

RECORD OF WILLS.

In the name of God Amen
North Carolina 3
Bladen County 3 I Will Beard of the
County and province aforesaid. Planting
being very weak of body but of perfect mind
and memory thanks be given unto almighty
God calling unto mind the mortality of
my body and knowing that it is appointed
for all men once to die do make and
declare this to be my last will and
testament That is to say: Principally and
first of all I give and recommend my
soul unto the hand of almighty God and
my body I recommend to the earth to be
buried in a decent and christian burial
at the discretion of my Executors nothing
doubting but at the general resurrection
I shall receive the same again by the mighty
power of God and as touching such worldly
estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless
me within this life I give demise and
dispose of the same in the following man-
ner and form.

I will and ordain that all my lawful
debts and demands shall be paid by
my Executors whom I shall hereafter appoint
and these first of all I give and bequeath
to Catherine Beard my well beloved wife
my dwelling house and house hold with
one third part of my plantation and one
negro man during the time of her natural life
and then to bequeath the property of my son
James Beard by him to be possessed forever.

And I will that my son James Beard
shall pay all my debts and lawful
demands that shall be on my estate.

And I further give to James Beard one
hundred and fifty acres of land lying
on Hollingaworth Creek forming the said
plantation and by him to be enjoyed for
ever.

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And I give to my son John Beard one
hundred acres of land in the Horsehoe
between the Brown Marsh and the river by
him to be enjoyed forever.

And I will that Catherine Moore my
daughter shall have one cow and calf
and the remaining part of my stock such
as cattle, horses, sheep and all stock kind
to be equally divided amongst my wife and
my three sons Daniel, John Beard & James
and I hereby appoint and ordain my two
sons John & James Beard my sole Executors
of this my last will and testament. And I do
herby utterly disallow revoke and disannul
all and every other former wills legacies
bequests and Executors by me in any wise
before named will and bequeathed ratifying
and confirming this and no other to be my
last will & Testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set
my hand and seal this the 17th day of
February in the year of our Lord One thousand
seven hundred and seven too.

Signed sealed and
declared in the
presence of us
Andrew Graham
John ^{his} _{man} ^{will}

Will Beard (Seal)

In the name of God Amen.
The twelfth day of March one thousand
seven hundred and seventy nine.
I Joseph Cooper of the County of Bladen
and State of North Carolina being very
sick and weak in body but of perfect

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and memory thanks be given unto God
therefor. Calling unto mind the mortality
of my body and knowing that 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 give and recommend my soul to God
who gave my body I recommend to the earth
to be buried in a decent Christian burial at
the discretion of my executors nothing doubting
but at the general resurrection I shall
receive the same at the mighty hand of
God. And as touching such worldly estate
whereunto it hath pleased Almighty God to bless
me with in this life I give devise and dis-
pose of the same in the following manner
and form.

Item I give and bequeath to Mary
my dearly beloved wife the third part of my
land on the lower end where my plantation
is during her life time and after her decease
I give and bequeath the same third part to
my son William and his heirs and assigns
forever.

Item I give and bequeath the other two thirds to
my other two sons Benjamin & Joseph Cooper
and their heirs and assigns forever to be
equally divided in three parts according
as the lines running from the river back
the front to be equally divided and five

In case either of my sons should die before
he has received their part to be equally divided
between the others. The upper part is appraised
to my will for my son Benjamin the middle
part for my son Joseph.

Item I further give to my beloved wife Mary
the use of all my movable estate during
her life that is to say my negro house hold
cattle and hogs and household goods
for the schooling and bringing up of my
children and after her decease to be equally
divided among my daughters Elizabeth
Agnes & Martha.

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But in case the negro woman should bear
I desire and my will is that my three sons
shall have their part of her increase.
And give and bequeath all my rights and
titles to one hundred acres of land I
bought of John Damm I have no title but
a bond to my loving brother Benjamin
Cooper his heirs and assigns forever.

And I do likewise constitute make and
ordain my loving wife Mary Executrix
and my loving brother Benjamin Cooper
Executor of this my last will and testament
and I do hereby utterly disallow revoke and
reannul all and every other former Testaments
Wills Legacies and bequeaths and Executors
by me in any wise before made well or
bequeathed testifying and confirming this and
no other to be my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my
hand and seal the day and year above
written.

Signed sealed
in presence
published and
declared by the
said Joseph Cooper
as his last will
and testament in
the presence of us
the subscribers.

James McDaniell
William Damm
William McDaniell

} Joseph Cooper (seal)