

Dallas County, Texas Probate Cases 1846 – Early 1900's

Case Number 2025

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2025

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The State of Texas,

Dallas County.

Know all men by these presents that I Martha A. Skiles a feme sole of said County and state being now in feeble health but of sound and disposing mind and memory conscious of the uncertainty of life but of certainty of death and being desirous to settle my worldly affairs and to dispose of the estate with which it has pleased God to bless me while I have strength and an opportunity so to do, do hereby make and publish this my last will and testament hereby revoking all other wills by me heretofore made

Item First ---I desire and direct that my body be buried in a decent and Christian-like ~~was~~ manner suitable to my condition and circumstances in life at the Routh grave-yard beside my deceased husband and I desire that my grave be marked by a substantial but inexpensive tombstone,

Item Second---I desire and direct all my just debts be paid by my Executor to be hereinafter named as soon after my death as is convenient.

Item Third--- It is my desire and I do direct and to that ~~and~~ do hereby authorize and empower my Executor to be hereinafter named to sell at public or private sale as may seem to him best for the interest of my said estate, and for cash or part cash and balance on time as may seem to him best, all my estate of ~~all~~ kind and character, including all real personal and mixed property and wherever the same may be situated and to include my property and the whole of same as now on hand or may be on hands at the date of my death and I empower my said Executor to make execute and deliver to the purchaser or purchasers thereof good and sufficient deeds for the property so hold same to contain the usual covenants of Warranty and to receive and to execute in my name all proper

receipts and acquittances for the money so received and I desire and direct that my said Executor shall collect all sums of money due and owing to me either upon bond, note or account and from whomsoever owing, and to execute in my name all proper receipts for the same and after my said Executor has converted my said estate into cash and out of the proceeds of the property so sold as well as the proceeds and money so collected on notes bonds and accounts and in fact my entire estate of *all* kind and character, I desire and direct that my Executor shall pay out disburse and distribute as follows. to wit:

First- to the payment of all my just debts, and the expenses of preparing and recording this will.

Second - to the purchase and erection of a suitable tomb-stone over my grave.

Third- and the entire remainder of my estate or its proceeds shall be by my Executor paid to and equally distributed to and among my seven children to wit:

To W.H.Skiles one seventh part,

To J.M.Skiles one seventh part,

To J.W.Skiles one seventh part,

To Mary Ellen Lewis one seventh part,

To M.M.Skiles one seventh part,

To Mattie.C.Weissel one seventh part,

To Charles.E.Skiles one seventh part, it being my desire and I so direct that each and all of my said seven children as above named, shall account for and allow and have charged against the share of each, all sums of money or property that has heretofore been advanced and paid to him or her by me or out of my estate, and the sums so to be charged against each as an advancement are as follows to wit:

To W.H.Skiles no sum advanced,

To J.M Skiles \$100.00, and the same is evidenced by his note to me,
he to be charged with no interest,
To J.W. Skiles \$275.00, the same evidenced by his note made to me, and
credited by \$17.50, and he to be charged with no interest,
To Mary Ellen Lewis \$25.00, evidenced by note made by J.T. Lewis to me,
she to be charged with no interest on said \$25.00 note, as regards the
share or interest of Mary Ellen Lewis of, in and to my said estate, it
is my desire and I so direct, that said Mary Ellen Lewis my daughter
shall not receive or take any interest or share of, in or to my said
estate until she shall first have paid or cause to be paid to the
owners and holders of those five certain notes, one for \$800.00 and its
interest as per its full tenor and effect made to Mrs Belle Thomas
and signed by J.T. Lewis, M.A. Skiles and I think by J.T. Rowland,
and the other four notes were made to the Plano National Bank, each
for \$60.00, and signed by J.T. Lewis and M.A. Skiles, all of which
draw interest, and on which said notes I am simply surety or accommo-
dation maker of each for said J.T. Lewis, he said J.T. Lewis being prin-
cipal in all said notes, all of which must be paid as per their full
tenor and effect, and I mean by this clause that Mary Ellen Lewis must
pay or cause to be paid all sums of money for which I am liable as
surety or accommodation maker for J.T. Lewis to any and all persons
whomsoever, whether I have hereinabove described said notes or debts
correctly or not, all of which shall be paid before she shall share
in my estate, and in the event I or my Executor or my estate shall have
paid said notes or any part thereof, then said Mary Ellen Lewis and
J.T. Lewis must cause all the sums of money that I or my Executor or
my estate has paid in settlement or part settlement of said notes to
be refunded to me, or to my executor or to my estate, before said Mary
Ellen Lewis shall have, take or receive any share or interest of, in, or

to my said estate, if however said J.T. Lewis shall pay or cause to be paid all said notes or will fully release and discharge me, or my estate from any and all liability incurred by me in signing said notes, then it is my desire that Mary, Ellen, Lewis shall have and receive her share and interest of one seventh in my estate, burdened only by said \$25.00, note, and it is further my desire that in the event said J.T. Lewis does not pay said notes, but the one seventh share or interest of Mary, Ellen, Lewis is not exhausted by the payment of said notes or such of them as my estate or Executor is compelled to pay, then the remainder or difference as between her one seventh share and the amount of said debt or notes shall be paid by my Executor to said Mary, Ellen, Lewis. To M.M. Skiles \$89.00, evidenced by his note made to me, he to be charged with no interest,

To Mattie, C. Wetzel no sum advanced,

To Charles, E. Skiles no sum advanced,

as to my personal or household effects, it is my desire that should any of my children want any of same, that the sale of such as may be wanted, may be dispensed with, and any of my children may take any or all of same, the same to be charged against the share or interest of the person or persons so taking the same, at the value as placed on same by those who will be appointed to appraise my estate,

Item Fourth,--I hereby constitute and appoint my beloved son W.H. Skiles of Denton County Texas, to be the Executor of this will, and it is my desire that no bond be required of him as such Executor, and it is further my desire that nothing further be done by the probate Court in the administration of my said estate other than to receive and probate this will and to return an inventory and appraisement of my said estate, it being my intention herein to clothe my said Executor with such power and sufficient power and authority to sell my entire estate and t

to receive the proceeds thereof and to make title thereto and to distribute the proceeds in the manner above indicated without the necessity to apply to the court either for orders of sale or for orders confirming said sales.

In testimony hereof I hereunto sign my name at my home near Richardson Texas, on this the 19th day of August 1899.

M. A. Skiles

We the undersigned have hereto subscribed our names to the foregoing instrument, at the request of and in the presence of Mrs Martha A. Skiles, who declared to us that the same was her last will and testament and she signed the same in our presence.

Witness our hands this the 19th day of August 1899.

*J. F. Rowland
his marks
P. W. Miller*

Martha A. Skiles

To

Last Will & Testament

Filed the 21 day of
Dec 1899

A. S. Jacobson, Clerk Co. Court,

W. M. Faulstich

Recorded

E-1173--

THE STATE OF TEXAS.

To all Persons Interested in the Estate of Martha A. Skiles Deceased :

M. M. Skiles has filed, in the County Court of Dallas County, State of Texas, an application for the Probate of the last Will of said

Martha A. Skiles deceased, and for Letters Testamentary, which

application will be heard and acted upon by said Court, at the next term thereof, to be held at the

Court House in the City of Dallas, County of Dallas, State aforesaid, and commencing on the

first Monday in January ¹⁹⁰⁰ A. D. ~~189~~, at which time and place all persons interested

in said Estate shall appear and contest said application, should they desire to do so.

WITNESS: A. S. JACKSON, County Clerk of Dallas County, Texas.

Given under my hand and the seal of said Court at office in the City

of Dallas, this 21 day of Dec A. D. 1899

A. S. JACKSON,

County Clerk, Dallas Co., Texas.

By

A. B. Rawlins

Deputy.

Recorded 8 84

No. 2742-2025

COUNTY COURT.

ESTATE OF

Martha A. Miles

Deceased.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PROBATE OF
WILL AND LETTERS.

Issued this 21st day of
Dec 1899

A. S. JACKSON, County Clerk.

By A. S. Rawlins Deputy.

SHERIFF'S RETURN.

Came to hand the 21 day of Dec
1899, and executed the 21 day of Dec

1899, by posting up three copies of this Writ at
three public places in Dallas County, one of which
was at the Court House door of said County, and
no two of which were in the same town or city.

BEN E. CABELL, SHERIFF, DALLAS CO.

By [Signature] Deputy.

DUNN, PETERSON CO., DALLAS, TEX.

fee

\$2.00

In Re
Estate of Mrs Martha A Skiles deceased.

James F Rowland being duly sworn in open court ,deposes and says that he ~~knows~~ knew Mrs Martha A Skiles in her life time,that she the said Mrs Martha A Skiles is dead,that she died at her home in Dallas County Texas ,on or about the 7th day of December 1899, That the said Martha A Skiles was a widow and the surviving wife of Charles W Skiles deceased ,the latter having died many years ago, That prior to the death of the said Martha A Skiles ,and on or about the 19 day of August 1899, she the said Martha A Skiles,made her last will and testament in writing and is the same instrument in writing as is herenow offered for probate,

That the said Martha A Skiles was at the date of the making and signing of said will as is herenow offered for probate,over 21 years of age and she was of sound mind and disposing memory, This affiant on the date of the execution of the aforesaid will at the request and in the presence of said Mrs Martha A Skiles signed said will as a subscribing witness thereto in the presence of said Mrs Martha A Skiles,and P A Davis the other subscribing thereto.

That at the date of the execution of said will the said Mrs Martha A Skiles in the presence of this affiant and the said P A Davis the other subscribing witness thereto,signed and subscribed her name to said will and then and there she the said Mrs Martha A Skiles declared said written instrument to be her last will and testament,and then and there requested this affiant and the said P A Davis to attest,witness and subscribe the same ,as her last will and testament, Affiant further says that he and the said P A Davis at the date that they so subscribed their names to said will and testament as subscribin witnesses,were each over the age of 21 years,and that the said Mrs Martha A Skiles died without revoking said will.

J. F. Rowland

Subscribed and sworn to before me by James F Rowland in open Court on this the 5 day of January 1900.

A. Johnson
Dallas County Texas
By J. H. Stewart

In Re
Estate of Mrs Martha A Skiles deceased.

The State of Texas

Dallas County

I W H Skiles, do solemnly swear that the writing which has been offered for probate is the last will of Mrs Martha A Skiles, so far as I know or believe, and that I will well and truly perform all the duties of Executor of said will, of the estate of said Mrs Martha A Skiles deceased.

W. A. Skiles

Subscribed and sworn to by W H Skiles, before me the undersigned authority on this the 5th day of January 1900.

*J. Jackson Clk Co. Court
Dallas County Texas
Ray H. Gaudin*

In Re Estate of Mrs. Martha A Skiles deceased.

The State of Texas

Dallas County I W H Skiles, do solemnly swear that the writ-

ing which has been offered for probate is the last will of Mrs. Martha

A Skiles, so far as I know or believe, and that I will well and truly

execute all the duties of Executor of said will of the estate of said

Recorded 65

James H. Skiles
A. H. JACKSON
Notary Public for the State of Texas

W. H. Skiles
Executor

Notary at office

State of Texas
Martha A Skiles
27th

In Re

Estate of Mrs Martha A Skiles deceased.

Now on this day came on to be heard the application of W H Skiles ,who was heretofore by this court duly appointed Executor of the will of the said Mrs Martha A Skiles deceased,and who has heretofore duly qualified as such by taking the oath of office,for the approval of the inventory appraisement and list of the claims of the property of the estate of the said Mrs Martha A Skiles deceased,which said inventory,appraisement and list of claims was duly filed filed with the Clerk of this court on the 5th day of Februrary 1900,

And the court having fully inspected said inventory,appraisement and list of claims and the same appearing to be in full compliance with law,and the court fully understanding the same,and it further appearing to the court that no objections have been filed against the approval of same and no objections are now being urged against the approval of same said inventory,appraisement and list of claims of said estate is therefore received and ordered to be filed,and the said inventory,appraisement and list of claims is an all things approved,ratified and confirmed by the court,and the Clerk of this court will record the same in the probate records of Dallas County Texas.

In Re
Estate of Mrs Martha A Skiles deceased.

Friday Jan 5th 1900

Now on this day came on to be heard the application of W H Skiles for the probate of a certain instrument in writing, purporting to be the last will and testament of Mrs Martha A Skiles a feme sole deceased, which said application and sais will which accompanied said application as is required by law, were both filed in this court on the 21st day of December 1899, and it appearing to the court from an inspection of the records in said cause, that the citation required by law on the filing of said application and will had been duly issued and served in the manner and for the length of time required by law, and it further appearing to the court that no objections have been filed or are now being urged either to the granting of the said application or to the probate of said will,

~~and the court having heard the testimony of James F Rowland, which was now here in open court reduced to writing and duly signed and sworn to by said James F Rowland one of the attesting witnesses to said will and filed with the record in this cause, as well also the citation and the return of the officer on the same, and it appearing to the court and to the satisfaction of the court, that said will is in due and legal form, and that the said Mrs Martha A Skiles deceased executed the same with the formalities and solemnities and under the circumstances required by law to make it a valid will, and that at the time of its execution the said Mrs Martha A Skiles was then and there of sound mind and of disposing memory, and that she was a widow about 63 years of age, and that she executed the same of her own accord and without any undue influence and that the same was never revoked by her, and that the principal part of her estate was and is situated in Dallas County Texas, and that the said Mrs Martha A Skiles departed this life on or about the 7th day of December 1899, at her home in Dallas County Texas, and that four years have not elapsed since her death, and that the said W H Skiles is named as Executor in said will, and it further appearing appearing that by said will he is exempted and relieved from giving bond as such Executor, and that he is not disqualified by law to receive letters testamentary, and is a suitable and proper person to be appointed Executor of said estate, It is therefore ordered, adjudged and decreed by the court, that said instrument in writing as so signed, published and declared by the said Mrs Martha A Skiles deceased and dated August the 19th 1899 and which was attested by James F Rowland and P A Davis as attesting witnesses and which was filed in this court on the 21st day of December 1899, is proved as the last will and testament of the said Mrs Martha A Skiles deceased, upon and by the testimony of the said James F Rowland one of said subscribing witnesses thereto, and said will is ordered to be recorded, together with with such proof as taken in open court establishing the same as the last will and testament of the said Mrs Martha A Skiles deceased.~~

It is further ordered that the application and citation and its return be also recorded.

It is further ordered, adjudged and decreed by the court that W H Skiles be and he is herenow appointed Executor of said will upon his taking and filing herein the oath of office, and that no bond be required of him as such Executor,

It is further ordered that *Frank Bousw* and *F. M. Armstrong* and *R. F. Brinkley* be and they are herenow appointed appraisers

of the property and estate of the said Mrs Martha A Skiles deceased, and that it shall be their duty assisted by W H Skiles the Executor of said will, to make out and return to the present term of this court a full, fair and complete inventory and appraisement of the property of said estate.

Div Re

Estate of

Mrs Martha A Skiles

deceased

To

Order of Court

Admitted to
probate and appointed
Executor and appraiser

In, Re.

Of the estate of Martha A. Skiles deceased.

In the County Court of Dallas County Texas.

Now comes W. H. Skiles executor of the will of Martha A. Skiles deceased the administration of whose said estate is now pending in Dallas County Texas, and herenow submits to the consideration of the Court the following inventory and appraisement of the property of said estate, and which said property is herenow appraised by Frank Bowser, F. M. Armstrong and B. F. Binkley, who were heretofore by an order of the County Judge of Dallas County duly appointed appraisers of said estate.

Your executor would represent and show to the Court that all of the cows, cattle, horses and mules, and household and kitchen furniture and the personal effects of the said Martha A. Skiles deceased, were heretofore as per the request of the decedent made by her in her lifetime duly apportioned to and divided among the heirs of said decedent, all of whom are adults, and the amount of the property in Dollars and cents as so taken by each heir and which is to be charged against the share of each heir in the real property of said estate is as follows to-wit:

W. H. Skiles received of said personal property and is to be charged with the sum of -----\$39,56

J. M. Skiles received of said personal property and is to be charged with the sum of-----\$55,00

J. W. Skiles received of said personal property and is to be charged with the sum of -----\$42,50

Mary E. Louis received of said personal property and is to be charged with the sum of -----\$51,25

Charles E. Skiles received of said personal property and is to be charged with the sum of-----\$30,00

M. M. Skiles received of said personal property and is to be charged with the sum of-----\$82.00

Mattie C. Wetsel received of said personal property and is to be charged with the sum of -----\$65.95

Your Executor would further represent and show to the Court that the entire property of said estate consists of the herein after described tract of land and a certain sum of money in the Plano National Bank, and certain notes made by the heirs of decedent to Decedent a list of which is attached hereto,

Martha A. Skiles deceased, the above and foregoing is a full, true and

The real property of said estate is as follows to-wit:
126²/₃ acres of land in Dallas County Texas near Richardson in the J.M. Cole and the John Edmunds Surveys, which said tracts of land compose the home-stead of the Decedent, and the same were the homestead of Charles W. Skiles deceased who was the husband of the said Martha A. Skiles deceased, and your Executor is informed that the whole of said tracts of land were and are the common property of said Charles W. Skiles deceased and Martha A. Skiles deceased, and said lands are here-
now valued at the sum of *the whole 126 2/3 acres* -----\$ 5066.65

The personal property of said estate is as follows to-wit:
To cash on deposit in the Plano National Bank to the credit of Martha A. Skiles the sum of \$85.00 and the same is herencw valued at \$85.00.
Total valuation of both real and personal property of said estate is the sum of -----\$ 5751.65

I W. H. Skiles Executor of the will of Martha A. Skiles deceased do solemnly swear that the above and foregoing is a full and complete list and inventory of the property both real and personal that belongs to the estate of Martha A. Skiles deceased that has come to my knowledge.

W. H. Skiles

Subscribed and sworn to before me by W. H. Skiles on this the 3rd, day of Feb, 1900.

P. T. Skilton

Notary Public in and for Collin County Texas.

The State of Texas-O-

County of Collin -O- Before me the under signed authority on this day personally appeared Frank Bowser, F. M. Armstrong and H. F. Binkley who after being by me duly sworn upon their oaths depose and say as far as produced to them by W.H. Skiles Executor of the estate of Martha A. Skiles deceased, the above and foregoing is a full, true and correct inventory, list and appraisal of the property both real and personal of the estate of Martha A. Skiles deceased.

B. J. Bowser
F. M. Armstrong
H. F. Binkley

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this the 3rd, day of Feb, 1900.

P. T. Skilton

Notary Public Collin County Texas.

In. Re.

Of the estate of Martha A. Skiles deceased.

Now comes W. H. Skiles Executor of the will of Martha A. Skiles deceased and submits to the consideration of the Court in connection with the inventory and appraisal of the property of said estate the following as a full and complete list of all claims due and owing to said estate, and that all said claims are due and owing from the heirs and distributees of said estate, and are by the will of Decedent charged as advancements against the share of each heir and legatee as named in said will, and the same are as follows to-wit:

Note against J. M. Skiles for the sum of \$100.00 dated Feb. 10, 1897. Date of maturity not given, no rate of interest specified, payable to the order of M. A. Skiles, no credits.

Note against John W. Skiles for \$275.00 dated Aug. 1st, 1899, due one day after date, no interest specified, payable to the order of M. A. Skiles, credited by \$17.50, date of credit not given.

Note against M. M. Skiles for \$89.48 dated Sept. 11th, 1896, due one day after date, no interest specified, payable to the order of M. A. Skiles, credited Jan. 11th, 1896 by \$9.00, same party admits that he owes the Decedent about \$25.00 on account for 1899, for corn, bacon, & c.

Note against J. T. Lewis for \$25.00, dated Aug. 1st 1899, due one day after date, no rate of interest specified, payable to M. A. Skiles or order.

Note against J. H. Wetsel for \$25.00 dated Feb. 1st, 1897, date of maturity not given, interest after date at the rate of ten per cent per annum, payable to M. A. Skiles or order, credited by \$4.50 March 15th, 1897, \$7.50 May 20th, 1897 and \$4.50 Dec. 1st, 1898.

In No.

I W. H. Skiles Executor of the will of Martha A. Skiles deceased do solemnly swear that as far as has come to my knowledge, the above and foregoing is a full, true and correct list of all the claims that are due or owing to the estate of Martha A. Skiles deceased, and that have come to my knowledge,

W. H. Skiles

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 3rd, day of Feb, 1900.

R. T. Shelton

Notary Public Collin County Texas,

Faint, illegible text, likely the beginning of a list of claims.

Faint, illegible text, likely the middle of a list of claims.

Faint, illegible text, likely the end of a list of claims.

In Re 2742
Estate of Martha A. Skiles
deceased
Recorded 219

TO
MORTGAGE

Inventory appraised and
and list of claims

Filed Feb 5th 1900

A. Jackson

Clerk of County Court

Feb 5th 1900

Examined and
approved

W. M. Withers
25 Feb 1900

The State of Texas

.In the County Court of Dallas County.

Dallas County

To Honl Kenneth Force County Judge of Dallas County Texas,

W H Skiles a citizen of Denton County Texas,would respectfully represent and show to your Honor,that Mrs Martha A Skiles a widow and mother of your applicant,died at her home near Richardson in Dallas County Texas,on or about the 7th day of December 1899,

That she the said Mrs Martha A Skiles deceased,at the time of her death owned and was in the possession of certain real and personal property the most of which if not all is situated in Dallas County Texas,and is of the probable value of \$8000.00 (Eight Thousand Dollars),

That the said Mrs Martha A Skiles heretofore and on or about the 19th day of August 1899,made,declared and published her certain will in writing,whereby she disposed of her said estate,and which said will is in all things as your applicant is informed and believes,executed in strict formalities of law,and which said will your applicant herenow files in the office of the County Clerk of Dallas County,with this application,

That your applicant was by the said testatrix named and nominated as Executor in said will,and is by said will exempted from giving bond as such,and that your applicant is not disqualified by law from accepting letters as such,

Wherefore your applicant prays for notice of the filing of this application to be given as is required by law,and that said will be admitted to probate as the last will and testament of the said Mrs Martha A Skiles deceased,and that your applicant be appointed Executor of said will,and that appraisers be appointed to appraise said estate,and for all such orders and decrees in the premises as are meet and proper,and for all of which as in duty bound your applicant will ever pray&c.

R. T. Skilton
attorney for applicant

In Re ^{2742.}
Estate of Mrs. M. A. Skiles
Deceased

TO ^{Wm. M. M.} Application to
Probate Will

M. A. Skiles

Filed the 21 day of
Dec 1899

A. S. Jackson, Clerk Co. Court.
Attest
A. M. McNeill

Recorded: 60621

Issued Dec 21, 99.