

Jacob Bowen's Will

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"State of Alabama Dallas County I Jacob Bowen of the County and State aforesaid being of sound mind and memory do think proper to dispose of my Estate that I may die possessed of in the following manner: 1st After all my just debts are paid I devise and bequeath unto the children of my Brother Thomas Bowen (to wit) Mary, Daniel, Harriet, William, Ababella and Luema Bowen, all my property both real and personal to be equally divided when Luema Bowen shall arrive to the age of years one year. I appoint my Brother Thomas Bowen my sole executor and he the said Thomas Bowen is hereby authorized to sell and make title to any and all the real Estate I may be possessed of in such a manner and way as he may deem most advisable for the interest of said children and execute title to the same as executor aforesaid and he is authorized to dispose of any part or all of my personal Estate according to his discretion and transact all thing concerning the same he shall think best for said children. In witness I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 25th November 1855. J^{as} Bowen Seal
Attest A. G. Carter L. B. Aker Cornelius Aker

The foregoing will probated and ordered to be recorded Dec 11th 1855
Recorded 24th June 1856.

Chas. B. Gray Clerk

James McMillan's Will

"In the name of God Amen. I James McMillan being sick and weak in body but sound in mind and memory of understanding do declare to God for it, and considering the certainty of death and the uncertainty of the time thereof and to the end I may be the better prepared to leave this world whenever it shall please God to call me hence do the afore make and declare this my last Will, and testament in manner following that is to say, and first I commit my Soul into the hands of my Creator who gave it, and my body to be interred in a decent and Christian like manner. And as to my worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to intrust me I dispose of as follows: first it is my wish that all my just debts be paid secondly it is my intention to give to ^{my wife} ~~my wife~~ more in consequence of her misfortunes than to my other nephews and nees. I therefore give him in addition to the amount to which he shall be entitled at the death of his mother two thousand dollars to be paid over to his proper Guardian before the general distribution of my Estate Thirdly, to my faithful slave Rachel & her two children Thomas and Mariah and any and all other children if any that should have before this provision of my will shall be executed I give their freedom and request my Executors to take such measures as shall become necessary to secure them the freedom of said negroes & also give and bequeath to my brother Henry McMillan two Acres