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Georgian
Meriwether County

In the Name of God, Amen
I Samuel H. Gates of the
State and County aforesaid
being of Sound Mind and Memory and in the
possession of good health of body. But
knowing that all men must die and not
knowing the period of time my mortal body
may die, and being desirous to dispose of my
worldly affairs and property by Will, do make
and ordain this instrument of writing done
by my own right hand and impelled by the
inspiration of my mind from equitable and
independent motives and impelled to be my
last Will and Testament.

First Item Of all, I recommend my Soul to
the care and protection of the
Almighty God firmly believing in the Holy
Trinity. I rest my hope of Salvation in the
merits of the atonement, and that my body
after my death be buried in a decent Christian
like manner if possible before putrefaction takes
place, before it becomes offensive to the sight
or smell of my beloved relatives and friends
without pomp or display or death like all
distinctions of the body.

Item 2^d It is my Will and desire that all just
demands against me, existing at the time
of my death be paid by my representatives hereinafter
named, in cash or money or the evidences of
money arising out of the proceeds of the property
which I may leave at the time of my death.

Item 3^d Believing from my own legal knowledge
that when a man sits down to write his
Will, that he should put away ^{partiality} ^{partiality} from
his mind, but a fair reason when he seems
to make a difference between his heirs, that
should his will be contested, with a view to -

- ~~around the same~~, that the Mind of the Court or
 Courts in law or equity may not be clouded,
 it is my Will and desire that my dearly
 and well beloved wife Elizabeth Kott Bates the
 paternal Mother of my beloved Sons shall inherit
 all my property both real and personal as
 there is no necessity of sale of perishable property
 in such case as all is useful, consisting of my
 land in the Seventh Section of said County
 containing seven hundred and seventy six
 acres more or less, known by the numbers
 (Sixty one) and Sixty two, with a reservation of
 one acre off of the same, where on Mrs Emeline
 Bates' "Din House" and packing seven new staves,
 and fifty feet square enclosed by a stone wall
 (which is reserved as a family burial ground
 which I formerly dedicated to and for that
 purpose, and lot number Sixty seven and one
 hundred and fifty three acres off lot number
 Sixty Eight, and fifteen acres more or less off of
 lot number Sixty adjoining of the bottom lands
 and the Sixth part of said lot of land on the
 main prong of Flat Creek, my lot of forty acres
 in Sumpter County near Sedona. I reserved
 to my beloved Sons therein after named and described
 all my negroes Slaves twenty Eight in number, I
 Will and bequeath or otherwise give and grant to
 my beloved wife as aforesaid namely: Robt. Tom
 George, Brutus, Tom Bray, Peter, Frank, Hampden
 Charles, Levy, Jacob, James St. Rock, Zachary Taylor
 Lizzie, Charity, Sarah, Peggy, Sally, Matilda, Minnie
 Polly, Loney, Milly, Rebecca, Rose, Elizabeth, Fanny
 Caroline besides my mules horses, Family carriage
 and Buggy my cattle sheep, oxen and or calf
 Road Wagon & Hogs the grain in House or in
 the farm, her gold Watch & other appurtenances, Beds
 & Furniture with its appurtenances, Household and

4. Kitchen furniture and utensils, my blacksmith tools
and carpenter's tools, my plows, hoes, mattocks and
my barrel Saw & Sawn wheels and cards, for
her to have and to hold during her natural life,
subject to the following restrictions and limited
discretionary privileges, (She shall have the discretionary
power of declaring prudent dividends from time
to time equally between her and my two sons (if her
income will justify or authorize the same or retain
the same she shall have the right according to the
approbation of this my last Will and Testament to
make by special gift to some worthy Maiden of her
family blood, five hundred dollars or a female
servant girl worth that sum, for her merits in
attending to her wants and to accompany her
in her declining years of life. Now be it known
that this seemingly partial Will is founded on
the fact that my Father in his last will and
Testament although I was his only child, having
married at an advanced age to a young woman
who bore him no children or child, contrived
by art to win off his regard to me and my
wife so that the scanty pittance which he
left me without assigning any reason for it -
incumbered by being taken from my beloved
wife after my death to return to those to whom
he had willed his estate and although if I
could have brought him to a settlement in
relation to a copartnership in a heavily landed
estate after his pretended gift which under the
circumstances I view as an unnumberance, he
was indebted to me several thousand dollars;
I could not have obtained it without a
Chancery Suit he left his property in such
way as to never to return to me or my wife,
being partial to my two sons more than
the other by a considerable amount which will

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- he hereafter explained in the following items;
Item 4th It is my will and desire that my
beloved son Samuel Martin Bates have
all my landed estate in this settlement as aforesaid
and I do give and grant to him his heirs executors
Administrators and assigns after my death and
the death of my beloved wife Elizabeth Holt Bates
the aforesaid settlement of land before mentioned
in the Seventh district of this County containing
Seven hundred and seventy six acres known by
the numbers as aforesaid which I rate or
Value at Eight dollars per acre making the
sum of Six thousand one hundred and Eight-
dollar besides the sum of five hundred and one
dollar, making the sum of six thousand six-
hundred and nine dollars, he has already in his
possession as by schedule from myself by special
gift as an outfit property in Valuation as
follows, I am a young Man Valued at Seven
hundred and fifty dollars I am as a young
Man worth the same amount - an Indian and
a young Woman worth five hundred dollars.
Two young Men cost me two hundred and
ten dollars, sum of other things making as
by schedule the sum of two thousand and
fifty six dollars as an offset against the
partial gifts of his Grand Father making the
sum of Eight thousand and fifty four dollars
before any further distribution can be made
believing it equitable to equalize the difference
made between them by their Grand Father out
of my own estate. It would be but natural
after the loss sustained by my unnatural parent
that their equal inheritance should have come
through my equally beloved should have inherited
equally the same amount of State facts as a
young Man being far advanced in age and =

borne down by the weight of affliction I must provide equitably amongst my heirs. because my aged parent was not only bodily but mentally diseased, and subject to influences to my prejudice.

Item 5th I have given as an out fit three valuable young negroes rated as follows, Daniel a young man rated at seven hundred dollar Jim Abrams a young man rated at seven hundred and fifty dollars. Artia a girl rated at five hundred dollars and other property in all amounting to two thousand four hundred and seventy three dollars which is hereby confirmed by this my last will and Testament to my first born and beloved son Benjamin Kolb Bates besides further provision by this my last will and Testament let equity preside.

Item 6th It is my wish and desire that the sum of five hundred dollars to each one of my sons Benjamin Kolb Bates and Samuel Martin Bates after leaving the same amount to be loved wife Elizabeth Kolb Bates who according to the Holy Ordinances of God, has to all intents and purposes in accordance with the three great principles which is the foundation of good society Philosophy Morality & Religion faithfully performed to me her Marriage Covenant vows and obligations. So soon thereafter the payment of all just debts of which I may be indebted may be paid and the net proceeds of my Estate will justify it shall be equally distributed between them.

Item 7th It is my wish and desire that after the death of my beloved wife Elizabeth Kolb Bates that my two dearly and well beloved sons Benjamin Kolb Bates and Samuel Martin Bates shall inherit all the balance or whole

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follows, I am a young man valued at seven
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man worth the same amount and I demand
a young woman worth five hundred dollars
two young males cost me two hundred and
ten dollars, sundry other things making as
by schedule the sum of two thousand and
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of my property, not especially Specified to Satisfy the demands of Justice to be equally divided between them, to dispose of at discretion to descend to their heirs legally to be executed by their representing legal heirs which it would be in the providence of their power to appoint to carry out their own last Will & Testament, with the exception of a reservation which I make in this Item of this my last Will & Testament to be expressed in Item the Eighth to the following Effect.

Item 8th It is my Will and desire that should my beloved Wife, feel the necessity after my death of a bosom friend or companion, should she marry from motives of which I have no doubt will be of the purest for her protection, comfort, and happiness, she having brought to me the only property and fortune I have ever inherited, and well knowing that after my death I can no longer protect her, only by Will that her husband should be with her approbation suitably provided for in his temporal comfort during her life in no degraded condition, but suitable to be the companion of such a lady as she is. But this I know of my last Will and Testament, which only refers to interior events, which the shield or mantle of charity will cover, direct him of any concern or management of my Estate which by the strictest construction of law he might feel himself a party in interest, but he shall be deprived of using any part of my Estate extravagantly and shall be prudently restricted by my representatives of my Estate hereinafter named not extravagantly but economically and prudently.

Item 9th It is my last Will and desire that

after the death of my beloved wife Elizabeth T
Bates in descent of property that my two beloved
sons Benjamin Kolb Bates and Samuel Martin Bates
in regulating the adjustment of said property may
do it as they may agree upon in its details
and valuation to families as they have hitherto
claimed and may hereafter obtain but there is
nothing to be so construed or as to hinder the
sale thereof except the place upon which I desire
willed to my son Samuel Martin Bates hitherto
explained which I desire he should not sell or
dispose of but to remain hereditary in his
family as it is a good landed estate with
a good Mill seat thereon and has been
possessed to my happiness for more than one
hundredth of a century of years but nothing in
this will shall be so construed as to hinder his
right and privilege to sell or dispose of the same
at his discretion, believing the parent and husband
to be the patriarch and natural guardian of
his own family God forbid that I should
interfere with his Holy Ordinances

Nov 10th I nominate and appoint my two
sons Benjamin Kolb Bates and Samuel
Martin Bates to be my Executors of this my last
will and Testament and request that they
shall cause the same to be carried into full
and complete effect

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set
my hand and affixed my seal this the fifth
day of April in the year of our Lord one
thousand eight hundred and fifty four
Signed, sealed and acknowledged

in the presence of
William F Davis } Samuel M Bates (PS)
Lepra S Davis }
Charles H Webb }

Georgia } Court of Ordinary
 Meriwether County } September Term 1854.
 The within last will
 and Testament of Samuel H. Gates having
 been proved at this regular term in open
 Court upon the oaths of William H. Davis -
 Alfred L. Davis and Charles Hollis Esq.
 Ordered that the same be admitted
 to Record - J. C. Fresham (Ordinary
 4th Sept 1854 - M. Co.)

Recorded this 5th day Sept 1854
 J. C. Fresham. O.M.C.

State of Georgia } In the Name of God.
 Meriwether County } Aswren
 I, John C. Goss of said
 State and County, being in declining health
 and knowing that I must shortly depart this
 life, deem it right and proper both as
 respects my family and myself that I
 should make a disposition of the property
 which a kind providence has blessed me
 do therefore make this my last will
 and Testament hereby revoking all others
 heretofore made by me
 1st I desire and direct that all my just
 debts be paid without delay by my executors
 as I am unwilling my creditors should
 be delayed in their rights, especially as there
 is no necessity for delay
 2^d Item I give bequeath and devise to my
 beloved Brother in law William Mitchell
 Sarah Ann and her three children Morgan
 a boy, Antigua, Mary Ann and the
 said William Mitchell is to pay into