

State of North Carolina, Eastern County. Be it remembered that I Benjamin Stanton of the State and County aforesaid am now weak of Body but of sound mind and memory do for the most of my then present affairs make and ordain this will in full of my mind and Testament. First I Desire all my just debts and claims by my Executors out of my Moveable property and the Remainder thereof to be discharged in full manner and form.

Item, I give my son Joseph Stanton one fourth part of what he sold the Schenck Valley for and the Cargo the same when he sold her, that is to say the one fourth part of the Cargo of Vessel and part of Cargo he had as I suppose and received, but the title and full settlement must be made by my estate in full, this being I think a large portion of my estate for what he did in building and all that belongs to the other three quarters to be considered as the rest of my estate which said Moveable or personal estate to be disposed of by my Executors and Executors as they think best for the living and educating my Children and to be divided among them as equal as possible.

Item, I leave unto my beloved wife Mary Stanton the plantation wherein I now live with and equal privilege with my Children to my other woodlands during her natural life after her decease I give and bequeath the same to be divided between my two sons Benjamin Stanton and Joseph Stanton them their heirs and assigns for ever, also their share of the privilege of all my woodland.

Item, I give my clock unto my son Benjamin Stanton after the decease of his mother who is to have the use thereof during her natural life.

Item, I give my ship yard with fifty acres of land and the hammock fields to my son Henry Stanton with his heirs and those after he comes of lawful age with an equal privilege to my woodland for plantation use to him and his heirs and assigns for ever.

Item, I give the house and buildings that Joseph Chadwick now lives on with fifty acres of land and all the improvements on an equal privilege of my woodland for plantation use to my son David Stanton and to his heirs and assigns for ever.

Item, I give my fishing place and lands on both sides of the Shacklefords Banks unto my four sons Henry, David, Benjamin and Joseph only receiving the use thereof until my mother during her natural life after which I give the same to them all and to their heirs and assigns for ever.

Item, I give and bequeath unto my child that my

wife is now pregnant with whether I shall be long in my journey or not I will leave to my executors to my said children, his heirs, heirs and assigns for ever.

Item, I give unto my two daughters Elizabeth Stanton and Sarah Stanton my parcel in Brown County wherein Joseph Stanton lives, to them and their heirs and assigns for ever.

Item, I give unto my daughter Sarah Stanton fifty acres of land or more she shall want to be bounded by the Road where it more is and the Road being also bounding on Riggers and Towns line so as to include the fifty acres and an equal privilege of my woodland for plantation use with the other Children to her her heirs and assigns for ever.

Item, I give to each of my daughters not herein before this particularly named fifty acres of land each, on any part of my land not herein before mentioned to choose for themselves as they may want it to be taken off by my Executors to them their heirs and assigns for ever with and the same privilege of my woodland as the other children, to them and their heirs and assigns for ever.

Item, my will and desire is that all the poor black people that ever belonged to me be entirely free whenever the laws of the land will allow it, until which time my Executors I leave as guardians to protect them and see that they be not deprived of their right or any way abused.

Lastly I nominate and appoint my beloved wife Elizabeth Stanton Executor and my friends Oliver Stanton and William Stanton working and discharging all other wills by me made, ratifying this and no other to be my last will and Testament, this I publish by the Eleventh Month one thousand seven hundred and twenty eight.

Witnessed and declared
by the said Benjamin Stanton
to be his last will and Testament
in presence of us then Present,
John Marshall
Joseph Davis

Benj. Stanton

Eastern County
July Term 1799.

The above will was proved in open Court
by the oath of John Marshall

Saml. Laffery C. C.