

John Gragg's Last Will

In the name of God Amen I John Gragg Senr of the State of Tennessee Lincoln County calling to mind the mortality of all men & the shortness of time here & wishing to arrange all my earthly affairs before this change may come; And being now in my right mind do hereby make this my last will and Testament. And in doing this, it is my will that after my decease, all my just & lawful debts be paid. I also will and bequeath to my beloved wife Jane Gragg as her forever my negro man named Adam & negro woman named Liza, her son Robin, & one hundred and fifty dollars which she now holds in cash, this property to be exclusively her own & at her disposal at any time as she may think proper, either during her life time or at her death. And I do also will and bequeath to my beloved wife all the plantation on which I now live, together with all the stock of every kind, plantations tools & wagons, & household and kitchen furniture & my negro man Elford to be hers during her natural lifetime or widowhood. I also will & bequeath to my two daughters Eliza Jane Gragg & Elizabeth Gragg, one horse and saddle apiece to be given to them out of the property left to my beloved wife when they may marry or leave their mother, or at their mother's death should she die before this, & also one bed & furniture. I also will & bequeath to my son John W. Gragg, this plantation on which I now live to (be) his, after his mother's death. Provided he may then at that time choose to give the sum of five hundred & fifty dollars, for this place, the whole of the money to be paid within two years after his mother's death, his own part of this money excluded or not to be paid to the other legacies but if he does not choose to take this land at this price, it shall be sold & an equal division made of it. And I also will that after my beloved wife's death, all the stock of every kind, & all the plantation tools, household & kitchen furniture be sold & the proceeds of this, together with the price of the land be equally divided among all my children & also my negro man Elford to be sold & disposed of as to his price in the same way among the children. And I appoint my son John W. Gragg & wife Jane Gragg the Executor & Executrix of this my last will & Testament.

This 24th July 1842

John Gragg

This will is now signed in the presence of the following witnesses

Henry Boyson

Robert M. Collier

Proven by Henry Boyson at the November Term 1842 of the Lincoln County Court

James Russell's Last Will

I James Russell make and publish this as my last will and Testament hereby revoking and making void all other wills by me at any time made. I direct that the law of the land shall be my will except first that the property of which I dispossess instead of being sold as directed by law shall be divided among the heirs

Secondly that Mary my wife shall have an absolute right to the negro slaves Tom and Maria and also a right for her natural life to the negro girl Beliza and a sufficiency of the stock and also to have at her disposal all the house hold and kitchen furniture and the farming utensils.

Thirdly that my son William Alexander shall have one thousand dollars less than the remaining heirs.

Fourthly that my daughter Christiana Jane shall receive one hundred dollars and John Cavan and David Whitfield shall together receive one hundred and twenty five dollars more than the remaining heirs.

In witness whereof I do to this my will set my hand and seal this 24th October 1842

Signed and acknowledged
in our presence to be the last
will and Testament of James Russell
Senr the state above written

William B. M. Collier

John Gray

Proven and admitted to record at December Term 1842
of the Lincoln County Court