

In the name of God Amen. I, Joseph White of the County of Dallas in the State of Texas, being sound in mind and memory, but being somewhat frail in body and being duly impressed with the transitory nature of all early things do hereby, at the town of Lancaster in said County on this the 21st day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand, eight hundred and seventy-eight, make, ordain and establish the following as for my last will and testament, that is to say,

First, after the payment of all my debts and liabilities, I hereby give, bequeath and devise unto my beloved wife Sally White all the real estate I may be seized and possessed of at the time of my death, to be held and possessed, used and occupied by her for the full time of her natural life; with remainder over to my children by her, to wit, to Jerry Lee White and Robert Simpson White to be divided equally between them at the time of the death of my said wife, the said Sally White.

Second, I hereby give and devise unto my children John Thompson White, Edwin Miller White, Emma Lissy Harris, Jerry Lee White, and Robert Simpson White all the personal property I may be seized and possessed of at the time of my death to be divided equally between them.

Third, because I have heretofore given unto my stepson William Wallace Knight, son of my former wife Sarah White, the following property, to wit, one wagon of the value of one hundred dollars, two yoke of oxen of the value of fifty dollars each, one hundred and ten dollars cash, and because the said property and money was and is a fair portion of and the full amount due to him from the property of his deceased mother, said Sarah White, therefore, it is my will that the said William Wallace Knight shall take nothing further from my estate he having left me at an early age after I had schooled and raised him and before he had ever returned me any equivalent therefore.

Fourth, because I have heretofore given unto my said sons John Thompson White and Edwin Miller White each sixty acres of land and two horses each of the value of seventy-five dollars and to my daughter Emma Lissy Harris of Denton County, Texas, one cow and calf, one bedstead, one feather bed and ample bed clothing at the time of her marriage, it is therefore my will that they should take nothing further from my estate than their portion of personal property above mentioned.

Fifth, it is my desire that the court of the county shall take no further action in regard to my estate except to prove and record this my last will as the law requires.

Sixth, I hereby nominate and appoint my said wife, the said Sally White and my son Edwin Miller White of Ellis County to be joint executors of this my last will.

In Witness Whereof, I have signed and sealed and published and declared the foregoing instrument as my last will at the said Town of Lancaster on this the said 21st day of June A.D. 1878.

Joseph White

The said Joseph White at said Town of Lancaster on the said 21st day of June A.D.1878, signed and sealed the above and foregoing instrument and published and declared the same as and for his last will, and we at his request and in his presence, and in the presence of each other have bound & subscribed our names as subscribing witnesses.

R. S. Guy

G. W. Hatter

I, Joseph White, named above in my last will, having lost my beloved wife Sally White who departed this life a short time since and desiring that my property should discard as stated in the foregoing will, do hereby appoint this as my codicil to the above as my last will. I desire that all the property that may be in my possession at the time of my death shall go just as designated in the above and foregoing will [following written above the line] with only the life estate of my said wife left. [to here] I do not desire to change it in any manner, but now that my said wife Sally White is dead, I hereby appoint my friend [unreadable name marked out] [following written above the line] J. A. White, R. S. White & Martha J. White [to here] ~~as sole~~ executor of my said last will and this my codicil to same. Witness my hand and seal this 14th day of May A.D. 1883. Done at the town of Lancaster, Dallas County, Texas, on the day and year last aforesaid.

Joseph White

We have signed this Codicil as witnesses at the request of the said Joseph White the interlinations being all written as appears and the said Joseph White acknowledged to us that the above codicil is his last will & is added because of the death of his wife & the removal of his son. The above was written as dated but the testator acknowledged to us that it was his will on this 24th day of April 1884.

[Note: In transcribing this will I see there are two sets of “interlinations” on the first codicil—one “with only the life estate of my said wife left” and the other with the names of J.A. White, R.S. White and Martha J. White. The two were clearly written by different persons. Since Martha J. White didn’t marry Joseph until August 1886, I find the second one rather suspect.]

R. S. Guy

Paul L. Henry

[very shaky handwriting] I, Joseph White do make and publish the following as a codicil to this my last will and testament. First, I wish and desire that my daughter Emily R. Staley take nothing under my will as I have advanced to her her full part and portion of my estate and more than she is entitled to out of her mother’s part of the community property of myself and my first wife – 2nd – I will and devise to my sons Jerre L. White and Robert S. White all my land in the C.C. Overton Survey in Dallas County Texas and I give to my wife Martha Jane White and my son Robert S. White all the personal property that I may die seized and possessed of.

Witness my hand this October 1st 1888.

Joseph White

Witnesses to codicil

Witnesses: M. Temmons