

Early Term 1860

James Melvins Will

I James Melvin with a sound mind and disposed do publish this my last will and testament

{ First } I direct direct that my wife Stacy Melvin if she outlives that every thing remain as it is what money is in her hands to have it to use in the best way she can to live upon

{ Second } I will to James R Melvin one hundred and sixty acres of land { Thirdly } I will to Susan & Mahala Melvin Eighty acres of land on the upper end of the farm including the house I now live in including one acre and a half to be included in the eighty acres with access to the spring and orchard after the death of James & Stacy Melvin Susan and Mahala is to have one cow and one horse apiece or its equivalent if any money or property left to be divided equal except that seventeen acres above Bashors which I will to Mary Brothers { Lastly } I do hereby nominate and appoint James R Melvin my executor this the 28th of January 1860

James Melvin (seal)

Witnessed this 15th of February 1860

Amariah Peoples

Wm C Melvin

The foregoing Will being duly proven in open Court at July Term 1860 by the Oath of Amariah Peoples and Wm C Melvin the Subscribing was signed there to and ordered to be recorded and

James R Melvin the Executor then in named appeared in open Court and being duly qualified gave Bond and approved Security

R. H. Conley Clerk

Joseph Duncans Will

State of Tennessee

Washington County } In the name of God amen
We Joseph Duncan senior and my wife Polly Duncan whose maiden name was Allison being sound in mind & memory being mindful reminded of the certainty of death and for the and for the natural love and affection that we have for our children make this our last will and testament

Joseph Duncans Will

{ First } we commit our souls to God who gave them & our bodies to be Christianly & Decently Interred

{ To the end } that this will may be plain & avoid any doubtful construction of it we premise that some years past a conditional arrangement was made with our son Robert O Duncan to sell him the farm whereon he now resides whereas the condition on which that arrangement was based has not been complied with by the sd Robert O Duncan in full and in view of the enhanced value of the sd farm that has accrued to it since the date of the aforesaid conditional contract was made and in obedience to our joint will & parental desire to do equity justice to all of our children we do hereby revoke all the obligations of sd contract in the premises and in its details and provide for him and all the rest of our children as is hereinafter mentioned { Item first } we bequeath to our son Robert O Duncan the amount of money that he has paid to Frederick Carvult at the date when he assumed said debt we allow him no interest on sd sum of money because he has had the use of the farm on which he lives free of rent & as a further consideration to him in lieu of interest on the sd sum of money paid out as aforesaid we hereby will him the use of sd farm untill it may be sold and if not sold in the lifetime of us or even the testator in the case he shall have the use of it till the death of the sd Joseph Duncan senior the testator in this will free of rent and he shall keep the farm in repairs free of charge

{ Item second } we bequeath to our son Samuel C Duncan the sum of seven hundred dollars as a full recompence for the time he has laboured on our home farm and for his attention to us since he became of age { Item third } we bequeath to our son Nelson Duncan the three hundred dollars as a full compensation for his attention to us since the death of his wife { Item fourth } in order to pay the foregoing bequests and to enable the other provisions of this our joint will and testament to be carried out or executed we jointly will and ordain that all our real estate Rail Road stock and any or all other property real or personal and chose in action except our slave Sarah & her children be sold by our executor after the death of the testator in this will and after our executor shall have paid off the foregoing bequests in the first place and after he shall have paid all our just debts then he shall divide the remainder of the proceeds of our estate equally among all our children { viz } Rachel Duncan Robert Duncan James M. Adams Joseph Duncan James W. Duncan John B. Duncan Allison Duncan Mary C Duncan Samuel B. Duncan after deducting receipts for