

Last Will and Testament of James Ray Sr.

*Found in the basement of Jackson County Courthouse at Gainesboro,
Tennessee, and transcribed as near as possible to the form of the original Will.*

Found on pg. 3 of the book, Ray Connections by Della Pat Franklin – 1990

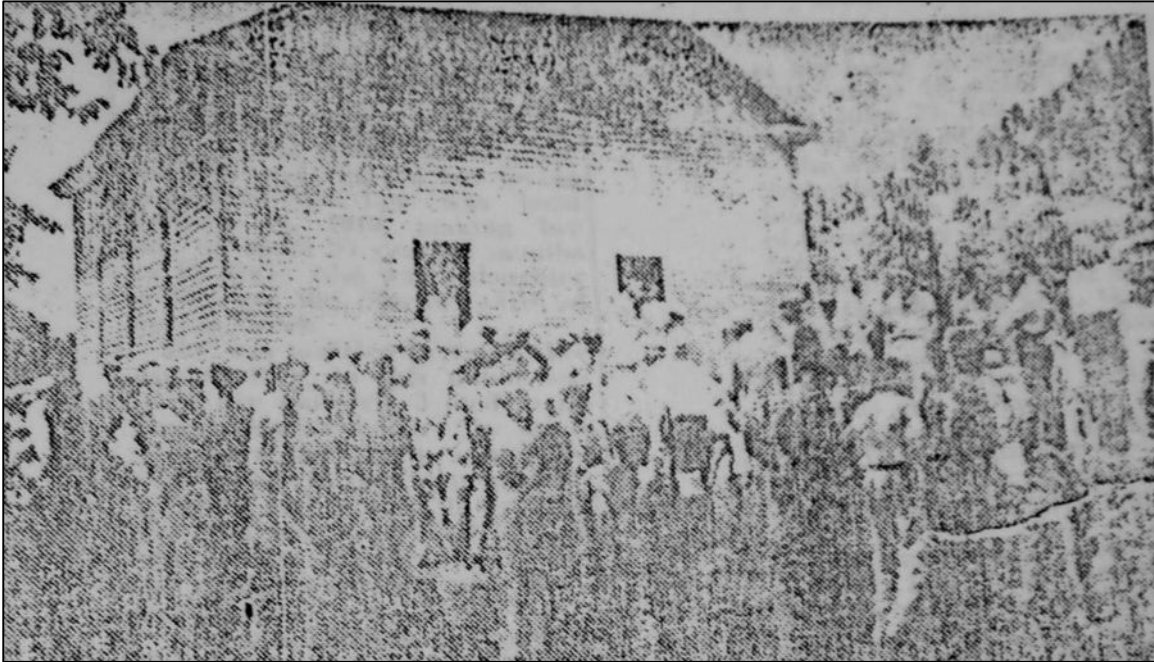
In the name of god amen

I James Ray Sr. of Jackson County and state of Tennessee being of sound and perfect mind & memory blessed be almighty god for the same and calling to mind the mortality of man that it is appointed for all men once to die I do 20th day of June 1810 made and publish this my last will and Testament in manner and form as follows (to wit) that is to say first of all I leave and bequeath to my Loving wife Jane Ray one half of all that inusage in parcel of land whereon I now live during her natural Life together with all my negroes and all my goods and chattels except such as is otherwise disposed in this will – I also leave and bequeath to my oldest daughter Mary _____ two dollars Also I leave and bequeath to my daughter Amelia Ray one horse and saddle two cows and bed and furniture, next I leave and bequeath to my three sons Rolston Ray one half of that inusage or parcel of land on which I now live one mare and her increase one bed and cow. And next I leave and bequeath to my fourth son William Ray to be his after the death of my wife Jane Ray that half of my land and tenement that I have given to her during her natural life and one horse and saddle and cow and bed – And next I leave and bequeath to my daughter Margaret Cunningham two dollars, and next I leave and bequeath to my granddaughter Mary White one horse worth fifty dollars and saddle worth fifteen dollars and two cows and next I leave and bequeath to my daughter Neoma one horse and saddle two cows and bed and furniture. And lastly all the Negroes all the goods and chattels then remaining on the premises at the Death of my wife Jane Ray to be equally divided between my four sons James Ray Joseph Ray Raulston Ray and William Ray and three daughters Martha Robertson Amelia Ray and Neoma Ray Legatees without making a sale if it can be done. And I hereby made and ordain my two sons James Ray and Joseph Ray Executors of this my last will and Testament in witness whereof I the same James Ray have to this my last will and Testament set my hand and seal year and day above written signed sealed published -----

James Ray (seal)

Signed sealed published and delivered by the said James Ray Sr.
Testator as his last will and Testament in presence of us who were present
at the time of signing and sealing thereof
Samuel Hannah
James McCall
William McCall
Proven by James M Call & Samuel Hannah
February Term 1816

A VIEW OF THE CROWD ATTENDING THE RAY REUNION:
THIS IS A SENTINEL PICTURE:



The above picture shows a small part of the crowd that attended the annual reunion of the Ray family at Camp Ground Church on Wartrace last Sunday. This was the fourth annual reunion of the Ray family and between seven and eight hundred people were present. The program of the day consisted of preaching and reading papers on the outstanding figure of the Ray family.

From John H. Ray of Franklin, Kentucky, who is 82 years old (and apparently much younger) we learned that in 1799 James Ray, with his family, migrated from Orange County, North Carolina, and settled in Jackson County near Highland. From this family have descended all the Rays in this section of the State and lower Kentucky. Many are located in the west, but most of his descendents will be found in Jackson and Sumner County Tennessee and Simpson County Kentucky.

We cannot dwell on the virtues of the individual Ray's, but as a family they are loyal, law abiding citizens and the county would be a better place with more of their kind.

Jackson County Sentinel, TN: Thursday, June 27, 1935.

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