

## Will and Estate of Ransom Seale

### Butler County, Alabama Will Book 1, page 173

State of Alabama  
Butler County

In the name of God Amen: I, Ransom Seale of the County and State aforesaid being of sound mind and memory and considering the uncertainty of Life and certainty of death, and being desirous of disposing of my Estate in time, do therefore make ordain and publish this to be my last Will and Testament, that is to say, First, after my funeral expenses and all other of my lawful and just debts are paid off and discharged the residue of my Estate Real Personal and mixed, I devise and bequeath as follows:

**First**, I ordain and publish the following persons to be my Legatees and they only, to wit **Elleanor Seale**, my wife - - **Susan A Clark**, wife of John Clarke and her bodily heirs, **Allen B Seale**, **Amelia Stein** wife of Robert Stein, **John W Seale**, **Lidia Stallings**, wife of Robert Stallings, **Abi Freeman**, wife of William Freeman, **Francis M Seale**, **Mary M Seale** and **Clara Seale**, all of which are my children (save my wife) who shall share and share alike in my Estate as hereinafter ordained and provided.;

**Secondly** It is my will and desire and it is hereby ordained that all my heirs to whom I have hitherto given my Property or to whom I have advanced any money, that they shall account for the same under the Law regulating advancements, now in force in this state, upon the Final Settlement of my Estate, and it is further my will and desire, the following heirs shall account to my Executors upon the final settlement of my Estate for the amounts I have heretofore given them as hereinafter specified, towit that Susan A Clark shall be charged with one Negro Lidia, valued at six hundred & 75 dollars and two hundred and fifty dollars in money; - - that Allen B Seale shall be charged with one Negro boy Sic, valued at twelve hundred dollars, that - - Amelia Stein wife of Robert Stein, shall be charged with one Negro woman and two children, valued at twelve hundred dollars; that John W Seale shall be charged with one Negro boy George , valued at twelve hundred dollars; - - that - - Lydia Stallings, wife of Robert Stallings shall be charged with one Negro woman Mariah and two children valued at twelve hundred dollars; that Abi Freeman, wife of William Freeman shall be charged with one Negro woman Rachel, valued at one thousand dollars, all of which property was given to said heirs as advancements, - - and it is further my will and desire that as soon as my other heirs arrive at majority that they shall each have advanced to them property of an equal value, or approximating near to it;

**Thirdly** it is my will and desire that all my Estate not hereintofore bequeathed or devised shall be kept together during the natural life of my beloved wife Elleanor Seale, unless the same shall be in a wasting condition, or that my Estate will be greatly injured thereby, and it is my will and desire that the proceeds made on my farms by my Negroes, and all other profits of my Estate while the same may be so kept together, shall be expended in the support, maintenance and education of my beloved wife Elleanor Seale and of my heirs not of age, and should there remain anything after my beloved wife Elleanor Seale shall have been comforted cared for annually, and my minor heirs shall also be educated and provided for then it is my will and desire that it be invested in real estate or some other property which shall be distributed as my other property. But if it should be deemed inexpedient and injurious to keep my Estate together, then it is my will and desire that my beloved wife Elleanor Seale shall have and hold during her natural life the following Negroes and their natural increase "in esse" and yet to be born "to wit", Caroline, Louisa, Comfort and Cherry, and after her death to revert back, and to be equally divided among my said heirs

**Fourthly**, it is my will and desire that whatever of my Estate Susan A Clark and her bodily heirs shall take (which I desire shall be one share) shall vest in Robert Stein and John W Seale, for the sole and separate use of the said Susan A Clarke and her bodily heirs forever, free from the control of her present or any future husband - - and it is further my will and desire that said Robert Stein and John W Seale, trustees as aforesaid, shall take immediate possession of whatever property the said Susan A Clark and her heirs may inherit by virtue hereof and manage the same as they may think proper, and apply the rents, profits and hires thereof to the support maintenance and education of the said Susan A Clark and her bodily heirs until her youngest child shall arrive at majority. Then it is my desire that the property held in trust at that time shall be equally divided among the said Susan and her bodily heirs then living.

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**Fifthly**, it is my will and desire that after all the advancements shall be equally legally and justly settled then all my heirs shall share and share alike in my Estate subject to the foregoing specifications. I likewise make, constitute and appoint Robert Stein and Allen B Seale to be executors of this my last will and Testament hereby revoking all former wills by me made.

Given under my hand and seal, this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of February A D 1862.

Ransom Seale

Signed sealed published and declared by the said Ransom Seale, as and for his last will and testament in presence of us, who at the request of said Ransom Seale and in his presence, have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses thereto.

Franklin Vickery  
Anderson Seale  
John Gamby

**State of Alabama  
Butler County**

In the Probate Court of Butler County in the matter of the Probate of the last Will and Testament of Ransom Seale Dec'd

Before me S J Bolling Judge of the said court personally appeared in open court Franklin Vickery and Anderson Seale, who having been by me first respectively duly sworn and examined did and do depose and on oath that they are subscribing witnesses to the instrument of writing now shewn to them and which purports to be the last Will and testament of Ransom Seale deceased late an inhabitant of this County, that said Ransom Seale since deceased signed and executed said instrument on the day the same bears date and declared the same to be his last Will and Testament; and that affiants set their signatures thereto on the day the same bears date as subscribing witnesses to the same in the presence of said Testator; that said Testator was of sound mind and disposing memory, and in the opinion of deponents fully capable of making his will at the time the same was so made aforesaid; affiants further state that said Testator was on the day of the <date?> of said Will of the age of twenty one years and upwards.

Sworn to and subscribed before me May 12<sup>th</sup> 1862,  
Saml J Bolling  
Judge of Probate

Anderson Seale  
Franklin Vickery

**Butler County, Alabama Estate Record Book 5, page 192  
State of Alabama  
Butler County**

Know all men by the presents that we, Allen B Steene (sic, should be Seale), Robert Steene James J Thigpen of Wilcox County and Jonathon M Yeldell, of Butler County and State aforesaid are held and firmly bound unto S J Bolling Judge of the Probate Court of said County and his successors in office in the final Sum of one hundred twenty thousand dollars for which payment well and truly to be made and done, we bind ourselves our heirs, executors and administrators jointly and severally by these presents.

Sealed with our Seals and dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June A D Eighteen Hundred and Sixty two.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas the above bound Allen B Seale and Robert Steen have been appointed administrators of the Estate of Ransom Seale deceased Now if the said Allen B Seale and Robert Steen shall well and truly perform all the duties which are or may be by law required of them , then the above obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force.

Approved this 18<sup>th</sup> day  
of June 1862  
S J Bolling  
Judge of Probate

A. B. Seale  
Robt Steene  
J. J. Thigpen

**Will and Estate of Ransom Seale**

**Page 192: Wilcox County, Alabama, June 24<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1862** (this is still in the Butler Book 5, )

The following is a list of the Property of Ransom Seale appraised and the amount of appraisement, to wit

483 acres of land	@ \$15.00 per acre	\$7245.00
2000 bushels of corn	@ \$1.00 per bushel	2000.00
2000 lbs fodder	@ \$1.00 per 100 lb	20.00
30 head choice hogs	@ \$15.00 per head	450.00
25 head second " "	@ \$8.00 per head	200.00
45 head third " "	@ \$2.50 per head	<u>112.50</u>
	Carried forward	10,027.50

**Page 193: Appraisement of the Estate of Ransom Seale, Cont'd** (still Wilcox property):

Amount brought forward	\$10027.50	Amt. brought forward	\$12198.00
1 four horse wagon	100.00	1 two horse wagon	50.00
1 four horse wagon	100.00	1 lot plows & gear	56.00
1 wheat fan?	15.00	1 Negro wom.& child Caroline & Kisiah	1000.00
1 first choice yoke of oxen	100.00	1 " " infant Polly	1000.00
1 second " " "	100.00	1 " " Martha	800.00
1 grindstone	3.00	1 " " Tilda	500.00
1 set blacksmith tools	15.00	1 boy Stewart	800.00
4 beef hides & 1 deer skin	17.00	1 Negro " Viney	700.00
1 lot of old iron 75 lb	2.50	1 " " Lucinda	500.00
1 double barrel rifle & shotgun	30.00	1 " " Levi	325.00
1 rifle gun	15.00	1 " " Sela	200.00
1500 lb bacon @ 2/-	375.00	1 " " Mariah	200.00
1 first choice mule	225.00	1 " " Lucy	200.00
1 second " "	200.00	1 " boy Bill	600.00
1 third " "	200.00	1 " " Isaac	1000.00
1 fourth " "	200.00	1 " " Ceaser	800.00
1 fifth " "	190.00	1 " " Alick	1100.00
1 mare	175.00	1 " " Gobe	1000.00
30 bales cotton	1200.00	1 " " Will	1000.00
1 cotton gin & band?	25.00	1 " woman Chany & child	<u>800.00</u>
			25,855.50

(Note: the Negro woman Chany may be the woman Cherry referred to in the will and bought by Ransom from estate of James at the same time he bought Ellick and Caroline and three of Caroline's children, Julia, Sucky & Sol.)

**Butler County Ala. June 25<sup>th</sup> 1862**

400 acres of pine land @ \$5.00	2000.00	1 note on Carter & Knight due 30 June 1861, with credit of \$240 S? for	450.00
1 Negro man Charley	50.00	1 note on Wilson Murphy due 1 <sup>st</sup> January 1862, for	50.00
1 " " Israel	850.00	1 note on Arthur Sims & Francis Vickery, due 30 <sup>th</sup> June 1861 for	25.00
1 " " Teuna?	400.00	1 note on J E Thompson due 1 <sup>st</sup> January 1862 for	75.00
1 " " Judah	600.00	1 note on Danl T Davis & John W Seale due 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan. 1862	30.00
1 " " Ralph	475.00		
1 " " Delila	325.00		
1 " " Alford	200.00		
1 " girl Louisa	100.00		
Julia, Susan & Sol	700.00		

### Will and Estate of Ransom Seale

One gray horse	25.00	1 note on J H Stokes and W E Coleman	
One brown mare	5.00	due 12 <sup>th</sup> Mch 1861	15.00
One bay stud & colt	120.00	1 note on Jourdan Fenster? and	
One buggy	125.00	Stephen Bird, due 28 <sup>th</sup> Mch 1861	10.00
One mans saddle	6.00	1 note on Jackson Booker and	
One prd?, old wagon wheels	5.00	W E Coleman due Nov 1861	30.00
17 hogs @ \$8.00	136.00	1 note on Franklin Vickery due	
2 sows & 10 pigs @ \$2.00	24.00	Jan 7, 1861, credit \$45.00 Aug 18 <sup>th</sup> 1861	84.00
20 head of sheep	78.00	One judgement against	
1 double barreled gun	30.00	Joseph Hicks Febry 11th 1861 for	36.50
4 cows & calves @ \$30.00	120.00		
4 head cattle	80.00		

(Note from wrm: Jackson Booker and W E Coleman lived in Monroe County (census 1870-1920) near Sally Murphy and William J Watts. In 1899 they attested to his confederate service, for his pension application. Also, there is an Amanda L.Coleman, wife of W.E. Coleman, Nov 2, 1831 - Apr 13, 1852 (note: she was the sister of John Lowry Langham) buried at Friendship Baptist Church Cemetery, Pine Apple, Wilcox County, Alabama - - see

(<http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/al/wilcox/cemetery/friendship.txt> )