

The Last Will and Testament of Lewis H. Kearne deceased.

State of Georgia 3d By the name of God Amen!!  
 County of Grays 3d I Lewis H. Kearne of Barib County and State  
 being of sound and disposing mind and memory and of advanced age  
 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, a kind Providence has  
 blessed me with, do therefore make this my last Will and Testa-  
 ment hereby revoking all others heretofore made by me.

Item 1st I desire and direct that my body be buried in a Christian-  
 like manner suitable to my circumstances and condition in life;  
 my soul I trust will return and rest with God who gave it.

Item 2nd I desire and direct that all my just debts be paid with-

=out delay, out of my effects.

Item 3rd I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Dorcas Kearne the  
 place wherein I now reside containing in all two hundred and fifty  
 acres more or less by Clark's Survey being fraction number Eighty  
 Seven and parts of fraction Sixty-eighth which land is bounded  
 as follows, to wit, commencing at the south corner of said fraction  
 at the Chattahooches River and running up said river to a  
 branch mounting into said river above the Cotton house fence,  
 then up said branch to its head, then a due West course to the  
 original line (the same being the lands I bought of Charles H. Kearne)  
 for and during her natural life and after her death to be sold  
 by my Executors; herein after appointed as public or private  
 sale as they may think best for the interest of my Estate and  
 the proceeds shall be equally divided amongst my Children  
 Sam and Sarah alike under the restrictive dispositions and  
 reserve as herein after pointed out or designated by which they shall  
 receive and hold this part of my Estate as well as all other portion  
 of my said Estate they are each to receive from my Estate.

If however at any time it may be deemed necessary to the comfort  
 or advantage of my said wife to the interest of my said estate that  
 said land should be sold or any part of the same and reinvested  
 in other property for her benefit or for the benefit of my said estate,  
 then application shall be made in writing to any Court of Competent  
 jurisdiction which application shall show that my said wife be-  
 gins with my Executors desire and have consented for such sale to  
 be made; and upon obtaining an order to that effect the property  
 in such application and order designated may be sold agreeable to  
 the directions in the order and decree of said Court and reinvested  
 in other property to be subject to the terms of this Will in like  
 manner as the lands was heretofore designated.

I also give and bequeath to my said wife the following named  
 Negroes to wit: John and his wife Deany, and Martha and little  
 Martha, and Susan, and Jeff, for and during her natural  
 life, provided she shall never marry again, but should she  
 marry again, then and in that case, my desire is that the  
 said Negroes shall be by my Executors and my said wife be valued  
 and divided and half of the said negroes shall be kept by my  
 said wife to and for her separate use and benefit for and  
 during her natural life and then shall go to and be

equally divided between my children under the same restrictions and in the same manner as hereinbefore pointed out by which they are to receive their portions of my estate under this Will, and the other half of the said property to be in like manner divided between my children under the same rules and conditions and manner except that there last named negroes are to be divided at the marriage instead of the death of my said wife, I also give and bequeath to my said wife the following utensils of every kind whatever tools used on my said plantation and two mules or horses to her own choice from all my mules or horses and two Cows & Calves of her choice from all my cattle and two hens and 2 doz of her choice from all my hens and one two horse wagon and my carriage and harness and all of the household and kitchen furniture used on and belonging to my said plantation and a sufficient provision of provisions of every kind made on my plantation necessary for her support one year after my death to be apportioned by my executors.

Item 4<sup>th</sup> I give and bequeath to my son John F. Cleland my negro girl Nancy absolutely and my negro boy Sam under the following conditions to him; that the said boy Sam is to remain in the possession of my said wife who is to have the benefit of his labor to be appropriated to the education of my minor children till the youngest son Sidney F. Cleland shall become of the age of twenty one years or shall die or my said wife shall marry or shall die then the said negro to become the property of my said son John F. without reserve all property of every kind going to my said son John F. either at my death or the marriage or death of my said wife or the becoming of the age of twenty one years or death of my son Sidney F. or in any way among the heirs of or proceeding from my estate in any mode when received by him shall be his without reserve or restriction.

I give and bequeath to my son James F. Cleland my negro girl Rachel without reserve and my negro boy George upon the same conditions and restrictions I give the boy Sam to my son John F. as above recited in this item of this will the said negro George shall remain in the possession of my said wife subject to the education of my minor children as herein before provided for the possession of the boy Sam and no longer and all property of whatsoever kinds going to my said son James F. under this will or any provision of it or otherwise of my estate after he shall be entitled to receive it under the provisions of this will shall be his without reserve.

I give and bequeath to my son Henry M. Cleland my negro girl Sarah to be placed in the hands of a guardian appointed by the County of Ordinary for his use as well as all other property going to him under this will or any provision of it or otherwise of my estate. I also give and bequeath to my said son Henry M. my negro boy Jack upon the same conditions, restrictions and stipulations as I above give the boy Sam to my son John F. and the boy George to my son James F. as above recited in this item of this will the said negro Jack shall remain in the possession of my said wife subject to the education of my minor children as above

provide for the possession of the negroes Sam and George and no longer,  
all property of whatsoever kind going to my said son Henry M.  
Under the provisions of this Will or otherwise after he shall be enti-  
tled to receive it under this Will shall be his without murmur.

I give and bequeath to my son Sidney T. Name, my negro girl  
Sam to be placed in the hands of a guardian appointed by the  
Court of Ordinary for his uses as well as all other property going  
to him under this Will or any provision of it or otherwise, whatever  
of my Estate I also give and bequeath to my said son Sidney T.  
my negro boy Robert upon the same conditions, stipulations and  
restrictions as I have above given the negro boy Sam. to my son  
John J., and the negro boy George to my son Henry M. as above recited  
in this item of this Will the said negro Robert shall remain  
in the possession of my said Wife subject to the education of  
my minor children as above provided for the possession of the  
boys Sam, George and Robert and no longer, then to be placed in  
the hands of his said guardian, all property going to my said  
son Sidney T. after he shall be entitled to receive it under this  
Will of whatsoever kind of my Estate shall by his written request.

+ Item 5<sup>th</sup> I give and bequeath to my son John J. Name as Trustee  
for my daughter Mary D. Cleveland and her children my negro  
girl Hannah to and for her sole and separate use and benefit  
free from the marital rights, debts, Contracts, liabilities or con-  
tract of her present or any future husband, she may hereafter  
have, for and during her natural life, then to go to her child  
or children should she have or leave any, if not then to re-  
vert and become part of my estate and be divided by my exec-  
utors and Trustees under the same rules, provisions and regulation  
as provided and pointed out for the division of property at the  
death of my said wife, Sam and Sam alike, I also give to my  
said son John J. as Trustee for my daughter Mary D. Cleveland  
my negro girl Margaret to and for her sole and separate  
use and benefit free from the marital rights, debts, Credits or  
Contracts of her present or any future husband, for and during  
her natural life, then to go to her children if she should have  
or leave any, if not then to revert and become part of my  
estate and be divided by my executors and Trustees as provided  
for the division of property at the death of my said wife, the  
said negro Margaret shall remain in the possession of my  
said wife subject to the education of my minor children  
as above provided for the possession of Sam. by my son  
John J. and George by my son James T. and facts by my  
son Henry M. and Robert by my son Sidney T. and no  
longer and then to be taken possession of by the said Trustee  
for the purpose above mentioned, as well as all property  
going to my said daughter under this Will or any provision  
of it or otherwise, of my Estate whatsoever shall be taken  
possession of by the said John J. Trustee, to be held to and  
for her sole and separate use and benefit free from the  
marital rights, debts, Contracts of her present or any future  
husband as hereinbefore provided to revert as before provided  
for in case she should die without Child or Children.

Item 6<sup>th</sup> I give and bequeath to my daughter Mariah C. Neane my negro girl Mahdia to and for her sole and separate use and benefit free from the marital rights, debts, contracts, liabilities or control of any husband she may hereafter have, the said negro to be placed in the hands of a guardian appointed for that purpose by the County of Ordinary to be held as above provided for and during her natural life and after her death to go to her child or children should she have or leave any, but if not then to revert and become part of my estate and be divided under the rules and provisions for the division of property at the death of my said wife, between my children. I also give and bequeath to my daughter Mariah C. Neane, my negro boy Charles to and for her sole and separate use and benefit, for and during her natural life, then to go to her children should she have or leave any, but if not to revert and become parts of my estate together with all the property of whatever kind she may be entitled to receive or going to her under this Will or any provisions of it or of any parts of my estate and be divided between my children as provided for the division of property at the death of my said wife; the said negro Charles shall remain in the possession of my said wife subject to the education of my minor children as provided for the provision of Sam by John G. and George by Henry T. and Jack by Henry M. and Robert P. Sidney H. as fully recited and set forth in the 4<sup>th</sup> item of this Will and no longer, all of said property going to my said daughter Mariah C. after she shall be entitled to it under this Will, shall be placed in the hands of a guardian appointed as before provided till she shall marry or become of the age of twenty one, then shall be placed in the hands of a suitable trustee legally appointed or constituted.

Item 7<sup>th</sup> Should any of the negroes so given off to any of my said children, die before they are taken possession of by them or guardians or trustees, as the case may be, then and in that case my desire is that the negro or negroes so dying shall be made good to such child or children (after the said negro or negroes so dying shall be valued by my executors and executors) out of the residue of my estate at the marriage or death of my said wife before a general division shall be made or at any other time there shall be property belonging to my estate subject to division,

Item 8<sup>th</sup> It is my will and desire that as soon after my death as practicable my executors and executors herein after appointed shall sell at public outcry or otherwise as they may think to the best interest of my estate, all the lands, tenements, houses, etc., cattle, mules, hogs, sheep, goats and property of every description whatsoever or in any wise belonging to my estate not herein before disposed of (except there should be negroes) by this Will, and collect up all debts and money due my said estate and divide the proceeds between my children, which when received by them they shall have the same kind of estate in it that they have in other property going to them, the parts going to my sons who are of the age of twenty one years at the time shall be delivered to them and the parts going to my sons who are not of age, shall be placed in the hands of guardians appointed as provided for

in the 4th item of this Will and the part going to my daughter Mary P. Cleveland to be placed in the hands of her said Trustee or a Trustee legally appointed by the Chancellor to and for her sole and separate use, as is fully provided for in the 5th item of this Will to be held under the same conditions and to have the same kind of estate in said property as provided for her property in the said 5th item of this Will only that this property is to be immediately placed in the hands of her said trustee and this part of that division as well as all other property going to my daughter Maria A. Neame shall be placed in the hands of her guardian, if single or under the age of twenty one years, but if married or of age then to be placed in the hands of her trustee legally appointed, to and for her sole and separate use and benefit and not otherwise as is fully provided for in the 6th item of this Will only that, this property shall be immediately taken possession of by her said Trustee or guardian.

Item 9th It is my will and desire that my executors and trustees shall provide well out of any funds belonging to my estate, when necessary, before making a general division, for the taking care of my old negroes, to wit, John, Dugay and Martha, after they shall become old and so helpless as not to be able to take care of themselves, as they have been good and faithful servants & you not willing that they shall be neglected in their old age shall be provided with whatever may be necessary for their comfort.

Item 10th I give and bequeath to my son in law William Cleveland five Dollars, to be paid by my executors and trustees out of the first money collected after the payment of my just debts.

Item 11th I hereby constitute and appoint my beloved wife Maria Neame Executrix and my sons John J. Neame and James J. Neame Executors of this my last Will & Testament to will and try 4 cents and carry out the same.

This the 5th day of October A.D. 1758 Lewis H. Neame {AS}

Signed, sealed, declared and published by Lewis H. Neame as his last Will and testament in the presence of no the subscribers, who subscribed our names herein to in the presence of said testator at his special instance and request and in the presence of each other the said Will being contained in the seven foregoing pages.

This the 5th day of October A.D. 1758,

James S. Herring,  
Benjamin F. Cushing,  
W. P. Motley  
Sarah M. Harris

Codicil to the Last Will and Testament of Lewis A. Stearns

State of Georgia } Whereas I Lewis A. Stearns did on the fifth  
 Troup County } day of October in the year of our Lord  
 Eighteen Hundred and fifty-eight, sign, seal, declare and  
 publish my last Will and Testament, in presence of James  
 S. Herring, Benjamin F. Castright, W. P. Mobley and Noah  
 M. Hadris who signed the said Will and Testament as  
 witnesses; and whereas I am desirous of altering and chan-  
 ging a bequest and devise in said Will, I therefore make  
 and publish this Codicil to said Will.

Now therefore, my will is that my beloved wife Dorcas  
 Stearns shall have four mules or horses, four Cows and  
 Calves, four Sons and Pigs and one four horse Waggon  
 instead of two mules or horses, two Cows and Calves, two  
 Sons and Pigs and one two horse waggon as specified  
 in the third item of my last will and testament.

Also that my youngest Daughter Moriah, have five  
 hundred dollars added to her portion of the estate.

This March 12th. 1862.

Lewis A. Stearns 

Signed, sealed, declared and published by Lewis  
 A. Stearns as the Codicil to his will and testament of the  
 fifth day of October, Eighteen Hundred and fifty-eight,  
 in the presence of us, the subscribers, who subscribe  
 our names hereunto, in the presence of said testator, at  
 his special instance and request, and of each other.

This March 12th 1862.

J. A. Smith  
 W. H. Berelson  
 J. H. Dunson Jr.

Court of Ordinary April Term 1862

State of Georgia } Before me Samuel Castright Ordinary of  
 Troup County } Said Court in open Court Came in Person  
 Dorcas Stearns } Executrix and John S. Stearns and James Hearn  
 Testators of the last Will and Testament of Lewis A. Stearns  
 deceased, late of Said County and also James S. Herring one  
 of the witnesses to Said Will and Henson W. Berelson  
 and Sanford H. Dunson witnesses to the Codicil to said  
 Will and Testament which said witnesses after the produc-  
 tion of said Will and Codicil in open Court, being duly  
 sworn before and say, that deponent James S. Herring  
 saw the said Lewis A. Stearns sign, seal, publish and  
 declare the said instruments as his last Will and Testa-  
 ment voluntarily and freely without compulsion, and he  
 signs said Will as a witness in the presence of testator  
 and also in the presence of Benjamin F. Castright,  
 W. P. Mobley and Noah M. Harris the other subscribing  
 witnesses to said Will, and deponents Henson

W. Staralorn and S.H. Dawson say that they saw the said Lewis H. Stearns sign, seal, publish and declare the Codicil to said Will as a part of the same, voluntarily and freely without compulsion, that they signed said Codicil as witnesses in the presence of said Testator and of each other and all of said deponents say that at the time of the execution of said Will and Codicil the said Testator was of sound and disposing mind.

Swear to and subscribed before me  
in Open Court April 7th 1862.

Samuel Cartwright  
Ordinary

James D. Morris  
S.H. Dawson  
W. H. Staralorn

### Court of Ordinary April Term 1862.

Georgia <sup>5</sup> Georgia County <sup>3</sup> It appearing to the Court that the last Will and Testaments of Lewis H. Stearns deceased together with the Codicil to said Will have been proven in open Court to the satisfaction of the Court and no objections having been filed; it is ordered by the Court that said Will and Codicil be considered proven and admitted to record and that letters testamentary do issue to Dorcas Stearns Executor and John H. Stearns and James Stearns Executor of said Will and Codicil. And it is further ordered that Stamford H. Dawson, Charles W. Stearns, Stern-Ann W. Staralorn, Emmanuel Britton and Russell K. Bythick be, and they are appointed appraisers to appraise said estate and return the same according to law.

Samuel Cartwright  
Ordinary

Recorded April 9th 1862

Samuel Cartwright  
Ordinary