

August, 1876

B. B. Steele's Will.

I Benjamin B Steele do make and publish this as my last will and testament hereby revoking and making void all others by me at any time made.

First. I direct that my funeral expenses and all my debts be paid as soon after my death as possible out of any money that I may die possessed of or may first come into the hands of my Executor.

Secondly I give and bequeath to my six children Enoch W Steele James A. Steele Sarah Nichols William P Steele Elizabeth Simms and Benjamin H. Steele the home tract of land where I now live containing 52 1/2 acres worth \$1200.00 to be equally divided between them with the privilege of selling to each other and any trade or transfer any one have made to one or more of my children heretofore or may make during my lifetime shall hold good as if the trade had been made after my death provided they do not sell to any persons except to or between themselves.

Thirdly I give and bequeath the remainder of my land containing 65 acres worth \$1000.00 to be divided as the 52 1/2 acres tract except if I should become a charge the one that I choose to make my home with must be paid for any trouble I may be to them or any debts I may contract a cause to be made on my account after exhausting any personal property be paid out of said land and allow my son Benjamin H. Steele purchase a road from the public road through the Reuben land to the Barn where I now live paying \$150.00 for the road therefore he is to have \$150.00 out of said land before any division.

Lastly I do hereby nominate and appoint E. W. Steele and Benjamin H. Steele my Executors.

In witness whereof I do this my will, set my hand this the 15th day of Nov. 1874

Witness,

Moses Waters.

A. McFarable.

B. B. Steele

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(Cocktail)

Bureau & bed to Lizzie Simms. The other bed to Sallie Nichols. 1 spinning wheel & 1 reel to Sallie. Everything in the smoke house.

" " " " " Cellar.

1 Bay horse name (Bill) - 5 Hogs - 1 fall turn Table. 1 Oiler mill. 1/2 bush. in mowing machine. 1 Wagon. 1 Rake. To B. H. Steele.

There are some things in the house that Enoch claims. This 30th day of July 1876

Witness.

Jonas Gamble.

John D. Pedigo.

B. B. Steele.

James W. Hitch - Will

State of Missouri, Blount County.

Know all men by these presents that I J. W. Hitch of the County and State aforesaid, do make and publish this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all other will by me at any time made, First: I bequeath to my wife, Ellen Hitch all the lands that I die seized and possessed of, viz the farm on which I now reside, known as the home farm, containing one hundred and fifty four acres, more or less, bounded as follows: on the north by Edwin Hitch, on the east by Crooked Creek on the south by Crooked Creek, on the west by M. B. Seaton and R. B. Leandler, to have and to hold the same during her natural life.

2nd I direct that my daughter Lucinda shall have her lifetime maintenance off of the same, then at the death of said Ellen Hitch, said land shall be divided equally between my five sons viz: J. W. Hitch Jr, Archibald Houston Hitch, John L. Hitch, Elias Lepton Hitch and Wm Mc Hitch. Also I direct that all the money coming from my wife's father Andrew Harris estate, shall be equally divided between my three daughters viz: Maria Seaton, Mary Ann Waters and Jenny Davis.

August, 1896.

3rd I direct that all my debts and funeral expenses shall be paid out of any of the property that I may hold or note or bond.

The condition of this bequest is such that my five sons aforesaid has this land with a distinct understanding that Lucinda Ditch is to have her lifetime maintainance off of same.

Now, if my executor and my five sons aforesaid ever think it better to sell this land in order that it may be more equally divided, they can do so by placing eight hundred dollars in the hands of Lucinda Ditch's Guardian, which I now appoint my son Elew Ditch. And the interest of the said eight hundred dollars is to be used for her maintainance during her natural life. Then at her death whatever is left of said eight hundred dollars, after her funeral expenses be paid out of the principal, shall be divided equally between my three aforesaid daughters.

4th I bequeath to my son Elew Ditch the farm on which he now lives containing ninety six acres, more or less - bounded as follows: On the East by Crooked Creek on the north by W. A. Battlett; on the West by W. A. Battlett, on the South by the home farm on which I now live, to have and to hold the same forever against all other claims.

5th I also have given to my son Andrew Ditch One thousand dollars which is his part in full of my estate.

Furthermore, I direct if my son Elew Ditch in winding up and the sale of the land that my brother Archibald Ditch set apart for the payment of certain debts which I was security for, and if he should have to pay out any money of his own, he shall receive the same from my estate which I have left to my five sons, and out on the same from the time he shall have to pay it.

Whereunto I have this day set my hand and seal. This 21st day of May 1896.

J. W. Ditch.

I furthermore appoint my son Elew Ditch as my Executor.

Witness.

W. A. Battlett
J. M. Manning

J. W. Ditch.

August, 1896.

Woods

I Mary Jane Woods do make and publish this as my last will and testament, hereby revoking and making void all others by me at any time made.

First. I direct that my funeral expenses and all my debts be paid as soon after my death as possible out of any money that I may die possessed of.

Secondly, I request that my uncle Poir Cook and my Aunt Dorcas Cook take my little daughter Dorcas Sophrona Woods and raise her and send her to school and give her common school Education cloth and board her until she is twenty one years old and I also direct that my daughter Dorcas Sophrona have all of my bedding bed clothes and all of my household property and I direct that my uncle Poir and Aunt Dorcas Cook have one third of the money that I may have in the hands of John P. Rhea after all my debts and burial expenses and doctor bills are paid along as she may need it or may be conveniently paid for their services in raising or one and raising my little daughter and I also direct that John P. Rhea keep two thirds of the money in his hands on interest that will be coming to my daughter.

Lastly I do hereby nominate and appoint.

In witness whereof I do to this my will set my hand this the twenty ninth day of May One thousand eight hundred and ninety six.

Mary J. Cook.

Signed and published in our presence and we have subscribed our names hereto in the presence of the testator this the twenty ninth day of May One thousand eight hundred and ninety six.

Low Gardner

J. H. Cook.