

State of North Carolina
 Martin County This being in the year of our Lord 1844

I being of sound mind and memory, but considering the uncertainty of my earthly existence do make and declare that my last will and Testament as follows — that is to say first that my Executor hereafter named shall provide for my body a decent burial suitable to the wishes of my relation and friends and pay all funeral expenses together with my just debt & burials and to whomsoever coming out of the money that may first come into his hands as a part or parcel of my Estate.

Then I give and devise unto my beloved mother all of my Lands and my part of and also in the hands of as Whitefield for collection against Henrich Nelson and all the money that my beloved mother now owes me at this time in his hands and let her dispose absolutely and forever —

And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my trustee and Executor Rorthen William Thomas Executor to all authors and purports to execute this my last will and Testament according to the true intent and meaning of the same, and every part thereof in hereby by writing and declaring publicly and all others wills and Testaments by me hereafter made — To wit, my husband do hereunto set my hand & seal this 10th day of May 1844

Witness sealed published and by me
 signed to be my last will and
 Testament in the presence of us, who
 at his request and in his presence
 do subscribe our names as witnesses thereto

Abner Nelson
 Samuel Pearson

State of North Carolina

Martin County Comd April Term 1844

The foregoing paper writing was produced in open Court and proved to be the last will and Testament of John James de la Roche a Slave Nelson a subscribing witness thereto & proved to be correct —

Whereupon William James came into Court and qualified as Executor thereto —

Test. J. N. Wiggins Clerk

In the name of God Amen Elizabeth Latham of the State of North Carolina, and County of Martin being weak and languishing of body but of perfect mind and memory, calling to mind the mortality of the body and knowing that it is appointed for all to die do make and publish this last will and Testament in manner and form following —

Item 1st I give and bequeath to my son Samuel Shepherd and his heirs general the following negroes, to wit, Dick and Leonard & William

Item 2nd I give and bequeath to my son Thomas Shepherd and his heirs general the following negroes Ellen and Caroline —

Item 3rd I give and bequeath to my grandson John Latham the following negroes Amanda Lewis and Marinda to him and his heirs general —

Item 4th I give and bequeath to my great grandchildren Margaretta Menden, Georgiana Menden, Sarah Menden and Catherine Menden the children of Edmund and Catherine Menden and their heirs general the following negroes Sam & Edy —

Item 5th I give and bequeath to my son Thomas Shepherd and my grandson John Latham and to their heirs general, the tract of Land lying in the Islands which was to and by the death of my father known by the name of the Poplar and Cherry trees which tract containing two hundred acres more or less to be equally divided between them —

Item 6th I give and bequeath to my son Samuel Shepherd and to his heirs general all my right title claim and interest in all the other Lands I possess not mentioned above —

Item 7th I give and bequeath to my great granddaughter Georgiana Menden the sum of \$500 my son Samuel Shepherd can when he comes of age settle the same when she becomes fourteen years old —

Item 8th I give and bequeath to my grandson John Latham all the notes or other claims I have against him —

Item 9th I give and bequeath to my grandchildren — Elizabeth Menden, Frances Bradley, Samuel Bradley, Margaret and John Smithworth Fifty Dollars to be equally divided between them —

Item 10th I give and bequeath to my son Samuel Shepherd and to his heirs general all my Cattle, and all my household goods and household furniture —

Item 11th I give and bequeath to my son Samuel Shepherd after paying my just debt and my funeral expenses and the Fifty Dollars legacy mentioned above to my grandchildren Elizabeth Frances, Samuel Margaret and John all my notes and accounts and money, and all articles not mentioned —

I do constitute and appoint my son Samuel Shepherd and Margaret Shepherd my Executors to this my last will and Testament and give to them full power to see my last will and Testament

Witnessed 22nd May 1844
 Signed, sealed & the proved of
 J. L. Menden
 Hannah Smithworth

Elizabeth Latham & Son