

22  
February Term 1868

I John Ray of the County of Ashe an State  
of North Carolina being of sound mind and  
Memory but considering the uncertainty of my earthly  
existence do make and declare this my last will and  
Testament in manner and form following that is to say  
1<sup>st</sup> I give to my beloved wife Riley all my personal  
property after paying all my just debts and also I  
give to my wife Riley also all my lands consisting  
of my home place containing two hundred acres in  
five tracts to hold as long as she lives and at her  
death it is my will that the residue of my personal  
property and also my land to be ~~equally~~ divided  
Share and share alike in the following manner  
Between my beloved children to wit Hamilton,  
George, John, Nelly, Amanda, Malinda, Martha,  
and four children of Thomas Rays dec<sup>d</sup> to have one  
Share the property and land to be divided in  
Eight shares as above stated in witness whereof  
I the said John Ray do here unto set  
my hand and seal this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 1867

Signed Sealed published  
and declared by the said  
John Ray to be his last  
will and testament in the  
presence of us who at his request  
and in his presence do subscribe  
our names as witnesses thereto  
Geo. H. Hamilton }  
Jas. W. Hardin }  
R. L. Hardin }  
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