

RECORD OF WILLS.

In the name of God Amen

I Jeremiah Storman being in usual Recollection of body and of disposing mind and memory do make this my last Will and Testament in firm and lawful manner following.

1st It is my wish to be decently buried and all my funeral Charges paid with all my just debts.

2^d It is my wish that my three Children in South Carolina may have all that is contained in their Grandfather R. Woodbys Will with that portion passed over by Mr. John Woodbury as their agent and receiving there for which I took J. Woodbys receipt October 20th 1831. only in this matter they settle with my estate for seventy five dollars each. for each Negro from the time they took possession of them until said day died and Peter September Eighteen hundred and thirty one. Joe and Adam January Eighteen hundred and thirty six as their service belonged to me & right and to no other person was entitled thereto.

The reason I give them no more is therein I have done as much for them as I am able to do for them three here.

3^d It is my wish that my wife Mary Storman have her maintenance during her natural life out of what I have undistributed of -

4th That when my Children by her Sarah Bailey Thomas James. and Caroline Emily. Storman take all my property share and share alike say property Real and Personal.

5th I constitute and appoint my son Thomas James Storman Executor to this my last Will and Testament

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 11th day of April one thousand eight hundred and forty.

Jeremiah Storman test

RECORD OF WILLS.

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In the name of God Amen

I John Melvin of the County of Bladen and State of North Carolina being of sound and perfect mind and memory. blessed be god, do this the 9th day of November in the Year of Our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and thirty nine. make and publish this my last Will and Testament in lawful manner following - that is to say -

1st I give and bequeath unto my wife Sarah Ann Melvin - six Negro Slaves. viz -

Nicks. Elsey. River. Lydia. Harriet and Milly -

I also give and bequeath unto the said Sarah Ann Melvin. all my stock of every kind. and especially my Household and Kitchen Furniture with all the money that is or may be on hand after my debts are paid.

I also give and bequeath unto the said Sarah Ann Melvin. my wife all my lands and tenement in the County of Bladen and Sampson during her life time. afterwards to be equally divided among my sons.

It is also my will that my wife Sarah Ann Melvin keep possession of the balance of my property until my Children come of age. it is to be understood that this is to enable her to raise and educate said Children clear of expense, and as each one comes of age I give and bequeath unto them the following property. viz -

First to my daughter Margaret Ann a bed and Furniture. Second. I give and bequeath unto Harriet A. Melvin one Negro Man named Harib. and one Noble band? given. Third. to my son James Kelly I give and bequeath one Negro man named William also one gun. Fourth. to my daughter Eliza J. I give and bequeath one Negro girl named Eliza - also one bed and Furniture.

Fifth - to my daughter Elizabeth. Deporter. I give and bequeath one Negro girl named Emily also one bed and Furniture. Sixth to my son John I give and bequeath one Negro man named Parvite and one boy named

RECORD OF WILLS.

And I hereby make and ordain my worthy friend G. W. Melvin Executor of this my last Will and Testament.

In witness whereof I the said John Melvin have to this my last Will and Testament set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Signed sealed published } John Melvin Seal
and declared by the said }
John Melvin the Testator }
as his last Will and Testament }
in the presence of us who were }
present at the time of signing }
and sealing thereof. }
W. Monroe.
Sauders Simmons }

In the name of God "Amen"

I, John Simpson of the County of Bladen and State of North Carolina, being of sound and perfect mind and memory, blessed be God, do this the 12th day of July in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight, make and publish this my last Will and Testament in manner following - That is to say -

- 1st I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Mary Simpson all my stock of every kind Farming utensils, Household and Kitchen Furniture also the following negroes, Bill, Maundy, Jack, Dan, Sam, Sinter, Leah, Amy, Mary, Gray, and Martha, with all their increase to have and dispose of, as she may think proper, among the lawful heirs of her body.

I also give that my said wife Mary

RECORD OF WILLS.

Simpson see all my Real Estate and make sufficient titles to the same and the proceeds thereof to pay my just debts, the balance to be paid in my said wife to remove her wherever she may wish to go.

- 2nd I give and bequeath unto my beloved son Frederick Simpson the following negroes, Tom, Hannah and Abby, with all their increase, to him his heirs and assigns forever.
- 3rd I give and bequeath to my son, Richard, the Simpson, the following negroes, Rachel, John and Abby, and their increase during the term of his natural life then to his lawful heirs, or.
- 4th I give and bequeath to the children of my daughter Margaret Ann Russ, and her future in law the following negroes, Patty, Frank, and Louisa with their increase to them and their heirs and assigns forever.
- 5th I give and bequeath to my son Miriam Simpson, Jasper, Becca, and Larcia, with their increase to him his heirs and assigns forever.
- 6th I give and bequeath to my son Joseph Simpson, Charles, Peggy, and Lucy, with their increase to him his heirs and assigns forever.
- 7th I give and bequeath to my daughter Caroline Simpson, Anthony, Caroline and Hannah, with their increase to her heirs and assigns forever.
- 8th I give and bequeath to my son James D. Simpson, Larry, Kent, and John and Sarah, and their increase to him and his heirs and assigns forever.

And should either of my said children die then it is my desire that the property bequeathed to them, should return to my said wife Mary Simpson.

And I do hereby nominate and appoint my beloved wife Mary Simpson Executor and Satrix Johnson to the last Will and Testament. In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

In presence of

Russell M. Maitre
Chas. M. Russell

John Simpson

RECORD OF WILLS.

In the Name of God. Amen

I John Melvin of the County of Bladen and State of North Carolina, being of sound mind but weak in body, and mindful of the mortality of my body do make and publish this my last will and testament for the purpose of disposing of those earthly goods which it has pleased God in this life to bless me, in manner and form following that is to say, after the payment of all my just debts-

I give and bequeath unto the children of my son Edward Melvin deceased, viz. John, George, and Edward Melvin, three hundred dollars to be equally divided among them after my death.

I give and bequeath unto the children of my son Samuel Melvin deceased, viz. three in number three hundred dollars to be equally divided among them after my death.

As to the rest of the property of which I may be possessed at my death, whether it be personal or Real Estate, it is my will and desire that it be equally divided among the following of my children, that is to say, Duncan Melvin, Jane Rens, George Melvin, Nancy Rens, Andrew Melvin, Sarah Smith, Joshua Melvin, Joseph Melvin, James Melvin, Robert Melvin, Jonathan Melvin, Catherine Dewart, Elizabeth Paton, Damaris Melvin, Rosanna Jane Melvin, and Sarah Melvin the widow of my son David, I Melvin, deceased during her natural life and after her death, that it descend to her children which dividend I have heretofore decided to the said Sarah Melvin, widow to the said David, I Melvin, deceased.

It is my will and desire that the above dividend be advanced to the children of Edward and Samuel Melvin, said children one hundred dollars each any money be still remaining it be equally divided among the rest of my children, with the rest of my Estate.

I nominate, constitute and appoint my two sons, Duncan Melvin and James Melvin, Executors to this

RECORD OF WILLS.

I hereby revoke all other Wills by me at any former time made, and absolutely publish this my last will and testament.

In witness whereof, I herunto, set my hand, and seal on this the twenty fourth day of February in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty one.

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of us,

Jas. S. Richardson
Daniel McDuffie

John Melvin

The following words were inscribed before the signing and sealing of this Will, viz. The word, my, on the eighth line from top on first page, and the word, property, on the fourteenth line from top on first page, and the word, is, on twenty seventh line from top on same page and the words the rest of, on the thirty first line from top on same page.

Jas. S. Richardson
Daniel McDuffie

North Carolina
Bladen County
In the County Court
May Term 1853.

Now in open Court James Melvin and Duncan Melvin Proponents for Probate the within paper writing as and for the last will and testament of John Melvin deceased, and it being found to the satisfaction of the Court here, by the oaths of John S. Richardson and Daniel McDuffie the subscribing witnesses thereto, that said John Melvin executed the same, as and for his last will and testament in that and that the said

RECORD OF WILLS.

request and in his presence. Subscribed their names thereto as witnesses and that he was of sound and disposing mind and memory. it is considered by the Court that the said Paper writing and every part thereof is the last will and testament of said John Melvin deceased sufficient in Law to pass his Real and Personal Estate, and it is ordered that the same be recorded.

James Melvin and Duncan Melvin the Executors therein named, are qualified in open Court and permitted to act accordingly.

Attest J. S. McRae Clerk

In the name of God Amen.
I, Mary Byrnes of the County of Bladen and State of North Carolina now of sound mind and memory but laboring under old age and bodily infirmities and being mindful of the uncertainty of human life and remembering that all living have to die. do this the 19th day of June in the Year of Our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and forty eight. Make and declare this to be my last will and testament. To-wit:-

I give and bequeath to my daughter Ann. Mariah Robison, two Negro Boys, Samuel and Henry.

I give and bequeath to my daughter Mary J. Byrnes, two Negro girls, Pamelah and Christiana

RECORD OF WILLS.

Marshall. Byrnes a Negro man named Ceasor and a Negro Woman named Polly. the said negroes to be equally divided among my four children as named above by reservation. The more valuable lots pay over to the less valuable.

4th I give and bequeath to my son John M. and Mary Byrnes my Negro Woman Rachel.

5th I give and bequeath to my son John M. Byrnes one Bed and furniture and one Bedstead.

6th I give and bequeath to my son Matthew Byrnes one gray Mare and one Mule Colt.

7th I give and bequeath to my daughter Mary J. Byrnes all of storehold and kitchen furniture and all other property that I may die seized or possessed of.

I do hereby make and ordain my son John M. Byrnes Executor to this my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I, Mary Byrnes the Testator have to this my last Will set my hand and affixed my seal. The day and Year above written.

In presence of
Et. J. Byrnes
Thos. J. Robison

Mary Byrnes

Bladen County
May Term 1853
Court of Pleas and Quarter Session

The within Paper writing is offered for Probate as the last Will and Testament of Mrs. Mary Byrnes deceased by John M. Byrnes the Executor therein named, and the execution thereof duly proved by Alexander J. Byrnes a subscribing witness thereto. Whereupon it is declared by the Court that the same is the last Will and Testament of Mrs. Mary Byrnes deceased and is sufficient in Law to pass Real and Personal Property.

It is ordered by the Court that this Will be admitted. John M. Byrnes the said Executor