Caswell County.

In the Name of God,on Iron. The 28th day of February in the year of Our Lord, 1779, Richard Blackledge, Senior, of Caswell County, in the province of North Carolina, being in perfect health, sound mind and memory, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

Imprimis, I give unto my loving wife, and Blackledge, the use of the following Negroes, slaves, viz: Tanner Jim, and his wife Hannah, and her son Nedd. Negro woman Jane, and her daughter Kalimah, and boy Moses, and man Pyzley, for and during the term of her natural life, provided they are not carried out of this county, (without security given for the third return, at the decease of my wife). I also give unto my said, a Negro girl named Millie and her increase forever. I also get to my wife the use of the land call Hundred-acks plantation, and all the land On land I bought of Joseph Cooper, for and during her natural life; and also the benefit of 110 apple trees on the land off on the back of the old orchard on my mame plantation for the term of 10 years, after my decease; I also give unto my wife 80 pounds in money, to be laid out by my executors for building a house on the said lands, and my will and desire is, that a sufficient quantity, of 50 anderry and plank be furnished, for the said house, and other mebionses necessary, from my upper sawmill; I also get to her to my said wife the labor of five grand Negro men for the space of three months, immediately after crops laid by, to help clear ground on said plantation.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my son,Young wife, Jesse Blackledge, six cows and calves, and 150 head of hifs yearlie, the choice of my stock on my mame plantation (working oxen excepted) and all my stock up there, excepting six yoss and lambs, that I reserve for Mr. Septon Ninghiam; also all of my stock of hogs in hofs of Bear and Cumberony, one half of my crop of grass, flax, and Corron, and potatoes, and all my household furniture one Yiler stove, a good cart, and a sadd lo yon plantation tool for the working plantation; also my sliding chase, chase, woman's saddle, two horses, the chain cul when I have, to her and her heirs and assigns forever.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my son, Richard Blackledge, the plantation whereon I now dwell; and all that part of Andrew Bacz' patent for450 acres lying to the westward of the alligator branch and a line to be drawn from the mouth of the said branch, lower corner on the Riverside; also, all that part of my patent for 450 acres, joining Beanton, Jones, and Phillips, which lyeth to the westward of the head of said branchand joining Isac mentioned patent

And one half part of all my lands and Hills on Blackledges ranch, subject to the reservation hereafter made, to his and his heirs and assigns forever.

I give and bequeath unto my said son, Richard Blackledge, the other and ediid half part of 275 acres land on the north side of Nasse River at Persons Point, take up and patented in the joint names of Christopher Neale and Richard Blackledge; also the northern part of the lot 108, with the proper front of the said part lying in the town of New Bern; also one lot of land in the and town of8 Front Ft., 4ith, to him my said son, Richard Blackledge, and his heirs, and assigns forever; also one set of Smiths tools to be Kept the use of the mills on Bartholdrey Creek, and all my library of books and my wearing apparel, and one part of gold sliver bottom that I wore, and my watch; I also give and bequeath to my said son, Richard Blackledge, the other half of 660 acres of land, being the upper survey for than quanty of land on Mosleys creek also 640 acres of land patented by John Fowler and Richard Blackledge Junior, and son, William Blackledge and son, Benjamin Blackledge Jr. ones an infant, 200 acres of land, patented by myself 11th of March 1773, lying on the easternmost branch of Mosleys creek, for the mutual use and benefit of a reservoir of water for all the lower lands I holdon said Creek and this I entirely forbid and desire may never be sold to any person out of the lowly wilde there is one of the name that hold a foot of Low ground on Mosleys creek.

Item. I give and bequeath to my son Thomas Blackledge, Blackledge, all that ower of land I bought of William Farmer and wife, daughter of David Mesedlo, deceased, and 100 acres land lying on the beaver dam, patented by Andrew Bacz joining the above, and one half part of all my lands and mills on Bartholdrey creek subject to the reservation hereafter made to him his heirs and assigns for ever. I give and bequeath to my said son, Thomas, the southernmost quarter part of lot number 108, in New Bern, with the proper front of said part of said lot; also one lot in said town, number 4ilt, and the ever half of my one third part of 50 acres of marsh land on Twar River near mee Bern, joining the town line; also one that Negro man named Quamine, and four cows and calves, to him my said Thomas, and his heirs and assigns forever.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my son William Blackledge all that ower of land I bought of Benjamin Keith, together with that part of Andrew Bacz patents ower 450 acres of land, which lies on the east side of the alligator branch, and a line to be drawn ove from the mouth of said to the lower corner of said patent of Andrew Bacz, together with a patent of 70 acres, and ever other patent of 425 acres on the front of Keiths place; and all the lands I hold or ever on the east side of the head of the alligator branch; Jordan Kimbro Wiggins; and John Phillips; also 300 acres of land I bought of Richard Gibbs; and the other tracks of land for 305 acres on the Eagles swamp joining Phillips, and otherthe ower that joins both these last patents to my ower nature; also one ower patentedby me for 514 acres opposite Coxes ferry; also ower tracts of land I bought of. John Browning, and one ower of land of 300 acres that I bought of Henry Darnall and wife; these three last tracts lie in Commentry Neck; also ower half of all my lands owned Mosleys creek, except is water before given and also excepting one ower for 640 acres of land that I bought of William Russell.

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Richard Blackledge (seal)
Signed, sealed, published and declared by the testator as his last will and testament in the presence of us who signed our names as evidence at the request of the testator, in his presence and also of each other

J. J. Hinson
Thomas Jackson
Reading Hinson

Filed 15th of October 1777