

State of North Carolina } October Term 1812.
 Duplin County

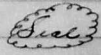
The last will and Testament of Lewis Watkins died was exhibited into Court by James Readson without any subscribing witnesses there and at the same time James Glisson and David Knight Esquires and Timothy Strongs being men of Respectability and good Character being called upon to produce the hand writing of Lewis Watkins deceased, and being sworn upon the Holy Evangelist to say upon oath that they are acquainted with the hand writing of the deceased and that they believed the whole writing of the said instrument ^{purporting} to be the said will of Lewis Watkins deceased is in the hand writing of the said deceased.

Sarah Watkins the widow of Lewis Watkins deceased came before the Court and being sworn upon the Holy Evangelist sayeth that she found the said will of her deceased husband Lewis Watkins since his death in his trunk where he kept his most valuable papers.

At the same time John Watkins and James Readson the Executors named in the said will came before the Court and qualified as Executors of said will according to act. And that all may issue accordingly.
 Test H^m Dickson C.C.

In the name of God Amen I George Williams of the State of North Carolina and County of Duplin being of sound mind and memory do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner following that is to say. First I bequeath the love of my four negroes viz Ed, Jim, Smo and Leticia to my wife Leticia Williams during her natural life or her widowhood, but should she marry again the negroes are to become the hire of my heirs whom I shall

hereafter name, which negroes she is not to sell for the term of her life nor to dispose of in any manner except by hire and that only for the term of six months at a time. Then I give and bequeath to wife Leticia one Litter bed and all the other household and kitchen furniture and plantation tools, also all the hives, cattle and hogs and every other kind of stock which I possess and after her death to be sold and the money arising from the sale thereof to be divided among my heirs. Then I give and bequeath to my son Jacob Williams and to my daughter Mommie Lippard Patsy Best & Mary Jones and to my granddaughter Mary daughter of Henry Stokes, after my wife's death or marriage my four negroes above named viz Ed, Jim, Smo and Leticia to be equally divided between them & their heirs forever. Then I give and bequeath to my granddaughter Mary Williams daughter of Temperance Williams one partridge to her and her heirs forever. Then I give to grandson Road Best son of Absalom Best one Litter bed to him and his heirs forever and lastly I hereby make and ordain my worthy friends George E. Foulson and Edward Williams executors of this my last will and Testament hereby discharging and making void all former wills by me made. In testimony whereof I have set my hand and affix my seal. This 11th day of September 1816
 Signed Sealed & Delivered By
 the Testator to be his last will and Testament in the presence of John Cassar
 H^m Harris

George Williams 

State of N. Carolina } April Term 1807
Duplin County

This was the within will pronounced in Court in due form of law by the oath of John Barnes and William Barnes the subscribing witnesses thereto. And at the same time George P. Houston the Clerk named in the said will came before the Court and declared as such according to law. Ordered that letters issue accordingly.

Test W^m Nicholson Clk.

In the name of God amen. I Edward Houston of Duplin County being in perfect health and sound memory and mind but calling to mind the uncertainty of this life do make publish and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following to wit. First I give and bequeath to my son Abraham Houston my manner plantation and land and all the apartments thereto. I then I give and bequeath all the rest of all my worldly goods to my three sons Benjamin Absolom and Phineas to be equally divided between my three sons and I also do nominate and appoint my son Benjamin Houston to be my executor to my last will and testament. Witness all wills hereof made. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 2^d day of February 1769.

Signed sealed and delivered

In the presence of us

Phineas

W^m Robinson

Tracy Barnes

Edw^d Houston Seal

In the name of God amen. I John Whitfield of Duplin County and State of North Carolina being man of sound heart and perfect sound mind and memory do this 31st day of January 1825 make and publish and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form as follows viz. First I bequeath to my beloved wife Nancy three negroes named Matilda Polly and Carter whom and their increase to her and her heirs and assigns for and during her natural life time. Also I give to my beloved wife one bay mare two colts and colts and one three year old filly and let her choose in the stable and I give my said wife Nancy Whitfield one Choece bed and furniture one chest bed and card room and table three chairs one pot and Dutch bowl one case of Linen and forks set of tea cups and saucers and plates and a dish and one saddle and side saddle. Also I bequeath unto my wife Nancy all the remaining part of my house hold and kitchen furniture during her widowhood or natural life time. Second I give unto my daughter Sally Martin Eighty one acres and a quarter of land lying in the fork of Rooty Branch and Gumpey Run and contain dollars in money to her her heirs and assigns. Third I bequeath unto my wife Nancy Whitfield all the remaining part of my land for and during her natural lifetime or widowhood and after her death or marriage it is my wish that all the land that I have but unto my wife should be equally divided among my present wife children named Fictor, Isaac and one the being pregnant with at this time Fourth all the rest and residue of my estate of what nature or kind soever I give and leave to the disposal of my wife Nancy for the purpose of paying all my just debts