

In the Name of God the Father, the 3d day of February in the year of  
our Lord 1781, James Parton of Mecklenburg County in the province  
of Carolina (Methodist) being very sick & ready to depart this world,  
nowe thanks be to God therefore calling to mind the mortality of  
mankind & knowing that it is appoin'ted to all men once to die  
I make & ordain this my last Will & Testament that is to say principally  
First of all, I give & recommend my soul to God that gave it, & for  
my body I recommend to the Earth to be buried in a Christian like  
& decent manner at the discretion of my Executors nothing doubt  
ing but at the general Resurrection I shall receive the same again  
by the mighty power of God. And as touching such worldly estate  
herein with it hath pleased God to bless me in this life I give bequeath  
& dispose of in the following manner & form: Imprimis and first  
I Will, Require & Ordain that my son John be heir of my plantation  
by name, freely to be possessed & enjoyed. Item I give & bequeath unto  
my dearly beloved husband with whom my negro wench named Sime  
together with my black mare behind the community Rock, with her  
foal & Bridle together with all the harness, bit, furniture by his party  
to be his, & he enjoyed & the use & benefit of my plantation whilst she  
lives my widow with all the improvements & appurtenances thereto  
Item I give & bequeath to my dearly & well beloved daughter  
Esther my negro girl Loo together with my mare which I had  
of John Sturgess by her, freely to be possessed & enjoyed  
Item I do likewise give & bequeath unto my dearly beloved  
widow, Mrs. Sime my negro boy Samba together with the  
half of all my land & other twists by him freely to be possessed  
& enjoyed; Item I give & bequeath unto my child that is not  
yet born if it sh. be to please God to bring it to this world a  
my black mare together with the first child that the negro  
wench Sime does have if she sh. continue long with a com.  
Health by him or her, freely to be possessed & enjoyed with the  
other half of my twists & a cow & calf to each of the other two  
children. As to my cattle to the use & benefit of my boy  
John plantation to be kept in the plantation, in the use  
my children, & my black mare to be sold & converted to the use of  
my child that is not yet born. I likewise require & ordain  
that my dearly beloved husband & his wife & his son J.

22 My well beloved wife Mary Paxton & her children & executors  
of this my last will & testament, & I do hereby utterly disallow & revoke  
& disannul all & every other former will, testaments & legacies by me  
& executors by me in any wise before this time named, written and  
signed at the same, or at any time before this time named, sealed and  
& witnessed, or attesting & confirming this & no other to be my last will  
& testament be witness whereof I have signed sealed, published  
pronounced & declared by the said James Paxton as his last  
will & testament in the presence of the subscribers. Dated

Matthew Paxton q.  
James Paxton  
Moses Paxton q.

James Paxton 

In the name of God Amen. The 26<sup>th</sup> day of  
March 1789. I Martin Philip son of the County of Rockingham  
4 State of Carolina for my Being weak in body but of perfect  
mind & memory make in given unto God therefore calling unto  
mind the misery of my body & knowing that I am about  
to all men & creatures die I make & despatch this my last will &  
testament. That is to say principally & first of all I give & command  
my soul into the hand of Almighty God that gave it; and my  
Body to the Earth to be buried in a decent Christian burial at  
the directions of my executors whom I shall nominate  
hereafter in this will. Nothing & nothing but at the general Resu-  
rection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God  
and as touching this worldly Estate I give & command the plenck  
God to left me in this life I give & chuse of the same  
following manner & form — It is my will that my wife  
and I may be interred in church yard and church garden  
Here I give & bequeath unto my beloved wife Margret Philip  
five slaves viz one old negro man named Dick & one Negro man he  
named Harry & two children Viz Negresses must be sold  
Also all my house hold furniture & all my Goods Stocks & Chattels  
One third part of my Money at hand & like wise the sum in  
my bonds & notes of hand due to me & also the liberty of sending  
her seat & living as her right of Dower of the lands in which  
shee liveth on big lake water creek or with either of her sons or her