

196 In the name of God, a mere

I Thomas Bell of the County of Chatham and State of North Carolina in the twenty third year of my age being in my common ^{Full} health with my memory sound and entire as usual thanks be to God for it and knowing that I must shortly depart this life, do make this my last will and Testament in manner and form as follows. First that all my just debts be paid

Secondly, I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Mary Bell an negro woman named Sarah also an negro woman Ginny, to her her heirs and assigns for ever and I also do hereby acknowledge that it is my will that she may dispose of them two named negro women among her children as she may think proper in my lifetime or after my death

Thirdly, I leave unto my beloved wife all the residue of my Estate during her natural life or widowhood except what I or my wife have put in the hands of any of our children

Fourthly, I have already given to my son Jonathan Bell the part of land I allotted for him

Fifthly, I give to my other four sons, to wit Enoch Thomas Elijah & William Bell all Bells four fifths of my Land to be Equally divided among them at the death or marriage of my wife Mary Bell Either by lot or sale their choice and I also desire that the named children of my deceased son James Bell viz Enoch William Thomas Charity, Nathan Solomon and James Bell ^{all} Bells may have the other fifth share that was allotted for their deceased Father James Bell to be Equally divided among them as they think proper agreeable to the above

197 I don't hear notice that if any of my children four sons as above mentioned shall settle on any part of my Land by the consent of myself or my wife, agreeable to the number of acres or Boundary given unto him shall be his agreeable to valuation, his own labour excepted

Sixthly, I desire that the residue of my Estate to be equally divided at the marriage of my said wife Mary Bell as follows

I desire the father of my children to be made Equal with former in value of the gifts which they have already received which accounts may be found copied up in this will

From this place I desire an Equal division among all my children

viz Jonathan Bell Susanah Clark Enoch Bell Thomas Bell

Elijah Bell and William Bell Each an Equal share out of seven

I being being six sevenths, and I also desire that the seventh

share that I allotted for my son James Bell deceased may be

Equally divided among his six children to wit, Enoch William

J. Charity Jonathan Solomon and James Bell all Bells

I also desire all my negroes belonging to my estate at home

in the hands of my children to be Equally divided by lot among

my above mentioned children, viz, Each an Equal share out

of seven it being six sevenths and I also desire that the seventh

share which I allotted for my son James Bell deceased, may

be Equally divided among his six named children above

and whatever negro or negroes is or may be put into the

hands of any of my children or in the family held generally

or otherwise I desire that they be in their lot according to valuation

and if any of my children do not like the negroes put in to

into his lot, and to what shall be in his lot according to the

price of it

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I further desire that man and wife shall not be parted with belonging
to my family further more let it understood that if any of the
female negroes in the hands of my children have or may have
children after being put into their hands the said negro children
born in the care of said child or children is held and deemed by
me their own property and not to be valued as my Estate with
the former and at the division of those negroes the balance of my
Estate to be equally divided in manner and form as above dire-
cted and further more it is my will that if any or either of my
above named children shall die leaving a lawfull child or
children that the part of my estate belonging to him or her or
them according to my will which had not fell into his or
their ^{own} possession shall be equally divided among such
children or child and if either of my aforesaid children
shall die in a married state leaving no child or children
that the property of my Estate belonging to him or them
according to my will which had not fell into his or their
possession shall be valued in my Estate and equally divided
as directed in this article lawfully and lastly

I do hereby constitute appoint and ordain my three younger
Sons Thomas Bell Elipah Bell and William Bell or either
two of them or either of them Executors to this my last
will and Testament and I do hereby disannul and
revoke all former wills by me made and acknowledge this
and this only to be my last will and Testament in
witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand ^{and} seal this the four
teenth day of May A D one thousand eight hundred & twenty
seven — ^{Test}

Thomas Bell Seal

William Lasater Seal
Wm. H. H. H.

Proved at November Term 1830 by the
Oath of Wm. Lasater a subscribing Witness
Test Thos. H. H. H.