

Isabel Cotton

In the Name of God Amen I Joel Cotton of Halifax County & State of North Carolina being weak in Body but of perfect sound mind & memory thanks be to God for it & Calling to mind the Mortality of my Body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die do make & Ordain this to be my Last will and Testament, first I recommend my soul to God who gave it & my Body to the Earth to be buried in a Christianlike manner & as Touching such worldly goods wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me with I give & dispose of in manner & form following vizt
I give & bequeath unto my son Ichabod Cotton to him his heirs & assigns forever all that messuage & Tract of Land between a Branch called Dominion & Captain Smiths Mill Swamp it being part of the Tract of Land that I bought of William Scott & Raser Tipton, beginning in Dominion Branch at the Crossing place where said Tipton formerly lived then along a line of marked Trees as the path goes to Josiah Velmers Line including all the land from the said Line of Marked Trees between Dominion Velmers Line & Captain Smiths Line together with the mill standing on said Land also one Negroe boy called Caesar one Negroe man called Frank one bay Mare called her mare & her colts & one other colt called Mark Anthony, Bridle & saddle one Bed & furniture five head of Cows & Calves then in care my son Ichabod shall, should not live to the age of twenty one year or die without issue then & in that case it is my will & desire that the said Land given to him be the property of my son Josiah.

I give & bequeath unto my son Josiah Cotton to him his heirs & assigns forever my Land & plantation in Scotland Neck it being the Land that I bought of Richard Bennett, called the Islands, also one Negroe boy called Abram, five Cows & Calves one bed & furniture & in case my son Josiah should not live to the age of twenty one year or die without issue it is my will & desire that the Land given to him be the property of my son Ichabod.

I give & bequeath unto my son James Cotton to him his heirs & assigns forever a part of my Tract of Land on the Cypress Swamp, beginning at a Cypress in said Swamp a corner Tree between William Bakers Land and mine running up the run of said Swamp to the Road then along the Road to Cahoki Swamp then down Cahoki Swamp to the first deep Branch that branches into Cahoki at a black Gum then up the said branch by a Line of marked Trees to a hickory in the pasture from thence by a line of marked Trees to a Stake in Bakers Line from thence to the first Station, also one Negroe boy called Davy, five Cows & Calves one bed & furniture

Now I give & bequeath unto my son Jehiel mill Cotton to him his heirs & assigns forever all that marriage
& Tract of Land between a Branch called Dominic & Captain Smiths Mill Swamp it being part of
the Tract of Land that I bought of William Scott & Rason Tippet, beginning in Dominic Branch
at the crossing place where said Tippet formerly lived then along a line of marked Trees as the
path goes to Josiah Kilmers Line including all the land from the said Line of Marked Trees
between Dominic Kilmers Line & Captain Smiths Line together with the mill standing on said
Land also one Negroe boy called Caesar one Negroe Man called Frank one boy & mare called
more & her colts & one other colt called Mark Anthony, Bred & saddle one Bed & furniture
five head of Cows & Calves Now in case my son Jehiel shall die should not live to the age of Twenty
one year or die without Issue then and in that case it is my will & desire that the said Land
given to him be the property of my son Josiah

Now I give & bequeath unto my son Josiah Cotton to him his heirs & assigns forever my
Land & plantation in Scotland Neck it being the Land that I bought of Richard Bonnet, called
the Island, also one Negroe boy called Abram, five Cows & Calves one bed & furniture & in case my
son Josiah should not live to the age of twenty one year or die without Issue it is my will & desire that
the Land given to him be the property of my son Jehiel

Now I give & bequeath unto my son James Cotton to him his heirs & assigns forever a part of my
Tract of Land on the Cypress Swamp, beginning at a Cypress in said Swamp a corner Tree
between William Bakers Land and mine running up the run of said Swamp to the Road then
along the Road to Cahuki Swamp then down Cahuki Swamp to the first deep Branch that
runs into Cahuki at a black Gum then up the said branch by a Line of Marked Trees to a Stake in Bakers Line from
thence in the pasture from thence by a line of marked Trees to a Stake in Bakers Line from
thence to the first Station, also one Negroe boy called Perry, five Cows & Calves one bed & furniture
& if my son James should not live to the age of Twenty one year or die without Issue it is my
will that the afo. Land be the property of my son John Cotton

Now I give & bequeath unto my son Robert Cotton to him his heirs & assigns forever my Land and
plantation on Fairview in Edgcomb County it being the Land that I bought of Daniel Wood and also
one Negroe boy called Ben one Bed & furniture Now in case my son Robert should not live to the
age of Twenty one year or die without Issue then and in that case it is my will & desire that the afo. Land

Land be the property of my sons Whitmat & Josiah & in case my son Whitmat do or shall die
and truly pay or cause to be paid unto my son Josiah the sum of six hundred silver Spanish
milled Dollars, when ever the said Josiah arrive at the age of twenty one years it shall be the
said Whitmat to the whole of the aforesaid Land

Item I give & bequeath unto my son John Cotton to him his heirs & assigns forever the said
and plantation whereon I now live it being the remaining part of the tract of land of which I gave
my son Whitmat his also the remaining part of the tract on the Cyprap swamp of which
I gave my son James his also one negroe boy called Dick one bed & furniture now in case my son
John should not live to the age of twenty one year or die without issue then it is my will that
the aforesaid Land be the property of my son James Cotton

Item I give & bequeath unto my Daughter Elizabeth Kelms to her & her heirs & assigns forever
one negroe boy called Moses one negroe girl called Chany one Bed & furniture & fifty pounds
Virginia Currency

Item I give & bequeath unto my Daughter Mary Cotton to her and her heirs & assigns forever one
negroe boy called Jack one negroe girl called Cynthia one Bed & furniture & fifty pounds
Virginia Currency all of which both negroe & money to be delivered to her when ever she
marry or come of age

Item I give & bequeath unto my Daughter Dorothy Cotton to her her heirs & assigns forever one
negroe girl called husky one Bed & furniture

Item I give & bequeath unto my beloved wife Anna Cotton my riding horse also I give
her the use of three negroe to cart, for coal & run during her natural life & after her death
it is my will that coal be the property of my Daughter Mary Cotton & that same be the property
of my son Josiah & so be the property of my son James Cotton also it is my will & desire after
my Lawfull debts are paid that my wife Anna Cotton have for the purpose of Raising my small
Children all my Land except that given to my son Whitmat Josiah and Robert until my son
John Cotton arrives to the age of Twenty one Year also I give my wife for the same limited time
& purpose fifteen Cows & calves Ten sows & pigs six work Horses all the Sheep that I have or will
own & all the household & Kitchen

own & all the household & Kitchen Linnen and plantation utensils, it is further to be observed
that it is my will after my death and paid that my four white male have all the Credit arising
from my Land & Negroes after taking out a sufficient support for my family until he shall be
enabled to purchase to himself three Negroes of his own Choice further it is my will & desire that
all my ^{negroes} which I have not already given away be equally divided between my Daughter Dorothy
my son Josiah James Robert & John at the time that my Daughter Dorothy shall marry or come
to the age of Twenty one years but should my Daughter marry before the time above mentioned
it is my will that the division may take place immediately, further it is my will & desire that
my Executor to whom I shall nominate pay strict attention to the Conduct of my wife and if they are
fully sensible that she is acting an imprudent part that they immediately Take out of her hands
that part of the Estate that I have limited to her for a certain time & purpose & in case my wife
should marry it is my will & desire that she be immediately dispossessed of the Land that I have
lent to her at my Quarter plantation on the Cyprus swamp and also that on the river that
it be rented out for the benefit of the Children it is also my will & desire that all the remaining
part of my stock that I have not lent to my wife be sold at the discretion of my Executor
Further I authorize my Executor that should there arise any profits from the rents of the
Land given to any of my Children or from the hire of their negroes for the purpose of purchasing
Negroes for the Benefit of that Child to whom the Land or Negroes may be lent & lastly I nominate
& appoint my friends Blount Joyner Josiah Nelson & William Nelson to be whole & sole Executors
of this my last will & Testament making void all other wills & Testaments, In witness whereof
I have hereunto set my hand & affixed my seal this 10th day of August in the year of our Lord 1794
Signed sealed published & pronounced to be my last will & Testament in presence of
us Benjamin Foreman Josiah Duke & Martha F. Vassar

Malique County Geo. Jefferson Jefferson 1796 Then this will was ahibited in Open Court & duly
proved by the Oath of Josiah Duke one of the subscribing witnesses & on Motion ordered to be
Recorded whereupon Josiah Nelson one of the Executors therein named came in & is a duly qualified
to the same

Witness J. C. C. C.