

Will of
Samuel
McLelland

I Samuel McLelland of 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 declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following that is to say

First That my executors hereinafter named shall provide for my body a decent burial suitable to the wishes of my relatives and friends and pay all funeral expenses together with my just debts hereunto and to whomsoever owing out of moneys that may first come into his hands as a part or parcel of my estate.

Item After my death I give and devise to my daughter Mary Ann Porter, wife of William H. Porter the plantation on which I now live containing one hundred and fifty acres for and during her natural life After the death of my daughter Mary Ann Porter the land or plantation mentioned in the first clause of this will to go to the natural heirs of her body that is to say her children.

Item If William H. Porter should survive his wife the said Mary Ann it is my devise that he should live on the said plantation and work it for the benefit of the said children of Mary Ann or any that may hereafter be born of her body as well as for his own support.

And lastly I do hereby appoint my trusty friends S. D. McDowell and J. A. McDowell and Thomas J. Norman my lawful executors 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 to the best advantage for the welfare of all concerned hereby revoking and declaring utterly void all other wills by me heretofore made.

In witness whereof I the said Samuel McLelland do hereunto set my hand and seal this 25th day of July A.D. 1857.

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

R. S. Gillespie
H. H. White

Samuel McLelland

State of North Carolina) In Superior Court.
Bladen County

In the matter of the last will of Samuel McLelland It appearing to the Court by the oath and examination of W. H. White, and James F. Gillespie who prove the signature of R. S. Gillespie, decd. the subscribing witnesses thereto that the paper writing propounded is the last will and testament of Samuel McLelland and that the same was duly executed by the said Samuel McLelland in the presence of said witnesses and that at the time of signing the same the said Samuel McLelland was of sound mind.

It is thereupon adjudged that the said paper writing be admitted to probate as the last will and testament of the said Samuel McLelland this the 6th day of Feb. 1856.
C. F. Nelson C.S.C.

Will of
James Davis

I James Davis 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 declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say (First) I give and bequeath to my son James McKay Davis the lower part of the tract of land I now live upon lying between the Burnell & Blackburn road. Also the tract of land upon which the said James McKay Davis is now living. Also a red bull headed cow. Also a cow and yearling heifer as the trim cow and two sows and pigs. (Second) I give and bequeath to my wife Mary Jane Davis the use of the lands where I now live during her lifetime in case she never marries again but in the event she does marry again the lands are to go to my children. I also give to my wife two cows, a white one and a red one, also the hogs about home. (Third) I give and bequeath to my daughter Sarah Jane Davis a cow and calf named Cherry, also a black sow and pigs. (Fourth) I give and bequeath to my daughter Margaret Harris one cow and calf. (Fifth) I give and bequeath to my daughter Eliza Davis a red cow and calf. (Sixth) I give and bequeath to my daughter Susan one cow and calf. (Seventh) I give and bequeath to my son Molly one cow and calf. (Eighth) I give and bequeath to my grandson L. W. Davis one cow and calf.

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give, and bequeath to my son John Richardson Davis the use of the lands whereon I now live jointly with my wife. In the event that my wife dies or marries again I wish this land to become the sole property of my son John Richardson Davis. I also give to my son John Richardson Davis two hickory and the Lake run hogs. I also give to my son John Richardson Davis all my cooper tools, and all my hogs, oxen and other cattle not otherwise disposed of here to be equally divided between my wife and son John Richardson Davis. Lastly, I do hereby constitute and appoint my friend J. W. Cronastie my lawful executor to execute this my last will and testament according to the true intent and meaning of the same. In witness whereof I the said James Davis do hereunto set my hand and seal this 4th day of June 1871.

Signed, sealed, published and James ^{his} Davis (Seal)
declared by the said James Davis to be his last will and testament in the presence of two witnesses who at his request and in his presence do subscribe our names as witnesses thereto.

Attest: H. R. Francis.
Thos. A. Jessup.

State of North Carolina) In the Superior Court
Bladen County

In the matter of the last will and testament of James Davis. It appearing to the Court by the oath and examination of H. R. Francis and Thomas A. Jessup the subscribing witnesses thereto that the paper writing purporting to be the executor therein named is the last will and testament of James Davis, and that the same was duly executed by said James Davis, in the presence of said witnesses and that at the time of signing the same the said James Davis was of sound mind. It is thereupon adjudged that the said paper writing be admitted to probate as the last will and testament of the said James Davis and the executor therein named qualifies as such this the 5th day of October A.D. 1876.

G. F. McElvin, Clerk
Superior Court.

RECORD OF WILLS.

Will of
John Butler

I, John Butler 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 declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following that is to say:

First, that my executors (hereinafter named) shall provide for my body a decent burial suitable to the wishes of my relatives and friends and pay all funeral expenses together with my just debts now or hereafter and to whomsoever owing out of the money that may first come into their hands as a part or parcel of my estate.

* Item I give and devise to my beloved wife Elizabeth G. Butler four hundred acres of land to be set out by metes and bounds so as to include my mansion house and all out-houses and other improvements and to be as convenient as can be laid off to have and to hold to her the said Elizabeth Butler for and during the term of her natural life or during her widowhood, in satisfaction for and in lieu of her dower and thirds of and in all my real estate.

Item I give and devise to my eldest sons legal heirs, that is the heirs of James A. Butler the sum of one dollar to be paid to my executor out of any money belonging to my estate to be theirs absolutely forever.

Item I give and devise to my eldest daughter Mary Ann wife of Daniel Johnson the sum of one dollar to be paid as the last bequest to her absolutely forever.

Item To the heirs of my second daughter Elizabeth G. formerly wife of Amos High I don't give anything in any way or manner.

Item I give and devise to my son John L. Butler the sum of one dollar to his use absolutely forever.

* Item My will and desire is that my daughter Nancy W. wife of Daniel White shall have one-fifth of my land (which is near seven hundred acres) when my youngest child comes of age to her at her disposal absolutely forever.

* Item My will and desire is that at the death or marriage of my widow the land which I bequeathed to her containing four hundred acres (more or less) also two (lots) at Bladenboro containing more or less with the improvements and to be