

The undersigned Judge of Probate for Bladen county by Rufus Register, one of the subscribing witnesses, and the due execution thereof by the oath and examination of J. D. Nye and Rufus Register who being duly sworn doth depose and say and each for himself do soath and saith that he is a subscribing witness to the paper writing now shown him purporting to be the last will and testament of Joseph R. Kemp, decd. that he said Joseph R. Kemp in presence of this deponent subscribed his name at the end of said paper writing which is now shown as aforesaid and which bears date of 30th August 1862 And this deponent further saith that the said Joseph R. Kemp, the testator aforesaid did at the time of subscribing his name aforesaid declare the said paper writing so subscribed by him and exhibited to be his last will and testament and this deponent, did thereupon subscribe his name at the end of said will as an attesting witness thereto and at his request and in the presence of the said testator.

And this deponent further saith that at the said time when the said testator subscribed his name to the said last will as aforesaid and the time of the deponent's subscribing his name as an attesting witness thereto as aforesaid the said Joseph R. Kemp was of sound mind and memory, of full age to execute a will and was not under any restraint to the knowledge information or belief of this deponent. And further these deponents say not sworn to and subscribed before me this 8 day of May 1863.

G. F. Melvin
Judge of Probate

(Signed) J. D. Nye
Rufus Register

Will of
William James
McKeithan

I William James McKeithan 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: 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 and erect a suitable tombstone at my burial place costing at least fifty dollars and shall erect at the burial places of my father, mother, brother and two sisters suitable tombstones to each costing at least not less than ten dollars each. I give and devise unto my beloved sister Matilda McKay her heirs and assigns my Traddicks Ferry plantation lying on Cape Fear River and below Turnbull creek containing one thousand acres more or less provided nevertheless that my said sister shall allow Sandy, Gady and Vance McKay to reside on the said lands until each arrives at the age of fifteen years and during the said period of time to furnish them food and to give to each of them three suits of clothes yearly if needed, and at the same time they are to aid her with their labor in farming and keeping the plantation in repair.

I give and devise unto my nephews J. L. McKay, W. J. McKay, A. S. McKay and A. H. McKay their heirs and assigns all my lands and all my interest in the lands owned by W. J. Parker and myself situated on the northeast side of Cape Fear river lying on Colly White Lake and Turnbull creek share and share alike. I give and devise unto my beloved sister Matilda McKay her heirs and assigns one half of all my lands situated on the northeast side of Cape Fear river lying on and near Hammonds creek. I give and devise unto my nephews J. L. McKay, W. J. McKay, A. S. McKay and A. H. McKay their heirs and assigns one half of all my lands situated on the northwest side of Cape Fear river lying and near Hammonds Creek share and share alike.

I give and bequeath unto my beloved sister Mary J
Blue fifty dollars

I give and bequeath unto my niece Lizzie Lucas
fifty dollars

I give and bequeath unto my niece Callie Melvin
fifty dollars

I give and bequeath unto Sandy, Gady and Vance McKay
to each one hundred dollars to be invested in United States
bonds and the principal to be paid to each when he shall
arrive at the age of twenty-one in the interval only the
interest to be spent by them.

My will and desire is that all the residue of my estate
after taking out the devises and legacies, above men-
tioned shall be sold and the debtors to me be collect-
ed and if there should be any surplus over and above
the payment of debts, expenses and legacies that one-half
of said such surplus shall be paid to my beloved sister
Matilda McKay and the other half of such surplus shall
be equally divided between and paid over to my
nephews J. S. McKay, W. J. McKay, A. S. McKay and A. H.
McKay share and share alike their heirs, executors,
administrators and assigns

I give and bequeath one-half the money I may have
in hand, notes bonds and accounts unto my nephews
J. S. McKay, W. J. McKay, A. S. McKay and A. H. McKay to be
equally divided between them share and share
alike.

Lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my
friends W. J. Parker and A. S. Kemp my lawful ex-
ecutors to all intents and purposes to execute
this my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I the said William James
McKeithan do herewith set my hand and
seal this October 30th day 1883

W. J. McKeithan (Seal)

Signed, sealed, published
and declared by the said
William James McKeithan
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

J. H. Vaughn
D. L. Smith

North Carolina } Superior Court
Bladen County } November 12th 1883.

A paper writing purporting to be the last will and
testament of William James McKeithan, deceased, is
exhibited for probate in open court by A. S. Kemp
in whose hands the said will was lodged for safe-
keeping by the said deceased and the due ex-
ecution thereof by the said William James McKeithan
is proved by the oath and examination of J. H. Vaughn
and D. L. Smith 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 testa-
ment of the said William James McKeithan and the
same is ordered to be recorded and filed.

G. F. Melvin, C. J.

North Carolina } Superior Court
Bladen County } November 19th 1883.

William J. Parker, one of the executors named in
the last will and testament of William James Mc-
Keithan, deceased, comes into open court and
duly qualifies as such by taking the oath of
office as executor as required by law.

G. F. Melvin, C. J.

A. S. Kemp one of the executors named in the last
will and testament of William James McKeithan,
deceased, comes into open court and re-
nounces the executorship

G. F. Melvin