

State of North Carolina

Wash County

In the Probate Court
A paper purporting to be the last will and testament of
Joseph K. Harper deceased is exhibited before me the
undersigned Judge of Probate for said County by Augustus
Lafayette Harper the executor therein named and the due
execution thereof by the said Joseph K. Harper by the oath
and examination of A.C. Thomas and Geo. N. Lewis the
Subscribing Witnesses thereto who being duly sworn doth
depose and say and each for himself depose and say
that he is a Subscribing Witness to the paper writing now
shown him purporting to be the last will and testament
of Joseph K. Harper. That the said Joseph K. Harper 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 June the 11th. 1878
And the deponent further saith that the said Joseph K.
Harper the testator aforesaid died at the time of Subscribing
his name as aforesaid upon the said paper writing
so Subscribed by him and exhibited to be his last
will and testament and this deponent did then and
Subscribed 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 said last will as aforesaid and at the time of
the deponent Subscribing his name as an attesting Witness
thereto as aforesaid the said Joseph K. Harper 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 the
deponent saith not

Signed Sealed and delivred in
the presence of B.H. Dorsey

Geo. N. Lewis (Seal)
A.C. Thomas (Seal)

Probate Judge

I John H. Rackley of the County of Nash 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 - First That my executor herein
after named shall pay all my just debt howsoever and to whom
never coming out of the moneys that may first come into his
hands as a part or parcel of my estate Item I give and devise
to my Sister Margaret C. Rackley one hundred and fifty acres
of land to be set out by miles and bounds in the South end
of the tract of land whereon I now live for and during the term
of her natural life. Item I give and devise to my nephew
William M. Matthews Three hundred and forty eight acres of
land all the tract of land whereon I now live except the life
estate of my Sister Margaret C. Rackley devised in a former
item of this my will to have and to hold to him and his heirs
in fee simple for ever - Item I give and devise to Sally Ann
P. Matthews - Penhagan B. Matthews and Mary Ann Matthews
two hundred and thirty eight acres of land known as the Bear
Branch tract of land to be equal divided between the three to them
and their heirs in fee simple forever Item I give and bequeath to
William M. Matthews one black horse saddle and bridle one
cart one bed and furniture all my working tools and all
my farming implements of every description to him and his heirs
for ever Item I give and bequeath to Sally Ann P. Matthews
one bed and furniture to her and her heirs in fee simple
for ever Item I give and bequeath to Penhagan B. Matthews
one bed and furniture to her and her heirs in fee simple
for ever Item I give and bequeath to Mary Ann Matthews one
bed and furniture to her and her heirs in fee simple
for ever Item I give and bequeath to my Sister Margaret
C. Rackley one large yellow mule all my household and
kitchen furniture of every description which has not been given
in a former item to her and her personal representatives
for ever Item I give and bequeath to my Sister Margaret
C. Rackley two cows her chair to her and her personal
representatives for ever Item I give and bequeath to William
M. Matthews two cows to him and his heirs in fee simple
for ever Item I give and bequeath to Margaret C. Rackley all
my hogs to her and her personal representatives for ever
Item I give and bequeath to William M. Matthews all the Hogs
he now feeds and claims to him and his heirs in fee
simple for ever Item I give and bequeath to Margaret

to Rackley and Richard M. Matthews all the crop of ever
description that may be upon the plantation when I now
live and all the provisions in hand at the time of my
death to be equally divided between the said Margaret C.
Rackley and Richard M. Matthews to them and their heirs
in fee simple for ever then - I give and bequeath to
Margaret C. Rackley and Richard M. Matthews all my books
of every description to be equally divided between them the
said Margaret C. Rackley and Richard M. Matthews to them and
their heirs in fee simple forever then my will and desire
is that all the residue of my estate if any after taking out
the debts and legacies above mentioned shall be sold
and the debt owing to me collected and if there should be
any surplus over and above the payments - payments of
debts, expenses and legacies that such surplus shall be equally
divided and paid over to Margaret C. Rackley and
Richard M. Matthews in equal proportion to them their
executors administrators and assigns absolutely for ever
And Lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my trusty
friend Richard M. Matthews my lawful executor to all intent
and purposes to execute this my last will and testament
according to the true intent and meaning of the same and
long past and clause thereof hereby revoking and declaring
utterly void all other wills and testaments by me heretofore
made in witness whereof I the said J. H. Rackley do hereunto
set my hand and seal this 17th day January A.D. 1868

Signed sealed published and declared
by the said John H. Rackley to be his last
will and testament in the presence of
us who at his request and in his
presence do subscribe our names as
witness thereto

C. W. Ward
James Ward

State of North Carolina } In the Probate Court
 Harris County }
A paper purporting to be the last will and testament of
John H. Rackley deceased is exhibited before the undersigned Judge
of Probate for said County by Richard M. Matthews the executor
therein named and the due execution thereof by the said

John H. Rackley by the oath and examination of the subscribing witnesses
thereto who being duly sworn do depose and say each for him -
self depose and testify that he is a subscribing witness to the paper
writing now shown him purporting to be the last will and testament
of John H. Rackley. The said John H. Rackley in the presence of
their deponents subscribed names at the end of said paper
writing which is now shown as aforesaid and bears date of the 17th
day of January 1868. And the deponents further testify that the
said John H. Rackley the testator aforesaid died at the time of
subscribing his name as aforesaid declare the said paper writing
be subscribed by him and exhibited to his last will and
testament and their deponents did thereupon subscribe their
names at the end of said will as attesting witnesses thereto and at
the request and in the presence of the testator and their
deponents further testify that at the said time when the testator
subscribed his name to the said last will as aforesaid and at
the time of the deponents subscribing their names as attesting
witness thereto as aforesaid. The said John H. Rackley 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 their deponents and further their deponents say not
legally sworn and subscribed
this 18th day of March 1868
before me B. H. Corstey

Probate Judge

And being made to appear before the court that James
Ward one of the subscribing witnesses to the will is dead
and thereupon C. W. Ward came forward and made oath in
due form of law that he is well acquainted with the
hand writing of the said James Ward and that he believes
his signature to the foregoing will is genuine

B. H. Corstey
Probate Judge