

Camp Fisher N.C.
March 13th 1863

Dear Brother,

I presume the Ball is in motion, I was up all night. Morning about 4 1/2 up to five in evening the best I could get up for it. At 5 o'clock we learned positively that the enemy was just behind our breastworks.

It is now near 8 o'clock and the enemy is not yet in sight. But we hear the firing of cannon supposed to be our Cavalry Battery. Badly prepared as we are I see there is not much inclination to surrender or retreat on the part of our leaders or men. I have just sent off Maria and the two Captains within 18 miles in the country where she will be safe I presume. I want you to do for me the very best you can whether I am living or dead if the Doctor sends Maria to home and Lord tell I possess in my own and her right during her life. Responsible to our better since Maria, but always subject to any disposition she may want to make of any of our property, particularly her gun or store her father once did own and also of property and or her other.

I want the Negroes sent except except for a fault to be judged of by her or you. I give you the right to see all my property to pay my debts or for any other purpose I expect from the Union to be liberal in any event to all our relations and especially to my several sisters.

You may then from my hand enjoy & writing about your & sister, I am not very well yet, I am in a

hurry because the boy is waiting and I fear the mail will leave me. The nearest row of common sense I have writing, I want you to do it. I must be among our men. My affectionate regards to all and very especially to our aged parents.

I am affectionately yours,
J. W. Woodfin.

H. W. Woodfin, Esq.
Asheville, N. C.

Nov. 1863

A paper written purporting to be the last will and testament of the late John W. Woodfin, dec'd & said writing was produced in open court by H. W. Woodfin, the Executive of the county who swore that the same was his left with him for safe keeping and a receipt in his possession and produced in court. The said paper writing being offered by him for proof, is every person by the oath of J. B. Burges, A. B. Sawyer, B. M. Elmy, J. W. Woodfin, Jr., J. E. Oney and Mr. J. E. Hardy, who swore that they were well acquainted with the said writing & J. W. Woodfin, dec'd, and that they fully believe that it said paper writing and every part thereof as well as its endorsement on its Envelope, A. W. "H. W. Woodfin Esq., Asheville, N. C." is in the proper hand writing of the said John W. Woodfin, dec'd, and that said H. W. Woodfin was duly sworn as Executor.

State of North Carolina
County of Buncombe.

I, J. H. Carley Clerk of the Superior Court hereby certify that the foregoing

two (2) Shute is a true and perfect copy of the Lost will of J. W. Woodfin as well as a true copy of the Minutes of November 1868 as appears in Minute Book "A" page 214 on file in this office.

Witness my hand and Office seal this 22 day of November, 1917.

Jos. H. Carley
Clerk of the Superior
Court of Buncombe
County, N. C.

State of North Carolina
County of Buncombe.

I, Henry P. Lane, Judge of the Superior Court of North Carolina, do hereby certify that the within and for the Elsmith Judicial District Shute is a true and perfect copy of the Minutes of November 1868 as appears in Minute Book "A" page 214 on file in this office. Jos. H. Carley whose genuine signature is affixed to the annexed certificate and authentication is the Clerk of the Superior Court in and for said Buncombe County, N. C. and the proper Recording Officer of said Court and that said certificate and authentication are in due form and entitled to full faith and credit.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 8 day of December A. D. 1917.

Henry P. Lane.
Judge of the Superior
Court of North Carolina
Within and for the
Elsmith Judicial District
Now presiding in this
the Elsmith Judicial
District.

State of North Carolina
County of Buncombe.

I, Jos. H. Carley, Clerk of the Superior Court in and for the County of Buncombe, do hereby certify that the within and for the Elsmith Judicial District Shute is a true and perfect copy of the Minutes of November 1868 as appears in Minute Book "A" page 214 on file in this office. Jos. H. Carley whose genuine signature is affixed to the annexed certificate and authentication is the Clerk of the Superior Court in and for said Buncombe County, N. C. and the proper Recording Officer of said Court and that said certificate and authentication are in due form and entitled to full faith and credit.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of said Court to be affixed, at Columbia N. C. this 8 day of December, A. D. 1917.

Jos. H. Carley
Clerk Superior Court