

WILL OF
JOHN CROOKS.

In the name of God, Amen,

I John Crooks of the district of Newberry, in the State of South Carolina (being aged and infirm of body, yet of sound mind and memory, thanks be given unto God) calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed unto all men once to die, do make, ordain and establish this my last Will and Testament in the following manner and form, Viz

To my beloved wife Jane Crooks, during her natural life or widowhood, I lend the whole of my estate both real and personal, to be freely used by her, so far as may be necessary for her comfortable subsistence during the residue of her life, yet to be carefully preserved from unnecessary expenditure, in order to be disposed of as hereafter named immediately after her decease or, marriage as the case may be.

Concerning the real estate of which I may die possessor, it is unnecessary, here, to add any thing, except it be merely to confirm the Deed of transfer already made thereof by me, to my two sons Thomas Croyton Crooks, and John Andrew Crooks to be equally divided between them, as therein specified

My Will is that all the personal estate of which I may die possessor (consisting of slaves, ~~etc~~, furniture etc) be divided into six equal portions (according to the number of my children) which said Portions I do hereby give and bequeath as follows Viz, One Portion (that is one sixth part of the whole value of my personal estate) to each of my sons Thomas C. Crooks and John A. Crooks- One Portion to Euphany H. Wood, wife of James R. Wood - One Portion to Nancy Kelley, wife of John Kelley - One Portion to Euphany A. H. Graham, only surviving child of my dear daughter Elizabeth H. Graham wife of

Viz

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Duncan, shall either become married or arrive at the age of twenty one years respectively. Provided also that if either J. F. or M. J. Duncan should die without lawful issue, his or her moiety of said Portion shall be exclusively inherited by the other, and if both die in manner aforesaid, the whole of their share shall be equally divided, among all my aforesaid children or their lawful heirs; and should my aforesaid Grand-daughter E. A. H. Graham die, in like manner, without lawful issue, the Portion devised to her, shall be disposed of in the same manner.

My Will is farther, that if either of my sons or daughters aforesaid should die without lawful issue, the surviving husband or wife shall by virtue of this clause, have a right to claim, and receive the whole of the proper Portion of the Dec^d Legatee, and to use it during his or her natural life, but shall not be at liberty to dispose of it, particularly slaves, to any person or persons who bear no relation to my family. And at the decease of such surviving husband or wife, such slave or slaves shall return to the then surviving Legatees, or their legal representatives, to be equally divided among them.

Concerning the slaves of which I may die possessor, my Will is that none of them shall be exposed to public sale, out of my own family; but that they be divided as equally as possible, among the aforesaid Legatees, in the most equitable manner which my Executors can devise, and that any inequalities which necessarily accrue, in the value of their respective lots, shall be made up by the proceeds of the next article.

As soon as convenient after the interment of my widow aforesaid, my Will is that all the personal property of which

daughter E. A. H. Graham die, in like manner, without issue, the Portion devised to her, shall be disposed of in the same manner.

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As soon as convenient after the interment of my widow aforesaid, my Will is that all the personal property of which I may die possent, exclusive of slaves, be advertised by my Executors, and sold to the highest bidder, at their discretion, and the proceeds thence arising, after equalizing the value of slave-lots, as aforesaid, shall be equally divided among all the aforesaid legatees.

Farther my Will is that notwithstanding my eldest daughter Euphany H. Wood was born prior to the ceremony which legally united myself and her mother in wedlock, yet as I ever have ac-

43

knowledged her, and as I do still consider her as much my my own child, as any of my other children, therefore she shall as fully and freely inherit the portion herein devised, as any of my legitimate children; and that no process whether of law or equity, by whomsoever instituted, be permitted, by my executors, to deprive her of the Portion herein bequeathed, or any part thereof.

And Lastly, I do hereby nominate and appoint my two sons John A. Crooks, Thomas C. Crooks and James R. Wood sole and entire ~~executors~~ of this my last Will and Testament, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and Testament.

In testimony whereof I do hereunto set my hand and affix my seal this second day of August in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and thirty eight

Signed, sealed and acknowledged, by the said John Crooks as his last Will and Testament in the presence of us, who, in his presence, and in the presence, and in the presence of each other, do hereunto subscribe our names.-----

John Glymph

Ephm Suber

David Suber

John Crooks (L.S.)

Recorded in Book "Records of Wills" No. 1 Page 58 to 62

Approved April 28th 1842

Recorded April 29th 1842

W. Wilson Ordinary Newberry District

Box No. 71 Pkg. 180 Est. No. 1806