

Arthur S. Colton's Will

I, Arthur S. Colton of the County of Marine and State of North Carolina, being of sound mind and Memory, but considering the uncertainty of my earthly existence, do make and declare this my last Will and Testament, in manner and form following, that is to say, First, That my Executors herein after named, shall provide for my body a decent burial, suitable to the wishes of my relatives and friends, and pay all of my funeral expenses, together with my just debts hereafter and to whomsoever owing, out of the moneys that may first come into their hands as a part or parcel of my estate - Item I give and devise to my beloved Wife Louisa C. Colton, one half of my estate after the payment of my just debts (except my interest in John N. Mayo's estate, which I purchased from Thomas Southland, which estate was his Southland's in right of his wife Nancy) to have and to hold to her the said Louisa C. Colton for and during her Natural life, and after her death to be equally divided between her lawful heirs - Item I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter Virginia S. Colton the remaining half of my estate, together with my interest in John N. Mayo's estate which I purchased from the Southland which estate was his (Southland's) in right of his wife to have and to hold to her and to her heirs during her Natural life and after her death to be equally divided between her children if any, but if she should leave no children then the property is to be equally divided between her Mother Louisa C. Colton her brother, Edward S. Colton, J. A. Colton and M. A. Colton to have and to hold to them and their heirs forever.

And lastly, I do hereby constitute and appoint my trusty friends, William N. K. Williams and Benjamin C. Mayo my lawful Executors, to all intents and purposes, to execute this my last Will and Testament according to the true intent and meaning of the same and every part and clause thereof hereby, reserving and declaring utterly void all other Wills and Testaments by me heretofore made.

In witness whereof I the said Arthur S. Colton do hereunto set my hand and Seal this 15th day of July, A.D. 1861

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the said Arthur S. Colton to be his last Will and Testament in the presence of my witnesses at his request and on his presence Subscribed and sworn to by me
 Wm. N. K. Williams
 Benj. C. Mayo
 J. A. Colton
 (Probate on next page)

North Carolina } Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions,
 Marine County } October Term A.D. 1861 -

An Motion a paper asserting purporting to be the last Will and Testament of the said Arthur S. Colton deceased was offered for probate in open Court and the due execution of said Will was proved on the oath and examination of B. C. Mayo the Subscribing Witness thereto - Ordered by the Court that said paper asserting and every part thereof is the last Will and Testament of the said Arthur S. Colton - Ordered that said Will and Testament be, and the same shall be recorded - Whereupon W. N. K. Williams and Benj. C. Mayo Executors named in said Will came into Court and renounced as Executors to said Will and refused to qualify as Executors to said Will.

Louisa C. Colton widow of Arthur S. Colton deceased came into open Court and entered her dissent to said Will and relinquished her rights and claims under said Will and claimed to have her legal rights -

An Motion Ordered by the Court that Administration on the estate of the said Arthur S. Colton deceased be granted to Louisa C. Colton and that she enter into bond in the sum of \$30,000 - with W. N. K. Williams & Benjamin C. Mayo as Sureties - Solvency and Sufficiency of the bond provided by the Court and examination of it - Bond filed & Administratrix qualified of -

William S. Biggs' Will

In the name of God Amen. I William S. Biggs, being in sound mind and free from all bodily disease, do make and declare this to be my last Will and Testament, made the 10th day of March, A.D. 1862. Item I do hereby appoint my beloved Wife and Child C. B. Hassel my Executors to this my last Will and Testament.

Item 2^d - I desire that my Negro man Slade be sold at public Auction and at the time and place and in such manner, as my Executors may deem best -

Thirdly - I desire the Executors before named, in the Settlement with Rader Biggs & Co a firm in the City of Norfolk Va. of which I am a partner, that in addition to my proportion of the profits of the Concern and the Capital Stock invested by me in said Concern, that they demand and collect from the said Rader Biggs & Co, an Amount due me for fifty seven Bales of Lard, shipped to Messrs James Corner & Sons about the 20th April 1861 (said Colton being my own individual property) and was sold by them as their Agent about the 17th August 1861 (the unfortunate condition of the Country, rendering it impossible to receive said) therefore amount of Sales not known, I should about four thousand dollars, Colton sold as per Corner & Sons letter to Rader Biggs & Co about the 17th August 1861 at fourteen & three quarters of a cent lb. which amount was ordered by Rader Biggs & Co of the City of Norfolk Va. to be invested in

Bagging and rope as per their letters to the said Corner & Co under date of 26th June, 31st July, 12th August 1861, I am also entitled to share of Exchange, being the current rate at the time & interest from about 1st August 1861 -

Item 4th I desire my Executors first pay a Note, executed by me to Mr R Clark with Mr J M Powell security, and of Note Eight thousand dollars, after the payment of said Note I desire that my Executors claim and receive J L Bridges and John Powell Exors of the late J M Powell dec'd a like insurance policy of the C. C. like Mutual Insurance Company said policy was transferred to said Powell to indemnify him for becoming my surety, and for no other purpose, that they collect from said Insurance Company the amount of my policy less a Note due said Company from me & note

Item 5th I desire my Executors close up the business of Mr G Biggs & Co of whom I am a partner - I also desire all my just debts to be paid -

Item 6th After the settlement with Hader Biggs & Co and the business of Mr G Biggs & Co as before stated and the payment of all my just debts I desire that the balance remaining (if any) and my negro Girl Phety and her increase be held in trust for the support of my wife, and the support and education of my dear Son H Chase Biggs and any other child or children that may be borned from my wife Sophia A. Biggs lawfully with me, in the case I desire the remainder of my estate to be used except for the object above stated

Item 7th Should my wife after my death marry again, it is my wish that she only receive annually her proportion of my estate for her support, but should my Son now living and all children that may hereafter be borned lawfully with me die leaving my wife my only heir, then in that case I desire that she be placed in full possession of my estate with power to use it as she pleases -

Given under my hand and seal in the City of Norfolk the day and date before written and in the presence of us

Whe at the request of Mr G Biggs & Co his presence witnessed the same

" J. E. Davis
" J. J. Biggs

" Mr G Biggs & Co

Submitted for Probate at October Term 1862

I R W Sherrod of the County of Martin State of North Carolina being of sound mind & memory, but considering the uncertainty of my earthly existence, do make and declare this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following, that is to say - After the payment of all my just debts, I give and devise to my son Archibald Two hundred and fifty dollars

I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Jane D. Sherrod the remainder of my property (after the payment of the Two hundred and fifty dollars above mentioned) consisting of land, Negroes, Stock, farming utensils, & other things to be devised to me hereunto and hold to her & her heirs in fee simple forever

In witness whereof I the said R. W. Sherrod do hereunto set my hand and seal this 26th day of Oct. 1861

" R. W. Sherrod

The foregoing paper writing, purporting to be the last Will and Testament of R. W. Sherrod, as exhibited in open Court and there being no witness thereto the paper writing, was wrote and every part thereof was proven by the oath of Archibald Hatter, his wife Ann and Aquella Hyman, who swore that the paper writing was in the hand writing of the said R. W. Sherrod dec'd whereupon it was ordered that Jane Sherrod be appointed administratrix with the will annexed upon the estate of said R. W. Sherrod dec'd and her entering into Bond in the sum of Twelve thousand dollars, with N. R. W. Sherrod and B. L. C. Bryant her sureties - Solvency proven by the oath of J. L. Buell and A. P. Hyman

" Wm H. Harrell Clerk