

Will of
Stephen Edwards

I, Stephen Edwards 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 relations and friends, and pay all funeral expenses together with my just debts whatsoever and to whomsoever owing out of the money that may first come into their hands as a part or parcel of my estate

Item My will and desire is that my beloved wife Mary Edwards shall hold and use all my property and lands for and during her natural life except my horse and cart which I want sold for cash and the money arising from such sale to be by my executors used in paying my just debts and other necessary expenses and any surplus, if there be any, to be by them paid to my said wife for her use

Item I give and bequeath to my eldest daughter Rejiah White, widow of Archibald White the sum of five dollars to be hers at her disposal absolutely forever

Item I give and bequeath to my eldest son Harris Edwards the sum of five dollars which use and behoof forever

Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Anna Edwards five dollars to her use and behoof forever

Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Appa Edwards twenty acres of land to be laid off from my plantation and lands adjoining so as to take a part of my plantation or houses and to join the lands of Alfred Edwards and also my desire is for her to have her equal part or share of the balance or residue of my estate including all my real and personal property of all kinds at the death of my wife

Item I give and devise to my son Alfred Edwards the sum of five dollars to his use absolutely forever

Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Sophia Edwards twenty acres of land to be laid off from my plantation and lands adjoining so as to join the lands of Alfred Edwards and also the price bequeathed to my

daughter Appa Edwards and also my desire is for her to have her equal part or share of the balance or residue of my estate including all my real and personal property of all kinds at the death of my wife

Item I give and devise to my son Ralsey Edwards the sum of five dollars to his use absolutely forever

Item I give and devise to my daughter Mary Comfort wife of J. D. Wilson the sum of five dollars absolutely forever

Item I give and devise to my youngest daughter Celie T. Edwards twenty acres of land to be laid off from my plantation and lands adjoining so as to take a part of my plantation or houses and to join the lands of Alfred Edwards and one of the other lots that is Appa or Sophia Edwards's share and also my desire is for her to have her equal part or share of the balance or residue of my estate including all my real and personal property of all kinds at the death of my wife

Item My will and desire is that Rejiah White, Harris Edwards, Anna Edwards, Alfred Edwards, Ralsey Edwards, Mary C. Wilson and Nancy J. Singleton shall each at the death of my wife Mary Edwards have their equal part or share of all my real and personal property of every description whatsoever that may belong to my estate at the time of the death of my wife to them and each and every of them their executors administrators and assigns absolutely forever

And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my two sons Alfred Edwards and Ralsey Edwards my lawful executors 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 making and declaring utterly void all other wills and testaments by me heretofore made

In witness whereof I the said Stephen Edwards do hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty ninth day of August A.D. 1853

Stephen ^{his} Edwards _{mark}

Signed sealed published and declared by the said Stephen Edwards 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 thereto. George R. Jones ^{his} John S. Rait