

Early Wills of Orange County, Indiana

(Abstracts and Notes)

By MRS. N. B. MAVITY

*Baker, James.*¹ Will executed June 1, 1816—probated June 20, 1816—wife, Polly. Children: John, James, Jinny—executors: Hugh Holmes of Orange County, Indiana and Larkin Davis of Jessamine County, Kentucky—witnesses: Richard L. Kirby, John Scott and Nancy Kirby.

*Holliday, Robert.*² Will—February 13, 1816—probated November 20, 1816—wife, Hannah—children: Abigail, Mary, Jacob, Henry, Robert, Deborah, Hannah, Rebecca, John—executors: sons Henry and Robert.

Gawdy (Goudy), William. Will—September 2, 1816—probate not given—to Catherine Hamilton of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, \$15.00—rest of estate to Sarah Gawdy of Chambersburg, a minor, in care of Samuel Cooper of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania—witnesses: Eleanor Chambers, John McVey, Thomas Lindley, gentleman Thomas Fulton, executor.

*Wells, William.*³ Will—October 16, 1814—probated, April 16, 1817—wife, Esther—children: Joseph, Nathan, John, Esther, Sarah, Charity, Stephen, Susannah Ray, Elizabeth Cameron, William.

Burgar, Michael. Will—January 24, 1818—probated (date not given)—wife, Elizabeth—children: John, James, Elizabeth, Mary, Hannah, Daniel—executors: wife Elizabeth and son John—witnesses: Evan Jones, Thomas Atkinson.

Johnson, David. Will—June 21, 1817—probated February 18, 1818—wife, Peggy—children: Joseph, Jesse, Sarah, David, Lydia, Ephriam Wesley, Ruthey, Eli Burket, Matilda, Thomas—executor (not given)—witnesses: James Gregory, Joseph Anderson, Beverly Gregory.

Morris, Benjamin. Will—October 28, 1818—probated November 23,

¹The son John, mentioned in the will of James Baker, was born in Woodford County, Kentucky, near Versailles, October 12, 1812. His parents brought him to Indiana in 1815. He became a prominent lawyer and lived in Bedford, Indiana, many years; moved to Vincennes in 1859, and later to Washington, Indiana. His father, James Baker, was born in Orange County, Virginia, in 1785, moved to Kentucky in 1805 and came to Orange County, Indiana, in 1815, as stated above, where he died in 1816. John Baker married Sarah Delard, daughter of John Delard, who was born in Mercer County, Kentucky, in 1798. His father, Etienne Delard, of South Carolina, born in 1767, was a Revolutionary soldier and of Huguenot descent as stated in Goodspeed's *History of Knox and Davies Counties, Indiana* (1886, pp. 192, 310). Polly Baker, wife of James, is said to have been a Davis, sister of Larkin Davis, who entered land in the north part of Paoli Township, and is buried there. They were children of Thomas Davis, a Revolutionary soldier. Mrs. Aleyna Brown McNabb, of the John Wallace Chapter, D.A.R., of Bedford, Indiana, is a member on the record of Thomas Davis. James Baker, Jr., the second son, mentioned in the will, was born in Woodford County, Kentucky, March 29, 1814; married Sarah Burgess in 1834 according to the account in Goodspeed's *History of Lawrence, Orange and Washington Counties, Indiana* (1884, p. 662). Jane (Jinny) Baker, born in 1816, married Dr. James Dillard.

²Hinshaw's *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy* (1936, I, p. 436) gives the record of the Holliday family, with dates, including the name and dates of another son, William. Robert Holliday was the son of Henry and Mary Holliday (p. 399 of last reference in note 1). Robert and Hannah Holliday were born in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Hannah was the daughter of John and Mary Newlin Holliday.

³Miss Mabel Claxton, of French Lick, Indiana, has the Revolutionary record of Nathan Wells. He is said to be buried at Lick Creek Quaker Cemetery, in Orange County, but the grave is not marked. Miss Claxton has, also, the Revolutionary record of Joseph Wells, from North Carolina.

1818—wife, Jane—children: William, Nancy and infants—executor and witnesses (not given).

Brouen (Braven), David. Will—July 4, 1818—probated January 26, 1819—wife, Abigail—children: David, James, Mary, Wilson, Janie, Betsy—executor and witnesses (not given).

Burtner, John. Will—April 20, 1820—probated September 6, 1820—wife, Elizabeth and her mother, Juliann Burtner—these to be executors—witnesses: John Haynes, Joshua Carter, Martin Outsinger.

Riley, Edward. Will—August 9, 1819—probated April 14, 1820—wife, Elizabeth and son, Edward—other legatees, Mary Hogg, Elener Wilson, Abraham Riley, John Riley, James Riley, Thomas Riley, William Riley, Isaac Riley, Jacob Riley, Elizabeth Roads, Sally Hart—witnesses: Isaac and James Riley—executors (not given).

Raymond, David. Will—August 20, 1818, at Huntsville, Alabama—probated April 16, 1820. (This is a lengthy will, evidently by a man of some wealth. Wife, deceased. Father-in-law living, name given, Timothy Leonard. Brother, Daniel Raymond, mentioned. In accordance with wishes of his deceased wife \$100 to be presented to her friend, Mary W. G. Howe of Bennington, Vermont. Books to be presented to the following, as was the wish of deceased wife: to his brother, Daniel and James; to her brothers, Frederick and Edward; to Thomas Perkins, to Emily Hodges, to Hester Lancing, to Sarah Hull. Testator's sister Sarah and his wife's sister Mary to be models, in education of his daughter. Sister Abigail and her children mentioned).

Freeman, Daniel. Will—October 6, 1822—probated October 22, 1822—wife, Jane—sons, Joshua, Daniel—daughters, Rebecca McVey, Fanny Bradford—witnesses—Joshua Hadley and Aaron Maris—executor (not given).

Jones, Evan. Will—September 29, 1821—probated October 22, 1822—wife, Sarah—children: John, David, Samuel, Mary, Sarah, Evan, Lucinda, Isaac B., William—executor and witnesses (not given).

Doak, Joseph W.⁴ Will—July 5, 1820—probated October 29, 1822—wife, Polly—children (referred to but not named)—executor and witnesses (not given).

Copelin, Ann. Will—August 10, 1821—probated November 30, 1822—Ann, widow of Jacob, bequeaths to son Thomas, etc.—witnesses: J. Moser, James Clements.

Lockhart, William. Will—November 15, 1822—probated December 10, 1822—wife, Hannah—daughter, Peggy—and heir of Rachel Underwood—executor and witnesses (not given).

Hollowell, Jesse. Will—December 6, 1820—probated, December 17, 1822—wife, Elizabeth—children: James, John, Mary, Sally, Jesse Woodard—executors: John Hollowell and his son Henry (brother and nephew of deceased).

Briner, Peter. Will—January 23, 1823—probated April 21, 1823—

⁴ Joseph W. Doak was the great grandfather of N. B. Navity, of French Lick, Indiana. His wife was Mary (Polly) Irvin, daughter of Samuel Irvin, Revolutionary soldier. Robert Doak was a son. A daughter, Jane Doak, married Samuel Lynd, and another daughter, Martha, married Isaac Potter. There is a Doak family history, but we do not have this volume.

wife, Catherine—children: Elizabeth Robbins, Catherine Walker, Mary Cook, John, Andrew, George, Peter.

Hoemler (Hemler), John. Will—March 10, 1823 (?)—probated, April 21, 1823—wife, Catherine—children (referred to but not named)—“Land in Illinois, a tract appropriated for Military bounties”—latter’s tools mentioned—executors: Ephriam Doan and his wife—witnesses: Joseph Athon, William Rhodes, Ebenezer Doan. (Hoemler must have been a soldier, since he had the land mentioned. Ephriam Doan was a hatter, who lived at Paoli).

Clark, Robert. Will—July 1, 1823—probated, August 23, 1823—wife, Alley Clark—One dollar to be paid to the following: Presley Allgood, Jesse Hutchins, Benjamin Melone, Elizabeth Allgood, Lydia Hutchins—grandchildren mentioned (Presley Allgood’s children and the children of Jesse Hutchins)—witnesses: James Curry, Thomas Copelin.

Rayburn, Cornelius (known as Neely Rayburn). Will—September 26, 1823—probated, October 11, 1823—wife, Bethilda—children: Andrew, James, Sarah—witnesses: Lewis Byram, Henry B. Prentiss.

Wells, Joseph. Will—September 11, 1823—probated October 20, 1823—children: Isaac, Zachariah, Charity Freeman, Nathan, Levi, Peter, Jonathan, Jesse—executors: Ephriam Doan and Joseph Farlow.

Dixon, John. Will—September 9, 1823—probated January 30, 1824—wife, Ruth—children: Elizabeth Marshall, Rebecca Towell, Simon Dixon, Rachel Hobson, Ruth Doan, Amy Hiatt, John, Solomon, Zacharias, Thomas Elwood, Levina Dixon.

Warden, William. Will—May 4, 1824—probated June 19, 1824—wife, Katherine—children (referred to)—mention of lands in Kentucky—witnesses: Joel Vandever, Mary Crutchfield.

Allen, Peleg R. Will—April 16, 1825—probated May 25, 1825—wife, Ann B. Allen—(“My dear sister Hannah Spooner”. In case of my wife’s death before my own, I appoint as executors, my friends, Dr. Burr Bradley, of Salem, Indiana, and Dr. William Scribner of Paoli, Frederick B. Leonard, student of medicine of Lansingburg, N.Y., John B. Chipman, merchant, of Lansingburg, N.Y., and Dr. Elisah Sheldon and Gershom Clark, druggist of Troy, N.Y., and Philander Chase, Bishop of the diocese of Ohio, to have full and complete power to make disposal of my property. To the 3 sons of my deceased brother John Allen, and the 5 sons of my sister Hannah Spooner, the title to my lands on White River, in the Pride Settlement. To all that may fall to me by will from my wife, from the estate of Timothy Leonard, deceased, to the American Tract Society, the Ohio Protestant Episcopal Society, for Missionary purposes, the Theological Seminary of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in the diocese of Ohio, the Missionary Society of Indiana, to be expended in this state, to be divided equally, each alike. Frederick B. Leonard mentioned as a brother-in-law. (Dr. Allen was one of Paoli’s early physicians. See will of David Raymond, in this list, whose wife was a sister of Dr. Allen’s wife).

Smith, Jacob. Will—August 13, 1824—probated June 10, 1825—wife, Susannah—son, Ambrose—daughters: Polly, Eliza, Dilla, Lucy, Frances (the daughters were under 18 years)—witnesses: John Chenoweth, Aaron Vandever.

Nichols, Nathan. Will—December 16, 1823—probated July 7, 1825—wife, Nancy—children: Simeon, George, Silas, Nathan, Thomas, John, Jennie, Sally, Nancy, William J., Cyrus E., Hugh H., Martin M.—executors: wife (Nancy) and Thomas Copeland.

Davis, Mary. Will—September 2, 1823—probated August 5, 1825—to grandchildren: Jonathan, Joseph, Mary, Martha Woodard, Margaret Bouge (?)—to his daughter, Elizabeth Hollowell—witnesses: Alexander Morris, Washington Morris, James Hollowell.

Darroch, Daniel. Will—November 29, 1825—probated December 22, 1825—wife, Nancy—brother, Duncan—witnesses: John Maris, Abraham Holliday.

Wilson, Joseph. Will—February 4, 1824—probated April 13, 1826—wife, Mary—sons: Joseph, Andrew, Nathaniel—daughters: Margaret Fields and Rachel Fields. (Joseph Wilson was a Revolutionary soldier. On June 5, 1938, a Government marker was dedicated by the D.A.R. Chapter in Orangeville Township, Orange County, Indiana).

Thomas, Lewis. Will—February 4, 1824—probated April 13, 1826—beloved wife (name not given)—children: Ruth, Tilden, Lewis, Joseph, Stephen—one dollar each to be given to Charles Bouchman, John Bouchman, Burrell Graham, Eli Morris, James Atkinson, William Trueblood, Daniel Lambdin—executors: his son Tilden and his beloved friend Shadrach Ditto.

Carr, Michael. Will—December 23, 1826—probated February 19, 1872—daughter, Betsy Carr, to be executor—bequests to Michael Lindsay, Thomas G. Carr, Polly Lindsay, James Carr, Samuel Campbell, Margaret Mitchell, heirs of William Carr: Amanda, Polly, Emily. (Miss Josephine Lindsay of Mitchell, Indiana, has records of this family).

(To be continued)