

North Carolina Ashe County
May 23rd 1877

I Joseph Ratam being weak in body
but strong in mind now I make my
last will and testament in the name
of God amen

Now I leave my estate to Sarah Ratam
my wife as long as she lives of the residue
me. Now I give and bequeath to Myra
Lorraine one hundred dollars to be made
out of my estate

Now I give and bequeath to my daughter
Julia Ratam one hundred dollars to be
made out of my estate

Now I give and bequeath to my daughter
Coraline Ratam one hundred dollars to
be made out of my estate

Now I give and bequeath to my daughter
Sarah Lorraine all my land that I own
on the West side of New River with the
improvements mines and appurtenances
thereto belonging unto it

Now I give and bequeath to my daughter
Myra Ratam all my lands on the East
side of New River that adjoins the said
land with all the improvements mines
and minerals and appurtenances thereto
belonging. My Gap Creek land and the
balance of my estate I want equally divided
among all my children. Now I leave Elijah
Ratam and A. J. Lorraine my executors
to manage all my business after me according
to law and my last will and testament

Hence to set my hand and seal on the
present of these two witnesses

Bethel Church
H. H. Church

Joseph Ratam

North Carolina } In Inferior Court
Ashe County }

A paper writing purporting to be the last will
and testament of Joseph Ratam doth exhibit
before me by Elijah Ratam one of the executors
therein mentioned and the due execution thereof
by the said Joseph Ratam by the oath and
examination of Bethesda Church & H. H. Church the
subscribing witnesses thereto who being duly sworn
doth depose and say and each for himself affirmeth
and saith that he is a subscribing witness to the
paper writing and know him purporting to be the last
will and testament of Joseph Ratam doth that the
said Joseph Ratam in the presence of this deponent
herein set his name at the end of said paper
writing which is now known as aforesaid and
which bears date of 23rd of May 1877

And the deponent further saith that the said
Joseph Ratam the testator aforesaid did at the time
of subscribing his name as aforesaid declare the
said paper writing so subscribed by him and
affidavit to be his last will and testament and
this deponent did thereupon subscribe his name
at the end of said will as an attesting witness
thereto and at the request and in the presence
of said testator. And this deponent further saith
that at the said time when the said testator
subscribed his name to the said last will as
aforesaid and at the time of deponent subscribing
his name as an attesting witness thereto as aforesaid
the said Joseph Ratam was of sound mind
and memory of full age to execute a will and was
not under any constraint to the knowledge aforesaid
or belief of this deponent and further states deponent
saith not

Sworn before me and
subscribed this 7th day
of Oct. 1887 before me
J. M. Dukom C. G.

Bethel Church
H. H. Church