

Will x
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I Helen Maria Edwards wife of Ogden
Ellery Edwards now residing in Stockbridge
Berkshire County Massachusetts hereby
declare my last & Testament,

Firstly

I hereby revoke and cancel all former
Wills and Codicils,

Secondly

I give and bequeath to my beloved
husband Ogden Ellery Edwards the whole
of the property, real and personal of which
I may die possessed in Trust for himself
and our children,

Thirdly

The condition of the above Trust
is that the income arising from my
property shall be used for the support
of my said husband and for the sup-
port and education (as he may direct)
of our children so long as my said
husband may live and after his death
the sum of five thousand dollars in
United States gold coin shall be given
my son Ogden Ellery Edwards the Young-
er and the remainder of my property shall
be equally divided among my four children
Chatham Shepherd Edwards Helen Ed-
wards, Robert Sedgewick Edwards and
Ogden Ellery Edwards the Younger, my
reason for giving five thousand dollars
as above to my son Ogden Ellery Edwards
the Younger is that his sister and brother
already have property of their own,

Fourthly

I appoint my said husband Execu-
tor of this Will with power of substitution
and I hereto set my signature and
date this twenty ninth day of November
in the year of our Lord One thousand
eight hundred and seventy five,

Helen M. Edwards

Signed sealed and published by the testator

as and for her last will and Testament in the pre-
sence of us who in her presence and in the pre-
sence of each other have herewith subscribed
our names as witnesses Sarah Ann Farley
Agnes B. Sumner,

X

The state of North Carolina
County of Buncombe

To Charles Macken

Esquire of Lenox, Berkshire County, Massachusetts,
Greeting;

We reposing special confidence in your
prudence and fidelity do hereby authorize
and empower you to cause Sarah Ann
Mercer and Agnes B. Stafford the sub-
scribing witnesses by their former maiden
names to a paper writing purporting to
be the last will and Testament of
Helen M. Edwards deceased, which
it hath been suggested to us, was made
without this state, and deposit of prop-
erty within it, to come before you at such
time and place as you may appoint,
and there to examine, on oath, touching and
concerning the execution of the said paper
writing, purporting to be the last will and
Testament aforesaid, by the said Helen M.
Edwards; and their examinations to take
in writing under your hand, and seal up
and deliver together with this commission
to the Clerk of our Superior Court for
County and State aforesaid, at Asheville
Witness our hand and official seal
at office in Asheville in the said County
and State this 27th day of August
1884,

E H Hernan
Clerk Superior Court

To Sarah Ann, Harlow otherwise known
as Sarah Ann, Mercer, now wife of Ben
M. Mercer of Stockbridge Berkshire
County, Massachusetts,

You are hereby required to appear
before me, the subscriber, a Commissioner
appointed by the Superior Court of Ben
Combe County in the State of North Car
olina, on the 27th day of August A.D.
1884, - at the house of Ogden E. Edwards
Esq. in said Stockbridge on Tuesday day
at 5³⁰ o'clock P.M., the second day of
September current to give your
testimony as a subscribing and attesting
witness to the last will and Testament
of Helen M. Edwards, late of Asheville,
in said Bencombe County, deceased,
Herof fail not under penalty of law.

Charles S. Rackemann,
Commissioner &c

Sesnot Sept 2, 1884
Mass^{ts} Berkshire Co,

I accept service hereof Sarah Ann, Mercer,

You Agnes B. Sumner, otherwise known as
Agnes B. Stafford, now wife of John Stafford
of Stockbridge, Berkshire County, Massa
chusetts,

You are hereby required to appear be
fore me, the subscriber, a Commissioner
appointed by the Superior Court of Bencombe
County, in the State of North Carolina,
on the 27th day of August A.D. 1884,
at the House of Ogden E. Edwards Esq.,
in said Stockbridge on Tuesday at 5³⁰
o'clock P.M., the second day of Septem
ber current to give your testimony as a subscri
ing and attesting witness to the last will
and Testament of Helen M. Edwards,
(wife of said Ogden E. Edwards)

Asheville, in said Bencombe County deceased,
Herof fail not under penalty of the law;
Charles S. Rackemann
Sesnot Sept 2^d 1884 Commissioner &c
Mass^{ts} Berkshire Co,

I accept service hereof Agnes B. Stafford
now John Stafford,

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Berkshire Co Town of Stockbridge

Pursuant to the annexed Commission
to me Charles S. Rackemann Com
missioner under the authority then of
the second day of September, A.D. 1884,
in the Town of Stockbridge in the County
of Berkshire, and Commonwealth of Mas
sachusetts proceeded to take the exami
nation of Sarah Ann Mercer, wife of Ben
jamin M. Mercer, and formerly Sarah
Ann Harlow, and of Agnes B. Stafford, wife
of John Stafford, and former Agnes B.
Sumner, the subscribing witnesses to a pa
per writing now produced before me and
purporting to be the last will and Testament
of the late Helen M. Edwards which paper
writing is hereto attached and marked A
and the said witnesses being first by me
duly sworn depose and say and each for
herself depose and oath that she is a
subscribing witness to the paper writing now
exhibited to her purporting to be the last
will and Testament of the said Helen M.
Edwards in the presence of these two de
ponents subscribed her name at the end
of said paper writing which is now show
ed as follows, which bears date the
twenty ninth day of November A.D. 1875.
And these deponents further say that the
said Helen M. Edwards the testator afore
said was at the time of subscribing her
name as aforesaid and declared the said paper

See original
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To Sarah Ann, Harlay otherwise known
as Sarah Ann, Mercer, now wife of Rev
M. Mercer of Stockbridge Berkshire
County, Massachusetts,

You are hereby required to appear
before me, the subscriber, a Commissioner
appointed by the Superior Court of Bun-
combe County in the State of North Car-
olina, on the 27th day of August A.D.
1884, - at the house of Ogden E. Edwards,
Esq. in said Stockbridge on Tuesday day
at 5³⁰ o'clock P.M., the second day of
September current to give your
testimony as a subscribing and attesting
witness to the last will and Testament
of Helen M. Edwards, late of Asheville,
in said Buncombe County, deceased,
Herof fail not under penalty of law.

Charles S. Rackemann,
Commissioner &c

Given Sept 2, 1884
Master Berkshire Co,

I accept service hereof Sarah Ann, Mercer,

To Agnes B Sumner, otherwise known as
Agnes B Stafford, now wife of John Stafford
of Stockbridge, Berkshire County, Massa-
chusetts,

You are hereby required to appear be-
fore me, the subscriber, a Commissioner
appointed by the Superior Court of Buncombe
County, in the State of North Carolina,
on the 27th day of August A.D. 1884,
at the House of Ogden E. Edwards Esquire,
in said Stockbridge on Tuesday at 5³⁰
o'clock P.M., the second day of Septem-
ber current to give your testimony as a subscrib-
ing and attesting witness to the last will
and Testament of Helen M. Edwards
(wife of said Ogden E. Edwards) at the

Asheville, in said Buncombe County deceased,
Herof fail not under penalty of the law,
Charles S. Rackemann
Given Sept 2^d 1884 Commissioner &c
Master Berkshire Co,

I accept service hereof Agnes B. Stafford
Mrs John Stafford,

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Berkshire Co Town of Stockbridge

Pursuant to the annexed Commission
to me shewed I Charles S. Rackemann Com-
missioner under the authority thereof on
the second day of September, A.D. 1884,
in the Town of Stockbridge in the County
of Berkshire, and Commonwealth of Mas-
sachusetts proceeded to take the exami-
nation of Sarah Ann Mercer, wife of Ben-
jamin M. Mercer, and formerly Sarah
Ann Harlay, and of Agnes B Stafford, wife
of John Stafford, and former Agnes B.
Sumner, the subscribing witnesses to a pa-
per writing now produced before me and
purporting to be the last will and Testament
of the late Helen M. Edwards, which paper
writing is hereto attached and marked with
A and the said witnesses being first by me
duely sworn depose and say and each for
herself depose and oath that she is a
subscribing witness to the paper writing now
exhibited to her purporting to be the last
will and Testament of the said Helen M.
Edwards, in the presence of these two de-
ponents subscribed her name at the end
of said paper writing which is now show-
ed as aforesaid, which bears date the
twenty ninth day of November A.D. 1875.
And these deponents further say that the
said Helen M. Edwards the testator afore-
said at the time of subscribing her
name as aforesaid declared the said paper

See original
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writing so subscribed by her and attested
to be her last will and Testament and
These deponents did thereupon severally
subscribe their names at the end and end of
said will as attesting witnesses thereto and
at the request (to each) and in the presence
of the Testatrix - And these deponents
further say that at the time when the
said Testatrix subscribed her name to
the said last will and Testament
again said, and at the time of the depo-
nents severally subscribing their names
as attesting witnesses thereto as aforesaid,
the said Helen M. Edwards was of
sound mind and memory, of full age to
execute a will, and was not under any
restraint, to the knowledge or belief of these
deponents respectively,
and farther these deponents say not.

Sarah A. Mercer
formerly Sarah A. Garley

Agnes B. Stafford
formerly Agnes B. Sumner,

Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
Berkshire Co. at Stockbridge, Sept 2, 1884.

The foregoing examination of Sarah
Ann Mercer and Agnes B. Stafford
were by them severally subscribed and
afterwards sworn to at the time and place
mentioned in the caption, and before
the examination began the said Sarah
& Agnes were severally sworn:
Before me,

Charles S. Rackemann
Commissioner as aforesaid
Justice of the Peace throughout
said Commonwealth

State of North Carolina In the Superior Court
County of Buncombe September 9th 1884

It having been suggested to the Court
that Helen M. Edwards, a Resident of this
County and State, died after having made, and
executed a will without the State, disposing
of land and other property within the State,
the Court on the 27th day of August 1884,
issued a Commission to Charles S. Rack-
mann Esq., of Lenox, Berkshire County
in the State of Mass., to take the examination of
in writing of such witnesses as might be produced
touching the execution of the said paper un-
purporting to be the last will and Testament
of the said Helen M. Edwards, and directed
him to send the same together with the Com-
mission to this Court.

And whereas, the said Commission and the
examination in writing of Sarah Ann Garley
and Agnes B. Sumner, together with the paper
writing purporting to be the last will and Testament
of the said Helen M. Edwards deceased have
been returned to this Court, the said paper
writing is exhibited for probate in open Court
by Ogden Ellery Edwards the executor therein
named, and the due execution thereof
by the said Helen M. Edwards, is duly
proved, by the oath and examination of
Sarah Ann Garley and Agnes B. Sumner, the
suspecting witnesses thereto, It is therefore con-
sidered by the Court, that the said paper un-
writing, and every part thereof, is the last will
and Testament of the said Helen M. Edwards,
and the same, together with the said Commis-
sion and all proceedings touching the exe-
cution of the said will, is ordered to be re-
corded and filed.

And thereupon the said Ogden ^{Edwards} Edwards
Executor as aforesaid came into Court of
Court and duly qualifies as such by taking
the oath required by law

Buncombe County - In the Superior Court
In the Matter of the Will of
Helen M. Edwards, 3d of the Heredum &c.
Cedric Ellery Edwards being duly sworn,
doth say;

That Helen M. Edwards late of said County,
is dead, having first made and published
her last will and Testament and that she
is the executor named therein,
Further, that the property of the said
Helen M. Edwards consisting of Bonds,
- Railway Stocks, Real property &c.
is worth about \$25000.00 so far as can be as-
certained at the date of this application
and that Catharine Shephard, Helen
Robert Magwick, Cedric Ellery & subject
to the life estate of the said Cedric Ellery
Edwards, are the parties entitled under
said Will to the said property.

Cedric E. Edwards

Sworn to and Subscribed before me this 9th
day of Sept 1884 E. W. Herndon
C. J. C.

In the Name of God, Amen,
I, James L. Henry of the County of
Buncombe, and State of North Carolina,
of sound mind and Memory, do make
and publish this my last will and
Testament, here revoking all others,
+ I give and bequeath all my property
Real, personal and mixed, to my
three children, Bell, Nettie and
Paul, or the survivor of them, to be
held together as it now is until the
youngest living one become of age,
No property to be sold until the young-
est one become of age, and I desire
that the family shall all remain to-
gether, until that time, the family ex-
penditure not to exceed the income,
rents and profits of the estate,
I desire that the town property be kept
rented, at a good lawful rate of interest
until the youngest child become of age,
If my son Paul desires to become a
farmer he is to have the home place
at a fair valuation,
I want all my debts collected, of every
kind and sort, and the proceeds of such
collection to be loaned out to responsible
parties on good paper, at the lawful
rate of interest, in the sum of not less
than Three hundred dollars,
The deed to the Laurel farm was
burned up, but R. B. Justice can tell
about the courses, distances and
location,
I desire the two horses Zip and Char-
to be kept on the place and at service
as long as they are able,
I give and bequeath to William Commons
Three hundred dollars to buy a lot
town with, I desire that said William
Commons shall stay with the family as
long as he can, and as long as my family
have a house, they must remember the