

# Early Wills of Orange County, Indiana<sup>1</sup>

(Abstracts and Notes)

By MRS. N. B. MAVITY

*Wood, Francis.* Will executed September 11, 1827—probated October 6, 1827—to Sarah Ann Perrott, daughter of Samuel Perrott, certain lands, etc.—should Sarah Ann not live to have an heir, the property to be divided among Peter Ragle, John Ragle, Margaret Ragle, Susan Ragle, and Samuel Perrott's three children—property in Orleans mentioned—proved by two subscribing witnesses: G. Berry and James Perrott.

*Freeman, Jane.* Will—April 26, 1827—probated August 23, 1827—mentions daughters Fanny Bradford and Rebecca McVey, granddaughter Sarilda Freeman, grandson Zeno Blanchard Freeman, sons John, Daniel, and Joshua—to my granddaughter Jane Doan, one picture, a dish, the chaise, and Richard Davidson's Journal.<sup>2</sup>

*Glover, Stephen.* Will—October 27, 1826—probated November 22, 1827—mentions wife Sally, children Mariah, William, Robert, James, Huldah, Jane, Sarah, Nathan.<sup>3</sup>

*Lindley, Jonathan.* Will—September 22, 1824—probated April 22, 1828—mentions wife Martha, daughter Gulielma and other children: Jonathan, Catherine McVey, Thomas, William, Sarah Hadley, Deborah Jones, Hannah Braxton, Mary Dixon, Queen Esther Lindley, Elenor Chambers, Rebecca Henley, Zacharias, Jonathan Dix, and sister, Deborah Newlin—books to be divided among the children—"My big Bible is bequeathed to Martha, then to go to Gulielma."<sup>4</sup> (The will is very lengthy and disposes of large amounts of property. The pages in the will record are quite soiled; probably no will in the book has been more widely read and copied.)

*Lindley, Thomas.*<sup>5</sup> Will—May 8, 1828—probated May 22, 1828—mentions wife, Amy, and children: William, Samuel, John, Mary, Thomas Elwood.

*Elrod, Robert.* Will—July 6, 1828—probated September 9, 1828—mentions wife Elizabeth, and children: Noah, Sarah, Stephen, Benjamin, John, Robert, Elizabeth Evans.

*Blackburn, Joseph.* Will—July 22, 1828—probated September 25, 1828—Joseph Blackburn of Paoli, late from Bedford County, Pennsylvania—brother-in-law, Joseph Potts of Paoli, to hold all of estate for infant daughter, Jane Eliza Blackburn. In case of death of daughter before reaching maturity, the estate to go to testator's brother Lewis, of Ohio, and brothers Samuel, John, Josiah, sister Esther, brother-in-law John Potts, sister-in-law Elizabeth Fou, formerly Potts, Mary

<sup>1</sup> This is a continuation of an article by Mrs. Mavity on "Early Wills of Orange County, Indiana," which appeared in the last issue of *Indiana Magazine of History* (September, 1938), XXXIV, 384-387.

<sup>2</sup> See Will of Daniel Freeman, husband of Jane Freeman, *ibid.*, 355.

<sup>3</sup> Stephen Glover was the son of Uriah Glover, said to have been a Revolutionary soldier. See *Indiana Magazine of History* (March, 1938), XXXIV, 135.

<sup>4</sup> This Bible is in the possession of Miss Mary Cammack, Plainfield, Indiana, a granddaughter of Gulielma (Lindley) Woody.

<sup>5</sup> Thomas Lindley, son of Jonathan Lindley, whose will appears above.

Belek, formerly Potts, nephew Josiah Penrose, infant son of William Penrose, all of Bedford County, Pennsylvania, said Joseph Potts, sister-in-law Sarah, now of Paoli, and sister Margaret Blackburn of Bedford County, Pennsylvania. Witnesses: Daniel Dayhuff, Z. Lindley, Ephraim Doan, C. F. Spooner.

*Lindley, Owen.* Date of execution of will missing—probated July 21, 1828—mentions wife Grace and children: James, Thomas, Aaron, Sarah McVey, Martha Thompson, Polly Hollowell, Queen Amy, Elizabeth, Elener, Grace, David, Owen, Chambers.—witnesses: Thomas Newlin, Aaron Andrew, Silas Dixon.

*Ribble, John.* Will—June 2, 1828—probated January 17, 1829—mentions wife Margaret and children: John Strite, Lorrان, Barbary, Catherine, Susan, Sarah Ruth.

*Gwinn, Isom.* Will—October 26, 1830—probated January 6, 1831—wife Mary, children mentioned but names not given.

*Cox, Joseph.* Will—November 17, 1818—probated February 18, 1831—wife Mary, children mentioned but names not given.

*Clifton, William.* Will—March 30, 1831—probated May 31, 1831—wife Jenny, children mentioned but names not given—executors: wife and Calramdor Reubison.

*Jones, Samuel.* Will—March 29, 1831—probated July 7, 1831—mentions wife Amelia, sons: Moses, David, Samuel; presumably daughters: Elizabeth Woodward and Nancy Busick—Littleton Woodward and wife are mentioned as "living in my house."—executor, Thomas Vandever.

*Pearce, Philip Crafford.* Will—October 9, 1829—probated August 10, 1831—wife Catherine—to Berilla Elliot, one bed and bedding—Absolem McCabe to take part of real estate when wife's interest shall cease.<sup>6</sup>

*Freeman, Benjamin.* Will—September 17, 1831—probated April 2, 1832—mentions wife Polly<sup>7</sup> and sons: Hilliman, Benjamin, George, John, William—other legatees: heirs of daughter Sidney; sons of Gabriel Freeman, deceased: Benjamin and Edmund; heirs of daughter Sally, deceased, first wife of Levi Johnson.

*Cutsinger, Martin.* Will—December 12, 1831—probated May 21, 1832—no wife mentioned—children: Jacob, Catherine Freit, Elizabeth Freit, Michael, Polly Sparling, Margaret Gammon, William, Sally Cutsinger, Martin.

*Webb, Martin.* Will—November 24, 1828—date probated omitted on record—mentions wife Martha and children: Andrew, John, William, Nancy, Caty, and "one she is like for."

*Gifford, Levi.* Will—August 5, 1832—probated September 15, 1832 mentions wife Mararet and sons: Peleg, Jesse, Levi; surviving children of Abigail and Daniel Ellis.

*White, Joseph.* Will—February 8, 1833—probated May 13, 1833—mentions wife Jane and eldest son; other legatees: Sarah Williams, the heirs to Elizabeth Williams, the heirs of Polly Hinton, Hannah Stander-

<sup>6</sup> This family is of Southeast Township, Orange County, Indiana.

<sup>7</sup> The first wife of Benjamin Freeman was Margaret Divine. They were married in Mercer County, Kentucky, in 1786. Polly Watts, mentioned as his wife in the will, was a second wife.

ford, Ephriam Linn, Jane White, Amelia White—Hannah Standeford to have a certain tract of land during her life, and same then to go to her children: William, Wesley, John Robison, and Joseph Wright.—witnesses: William Case, Jane Hutchison.

*Towell, Jesse, Jr.* Will—July 21, 1833—probated December 9, 1833—mentions wife (name not given), infant daughters Parthena and Mary Ann; wife's sister Margaret White, son John W. Towell.—executor, John Towell, Sr., his father.

wife Elizabeth—witnesses: John Prosses, Hiram Kirk, Alfred Bruner.

*Byram, Lewis.* Will—April 25, 1834—probated August 11, 1834—wife Elizabeth—witnesses: John Prosses, Hiram Kirk, Alfred Bruner.

*Bond, Reuben.* Will—June 25, 1834—Probated August 4, 1834—mentions wife Penelope, children: Martha, Jane, John, Martha Anelya, Mary Ann, Henrietta—executor, Ezer Cleveland. A will made in South Carolina is revoked.<sup>8</sup>

*McCracken, Robert.* Will—September 20, 1834—probated November 11, 1834—mentions son Thomas, Eleanor McCracken and other children: John, Peter, Robert, Lucy, Shade, Elizabeth Street, Polly.

*Towell, Jesse, Sr.* Will—May 4, 1834—probated June 2, 1834—mentions wife of son John and her many kindnesses, and his daughters: Rebecca Hadley, Mary Piggott, Margaret Hadley; children of Sarah Harvey, deceased.—son Daniel mentioned in an added note—executor, son John—witnesses: Thomas Newlin, Solomon Cox.

*Lindley, Thomas.* Will—November 23, 1835—probated December 14, 1835—mentions sons Reuben and Thomas, and daughters: Jane Green, Sarah Andrew, Mary Newlin, Hannah Cloud, Eleanor Love—executor, John Cloud—witnesses: David Lindley, Samuel Lindley.<sup>9</sup>

*Evans, Caleb.* Will—Orleans, Indiana, August 20, 1835—probated October 22, 1835—"I, Caleb Evans a citizen of Chester County, Pennsylvania . . . ."—effects in tse hands of John B. Moyer, innkeeper at Orleans, Indiana, horse, saddle, bridle, clothing, saddlebags, valise, \$495.00 cash—mentions sisters: Mary Gibbs, wife of William Gibbs, Ann Merrydith, wife of Richard Merrydith, of West Caln Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, Leah Patton, wife of T. H. Patton of Salisbury Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania—mentions also Caleb Evans, Jr., son of Joseph and Zilpha Evans of Huntington County, Pennsylvania.

*Holliday, Hannah.* Will—April 12, 1829—probated October 17, 1835—mentions son Henry, housekeeper, Jane Hadley—residue of estate to be sold and divided agreeable to the will of her deceased husband—witnesses: John McDaniel, Aaron Andrew.

*Erton, Peter.* Will—September 21, 1835—probated November 28, 1835—to son-in-law, Thomas Bedster and his wife Matilda, real estate and personal property—to Zachariah Green and his wife, one dollar—to son Henry Erton, one dollar—to son-in-law John Teter and his wife Nancy, one dollar—witnesses: James Wilson, Azor Wilson. (The testator was a Revolutionary War pensioner.)

<sup>8</sup> Reuben Bond is said to have been a well-respected colored man of Northwest Township, Orange County, Indiana.

<sup>9</sup> Jane Andrew Maris, my grandmother, was the daughter of Sarah Andrew, daughter of Thomas Lindley.

*Johnson, Lancelot.* Will—September 3, 1836—probated September 25, 1836—wife Nancy R. Johnson; children mentioned, but names not given.

*Millis, Enoch.* Will—February 29, 1836—probated May 14, 1836—mentions wife Susannah, brother Nicholas and sons: Edward and Jacob, under 21 years of age—daughters: Polly, Lydia Ann, Sarah Jane, Hester Ellen. This is a very lengthy will, much land is described.

*Willson, Absolem.* Will—April 10, 1835—proved May 5, 1835—mentions daughters Priscilla and Elizabeth; children of daughter Fanny, deceased—witnesses: Isaac Bridgewater, David T. Wilson, Jno. Prosser.

*Lindsay, Mary.* Will—January 18, 1836—probated March 5, 1836—mentions Polly Case, who had already received some personal property; children: James, Michael, Fulton; the children of his deceased daughter Eliza Vontress, to wit: Susan Lindsay Vontress, Samuel Tyler Vontress, Eliza Lindsay Vontress. Elizabeth Carr estate is mentioned, as is the estate of the testator's father, Michael Carr.

*Seybold, Jno.* Will—June 10, 1830—probated August 1, 1836—wife Sarah—witnesses: John Moore, Thomas Moore, William Leonard, Reuben Moore.

*Carter, Shadrach Blunt Anderson.* Will—March 5, 1835—probated April 7, 1835—mentions wife Margaret and children: Elizabeth Kene Vontress (later Conder), Catherine Carpenter, Maria Jane, B. A. Shadrach, Ann Eliza, Margaret, Theophilus, John Conder Carpenter, Harriet Frances, and Henry Carpenter Carter. (This is a very long will.)

*Carr, Elizabeth.* Will—September 2, 1835—probated September 22, 1835—mentions sister Margaret Mitchell and nieces: Emily Carr, Mary Carr, Susan Mitchell, and Elizabeth Campbell; nephews: Elzey Mitchell, David Campbell, son of Samuel Campbell, and Michael Lindsay; brothers: Thomas G. and James Carr; sisters Polly Lindsay and Sina Campbell—executors: Samuel Campbell and John Hostutter.

*Lynch, Clayton.* Will—January 10, 1837—probated February 6, 1837—mentions wife Ann and children: John, William, Pennelajane, James, Mary Elmira, Thomas H., Henry M., George Lynch—executor, Samuel Stalcup.

*Lindley, William.* Will—December 22, 1835—probated March 7, 1837—mentions wife Annie, and children: Thomas Samuel, James, Owen, William, David, Jonathan, Sally Lee, Mary Lee, Annie Harned, and Grace Wilkins Lindley; the sons of Grace Wilkins: John and William, under 21—executors: sons Owen and William and grandson Thomas.