

William Johnson

State of Georgia, In the name of God, amen.
Washington County

I William Johnson, of said State and County being 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, with which, a kind Providence has blessed me: I do therefore make this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all others heretofore made by me.

1st Item - I desire, and direct that my body be buried in a decent and Christian like manner, suitable to my circumstances and condition in life; my soul I trust will return to rest with God, who gave it; I believe in the resurrection, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2^d Item - I desire, and direct that all my just debts be paid without delay, by my executors hereinafter appointed, as I am unwilling my creditors should be delayed in their rights.

3^d Item - I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Elizabeth, my Buggy and harness, and my horse which I use as a buggy for family home; also a bunch or lot of hogs, raised by her around the shone yard - known as her hogs, and her bedstead and all the bed furniture, known as her own and wrought by her own hands, her trunks and chest &c. all free from any limitation whatever. And if my buggy and harness should at my decease, be worn or damaged, and the horse be infirm by age or otherwise, I direct my executors hereinafter appointed, to have the buggy and harness made good, for her, and to purchase for her a good and safe horse instead of the one I leave, out of the funds of my estate.

4th Item - I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Elizabeth, for and during her natural life as my widow - only my negro man Edmund, to have and to hold the said negro man Edmund, unto her own use and benefit so long as she shall remain a widow.

5th Item - I give, bequeath and devise to my daughter Martha a certain tract of land in Washington County on the waters of Bluff Creek adjoining William Watkins and others, known as the Giles tract of land containing one hundred and forty two acres, more or less, to have, hold, use and enjoy the said tract of land, unto my said daughter Martha, for and during her natural life, and at her decease to remain to her children if any, forever, free from the debts or disposal of any husband she may hereafter marry. But if my said daughter Martha shall leave no child at her decease, the title to said tract of land shall revert to my estate, and be equally divided among my children.

6th Item - I give, bequeath and devise to my son Jackson, in trust for

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his children, a certain tract of land, in the county of Washington on the waters of Deepstep creek adjoining land of the Estate of William Black and others, known as the Jones tract of land, containing one hundred and eighty acres, more or less, to have and to hold said tract of land, together with all the rights and privileges thereof, unto my said son Jackson, in trust for all his children, now born or hereafter to be born unto him and I desire and hereby direct that my said son Jackson, shall not be held accountable to his children, or any other person, for any income arising from the use and occupation of the said tract of land, so long as he my said son Jackson shall live. And I further direct, that if my said son Jackson, shall at any time desire to do so, he shall have power to sell, said tract of land, and with the proceeds thereof, purchase other land, to be held in like manner, in trust for his children; and I hereby vest him, with all the legal and equitable powers so to do.

Item - I desire and direct, that all my estate, both real and personal, not herein bequeathed in kind, be, after being duly advertised, sold at public outcry, to wit, the land and negroes at the court-house, in the town of Sandersville, and the other property, in like manner at my audience, on such time and terms as my executors, hereinafter appointed shall deem most advantageous to the interest of my estate, and the proceeds thereof, together with the money arising from my credits, be, after paying my just debts, and the expenses necessary to carry out this, my last will and testament, disposed of as shall be hereinafter directed.

Item - I give and bequeath to my daughter Martha five hundred dollars to be paid to her, as nearly as can be, in a negro girl, which I authorize my executors hereinafter appointed to purchase, either at the sale of my negroes or otherwise out of the money to be raised agreeably to item seven. The right to which negro shall vest in my daughter Martha, for and during her natural life, free from the debts, liabilities or disposal of any husband she shall hereafter marry; and at her decease to remain to her children - if any, forever. But if my said daughter Martha shall leave no child, the said property is to revert to my estate, be sold and the proceeds equally divided among my children.

Item - I give and bequeath to my daughter Sarah Moore wife of Samuel M. H. Moore five hundred dollars, to be paid as nearly as can be in a negro girl to be procured as directed in item eight for my daughter Martha. The title to which girl shall vest in a trustee, which I hereby authorize my executors to appoint for the use of my said daughter Sarah during her natural life free from the debts or disposal of her present

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or any future husband and at her decease the title thereof to vest in her children forever.

10 Item - I give and bequath to my daughter Elizabeth Ashord wife of Henry A. Ashord five hundred dollars, to be paid, as nearly as may be, in a negro girl to be procured as directed hereinbefore in item eight for my daughter Martha. The title to which negro girl shall vest in Henry A. Ashord her husband as trustee for my said daughter Elizabeth for and during her natural life and at her decease to go to her children, to be free from the liabilities or disposal of her present or any future husband.

11 Item - I give and bequath to my sons in money, to be raised as hereinbefore directed in item seven, to wit; to my son Joseph, four hundred dollars; to my son Arthur, eight hundred dollars; to my son Jackson, four hundred dollars; to my son William L. seven hundred dollars; to my son Almarin six hundred dollars; to my son Benjamin seven hundred dollars; to my son Reuben H. seven hundred dollars. I give nothing to my son Randolph as he has received as much as will equalise him with his other brothers when they shall receive the sums herein specified. I also give to my grand children Joel W. John L. and Nancy C. Johnson children of my son Joseph and Willy his wife to each one hundred dollars. If the money to be raised as herein before directed shall not prove sufficient to give to each legatee in this item, the sum specified, it shall be divided ratably; that is in proportion to the sum specified to each; but if there should be more than enough to pay the money legacies herein specified, I direct the remainder to be equally divided among all my sons, to wit Joseph, Arthur, Jackson, William L., Almarin, Randolph, Benjamin and Reuben H.

12 Item - I hereby constitute and appoint my son Arthur Johnson and my worthy friend James H. Selmore executors of this my last will and testament this April 12th, 1855.

William^{his} Johnson L. J.

Signed, sealed, declared and published by William Johnson as his last will and testament, in the presence of us, the subscribers, who subscribed our names hereto, in the presence of said testator (at his specified instance and request) and of each other.

Wm. H. Armstrong
Joseph Forbes
A. C. Lawton