

In the Clerk's office of Nansmond County Court, the 9th day
of April 1866.

This Inventory and appraisement of the Estate of Samuel
Wilkins deceased, was returned and admitted to record.

Test:

Peter B. Prentiss, Clerk

Exhibit

Hardy Croft
Will.

I, Hardy Croft, of the County of Nansmond, State of Virginia
do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in
manner and following: viz:

1. I give unto my beloved wife Martha W. all that part of my
estate which belonged to her previously to our marriage,
with the exception of such part of the bonds as may have
been collected, those not collected were kept to them-
selves for the above mentioned purpose until Sept. 1853
when they were destroyed by fire in the burning of my dwell-
ing house; since which time I have not succeeded in
having them renewed: yet, nevertheless, I give to her my
said wife, all of the said claims, whether renewed or
not. I also give unto her my pleasure carriage and
horses usually employed with the same; also one equal
half of all my growing crops in the County of Nansmond,
for and during the year in which my death shall take place
provided however my death should take place after the first

day of March of said year; in such case I desire the whole of my family shall remain together during the said year or so long as may be considered necessary for the purpose of making and housing the said crops: But in the event of my death previously to the first day of March in lieu of one half of my growing crops of said year, I give unto her my said wife one equal half of my entire stock of provisions on hand, or laid in for the maintenance or support of that part of my family situate and being in the aforesaid County of Nantuxmond. I also give unto her one equal half of all my stock of horses, hogs, cattle and sheep on or belonging to my several farms, in the aforesaid County of Nantuxmond, all of which I give unto her and her heirs and assigns forever.

2. I lend unto my beloved wife Martha N. during her life, the land and plantation on which I now live, the old "Daughtrey plantation" and also my "Saunders plantation" together with the following negro slaves viz. Charles Daughtrey Allen Albert, Cate and children, (Jackson Isiah and Caroline, with all her smaller children) and Angeline: I also lend her one half of all my silver plate, having respect to the value thereof in making such division, also one equal half of all my household and kitchen furniture, after the death of my beloved wife, I give the whole of the property specified in the above to my son Thomas Hardy, provided he attains to lawful age.

3. I give unto my daughter Sarah Jane, the sum of ten thousand dollars, to be invested in real estate if desired; also one equal half

- of all my household and kitchen furniture with one equal fourth part of all my silver plate; I also give unto her my said daughter Sarah Jane, all my lands lying and being in the County of Pasquotank State of North Carolina, all of which I give unto her and her heirs forever.

4. I give unto my daughter Mary Louisa my piano, one gold watch (which she usually wears) also one fourth part of my silver plate; I also give unto her my said daughter Mary Louisa, my Brownrigg Mill and land attached thereunto, lying and being in the County of Chowan N. Carolina, together with all the land I purchased with the said mill, all of which I give unto her and her heirs forever.

5. I give unto my son Thomas Hardy, all my lands lying and being in the County of Southampton Va. together with my "Mill quarter" and Mill including the land and plantation called The "Thomas Land", also all other lands which I now own not herein before or after disposed of, all of which except the "Pocosan" and "Gardner" farms in Southampton and the Mill quarter and Mill in the County of Nansemond I desire shall be sold by my Executors here in after named, which sale or sales may be made either publicly or privately, upon such credit or credits, and at such time and place as they in their judgment may think most advantageous. The "Pocosan" and "Gardner" farms the "Mill quarter" and Mill I desire shall be kept up by continuing the usual farming operations upon each of the said farms, retaining so many of the

negro slaves set apart to my said son, as shall be sufficient to carry on the said farms in the usual way: procuring such overseers, farming utensils and stock of different kinds as may be necessary to conduct the said farms advantageously. If however after an experiment of this sort, my Executors herein after named shall ascertain that the said farms cannot be kept up so as to become a source of profit to my said son, taking the well being of the negro slaves employed upon the said farms into consideration in the meantime, my will and desire is that my executors shall sell the same or any part thereof precisely as provided for with respect to the others lands named in this item, and given to my said son Thomas Hardy, all which I give unto him and heirs, provided he attains to lawful age; he receiving the profits and income of said property in the meantime to be applied to his support and the support of his negroes if necessary.

6. I give unto my grand daughter Sarah Frances Councill the wife of Henry B. Councill, the sum of One Thousand dollars, to her and her heirs.

7. I lend unto my friend Wm B. Daughtrey, during his life, the tract of land on which he now lives, at the same time giving him the privilege of securing to himself and his heirs the title to the said lands by the payment of the sum of money

giving him the privilege of securing to himself and his heirs the title to the said lands by the payment of the sum of money which the said lands cost me with ^{the} interest upon the said sum from the time the purchase was made.

8. I give unto my sister Prudence Williams the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars, to her and her heirs.

9. I give unto my nephew Genl. R. Hunter the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars.

10. I give unto my niece, Mary Ann Brownley, one certain claim or debt, I had against her husband John Brownley, and for which I held his bond, but which bond was destroyed in the burning of my dwelling house, I give the same unto her with all the interest accruing, to her and her heirs.

11. I give unto my niece Sarah Rawls, my negro woman Caroline, now in her possession with all the present and future increase of the said Caroline (with the exception of the oldest one of her children Edith by name) which said negroes, with the said increase I give unto her and her heirs:

12. I give unto my niece Martha Smith, my negro woman Edith now in the possession of Justin Rawls, to her and her heirs

13. I give unto my niece Margaret Crops my negro girl Mary and the sum of One hundred and fifty dollars to her and her heirs.

14. I give unto my niece Martha Susan Ealey my negro boy Kedar and the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars to her and her heirs

15. I give unto my nieces Mary Crops, the wife of Edmund Crops, Nancy Rawls, the wife of Henry Rawls and Elizabeth Smith the wife

8. I give unto my sister Providence Williams the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars, to her and her heirs.
9. I give unto my nephew Genl. R. Hunter the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars.
10. I give unto my niece, Mary Ann Brownley, one certain claim or debt, I had against her husband John Brownley, and for which I hold his bond, but which bond was destroyed in the burning of my dwelling house, I give the same unto her with all the interest accruing, to her and her heirs.
11. I give unto my niece Sarah Rawls, my negro woman Caroline, now in her possession with all the present and future increase of the said Caroline (with the exception of the oldest one of her children Edith by name) which said negroes, with the said increase I give unto her and her heirs:
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13. I give unto my niece Margaret Craps my negro girl Mary and the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars to her and her heirs.
14. I give unto my niece Martha Susan Ealey my negro boy Kedar and the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars to her and her heirs
15. I give unto my nieces Mary Craps, the wife of Edwin Craps, Nancy Rawls, the wife of Henry Rawls and Elizabeth Smith the wife of John Smith the sum of two hundred dollars each, to them and their heirs and assigns forever.
16. I give unto my nephew Marmaduke F. Daugherty the debt he owes

me (for which I held his bond) but lost it when my house was burnt) with all the interest accruing, to him and his heirs

17. I give unto my niece Sally Ann Crofts the sum of two hundred dollars to her and her heirs.

18. I give unto my nephew Wm. H. Crofts, the whole of the debt or debts he now owes me (whose bond was also burnt) and also the debt he will owe me, falling due at the expiration of the present year, with all the interest accruing upon the said debts; also one certain tract of land willed to me by my father, the late Hardy Crofts, called the former land adjoining the land of Samuel Crofts' heirs John Parkers heirs and others, and also my negro boy Willie all of which I give unto him and his heirs forever.

19. I give unto my nephew Samuel E. Smith, one certain claim I hold against him (the bond for which being burnt) with all the interest accruing thereon to him and his heirs.

20. I give unto my nephew Patrick H. Daughtry one certain claim I hold against him, (the bond for the same being burnt.) with all the interest, which may accrue on the same; also my negro woman Peg and my interest in the dower right of the negro slaves held by Mrs Elizabeth Haynes of Portsmouth Va. all of which I give unto him and his heirs.

21. I give unto my niece Susannah Pratt the sum of two Hundred dollars to her and her heirs.

22. I give unto my nephew Edwin Smith my negro boy Jackson, and the sum of five hundred dollars to him and his heirs.

23. I give unto Mary Effa Smith, the daughter of Edwin Smith my

and the sum of five hundred dollars.

23. I give unto Mary Effa Smith, the daughter of Edwin Smith my negro girl Mary of Price and Vena, to her and her heirs forever.

24. I give unto Margt. Maria Smith the daughter of Edwin Smith my negro girl Adalaney, to her and her heirs.

25. My will and desire is, that all my just debts funeral expenses and legacies shall be paid out, or with the bonds in my possession and the balance arising from the collection of the said bonds, over and above what is necessary to pay the said debts, funeral expenses and legacies, together with the money arising from the sale of such part of my chattel property as is not herein before given away I give to be equally divided between my beloved wife Martha W. and my three children herein before named to share and share alike, provided however my son Thomas Hardy shall attain to lawful age. But if he the said Thomas Hardy shall die before attaining to lawful age and such event occur in the lifetime of my beloved wife, I desire and design the before mentioned sum, shall be so divided, as to make her my said wife and my said daughters equal in such division. If however such event should not occur in the life time of my beloved wife, I give the whole of the before mentioned sum to my two daughters Mary Louisa and Sarah Jane to them and their heirs forever.

26. Having given to my daughter Mary Louisa some twenty five or thirty negro slaves, together with the chattel property lying and being on the "Wingfield" farm in the County of Chowan as per deed admitted to record in the Registers Office of said

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my negro girl Adalaney, to her and her heirs.
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alike, provided however my son Thomas Hardy shall attain
to lawful age. But if he the said Thomas Hardy shall die before
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said daughters equal in such division. If however such event
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the whole of the before mentioned sum to my two daughters
Mary Louisa and Sarah Jane to them and their heirs forever.
26 Having given to my daughter Mary Louisa some twenty

five or thirty negro slaves, together with the chattel property
lying and being on the "Wingfield" farm in the County of Chowan
as per deed admitted to record in the Registers Office of said
County. My will and desire is that in the division of the
residue of my estate, the above mentioned slaves, with the increase

thirdly Since the date of the said deed, also the whole of the chattel property specified in such deed shall be taken into the account in such manner as to make the portions allotted to each of my said children equal in such division

27 The balance of my estate of every kind and description where ever it may be I give devise and bequeath to be equally divided (as above provided for) between my three children Mary Louisa, Sarah Jane and Thomas Hardy, the respective portions to my said two daughters, to be used jointly by them and their respective husbands during their lives and upon the happening of the death of their respective husbands, then for the use and benefit of my said daughters (as the case may be) during her or their respective lives, and then to her or their child or children, if any surviving at her or their death: but if either of my said daughters should die without child or children surviving her, then her portion aforesaid, I give to be divided equally between the surviving daughter and my said son Thomas Hardy: the part to my said surviving daughter to be on the terms and considerations above named, and if both of my said daughters die without children or at least one child surviving I give all the estate of every kind by this clause given to such daughter to my son Thomas Hardy and his heirs and assigns forever.

28. Should my son Thomas Hardy die before attaining to lawful age, I give the whole of the estate both real and personal as intended for him in this my last will and Testament with the exception of that portion already provided for in the

with the exception of that portion already provided for in the 25th item of this writing to be equally divided between my two daughters Mary Louisa and Sarah Jane to be held and enjoyed by them precisely as provided for in the preceding clause of this my last will and testament

29. And lastly I do hereby appoint my beloved wife Martha H. Executrix and my friend Edwin Smith Executor of this my last will and testament and desire very particularly that the Court of my County will permit them or either of them to qualify as such without being required to give security. And I do hereby revoke all other and former wills and testaments by me heretofore made. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal. This 20th day of June 1856.

Signed sealed and acknowledged
in our presence and witnessed at
his request.

Hardy Crofts.



Edw d: R. Hunter.

A. E. Hall.

In this writing it is my intention to furnish an explanation of a transaction between Dr. George W. Peck (late of the County of Hartford) and myself in relation to a certain negro man Anderson with his wife and children. The said negro being held by my wife as dower property previous to our marriage. The said Anderson, having become blind or nearly so he the said Peck, proposed to me as I understood to incur the expense of an operation in view of restoring him to his sight upon the condition that I would transfer to him the said Peck, my interest and property in the

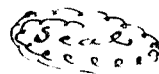
Ex.
John
W.

Said Anderson and family, for and during my life, The said Rebe, presented to me a writing, conveying as I supposed this limited interest and which I signed under this impression. It being far from my design to sign any writing, or make any transfer in any way of a greater interest in said negroes wishing them by all means to revert to my said wife or her heirs at my death as it has always been my intention in the contingency of my wife surviving me, that the negroes, in her possession at ^{the} time of our marriage should remain in her possession after my decease, and not be regarded as any part of my estate for and during her life. And I have then provided in my last will and testament. I do hereby publish and declare the foregoing explanation and statement under my hand and seal, this 20th day of June A.D. 1856.

Witness

Edw. R. Hunter.

A. E. Hall

Hardy Croft. 

At a Quarterly Court held for Hanover County, the 8th day of November 1858. This last will and testament of Hardy Croft deceased, with the writing hereto appended was proved according to law by the Oath of Edw. R. Hunter and A. E. Hall, the subscribing witnesses hereto, and was ordered to be recorded. and on the motion of Martha N. Croft the Executrix and Edwin Smith the Executor herein named, who made solemn affirmation hereto, entered into and acknowledged a bond in the penalty of Four Hundred thousand dollars without security (the will requiring none) conditioned according to law: Certificate is granted them for obtaining a probate of said will in due form, which bond is ordered to be recorded.

At a Quarterly Court held for Nansmond County the 8th day of
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bat of said will in due form, which bond is ordered to be recorded.

Teste:

Peter B. Prentiss Clerk.

A Copy: Teste:

Peter B. Prentiss Clerk.

In the Clerk's Office of Nansmond County Court the 11th day of
April 1866.

This duly authenticated Copy of the last will and Testament of Hardy
Croff deceased, with the Certificate thereon was produced by Martha R. Croff, Exec-
utrix and Edwin Smith Executor of said deceased to the Clerk of said Court,
and on their application, is recorded anew; the book in which the same
was originally recorded having been destroyed by the burning of the Clerk's
office and records on the 7th day of February 1866.

Teste:

Peter B. Prentiss Clerk.

Exam'd

I, J. P. ... at God Amen, I John Ricks, a native of the State of