

The Will of Rev. James Rainwater, 1795-1871, Campbell Co., GA

Campbell Co., GA

Georgia Will Book "B" , pages 58-62

State of Georgia, Campbell County. In the name of God, Amen. I, **James Rainwater**, of said county being of sound and disposing mind and memory but sensibly impressed with the uncertainty of life and being desirous of making some disposition of what property God hath blessed me with do make, ordain, and publish this to be my last will and testament, hereby revoking all others heretofore made by me.

Item First. I give and bequeath to my beloved wife, **Nancy A. Rainwater**, one hundred and seventy acres of land to wit the west half of the lot of land on which my house where I now reside stands and to include said houses; and seventy five acres of land immediately west and adjoining to said one hundred acres. This I give and bequeath to her for and during her natural life or widowhood.

Item Second. I also give and bequeath to my said wife, **Nancy A. Rainwater**, the following household furniture: one folding table, one cupboard, one bedstead and one half dozen chairs, with such cooking utensils as may be necessary; also one cow and calf and farming implements for one horse, and also necessary table furniture. The bequests in this second item are given under the same restrictions as in the first item.

Item Third. I also give and bequeath to my said wife all my right, title and interest in two negroes to wit, **Morgan and Alsie**, and also one bed and furniture with one years provisions; these I give to her and her heirs forever.

Item Fourth. Having heretofore given my daughter, **Emily Golightly**, one thousand dollars in money and provisions, I hereby confirm the same to her and her heirs forever and I also now give and bequeath to her an equal proportion of my estate with the rest of my children after they have received money and property to the amount of one thousand dollars.

Item Fifth. Having heretofore given my son, **Z. Miles Rainwater**, deceased, one thousand dollars in money and provisions, I hereby confirm the same. I also now bequeath to his wife, **Lilly Ann**, and their five children an equal proportion of my estate with the rest of my children after they have received money and property to the amount of one thousand dollars.

Item Sixth. Having heretofore given my son, **Joseph Rainwater**, one thousand dollars in money, I hereby confirm the same to him and his heirs forever. I also now give and bequeath to him an equal proportion of my estate after the rest of my children shall have received money and property to the amount of one thousand dollars.

Item Seventh. Having heretofore given my daughter, **Clary Sanders**, four hundred dollars in money and property I hereby confirm the same to her and her heirs forever. I also now give and bequeath to her six hundred dollars and an equal proportion of my estate after the rest of my children shall have received one thousand dollars in property or money.

Item Eighth. Having heretofore given my daughter, **Sarah Moseley**, four hundred dollars in money, I hereby confirm the same to her and her heirs forever. I also now give and bequeath to her six hundred dollars and an equal proportion of my estate with the rest of my children after they have received money and property to the amount of one thousand dollars.

Item Ninth. Having heretofore given to my daughter, **Christina Sanders**, three hundred dollars I hereby confirm the same to her and her heirs forever. I now give and bequeath to her and her heirs seven hundred dollars and an equal proportion of my estate after the rest of my children shall receive money or property to the amount of one thousand dollars.

Item Tenth. Having heretofore given to my daughter, **Frances Miller**, and her three children two hundred dollars, I hereby confirm the same to her and her heirs forever. I also now give and bequeath to her and her heirs eight hundred dollars and an equal proportion of my estate with the rest of my children after they shall have received in money or property the sum of one thousand dollars.

Item Eleventh. I give and bequeath to my daughter, **Catharine E. Rainwater**, one thousand dollars and an equal proportion of my estate after the rest of my children have received money or property to the amount of one thousand dollars.

Item Twelfth. Having heretofore given my daughter, **Martha Segar**, one thousand dollars I hereby confirm the same to her and her heirs forever. I now give and bequeath to her an equal proportion of my estate after the rest of my children shall receive money or property to the amount of one thousand dollars.

Item Thirteenth. I do hereby nominate and appoint my son, **Joseph Rainwater**, and my sons in law, **Jessie Moseley, G. H. Sanders, and Pierce Sewell** my executors to this last will and testament contained in this and foregoing items.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this the 10th day of January 1865.

Signed, sealed, and acknowledged and published in our presence and we have witnessed the same at the request of James Rainwater and have signed and witnessed the same in his presence. Interlined (?) before signed.

James Rainwater, Test.

[Witnesses] G. T. Camp, Abraham Miller, Wiley Steed

*Transcribed and contributed by Erin Leongomez
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NOTES

Nancy A. Dobbs Rainwater was James' second wife. Most of her bequest was for her natural life and was to be divided among James' children after her death. Nancy had at least 2 children of her own: Sarah L. Dobbs (born about 1847 and married to Romulus Cook in Campbell Co., GA) and Zachariah Dobbs (born about 1848).

Elizabeth Rainwater Sewell was not mentioned in the will, which was written in 1865. She died a few months before James in 1871. Her husband, Pierce Sewell, was listed as an executor. One possible reason that Elizabeth was excluded was that Pierce was reasonably well-to-do: in the 1860 census his real estate was valued at \$6000 and his personal property at \$2000.

Christina Rainwater Sanders, who was mentioned, died after the will was written and before it was executed in 1871. Her husband, G. H. Sanders, was listed as an executor.

Witness Abraham Miller was the father-in-law to James Rainwater's widowed daughter, Frances E. Rainwater Miller.

James Rainwater's son, Joseph Rainwater, and son-in-law, Jesse Moseley (husband of Sarah Rainwater Moseley), were both listed as executors and were both living in Wood Co., TX at the time of James' death.

It is not known if Benjamin F. Rainwater, James' son, was living although he was not mentioned. A B. F. Rainwater, age 22 (which was approximately the correct age), is listed with James' daughter, Sarah Moseley, and her family in the 1860 census of Wood Co., TX. Benjamin is supposed to have shot and killed his older brother, Z. Miles, in 1857 in Campbell Co., GA.