

September 5th, 1874.

In the name of God Amen.

I, Edwin Taylor, Senr of the County of Lenoir and State of North Carolina being of sound mind and memory but considering the uncertainty of Earthly Existence do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and forme following that is to say.

First that my Executor hereinafter named shall provide for my body a decent burial suitable to the wishes of my relation and friends pay all funeral expenses together with my just debts howsoever and to whomsoever owing out of the moneys that may first come into his hands as a part or parcel of my estate

Second I give and bequeath to my Eldest Daughter Catharine Whaley fifty dollars in money to her and her heirs in fee simple forever to have and to hold

Thirdly I give and bequeath unto my sons John Taylors lawful children a certain piece or parcel of land being and lying in the County of Lenoir and on the north side of the Southwest Creek and East side of the Great Horse branch to them to have and to hold to them and their heirs in fee simple forever

Fourthly I give and bequeath to my son Edwin Taylor, Junr a certain piece or parcel of land on the west side of the Great Horse branch and North side of the said Southwest Creek adjoining Zachariah Nevies lands Beginning at the mouth of the Great Horse Branch containing 149 1/4 Acres more or less to him and his heirs to have and to hold in fee simple for Ever

Fifthly I give and bequeath unto my son James Taylor a certain piece or parcel of land being and lying on the South side of the Southwest Creek and east side of Gum branch Adjoining Nathan Hills lands and being the place he now lives Beginning at the mouth of a ditch at the Southwest Creek and runs up said ditch So 3 wt 34 ps to crook of ditch then up said ditch So 72 wt 56 ps to head of ditch to a cross fence thence along the cross fence So 53 wt 52 ps to the lane then So 30 Et 4 ps then along the lane So 56 wt 17 poles then along the lane So 40 Et 22 poles to end of lane then So 40 Et 46 poles to a stake in the path then So 30 wt 80 poles to a pine in the head of Gum branch then down the Gum branch to the Southwest Creek and down the Southwest

to the beginning containing 88 acres more or less to have and to hold his live time and at his death to his sons Hindel Taylor and daughter Mary Susan Hill to them and their heirs in fee simple forever

Sixthly I give and bequeath unto my youngest Daughter Sophrona Smith a certain piece or parcel of land adjoining the above named Eighty Eight Acre tract and on the west side of the Great Swamp and on the south side of the Southwest Creek Beginning at a Hickory on the side of the Great Swamp and runs So 63 wt 150 ps to a pine then So 26 wt 35 ps to a stake in the path then No 40 wt 46 poles to the end of the lane then along the lane No 110 wt 22 poles to crook of the lane then along the lane No 56 Et 17 poles then No 30 wt 4 poles to cross fence then along cross fence No 53 Et 2 ps to head of a ditch then along the ditch No 72 Et 56 ps to crook of ditch then along the ditch No 3 Et 34 poles to the Southwest Creek then down the Southwest Creek to the mouth of the Great Swamp then up the Great Swamp to the Beginning containing 73 acres more or less to her her life known as the place that she was born on Raised and now lives and if she dies leaving no lawful children to be divided between her Brothers and sisters children equally to share and share alike each and every of them

Lastly my will and desire is that the residue of my property (if any) after taking out the debts and legacies above mentioned shall be sold and the debts owing to me collected if any and should be any surplus over and above the payments of debts expenses and legacies that such surplus shall be equally divided and paid over to all my children in equal proportion share and share alike to each and every of them there Executors administrators and assigns absolutely forever and lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my Trust, son Edwin Taylor Junr my lawful Executor to all intents and purposes to execute this my last will and testament according to the intents and meaning of some and every parts and clause thereof hereby revoking declaring utterly voids all other wills and testaments by me heretofore made In witness whereof I the said Edwin Taylor Senr do hereunto set my hand and seal this 5th day of September, A.D. 1874 signed sealed published and declared by the said Edwin Taylor Senr 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.
James Davis.
Mr. Elmore.

his
Edwin X Taylor *(Seal)*
mark

Recorded in the office of the Superior Court Clerk and Probate Judge of Lenoir County in Kinston, N. C. the 27th day of September, 1876.

W. H. Hunter,
Clerk & Judge.

Francis A. Rouse

Lenoir County:— In the Probate Court.
In the matter of the will of } Before W. H. Hunter,
Francis Ann Rouse } Judge of Probate.
At. H. H. Blount & Geo. H. Jones being sworn, each say:
That Francis Ann Rouse late of said County is dead,
having first made and published her last Will and
Testament; and that Wiley Rouse is the executor named
therein. Further, that the property of the said Fran-
cis Ann Rouse, consisting of about 408 acres of land
household and kitchen furniture, stock, and farming
implements is worth about \$3000⁰⁰, so far as can be as-
certained at date of this application; and that Laura
Rouse, Mingo Rouse, and Elphila G. Rouse, are the per-
sons entitled under said will to said property.
Sworn to and subscribed before
me, this 7th day of Dec., 1876.
W. H. Hunter,
Probate Judge.

State of North Carolina.

Lenoir County, ss. In the Probate Court.
A paper purporting to be the last will and testament of
Francis Ann Rouse, deceased, is exhibited before me, the
undersigned Judge of Probate for said County, by Wiley
Rouse, the executor therein named, and the due execu-
tion thereof, by the said Francis Ann Rouse, by the oath
and examination of H. H. Blount and G. H. Jones, the sub-
scribing witnesses thereto: who being duly sworn, each de-
pose and say, and each for himself doth depose and
say, that he is a subscribing witness to the paper writ-
ing now shown him, purporting to be the last will
and testament of Francis Ann Rouse; that the said

Frances Ann Rouse in the presence of this deponent sub-
scribed his name at the end of said paper writing, which
is now shown as aforesaid, and which bears date of the
27th day of February, 1875. And the deponent further
saith, That the said Frances Ann Rouse, the testatrix of
said, did, at the time of subscribing her name as aforesaid,
declare the said paper writing as subscribed by her, and ex-
hibited to be her last will and testament, and this deponent
did thereupon subscribe his name at the end of said will
as an attesting witness thereto, and at the request and in
the presence of said testatrix. And this deponent furth-
er saith that at the said time when the said testatrix
subscribed her name to the said last will as aforesaid,
and at the time of the deponent's subscribing his name as
an attesting witness thereto, as aforesaid, the said Frances
Ann Rouse was of sound mind and memory, of full age
to execute a will, and was not under any restraint to the
knowledge, information or belief of this deponent. And
further, these deponents say not.

H. H. Blount, *(Seal)*
G. H. Jones, *(Seal)*

Sworn to and subscribed
this 7th day of Dec., 1876, before me.
W. H. Hunter,
Probate Judge.

Lenoir County— Probate Court. December 7, 1876.

On reading and considering the application of Wiley Rouse
to admit a paper writing purporting to be the last will and
testament of Francis Ann Rouse, decd., to probate, and to be
qualified as Executor thereof, according to the appointment there-
by made, and having examined on oath H. H. Blount and G.
H. Jones, the two subscribing witnesses thereto, as to the execu-
tion thereof: It is adjudged that the said paper writing
and every part thereof, is the last will and testament of the
said Francis Ann Rouse, deceased, and the same, as such,
is ordered to be recorded and filed, and, thereupon the said
Wiley Rouse, the executor aforesaid, comes forward and takes
and subscribes the following oath:

State of North Carolina.

Lenoir County, ss. In the Probate Court.

I, Wiley Rouse, do solemnly swear that I believe this writing
to be and contain the last will and testament of Francis Ann
Rouse, deceased, and that I will well and truly execute the