

In the name of God Amen,  
I A. J. May of the County of Stark and the  
State of North Carolina being of sound mind and  
memory, but considering the uncertainty of my  
earthly existence do make and declare this my  
last will and testament in manner and form  
following; That is to say

That my executor herein after named shall  
provide for my body a decent burial suitable  
to the wishes of my relatives and friends and  
pay all funeral expenses to gather with my  
just debts how ever and to whom so ever owing  
out of the monies that may first come in to his  
hands as a part or parcel of my estate  
I bequeath to my beloved wife during her natural  
life or widowhood all of my entire estate both  
personal and real with exception of one tract  
or parcel of land lying in the County of Stark and  
State of N.C. it being a part of the John St. Ferry  
land said land I won't sell for the purpose of  
paying debts and defraying expenses of  
settling my estate and if there should be any  
thing left of the proceeds of said land I want  
that used in educating my children

The above mentioned property I bequeath to my beloved  
wife consisting of my house tract of land  
Mansion and all out buildings stock of  
every description horse hold and kitchen  
furniture farming tools carts wagons and c<sup>r</sup>o  
And after her death and the youngest child  
becomes of age and I want the entire property  
both personal and real then equally divided  
among all my children

It is my desire and request that my brother  
Henry May act as Guardian for my children  
but in case of failure by reason of death or  
otherwise then it is my request and desire that  
W.G. Whelby act as Guardian for my children.  
and lastly I do hereby constitute my trustee friends  
Henry May and W.G. Whelby my lawful executor  
to all intent and purpose to execute this my last  
will and testament according to the true intent  
and meaning of the same. and every part

1st

2<sup>nd</sup>3<sup>rd</sup>4<sup>th</sup>

and clause thereof hereby making and  
declaring utterly void all other wills and  
testaments by me hitherto made.

In witness whereof I the said A.J. May do  
hereunto set my hand and seal, this the  
28<sup>th</sup> day of December A.D. 1853.

A. J. May

Signed Sealed published and  
declared by the said A.J. May  
to be his last Will and  
testament in the presence  
of us who at his request  
and in his presence do  
subscribe our names

W.G. Whelby  
Dobt et Wilder

State of North Carolina }  
Anson County } In the probate Court

et paper purporting to be the last Will and testament  
of A. J. May deceased is exhibited before me  
the undersigned, Judge of probate for said  
County by H. May and W. G. Whelby the executors  
therin mentioned, and the due execution thereof  
by the said A. J. May by the oath and examination  
of W. G. Whelby and Rott N. Wilder the subscribing  
Witness thereto who, being duly sworn, doth  
dissever and say, and each for himself doth  
dissever and saith, that he is a subscribing  
witness to the paper writing now shown him  
purporting to be the last will and testament of  
A. J. May, that the said A. J. May in the presence  
of this deponent subscribed his name at the  
end of said paper writing which now shown  
re aforesaid, and which bears date of the  
28<sup>th</sup> day of December 1852.

And the deponent further saith that the said  
A. J. May the testator aforesaid did at the time  
of subscribing his name as aforesaid declare the  
said paper writing so subscribed by him and  
exhibited to be his last will and testament  
and this deponent did thereupon subscribe his  
name at the end of said will as an attesting  
Witness thereto and at the request and in the  
presence of the said testator. And this deponent  
further saith that at the said time when the  
said testator subscribed his name to the last  
will as aforesaid and at the time of deponent  
subscribing his name as an attesting witness  
thereto, as aforesaid the said A. J. May was  
of sound mind and memory of full age to  
execute a will and was not under any  
restraint to the knowledge information or belief  
of this deponent. And further these deponents say  
not.

W. G. Whelby (Seal)  
Rott N. Wilder (Seal)

Somnally sworn and subscribed this 14<sup>th</sup>  
day of Nov 1884 before me  
Jno. D. Morgan Notary Public

737

738

1st

Item

Item

Item

Item

I William Height of the County of Anson and  
State of North Carolina being of sound mind and  
memory but considering the uncertainty of my earthly  
existence do make and declare this my last Will  
and testament in manner and form following that  
is to say

That my executors (hereinafter named) shall provide  
for my body a decent burial suitable to the wishes  
of my relatives and friends and pay all funeral  
expenses together with my just debts however and  
to whomever owing out of the monies that may  
first come into his hands as a part or parcel of  
my estate

That my executors (here and after named) shall  
provide for my beloved wife out of the monies  
that may first come into his hands all necessary  
means for her support and comfort during her  
natural life and at her death provide for her  
body a decent burial suitable to the wishes  
of her relatives and friends

I bequeath my Daughter Martha Jane the wife  
of Joseph H. Edwards a certain tract or parcel of  
land on which she now lives lying between the  
Castalia and Louisburg roads begining at the X  
roads between the well and store thence said  
Castalia road as it meanders to Peach Tree  
Creek Creekmore ford thence up said Cr to Delbridge  
line to Louisburg road and thence down said road  
to the begining to have and to hold together with all  
improvements thereon the same friendly during  
her life as aforesaid

My Will and devise is after the death of my  
said Daughter Martha Jane Edwards that tract  
of land as aforesaid left to her during her life  
shall be sold according to law and after paying  
out all expenses therefor the residue be equally  
divided among the following named heirs to wit  
William Edwards sona Dean wife of H. S. Dean  
Bettie Edwards wife of Joseph Edwards and  
Susan May wife of William May each  
one to share and share alike  
I give and bequeath to my Grandson son William  
Edwards the tract of land where out I now live