

I, Samuel Best of the County of Gaston, State of North Carolina being of sound mind and memory but considering the uncertainty of my earthly existence do make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

First

That my Executors hereinafter named shall provide for my body a decent burial suitable to the wishes of my relatives and friends and pay all funeral expenses together with all my just debts to whomsoever owing out of any monies that may first come into their hands as part and parcel of my estate.

Second.

I will and devise to my beloved wife Charlotte and my sons George Luther, and William Leeb, the plantation on which I now reside known as the "home place" and also the tract I bought from W. M. Rhyme on the south side of Big Long Creek in said County adjoining lands of David Jenkins, Christy Jenkins and others, for causes and distances of the above tracts upon which may be had to my title deeds, to have and to hold the same as follows: My beloved wife Charlotte to have and to hold her one third interest in common for the term of her natural life with the remainder over to our said sons: She is also to have

Interest in common for the term of her natural life with the remainder over to our said sons: She is also to have the rents and profits arising from the share of each of said sons until they respectively become twenty one years of age and no longer; and my said sons George Luther and William Culeb to have and to hold an equal interest in said lands, including the remainder in my wife Charlott's share to them and their respective heirs in fee simple forever.

Third

I will and devise to my two daughters Sarah & Martha the tract of land on Big Long Creek above the Old house place known as the "Blackwood place" adjoining lands of John J. Harney, A. J. Best and others and also all that part of the "Lower Place" owned by me, lying on the waters of Crowders Creek, adjoining lands of Robert Gamble and others to have and to hold the same to the said Sarah Best and Martha Best as tenants in common in fee simple forever to them and their heirs provided, nevertheless, that the "Blackwood Place" aforesaid is encumbered with the maintenance in a decent and comfortable manner of my son Martin Best during the term of his natural life.

Fourth

I will and bequeath to my beloved wife Charlott all my house hold and Kitchen Furniture, also all

100
my horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, farming tools, wagons
biggy, harness, gears, all provisions, grain and all
my other property not hereinbefore or hereinafter men-
tioned to have, hold and use as her own during her
natural life and after her death to our four children
George Luther, William Culeb, Sarah and Martha Best

Fifth I will and bequeath to my four children, George Luther
William Culeb, Sarah and Martha Best equally to
be divided between them three bonds on the state of North
Carolina. One for \$50⁰⁰ and two for \$100⁰⁰ each
also any cash that may be on hand ^{and also any that} may come into
my Executors hands and remain there after the payment
of all my debts, funeral expenses, expenses arising from
the settling my estate, and also the twenty Dollars
herein after willed to my son Martin Best.

Sixth I will and bequeath to my son Martin Best Twenty
Dollars and I hereby constitute and appoint as guardian
and trustee for my said son, my friend Culeb Packer
who is to see to the disbursement of this money in his
judgment and also to see that my said son shall receive
his dues from the "Blackwood place" aforesaid.

Seventh In case there should not be enough cash on hand or
enough be realized on notes, accounts or other evidences

Two dues from the "Blackwood plan" aforesaid,
Seventh. In case there should not be enough cash on hand or
enough be realized on notes, Accounts or other evidences
of debt to pay all my debts, funeral expenses, the expense
of settling my estate and to pay the Twenty \$20⁰⁰ Dollars
herein before willed to Martin, my will is that the
deficiency shall be made up from the sale of such
property as shall be designated by my wife, which is
mentioned in item fourth of this will.

Eighth. And I do hereby constitute and appoint my trusty friend
Leah Pascoe and my beloved wife Charlotte. Executors
of this my last will and testament. hereby revoking and declaring
utterly void all wills and testaments here before made by me.
and I hereby declare this to be my last will and testament.
In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this
17th day of May A. D. 1884.

Samuel Best - *(Seal)*
Signed, Sealed, Published and declared by the said Samuel
Best to be his last will & testament in the presence of us
who at his request and in his presence do subscribe
our names as witnesses thereto

James R. Lewis.
R. W. Sandifer.

State of North Carolina } In the Superior Court.
 Gaston County }

A paper-writing purporting to be the Last Will and testament of Samuel Best, deceased, is exhibited before me the undersigned Clerk of the Superior Court for said County by Caleb Pason. One of the Executors therein mentioned and the due execution thereof by the said Samuel Best is proved by the oath and examination of R. N. Sandifer and James R. Lewis the subscribing witnesses thereto: who being duly sworn doth affirm and say, and each for himself doth affirm and swear that he is a subscribing witness to the paper-writing now shown him purporting to be the Last will and Testament of Samuel Best, that the said Samuel Best, in the presence of this deponent, subscribed his name at the end of said paper writing now shown, as afore said and which bears date of the 17th day of May 1884. And the deponent further swears: that the said Samuel Best, the testator afore said, did, at the time of subscribing his name as afore said, 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 as an attesting witness thereto.

as aforesaid. declare the said will
by him and exhibited. to be his Last will and testament
and this deponent did then upon 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 Samuel Best 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 these deponents say not.

R. N. Sanders. *(init)*
James R. Lewis *(init)*

Sworn and Subscribed, this 17th day of July
1891. before me.

E. L. Wilson. *(init)*
Superior Court.

"In Adjudication on next page."

State of North Carolina } In the Superior Court.
 Gaston County. }
 In the matter of the last will } Certificate of Probate.
 of Samuel Best, Deed. }

J. J. Mendenhall
 Will.

It appearing to the Court by the oath and Examination of
 R. W. Sandifer and James R. Lewis, the subscribing
 witnesses thereto, that the paper writing proffered by the
 Executor therein named is the last will and testament of
 Samuel Best and that same was duly executed by the said
 Samuel Best in the presence of said witnesses and
 that at the time of signing the same, the said Samuel
 Best was of sound mind. It is thereupon adjudged
 that the said paper writing be admitted to probate
 as the last will and testament of Samuel Best and
 the Executor Caleb Parame, therein named qualify as
 such, (the other named having filed her Remuneration.)
 This 17th day of July 1891.

E. L. Wilson, Clerk.
 Superior Court.

State of North Carolina } Before E. L. Wilson
 Gaston County. }

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