen, Filler and her child Shelby & Henry, Shilston Marriam & her child Alice, Jim, Caroline, Charity, Little Jess. & Minia for her and during her natural life; then to be equally divided between my children; also my House and lot in the village of Oakbown, whereon I now reside, together with all of my household & kitchen furniture and tract of land number ten, which I purchased of Thornton; and the small lot fronting my dwelling house, together with all of the stock and farming utensils on the same, the carriage and Horses, the Hens and Buggy, one wagon and six mules, to be her own property in fee simple free from incumbrances.

I have before this given off to my daughter Elizabeth Myrick twenty one negroes, and sundry tracts of Land to wit: One House and lot of land near Tallbottom, Georgia; also two Cherokee lots of Land; also nine quarter Sections of Land in Mississippi; also one Gold Watch; worth two hundred and fifty dollars; one piano worth four hundred and fifty Dollars.

I have before this given to my daughter Catharine Smith since deceased, two negroes, Henry Allright and his wife Frances, the titles to which, I have since conferred to her Husband Robert Smith.

I have previously to this given to my Son, Lewis J. Dowdell twenty one negroes, and a Settlement of Land in Harris County, Georgia and one Wagon and Ten Mules, one Buggy & horse, & one gold watch.

I hereby give and bequeath to my daughter Rebecca L Dowdell the following property to wit: My upper plantation lying in Harris County, Georgia near the Pine Mountain containing about two thousand acres of Land; also the following negroes to wit: Sarah and her children, Martha Frances, Lacy, Sarah, Belle, Pincus, & Mary, Bill and his daughter Sally, Charles & his wife Fells and her two children Fanny and Allen Washington and his wife Isaac & child Martha, Oliver, Fanny & Emily making twenty one in all and a Persian & gold watch which she now has; the before mentioned I give to my said daughter for her own separate use.

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benefit & use, to use, controlla or dispose of as she may deem best & proper for her sole & separate use. The before mentioned negroes which I hereby give to my said daughter Rebecca S. I give to her for her separate & sole use & benefit, for and during her natural life after her death to go and be the property of her children; and in case she should die without children or their representatives then and in that event, said negroes are to be the joint-property of my other children or their representatives. I further give to my daughter Rebecca S. one Road Wagon and Ten Mules and three hundred Dollars

I hereby give and bequeath to my daughter Susan A Dowdell the following property to wit: My Settlement of land in Chambers County, Alabama, known as my White Plains place or plantation, containing sixteen hundred acres of land; also my piece of land near Oakbowny, containing one hundred and fifty acres, which I purchased of J. W. Starr, also a house & lot purchased of Isaac Parke in the village of Oakbowny, also one other lot in Oakbowny, purchased of J. W. Starr also, one Pianina & one gold watch, or six hundred dollars in Cash as an equivalent for the same; all of the before mentioned property given to my daughter Susan A. is given to her for her own sole, separate & exclusive use & benefit; Also one road wagon and ten Mules and three hundred Dollars Also the following negroes to wit: Owen and his wife Harriet & their children Matthew, Adam, Patsy, Sharlott, Fiee, Bush, roa, & Catharine John & his children, Clarissa, Jack, Henry, Isaac, & Jane. Betsey and her two children Dennis and Ben. Shadrach and his wife Mariah & their daughter Cherry being twenty one in number, which said negroes I give to my said daughter, for and during her natural life, and after her death to be the property of her children, and in case she should die without children or their descendants; then said negroes are to be the property of my other children or their descendants

I do hereby give and bequeath to my daughter Louisa J. Dowdell and to my son Luther Martin Dowdell jointly & equally & for their joint & equal use, my plantation in Wilcox County, South of Auburn, known as the Churchville plantation, containing about twenty five hundred acres of land and a two lots of land in Wilcox County Georgia; one lot known as the Meeting house lot purchased of Henry Lowe the other lot adjoining Popstans Mills, both lots containing about four hundred acres

I further give and bequeath to my daughter Louisa J. Dowdell, the following negroes to wit: Clark and his wife Mary and their children Chany, Tobias, Isbany, Jim, Clarissa, & Betsey Jack and his wife Siller & her children Alfred, Lewis & Susan Shadrach and his wife Lucina and their children, Eliza, John Henry & Selas Dilly and her two children Fannie and her child being twenty two in number the negroes herein given to daughter Louisa J. Dowdell is hereby given to her

James Dordell — Record

use, control and benefit during her natural life, and at her death to be the property of her children or their descendants and in the event of her death, without children or their descendants, then these negroes are to be the property of my other children or their descendants. I also give her one gold watch, one Prama or six hundred dollars as an equivalent one road wagon, Ten Mules and three hundred dollars.

I further give and bequeath to my son Luther Martin Dordell the following negroes and property to wit: Maria Switzer and her children, Malenia, Molly Ann, William, Caroline Isabel and an infant child. Bessie his wife, Hannah & Eliza & Nancy Abram his wife Lincy & their children Jacob & Nat, Aggie his wife Rebecca Cabell & his wife Conchie & their two children Matilda & an infant child and Albert being twenty-one in number; and the event my son Luther Martin Dordell shall die without children or their descendants, it shall be the property of my other children or their descendants.

I further give & bequeath to him one road wagon Ten Mules one Horse & Buggy or three hundred dollars as its equivalent and one gold watch or one hundred & fifty dollars as an equivalent.

I will and direct that the income of all of the foregoing negroes herein will be to my four herein mentioned children & wife, that may be after the date of this will, I shall follow the herein disposition of the respective negroes will be each one of my children & wife.

I do hereby give and bequeath to my Son Louis J. Dordell two lots of land lying in Harris County Georgia adjoining the land heretofore given to him, being the two remaining lots of land undivided of by me, which I own in Harris County Georgia, containing four hundred acres more or less.

I further direct that the remainder of my property after the foregoing bequest have been fulfilled be divided equally among my six children to wit: Elizabeth Myrick, Louis J. Dordell, Rebecca L. Dordell, Susan A. Dordell, Louisa J. Dordell and Luther M. Dordell except the money which may be on hand left at my death, in which I direct that my wife share equally with my children.

It is my will and I hereby direct and appoint my Son Louis J. Dordell my Executor to carry into effect, and execute the foregoing will; and it is further my will and I do hereby direct, that they carry the same into effect without being required to give bond & Security.

In Testimony Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Seal this 30th day of May 1855.

Robert Mitchell
Geo S. Cobb
J. H. Dordell

James Dordell

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The State of Alabama

Special Term of the Court of Probate, begun and held for the County of Chambers and State of Alabama, on the 31st day of December 1885 Present The Honorable Samuel Pearson Judge of Probate

This day came into Court Louis H. Dowdell and proponent for probate a paper writing purporting to be the last Will and Testament of James Dowdell, dec^d and represents the Heirs and Legates of said estate to be Caroline M. Dowdell widow of Decedent who is a lunatic and resident of this County, Elizabeth Myrick wife of S. P. Myrick who reside in the State of Georgia Louis H. Dowdell the applicant of record, Rebecca L. Stanley wife of A. L. Stanley residents, and Susan A. Dowdell Louisa J. Dowdell and Luther M. Dowdell all minors of and residents of this State

It is therefore Ordered that Elliott H. Muse be appointed Guardian ad litem for the said Caroline M. Dowdell lunatic and of record and a widow of said decedent, also for the said minor heirs, which appointment having been accepted by him; It is ordered that citation be issued to the said Guardian ad litem to come into Court and represent the interest of said lunatic and minors. It is further ordered by the Court that citations issue to the adult-resident heirs and that publication of said application be published in the Chambers "Free Press" a newspaper published in Chambers County in the State of Alabama for three consecutive weeks, notifying all persons interested in said Estate to be and appear in this Court on the second Monday in March A.D. 1886 and then and there to resist said application if they see proper

Regular Court of Probate, begun and held for the County of Chambers and State of Alabama on the 2nd Monday (the 11th day) of March 1886 Present The Honorable Samuel Pearson Judge of Probate

This day came Louis H. Dowdell, who heretofore proponent for Probate a paper writing purporting to be the last Will and Testament of James Dowdell dec^d, and moves the Court that the same be now probated, and Elliott H. Muse having been appointed Guardian ad litem for the minor heirs; and citation having been served upon said Guardian ad litem; and upon the adult-resident heirs; and publication having been made in the "Chambers Free Press" for three consecutive weeks, previous to this term of the Court notifying the adult-resident heirs and all persons in interest of said application and no person appearing and objecting to the same

It is Ordered that said paper writing be admitted to probate Whereupon came James H. Dowdell and Robert Myrick two of the subscribing witnesses to said purported will, who being each duly sworn, deposed and testified on oath that they each saw the said James Dowdell, testator sign and publish the same as and for his last will and Testament on the day the same bears date; and that they each believe the said James Dowdell, to be of sound and disposing mind

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and memory at the time of signing the same; that they deponents, each signed the same, as subscribing witnesses at the request and in the presence of the said James Dowdell that they saw George S Cobb, the other subscribing witness, sign the same as such at the request and in the presence of the said James Dowdell and that they all signed the same in the presence of each other. It is therefore ordered by the Court that said Will be, and the same is hereby, probated and ordered to be recorded, as and for the last Will and Testament of James Dowdell deceased.

The State of Alabama } Regular Court of Probate
Chambers County } March 10th 1886.

Personally appeared in open Court Robert Mitchell and James S. Dowdell two of the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing Will, who being each duly sworn, depose and say on oath, that they each saw James Dowdell sign, seal and publish the same, as and for his last Will and Testament on the day the same bears date; and that they each believe the said James Dowdell to be of sound and disposing mind and memory at the time of signing the same that they deponents each signed the same as subscribing witnesses at the request and in the presence of the said James Dowdell, that they saw George S. Cobb, the other subscribing witness sign the same as such at the request and in the presence of the said James Dowdell; and that they all signed the same in the presence of each other. Subscribed and sworn to in open Court this 10th day of March 1886. J. S. Dowdell
Robert Mitchell
Saml Pearson
Judge of Probate

Be it remembered that on the 10th day of March 1886 the foregoing Will was duly probated in the Probate Court of Chambers County, Ala., in the affidavits of James S. Dowdell and Robert Mitchell two of the subscribing witnesses to the same, and recorded in Record of Wills Vol 3, Pages 577, 578, 579, 4. 680

Samuel Pearson
Judge of Probate

The State of Alabama }
Chambers County } I William S. Crayton Judge of Probate for the County and State aforesaid and by the laws of said State ex officio Clerk of the Court of Probate and Keeper of the Records of said County hereby certify that the foregoing eleven pages, exhibit a true transcript of the proceedings had in this Court in the matter of the probate of the last Will and Testament of James Dowdell decd; and correct copy of said Will and the probate thereof as the same appears of Record and on file in my office.

Given under my hand and seal of office at Tallapoosa Alabama this 15th day of December 1886
W. S. Crayton Judge & Probate