

Will of Robert L. Bass

Muscogee County, Georgia Wills, Book C, 1875-1891
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The State of Georgia Muscogee County

I Robert L. Bass of the City of Columbus, in said County, now being about to enter into the military service of the State, for the purpose of repelling an invasion of the public enemy, And knowing the dangers and perils to which I may be exposed, And knowing also, that at home or abroad I am subject to disease and death, do hereby make, publish and declare the following as my last will and testament, hereby revoking and annulling all other wills by me heretofore made.

- Item 1st It is my will and I hereby direct that my Executor hereinafter named shall pay off and discharge all debts and demands, for which I may be liable at the time of my death.
- Item 2nd I hereby give and bequeath to my wife Margaret Ann Bass, four negro slaves to wit Lilbourn, Bob, Josephine and her sister Lucy to have and to hold to her, and her heirs and assigns, forever.
- Item 3rd It is my will, and I hereby direct, that my wife and family, and her Mother Mrs Nancy Rowland, shall have a competent and ample support and maintenance out of my estate, and which shall be sufficient to enable them to live in the same condition, manner and state as the family of my Brother John H. Bass, during their lives. Provided however that if my wife shall marry again, this allowance to her individually shall cease and determine.
- Item 4th And whereas my brother John H. Bass and myself, have long been in business together, and have accumulated property by our joint efforts and in which we have an equal interest, and my said brother having children, and there being a prospect for a child or children for me, I therefore in pursuance of an understanding with him in reference to the distribution of the estate made by us, do hereby devise, give and bequeath to my said brother John H. Bass, all my estate of every kind whatsoever, not herein before disposed of, to have and to hold to him his heirs and assigns forever, with the following condition and provision to wit, that my child or children shall share equally per capita with his child or children, who may be living at the time of his death, on the whole estate belonging to him, including his estate and my estate hereby devised and given to him, so that each child in both families, who may be living at the time of his death shall be entitled to our equal share.
- Item 5th I hereby constitute and appoint my Brother John H. Bass as sole Executor of this my last will and testament, with full power and authority to execute the same, And I do further constitute and appoint my said brother John H. Bass, as testamentary guardian of any child or children I may hereafter have, with full power and authority to manage or control my child or children in the same manner as he may manage, educate and control his own.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, on this the 30th November 1864, Robert L. Bass. (Seal)

Robert L. Bass Will Contest

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We the undersigned do hereby certify that Robert L. Bass, signed, sealed, published and declared, the foregoing instrument as his last will and testament in our presence, and that at his request we hereto subscribe our names as witnesses to said will, in the presence of the said Robert L. Bass, and in the presence of each other, on this the 25th day of November 1864

James W. Warren
W. A. Bedell
F. M. Jeter

State of Georgia Muscogee County

Before me Francis M. Brooks, Ordinary in and for the County of Muscogee and State of Georgia personally came F. M. Jeter, who upon being duly sworn deposeth and saith, that he saw Robert L. Bass then in life, sign, seal, publish and declare the within instrument of writing to be his last will and testament, on the day and year the same bears date, that at the special instance and request of the said testator, he affixed his name thereto as a subscribing witness, in the presence of said testator and of each other; Depoent further says that he likewise saw W. A. Bedell and James W. Warren sign the said will as subscribing witnesses, at the request of the said testator, and in his presence, and all in the presence of each other, Depoent further says that at the time of publishing and declaring said will, said testator was of sound and disposing mind and memory, and so far as witness knows or believes he did it fully and voluntarily, and without any undue influence or compulsion

Given to & subscribed before me
this 8th day of October 1880.

F. M. Brooks, Ordinary

F. M. Jeter

In Re

John W. Bass Executor of the last will and testament of Robert L. Bass dec^d

Petition for Probate of Will in
Solemn form, In the Court of Ordinary
of Muscogee County Georgia

State of Georgia Fulton County

By virtue of a Commission from the Honorable Court of Ordinary of Muscogee County Georgia, to us directed, we have caused James W. Warren and William A. Bedell the persons in said Commission named, to come before us, and being duly sworn true answers to make to certain interrogatories to the said Commission annexed the said witnesses severally depose and answer as follows
To the first Interrogatory, James W. Warren answers

I was personally acquainted with Robert L. Bass in his life time

2 Interrogatory he answers,

The signature "Robt. L. Bass" to the paper attached hereto and marked Exhibit (A) is the signature of the said Robt. L. Bass

Robert L. Bass. Will

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and he placed it there, I saw it placed there, I was called in as a witness to the signature. The other gentlemen whose names appear as attesting witnesses, to wit W. A. Bedell and F. W. Jeter were present at the time the said will was signed. W. A. Bedell, F. W. Jeter and James W. Warren, were called on to witness the said signature, and the will was signed in presence of all the three last named persons. I do not remember in what house or room we all were in, but it was in the City of Columbus Georgia, and said three witnesses to the will, were in presence of the testator. I signed it as a witness. I signed it in the presence of Robt L Bass, and the other persons named as witnesses to the will. The said three witnesses signed said will in presence of each other and in presence of the testator Bass, and at his the testator's request.

Interrogatory 3^d he answers.

Mr Bass had his will already drawn up, and merely requested us to come together and attest it as witnesses, saying it was his will. Robert L Bass signed the same as his will in the manner already detailed. The witnesses to said will attested the same in presence of each other, and in the testator's presence, and at his the testator's own request.

Interrogatory 4th he answers.

Robert L. Bass's mind, when said will was executed was sound and of disposing power. He had sufficient mind at that time to make a will, as much mind as he ever had, and plenty of it, at that. I do not remember that he assigned any special reason at all for making his will. I remember nothing that he said as to his business or property in that connection. I do not remember that he said anything about any former will or wills.

Interrogatory 5th he answers.

Robert L. Bass executed said will freely and voluntarily, and without any compulsion whatever, so far as witness knew, and could see and believe. At the time of the execution of the will I saw no signs of undue influence. Bass at the time the will was executed, was my partner in business. I knew him well, and saw and knew nothing touching his signing said will, that did not indicate the free consent of his own mind thereto. No circumstances of suspicion or doubt were connected with it.

James W. Warren
Answered, Subscribed and Sworn to before us this 5th day
of October 1880.

Howards Van Epps Commissioner
Wm Lowndes Calhoun Commissioner (Jr)

Robert L. Bass's Will Continued

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To the first Interrogatory William A. Bedell, answers
I know Robert L. Bass, in his life time

2^d Interrogatory he answers.

I have looked on the paper attached and marked exhibit (A) The signature therein is that of Robt. L. Bass, and he placed it there, I saw it placed there, I was called on to witness it, Robert L. Bass was present in person. I was present, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, James W. Warren and F. M. Gter were present, The three witnesses whose names appear to the attesting clause, were called on to attest the will. The will was signed in the presence of said three witnesses, and said three witnesses signed in presence of each other. The will was executed in Columbus Georgia, in what house or room I do not remember. I signed it as a witness, I signed it in the presence of Robert L. Bass, and the other persons named as witnesses, said witnesses signed in the presence of each other, and in presence of Robert L. Bass, and at the request of Robert L. Bass.

3^d Interrogatory, he answers

I remember no special facts, connected with the signing of this will, except such as are set out in the answer to the 2^d Interrogatory, Robt. L. Bass presented the instrument to me to attest, as his will, so saying that it was his will at the time, The witnesses whose names are to the will attested the same in his, Bass's presence, and in the presence of each other, to the best of my recollection, I was requested by Robert L. Bass to witness the same as his will, and presume the others were so requested, but do not know as to that.

Interrogatory 4th, He answers.

At the time said Robert L. Bass signed the will his mind was sound and of disposing power, He had sufficient mind in my opinion to dispose of his property by will at that time, He gave no reason to me or in my hearing for making such a will, He said nothing in regard to his business or property, and nothing about any former will, that I recollect.

Interrogatory 5th, He answers

I cannot say whether Bass acted freely and voluntarily or otherwise, I saw no signs of undue influence, at the time of the execution of the will, I saw and noted no circumstances that would show whether he acted freely or not. No constraint was used in my presence, Mr Bass appeared to be acting freely and voluntarily, Nothing occurred to arouse my suspicion of undue influence or Compulsion

Answered, Subscribed and Sworn to before us this 5th day of October A. D. 1880.

Howard Van Epps Commissioner (S)
W. L. Calhoun Commissioner (S)

Robert L. Bass's Will Continued

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Georgia Muscogee County

I, John H. Bass, do solemnly swear, that this writing contains the true last will and testament of the therein named Robert L. Bass so far as I know or believe, and that I will faithfully execute the same, as Executor thereof in accordance with the laws of Georgia. So help me God,

Shorn to & subscribed before me
this 8th day of October 1880
F. W. Brooks, Ordinary

John H. Bass

Muscogee Court of Ordinary
October Term 1880

The foregoing instrument of writing having been satisfactorily proven in solemn form by the subscribing witnesses thereto James W. Warren, Wm. A. Bechell and F. W. Brooks to be the true last will and testament of the therein named Robert L. Bass, deceased, Orders that the same be admitted to record and that the Executor John H. Bass have leave to qualify on the same.

F. W. Brooks
Ordinary

George J. Golden's Will

I George J. Golden of the County of Russell and State of Alabama being of sound and disposing mind and memory, do make and publish this my last will and testament

Item first I give unto my son John T. Golden two shares of the Capital stock of the Columbus Iron Works Company, and also the South half of the half acre lot in Girard, known as the Afflick lot, the said South half being on the corner and including the house on the corner, To have and to hold to him in fee simple forever.

Item Second I give unto my son Thos. Geo. E. Golden, two shares of the Capital stock of said Columbus Iron Works, and also the North half of the said Afflick lot, including the house on said North half lot, To have and to hold to him in fee simple forever

Item Third The balance of my estate in said State of Alabama, consisting mainly if not entirely in the real estate comprising the premises upon which I now reside and the household and kitchen furniture and all other the personal property upon said premises of every kind and character. I give unto W. B. Brown of Columbus Georgia, To have and to hold unto him and his successors in trust, for the use following to wit, I direct that my dwelling with all the personal property in and upon the premises, shall be kept and used occupied and enjoyed as a home for my children until my daughter Wannie Lee shall either marry or be come twenty one years old, when I give the same to my said daughter free from the title or control