

April Session 1854

In the name of God Amen

I Alexander M. Carkle of the County of Catawba in the State of North Carolina, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, and calling to mind the Mortality of my body, do make this my last will & Testament in the following manner Viz;

I give and bequeath to my sister Rebecca Milligum three hundred dollars and should she not use or spend it all before her decease, her two youngest daughters are to have the residue.

I will and bequeath to my brother Francis M. Carkle five hundred dollars, & my new family Bible,

I will and bequeath to my sister Elizabeth Shurill five hundred dollars,

I give to my brother Thomas M. Carkle five hundred dollars,

I give and bequeath to my sister Sarah Wilkersons children five hundred dollars to be equally divided amongst them,

I will and bequeath to my Brother Richard, three youngest children five hundred dollars to be equally divided between them, if either of them should die previous to distribution, the survivors to have it

I will and bequeath to the children of Jimmy Turbyfill that she had to my brother John M. Carkle five hundred dollars to be equally divided amongst them, or the survivors,

I give Charles Beatty, my nephew one hundred dollars,

I will and bequeath to my niece Elizabeth Shurfance wife of Abel W. Shurfance, three hundred dollars,

I will and bequeath to my brother Wm. M. Carkles four daughters (or the survivors) five hundred dollars to be equally divided,

I will and bequeath to my brother Francis, four daughters or the survivors, two hundred dollars to be equally divided,

I give and bequeath to my nephew, who ever name Alexander (after Thomas M. Carkle me) viz. Richard son Alexander, Thomas M. Carkles son Alexander John M. Carkles son Alexander & Wm. M. Carkles son Alexander each one hundred dollars.

I will and bequeath to James Brinkster one hundred dollars,

I will and bequeath to Cordius Jones wife of James Jones fifty dollars,

I hereby appropriate one hundred and fifty dollars to be expended in repairing the family grave yard, on my fathers old Plantation and putting up head stones at the graves of my near relatives, the same to remain in the hands of my Executor and appropriated by him to that purpose, when necessary,

It is my will that the foregoing legacies shall not be paid until twelve months after my decease,

Continued

It is my will that all the negro slaves that may belong to my estate at my decease, shall be equally divided amongst my deceased daughter Elizabeth Houstons children, except her youngest son, the same to be valued by three disinterested persons, who are good judges of such property, to be selected by my Executor for that purpose, and the aforesaid youngest son is to have an equal share with his brothers and sisters out of the residue of my estate to be made up to him in cash equal to the cash value of the negroes,

I will and bequeath to my three grand daughters all my bees & breeding to be equally divided amongst them, viz. my daughter Elizabeth Houstons children,

It is my will that all the balance of my Personal estate be put up at Publick sale & sold to the best advantage on a reasonable credit and it is my will that my real estate sold by my Executor either Publickly or privately together in a body or divided into different lots at his discretion to the best advantage and that he execute to the Purchasers title or titles in fee simple,

It is further my will that should my decease occur during crop time that my negroes remain together on the farm, unless the crop is made & secured

It is my will and I hereby direct that the proceeds of the sale of property, hereinafter to be sold together with all cash bonds, or other evidences of debt due my estate, constitute a fund to pay all my just debts, funeral expenses, and the special legacies above made, and proper and reasonable commissions to my executor for his services,

It is further my will & I hereby direct that, whatever except may belong to my estate after the foregoing disbursements are made, the same is to be made equally divided amongst all my daughter Elizabeth Houstons children, and should any of them die previous to my death (or a distribution) leaving lawful children, said children are to inherit their Parents share, the same provisions ^{being} made with regard to their share of the negroes,

I hereby nominate and appoint my nephew Matthew M. Carkle my Executor to execute this my last will and Testament, I hereby revoke, disannul and disallow all other former Wills by me made or executed Publishing and declaring this to be my last Will and Testament, Ratifying the same,

In testimony Whereof I Alexander M. Carkle have set my hand and affixed my seal this 7th day of August, in the year of our Lord 1857

Signed sealed Published & declared in presence of

John Weller

Ben. Bang

J. M. Smith

Alexander M. Carkle