

my love sons Alexander & William the sole Executors of this
my last will & Testament, & appoint Galt Jewin as Overseer
to take Care that this my will be supported & maintained
his & do revoke & disavow all other former wills and
Testaments by me written, Making & confirming this & no
other to be my last will & Testament. published pronounced
sealed & declared to be my last will & Testament in the
presence of us the day & year above written -

William Berryhill

Hugh Porter

Samuel Bowman

William Porter



In the name of God Amen, I James Porter
of Mecklenburg County, State of N^o Carolina & Justice of the peace
in & for the same, Do this 20th day of September in the year of our Lord
1844 being in middling health & sound in mind & memory (thanks
be to God for the same) Do hereby make my last will & Testament
Revoking all others. And, first I will & Order that my funeral
expences & just debts be paid in some convenient time after
my decease from the sale of my Slaves, Tills & Corn if need be
& debts owing to me & the product of my farm by my Executors
hereafter named: I will & bequeath to my beloved wife Rebecca
Porter her legal bodily Heirs the following Slaves namely Rhoda
Charles, Sophia & Felt, also all the Household & Kitchen furniture
only what is hereafter excepted & a comfortable maintenance
in this my dwelling house with every convenience to
supply her personal wants during her widowhood, her
own Slaves continuing to be employed as heretofore, also one
Hock of Sheep. I will & bequeath to my son William B
Porter one hundred dollars having at his settling given him
upward of three thousand dollars worth of real property at that
time & now worth double that sum which is much more
than I am able to give any other child. I will my fine body
clothes my children & family. I will & bequeath to my daughter

Mary I removed & her bodily Heirs the following named
Hannah, Henry & Violet should my said daughter
die without leaving any bodily issue, then it is my will
that Hannah descend to my son in law James Crockett, that
Henry descend to my son James S Porter & Violet to my
daughter Margaret S Porter & their Heirs. I Will & bequeath
to my son James S Porter & his Heirs the following Slaves
Samson, Scott, Leonora & Edmund to him & his Heirs a good
feather bed &c — I Will & bequeath to my son John S Porter
& his Heirs the tract of Land on which I now live with all
appertaining thereto with all the furniture in my writing
room separately comprised by me in the transaction of all
my home business with the uninterrupted possession & occu-
pancy of the said room, also my good faithful slave Jack
& boy Solomon, also my Stock of Horses, cattle & Hogs all the
farming implements of every description including my Wagon
& gears in trust for the support & accommodation of my family
now with me, my Hall room furniture for the same purpose
& also every article or articles not mentioned in this Will
I conclude that my said John S Porter pay the then remaining
balance, of my said debts, & such other encumbrances as
are incited in my Will; — I Will & bequeath to my daughter
Margaret S Porter & her Heirs the following Slaves namely Tab
Charlotte, Harriet, Hannah & Stephen, my good mare named Pidge
or one worth one hundred dollars, a good saddle & bridle —
one good feather bed with bought curtains & good furniture
with all necessary clothing & a good maintenance in this my
in the uninterrupted occupancy of the large room with a fire
place up stairs & free intercourse as heretofore, while she may
remain single her Slaves to be kept & employed as heretofore
to my grand daughter Mary Elizabeth Margaret Lewis, I recognize &
confirm to her all the property devised by her Mother Elizabeth H
Lewis & demand as well more fully appear in detail by reference
being had to the annexed Instrument of Writing confirmed & signed
by myself & Joseph Lewis dated the 22^d day of October in the year

that Harriet deeded to my son in law James Crockett, that
Henry deeded to my son James S. Porter & his wife to my
daughter Margaret S. Porter & their heirs. I will & bequeath
to my son James S. Porter & his heirs the following Slaves
Sampson, Scott, Leonor & Selwood to him & his heirs a good
feather bed &c. — I will & bequeath to my son John S. Porter
& his heirs the tract of Land on which I now live with all
appertaining thereto with all the furniture in my writing
room separately comprised by me in the transaction of all
my home business with the uninterrupted possession & occu-
pancy of the said room, also my aged faithful slave Jack
& my Solomon, also my flock of Horses, cattle & Hogs all the
farming implements of every description including my Wagon
& axes in trust for the support & accommodation of my family
now with me, my Hall room furniture for the same purpose
& use & every article or articles not mentioned in this will
be concluded that my said John S. Porter pay the then remaining
balance of my said debts, & such other encumbrances as
are incited in my will. — I will & bequeath to my daughter
& Margaret S. Porter & her heirs the following Slaves namely Tob
Charlotte, Heriot, Abraham & Stephen, my son's mare named Pidge
or worth one hundred dollars, a good Saddle & bridle —
one good feather bed with height curtains & good furniture
with all necessary clothing & a general maintenance in this my
in the uninterrupted company of the large room with a fire
place up stairs & free intercourse as heretofore, while she may
remain single her Slaves to be kept & employed as heretofore
to my Grand daughter Mary Keziah Margaret Lewis, I recognize &
confirm to her all the property devised by her Mother Keziah H.
Lewis deeded as will more fully appear in detail by reference
being had to the annexed instrument of writing confirmed & signed
by myself & Joseph Lewis dated the 22nd day of October in the year
of our Lord 1817 all which is hereby devised, recognized & confirmed
by me as the property of my said Grand Child Mary Keziah in and

Lewis I also will & bequeath to the same in addition my Slave
 Ann & Tom, also that she be raised clothed & educated at some
 female institution well approved of, out of my Estate, or in other
 words that the labor of her three Slaves shall be deemed suffi-
 cient for all the purposes intended as above, I will her a horse
 creature worth one hundred dollars & a neat saddle & bridle
 when she arrives to proper age & finishes her education, I her
 maintenance & clothing as heretofore in this my dwelling house
 as one of my Children & under the care & Guardianship of my
 Son & my daughter Margaret while she may remain
 single. Lastly I do hereby nominate & appoint my friend the
 Honorable William Davidson Esquire of Charlotte & my son John
 Arch Porter Executors of this my last Will & Testament, In testam-
 I the said James Porter have to this my last Will & Testament
 set my hand & seal the day & year above written.

Signed sealed, published & declared by the said
 James Porter the Testator as his last Will & Testament
 in the presence of us who were all present at the
 Acknowledged, Signature & Sealing thereof

Thomas B Smith

Daniel Gallant

Wm. Gallant

James Porter. 

An inventory in detail of the several articles contained in
 the within dispatch as far as it respects the child to which
 it is agreed shall hereafter be baptized & known by the name
 of Mary Rezinah Margaret Lewis, first five new muslin
 within directed Second, 2^d her Bureau or Chest of drawers
 3^d her sewing table 4th her bed & furniture consisting of
 a stand of wrought iron bedsteads, one hair & 4 pillows
 striped quilted twelve new sheets a flower & blue paper
 & blue & white when the upon two petticoats a pillow
 slips one under back, one bolster, her Bed, clothes consisting
 of two silk dresses, two white dresses, one black & one green
 coats, one silk shawl & one cotton shawl, three pairs of
 stockings one pair of shoes, three headcloths, 4th is of her rings
 5th bracelet, two necklaces, 6th is of her silver & gold

words that the labor of her three Slaves shall be deemed sufficient for all the purposes intended as aforesaid, I will her a horse creature worth one hundred dollars & a neat saddle & bridle when she comes to years & finishes her education, I her maintenance & clothing as her foster in this my dwelling house as one of my Children tocher. The care & guardianship of my son & me & my daughter Margaret while she may remain single. Lastly I do hereby nominate & appoint my friend the Honorable William Davidson Esquire of Charlotte & my son John Neal Porter Executors of this my last will & Testament, In witness whereof I the said James Porter have to this my last will & Testament set my hand & seal the day & year above written.

Signed sealed, published & declared by the said James Porter the Testator to his last will & Testament in the presence of us who were all present at the above acknowledged, Signature & Sealing thereof

Thomas B Smith

Daniel Gallant

Wm. Gallant

James Porter. 

An inventory in detail of the several articles contained in the within dispatch as far as it respects the child which it is agreed shall hereafter be Baptized & known by the name Mary Beziak (Margaret Lewis). First her nurse, then as within directed Second, 2^d her Bureau or Chest of drawers 3^d her sewing table. 4th her bed & furniture consisting of a stand of Wrought Iron bedstead, one pair of pillows striped blanket twelve long sheets a flower & linen napkin & one table whereon lie upon two patterned quilts & pillows slips on under bed, one bolster, her bed; clothes consisting of two silk dresses, two white dresses, one black & one green frocks, one silk. Shawl & one cotton shawl, three pairs of stockings one pair of Men's iron buckles, pair of her rings & bracelets, two buckles for her shoes & two silver buttons, one pair of silk Handkerchiefs, one pair of Cape & Bodice, two Fans.

one set of Silver Tea Spoons, one set of cups & saucers, a book
muslin Handkerchiefs, Her Holy Bible, two volumes of Sublet
Granville, one volume of Thompson the seasons, three poems
in volume, a volume on self knowledge, & written by John
Wesley &c. &c. there are other books not recited which as
soon as can be ascertained shall be added. -

Be it hereby remembered & made known that whereas
Elizabeth H. P. Lewis doth die at different times previous
to her death expects & desires that her property which
she was possessed of previous to her marriage should be divided
in the following manner, which she made explicitly known
first and she left my dear husband Joseph Lewis to retain for his
own use the Horse & Collar the bed & furniture thereof designating
namely my bed room table, & the painted out to him, also the kitchen
furniture at his discretion. 2^d he had infant & only
daughter in good her negroes & furniture, a bed & furniture which
was painted out her chest of drawers, her sewing table, her bed
&c. &c. Her Holy Bible & her other books & her expressly desired me
to carry with the above said property to be removed to her father
house there to be taken care of & preserved for the use of her
children, committing the care & execution of her dear infant to her
mother. & it being she also distinctly made known, that she
desired that before it arrived to mature years that the property
allowed to her be given to her sister Margaret & Porter -
Now know ye that we James Porter father of Joseph Lewis has
being of the said H. P. Lewis died for & in consideration of
the love & regard we had & yet sincerely entertain for the
many of our dear departed loving child & wife, & in order to
fulfill her desire & discharge the solemn injunction imposed by
her dying lips - we do in behalf of ourselves our heirs executors
& administrators & every of us & them, Agree to, Acquiesce in, Ratify,
& confirm the above disposal of property as there desired &
pointed out. & we do hereby for ourselves our heirs executors
& administrators, without reserve confirm the same as above
inserted. In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands & affix
our seals the 1st day of September in the year of our Lord 1817 -

