

In the name of God Amen

I John Smith of the County of Bladen and Province of North Carolina being in perfect health mind and memory but knowing it is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament that is to say principally and first of all I recommend my soul to God and my body to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executors in hopes of a glorious resurrection to eternal life.

And as touching such worldly estate as it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life I give and dispose of in manner as follows.

Impressio:- I give to my grand son John Smith son to my son John Smith deceased one hundred acres of land to be taken off the head or bad part of the land where I now live beginning at the lower side of a Branch called apton Branch and also one young negro between the age of ten and having five years old provided he lives to the age of twenty one years to receive them.

Impressio:- I give to my son James Smith three hundred acres of land to be taken off the lower side of the land where I now live and joining the McKays to him his heirs and assigns forever.

Impressio:- I give to my son Thomas Smith three hundred acres of land which is to be the middle part of the land where I now live to him his heirs and assigns forever.

Item

I give to my son Jonathan Smith three hundred acres of land it being the upper side of my land and improvements where I now live to him his heirs or assigns forever after his mothers decease and my lot or part of the lot in Wilmington. I give to my four sons and their heirs or assigns forever to be divided between them according to quantity and quality my negroes I desire may be kept together till my son Jonathan comes to the age of twenty one years and I desire that my loving wife may have a comfortable maintenance from the negroes stock and land during her natural life.

and that my two youngest sons Thomas and Jonathan may be properly educated out of the profits of my estate and if anything should remain to be laid out to the best advantage and kept together till divided more that is at my decease.

I give to my daughter Elizabeth Haynes one negro man called Will with the sixth part of all my real estate with the negro she hath already had from me the remaining part of my negroes stock of all kinds furniture coach and the other things I desire may be equally divided between my four sons after the youngest is twenty one years of age and I desire that these negroes may be divided according to the age of the negroes and the age of my sons first settling a part some of the negroes and stock and furniture for a comfortable maintenance for my loving wife during her natural life and at her decease to be divided between my four sons or so many of them as may be alive at that time.

And lastly I do constitute and appoint my poor sons Samuel Smith and James Smith Executors of this my last Will and Testament whom I desire to see that all my just debts are paid and I do hereby make void and disannul all former Wills and Testaments ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and Testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this be it remembered that before the signing and sealing and executing I do make this attestation that is to say I give to my son Thomas a negro girl called Lucy and to my son Jonathan a negro girl called Hannah over and above their division as is mentioned in the body of this will.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 12th day of May 1781.

In presence of
Margaret McKel } John Smith (seal)
George Thomas } February Term 1781.
John McWalter } This will was proved by the oath
of George Thomas in open Court and
ordered to be recorded.
Samuel Smith