

Gaston County- In the Superior Court,

In the Matter of the Administration, Before
of the Estate of Robert, G. Ratchford, dec'd } J. B. White, C.S.C.
Rufus A Ratchford, being sworn, deposes & says: That Robert, G. Ratchford
late of said County, is dead leaving Will & Testament. And that
E. M. Berry the Executor therein named is dead. And that Rufus A Ratchford
is the proper person entitled to Letters of Administration on the estate of
the said Robert, G. Ratchford. Further, that the value of said estate,
so far as can be ascertained at the date of this Application, is about
\$300. And that Mary G. Ratchford, Robert M. Ratchford, Rufus A.
Ratchford, William H. Ratchford, Martha M. ~~Bryd~~ ^{Bryd}. And the heirs
at law of John P. Ratchford, viz: Martha, his widow, and George G.
Elizabeth A. & Robert P. his children all of full age & all residents in
Gaston County, except the said George G. who live in California, and
Martha Bryd & Wm M. Ratchford, who live in York County S. C. are
entitled as devisees therein,
sworn to & subscribed before me, }
this 30th day of October 1884 }
J. B. White C.S.C. }

R. A. Ratchford,

In the name of God Amen,

I, R. G. Ratchford of the County of Gaston and State of North Carolina, being
of sound mind & memory & considering the uncertainty of this frail & transitory

I, R. C. Rutchford of the County of Gaston and State of North Carolina, being of sound mind and memory and considering the uncertainty of this frail and transitory life do therefore make, Ordain, Publish and declare this to be my Last Will and Testament, That is to say, First after all my lawful debts are paid and discharged, the residue of my Estate both Real and Personal I give and bequeath and dispose of as follows, to wit:

To my daughter Mary C. Rutchford, I give and bequeath all of my Real Estate consisting of one tract of land lying on the waters of Catawba Creek, adjoining lands of John Wameron, J. G. Gullick, R. M. Wilson and others containing one hundred and sixty Acres, more or less, it being the land I bought of the heirs of George Siggis, also one other tract containing Ten Acres, bought of G. H. Mullins. I will and bequeath my personal property as follows, To my son Robert M. Rutchford I give and bequeath one Mule, called Pat, one bed and bedding one Cow, second Choice Likewise I give to my Grand Son Rufus A. Rutchford, one Rifle Gun, also all my Blacksmith Tools and Farming Utensils. I also give and bequeath to my daughter Mary, C. Rutchford all of the remainder of my personal property consisting in part of one bay Mare, Household and Kitchen furniture, cattle, Hogs, Sheep, Provisions &c. I also will and allow that my son William H. Rutchford and my daughter Martha M. Berry and my son John F. Rutchford (Dead), shall have such property as I have already given them to be their share of my Estate, Likewise I make constitute and appoint Edward M. Berry to be the Executor of this my Last Will and Testament hereby revoking all former Wills by me made. In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal, this the nineteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy one.

Robert C. Rutchford

Attest

Wm. H. Johnston
J. G. Gullick

State of North Carolina, In the Superior Court
 Eastern County }

A paper purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of Robert C. Ratchford deceased, is exhibited before me the undersigned Clerk of the Superior Court for said County by Rufus A. Ratchford, and the due execution thereof by the said Robert C. Ratchford was proved by the Oath and examination of J. B. Bullock, one of the subscribing witnesses thereto, who being duly sworn doth depose and say, that he is a subscribing witness to the paper-writing now shown him, purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of Robert C. Ratchford, that the said Robert C. Ratchford in the presence of this deponent subscribed his name at the end of said paper-writing, which is now shown as aforesaid, and which bears date of the 19th day of August 1871. And the deponent further saith, that the said Robert C. Ratchford the testator aforesaid, did at the time of subscribing his name as aforesaid, declare the said paper-writing so subscribed by him and exhibited, to be his, last Will and Testament, and this deponent did thereupon subscribe his name at the end of said Will, as an attesting witness thereto, and at the request and in the presence of the said testator, And this deponent further saith that at the said time when the said testator subscribed his name to the said last Will as aforesaid, and at the time of the deponent's subscribing his name as an attesting witness thereto, as aforesaid, the said Robert C. Ratchford, was of sound mind and memory, of full age to execute a Will, and was not under any restraint to the knowledge, information or belief of this deponent, and further this deponent

as aforesaid, the said Robert C. Ratchford, was of sound mind and memory, of full age to execute a will. And was not under any restraint to the knowledge, information or belief of this deponent, And further this deponent say n. t.

Subscribed before me
this 30th day of October 1884
J. B. White C.S.C }

J. G. Gallick Seal

North Carolina } In the Superior Court,
Gaston County } October 31st 1884

J. J. Lewis & G. W. Mellon, being duly sworn say, each for himself, that he was well acquainted with Wm. H. Johnston late of Gaston County And that the said Wm. H. Johnston is dead. Affiants further say that they were well acquainted with the handwriting of the said Wm. H. Johnston. that they have examined the signature purporting to be the signature of the said Wm. H. Johnston appended to the Will of Robert C. Ratchford, in attestation thereof. Which Will is now offered for Probate, and that they believe the same to be the genuine signature of the said Wm. H. Johnston. Affiants further say that they were well acquainted with C. M. Berry, the Executor named in said Will. And that the said C. M. Berry is dead.

Sworn & subscribed to before me,
October 31st 1884. J. B. White C.S.C }

G. W. Mellon
J. J. Lewis

North Carolina. Gaston County, - In the Superior Court, November 6th 1884,
It is therefore considered & adjudged by the Court, that the said paper writing & every part thereof, is the Last Will & Testament of Robert C. Ratchford deceased, & the same with the foregoing examination & this Certificate, are Ordered to be recorded & filed.

J. B. White C.S.C