

I Sampson Pelter of the County of Augusta State of Virginia being of sound mind and competent to make a disposition of my Estate doth make this my last will and testament this 24<sup>th</sup> day of November Eighteen hundred & fifty-six as follows: viz.

1<sup>st</sup>. I will and bequeath to my son Geo. the [old?] Farm East of the South River containing about three hundred & fifteen acres also the mountain Farm known as the Rockfish Gap stand at present ocupide and in posestion of Mrs. Nancy Pelter containing about [237 or 257?] acres more or less.

2<sup>d</sup>. I will and bequeth to my son Joseph the old Tomas farm, on south river now ocupide by him containing about 670 acres more or less, also the Creek Farm or Baskin Place containing about 237 acres more or less.

3<sup>d</sup>. I will and bequeth to my son James the use and benefit of the Farm on South River known as the Tomas & Croft Place which he now is in the ocupancy of containing about 312 acres during his natural life.

4. I will and bequeath to my son Saml. the use and benefit of the Home Place which I now ocupy containing about 340 acres during his natural life.

5<sup>th</sup>. I will and bequeth to my daughter Nancy Kramer the sum of Five Dollars.

I furthermore direct that my son Geo. shall have full possession use and benefit of all the real and

[page 2]

personal estate that I may die in posestion of for the time of ten years, for the purpose of paying what debts I may owe – with the exseption of the Farms heretofore named and spesified and willd to my son Joseph, James, & Saml. Exsept that portion of James Place which was bot of Tomas containg about 162 acres also exsept Samuel's Place which I wish my son George also to have the use of for the time of ten years as before mention<sup>d</sup>. I direct that all of my personal property shall be inventoried and valued by 5 disinterested free holders and at the expiration of the said term of ten years to be accounted for and disposed of as hereinafter named exsept what may perish or naturaly decay and ware out.

I direct that my Executor hereinafter named shall sell at public sale all the personal estate that may be left after the expiration of the 10 years exsept my slaves which I direct that they shall be valued as the personal property above named by 5 disinterested freeholders and equally divided between Geo, Joseph, James, & Samuel. James and Saml only to have the use and benefit of said slaves during their natural life the slaves which I hold as such (in all cases) I exsept John, Junius, and Abraham, which I wish my son Geo to take charge of, hold, & protect until they arrive at the age of 21 years, at which time if they wish to remove to a free state. I direct my Executor to sell the land adjoining the town of Waynesboro, esti-

[page3]

mated to be 60 acres, and invest 2/3 of said amt in Land in such state they may think proper to settle in, the above amt of Land to be equally divided between the three named slaves, the Bal<sup>e</sup> or the other one third to be paid them equally in money. The Balance of my estate of whatever character or kind it may be at the expiration of the 10 years before mentioned, I will and bequethe to my son Geo. It is furthermore my desire and wish that my son Geo should never let my daughter Nancy Kramer whom I have bequethed Five Dollars suffer or want for the necessaries of Life, while he may live.

Should my son Geo, James, Joseph, and Saml or either of them die without issue, I direct what has been bequethed to them, shall be equally divided between the surviving Brothers – James & Saml for their use and benefit during their natural life. I also direct my son Geo shall pay the sum of one hundred dollars a year for the support of Saml for the 10 years that he has the plantation bequethed to him in posestion provided he may need that amt for his necessary support. I furthermore direct that my son Geo in whom I have entrusted with the payment of whatever debts I may owe shall discharge all said debts during the time of ten years. I also direct that he shall have the use of the Baskins on Creek Farm left to my son Jo<sup>s</sup> for the time of ten years the better to enable him to discharge

[page 4]

all of my liabilities.

I appoint as my Executors to this my last will my son George and Joseph Pelter of whom I require no security.

Sampson Pelter

Witness

Saml B. Brown

H. H. Peck

John Brown

Virginia S.S.

In Augusta County Court December 28<sup>th</sup> 1865

This Last will and Testament of Sampson Pelter dec<sup>d</sup> was presented in Court and proved by the oath of Henry H. Peck one of the subscribing witnesses thereto and continued for further proof and Samuel B. Brown another subscribing witness to said will being now a resident of the State of Georgia. It is ordered that a commission issue according to law to be directed to any one authorized to take depositions to be annexed to the will of Sampson Pelter dec<sup>d</sup> in order that the testimony of the said Samuel B. Brown may be taken to complete the recordation of said will.

Teste

William A. Burnett, clk

In the County Court of Augusta March 28<sup>th</sup> 1866

This last will and Testament of Sampson Pelter dec<sup>d</sup> was again presented in Court and the

[page 5]

deposition of Samuel B. Brown another subscribing witness thereto having been taken and certified before Charles Grey a Justice of the Peace for the County of Houston in the State of Georgia, in pursuance of a commission issued by the clerk of this court on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of January 1866, and the said will having been fully proven it is ordered the same be recorded.

Teste

William A. Burnett, clk

In the County Court of Augusta May 28<sup>th</sup> 1866

Upon motion of Joseph Pelter named as one of the Executors in the last will and testament of Sampson Pelter dec<sup>d</sup> which will was fully proven and ordered to be recorded at the March term last of this court who made oath thereto according to law and entered into a bond in the sum of ten thousand dollars payable and with condition as required by law which bond was acknowledged in open court by the obligor thereto and ordered to be recorded. Certificate is granted the said Joseph Pelter for obtaining a probate of said will in due form. The Testator having requested by his last will that no security be required of his executors none is required by the Court. George Pelter the other executor named in said will having renounced his right to qualify and to take upon himself the burthen of its execution.

Teste

William A. Burnett, clk

Copy Teste

Joseph D. Woodward, d. clk.