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October Session 1851

James Grahams Will

Life is uncertain and death is certain
therefore I make and publish this my last Will
and Testament. First I will and direct
that my body be buried in my family yard
in Lincoln County I also desire that a plain
marble slab be erected over my grave about
two feet and a half above it with this plain
Inscription James Grahams, because I
direct that my General Expenses and Just
debts be paid, Third I devise Will and
bequeath all ~~that~~ tract of land on the Catawba
River known as the Leper tract to my brother
William A. Grahams said tract is supposed to
contain upwards of two thousand acres and
lying in York district South Carolina and also
in Gaston County South Carolina, Fourth I
will and bequeath to my brother William A.
Graham all the slaves that I own and use now
in possession of that Leper Land including James
and his family also Ben Jim Sue & Henry
Mary and her children and also Coates. I
mean by this clause in my Will to give all
the Negroes that are or may be born on that

Therefore I make and publish this my last Will
and Testament, First, I will and direct
that my body be buried in my family yard
in Lincoln County I also desire that a plain
marble slab be erected over my grave about
two feet and a half above it with this plain
Inscription James Graham, Second I
direct that my funeral Expenses and last
debts be paid, Third I devise Will and
bequeath all ~~that~~ ^{my} Tract of land on the Catawba
River known as the Leper Tract to my brother
William A. Graham, said Tract is supposed to
contain upwards of one thousand acres and
lying in York district South Carolina and also
in Gaston County North Carolina, Fourth I
will and bequeath to my brother William A.
Graham all the slaves that I own and use now
in possession of that Leper Land including James
and his family also Ben Lind Jack Henry
Mary and her children and all others. I
mean by this clause in my Will to give all
the Negroes that are or may be born on that
plantation, Fifth I will and bequeath all
the Stock on that Leper plantation to my brother
William A. Graham including Mules horses
and cattle and hogs also all the Wagons and
all the farming utensils whatsoever together

with all gears and Cotton Gin and Thrashers and
also the Corn Cotton Wheat Oats and Rye that has
grown there during the year. Eighteen hundred
and forty eight also all my household furniture
at that Leper. place including, all the kitchen
furniture salt. Bacon and all other articles on
that plantation. Sixth I devise Will and bequeath
to my brother William A Graham all my land
in Lincoln County including the Earhart place
the Branshaw tract the Mordey place and the
Land which I purchased of J W Witherspoon and
my sister Sophia amounting in different surveys
to about fifteen hundred acres lying on Williams
Andersons and Sanders creeks. Seventh I also
Will and bequeath to my brother William A Graham
all my Negroes that I own on my Earhart place
together with all the stock horses mules cattle
and hogs together with all the household and
kitchen furniture together with all the crop all
the Cotton Corn Wheat Rye Oats which have been
raised and will be gathered on that plantation
or different surveys attached thereto. Eight
I now upwards of three thousand acres of Land in
the State of Tennessee lying in Tipton and Haywood
Counties and which I hereby ^{devise} Will and bequeath to
my three Sisters Sophia W. Witherspoon of Alabama
Violet W. Alexander and Mary A. Morrison to each

at that Leper. place including, all the kitchen
furniture salt. Sack and all other articles on
that plantation (Sixth) I devise Will and bequeath
to my brother William A Graham all my land
in Lincoln County including the Carhart place
the Bradshaw tract the Moray place and the
Lana which I purchased of B R Witherspoon and
my sister Sophia amounting in different surveys
to about. Seventeen hundred acres lying on Williams
Andersons and Sanders Creeks (Seventh) I also
Will and bequeath to my brother William A. Graham
all my Negroes that I own on my Carhart place
together with all the stock horses mules cattle
and hogs together with all the household and
kitchen furniture together with all the crop all
the Cotton Corn Wheat Rye oats which have been
raised and will be gathered on that plantation
or different surveys attached thereto. (Eight)
I own upwards of three thousand acres of Land in
the State of Tennessee lying in Septon and Haywood
Counties and which I hereby ^{devise} Will and bequeath to
my Three Sisters Sophia W. Witherspoon of Alabama
Violet W. Alexander and Mary A. Monison to each
of them to hold of the said Tennessee Lands
an Equal Share to have and to hold each of them
their heirs and assigns for ever. Each of my sisters
expressed an intention to take and to hold in

their own right all debts or moneys due me
 for debts heretofore received for me from the
 said Tompau Lands and now in the hands of
 my agent John Sharp who resides in Jefferson
 County. I devise Will and bequeath that my
 house and lot in Rutherfordton and two hundred
 acres of Land adjoining Col. Farmers saw Mill
 about two hundred acres adjoining Mrs Pratts
 Mills on first Broad River and a little less than
 one hundred acres on the Rock Mountain and also
 twenty two hundred acres in Catawba County
 and in addition to that all my lands in Catawba
 County supposed to be one thousand acres I
 direct that all the lands included in this class
 be sold and the proceeds divided equally among
 the children devisees and heirs at Law of my
 three deceased Brothers that is John D. Graham
 Joseph Graham and Doct. George F. Graham
 Seniors, I Will and bequeath that the money
 that I deposited with the Reverend W. H. Morrison
 and a note of hand I have on James W. Patton
 of Buncombe County and a note I have on
 Alfred D. Keer and Franklin Davison when
 the two last notes are collected and cashed
 and form an aggregate sum with money
 deposited with Mr. Morrison then the aggregate
 sum of the whole shall be equally divided

Wills I devise Will and bequeath that my
house and lot in Rutherfordton and two hundred
acres of Land adjoining Col. Farners saw Mill
about two hundred acres adjoining Mrs Pratts
Mills on first Broad River and a little up there
one hundred acres on the Rock Mountain and also
Twenty two hundred acres in Calabrese County
and in addition to that all my lands in Catawba
County supposed to be one thousand acres I
direct that all the lands included in this clause
be sold and the proceeds divided equally among
the Children devisees and heirs at law of my
three deceased Mothers that is John D. Graham
Joseph Graham and Doct. George F. Graham
Sixths, I Will and bequeath that the money
that I deposited with the Reverend W. H. Morrison
and a note of hand I have on James W. Patton
of Buncombe County and a note I have on
Alfred D. Keen and Franklin Davidson when
the two last notes are collected and cashed
and form an aggregate sum with money
deposited with Mr Morrison then the aggregate
sum of the whole shall be equally divided
among my three Sisters Eleventh all my
other notes and debts not herein disposed of
and debts due me not herein disposed of shall be
collected they shall be equally divided among

My brother William and my sisters Sophia
 Villetto and Mary each of whom shall constitute
 one share and the residue shall be divided among
 the children of my three deceased brothers the
 the heir of each deceased brother constituting one
 share for division among their children
 (In full), I hereby nominate and appoint
 my only surviving brother William S. Graham
 to be the Executor of this my last Will and
 Testament I also give to him my gold watch
 all my wearing apparel a new Buggy and
 harness which I bought in Philadelphia and
 my saddle horse and Saddle and bridle

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence
 of witnesses whose names are subscribed the
 26th day of October 1848

James Graham. (Seal)

Joseph M Calloway
 L B Bryan
 Jas M Craton