

RETURN.

Jesse Davis

To all whom it may concern, in the
name of God amen
Whereas I Jesse Davis of the County
of Greene and State of Tennessee
being with in body but of sound
and perfect mind, memory and un-
derstanding I have be to the Almighty
for his mercies; and calling to mind
that it is appointed for all men once
to die. I do make and constitute
this to be my last will and Testament
and as touching my worldly estate
I give demise and dispose of in
the following manner to wit—
First—That my funeral charges and
just debts out of my movable
Estate—

Secondly—I will and bequeath unto my
beloved wife Lora Davis the plantation
which I purchased from William Ford
and the joining entries I made to it
(In the whole) containing one hundred
and ninety nine acres for her use
and benefit untill my youngest child
arives to the full age of twenty
one years and as long after that
period as she remains my widow
and I further give and bequeath
unto my said and beloved wife as
much of my household and kitchen
furniture also of the horse, cows
hogs, sheep and farming utensils as
my Executors my think will be a suf-
ficiency for her and my childrens
support.

Thirdly—The remainder of my movable estate
if any remains I direct to be sold

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at Publick vendue to the highest bidder by the direction of my Executors and the money arising from the sale thereof to be equally divided between my children as they arrive to lawfull age -

Tenthly - I give and bequeath unto my said beloved wife one Negro girl named Mary and one Negro boy named Ceasar which the said Mary and Ceasar arrives at the age of twenty five years & if if my said wife should not wish to keep them or either of them at home with her she is to give them the said Mary and Ceasar or either of them up to my executors to be hired out untill they come to the age of twenty one years and that the profits arising from such hire be put into my estate - then after the said Ceasar and Mary comes to the age of twenty one years they are each to have two good suits of cloath and to be made at the expense of my estate and it is my will that each of them then be set at liberty and be forever free - the said Mary being sixteen years and the twenty eighth of last March and the said Ceasar being fourteen years of age the last of this instant April

Eleventhly - If the said Mary should have any children or issue before she arrives to said age of twenty five years it is my desire and will that they be bound out as the law directs in case of free children by my Executors if make fit to some good usefull Trade untill twenty

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one year old and all then to be free.
 Sixthly - I give and bequeath unto my daughter
 Betsey Davis my young Bay filly also
 a new side saddle and bridle, one
 feather bed and furniture the price
 of said articles to be counted out of
 her distributive share of my estate
 that is to say the said mare
 and other property to be valued
 and given to her said Betsey by
 my Executors and accounted to her
 for for or all of her share of my
 estate -

Seventhly - I give and bequeath unto my two
 sons to wit fields Davis & John Davis
 on conditions hereinafter mentioned.
 the plantation wherein I now live
 to be divided equally between them when
 they arrive to the age of twenty one
 years -

Eighthly - I desire and enjoin it on my Executors
 to lease or rent said now plantation
 I now live on containing one hundred
 acres to the best advantage for my estate
 until my afore named sons fields
 & John arrive to twenty one years
 of age -

Ninthly - I give and bequeath unto my other
 two sons viz. Thamos Davis & Isaac
 Davis my afore said Plantation that
 I bought of William Ford to be divided
 equally between them when they arrive
 to wit. Thamos arrives to the age of twenty
 one years on conditions herein after
 named -

But nothing herein is meant, nor to
 be in any way so construed as to weaken
 or lessen the right claim or interest
 that my wife Sarah Davis has in

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said plantation for the time above stated for her to possess it but to be and remain free and clear of incumbrance to her for ever and hereafter for the term of time specified in the second section of this my last will and Testament.

Tenthly - I give and bequeath unto my two said sons Fields Davis & John Davis my three entries of land. The first one of thirty acres joining Beth Bobb the second one containing twenty acres joining Walter Clark in the large hollow. The third is ten acres on a big ridge to be divided equally between them on conditions here after specified when they arrive to the age of twenty one years -

Eleventhly - It is my desire and also my will that my three daughters Betty Davis, Nancy Davis and Hannah Davis have each an equal share and part of my estate, with my sons here to full named that is to say if there is a sufficiency of my movable estate to make the daughters share or parts equal with the sons taking in consideration the value of the within mentioned lands and if there shall be more of the movable estate beside the lands divided equally amongst sons and daughters and if there is not a sufficiency beside the lands and in that case the same to pay to the daughters an equivalent to the value of their respective shares of land so as to make all

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of their respective shares equal to
 the named and done by my Executors
 and their direction—
 Twelfthly I do give and bequith unto Samuel
 Davis all the price and the profit
 of the Plantation which he sold to
 Abner Bobb where he the said
 Samuel Davis now lives and
 further I give and sell unto
 said Samuel Davis when fin-
 ished a new wagon I now
 have in Joseph Burness Smith
 shop—

Thirteenth It is my will and desire that my
 two Negro girls Bal and Cate be
 bind out by the direction of my
 Executors. until they arrive to the age
 of twenty five years, Bal's age is
 now twenty years, Cate's age seven-
 teen years at this time and the
 profits thereof to be the profits of
 my estate, and when the said
 Bal and Cate arrive to the age of
 twenty five years as aforesaid then
 they are to be free and each of them
 are to have two good suits of clothe
 at the time they come out free
 to be provided out of my estate and
 if my two above named Negro girls
 with Bal and Cate within the time
 of being bind out as above stated
 have any children or issue, it is
 my will that such children be
 bound out by my Executors as the
 law prescribes in case of free children
 and if male to be put to some
 good usefull trade until they
 arrive to twenty years of age and
 then be forever free—

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fourteenth It is also my desire and will that my three Black boys viz Dick Jerry and Rood the children of said Oak and Cote to be bound out to good suitable places by my executors to learn. The full art and mystery of the Black Smith trade untill they arrive to the age of twenty one years, and then to be bind out untill they arrive to the age of twenty five years by direction of my Executors and the profits arising from said hire, to be the profits of my Estate and the said Dick now five years old and said Jerry now two years and six months old & said Rood now one year and six months old to be forever free from my heirs Executors, &c.

fifteenth It is also my will and I give and pronounce my black boy named Isaac who I left in my mother Sarah Davies possession to be entirely free at the age of twenty one years of age. from my heirs Executors or any person claiming by or order any of them said Isaac is seventeen years old.

sixteenth It is also my will that Tom my old black man shall never be sold nor descend onto any of my heirs; as a slave. but his earnings to be for his use and support and hereby I direct my Executors to appoint a suitable person to act as a Guardian for him or tend to it them selves —

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Seventeenth- Be it known that the above named Negro boys cannot be got to the Black Smith Trade as before mentioned that in that case only. They are either of them which may have no such a place may be bound out to some other good Trade agreeable to the directions of my Executors and to the before mentioned conditions in this case -

Eighteenth- It is my will and directions that my Executors appoint suitable agents (if practicable) to see to the rights and liberties of my above named Negroes at the specified times prescribed in this my will -

Nineteenth- It is also my will and directions that my Executors use their best endeavours to put and place each of my blood family in suitable families to have virtuous principles impressed on their minds &c and at the time of binding out any of the children above alluded to, it is my will and direction that my Executors do make arrangements to have them educated at least so far as to read the scriptures intelligibly -

Twentieth- It is my will and direction that my above named sons and daughters be school educated (if practicable) as far as my Executors may judge right and the expenses thereof paid out of my movable estate -

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Lastly- I do constitute make and ordain my trusty friends James Jones and Hugh Carter my sole & absolute Executors of this my last will and Testament and I do hereby revoke, Disallow and disannul, all and ever other former will and Testament Legacies, requests and Executurs by me in any way named, willed or bequeathed hereby ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and Testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Seal this sixteenth day of April in the year of our Lord one Thousand Eight hundred and twenty three - Interlined before signed.

Signed Sealed and pronounced. —

By me the said Jesse Davis. —

In the presence of —
 Henry Gaskly, Junr
 Asaiah Jones
 James Jones

Jesse Davis 