

Signed sealed published and declared 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 thereof.

B. Sanders
Willis H. Sanders

Johnston County Court - November Term 1854

Then was this paper writing produced in open court and propounded for probate and upon the oaths and examination of Baldy Sanders was duly proven and ordered to be recorded whereupon Jennett McCullen was then qualified as executrix

J. H. Kennedy clk

Will of Matthew Avera

Know all men by these presents that I Matthew Avera being sick of body but of sound and disposing mind and knowing that I am appointed unto all men once to die and not knowing the day nor hour when that time may come and having the interest and welfare of my family more at heart than all other things left behind and being desirous that all my property be kept together for the mutual benefit of my family, therefore having the utmost confidence in my worthy friend Needham Barnes I constitute and appoint him with full power to act as he may deem most prudent for the welfare of my family in all matters and that he take possession of my whole estate and keep in trust for the use and benefit of my family until the youngest child becomes of age say 21 years and then what may be on hand when my youngest child becomes of age to be equally divided between all of my family who may be living at that time together with all lawful heirs of any body. In testimony whereof I set my hand and affix my seal December the 27th 1853.

Signed & sealed in
the presence of
Stephenson Godwin
Wm H. Cullum
H. Mearns Strickland

M. Avera (Seal)

Johnston County Court

February Term 1855

Then was this paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Matthew Avera deed produced in open court and duly admitted to probate by the oaths of Stephenson Godwin & W. H. Cullum two of the subscribing witnesses thereto whereupon it was considered by the said court to be and contain the last will and testament of Matthew Avera deceased and the same is ordered to be recorded
Needham Barnes qualified executrix

J. H. Kennedy clk

Lucinda Avera widow of Matthew Avera comes into open court and dissent from the will and all the provisions of the last will and testament of her husband & desires that her dissent may be entered of record whereof it is ordered by the court that the same be recorded.