

State of North Carolina
Union County 7th May 1870

Then the foregoing Paper writing was offered for
Probate and the due execution proven by the
 oath of Adam Long & William G. Long & ordered
to be recorded as the last Will & Testament of
Aaron Little Decd

W. H. Little

Last Will & Testament of William Houston

In the name of God Amen, I William Houston
of the County of Union and State of North Carolina being
of sound mind and memory, and considering the uncertainty of this
transitory life, therefore make, ordain, publish, and declare this
my last Will and Testament.

First of all I commend my immortal Soul to God who gave
it. And my body to the Earth its mother to be buried in a
Christian and decent manner according to the wishes of my family
and friends. And as to my worldly estate real and personal
and mixed, I will and bequeath as follows: To wit,
I give and bequeath to my son Benjamin H. Houston all
the tract of Land whereon I now reside adjoining the lands
of J. W. (Houston) James Houston Mary A. Stephens (now square)
William Henderson Joseph Price and Murchison Moore

over

Containing about three hundred Acres more or less
 with the following provisions and exceptions to wit a
 neck of Land belonging to my son James Houston
 which I have given him a deed for (date not re-
 collected) And I give and bequeath to my said son
 James an equal Interest with my said son Ben-
 jamin H. Houston (to wit one half) in one acre to be
 laid off as follows: to wit, to begin on Joseph Hous-
 ton's line where it crosses the Spring Branch em-
 bracing said Branch up to the Spring thence
 running so as to embrace the Spring to a certain point
 on a ditch so as to embrace the waters of said ditch
 embracing the Yard and corner in the Yard thence
 in a narrow strip up to the lane embracing the
 Shoe Shop not to contain more than one acre of
 land with all its appurtenances tools &c so long
 as they shall continue the Tanning business said Yard
 appurtenances and tools to be used by said sons James
 and Benjamin H. jointly or separately in conducting
 said business as they may decide but should they
 think proper to discontinue said business then the
 whole of said Acre of land is to vest in my son
 Benjamin H. with one half of the tools the other
 half in my son James. The above land I value

Mem

Mem

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think proper to discontinue said business then the whole of said acre of land is to vest in my son Benjamin H. with one half of the tools the other half in my son James. The above land I value to my son Benjamin H. at nine hundred dollars should my son Benjamin H. elect not to take said land at said valuation then the land is to be sold at public auction to the highest bidder on a credit of twelve Months with interest from date of sale payable in gold or its equivalent at the option of my Executors hereinafter named due notice of said sale being given I shall give and bequeath to my son Benjamin H. six Thousand Shingles more or less and all the clapboards that may be on said premises without valuation

Item 2nd

I also give and bequeath to my said son Benjamin H. my Threshing machine Wheat fan running Gear Blacksmith tools. One one horse wagon and harness one cupboard and contents one ^{bed} bedstead and furniture the one he has in possession and my road wagon with the hind gear and cloth the last articles I give without valuation.

Item 3rd

I give and bequeath to my son James and —

Last Will & Testament of William Houston (Contd)

whereas in a former will I willed him my Stephen track of land and a piece of my homestead and which land since that time I have thought proper to make him a title to and charged him four hundred and fifty Dollars which sum he owes me I intend him to pay Interest on the said amount after my decease. Now if my ^{said} son James should not prefer the land at that price my said son James is at liberty if he chooses to throw the land back into my estate and the said land may be sold and the amount arising from such sale to be put in the neat amount of my estate I also will and bequeath to my son James my cloths press and bureau and one shot gun which I am going to have repaired without valuation

Item 4th

I give and bequeath to my grand daughter Sarah Phifer (now Sarah Stewart) my chest of Drawers for her kindness to her mother on her death bed which I wish her to retain as a family relic without valuation

Item 5th

I will and bequeath to my grand daughter Elizabeth Stewart twenty five ^{dollars} ~~cents~~ for her kindness to me during a trip to the west and other kind services

Item 6th

I will and bequeath to my son Benjamin G. all

Elizabeth Stewart twenty five ~~cents~~ ^{dollars} for her kindness
to me during a trip to the west and other kind services
Item 6th I will and bequeath to my son Benjamin I all my
bench tools together with my Crosscut saw without valuation

Item 7th I will and bequeath to my son John P. Houston my
riding saddle and saddle blanket together with Scott
Commentary and two Volumes containing the old and
new testament without valuation

Item 8th I have three beds, Steads and cords not yet rolled I
value the one I now lay on at thirty dollars the other
two at Twenty each which beds I will to my three
Sons J. P. Houston James Houston and B. H.
Houston J. P. Houston to have first choice James
the second and B. H. the remaining one if either or
all my said sons refuse to take the beds at my
valuation then to set them up and sell them and
the proceeds of such sale to go to make up the aggregate
and if they or either of them refuse to take them
to extend the same privilege to any of my grand
children who may choose to take them

Item 9th The residue of my estate considering of every thing not
herein before bequeathed I wish my Executors herein
after named to sell at public auction to the

over

Last Will & Testament of William Houston (Cont.)

highest bidder on a credit of not less than six months
 nor ^{more} less than twelve left to the discretion of my exec-
 utors with interest from date of sale payment to be
 made secured and payable in gold or its equivalent if
 thought proper by my Executors ~~(with interest from date)~~
 due notice of sale being given. And the proceeds of
 said sales of property and the amounts of the valuation
 of land hereinbefore bequeathed which I have herein
 valued to my son Benjamin H. and James which
 sums I intend they shall owe my estate should they
 elect to take said lands at valuation together with
 all my notes, bonds, Bank deposits, accounts and
 cash on hand one note on William Givens of
 fifty eight dollars and some cents now in the hands
 of William Liggett one of the Executors of my
 Son William H. with Interest from the first of
 January (1870) Eighteen Seventy which sum and Interest
 thereon accruing to go to make up the aggregate together
 with the proceeds of eighty nine Acres of land known
 as the William Gray land which I direct my Executors
 to sell for Cash or on a credit at their discretion
 I do hereby constitute a fund which I dispose
 of as follows:

as the William Gray land which I direct my Executors to sell for Cash or on a credit at their discretion I do hereby constitute a fund which I dispose of as follows:

Item 1st Out of said fund my Executors hereinafter named are to pay all my lawful debts as well as my necessary funeral expenses

Item 2nd That my Executors hereinafter named have erected around my son Cyrus' grave a suitable Iron railing discretionary with themselves amount not to exceed one hundred dollars

Item 3rd I give and bequeath to my grand daughter Elizabeth Stewart wife of William Stewart twenty five dollars for her kind services in a trip to Tennessee this is only to carry out the 5th item in my will together with five dollars I allow my Executors to buy school Books for my freed folks I give and bequeath to be divided by my Executors herein after named as follows: To pay Emily Tomfield one tenth of the neat amount. To the children of my deceased daughter Drucilla Phifer to wit Elizabeth Stewart Ellen Stephens Sarah Stewart William H. Phifer -

Last Will & Testament of William Houston (Cont.)
and Rachael Howfild one part to be equally divided
among them.

- Item 4th To my son John P. Houston one part or one fifth
Item 5th To my son William A. Houston of Tennessee deceased
his wife and all his children to wit Matilda Anne
his wife one seventh of one part or one fifth to
Elizabeth Legett wife of William Legett his first
wifes child one Seventh of one part or one fifth
to Jane Drucilla one seventh of one part or one fifth
William Clark one seventh of one part or one fifth
George Cathey one seventh of one part or one fifth
Franklin Bascom, one seventh of one part or one fifth
Margaret one seventh of one part or one fifth
Cyrus Clay one seventh of one part or one fifth
For fear of any blunder or mistake I mean all
the children of my son William A. deceased
Item 6th To my son James one part or one fifth
Item 7 To my son Benjamin F. one part of or one fifth
And I now direct my Executors in settling up
with the distributee where they are indebted to me
or my estate when they go to make a distribution
first bring in this indebtedness as all are to

with the distributee where they are indebted to me
or my estate when they go to make a distribution
first bring in this indebtedness as all or part as the
case may be in payment of these shares. And I
further direct that my Executors draw out of the
Bank all my deposits as soon as proper after
my decease and make divisions of such ^{deposits} deposits to-
gether with any money that may be on hands
In their first division I further direct them to get
John D. Stewart and they and him to settle my
estate and take in the vouchers and allow the per-
centage I caution them in being too liberal. And
I further advise them not to council any attorney
but go on and Execute my will to the very letter
to the best advantage of my estate
Lastly - I hereby nominate constitute and ap-
-point my sons James Houston and Benjamin F
Houston Executors of this my last will and
testament hereby revoking and declaring null and
void all other wills theretofore rendered by me.
In testimony whereof I the said William Houston have
hereunto set my name and affixed my seal on this
21st day of March 1870 William Houston (seal)

Last Will & Testament of William Houston. (Concluded.)

The above foregoing instrument was signed by the said William Houston in our presence and acknowledged by him to each of us and he at the same time declares the above to be his last will and testament and we at the testator's request and in his presence have subscribed our names as witnesses on this the 21st day of March 1870

Joseph R. Hudson *(Seal)*
 Gilson Broom *(Seal)*
 State North Carolina

Menion County } August 22^d 1870
 Then the foregoing paper writing was offered for Probate and the due execution proven by the oath of Joseph R. Hudson and Gilson Broom and ordered to be recorded as the last will and testament of William Houston deceased

G. W. How Probate Judge *(Seal)*

Last Will & Testament of Abram E. Walker

I Abram E. Walker of the County of Menion and State of North Carolina being of sound mind and memory but considering the uncertainty of my earthly ex-