

ordinary office of a private citizen  
 in the name of God Amen I Robert Lee of Jasper  
 County being weak in body but of sound mind and perfect  
 memory do make and ordain this my last will  
 and testament in the form and manner following  
 I give my body to be buried in such  
 decent Christian manner as my Executors hereafter  
 to be named shall think best to do to my conven-  
 iences. Also I direct my Executors my said  
 Executors to pay all just debts out of my Estate for  
 which purpose I direct they will sell upon a  
 Reasonable Credit all my furniture and  
 stock with my tools and plantation utensils  
 and every other commodity except a much  
 as will be needed in my family for the  
 the debts intended to be made this year  
 with my negroes which debts I intend shall go  
 towards paying my debts. And it is my will  
 that my land where I now live and which  
 is in the same tract whereon the first House  
 stands be sold by my executors or such as they  
 as they shall deem most advisable for the most  
 selling the best price and so much of the money  
 arising from such sale as shall be necessary  
 for the completion of the payment of my debts  
 shall be applied that way, and the balance  
 I have to be equally divided amongst those  
 to whom I have my negroes with the same  
 precaution that in awarding them being  
 well convinced for many years that my sons

Robert and Eliza with the view of their living and  
 that my sons George Benjamin, Henry and John  
 left and Edwin Law Hudson Cox who married  
 my daughter Milly have had and executed a  
 time for spending their living - to prevent my  
 said that mentioned sons from wasting or squand-  
 ring that no great estate will be understood  
 Providence I have got together by marriage  
 Labour & Thriftly I give and lend and  
 divide, my negroes and the money arising  
 from the sale of my lands goods and chattels  
 after paying my debts in the following manner  
 and form viz. It is my will that my negroes  
 with the negro boy I am lent my said Robert  
 and the negro woman and a child lent my  
 said Robert be divided into three equal parts  
 for paying my debts be divided into four  
 equal parts - and each child of my wife and  
 that my sons Robert and Eliza take each  
 of them an equal part to do with as seemeth  
 best to them. There are equal parts of my  
 said negroes and money I leave to my son  
 George's wife and children by her estate  
 my thereby that the said part of my wife shall  
 be applied towards maintaining my grand  
 son George's wife and the maintaining my grand-  
 son and his wife and the young  
 children my said daughter's estate shall have  
 by my said son's estate and in my said son's  
 hand and in every way and with that due

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before his wife's meaning? that his estate and interest  
which he received from Benjamin, not to diminish this  
time whether she be dead or not & if ever she be the  
my said son be married again, this I do not believe  
his wife did since she left these parts & it is for  
her benefit I intend this will and not another  
if she be dead then the above mentioned equal  
part of negroes and money be kept together for  
the above mentioned purpose till the youngest  
child my said daughter in law shall have by  
my said son, shall arrive to the age of eighteen  
years at which time it is my will that the  
said part of my estate & money shall be  
equally divided <sup>amongst</sup> my two young children and  
the wife of my said son George, but in case the said wife be  
dead before the said young child be of age then it is my will  
that the said part of my estate shall be equally  
divided as soon as may be amongst the child-  
ren of my son George as shall be then living  
and at all times I do not mean to leave any  
part of my estate in the power of my said  
said son to spend but that his children have  
the entire benefit in case his wife as above  
meant shall be dead before said time  
one equal part of my said negroes and  
money I give to my said Benjamin's wife  
and children in the same manner as that  
given to my son George's wife and children  
I then give one equal part of my said negroes

and I give to my son Richard's wife and children  
 in the same manner as I give to my son George's wife  
 and children. Item one equal part of my said  
 Negroes and money I lend to my son Bonville  
 for which he must give security to my exec. for  
 the return of it to be equally divided amongst  
 my Children or their Representatives in case  
 he does not return. If said son Bonville  
 and gaming but upon such information  
 appearing to my exec. to the Court of this  
 County then I give the said part of my estate  
 to my said son to do with it as he shall best  
 think. Item to my daughter Mary's husband  
 I give a part of my estate in the same  
 manner like which said money and Negroes  
 I give to be equally divided at her decease  
 amongst her children or their legal Represen-  
 tatives and my late wife's <sup>children</sup> and I  
 bequeath I give to my said daughter and she  
 appoint my sons John and John and  
 my nephew Thomas Webb exec. of this my  
 last will and testament. Witness my hand  
 and seal this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 1775

John Gordon  
 William Byrnes  
 Thomas Webb

Virginia Lumbeley County

I do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the original of the said will as the same is now in my possession

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# Ordinary Office Jasper County

do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the last will and testament of Robert Bates deceased and stands of Record in my office and

At a Court held for Sumnerburg County  
 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 1875 the last will  
 and testament of Robert Bates dec. was exhib-  
 ited in Court by Peter and Eliza  
 Bates two of the executors therein  
 named and was proved by the oaths  
 of all the witnesses thereto subscribed  
 and ordered to be recorded and on

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the petition of the said executors made  
 oath according to law and certificate is gran-  
 ted them for obtaining a probate  
 of the said will in due form of law  
 they giving security, whereupon they  
 together with security entered into and  
 acknowledged bonds for that purpose  
 and Thomas Tall the other ex. referred  
 herein Court to serve in probate

Done 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 1875

at Jasper Court Wm H. Taylor & Co  
 C. C. C.

Registered

November 15<sup>th</sup> 1876

Wm H. Taylor & Co C. C. C.