

The Last Will and Testament of Nelson Powell (c.1785-1825)

In the name of God Amen, I Nelson Powell of the State of Georgia and the County of Wilkes being in a low state of health but of sound and disposing mind, thanks be to Almighty God for the same do make and ordain this as my last Will and Testament. First of all I Recommend my Soul unto the hands of Almighty God who gave it, and my body to the Earth to be buried in a decent Christian manner. And as for what worldly goods it has pleased God to bless me with I give and bequeath in the following manner

1st. It is my wish and desire that all my just debts be paid.

2nd. I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife NANCY POWELL to dispose of as she may think proper the following named negros that is CAESAR, TOM, and EMILY also the tract of land whereon I now reside during her natural life, and at the time of her death to be disposed of to the benefit of our herein after named children equally that is SARAHAN [SARAH ANN] POWELL, WILLIS POWELL, and TABITHA POWELL, it is also my wish and desire that my said wife shall keep all the rest and residue of my Estate both real and personal together during her lifetime or widowhood and that my aforesaid children be raised and educated of the proceeds or income of my Estate.

3rd. It is my wish and desire that if my said wife shall marry or mismanage my Estate to the injury of my aforesaid children that my Executors should take the management of my Estate both real and personal and manage it to the best advantage for my aforesaid children and that as my children may come of age there shall be an estimate made by an appraisement of my Estate and they secure then proper [illegible word] part and if my Executors should think it best to sell any of my landed property they may do so the satisfy any lawful debt or debts.

4th. I do hereby constitute and appoint my Brother BENJAMIN POWELL and my Brother-in-law JESSE WILLIAMS and my two friends JOHN H. DYSON and JOHN W. COOPER as my Executors to this my last Will and Testament.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty second day of February Eighteen hundred and twenty five.

Test

JOSEPH W. COOPER

JAMES BURDETT

Jno. W. COOPER J.J.C.

NELSON POWELL (seal)

(This will was probated March 25, 1825.)