

Will of
Allen Edwards

State of North Carolina—Bladen County.
This September the eighteenth day one thousand eight hundred and seventy six.
In the name of God Amen. I, Allen Edwards calling to mind the frailty of the body and that all men must die I make and ordain this my last will and testament: I give to my three sons, to wit: Haynes, Gilmore, and Calvin Edwards 100 acres of land known as the John Roberts tract the half of sd tract lying on the north side of the Main Branch joining my wife Rhoda Ann's and William G. Smyth's lands making them 50 acres each, also I give my son James six acres lying in the Horse Creek tract patented by myself, also I give my daughter Margaret Dove fifty acres lying between the Dora Lane and Roberts tracts patented by myself. I also have given my son Wright Edwards a deal for 50 acres that he now lives on. Also I give my son Robert J. Edwards 100 acres that he now lives on. Also I give my daughter Eliza Singletary a eleven acre tract of land adjoining David Hester and James Edwards patented by myself, also 29 acres adjoining a part of 100 acres that I now live on. Also I give my son Robert 1 yellow mare, also I give my wife Rhoda Ann one cow and calf, one sow and pigs, one ewe and lamb and two fattening hogs & all the household and kitchen furniture that belongs to her, that she brought with her or may buy with her own money, also a lifetime right on the 76 acres of land now not willed and after her death sd 76 acres of land to be equally divided between Haynes, Calvin, Gilmore, Eliza, Wright and Margaret. Also at my death all my perishable property to be equally divided between all my children except that I have already mentioned above. Also that my daughter Margaret Dove have ten dollars out of sd perishable property more than the rest.
I also make and ordain my sons Haynes Edwards and Gilmore Edwards as my executors. The above is my last will signed

and sealed in presence of witnesses
James Cashwell } Allen ^{his} Edwards (seal)
Nevil Cashwell (signed) mark

State of North Carolina } Probate of Will
Bladen County }
A paper purporting to be the last will and testament of Allen Edwards, deceased, is exhibited before me the undersigned Judge of Probate for Bladen County by Haynes Edwards and Gilmore Edwards the executors therein named, and the due execution thereof by the said Allen Edwards by the oath and examination of James Cashwell and Nevil Cashwell who being duly sworn do depose and say and each for himself depose and saith that he is a subscribing witness to the paper writing now shown him purporting to be the last will and testament of Allen Edwards, that the said Allen Edwards in presence of this deponent subscribed his name at the end of said paper which is now shown as aforesaid and which bears date of the 18th day of September 1876. And the deponent further saith that the said Allen Edwards the testator aforesaid did at the time of subscribing his name aforesaid declare the said paper writing as subscribed by him and exhibited to be his last will and testament, and this deponent did thereupon subscribe his name at the end of said will as an attesting witness thereto and at his request and in the presence of the said testator. And this deponent further saith that at the said time when the said testator subscribed his name to the said last will, as aforesaid and the time of the deponent subscribing his name as an attesting witness thereto as aforesaid the said Allen Edwards was of sound mind and memory of full

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to execute a will and was not, under any restraint to the knowledge, information or belief of this deponent.

And further these deponents, say not sworn to and subscribed before me this 5th day of September 1881

(Signed) N. A. Steadman,
Judge of Probate

Will of
James Melvin

I, James Melvin of the County of Bladen and State of North Carolina, being of sound mind and memory but considering the uncertainty of my earthly existence do make and do affix this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say I give and devise to my beloved wife Mariah Melvin all of my beds and furniture all my household and kitchen furniture, all of my farming tools, all of my stock of all kinds, all notes and accounts and all monies that I may have, and, all my crop of all kinds, everything else that I may have not named in this my will to be hers during her natural lifetime and for her to dispose of as she may see proper. And I do constitute and appoint my friend W. S. Melvin my lawful executor to, all intents and purposes to execute this my last will and testament according to the true intent and meaning. In witness whereof I the said James Melvin, do hereunto set my hand, and seal this 1st day of September one thousand eight hundred and eighty.

Witnesses

J. B. Melvin
W. S. Melvin

James Melvin (Seal)

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State of North Carolina }
Bladen County, Probate of Will.

A paper purporting to be the last will and testament of James Melvin, deceased, is exhibited before me the undersigned Judge of Probate for Bladen County by W. S. Melvin the executor therein named and the due execution thereof by the said James Melvin by the oath and examination of J. B. Melvin and W. S. Melvin who being duly sworn doth depose and say and each for himself, depose and saith that he is a subscribing witness to the paper writing now shown him purporting to be the last will and testament of James Melvin, deceased, that the said James Melvin in presence of this deponent subscribed his name at the end of said paper writing which is now shown as aforesaid and which bears date of the 1st day of September 1880 and the deponent further saith that the said James Melvin, the testator aforesaid, did, at the time of subscribing his name as aforesaid, declare the said paper writing so subscribed by him, and, exhibited to be his last Will and Testament, and this deponent did thereupon subscribe his name at the end of said Will as an attesting witness thereto and at his request and in the presence of the said testator. And this deponent further saith that at the time when the said testator subscribed his name to the said last will as aforesaid and the time of deponent subscribing his name as an attesting witness thereto as aforesaid the said James Melvin was of sound mind and memory, of full age to execute a will and was not under any restraint to the knowledge, information or belief of this deponent. And further these deponents say not.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of August 1881

(Signed) N. A. Steadman,
Judge of Probate

(Signed) J. B. Melvin
(Signed) W. S. Melvin