

In the name of God Amen.

I John Sikes, 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 executor 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 honored and to whomsoever owing out of the money that may first come into his hands as a part or parcel of my estate.

1. Item. I give and devise unto my beloved wife Emelia Sikes four hundred acres of land more or less lying of the east side of Harrison's Creek and on the west side of Harrison's Lake and the dwelling house where I now live and all the balance of the houses on the lot where I now live except Giles Sikes's dwelling house, to have and to hold to her the said Emelia Sikes for and during the term of her natural life. I also give to my said wife all my stock of cattle, hogs and bees and all my household and kitchen furniture, all my stock of provisions, of corn, bacon and all other provisions of all kind, and all my fodder and peas that may be on hand at my death. I also give my said wife all my farming and working tools of every kind.
2. Item. I give and devise to my son Giles Sikes three hundred and fifty nine and one half acres of land which he now lives on to have and to hold including all improvements thereon excepting the life of my said wife on my dwelling house and all outhouses on the same. I also give my son Giles Sikes my shotgun and my large steel trap.
3. Item. I give and bequeath to my four grandchildren John Sikes, Richard Sikes, Ed Sikes and Emeline Allen Sikes, children of Elmon

Sikes - three hundred and twenty eight acres of land known as the pull lands, including my grist mill and all other improvements of any kind. I also give my four grandchildren one hundred and eighty four acres of land more or less lying across Harrison's Creek known as the Nancy Singletary land including all and every improvement thereto belonging to have and to hold to them and their heirs forever.

4. Item. I give my said wife all money that I may have on hand at my death and all notes judgments and accounts that may be due me and all the balance of my personal estate of whatever kind and nature it may be that I have not given away in a former item, to have and to hold and to enjoy during her natural life.
5. Item. I give and devise to my son Giles Sikes all my real and personal estate that I have set apart to my said wife my former items to go into his possession at the death of my said wife to have and to hold to him and his heirs forever.

And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my son Giles Sikes 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 and declaring utterly void all other wills and testaments by me heretofore made.

In witness whereof I the said John Sikes do hereunto set my hand and seal this 23^d day of January 1866.

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

Attest Owen Smith
Daniel McElhiney
Emilia McElhiney

John Sikes

State of North Carolina } Court of Pleas and
Bladen County } Quarter Sessions
May term A.D. 1868.

A paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of John Sikes, deceased, is exhibited for probate in open court by Giles Sikes, the executor therein named, and the due execution thereof by the said John Sikes is proved by the oath and examination of Owen Smith, one of the subscribing witnesses, thereto, it is therefore considered by the Court that the said paper writing and every part thereof is the last will and testament of the said John Sikes and the same is ordered to be recorded and filed and thereupon the said Giles Sikes executor as aforesaid duly qualifies as such and taking the oath required by law.

J. W. Purdie, Chairman.

Be it known by these presents that I, Charles Colvin of the county of Bladen and State of North Carolina, being of a sound mind and perfect memory do make and ordain this my last will & testament. That is to say, as touching such worldly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me in this life I give, devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form.

First. I will and desire that out of my personal estate my funeral expenses and all my just debts be paid.

Second. I give and bequeath to my much beloved cousin Mary Jane Council and her heirs, I mean her children, the following real estate, viz: One tract of River land on which I have lived, and was given to me by her father in his last will, containing three hundred and two, and a half acres and bounded by John J. Councils lands on the upper and lower sides and, I further give unto her, the said Mary Jane Council, and her heirs as above specified the following real estate contained in separate tracts a portion of which, as undivided, One hundred and forty five acres in the John Cashwell three hundred and twenty acre river survey, One hundred and sixty five acres of river land known as the Sikes lands, One hundred acres back lands a part of the Burney land, three hundred and sixty five acres known as the James Johnson land, two hundred and sixty five acres of river land known as the Lock lands adjoining the lands of Whitted & Blocker, Twenty five hundred and eight acres of river and back lands known as the Smith or Pearcell and Baker land adjoining the lands of Ellis, Spratt, Cashwell and others, the boundaries of which will more fully appear by reference to maps.