

William Brown
18th of Wilson

William Brown

In the name of God Amen. I Ephraim Brown of Mecklenburg County in the State of N. Carolina, being of Sound Memory & Judgment & knowing the full & perfect use of my Reason, but being reduced to a dangerous degree of bodily weakness, by disease & infirmity & apprehension that it may be the pleasure of the divine Being to call me from this world by means of my present Illness, Do for the convenience of my surviving family & for the purpose of better establishing the interest of my beloved daughter & only remaining issue think it proper & necessary to make my last Will & Testament in manner & form following—

First I direct that my body be decently & privately interred at the discretion of my executors—

Then I direct that every perishable article of which I shall die possessed such as Horse, Cattle, Books &c. be sold to the best Advantage, after my funeral charges & other legal debts are paid & I give direct & bequeath all the residue of my Estate both real & personal unto my beloved daughter Maria Brown to have & to enjoy—

I also request I direct my executors either to sell or repair the buildings on the improved lot in Charlotte so as to render them tenable as shall appear to them to be of most advantage to my surviving child. I so order to enable them to make such repairs the unimproved lot if found necessary may be sold & the proceeds of such sale be applied for that purpose—

The executors will continue the Negroes in the present service or hire them out, as will best promote the interest of the orphan.

I request that my executors would take all prudent care to have my said Daughter decently, usefully & suitably educated, either in the family where she now lives or such other family as they shall think most for the advantage of the Child's Education. I further direct my executors provided they be so situated in the collection of Debt as to procure a considerable sum to lodge the same in safe hands at interest or otherwise dispose of it to my surviving advantage. Provided my said Daughter Maria Brown

shall die before she arrives to the age of majority when the Law permits, he should take possession of her property, that in that case I give & bequeath unto my youngest Brother Joseph Breard the unimproved lot in Charlotte if not disposed of, but if sold I request Col. Thomas Polk to procure in said Town one Lot of equal Value and to deed & convey the said to my Brother Joseph Breard. Moreover, I do give & bequeath to the said Joseph Breard all sum or sums that may arise from the collection of both my Public & private debts - and unto Col. Thomas Polk I give & bequeath the improved lot & the negroes Sam & Thame - But in case my said Daughter Martha Breard shall not die at the age of minority before mentioned, then & in that case the several Bequests & directions shall continue & remain as bequeathed & directed according to the above mentioned provisions I do hereby Ordain, Constitute & appoint my worthy Father in Law Col. Thomas Polk my beloved Brother Alexander Breard & the Reverend Thomas Westall to be the Executors of this my last Will & Testament, confiding in their affection & fidelity & also in their zeal for the Interest of a bereaved Orphan I rest assured of their honest & honorable attention to the welfare of the Infant now committed to their care - I do declare this to be my last Will & Testament, and do hereby cancel & revoke all other Wills & Testaments by me heretofore made and do this 20th day of July 1781. Sign, Seal, Publish & proclaim this to be my last Will & Testament -

In presence of

Wm. Alexander

Edw. Giles

Wm. Patterson

Ephraim Breard

In the Name of God Amen. I Thomas Bane being of sound mind & Memory but very weak of Body & being sensible that it is ordained for all mankind once to die, do make & signify this my last Will & Testament, I do hereby bequeath unto my dear wife Mary Bane my soul, my body to be decently