

RECORD OF WILLS.

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 ^{his} James 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

land if any shall be divided equally as now be as to value between Charles T. Butler, Martha Ann Butler and George E. Butler they being my three youngest children, said lands to be kept by my executors until they severally arrive at full age, then to be theirs and their heirs in fee simple forever. Now My will and desire is that my wife Elizabeth C. Butler shall have the bedstead and furniture, her choice, all the household and kitchen furniture, all the farming tools and utensils, carts and buggy, all the horses or mules, all my cattle, hogs and sheep, all the domestic fowls and poultry, all the crop of every description that may be upon the plantation whereon I now live and all the provisions on hand at the time of my death, also my bees, my silver watch and shotguns to be used for the use of the family, and at the death of or marriage of my wife Elizabeth C. Butler that in either case her part of my personal property of every description shall be divided between my seven children by my last wife to be shared and shared alike to each and every one of them it to be theirs absolutely forever. Provided, however, if the lands which I now give to my sons Robert C. Butler, Thomas V. Butler and my daughter Sallie F. Butler and I said Butler shall be sold or taken from them for my debt by any legal process of law on my account then and in that case my will and desire is that my land be it much or little shall be equally divided between my daughter Mary W. wife of Daniel White and my seven children by my last wife to wit: Robt. C. Butler, Thomas V. Butler, Charles T. Butler, George E. Butler, Sallie F. Butler, I said Butler and Martha Ann Butler to be divided shared and shared alike to each of them absolutely forever. Now My will and desire is that the cash on hand and the notes when collected shall be used for the use of my family while they stay together, for schooling the minor children and for necessities for the family to be used by my executors or widow in paying any demands and if said moneys shall be not sufficient to carry out the preceding clauses then my executors are authorized to sell timber on any of the above or before mentioned lands to raise funds for the purposes above mentioned.

And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my true friends Oliver D. Johnson and Robt. M.

James my lawful executors to all intent and purpose to execute the my last will and testament according to the true intent and meaning of the same and every part and clause thereof, hereby revoking and declaring utterly void, all other wills and testaments by me heretofore made. In witness whereof I the said John Butler do hereunto set my hand and seal the 2nd day of October A.D. 1878.

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

George W. Jones
Jos. S. Foster.

John Butler (Seal)

State of North Carolina) In Superior Court
Bladen County

In the matter of the last will of John Butler
It appearing to the Court by the oath and examination of

The subscribing witnesses thereto, that the paper writing propounded by the executor therein named is the last will and testament of John Butler and that the same was duly executed by said John Butler in the presence of said witnesses and that at the time of signing the same the said John Butler was of sound mind.

It is therefore adjudged that the said paper writing be admitted to probate as the last will and testament of the said John Butler and the executor therein named qualify as such.

G. F. Melvin Clerk
Superior Court.