

State of North Carolina  
Catawba County, Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> 1884

147

M. E. Chapman  
P. T. H.  
of  
M. E. Chapman

I, M. E. Chapman being of sound mind and usual memory (Blessed be God for the same) considering the uncertainty of our earthly existence, and knowing that it is appointed unto all men to die, after committing my spirit into the hands of my blessed God who gave it, do make and constitute this my last will and testament in manner and form following.

1<sup>st</sup> I wish my body to have a decent and Christian like burial, suitable to the wishes of my family and friends.

Item 1<sup>st</sup> I will and bequeath to my loving wife M. E. Chapman All of my real estate which consists of seven tracts of land designated as follows; 1<sup>st</sup> The tract on which I now live containing one hundred and ninety five acres.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> is a tract of one hundred acres known as the Johnson land. The 3<sup>rd</sup> is a tract of ten acres and 144 poles on North side of Jacobs River known as the Boyles tract.

The 4<sup>th</sup> is a tract of five acres adjoining the last named & also lies north of said river.

The 5<sup>th</sup> is a tract of 51 acres known as the Hannah tract. The 6<sup>th</sup> is a tract of twelve and 1/2 acres known as the Mountain tract.

The 7<sup>th</sup> is a tract of — acres known Melvin Rhine tract with all improvements and everything pertaining thereto.

Item 2<sup>nd</sup> I will and bequeath to my said wife all of my stock of every kind, horses, mules, cattle, sheep and hogs.

Item 3<sup>rd</sup> I will to my wife M. E. Chapman all my wagons, Buggies and all farming and domestic tools of every description. And all my household and kitchen furniture of every description whatever. Also all my provision on hand of every description.

Item 4<sup>th</sup> I will and bequeath to my loving wife all jewels and ornaments that I may have on hand at my decease. My will is that my said wife M. E. Chapman shall receive,

control and enjoy all the above property named in items 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> during her natural life or widowhood. At her death, or when she shall cease to be my widow, I will that all my property both real and personal be equally divided between my five children namely, Perry L., L. Memory, Ethie May, James J. and Maud Chapman.

Item 5<sup>th</sup> I hereby constitute and appoint my beloved wife M. E. Chapman Executor in this my last will and testament to all intents and purposes, to carry out and execute the same and every part hereof according to the meaning and intent thereof.

Given under my hand the day and year just above written. And witnessed at my request by

Seal  
James McElmurry

M. E. Chapman Esq.

North Carolina 2<sup>nd</sup> Superior Court in Special Term  
Catawba County, P. J. Hough C. S. C.

James McElmurry makes oath sayeth, that he is a disinterested witness to the foregoing paper writings, that he signed the same as an attesting witness at the request made in the presence of the testator, and at the time said paper was executed. And the time the said J. M. McElmurry signed his name to the attesting witness the testator was of sound mind and memory. J. M. McElmurry.

Swear to and subscribed before  
me Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> 1885 P. J. Hough C. S. C.

Personally, sworn before me this day and subscribed oaths that he is well acquainted with the handwriting of M. E. Chapman and that he verily believes that the signature M. E. Chapman to a paper writing purporting to be his last will, is the genuine signature of the said M. E. Chapman,  
J. S. Jones

Swear to and subscribed before  
me 8<sup>th</sup> August 1885 P. J. Hough C. S. C.

In the foregoing prop the will of M. E. Chapman is admitted to probate P. J. Hough C. S. C.