

Will of Willie Johnson

In the name of God Amen I Willie Johnson of the County of Johnston and State of North Carolina foreseeing the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death and being of sound mind and disposing memory do make ordain and establish and declare the following to be my last will and testament (to wit) I doan to my beloved wife Fesby Johnson during her natural life or widowhood all the lands I own or own except that herein after specially devised including the mansion house and amounting to 277 acres (more or less) also the following negroes (slaves for life) to wit Margaret aged 22, Elbridge aged 30, Handy aged 47, Wiley aged 44, Esther aged 1 year Viny aged 42 years and Campbell aged 7 years with their increase I also doan to my said wife as above mentioned all my household and kitchen furniture one horse called John one mare called Lade one yoke of oxen her choice two carts and all my working tools of every kind. I give and bequeath to my said wife Fesby and her heirs forever four cows and two heifers (her choice) four sows and pigs and twenty hogs for meat (her choice) all my gathered and growing crops and whatever bacon or other salted meat may be on hand at the time of my death. I give and bequeath to my son Rigdon Johnson and to his heirs forever the following negro slaves for life to wit Lewis aged 33 years and Livers aged 20 years also the negro man Handy at the death or marriage of my said wife Fesby I give and bequeath to my son Marrit Johnson two negro (slaves for life) to wit Ray aged 15 years and Lynn aged 14 years. I give and bequeath to my son Asborne Johnson the tract of land on which he now lives containing 212 acres (more or less) also the following negro slaves for life to wit Lemmy aged about 31 years and a negro girl named Faony aged 10 years now in his possession and all their future increase to him and his heirs forever. I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter Louisa Johnson at the death of or marriage of her mother my said wife Fesby the following property above named to my said wife to wit the tract of land containing 277 acres more or less the negroes named Margaret Elbridge Viny and Campbell with all their future increase are hereby put to the largest I have one small cook pot a dutch oven her choice one pine chest always called mine and a press

with all the glass and ware of all kinds that belong to it to her and to her heirs forever at my death I also give to my said daughter Louiza one bedstead and furniture her choice. I give and bequeath to my son Alce Johnson one dollar I give and bequeath the following negroes to my two grand children Sidney and Larkin Johnson sons of Alce Johnson the negroes named Heily and Esther at the death of my said wife Fesby with all their future increase to be equally divided between them to them and their heirs forever. I give and bequeath to my four ^{grand} children W. A. Griffis, Rufus Griffis Leucitta Griffis and Jane Johnson the sum of one dollar equally divided among them having made sufficient advancement to their mother Reacy Griffis in her lifetime I give and bequeath to the children of my son Edmund Johnson deceased fifty dollars to be equally divided among them. I give and bequeath to the children of my son Carroll Johnson deceased if any the sum of forty dollars to be equally divided among them if none living the said sum of forty dollars is to be disposed of with the residue of my property herein after provided for. It is further my will that my executor sell after my death upon a reasonable credit all the residue of my property not herein before named or specially devised and after paying all my just debts and funeral expenses divide the remainder equally among my children who may be living at the death or marriage of my said wife Fesby it is my will that all the property named to her except what has been herein before devised be sold and the proceeds be equally divided as in the case of the residue of my property above provided for what my wife Fesby may have been made is not to be included in said sale but is to be her own I constitute and appoint Lavin B. Sanders and my son Rigdon Johnson Executors to this my last will and testament and now having lived to and advanced age and spent a laborious life may the Lord receive my spirit and abundantly bless my soul this the 29th day of October A.D. 1853. In the presence of witnesses Willie Johnson (Seal) H. H. Finch Esby Stevens) Johnston County Court Nov Term 1853. Then was this paper writing produced in open court & offered for probate & was duly proven by the subscribing witnesses thereto ordered to be recorded whereupon Rigdon Johnson qualified as ex. J. H. Remond