

In the Name of God Amen, I John Ray of Martin County & State of N^o Carolina being through the blessing of God & mercy of God of a sound and perfect understanding among Blessed be God do constitute this my last will and testament first I most Humbly Recommend my soul to God my Maker beseeching his most gracious acceptance through the all different merits and mediation of my Comforter Redeemer Jesus Christ who gave himself to be an atonement for my sins and is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by him living he was death to make intercession for them and who I trust will not neglect me a Returning Penitent sinner when I come to him for mercy in this hope & confidence I render up my soul with comfort humbly beseeching the most Blessed and glorious time of my Dissolution then to take me to himself unto that peace and rest and incomparable felicity which he has prepared for all those that Love and fear his holy Name Amen I give my Body to the earth from whence it ~~came~~ taken in full appearance of its Resurrection from thence at the last day as for my Burial I desire it may be Decent without a State at the Direction of my executor hereafter named who I doubt not will manage it with all Respect and prudence - as to my worldly estate I will and Positively order that all my said debts be paid -

Item I give and Bequeath to my Dear father Samuel Ray my negro girl Fella to him forever also I lend my father my four negroes to wit Ben, Sarah, Caesar & Samuel to him during his natural life also one steer about two years old to him forever -

Item I give and Bequeath after the Decease of my father to my Sister Elizabeth Ray my three negroes Ben, Sarah & Samuel -

Item I give and Bequeath to James Shenson my negro boy Caesar to him and his heirs lawfully Begotten forever -

Item I give and Bequeath to my Brother Stephen Ray the sum of five shillings to be paid by my executor

Item I give and Bequeath my sister Sarah Ray the sum of five shillings to be paid by my executor -

I hereby Nominate and appoint and make choice of Handy Myles do witness to this my last will and testament in testimony hereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twentieth day of January one Thousand Eight Hundred and two signed sealed and Delivered in the presence of us

Witness Samuel Ray

Henry L. Leland

Handy Myles

Martin County, The Instrument of writing was proven in open court to be the last will and testament of John Ray by the oath of Henry Leland one of the subscribing witnesses in open court & ordered to be Recorded
test H. B. Hunter Clerk

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In the Name of God amen, I William Pierce of the State of North Carolina and County of Martin being of sound & perfect mind and memory Blessed be God, the calling to mind that it is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain this to be my last Will & Testament in manner and form as follows (viz) First I Recommend my soul to the hands of that God who first gave it and my Body to be buried in a Decent Christian like manner at the Discretion of my Executor hereinafter mentioned and as touching what worldly goods it has Pleased God to bless me with, I give & dispose of in the following form and manner to Wit - Item It is my will and desire that a sufficient quantity of my property ~~and~~ Negroes and moveable property be sold ~~to pay my just debts at the Discretion of my Executor~~

Item, It is my will & desire that my son John and Daughters and Marina Pierce have sufficient schooling out of my Estate clear of any charges for schooling or Board - Item, I lend to my beloved wife Phoebe Pierce during her Widowhood eight Negroes to wit Harry Charles Lucy Henry Eddy Temp Savage & Lucy I also lend to my beloved wife half the Land Wharton's plantation Beginning at the mouth of the Spring branch thence running up the branch to the head thereof thence a straight line to a branch that empties into Shephards marsh also all my land known by the name of the Tobacco Island also one Island known by the name of man Island I also lend to my beloved wife three cows & calves three year & lambs Four feather beds bed Steads and Furniture one Walnut Table one small folding one large Table one Desk one case half dozen knives & forks Loom & gear one floor Wheel two Wool Wheels two Stone Sugs one Butter Pot flat shoes on pairs hand Irons two Pails two Tubs three stands one pair small Hely two Weeding hoes two grubbing hoes two Plough hoes Stocks & blivis two axes iron Wedges grindstone one yoke of Stears & cart one horse & one mare side Saddle Whidin chair & gear one dozen sitting chairs and as much ~~other~~ Kitchen Furniture as will be Necessary for her & one Blue chest

Item, I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Phoebe Pierce four sows & pigs three thousand weight of Pork Eighty Barrells of Corn Twenty Bushells of Wheat Thirty five weight of Coffee twenty five weight of Sugar and two steers for her years provision and all the bottom & gear Item I give & Bequeath unto my son Sipe Pierce half my Land on flat Swamp that will appear for Duds from the jagged Head and Nathan Raps to me

So as for him to have the Land and plantation whereon he now
lives - also half of one other Tract that will appear by
Deed from William Gilbert to me of one hundred and ~~forty~~^{fifty}
four acres - I also give unto my son Jesse Pierce two negroes to wit
Samy & Sally one feather Bed Bed Stead & furniture to him & his
heirs forever - Item, I give & Bequeath unto my son -

John Pierce one Tract of Land that will appear by Deed
from Tho' Hunter Dec^d to Jesse Pierce Dec^d and part of one
other Tract that will appear by Deed from Jeremiah Slade
to me also one other tract known by the name of 'Blacks Island' -

beginning at William Gilberts and my dividing corner a bypass
thence running a state line to Slades corner now my corner a
bypass thence along Slades and my ~~line~~^{line} to the high Land to a
corner pine at the mouth of the slades branch thence up the
high land & Martins line to Gilberts line thence with Gilberts
line to the first station also half of one other Tract that

will appear by Deed from William Gilbert to me of one
hundred and forty four acres and half of one other Tract lying
on Flat Swamp that will appear by Deeds from M^r John
Howard and Nathan Rife to me also two Negroes to wit Britton

Mariah one Bay horse Bridle & Saddle one Bed Bedstead
& Furniture two Cows & Calves two geese & lambs and one
Wool Wheel to him & his heirs - Item, I give & Bequeath
unto my two sons Jesse & John Pierce one & a half acres of Land
at the Trading Span including the Fishery to be equally held
by them - Item I give and Bequeath unto my two sons
Jesse & John Pierce four acres of Land that will appear
By Deed from Susannah Brogdon to me for the purpose
of a mill seat to be equally held by them & their heirs
Item I give & Bequeath unto my two sons Jesse & John Pierce

one still Cape & Worm to be equally held by them & their
heirs - Item I give & Bequeath unto my Daughter Nancy Redding
Seven Negroes to wit Nancy and her son Children Nancy
Isom Nepton Dave Paton & Matilda one feather Bed Bedstead
& Furniture one mare three Cows & Calves that she now has in possession

Item I give & Bequeath unto my Daughter Fanny Bennett my
own Negroes to wit Pats and her three Children Mary Charlton

& Solomon and one Feather Bed Bedstead & Furniture one horse three cows & Calves
Item, I give & Bequeath unto my Daughter Marina Pierce four Negroes
to wit Sally Lucy Solph and Merrick one Bay mare Bridle & Saddle
one feather Bed Bed Stead & Furniture one flax Wheel one
Wool Wheel one Chest three keepees and Thirty Dollars a year as
long as she lives single to her & her heirs - Item, I give & Bequeath
& desire that all my property & increase that I have lent
and not heretofore given away be equally divided between my five
children Jesse and John Pierce Nancy Redding Fanny Bennett &
Marina Pierce after paying all my just Debts - Item, it is my will
& desire that if my son John Pierce should ~~die~~^{be} without an heir
lawfully Begotten of his Body that the Land that I have heretofore
given him Return to my son Jesse Pierce or his male heirs
it is also my will and desire that all the negroes that I have
heretofore given him Return to my three Daughters Nancy Redding
Fanny Bennett and Marina Pierce or their heirs

Item, I give and Bequeath unto my son Jesse Pierce an open road
way from the high land to his Plantation in Boncher Island

Lastly I nominate and appoint my Beloved wife Phoebe
Pierce Jesse Pierce and William Redding Executors to this
my last Will and Testament given under my hand and seal
this 20th day June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight
Hundred and seventeen

Signed and Sealed
in the Presence of
Sam^l L. Cymans
L. H. Smithwick

State of North Carolina? Decem^r Term 1818. the above Instrument of writing purporting
to be the Last will and Testament of William Pierce dec^d was
produced in open court by the oath of John H. Smithwick one of the subscribers
witnesses thereto ordered to be Recorded

W B Hunter Clk -

So as for him to have the Land and plantation whereon he now
lives - also half of one other Tract that will appear by
Deed from William Gilbert to me of one hundred and ~~forty~~^{forty}
four acres - I also give unto my son Jesse Pierce two negroes to wit
Samy & Milly one feather Bed Bed Sted & furniture to him & his
heirs forever - Then, I give & Bequeath unto my son -

John Pierce one Tract of Land that will appear by Deed
from Thos Hunter Dec to Jesse Pierce Dec and part of one

Other Tract that will appear by Deed from Susannah Wade
to me also one other tract known by the name of Tobacco Island -

beginning at William Gilberts and my dividing corner a bypass
thence running a State line to Wades corner now my corner a
bypass thence along Wades and my ~~line~~^{line} to the high Land to a

corner pine at the mouth of the de-fied branch thence up the
high Land & Martins line to Gilberts line thence with Gilberts
& line to the first station also half of one other tract that

will appear by Deed from William Gilbert to me of one
hundred and forty four acres and half of one other Tract lying
on Flat Swamp that will appear by Deeds from Mchajuit
Howard and Nathan Ross to me also two Negroes to wit Britton

Mariab one Bay horse Bridle & Saddle one Bed Bedstead

& Furniture two cows & calves two geese & lambs and one
Wool Wheel to him & his heirs - Then, I give & Bequeath

unto my two sons Jesse & John Pierce one & a half acres of Land
at the Trading place including the Fishery to be equally held
by them - Then I give and Bequeath unto my two sons

Jesse & John Pierce four acres of Land that will appear
By Deed from Susannah Wagoner to me for the purpose
of a mill seat to be equally held by them & their heirs

Then I give & Bequeath unto my two sons Jesse & John Pierce

one still Cape & Worm to be equally held by them & their
heirs - Then I give & Bequeath unto my Daughter Nacey Redding

Seven Negroes to wit Nancy and her two Children Mary
Isom Nepton Dave Saton & Matilda one feather Bed Bedstead

& Furniture one mare three cows & calves that she now has in ^(own)
Then I give & Bequeath unto my Daughter Fanny Bennett ^{only}
Four Negroes to wit ~~his~~ and her three Children Mary Charlton

& Solomon and one Feather Bed Bedstead & Furniture one horse three cows &
Then, I give & Bequeath unto my Daughter Marina Pierce four Negroes
to wit Abby Lucy Schell and Murrell one Bay mare Bridle & Saddle
one feather Bed Bed Sted & Furniture one flax Wheel one
Wool Wheel one Chest three heifers and thirty Dollars a year as
long as she lives single to her & her heirs - Then, ~~step~~^{step} I give
& Desire that all my property & increase that I have lent

and not heretofore given away be equally divided between my five

children Jesse and John Pierce Nacey Redding Fanny Bennett &
Marina Pierce after paying all my Just Debts - Then, it is my will

& desire that if my son John Pierce should ~~die~~^{die} without an heir
lawfully Begotten of his Body that the Land that I have heretofore

given him Return to my son Jesse Pierce or his male heirs

it is also my will and desire that all the negroes that I have
heretofore given him Return to my three Daughters Nacey Redding

Fanny Bennett and Marina Pierce or their heirs

Then, I give and Bequeath unto my son Jesse Pierce an open road
way from the high Land to his Plantation in Bonechoe Island

Lastly I nominate and appoint my Beloved wife Phoebe
Pierce Jesse Pierce and William Redding Executors to the

my last Will and Testament given under my hand and seal
this 20th day June in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight

Hundred and Seventeen

Signed and Sealed
in the Presence of

Saml & L Cyman
L & Smithwick

per Pierce ^{and}

State of North Carolina? Decem^r Term 1810 The above instrument of writing purporting
Marion County to be the Last will and Testament of William Pierce deceased
produced in open court by the oath of John at Smithwick one of the Subscribing
witnesses thereof and to be recorded

J. B. Hunter Clerk