

Schley County Court of Order, 1803

State of Georgia { In the name of God Amen
Solely, Personally } I John S. Menden of the County of State
of mind being sound & free of body
but of sound mind & memory do make & support this my
last will & testament hereby revoking all former
wills by me at any time made

- 1 I resign my mortal body to the Lord to be buried by
my family & friends in a decent Christian like manner
according to my Christian & evangelical views in life
my immortal spirit I commend to God who gave it
trusting in Jesus Christ his son for eternal life
- 2 Then, I desire all my just debts paid as soon after my
decease as practicable by my Executors herein after named
and to this end I desire my said Executors to sell publicly
or privately at his discretion the following negroes viz
Pete or Peking by a man his (wife) Mirtilda their two youngest
children Henry & Mirtilda Schrey County Wills
1858-1865
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Mary, Nann & Lupon &
Lucan in case he should be unable to do so,
- 3 I give & bequeath to my beloved wife Elizabeth R^d, the one
known & twenty acres of land & the Homestead wherein I
now live for her to reside upon with my two unmarried
children to have & to hold the same to her separate use
as long as she may remain unmarried after my death
or should she live upon the same, but if she marries or moves
off it is to revert back & become part & parcel of my estate
I also give to my wife in law of Twenty seven hundred
dollars I as her trustee owe her, the same to come from her
Father the following negroes I wish a man & Lucinda his
wife, and Janet & Lucinda's two youngest children Emily &
Abney I give & bequeath to my youngest child a
daughter Carrie P to have & to hold to said Carrie to her sole
& separate use not to be subject to the debts liabilities or
contracts of any husband she may have for & during
her natural life and at her death to her child or
children as she may (have) living at her death
I also give & bequeath to my wife a negro man named
Pinedon, my said wife being a negro woman
I also give & bequeath to my wife a negro woman named
Pinedon, my said wife being a negro woman

Schley County Court of Ordinary 1863

liable for the same

- 4 It is my will that if I die before any of my youngest children I die without leaving child or children but surviving the widow then in general to her she will be equally divided between our my children
- 5 I give & bequeath to my sons John E & George M also my land except the one hundred & twenty acres upon which I now live to be equally divided between my said sons as soon as the interest or estate of my wife determine in the partition of them it belonging them to I desire that they and the proceeds equally divided among all other or first wife children
- 6 I give & bequeath to my beloved daughter the Caroline Ann woman named Anne the child of John to have for her sole use for life not be liable to debts or trusts or obligations any husband of the may have and at her death to be divided or shared equally between her sons as she may at her death by
- 7 In my daughter the Caroline Ann wife of W. H. Hardy I give & bequeath my negroes Emily Lucy & Stealing to her sole use for life and at her death to be divided or shared equally among my heirs living at her death
- 8 In my daughter the Malinda Pope I give & bequeath my negroes Henry a girl Bob a boy, and Betty a girl, to have & to hold to her separate use during her natural life and at her death to be divided or shared equally as she may have living at her death
- 9 In my daughter the Sarah Peterson wife of W. J. Peterson I give & bequeath my negro girl Betty to her sole & separate use for life and at her death to be divided or shared equally as she may have living at her death and I also hereby leave to her my Willies with the care of her by my Executor
- 10 All the balance or residue of my property not herein disposed of whether household goods stock horses mares hogs cattle sheep notes or other effects of any kind I equally divided between my oldest son of the name except the half he is owning & from the which my wife brought to me, and all of that I wish my wife have together with a change of her clothing to be to the best husband to make her own marriage
- My Executor is authorized to call for the probate

The Under or sole executor of this my last will & testament
be satisfied herein of I have set my hand & seal this 13th
May 1863. John L. Melton

Signed, Read & published & declared by the Testator to be
his last will & testament before us, who have acted as
our names as witnesses in his presence & the presence of
each other and he signed in our presence, this 13th May 1863,
Just to C. P. Balle

Recorded 7th Sep 1863

Jasper Noyes
James L. Leavelle

Georgia

Schley County } Court of Ordinary for said County
In vacation 11th August 1863,

Personally appearing in open Court this day George M. Melton
Executor of the last will & testament of John L. Melton
late of said County died, and produced before the Court
the Ordinary for said County in open Court the last will
& testament of said John L. Melton deceased and one of the
witnesses to said will being Jasper Noyes and John Leavelle
sworn says that he saw the said John L. Melton the testator
sign read declare & publish the instrument now presented
as his last will & testament freely voluntarily and of his
own accord & without any compulsion or influence whatever
that at the time of the execution of said will said testator
was of sound & disposing mind & memory that he then signed
the same as a witness in the presence of the testator & of J. L.
Leavelle & C. P. Balle the other two witnesses at his instance &
request.

Jasper Noyes

Sworn to & attested

before me this 11th August 1863

Wm. A. Black

Ordinary etc.

Georgia

Schley County } Court of Ordinary for said County
In vacation 11th August 1863

Present Wm. A. Black Ordinary for said County

The last will & testament of John L. Melton late of Schley

one of the witnesses thereto and no objection being made
and no motion being made to a contrary effect. It is
therefore concluded and adjudged by the Court that said
probate of said will is sufficient & that said will be
recorded accordingly that letters testamentary do issue to George M
Pulver the executor thereof having been qualified to execute
said will according to law.

Schley County Wills

1853-1865

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It is further ordered by the Court that Henry J. Keen
J. G. Womack Isaac Hunt Saml. C. Leasley & Col. Butler J. D. C.
be and they are hereby appointed appraisers to appraise the
estate of John H. Miller a late of said County Clerk & to whom
warrant of appraisement shall now issue

Wm. D. Butler

Ordinary J. C.