

In the name of God Amen I John Burns, of the County of Graham and State of North Carolina being of sound mind & memory praised be God for the same, and being desirous to settle my worldly affairs whilst I have strength & capacity so to do, and knowing the certainty of death & the uncertainty of life do make and declare this my last will & Testament first and principally I commit my soul into the hands of my Creator who gave it, and my body to the earth to be interred under the direction of my Executor herein after named suitable to the wishes of my relations and friends I pay all funeral expenses together with my just debts, however I to whomsoever owing back of the monies that may first come into their hands as a part or parcel of my estate - Item, I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Mary Burns a part of the Island of Land where I now live, as follows - Beginning at the North East of the barn lot running East to Alvis Burns spring branch, thence up the branch to the Spring, thence West to a Bush on the Creek near a general crossing place, thence down the creek to the River, thence down the River to the mouth of the branch at the Island, thence up the branch to the fence, thence North to Alvis Burns Spring branch where the line from the Barn stands, the branch the East to Mr. Burns line and with his line to the fence at the Hill fields, thence West to a corner in Mr. Burns line, thence South to the line running East from the Spring Branch - I also give & bequeath to my beloved wife my road wagon & Geo, two sheep Horns, two Negro men, one by the name of George the other by the name of Tom, One Negro woman by the name of Lucy & her child Frank, two beds & furniture two cows & calves, two sons and pigs, ten head of sheep, and all the domestic fowls & poultry and a sufficiency of provision for herself & family for one year and at the death of my wife my will is that the property given to her be equally divided amongst my now living children. I have & share alike to wit - Henry C. Burns, W. T. Burns, Graham White wife of Wm. White, Mirrey Perry wife of Melsey Perry, Alvis Burns, J. B. Burns, Frances Burns & Mary McAllester, wife of G. A. McAllester - Item I give and bequeath to my son Henry C. Burns, One Horse bridle & saddle, One bed & furniture which he has received -

Item - I give & bequeath to my son Leon T. Burns, One horse bridle and saddle on bed & furniture which he has received Item - I give and bequeath to my daughter Caroline White wife of William White One horse bridle & saddle One bed & furniture which she has received -

Item - I give and bequeath to my daughter Mirrey Perry wife of Melsey Perry, One horse bridle & saddle on bed & furniture which she has received - Item I give & bequeath to my son Alvis Burns, One Horse bridle & saddle, One bed & furniture which he has received - Item - I give & bequeath to my J. B. Burns, One Horse bridle & saddle which he has received & he is to receive from my estate One bed & furniture - Item - I give & bequeath to my daughter Frances Burns, One Horse bridle & saddle, One Cow & Calf One sow & pigs One bed & furniture all of which she is to receive from my estate - Item - I give & bequeath to my daughter Mary McAllester wife of G. A. McAllester in addition to what she has already received a Horse worth Fifty dollars -

Item - I give & bequeath to my Grand daughter Martha Foye Burns, Daughter of my departed son Elisha Burns Two Hams and Dollars in cash to be paid by my Executor as soon as they can conveniently do so - The residue of my estate both real and personal and otherwise divisible or bequeathable, my will is that it be equally divided amongst my now living children before mentioned here and shall abide with the exception my son Mr. T. Burns is to account for six hundred Dollars for the hire of my overseer man Adam before he can come in for his equal share - And my son H. C. Burns is to account for Two Thousand Dollars for the hire of George before he can come in for his equal share - My will & desire is that my Executor will not suffer any of my named negroes to be separated from wife, or wife from husband if it can be prevented, only something should take place that makes it necessary to do so - In order to prevent law-suits which might ensue in the will amongst my children my will & desire is that if any of the children should contend that I have made a discrimination to some of the children by which some of them received more than others let it be so, for I have endeavored in making this my last will & testament, to do the best I could for all of my children under all the existing circumstances - It is further my will & desire that my children have no law suits with one another - And lastly I do ^{hereby} constitute and appoint my beloved son Henry C. Burns, Mr. T. Burns, Alvis Burns,

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I, J. B. Burns, my lawful Executor to all intents and purposes to execute this my last Will & Testament, according to the true intent and meaning of the same, and every part I declare them of hereby revoking and declining utterly void all other Wills & Testaments by me heretofore made - In witness whereof I the said John Burns do hereunto set my hand and seal this the 28th day of July A. D. 1848 -

Signed sealed published & declared
by the said John Burns to be his
last Will & Testament in presence
of us who at his request are in his
presence & in the presence of each other
do subscribe our names as witnesses

Witnesses Nathan A. Stedman

Isaac Hall

Chatham County November Term 1848,
This certifies that the foregoing last will & testament
of John Burns was proven in open court by the city
of Chatham A. Stedman and one of the subscribers being witnesses
thereto and ready to be deposed - whereupon B. B.
Burns & H. C. Burns, two of the executors therin named
affiant, in open court it was qualified -

Isaac A. Stedman Seale