Codicil to My Last Will and Testament Concerning Genealogy Materials

by Paul Drake, used with permission

Preamble: I here mean to dispose of the materials owned or properly in my possession at death that have genealogical value, though have little or no worth on the market as personal property. My genealogical efforts have required no small measure of thought, time, travel, and money and may be of substantial value to other researchers. I would ask that my file cabinets, folders, materials in my desk, and any and all my research materials stored elsewhere be gathered together and included in this category. It is my hope that all such materials might be disposed of in the following manner.

Following my death, I request that any and all of my genealogical records, both those prepared or written by me, as well as all other family history records which may be in my possession, including all files, notebooks, books, correspondence, copies of documents, and such as computer programs or computer memory devices, remain together and protected for a period for eighteen (18)months or until a recipient is found for such materials, whichever comes first.

Further, I request that immediate efforts be made by my family to identify one or more persons or institutions who would have knowledge of and be willing to take custody of such materials and assume the responsibility of maintaining and perhaps continuing the family histories and research.

I suggest that the persons be contacted regarding their willingness to assume custody of these materials include:

(examples) Jim Jones, 100 Elm St., Saint Francis, KY 12345, phone 111-333-9999
Jane Smith, 250 Money St., Nowhere, TN 98765, phone 222-999-1932
Etc.
Etc.
Whatever Museum and Archives, Main St., Hanging Limb, TN
Worthlittle Else College, Lord Knows Where, AL

Further, in the event no person or organization named here is willing to preserve such genealogical materials, please contact the various genealogical organizations of which I have been a member, there to determine their willingness to accept some or all of these materials.

(Here list the societies or organizations to be contacted; include local chapters, with their addresses, phone numbers and contacts known to you, if any)

In witness whereof and before witnesses, I have hereto affixed my name on the ___ day of ____, 200?

Signature _____

Witness _____ Date _____

Witness _____ Date _____

Patricia Burrow, plumlady1@iCloud.com

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CODICIL TO YOUR LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT TO PRESERVE YOUR GENEALOGY

"To my spouse, children, guardian, administrator and/or executor:

Upon my death, it is requested that you DO NOT dispose of any of my genealogical records, both those prepared by me and those records prepared by others which may be in my possession, including but not limited to books, files, notebooks or computer programs for a period of one year.

During this year, you may find someone in my family who would like to take custody AND (1) to preserve my research, and (2) to continue researching my family history.

Should you not find this person to accept these materials with the stipulation to continue my research, I would like for you to contact the

Bassett Historical Center,
3964 Fairystone Park Highway,
Bassett, Virginia 24055,
phone 276-629-9191,
fax 276-629-9840.

Staff at the Center will know how my collection should be handled.

Please know that my genealogical research is very important to me, that it consumed a great deal of time, travel, money and effort on my part.

Therefore, it is my desire that my research be preserved at the Bassett Historical Center and be allowed to be made available to other researchers in the future."

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____