

and Codicils by me at any former time made. In Witness ¹⁸⁰
whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seal this 31st day
of September in the year of our Lord 1838. Thomas Watts
Test. The above Instrument Consisting of nearly three sheets
or eleven pages having the words "I am a boy in the 16th line of the
1st Item fourteen" (in lieu of eight erased) in the 16th line
10th Item "Limeon &c." in the 1st line 11th Item and manged in
the conclusion of the 13th Item was now here subscribed & sealed
published and declared by the above named Thomas Watts,
the Testator, in the presence of each of us as his last Will
& Testament: and we whose name are under written have at
his request signed our names as Subscribing Witnesses to the
Same in the day & year above written. James ^{his op} Pylant
Estate Pylant, Margaret Pylant, Reuben Saffold

State of Alabama Dallas County Regular Orphans
Court - October Term 1840. Personally appeared in open Court
James Pylant one of the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing Will
who being duly sworn saith that he saw Thomas Watts sign
the foregoing instrument purporting to be his last will and
testament and that he was at that time of disposing mind
& memory and that he was called upon to sign said will
as a witness there to. James ^{his} Pylant

Sworn to and Subscribed in open Court - Sanford Blum clk
"The foregoing Will was admitted to probate and ordered to
be Recorded see minutes D, page 434 -

Recorded 30th October 1840 -

Sanford Blum clk

Sanford Blum clk

John Davis, Will

The State of Alabama Dallas County
In the name of God amen I, John Davis of said
County do hereby make and declare this my last will and
Testament. 1st That all my just debts & charges be paid
2nd I do give to my beloved wife Maryann Davis one Choice bed & Bedding
and furniture one Bay mare named Fanny Also I do leave to my wife two
negro women viz Louiza & Mill during her life or widow hood and at her
marriage or death shall be disposed of as directed hereafter 3rd I do give and
bequeath unto my son Moses Davis the following named negroes York Sally
Boney Clary and Mill together with all their increase and at the death
of the said Moses Davis the above named negroes is to go to Mary Catharin
Mary Jane & John Bradley Davis to be theirs forever. I also give unto
my son John Bradley Davis one horse by name Whisper

1813 be raised by my W^{id} Moses Davis and after the said
John Bradley becomes Twenty One year old the said boy Hampton is
given up to the said John Bradley Davis.
4th I do give and bequeath unto my son William J Davis the follo-
wing named negros viz Milow Washington Maza & Hanner together
with all the increase, also I give unto my grand son John William
Davis one negro boy named Nelson to be raised by my son William
J Davis and when the said John William Davis arrives at the age
of Twenty One then the said boy Nelson is to be given up to the
said John William Davis. 5th I do give and devise the following
negros viz Charles Harret, Amanda, Dallas and Joe & their increase
into the said Moses Davis & William J Davis & heirs to have & to
hold the same to the trusts following (to wit) that the said Ex-
ecutors shall suffer Elizabeth Wright during her natural life
to take use & enjoy said negros & their increase and the profits
of the same but not in any wise or manner to be sold or
conveyed or made subject or liable to the debts of any person or
persons whatsoever but the same together with the income &
profits thereof to be for the sole & separate use & benefit of the
said Elizabeth Wright during her natural life and after her
death to convey said Slaves & their increase to such Child or Chil-
dren or descendants of a Child or children as may be living at the
time of her death in equal parts to be divided the descendants of
any Child of the said Elizabeth Wright who may have deceased
at the time of her death to be entitled to the same share
as their parent would have been if living to be divided in equal
parts among them but in case the said Elizabeth Wright
should die without any Child or descendants of a Child living
at the time of her death then said Executors are to divide
in equal parts & convey said negros & their increase to and among
the Brothers and Sisters living at the time of her death of my
daughter Elizabeth Wright & to and among the then living de-
scendants of such of her brothers & Sisters as may be dead the
descendants of deceased brother or Sister to take the share
of their deceased parent in equal parts among them and in
default of such Child - brother or descendants of them to
convey the same to the heirs of the said Elizabeth Wright generally
my intention being to provide a sure and permanent support
for the said Elizabeth Wright during her life & after her death
some property for her Children if any or their descendants then
be if not then for said property to go to the heirs of my daugh-
ter Elizabeth Wright. 6th I give and devise the following
negros viz Willis Sage Martha Jack and Janiza also one horse named
Charley and one feather Red & Black & furniture and the
increase of the negros unto the said Moses Davis & William
J Davis & heirs to have & to hold the same to the trusts following

(To wit) that the said Executors shall suffer Margaret Davis ^{18th} during her natural life to take use & enjoy, said negroes & their increase & the income and profits of the same but not in any wise or manner to be sold or conveyed or made subject or liable to the debts of any person or persons whatsoever but the same together with the income rents & profits thereof to be for the sole & separate use & benefit of the said Margaret Davis during her natural life and after her death to convey said slaves & their increase to such child or children or descendants of a child or children as may be living at the time of her death in equal parts to be divided the descendants of any child of the said Margaret Davis who may have deceased at the time of her death to be entitled to the same share as their parents would have been if living to be divided in equal parts among them but in case the said Margaret Davis should die without any child or descendants of a child living at the time of her death then said Executors are to divide in equal parts & convey said negroes & their increase to and among the Brothers & Sisters living at the time of her death of my daughter Margaret Davis and to & among the then living descendants of such of her brothers & sisters as may be dead the descendants of deceased brother or sister to take the share of their deceased parent in equal parts among them and in default of such child brother or descendant of them to convey the same to the heirs of said Margaret Davis generally my intention being to provide a sure and permanent support for the said Margaret Davis during her life and after her death the same property for her children if any or their descendants there be if not then for said property to go to the heirs of my daughter Margaret Davis - 7th I give and devise the following negroes viz) Alfred Evaline Caroline Duncan & Mariah and their increase unto the said Moses Davis & William Davis & heirs to have & to hold the same to the trust following (to wit) that the said Executors shall suffer Maryann Sear the wife of Washington Sear during her natural life to take use & enjoy said negroes & their increase & the income & profits of the same but not in any wise or manner to be sold or conveyed or made subject or liable to the debts of any person or persons whatsoever or of her husband Washington Sear but the same together with the increase & profits thereof to be for the sole & separate use & benefit of the said Maryann Sear the wife of Washington Sear during her natural life and after her death to convey said slaves & their increase to such child or children or descendants of a child or children as may be living at the time of her death in equal parts to be divided the descendants of any child of the said Maryann Sear wife of Washington Sear who may have deceased at the time of her death to be entitled to the same share

1841 as their parents would have been if living to be divided in equal parts among them but in case the said Maryann Dear the wife of Washington Dear should die without any child or descendants of a child living at the time of her death then said Executors are to divide in equal parts & convey said negro & there increase to and among the Brothers & Sisters living at the time of her death of my daughter Maryann Dear & to & among the then living descendants of such of her brother & Sisters as may be dead the descendants of a deceased brother or sister to take the share of their deceased parent in equal parts among them and in default of such child brother or descendant of them to convey the same to the heirs of the said Maryann Dear generally my intention being to provide a sure and permanent support for the said Maryann Dear the wife of Washington Dear during her life and after her death some property for the children if any or their descendants there be if not then for said property to go to the heirs of Maryann Dear & I wish my land to be sold at the discretion of my Executors and as I have given to my son Moses Davis and my daughter Elizabeth Wright two hundred acres of Land each I wish the value of two hundred acres of Land to be given to each of my children that have not had Land (viz) William J Davis Margaret Davis and Maryann Dear when my lands are sold and the money collected making an average of the sale then the balance to the amount of the sale of Land and all the residue of my Estate to be equally divided among all my children above named - 9th My old negro man Carry to remain with my wife during her life or widowhood & at her marriage or death to be taken care of by my Executors so long as he may live and not put to hard labour - 10th I do appoint my two sons Moses Davis & William J Davis my Executors to this my last Will and testament revoking all other Wills by me made and acknowledging this and this only to be my last will and testament Signed Sealed and acknowledged this 25th day Sept. AD 1840 John Davis (Seal)
Test Willis A Willcox J. B. Moseley & A. N. Powell

State of Alabama Dallas County Personally appeared, in open Court Willis Willcox one of the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing Will who being duly sworn saith that John Davis signed the foregoing will testament in his presence at his last and that at the time of so doing the said John Davis was of disposing mind and memory and that he was called or to subscribe the same as a witness there to and that the after two witnesses J. B. Moseley & A. N. Powell signed the same in his presence Sworn to and subscribed in open Court October 19th 1840
Willis A Willcox Judge & Willis A Willcox.

"The foregoing Will was admitted to Probate and Ordered to be recorded See minutes p. page 438, -

"Recorded and filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at Dallas, Ala. 11/1/40"