

In the name of God Amen I Benjamin Lawson of the County
of Prince Edward being of Sound Mind and memory do make this my last
Will & Testament, as in manner & form hereinafter expressed - Viz.

When ever I shall depart this life. I leave it to my Executors hereafter
named to give my body a decent & Christian burial.

I leave to my beloved wife Eleanor Lawson, or Ellen Lawson the use of the following
Slaves, to wit, Aggy, Tom, London, Catey, Blue & Patty and their increase
in future during her life (in lieu of full satisfaction of dowry) and at her
death to be equally divided amongst my 6 children, or in case their
deaths, or either of their deaths (as may be) their legal Representatives -
to them my said children and their heirs forever.

I will that my Executors sell the tract of Land I purchased of Andrew
Turn the unimproved Lot I hold in Richmond, together with fifteen
head of Cattle, three Horses to wit, one called the black Horse, the little Bay
Mare, & my said mare for the payment of my Debts, and if there shall
be any Money in hand now or hereafter which be thought necessary for said purpose
the same to be applied to the maintenance & Education of my children.

All the rest residue or remainder of my Estate real or personal, either in

All the rest residue or remainder of my Estate real or personal, either in possession, Remainder, Reversion, or Repeccancy I will to be Equally divided among my Children as they attain to the age of twenty one years by fair & Equal lot; and that the first who comes to Age take his dividend so made, and the rest to be returned to the Common Stock for the purpose of support & Education of him, her or them as the case may be who are still in a state of Minority.

Should either of my Children now born or in case of a posthumous Child his death, I will that in case such Child so dying shall leave legal Representatives in consequence of marriage, that although he may depart this life before he attains to lawful age, that his, or her, Child or Children shall share the part which would have been allotted him had he lived to have seen such period. That the whole of the Estate so left to my Children (exclusive of the life Estate to my wife) shall remain together until my Wife shall marry; and if that event should happen before my first Child attains to age, the division upon the Equal plan aforesaid shall as soon as may be take place.

I solemnly solicit my Executors to give the most liberal Education to my Sons which the Nature & worth of their Estate will by any means admit of.

as on this will depend, in my judgment, whether they become useful
Citizens to their County, & good members of society in general. The whole of the Estate
heretofore given to my children shall mine to them & their Heirs forever.

It is further more my wish, that my Executors, put apprentices my Sons,
from the age of sixteen years, to whatever Trade or occupation they may
discover him or them to have a natural genius and inclination to, and
that they remain in such State of apprenticeship until they attain to the
age of twenty one years. Upon this will probably depend whether they
shall become acquainted with the habits of morality, Industry & good
Manners, -

Lastly, I nominate & appoint my brother Robert Lawson & Philip W.
Jackson & my friend John Jones of Amelia (distinguished by the
addition of, Club foot John Jones) Executors to this my last Will &
Testament, hereby revoking all former Wills & declaring this & this only
to be my last Will & Testament. In Witness my hand & seal this
twenty fifth day of June 1787

Signed Sealed

& delivered in
presence of

Benjamin Lawson Seal

twenty fifth day of June 1787

Signed Sealed

& delivered in

presence of

Rich^d Jones son of Dawd

John Harable Jr +

Samuel A Jackson

Benjamin Lawson

A Court held for Prince Edward County December the 24th 1789. This last
Will and Testament of Benjamin Lawson Deceased was presented in Court
and proved by two ^{and agreed to be recorded} ~~Witnesses~~ ^{On the Motion} of Philip W Jackson
one of the Exors in said Will named, who gave bond and took the Oath required
by law. Certificate for obtaining a probat ^{in form} ~~that a copy is granted him and leave~~
for the other Exors therein named to take Execution at another day & ordered
that the same be certified

Sam^l

Teste J. Watkins b. b.