

1830 for probate, and John Brown & Cooper, the subscribing witnesses, being duly sworn, state that they saw the said testator sign & seal said will & heard him publish and declare the same to be his last will & testament and that they believed him to be at the time of signing sealing publishing & declaring the same to be of sound mind & memory
 recorded March 5th 1830,
 Price M Garner Clerk

John Gurdyers Last Will

In the name of God Amen I John Gurdyer of the State of Tennessee and County of Lincoln, being sick of body but of perfect memory, thanks be to God; calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain this my last will and testament, that is to say, principally and first of all, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God; that gave it, and my body to the earth to be buried in a decent Christian manner at the discretion of my friends nothing doubting but at the ^{general} resurrection, I shall receive the same again by the almighty power of God, and as touching my worldly estate, wherein I have it has pleased God to bless me with in this life, in the first place which my debts to be paid out of my property & the second is I give unto Elizabeth Tharpe one negro girl named Mary after the death of my wife in the third place I give unto my mother Nancy Weather if she is alive at this date ten dollars in the fourth place I leave all the balance of my property unto my wife Nancy to dispose of as she thinks proper, except my negro man named Frank, which at her death shall go to him his children provided he is decent & servant, if not she may dispose of him as she thinks proper, signed & acknowledged in the presence of the subscribers this 13th day of December 1829.

Attest
 Francis Patton

State of Tennessee

Lincoln County Court I Price M Garner Clerk of said Court certify that the foregoing last will & testament of John Gurdyer, deceased was pronounced before me the day of Jan'y 1830 for probate & that Henry & Francis Patton the subscribing witnesses thereto being duly sworn, state that they saw the said testator sign & seal said will & heard him publish & declare the same to be his last will & testament & that they believed him to be at the time of signing sealing publishing & declaring the same to be of sound mind & memory
 Price M Garner Clerk
 recorded March 5th 1830

State of Tennessee Lincoln County June 1st in the year of our Lord 1829 On the name of God Amen, I Benjamin Merrill of the State and County of said, being now of perfect mind and memory, thanks be unto God, calling to mind knowing it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain, this my last will and testament, that is to say, principally and first of all, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God; that gave it, and my body I commend to the earth, to be buried in a decent Christian burial, at the discretion of my executors, nothing doubting, at the general resurrection, I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God and trusting such worldly estate wherein it has pleased God to bless me with in this life, I give and bequeath the same in the following manner, from first I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Susan Merrill the house and plantation on which I now live, to maintain her and her children during her widowhood and she keeps the children together, and if she marries and scatters the children, then the land and plantation to be sold and equally divided with Polly Calvert Margaret Merrill, Nancy Merrill Benjamin, & Helen, and if Susan do not marry till the youngest child comes of age, then the land to be sold, I do leave her a share with the above named, likewise I will to have one bed & furniture and one cow and calf, and have them sufficient to maintain them for twelve months, likewise I will my daughter Margaret Merrill, her bed & furniture & her horse & cow & calf as they are now called likewise I will Nancy Merrill and her children Andrew Merrill the sum of ten dollars for the benefit of them, also I will to my daughter Nancy one bed & furniture and I will to my son Benji my youngest child a saddle and I will to my daughter Helen, the little Brindle heifer & I do appoint my son John Merrill to administer on the balance of my estate, and sell all the balance of my property, and also sell my negro man Matt and when the money is collected make an equal divide with all of my children & wife that is a living at that time after debts & charges are satisfied & I further appoint my son John Merrill, sole executor of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all other wills by me made in writing wherein I have unto said my head and seal the day & date above written
 Benjamin Merrill

Witnessed and attested by the above named Benji Merrill to his last will & testament in the presence of us who have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses in the presence of the testator