

In the name of God Amen I Eli Emerson
 of the County of Lehigh & State of North Carolina
 being of sound and disposing mind and memory do
 make ordain and declare This to be my last will and
 Testament in manner and form following hereby
 making all wills by me at any time heretofore made
 and declare This and This only to be my true and lawful
 will and Testament First I commend my soul to God
 who gave it and my body to the Earth from which it
 was Taken to be interred in a manner suited to my
 circumstances in life & agreeable to the wishes of my relat-
 ives & friends my will and desire is That my Executors hereafter
 named shall pay out of my Estate all my just debts &
 funeral expences. Then I give and bequeath to my
 daughter in Law Minny Emerson during her natural life
 or widowhood The South end of my Tract of Land Beginning
 at a red oak Goldstons & Carters & Elizabeths black
 corner Thence east with Carters land & round with Aaron
 Emmons lines Mr Carters & John Darks to Darks corner
 The Lane East of The Smiths shop Thence west with The
 lane to a small branch near The Smiths shop Thence
 with Betsey Darks line to The first Station containing
 about one hundred Acres more or less, I give and
 bequeath to my daughter in Law Minny Emerson dur-
 ing her natural life one negro woman by the name of
 Dorcas all her household & kitchen furniture Two
 cows & calves and at her death to be equally divided
 between all her children Then I give and bequeath
 to my grand son Eli B Emerson one negro woman by
 the name of Aggy and a negro man by the name of Loda
 and to have & to hold To him and his heirs forever then
 and then increase Then I give & bequeath to my grand
 son Aaron Emerson Two negro John & Beck to have
 and to hold to him and his heirs forever Then and then
 increase

I give and bequeath to Sarah Emerson the wife of Joseph Emerson her and the lawful heirs of her body one negro man by the name of Wily I also ratify and confirm a deed of gift to the said Sarah and the heirs of her body for negro Ficy made by me heretofore to her and the lawful heirs of her body forever and thus increase

Then I give and bequeath to my grand daughter Minerva Emerson two negroes Jane & Bob to have and to hold to her and her heirs forever then and thus increase Then I give & bequeath to my grand son Joseph Emerson two negroes Jimmy & Jo to have and to hold to him and his heirs forever then & thus increase Then I give & bequeath to my grand son Marion Emerson two negroes Medora & Ephraim to have and to hold to him and his heirs forever then and thus increase My will & desire is that my two negroes Jim & Levi be hired out until Marion Emerson becomes of age and then for them to be divided equally amongst all my grand children named above my will is that my old faithful negro Smart remain on my Land & support herself as long as she is able and afterwards if she liars to be supported out of my estate, The residue of my property both real and personal or of whatever it may consist to be equally divided share & share alike between Eli B Emerson Aaron Emerson Sarah Emerson & the heirs of her body Minerva Emerson Joseph Emerson and Marion Emerson then & then his forever and lastly I nominate constitute and appoint my friend & relation Aaron Emerson Executor to my last will and Testament in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my

This 3^d day of December A.D. 1851 signed sealed and delivered to be my last will and Testament in the presence of us who have witnessed the same in the presence of each other and in the presence of the Testator and at his request

Witness

W. Goldston

John Emerson

codicil

Eli Emerson

My will and desire is that the lots of negroes named above and left to my six grand children be valued by three commissioners to be appointed by my Executor and that those having lots of the highest valuation shall pay over to those of the lowest value so as to make all their lots equal share & share alike and that this codicil is a part of my last will the date above written

Witness

W. Goldston

John Emerson

Eli Emerson

State of North Carolina County of Jones & James
behethan County } the Superior Court Term 1853

This certifies that the foregoing last will & Testament of Eli Emerson was duly proved in open Court by the oaths of W. Goldston & John Emerson the subscribing witnesses thereof & ordered to be recorded whereupon Aaron Emerson the Executor thereof named appeared in open Court and was duly qualified as such Test

W. J. Taylor C. C. C.