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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 tes-
tator and this deponent further saith that at the
said time when the said testator subscribed
his name to the said last will as aforesaid
and at the time of the deponent's subscribing his
name as an attesting witness thereto as aforesaid the
said R. J. Morgan was of sound mind and memory
of full age to execute a will and was not
under any restraint to the knowledge, informa-
tion or belief of this deponent and further these
deponents say not

Signed Sealed and
delivered in the presence of

Jacob Brantly (Seal)
William Chambers (Seal)

Benj. H. Gorsby

Probate Judge

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In the name of God Amen I Jess H. Drake
of the County of Nash and State of North
Carolina being of sound mind in firm health
but of sound mind memory and understanding
considering the certainty of death and the uncer-
tainty of the time thereof do make publish and
declare this my last will and testament in manner
and form following viz. I give and bequeath
unto Calvin Drake Aaron Drake Judah Drake
and Ellen Drake all colored, and formerly slaves
belonging to me the whole of my estate both
real and personal and mixed to them during
their natural life and at their death to
their children forever I am not I give and bequeath
will and desire that no part of my personal
property perishable property be sold but be
divided by my executors herein after named
or by such person or persons as they may

select, and whereas the aforesaid Calvin Drake
Aaron Drake Judah Drake and Ellen Drake have
since their emancipation continued to reside on my
premises and have performed many acts of kindness
for me in sickness and old age thereby proving
themselves to be my best friends as slaves they were
obedient and respectful and it is my express will
and desire that they have hold occupy possess
and enjoy the whole of my estate real personal and
mixed and I do here by nominate constitute and
appoint my friends Calvin Drake and Aaron Drake
Executors to this my last will and testament and I
do forever discharge them from any and all legal
liability in and about the settlement of my estate
that they retain in their hands such an amount
in cash as they may deem ample compensation
for their trouble that they retain in their hands
the amount in cash to which Ellen Drake is entitled
paying over to her from time to time such
an amount as she may need until she arrives
to the age of twenty one years In testimony where-
of I the said Jess H. Drake have hereunto set
my hand and seal this the 29th day of March
in the year of our lord one thousand eight
hundred and twenty seven.

Signed Sealed and
acknowledge in the
presence of us
Saml. D. Marshborn
John H. Griffin
H. A. Whitehead

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State of North Carolina } In the Probate Court
Nash County } August the 5th 1879

A paper purporting to be the last will and testament
of Jess H. Drake beamed is exhibited before me the
undersigned Judge of Probate for said County
by Aaron Drake Calvin Drake the executors thereof
and the due execution thereof by the said Jess H.
Drake by the oath and examination of Samuel
D. Marshborn and John H. Griffin the sub-
scribing witnesses thereto who being duly sworn

doth depose and say and each for him-
self depose and saith that he is a subscribing
witness to the paper writing now shown him
purporting to be the last will and testament
of Jesse H. Drake that the said Jesse H. Drake
in the presence of this deponent subscribed his
name at the end of said paper writing which
is now shown as aforesaid and which bears
date of the 29th day of March 1874 and the de-
ponent further saith that the said Jesse H.
Drake the testator aforesaid died 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 at-
testing witness thereto and at the request and
in the presence of the said testator and this
deponent further saith that at the time when the
said testator subscribed his name to said
last will as aforesaid and at the time of
the deponent subscribing his name as an at-
testing witness thereto as aforesaid the said Jesse
H. Drake 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

Saml. D. Matthews (Seal)
John H. Griffin (Seal)

Signed Sealed and delivered
in the presence of

Benj. H. Gonsby

Probate Judge

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State of North Carolina Nash County

I Mourning Joyner of the County and State
aforesaid being of sound mind and memory
but considering the uncertainty of my earthly existence
do make constitute ordain and declare this paper
writing to be my last will and testament in
manner and form as follows that is to say
I give first I give bequeath and devise to my nephew
William T. Griffin after my death my tract
of land lying in Nash County on the waters of
Pole Cat Branch adjoining the lands of
Daughtridge the heirs of Jack Mosby & others
said to contain one hundred and fifty acres
I also ~~bequeath~~ and bequeath to my said
nephew William T. Griffin after my death
all my personal property and effects of every kind
and description whatever I am and lawfully make
constitute and appoint my said nephew Wm
T. Griffin to be my lawful heir and executor
to this my last will and testament in witness
whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal on
this the 27th day of June 1874

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Witness
John C. Harper
Morrell P. Walker

Mourning Joyner

State of N. Carolina }
Nash County } In the Probate Court

A paper purporting to be the last will and tes-
tament of Mourning Joyner deceased is exhib-
ited before me the undersigned Judge of Probate for said
County by W. T. Griffin the executor therein named, and the
due execution thereof by the said Mourning Joyner by the
oath and examination of J. C. Harper & M. P. Walker
the subscribing witnesses thereto who being duly
sworn doth depose and say and each for him-
self depose and saith that he is a subscribing witness
to the paper writing now shown him purporting to be
the last will and testament of Mourning Joyner that
said Mourning Joyner in the presence of the