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of the family and applying the proceeds as in his discretion may be best for all my children

I do
J. J. Anthony
Witness
Mark

May Benjamin Seal
Mark

State of North Carolina

Martin County Court - Oct. Term 1856 The foregoing paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Mary Benjamin the wife of S. C. Benjamin in Execution of a power contained in a Marriage Contract made between her and her said husband was produced in Court and the due execution of the body thereof as her last will and testament was proved by J. J. Anthony one of the subscribing witnesses thereto and the due execution of an additional clause or codicil to said will was duly proved by J. J. Anthony one of the subscribing witnesses and thereupon the Court doth declare that the said paper the body and codicil hath been duly proved according to Law and doth order that the same be recorded and the Court permitting Samuel Benjamin Benjamin appear in open Court and qualify as Executor of the said last will and testament or person according to Law

S. Johnson Clerk

In the Name of God Amen

I Stephen Medford of the County of Martin and State of North Carolina being of sound mind and memory and considering the uncertainty of this frail and transitory life do therefore make order and publish and declare to be my last will and testament that is to say,

First I leave After my lawful debts being paid and discharge the residue of my estate real and personal I give bequeath and dispose of as follows to wit,

I leave To my beloved wife the portion of land on which I live together with the improvements lying on the West side of the road passing directly by my gate called the new road one year provision for her self and family three cows & calves two sows and pigs by Eames and Cambs five choice Blue Cows two Bred of furniture one horse of her choice all the household and kitchen furniture all the poultry one or her choice till place and one pair place glass of her choice one Cart and Wharf of her choice one of me here during the term of her natural life.

I leave I leave unto my beloved son John the portion of land lying on the East side of the road passing directly by my gate called the

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new road during his natural life and then to his lawful heirs begotten of his body if any if not to be equally divided between my lawful heirs and I further desire that my is to have the use of any portion of timber she may choose on the said land lent to my son John.

I leave I give unto my beloved daughter Mary one Bed and furniture to have and to hold for ever I leave I give unto my beloved daughter Susan one Bed and furniture one cow and cart to have and to hold for ever.

I leave I give unto my beloved daughter Betsey one Bed and furniture to have and to hold for ever I leave I give unto my beloved daughter Nancy one Bed and furniture to have and to hold for ever I leave I give unto my beloved son James all after the death of my wife the tract of land lent to my wife together with the appurtenances to have and to hold forever I leave I further declare the property not named to be sold and the money arising from the sale to be equally divided between all my daughters.

I leave I will and desire further that all the property lent to my wife not otherwise disposed of shall after her death be sold and the money arising from the sale to be equally divided between all my lawful heirs.

I here make constitute and appoint my trusty friend Benjamin C. Mayo to be Executor of this my last will and testament hereby making all former wills by me made.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affix my seal the twenty first day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty five

Stephen Medford Seal
Mark

Signed sealed published and declared by the said Stephen Medford as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us who at the request of the said Stephen Medford and in his presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names

Howell Cherry (Seal)
Alfred Whickard (Seal)

State of North Carolina

Martin County Court - Oct. Term 1856

Then was the due Execution of the foregoing written instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of Stephen Medford proved in open Court by the oath of Howell Cherry a subscribing witness thereto in due form of law and it is ordered by the Court that the same be recorded whereupon Ben C. Mayo the Executor therein named appeared in open Court and qualified thereto

S. Johnson Clerk