

and pay all funeral expenses together with my just debts howsoever and to whomsoever owing and of the first money that may come into her hands as a part or parcel of my estate.

Item I give and devise to my beloved wife Malsey Cain all my real and personal of whatever kind or nature it may be to have and to hold and enjoy for the term of her natural life. At the termination of her natural life if there shall be any of my real or personal estate remaining to be equally divided between my brothers and sisters, viz: Elizabeth Cain, William Cain, John Cain, Peter Cain, Sarah Burdett and Katharine Davis, to them and their heirs forever. And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my beloved wife Malsey Cain my lawful executor to all intents and purposes to execute this my last will and testament according to the true intent and meaning of the same and every part and clause thereof, hereby revoking all and declaring utterly void all other will and testaments by me heretofore made. In witness whereof I, the said Samuel Cain, do set my hand and seal this 17th day of August 1857.

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the said Samuel Cain to be his last will and testament in presence of us who at his request and in his presence do subscribe our names as witnesses thereto.

Test

Amos Smith
Owen Smith
O. J. Gardner
R. B. Cain

Samuel Cain 
a real man.

In Probate Court Bladen County
In Re Administration } Nov. 20th, 1871
Samuel Cain, decd.

A paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Samuel Cain is exhibited for probate by Richard W. Laton, and the due execution thereof is proved by the oath of O. J. Gardner, one of the subscribing witnesses thereto and it is further proven that Amos Smith and Owen Smith are dead. And it is proven by the oath of O. J. Gardner and Richard W. Laton that they are well acquainted with the handwriting of Owen Smith and that the name of Owen Smith was subscribed to the said paper writing by him. It is therefore considered that the said paper writing and every part thereof is the last will and testament of Samuel Cain, deceased, and the same is ordered to be recorded and filed.

D. J. Blue,
Judge of Probate.

In the name of God Amen
Be it remembered that I Elizabeth Board of the County of Bladen and State of North Carolina being of sound mind and memory do make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following that is to say: First that my executor hereinafter named shall provide for my body a decent burial and pay all funeral expenses together with my just debts howsoever and to whomsoever owing and out of the money that may first come into his hands as part of my estate.

Item I give and devise to daughter Katharine and Margaret Board and 21

married woman all the tract of land including my dwelling house and all improvements thereon I now live to be divided among them in equal proportion share and share alike to have and to hold to them and the heirs of their bodies in fee simple forever and should either of my said daughters viz. Katharine or Margaret Beard die leaving no child or children then in that case to the survivor or survivors of them in like manner.

I Item. I give and devise to my son James Beard one negro girl by the name of Marina with her increase to have and to hold forever with what I have advanced at sundry times will make him an equal share.

I Item. I give and devise to my daughter Ann West one negro girl by the name of Jane with her increase to have and to hold to her and the heirs of her body with what I have advanced at sundry times will make her an equal share.

I Item. I give to my three daughters Katharine and Margaret Beard and Eliza Melvin one negro man by the name of Dick and two negro boys by the names of Washington and Edward and two negro girls by the names of Mary Ann and Harriet with their increase to have and to hold to them and the heirs of their bodies and should either Katharine or Margaret Beard die and leave no child or children then and in that case to the survivor or survivors of them in like manner I also give and devise to my three last named daughters one riding chair and all my household and kitchen furniture and all my stock of cattle and hogs and one grey mare and all the balance of my estate that have not been given away in a former item to be equally divided between the three to have and to hold forever. And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint William 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 of the same, hereby revoke and declaring void all other wills and testaments by me heretofore made. In witness whereof I the said Elizabeth Beard do hereunto set my hand and seal this 2 day of May 1853.

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the said Elizabeth Beard to be her last will and testament in the presence of us who at her request and in her presence do subscribe our names witnesses thereto.

Given South
James Melvin.

Whereas I Elizabeth Beard have made my last and testament in writing bearing date on the 2nd day of May 1853 and have thereby made sundry devises and bequest according to then existing circumstances of my estate but which circumstances having now materially changed I do by this my writing which I hereby declare to be a codicil to my said will to be taken and constituted as a part thereof will and direct the sum of two $\times$ 50^{cts} dollars to be paid to my son James S. Beard and two $\times$ 50^{cts} dollars to my daughter Ann C. West to be paid by my executor within two years after my death. In testimony whereof I hereunto set my hand and seal the 6th day April 1872.

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the said Elizabeth Beard to be a codicil or part her last will and testament in presence of us who at her request and in her presence and in the presence of each other do subscribe our names as witnesses thereto.

D. M. Melvin
P. A. Melvin

North Carolina } In Probate Court
Bladen County } 4 Sept. 1872

A paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Elizabeth Beard, decd., is exhibited before me the undersigned Judge of Probate in and for said county by William A. Melvin the executor therein named and the due execution thereof by the said Elizabeth Beard by the oath and examination of James Melvin one of the witnesses to said will the other witness Orion Smith being dead, and the due execution of the codicil to the said will by the oath and examination of D. M. Melvin and R. A. Melvin the subscribing witnesses thereto who being duly sworn both depose and say and each for himself depose and sayeth that he is a subscribing witness to the paper writing now shown him purporting to be the last will and testament of the said Elizabeth Beard and the codicil thereto that the said Elizabeth Beard in the presence of this deponent subscribed her name at the end of said paper writing which is now shown as aforesaid and which bears date the 2^d day of May 1863, and to the said codicil the 16th day of April 1872 and the deponent further sayeth that the said Elizabeth Beard the testatrix aforesaid did at the time of subscribing her name as aforesaid declare the said paper writing so subscribed by her and exhibited to be her last will and testament and the deponent did thereupon subscribe his name at the end of said will and said codicil as attesting witnesses thereto and at the request and in the presence of the said testatrix and the deponent further sayeth that at the said time when the said testatrix signed her name to the said last will as aforesaid and at the time of deponent's subscribing his name as an attesting witness thereto as aforesaid the said Elizabeth Beard 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. Severally sworn and subscribed this 4 Sept. 1872 before me
James Melvin
D. Blue
Judge of Probate

John Mc Norton
Will

I, John Mc Norton of the County of Bladen and State of North Carolina, being of sound mind and memory but considering the certainty of death do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following that is to say, first, that my executor hereinafter named shall provide for my body a decent burial suitable to the wishes of my friends and relations and pay all funeral expenses together with my just debts, whatsoever and to whomsoever owing, out of the first moneys that may come into his hands as a part and parcel of my estate.
First. I give and devise to my beloved friend and relative, Mary Stubbs all the household and kitchen furniture, tools of all kinds, one cart, beehives and all the poultry and all the rents that may be derived from the turpentine boxes and farm, lifetime right to the house where I now live.
Second. I give and bequeath to my friend John W. Clark ten dollars for the benefit of White Plains Church.
Third. I give and bequeath to David Hargrove two-thirds interest in all the lands that I may own at my death.
Fourth. I give to Sarah A. Benson one-third interest in my lands save the lifetime right which I have given to Mary Stubbs.
Fifth. I give to each of my other lawful heirs to be paid by my executor out of the real estate five dollars each, viz: Mary E. Mc Norton, Harriet E. Mc Norton, and Ann Mc Norton and lastly I abate