

personal, I give bequeath and dispose of as follows, to wit: To my beloved wife, Sarah H. Durrance, the lands and appurtenances on which I now reside and known and described as follows, to wit, The east half of the southwest quarter and the southwest quarter of the south-east quarter of section thirty. Also the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section thirty-one, all in township thirty, south of range twenty-five east and containing one hundred and sixty acres, more or less, and being in the said county of Polk and State of Florida, and also my entire stock of cattle consisting of seventy head more or less marked and branded as follows, to wit: crop and half crop in one ear, crop half crop and upper bit in the other ear. "33" others marked crop & half crop and upper bit in one ear under stoop upper & under bit in the other ear, a part of the last described mark are branded "33" and a part with the letter "D" and others marked under sloped upper and under bit in one ear and crop and half crop in the other ear and branded "33". Also the following described lands lying and being in the county of Polk and State of Florida, to wit: the north half of the north east  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 14 in township 31 south of range 23 east and the south  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the southeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  and the south  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  in section 11, township 31 south of range 23 east containing 240 acres more or less, together with the entire stock of horses that I may be in possession of at the time of my decease. Likewise, I make, constitute & appoint Perry O. Keen of the said county of Polk and State of Florida to be the executor of this my last will & testament hereby revoking all former wills by me made. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & affixed my seal on the 15th day of Feb. in the year of our Lord one thousand, eight hundred and seventy-nine.

William H. Durrance

References: W. H. Durrance Bible; Bennett Whidden Bible; Durrance Family file, Polk Co. Historical Library, Bartow, Fla.; 1850 Marion Co., 1860 Hills. Co. & 1880 Polk Co., Census; Military service papers from Washington, DC; Soldiers of Florida; Polk Co. marriage records; Polk Co. "Wills-Domestic & Foreign", #2; Cemetery records of Camp-ground (Pine Level), Lily, & Bethlehem cemeteries; Pioneers of Wire-grass Georgia, Folks Huxford, Vol. 5;

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ORANGE COUNTY: 1850 SLAVE OWNERS

Nicolas Sheppard	James Martin	Virgil Dupont
John C. Houston	Daniel J. Thomas	John Simpson
John D. Sheldon	Henry A. Crane	Algenan S. Speer
Aron Jernigan	Wright Patrick	James O. Duval
Thos. J. Starke	John J. Marshall	Geo. E. Hawes
Elijah Watson		

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POLK COUNTY: HISTORY OF COURTHOUSES

The following article appeared in the Feb. 8, 1912 edition of the Courier-Informant, Bartow, Florida.

In the year 1860 Hillsborough County was divided and the eastern half of it became a new county under the name of Polk, in honor of President Polk.