

divided. Shall be the common & joint property of my three
children & should any of my children not live to come to
the portion of the above division that their portions
descend equally to their surviving Children. Item I
desire that my dear wife be reserved to work the
plantation to assist in raising my children

In presence of

John Cochran {
Isaac Orr {
J. H. Wilson }

Joseph Smith ^{test} ₁₈₅₂

In the name of God amen. I John Steel of Meeklbury
County & State of Louisiana, being very fail in body, but
reasonable in mind & memory willing to mind the Mortality
of my body. Do make constittute & ordain this my last will
& testament in manner & form following Annex. First I leave
command my soul unto Almighty God who gave it & my
body to the earth to be buried at the discretion of my
successors hereafter named hoping to receive the same again
at the resurrection thro' the merits of my Lord & Saviour
Jesus Christ. And as to that world estate that the Lord
hath bestowed on me far above my desert I leave it
herein as follows; and first I will that all my debts
be speedily paid by my executors at a convenient
time after my decease; and 2d I leave unto my
dearly & well beloved wife Mary her maintenance
of or from the benefits arising from the plantation as
she has formerly had or enjoyed & in case her son James
Yer should have any disagreeable fit she shall have
the full benefit of the shop with a convenient place
built in it with white lous carefully kept, & she
hired and provided & every thing that may render
her comfortable as becomes an obedient son to a
tender Mother. 3rd. I leave unto my daughter
Mary her bed furniture of all kinds, with

one Cow & a horse to break the house or Barn to be
worth forty or fifty dollars paid to her in the space
of two or three years after my death - if so I mind in
th. I time by my son James Steel, And then somethly
to enable James for the same. I leave the rest all to
him. that tract of Land I now hold known by its
bearings or lines with all its rights & improvements
the same to have & hold to him his heirs or assigns
I give and fifthly that my Grandson John Steel when
come of age shall receive from his Uncle James one
hundred & five dollars worth of apparel besides his wearing apparel
and to him & him the weaver trade, & all the
remainder of Cattle I leave to my son James & all the
household furniture & farming implements I leave
at the disposal of my wife. And lastly I leave
to every child half a dollar to wit Sarah, Peter
Jane, Martin, John, Ligen & David, And to
conclude I Ordain & appoint this my last will
& testament, Revoking & disannulling all former
other will or wills, or testaments heretofore by me made
& further I do constitute & appoint my Sons Martin
& James Steel to execute this my last will & testament
as I hold my hand & seal this 18th of November 1810.
Signed, sealed & confirmed in presence of
Moses Steele } " John Steel ^{Seal}
William Beddin } " William Beddin ^{Seal}

In the name of God amen. I John Steele, Senior
of the County of Edgecombe State of North Carolina do
make in body & in sound mind & memory thanking my
god therefore calling to mind the mortality of my life
knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die
Do make & ordain this my last will & testament that
my principally & first gift give my wife with the re-
almighty God that gave it my body I recommend
to the dust to be buried in a Christian decentm-