

Laurens County, S. C. Courthouse  
Box 111 Pkg 20 Probate Office

In the Name of God, Amen: I, John Nickels, of the District of Laurens and the State of South Carolina, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, do make, constitute and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following--that is to say

First - It is my will and desire that all my just debts be paid as soon after my death as may be practicable.

Second - It is my will and desire that as soon after my death, as the money can be collected, either from debts due me or the proceeds of the Farm, there shall be made up and paid to each of my daughters, Catherine N. Holmes, Mary E. Anderson, and Isabella Jane Wright, the sum of two thousand dollars, provided however that any money, they or either of them, or their husbands may have previously received from me, or debts paid for them by me, shall be considered and reckoned in as making a part or whole of said sum of two thousand dollars as the case may be.

Third - I give and bequeath to my daughter, Isabella Jane Wright, household and Kitchen furniture, stock, etc, to an amount equal that given to either of my other daughters at the direction of my wife to be delivered to her when called for.

Fourth - I give and bequeath all the rest and residue of my estate, real and personal, to my beloved wife, Jane Nickels, during her natural life, and at her death, I give and bequeath to Dr. John W. Simpson, the following negroes, to wit: a woman named Rachel with her children Eveline, Jackson, Preston, Perry and Cornelia; also a man named Fielding and his wife Penna with their children, Simon, Jefferson, Isaac, Jane, Creecy and Fielding. Hester, a woman and her daughter, Ellen with her children, Baizilla, Andrew and Othella Margaret. Also, a negro man Jim and his two brothers, Joseph and Isaac; a man named Claborn; a man named Jim Wynn and a woman named Polley, in trust for the use and benefit of my daughter, Catherine N. Holmes, during her natural life and at her death the said negroes to be disposed of as follows, to wit: one



half of the increase to belong to her husband and all the above named negroes and the remainder of their increase to be equally divided amongst her children, the child or children of a deceased child to take the share to which the deceased parent, if living, would be entitled, but should she die without leaving a husband or child, or children surviving her, or the child or children of a deceased child, then it is my will and desire that all of the aforesaid negroes, with their whole increase, be equally divided between my other two daughters, Mary E. and Isabella Jane, if living, and if either be dead, leaving no child or children then surviving, then the whole to go to the last survivor, but if either be dead, leaving a child or children living, then such child or children to take the share to which their mother, if living, would be entitled and if my said daughter, Catherine N. Holmes, should die leaving no child or children living, nor child or children of a deceased child, but should leave a husband, then it is my will and desire that such husband should have and take one half of the increase of the aforesaid negroes and all the ballance of the increase, with the negroes named in this clause, shall be disposed of as is herein provided in the event of my said daughter dying without leaving a husband, child or children, or the child or children of a deceased child. And it is further my will that my said daughter, Catherine N. Holmes, shall have the possession and use of the said aforesaid negroes and their increase (after the termination of the life estate of my wife) during her natural life. But the said negroes and increase in no event to be subject to the debts or contracts of her present or future husband ...after the death of my wife.

Fifth - I give and bequeath to Dr. John W. Simpson, the following negroes, to wit: A man named Edmond and his wife, Peggy, with her children, Tom, Aggy, and Anthony; Moriah and her child, Emily; also a woman named Big Lucy and her daughter, Mira, with her children, Simeon, Sally Ann and Lenides; a woman named Little Lucy with her children Nancy, David and Jarrat. William, a man and his wife, Moriah, with two of their sons, Jackson and Bluford, together with



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their future increase, in trust for the use and benefit of my daughter, Mary E. Anderson, during her natural life and at her death to be disposed of as follows, to wit: one-half of the increase of the same to belong to her husband. And all the above named negroes, with their increase, to be equally divided amongst her children, child or children of a deceased child to take the share to which their parent should have been entitled if living. But should my said daughter die without leaving a husband or child or children surviving her, the child or children of a deceased child, then it is my will and desire that all the aforesaid negroes, with their whole increase, be equally divided between my two other daughters, Catherine N. Holmes and Isabella Jane Wright, if living, and if either be dead, without a child or children surviving her, then the whole to go to the survivor, but if either be dead, leaving a child or children living, then such child or children to take the share of said negroes and their increase to which their mother, if living, would be entitled; and if my said daughter Mary, should die leaving no child or children, nor the child or children of a deceased child surviving her, but should leave a husband, then it is my will and desire that her said husband should take and have one-half of the increase of said negroes and all of the ballance should be disposed of as is provided in the case of my said daughter dying without leaving a husband, child or children or grandchildren surviving her. And further it is my will that my said daughter, Mary E. Anderson, may have the possession and use of the said negroes and their increase during her life, the same in no event to be liable for any debt or contract of her present or any future husband.

Sixth - I give and bequeath to Dr. John W. Simpson, after the death of my wife, the following negroes, to wit: Noah, a man and his wife, Betsy with her children, William, Henry, David, Martha, Adeline, Lucinda, Lewis, Odella and Laura. Also, a woman named Hetty Ann, with her children, Parthena, Frances, Milly Sophia and Matilda. A woman named Sylvia with her children, Jim, a man, Calvin, Henriette and her child, Louisa Frances, and Carolina with her child,



Fanny Jane, in trust for the use and benefit of my daughter, Isabella Jane Wright, during her natural life and at her death, the said negroes to be disposed of as follows, to wit: one-half of the increase to belong to her husband and all of the above named negroes, with the remainder of their increases to be equally divided amongst her children, (Note: the same conditions as quoted in the cases of the other two daughters, and which I shall not copy here)

Seventh - It is my will and desire that should any difference in value be apparent in the several lots of negroes, now bequeathed to Dr. John W. Simpson for the use and benefit of my said daughters, Catherine N. Holmes, Mary E. Anderson and Isabella Jane Wright, at the time the same shall come into possession, the several lots to be valued and the difference made up to those having less valuable portions out of the remainder of my estate before the final division of the same.

Eighth - After the death of my wife, Jane Nickels, I will and direct that my real estate in Laurens District be divided and laid off into three equal parts or tracts as near as may be and to be valued.. one of which tracts I give and bequeath to each of my said daughters, Catherine N. Holmes, Mary E. Anderson and Isabella Jane Wright, during their respective lives and at their death, their respective parts of said land to be equally divided ...(amongst their children?? torn and cannot read) but should either of my said daughters die without leaving a child or children surviving them or grandchildren, then the tract or parcel of land herein bequeathed to such of them as may so die to be disposed of in the same manner and to be subject to the same limitations as are provided in the fourth, fifth and sixth clauses of this will, relative to the negroes therein bequeathed and mentioned, provided however that the husband or husbands of my said daughters are to take no part of the said real estate on the death of either of my said daughters. And I do further direct that if the part or tract of land laid off to either of my said daughters should exceed in value that of the others or either of them, the difference in value is to be made up out of the residue of my estate thereof so that each may be equal.



Ninth - It is my will and desire that all the rest and residue of my estate, after the death of my wife, be sold by my executor and the proceeds thereof be equally divided amongst my three daughters, Catherine N. Holmes, Mary E. Anderson and Isabella Jane Wright, except my Railroad and Bank stock, which is to be divided amongst them equally without sale.

Lastly - I do hereby nominate, constitute and appoint Dr. John W. Simpson my executor of this my last will and testament. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 25 day of February in the year of our Lord 1848.

John Nickels (seal)

Witness:

Willis Benham  
J. H. Lockhardt  
William F. Martin

(Will probated 23 October 1850)



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