

William Cotton dec. will

In The name of God amen I William Cotton of Halifax County & State of N. Carolina being at this time, in a low State of Health, but of a Sound & Disposing mind & memory Calling to mind the mortality of the body, do make & ordain this my Last will & Testament in manner & form following vizt. I'mprimis It is my will & desire, that my Executors hereafter mentioned shall sell as much of my personal Estate as will pay off & discharge all of my Just debts ~~that~~ I give & bequeath to my brother law Nelson Pap one negro boy named Tom to him & his heirs forever— Item I Give to my loving wife Mary Cotton all the Land & plantation whereon I now live during her Widow hood, Item Also it is my desire, that if or Can my wife should marry, that she my wife Mary Cotton, shall then, draw a Choter part of my Land Item Further it is my will & desire that after my wifes marriage, that the remainder part of my Land should Go to the Child my daughter in law Elizabeth Cotton is now pregnant with lastly, Also it is my will & desire that if the Child my Daughter in law is now pregnant with should die before it is Eighteen years of age that my Land whereon I now live should be sold & the money equally divided between Dolly Cotton Daughter of Celia Pap & Wmifred Pitman Daughter of Celia Pitman & Frederick Cotton Nelson Pap, I give to my loving wife Mary Cotton all the rest of My Estate both real & personal, during her natural life but it is my will & desire that after the death of My wife, the whole of My Estate, shall Go to the Child my Daughter in law Elizabeth Cotton is now pregnant with, to that Child & it's heirs forever, Also it is my will & desire, that if the Child my Daughter in law, Elizabeth Cotton is now pregnant with shall die before it arrives to the age of Eighteen years, then that my Estate after the death of my wife shall be divided as follows to wit, that my wifes relation here named, William Pap Wmifred Pap Hunt Pap, Nelson Pap & Matthew Jacksons Children all to share Equally

William Cotton
my brother Law. Nelson Pap one negro boy named Tom to turn & his hers forever—
Item I Give to my loving wife Mary Cotton all the Land & plantation whereon I now live during
her widow hood, Item Also it is my desire, that if ever Can my wife should marry, that she
my wife Mary Cotton, shall then, draw a Chiter part of my Land
Item Further it is my will & desire that after my wifes marriage, that the remainder part
of my Land should Go to the Child, my daughter in law Elizabeth Cotton is now pregnant with
lastly, Also it is my will & desire that if the Child, my Daughter in law is now pregnant with
Should die before it is Eighteen years of age that my land whereon I now live should be sold &
the money equally divided between Polly Cotton Daughter of Celia Pap & Winifred Pitman Daughter
of Celia Pitman & Frederick Cotton. Nelson Pap, I give to my loving wife Mary Cotton
all the rest of My Estate both real & personal, during her natural life & it is my will & desire
that after the death of My wife, the whole of My Estate, shall Go to the Child my Daughter
in Law Elizabeth Cotton is now pregnant with, to that Child & it: hers forever, Also it is
my will & desire, that if the Child my Daughter in law, Eliz^a Cotton is now pregnant with
shall die before it arrives to the age of Eighteen years, then that my Estate after the death
of my wife shall be divided as follow to wit, that my wifes relation here named, William
Pap Weller Pap Hunt Pap, Nelson Pap & Mathew Jacksons Children, all to share Equal
like in my negroes, and all the rest of my Estate, both real & personal or of what Quality
soever shall be equally divided amongs Polly Cotton, Daughter of Celia Pap, Winifred
Pitman daughter of Celia Pitman & Jo^l John Jackson Son of Mathew Jackson to
them and their heirs forever —

Lastly, I constitute ordain & appoint my loving wife Mary Cotton, Robert Cockran
& Randolph Cotton, my whole & sole Executors, to this my last will & Testament
hereby Disannulling all former ones & Confirming, this to be my last will, In
Witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand & seal this the second day of
May A. D. 1797 -

Signed sealed & delivered in presence of
Ethanah ^{his} Hare Saml ^{his} Albrook, Fanny ^{her} Cotton
mark mark mark

William Cotton 

Halifax County 1st August Sepm 1797 then this will was exhibited in
open Court & duly proved by the oaths of Ethanah Hare & Saml. Albrook two
of the subscribing Witnesses thereto & on Motion ordered to be Recorded, whereupon
Mary Cotton, Robert Cockran & Randolph Cotton the Executors therein named
Came in and was duly Qualified thereto

Witness
J. Long Coll.

In The Name of God. amen. I John Dawson of the State of
N. Carolina Halifax County being sick & of sound & perfect mind & memo-
bered be Almighty God do this twenty seventh day of September in the year of

my will