

John Davenport's Will Recorded

Georgia Harris County.

In the name of God Amen! I John Davenport of said State & County being of advanced age, and knowing that I must shortly depart from this world, deem it right and proper both as respects myself and my family, that I should make a disposition of the property with which a Merciful Providence has blessed me. I therefore make this my last will and Testament hereby revoking and annulling all others heretofore made by

Item 1st I desire and direct that all my just debts be paid by my executor hereinafter named as soon as circumstances will admit

Item 2nd I give and devise to my beloved wife Nancy Davenport one negro woman named Sarah Ann 28 years of age, and her two children, one named Lot Cary a boy about 40 years of age and the other Alenzo a boy about 22 years of age to her own proper use, benefit and behoof forever, with full power to dispose of the same at any time before or at her death as she may think proper. I also give and bequeath to my wife Nancy Davenport in the same unreserved manner my pleasure carriage and two mules

Item 3rd I give and bequeath to my wife Nancy Davenport all my household and kitchen furniture to have and to hold to the same for her proper use to dispose of in such manner as she may deem proper

Item 4th I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Nancy Davenport for and during her natural life for her use and benefit the following negroes viz: Chaney 55 years old, Charles 57 yrs old Amy 48 yrs old Mary 53 yrs old Reuben 30 yrs old Mary Anne 30 yrs old Lewis 57 yrs old Amelia 3 yrs old and Wesley 15 yrs old, and at her death to be equally divided between those of my children or their heirs as are named in this will as Legates

Item 5th I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Nancy Davenport for and during her natural life the house in which I now reside and five hundred and eighty (580) acres of land adjoining and composing portions of said homestead and all the stock, Horses &c of whatsoever description all plantation and farming utensils, buildings and appurtenances appertaining to same, to be kept for the use of the plantation for the use of my wife and at her death, all to be sold as soon as convenient for the benefit of the legates named in this will

Item 6th I give and bequeath to my daughter Louthaine S. Pruett one negro man named Clem about 45 yrs of age, and one negro boy named Henry Clay about 9 yrs of age; to her own proper use and benefit forever, with full power to dispose of the same at any time before or at her death as she may think proper

Item 7th I give and bequeath to my son David Benedict Davenport for and during his natural life one lot of land known as the Saw Mill tract together with all the buildings and fixtures appertaining to the same and one negro man by the name of Wat about 30 yrs of age, and a boy named John about 12 yrs of age. Should my son, Benedict die childless the property named in this Item shall revert to his brothers and sisters named in this instrument or their heirs

Item 8th I give and bequeath to my daughter Ann E. Coleman one negro girl by the name of Sophronia 16 yrs old and one negro boy by the name of Oliver 12 yrs old and the sum of One thousand dollars to be paid to her at her mother's death; all to her own use and benefit forever, with full power to dispose of the same at any time before or at her death, as she may think proper. I desire that my daughter, Ann

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and her children should live with my wife as she has heretofore of her own option

Item ninth I give and bequeath to my son John Davenport for and during his natural life and then to his son Marcus Ant. Negro Woman by the name of Rebecca 29 yrs of age and her child Henderson 3 yrs old and a negro boy by the name of Whitfield 12 yrs old. After the death of my son John said property to be enjoyed by his son Marcus forever

Item tenth I give and bequeath to my son Francis Marion Davenport one negro Woman named Emily and her nine children to wit: Frances James Wesley, Martha, Robert, Lawson, Jesse, William and Laura; all to his own proper use and behoof forever with full power to dispose of the same at any time before or at his death as he may think proper

Item eleventh I give and bequeath to my son James Monroe Davenport in addition to what I have heretofore given him one lot of land (203 1/2) acres in Carroll County, number 150, and four hundred dollars at his mother's death: All for his use and behoof forever

Item twelfth I give and bequeath to the heirs of my daughter Polly Elam one negro Woman named Rachael and her three children, Jesse, Sandy and Betty now in their possession; one lot of land in Putaski County, number 246, and one thousand dollars at my wife's death all of which shall forever be exempt from the debts or beyond the control of their father. Elijah Elam the same to remain for their use and behoof forever

Item thirteenth I give and bequeath to my daughter Elizabeth R. Griggs, one negro Woman named Rhoda 25 yrs of age, and her child Charlotte an infant for the benefit of her and her children and I hereby appoint my wife Nancy Davenport as Trustee for the said Elizabeth R. and her children: Said property for their use and benefit forever

Item fourteenth I give and bequeath to my son Thos Jefferson Davenport one negro man named Nathan 24 yrs of age and one negro man named Mark 18 yrs of age, and I appoint his mother his Trustee for the proper management of his property, which is not to be subject to any debts my son Thos may contract all for his proper use and benefit forever

Item fifteenth I give and bequeath to my Grand Daughter Ann Catharine Johnson five hundred dollars and no more. She is not to come in for another share at my wife's death

Item sixteenth The balance of my Real Estate not mentioned in this Will is to be sold as soon after death as convenient for the benefit of my Legatee Creditors

Item seventeenth Should any portion of my effects of whatever description have been omitted, I will and bequeath the same to my wife Nancy Davenport during her natural life and at her death to be divided equally among my Legates

Item eighteenth I constitute and appoint my beloved wife Nancy Davenport Executrix and my son David Benedict Davenport Executor to this my last Will and Testament this 15th day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty seven (1857)

John Davenport

and Sealed declared & published by John Davenport as his last Will & Testament in the presence of us Subscribers who being of legal age and sound mind and memory at the time of the execution of the same