

## **The will of John Berry Rainwater, 1820-1910, Washington Co., AR**

28 Feb 1907, Washington Co., Arkansas

I, J. B. Rainwater of Washington County, Arkansas, being of lawful age, and of sound mind and memory, and desiring to make provision for the settlement of my affairs and the distribution of my estate after my death, do make, publish and declare this my last will and testament.

First: I will and direct that my executors herein after named shall in a reasonable time after my death, sell all my personal property at public sale at such time and place, and on such terms, and after such notice as in their judgment shall be best. From the proceeds of such sale, they shall pay the necessary costs of sale, and all my just debts and liabilities, and all the expense of my last sickness and burial: and shall divide the remainder, if any, as follows.

**To my son, W. L. Rainwater, and to my daughters, Mrs. N. S. Jenkins, Mrs. Sarah Chryst, Mrs. Kate White, Mrs. Paralee George, and Mrs. Minnie Wolfsen** each one eighth; **to my grandchildren, Ruth Espolt, Mary Cline, Gretchen Cline, Helen Cline and Fern Cline** who are the children of **my deceased daughter, Susan Cline**, one eighth; and **to my granddaughter Agnes Ladd, and her husband J. F. Ladd**, one eighth and whatever money I may have on hand shall be divided in the same way.

Second: I have heretofore made advancements to **my son, H. S. Rainwater**, to the full amount of his interest in my estate, and for that reason do not make any further provisions for him in this will.

Third: I have given to **my daughter Mrs. Sarah Chryst** forty acres of land in Washington Co., Arkansas, described as the Southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section twenty-one, township seventeen, range thirty, at a valuation of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250), which shall be charged to her in the division of my land hereinafter mentioned.

Fourth: I will and direct that my executors shall sell the following land, or such part of it as I may own at the time of my death, to-wit:

The south half of the northwest quarter, and the north half of the southwest quarter of section twenty-six, in township seventeen, range thirty in Washington Co., Arkansas, one hundred and sixty acres.

They shall have power and authority to sell said land at either public or private sale, as in their judgment may be best, and on such terms as they may think most advantageous to my estate.

From the proceeds of such sale they shall pay my debts and liabilities not paid from the proceeds of my personal property, if any, and divide the remainder as follows.

To **my son W. L. Rainwater**, and to **my daughters, N. S. Jenkins, Kate White, Paralee George, Minnie Wolfsen** two hundred and sixty dollars each (\$260). To **my five grandchildren, Ruth Espolt, Mary Cline, Gretchen Cline, Helen Cline and Fern Cline, who are the sole children of my deceased daughter, [Susan] Cline**, fifty dollars each (\$50), and to **my granddaughter Agnes Ladd and her husband, J. F. Ladd**, one hundred and twenty-five dollars each (\$125); and the remainder, if any, shall be divided equally among **my children, W. L. Rainwater, N. S. Jenkins, Sarah Chryst, Kate White, Paralee George, Minnie Wolfsen, and my grandchildren, Ruth Espolt, Mary Cline, Gretchen Cline, Helen Cline and Fern Cline, and my granddaughter Agnes Ladd and her husband James F. Ladd**, Giving to my said five grand children all together one eighth, to be divided equally among them, and to **Agnes Ladd, and James F. Ladd**, one eighth to be divided equally between them.

Fifth, I will and direct that **my son-in-law John C George** shall have possession and control of my land from the time of my death until it is sold for which he shall pay the taxes on the land, and such rent as may be reasonable in the judgment of my executors, to be divided as I have directed in him first of this will.

Sixth: Reposing full faith and confidence in **John C. George and James F. Ladd**, I hereby name and appoint them as executors of my last will and testament.

Seventh: In making this will I have endeavored to deal fairly and impartially with all of my children; and when I am gone I request them to accept what little I am able to leave them without complaint and dissatisfaction.

Witness my hand and seal this 28th day of February, 1907  
J. B. Rainwater, (Seal)

Executed in presence of R. J. Wilson, J. H. Hudelson, C. P. Stearns

*Transcription by Terry Dee Spradlin*