

JOSIAH RIDDICK

I, Josiah Riddick Senr. of "Soldiers Hope" in the county of Nansemond in the State of Virginia do hereby make my last will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say

First, I leave the whole of my estate both real and personal for the payment of my just debts and funeral expenses.

Secondly, I hereby liberate and set free the following slaves to wit Ann, the daughter of my Negro woman Phillis and Fabius, Willis Millicent and James children of my Negro woman Maria, and the future increase of the females of the said female Negro slaves, whether born before or after my death, so soon as the said female slaves shall arrive to the age of eighteen years, and the said male slaves shall arrive to the age of twenty one years, if they shall choose to accept their freedom as they shall each arrive respectively at the age before mentioned, that is the females at eighteen years of age and the males at twenty one years of age; and so no difficulty may hereafter arise as to the ages of the said slaves, I would here state that Negro Ann is now fifteen years old, Negro Fabius twelve years of age, Negro Millicent ten years of age, Negro Willis nine years of age and Negro James eight years of age. If the females of the said slaves shall accept their freedom, as each of them shall respectively arrive to the age of eighteen years as aforesaid then the increase of the said females slaves whether born before or after my death shall be free desiring that the mothers and their children shall enjoy freedom at the same time upon the acceptance of the said slaves or any of them of their freedom as aforesaid, I direct my executors hereinafter named to pay them the sum of One Hundred Dollars each for the purpose of removing them to some one of the free states in this Union or to the Colony of Liberia in Africa. If any one of the said female Negro slaves shall die before the period for their acceptance of their freedom shall arrive leaving a child or children as aforesaid the said child or children of males shall have full power and authority

to accept their freedom on their arrival to the age of twenty one years and if females they and their increase shall have power to accept their freedom on their arrival to the age of eighteen years, that is the acceptance of freedom by the mother or mothers shall be an acceptance for their children of their freedom.

Thirdly, Believing that my poor unfortunate son Josiah Henry Riddick is not capable to managing property nor do I believe he is capable of taking care of himself being of an unsound mind, I leave him under the care and protection of my brother Mills Riddick and my friends William S. Riddick and Richard H. Riddick (son of Mills Riddick) to be well and comfortably taken care of as herein after provided for but no part of the provision that I shall hereinafter make for him is not to go either directly or indirectly to his present wife who was Lavinia Matthews or her children.

Fourthly, Upon the condition contained in the preceeding or third clause of this my last will and testament, I leave for the support of my poor unfortunate son Josiah Henry Riddick for and during the term of his natural life the sum of Two hundred Dollars per annum which annuity or sum of two hundred Dollars is to be raised out of my estate and hereby creating a lien on the same for that purpose and which annuity my Executors first and my Trustees hereinafter to be named are to raise out of the interest and profits of my estate and pay and transfer the same unto Mills Riddick, William S. Riddick and Richard H. Riddick (son of Mills Riddick) whom I hereby appoint Trustees for the purpose of receiving the said annuity and applying the same in supporting my said son Josiah Henry Riddick for and during the term of his natural life and the said Trustees herein mentioned are to render an account annually of their transactions relative to the said annuity of Two Hundred Dollars per annum aforesaid.

Fifthly, It is my will and desire that there shall be no sale of any part of my property and I hereby direct there shall be no sale unless shall be found necessary for the payment of my just debts.

Sixthly, I loan unto my nephew Josiah Riddick Junr. for and during the term of his natural life, the use of the plantation on which I now reside known by the name of "Soldiers Hope" and the use of all the slaves on the said plantation, viz: Moses, Brit, Albert, Foster, Zilpha Maria, Lydia, Lucy, William, Matilda and Penny, also the use of all of all my other personal and chattel estate on the said plantation (excepting my bonds, accounts and money) and also I loan unto my said nephew Josiah Riddick Junr. the use of the slaves liberated by the second

clause in this my last will and testament until they shall respectively accept of their freedom as is hereinbefore mentioned and provided. The loan of the use of the property in this clause of my will contained I make upon the express condition that my said nephew Josiah Riddick Junr. take care of and treat with great humanity all of my said slaves liberated as aforesaid during the time they are required by this my last will and testament to remain in service.

Seventhly, The residue of my estate including the real, personal and mixed as well in the State of North Carolina as in the State of Virginia, I leave in the hands of my brother Mills Riddick and my friend William S. Riddick and Richard H. Riddick (son of Mills Riddick) whom I hereby appoint Trustees for holding the residue of my estate for the uses and purposes herein after mentioned to wit: first for the use and benefit of my said nephew Josiah Riddick Junr. for and during the term of his natural life and secondly after his death to and for the use and benefit of the male child or children which my said nephew Josiah Riddick may leave living at the period of his death and after the death of my said nephew Josiah Riddick Junr. the interest and profits arising from the said estate to be applied towards supporting and educating of the male child or children which my said nephew Josiah Riddick Junr. may have until he or they shall arrive to the age of twenty one years and upon the male child or children of my said nephew Josiah Riddick Junr. arriving to the age of twenty one years the estate hereby vested in the Trustees as aforesaid, I hereby give and devise to him and his heirs or them and their heirs forever. But if my said nephew Josiah Riddick Junr. shall die leaving no male child or children living at his death then the estate mentioned in this clause of my will I give and devise to the male child or children of my brother Mills Riddick that may be living at his death. If my said nephew Josiah Riddick Junr. shall die leaving a male child or children living and the said male child or children shall die before he, they or either of them shall arrive at the age of Twenty one years then I give and devise the estate mentioned in this clause of my will to the male child or children of my brother Mills Riddick that may be living at the period of the death of the male child or children of my said nephew Josiah Riddick Junr.

Eighthly, The property of which I have loaned to my said nephew Josiah Riddick Junr. by the sixth clause of this my last will and testament (excepting that portion which will be consumed in its use) I hereby dispose of the same at his death in the same manner as I have



disposed of the residue of my estate in the preceeding or seventh clause of this my last will and Testament.

Ninthly, If the Trustees hereby appointed shall fail to take upon themselves the character of the Trustees or shall die after accepting the Trust or whenever from any cause a Trustee or Trustees are wanting to carry into effect the trust hereby created, I request the Circuit Superiod Court of law and Chancery for the County of Nansemond to appoint from time to time whenever it may be necessary such person or persons as Trustees as may be relied upon to execute the trust created by this my last will and testament.

Tenthly, I give unto my friend Doctr. William S. Riddick my Gold Watch.

Lastly, I hereby appoint my brother Mills Riddick and my friend Doctr. William S. Riddick and my nephew Richard H. Riddick (son of Mills Riddick) executors of this my last will and testament and direct that no security be required of them or any of them hereby revoking all other or former wills or Testaments by me heretofore made. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 16th day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight.

J. Riddick

Signed, Sealed, published and declared as and for the last will and testament of the above named Josiah Riddick Senr. in presence of us Arthur Smith, Nathl. Boothe, Irajah (X) Langstun, Benja. Wilkins, Abram (X) Norfleet, Miles Lassiter.

At a Quarterly Court held for Nansemond County the 12th day of November 1838  
The last will and testament of Colonel Josiah Riddick deceased being proved by the oaths of Arthur Smith, Nathl. Boothe, Abram Norfleet and Miles Lassiter four of the Subscribing witnesses thereto is ordered to be recorded and on the motion of Mills Riddick and Richard H. Riddick two of the Executors therein named who made oath thereto and entered into and acknowledged a bond in the penalty of Eighty thousand Dollars conditioned as the law directs (without security the will requiring none) letters testamentary of said will are granted them in due form and liberty is reserved for William S. Riddick the other executor therein named to qualify at any time hereafter when he may choose.

Teste Joseph Prentis Clerk  
At office 23d Octo. 1844. Copy Teste Joseph Prentis  
In the Clerk's office at Nansemond County Court the 7th day of September 1866.

This duly authenticated copy of the last will and testament of Colo. Josiah Riddick deceased with the

certificate thereon was produced by Richard H. Riddick the surviving executor of said deceased and on his 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

A copy      Teste      Willis E. Cohoon