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Last will & testament of James G. Cotton deceased recorded
State of Georgia } court of ordinary
Harris County } 1864

Item first In the name of God amen
I Jas G Cotton being quite infirm, but in
sound mind & thinking it prudent to have a will for the benefit
of my wife and unmarried children have set myself to the
task of writing this my last will and testament as follows:

I will my body to be decently buried and I commit my
soul to the keeping of him who gave it trusting for salvation in
the merits of Christ whose religion I professed and I trust enjoyed
about forty years

Item second I will my just debts to be paid as
early as they can be without too much inconvenience to my estate

Item third As I had given to my married children prior to the
war more property than I now have to give to my wife and
unmarried children I shall not give to either of them any more
but I now give and bequeath all I have to my wife and unmarried
children of relation kind or sort it may be to their own proper use
and benefit

Item fourth I desire that what is left after my debts are paid
shall be kept together for the use and benefit of my wife and
minors or unmarried children and that as any of them shall marry
such a proportion of my property as may be right and consistent may
be given off to them always however taking into account that some
are yet to be raised and not educated.

Item fifth In giving off to any of my children
who may marry, or become of age and such to have his portion
set off, I leave that to my wife and two discreet persons, one to be
chosen by my wife and the other to be chosen by said one who takes
his part and in case as one chosen will act then appeal may
be had to the court for partitioners

Item sixth In case my wife should marry she
may not draw her part unless a majority of the children should
desire her so to do who are interested in the estate

Item seventh In case of the death of my wife
I desire the estate to be put into the hands of a guardian
for the use of my children

1866
Last will and testament and will of Jas G Cotton continued

State of Georgia { court of ordinary,
Harris County 1866

Item eighth

Should my Executors think best to sell my land and buy again they may do so by the consent of the court.

Item ninth

Should any one raise a fuss or lawsuit about my will - I desire that such one shall have no interest in my estate.

Item tenth

I do hereby appoint my wife, Wife Ann to and my son Reuben A, Executor and Executor to this my last will and testament.

Signed Sealed, declared & published by Jas G Cotton as his last will and testament in the presence of us the subscribers who subscribed our names in the presence of the Testator and of each other

Test 3

John A Selamar
Ransom J Little
James Pittello J. J. C.

Georgia } Court of ordinary December term 1866
Harris County }

Personally appeared in open court Saml & Cotton one of the appointed executors in a paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Jas G Cotton deceased late of said county as the Executor of said deceased and produced said paper writing and also personally came James Pattillo and Ransom J Little, two of the subscribing witnesses to said paper writing who being duly sworn depose and saith that they saw the said James G Cotton sign seal deliver and publish the same paper writing now presented in open court as his last will and testament freely voluntarily and of his own accord without any compulsion or undue influence whatever that at the time of the existence of said will said Testator was of sound disposing mind and memory that deponents signed said will as witnesses in the presence of the Testator and at his request in the presence of the other witnesses and in the presence of each other and that they saw John J Selamon the other witness sign said will in the presence of Testator and at his request

Sworn to and subscribed before me
This the 3rd day of December 1866
Geo. W. Mullens craning

R J Little
James Pattillo