

State of Georgia In the name of God, Amen.

Henry County, I, Thomas Gardner, of said State & County, knowing that I must depart this life, deem it right and proper, both as respects my family & myself that I should make a disposition of the property with which a kind providence has blessed me, do therefore, make this my last Will & Testament -

1<sup>st</sup> Item My soul, I trust, shall return to rest with God who gave it as I hope for eternal salvation, through the merits <sup>and atonement</sup> of the blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

2<sup>nd</sup> Item, I desire that all of my just debts be paid by my Executors hereinafter appointed.

3<sup>d</sup> Item, I give, bequeath, and devise to my beloved wife Margaret J. Gardner, for and during her natural life or widowhood, or until my youngest child becomes of age, all of my property, both real and personal that I now have, or may receive by gift or bequest, after my just debts is paid.

4<sup>th</sup> Item, I desire and direct that if my beloved wife should marry again, or when my youngest child becomes of age, the property given to my beloved wife Margaret J. Gardner, during her natural life or widowhood, or until my youngest child becomes of age, to be equally divided between my said wife Margaret J. Gardner, and all of my children, namely, Luizer E. Simpson, Sarah A. Gardner, Wm. J. Gardner, John G. W. Gardner, Susan E. Hardnett, Willy C. Gardner, Mary C. Gardner, Thos. J. Gardner, Martha E. Gardner, and Margaret R. Gardner.

5<sup>th</sup> Item I hereby constitute and appoint my sons, Wm. J. Gardner, and John G. W. Gardner, Executors of this my last will and Testament, with full power to control and manage the life Estate, for the special benefit of the Widow and minor children, during the continuance of said life estate.

This 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 1869.

Thomas Gardner

Signed, sealed, published, and declared by Thomas Gardner as his Will and Testament in the presence of us the subscribers who subscribed our names hereto in the presence of said Testator, and in the presence of each other this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 1869.

B. Morris  
H. C. Bond  
John B. Morris

The foregoing was proved in conformance with the laws upon the oath of C. Morris, one of the subscribing Witnesses to the same, on the 6th day of December, 1869; and John S. Gardner qualified as Executor, and the will was ordered and admitted to record.

J. M. Nelson  
Ordinary