

**The Will of John Wesley Rainwater, 1808-1888, Bedford Co., TN**

Will Book 1 pg 771

I, **J. W. Rainwater** do make and publish my last will and testament, hereby unmaking all others made by me at any time heretofore.

1st, I request and [unreadable] executor pay off all debts due by me to anyone and to pay all my funeral expenses out of any monies that I may die possessed of, in that may first come into his hands.

Secondly, I will and bequeath **to my wife Polly** all of my landed estate and all personalty (after paying my debts and funeral expenses) during her natural life. And I desire to provide for a support for **my wife's sister, Elizabeth Adcock**. And to this end I direct that she make her home with my wife during the natural life of both of them and in the event that said Elizabeth Adcock should outlive of my wife, then I direct that she enjoy the same rights and privileges that I have above directed for my wife, that is, that she have full control of all my property both real and personal during her natural life with the privilege of selling any of the personal property that may be necessary for her support, as my wife shall have during her natural life.

Thirdly, I will and bequeath at the death of both **my wife Polly Rainwater and her sister Elizabeth Adcock** that my real estate be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder on one, two and three years' time with two approved [unreadable] with [unreadable] the land to secure the purchase money. And that my personal property if any be in hand be sold on twelve months' time in the same manner and at the same time that the land is sold and after paying expenses necessary in the winding up of said estate, I direct my Executor to divide the [unreadable] proceeds equally, one half to my nearest of kin and one half to my wife's nearest of kin, as the [ink blot] directs in such matters.

Fourthly, I direct my Executor (which should have been stated above) to place a marble slab at the head of my grave, also at my wife's grave with suitable inscriptions to mark the same. Also a slab to Elizabeth Adcock's grave.

Fifthly, I hereby nominate and appoint T. F. Smalling my Executor to carry out the directions above.

This April 7th 1888

**J. W. {his X mark} Rainwater**

We T. L. McCerney of Bell Buckle and R. A. Stover of Bell Buckle sign this instrument as witnesses in the presence of and at the request testator he having first signed the same in our presence, stating this to be his last will and testament, April 7th 1888

T. L. McCerney, R. A. Stover, J. W. Watson

*Transcribed from a photocopy of the original  
therainwatercollection.com document #1410*