

I. William Armstrong of the County of Boston and State
of North Carolina being of sound mind and good 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 executor herein after named shall provide
for my body a decent buriall suitable to the wishes of my
Relatives and friends

Item 1st I Will and bequeath to my oldest daughter Mary
C. Barnett wife of James A. Barnett Two Negro Boys Isaac
and Sam to have and to hold to her the said Mary C.
Barnett for and during the Term of her natural life
and then my will is that the said Negroes go to the heirs
of her body

Item 2nd I Will and bequeath to my grand daughter Mary
Jane Barnett the Bureau which she is now in possession
to have and to hold forever

Item 3rd I Will and bequeath to my daughter Esther I
Daniel one Negro Woman named Precilla and her
three children Andy Miles and Jarrison which she has
now in her possession also a Negro girl named Caroline
to have and to hold to her the said Esther I Daniel
for and during the Term of her natural life and at
her death then my will is that said Negroes and their

now in her possession Also a Negro girl named Caroline
to have and to hold to her the said Esther & Daniel
for and during the Term of her natural life and at
her death then my will is that said Negroes and their
Issue shall go to the heirs of her body ~~there~~ ^{the}
Item 4th I will and bequeath to my two sons Arthur
and John I Armstrong all of my lands to be equally
divided between them The said Arthur and John I Armstrong
to have and to hold to them the said Arthur and John I
Armstrong their Executors Administrators and assigns
Absolutely forever

Item 5th I will and bequeath to my son Arthur Armstrong
our Negro boy named Melbarr to have and to hold to him
The said Arthur Armstrong his Executors Administrators
and assigns forever and whereas I William Armstrong
have willed the above named Negro boy it is my will that
the said Arthur Armstrong for and in consideration of the
above named Negro boy pay all my funeral expenses and
all of my last debts and to attend to all of the business
connected with the settling up of my Estate for which he is
to receive no other compensation whatever for his services
Item 6th I will and bequeath to my two sons Arthur and John
I Armstrong and daughter Elizabeth I Armstrong all the

balance of my property viz, Negroes Horses Cattle Hogs Shop
pottery house hold and Kitchen furniture farming Tools and Tools
of every description Wagons and gears Corn Wheat & Grain of
every description provender and all the crop on hand and all &
every article of property not otherwise disposed of to be divided
in equal proportion share & share alike to them and each of
them their Executors Administrators and assigns forever it is
also my will that my daughter it is also my will that my daug-
hter Elizabeth P. Armstrong shall have a Negro girl named Esther
also two beds and bedsteads and necessary bed clothing and
one Bureau as part of her share of the above named property
and it is also my will that my son Arthur and John L
and daughter Elizabeth P. Armstrong divide the above named
property between themselves and in case they cant agree it is
my will that each one of them choose one freeholder and
that those freeholders value and divide said property equally
between them it is further my will that my son Arthur and
John L. Armstrong and my daughter Elizabeth P. Armstrong
have and to hold all of their lawful property

Item 7th It is my will that my old Negro fellow Abraham rem-
ain here and have his maintenance of the plantation as he
has had heretofore

Item 8th It is my will that my daughter Elizabeth P. Armstrong
shall have her home here and have her maintenance as she

live here and have his maintenance of the plantation as he
has had hitherto

Item 8th It is my will that my daughter Elizabeth Armstrong
shall have her home here and have her maintenance as she
has had hitherto as long as she remains single - And
I do hereby constitute and appoint my son Arthur
Armstrong my lawful executor to all intents and purposes
to execute this my last will and Testament according to the
true intent and meaning of the same and every part
and clause thereof hereby revoking and declaring
utterly void all other wills and Testaments by me hitherto
made - In witness whereof I the said Wm Armstrong do
hereunto set my hand and seal This 19th day of November A.D.
1858 William Armstrong Seal

Signed sealed published and
declared by the said William Armstrong to be his last will
and Testament in the presence of us who at his request and
in his presence do subscribe our names as witnesses thereto

J W Craig
A Anderson
J A Vernon

State of Maryland, Feb 2nd 1860
Gaston County } Then this last will and

Testament of William Armstrong was exhibited into open court and proved
in due form of law by the oath of J W Craig & J A Vernon the witnesses thereto ordered to be
recorded
Mist Anzi Lord C C C