

## WILL OF THOMAS DAVIS

### Revolutionary War Pension Application

[Said to be buried on his farm; Memorial at Zion Presbyterian Church Cemetery]

Submitted by Sherry Lynn Britton

[Spelling as written.]

'In the name of God amen I Thomas Davis of Greene County and State of Tennessee being weake of body but sound in minde and in my perfect recolection calling to minde the mortality of the body and that it is appointed for all men to die I Therefore do make ordain and constitute this instrument to be my last will and testamen Utterly revoking all other former wills by me made and all other Executors by me appointed I now declare this to be my last will and Testament.

And First of all I recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it And my body to the Earth to be intered in a decent Christian like manner at the discretion of my Executors. And as touching my worldly estate I dispose of in the following manner and form And First of all I charge my Executors faithfully to pay all my just debts and funeral expences and then all my Children to whome I have already given Negroes or other property for them I have and enjoy & keep the same them and their Heirs forever

st I give and bequeth unto my son John Davis a certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in said County of Greene and on the South side of the dry-fork of Camp Creek Beginning at a White-oake on the South bank of said dry-fork of Camp-creek marked as a corner between said land and an other lot bequeathed to my son James H. Davis thence South Forty Nine degrees west until that course will intersect the South boundary line of Survey of myne of Two Hundred Acres Grant baring date the 20<sup>th</sup> Septr 1789 thence East with the outside line of said tract to whare said survey intersects with an other survey of mine of Two Hundred Acres Granted the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Jany 1793. Thence South with said survey to the South-west corner thereof thence East an other line of said tract One Hundred and Twnty Five poles to an other corner of said tract thence North (an other of line of said tract) to the Dry-fork of Camp-Creek thence down said Dry-fork with the carious mian-ders thereof to the beginning be the same more or less together with all the right title claim and intrust to the said land belonging or in any ways appertaining To him and his Heirs forever as a clear free and an indefeasible inheritance in fee simple

Secdly I give and bequethe unto my Son James H. Davis a certain tract or parcel of land lying in Greene County aforesaid and on the South-west side of the Dry-fork to be bounded as followeth that is to say the Dry-fork to be North East boundry and a line mentioned in the former legacy to be the South bondry thence down the western bank of Camp Creek to the confluence of it and the Dry-fork so as to include all his present improvements to the same more or less together with all the priviledges and immunities there unto belonging with all the right title clam and intrust as clear fee and an indifesible inheritance in fee simple to him & his Heirs forever.

Thirly I give and bequethe unto my daughter Sally B. Holland a certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Greene aforesaid it being the land and primeses whare on I now live that is to say all my land on the East of the Dry-fork and all on the North and East of the main Camp-Creek (except what is in the Dearmon Survey none of which is to be included in her legacy) be the same more or less together with all the improvements there on and all the right title calme and intrust it the said land and primeses belonging or in any ways appertaining to her and her Heirs lawfully begotten of her body as clear free and an indifesible inheritance in fee simple. And furthermore I will that my old Negro woman be kept on this plantation and my daughter Sally B. Holland have car[e] of her but for not to be sold on any occasion

Forthly It is my will that my Negro man Named Fryday be under the direction of Executors and hired among the Heirs until he has earned Two hundred dollars or until Four Years after my deceas and then to be legally emansepatated according to law.

Fiftly I give and bequeath all the residue of my estate real and personal (not other ways named in the above legases) to be equally divided amongst my Children that is to say William Davis John Davis James H. Davis Nancy Hickson Patience Kennady Polly Alexander Betsy Dyke and Sally B. Holland to them and their Heirs To be sold and the proceades equally divide or to apportioned in lots amongst them as may best sute them.

Sixly I appoint and constitute my Son James H. Davis and my Son in law Jacob Dyke Executors to this my last will and Testament under a full conviction that they will execute the same according to the true intent and meaning of the same

I now therefore declare and publish this to be my last will and Testament.

Thos Davis (seal)

Signed sealed and published in the presence of  
Stephen Brooks  
Archibald Webber

### **Postscript**

Thomas Davis received a North Carolina Land Grant for 200 acres on "Camp Creek, south side of Nolachucky". A copy of this original Land Grant may be obtained from the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

Patience Davis Kennedy married John Kennedy, a son of Col. Daniel Kennedy, also a Revolutionary War Soldier, and is referred to by Historians as 'the Father of Greene County'. Patience (1772-1842) and her husband John (1775-1845) and his father Colonel Daniel Kennedy, among many others are buried in Zion Presbyterian Church Cemetery near Camp Creek.

Jacob Dyke, a son-in-law and co-Executor for Thomas Davis, served in the War of 1812 as a Captain under Colonel William Lillard's 2nd Regiment East Tennessee Volunteer Militia.