

I David Hopkins 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 hereinafter named shall provide for my body a decent burial suitable to the wishes of my relations and friends and pay all funeral expenses together with my just debts howsoever and whensoever owing 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 beloved wife Wiley two hundred and forty acres of land to be set out by metes and bounds (more or less) the tract of land whereon I now live to have and to hold to her the said Wiley for and during the term of her natural life or widowhood in satisfaction for and in lieu of dower and third of said land in all my real estate.

Item: I give and devise to my only son Alsey all that tract of land whereon Snodgrass now resides known by the name of the Brickland land two hundred and eighty four acres to have and to hold to him his heirs and his heirs in fee simple forever. Item: I give and devise to my only daughter Susan two hundred forty acres of land all of the tract whereon I now live except the life or widowhood estate of my wife devised in former item of this my will to have and to hold to her and to her heirs in fee simple forever.

Item: I give and devise to my said son and son-in-law to have and to hold to him and his heirs forever in fee simple forever. Item: 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 proceeds arising to me all collected and if there should be any surplus over and above the payment of debts and legacies that such surplus shall be equally divided and paid over to my said wife and both of my children in equal portions share and share alike then and each and every of them there executors and administrators and assigns absolutely forever. Item: And whereas my two children is not twenty one years of age my son etc. said Alsey is a minor of the age of about five years and will not be of the full age of twenty one until 1863 and my daughter will not arrive at the full age of twenty one years until 1857 now therefore my will and desire is that my friends A. I. Taylor is hereby constituted and appointed guardian of the said two children to have and hold the custody and guardianship both of their respective persons and estates until they the said Alsey and Susan severally arrive at the full age twenty one years and I do hereby constitute and appoint my trusty friend A. I. Taylor my lawful executor to all intents and purposes to execute this my last will and testament according to the true intent and meaning of the same and every part and every clause thereof hereby revoking and declaring utterly void all other wills and testaments by me heretofore made. In witness whereof I the said David Hopkins do hereunto set my hand and seal this 6th day of March, A.D. 1847.

David Hopkins (Seal)

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the said David Hopkins to be his last will and testament in presence of us who at his request in his presence and in the presence of each other do subscribe our names as witnesses thereto.

James Elmore  
Billiard M. Hopkins.  
State of North Carolina

court of pleas and quarter session  
May term, 1847

The foregoing paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of David Hopkins deceased, is offered for probate and duly proven by the oath of Billiard M. Hopkins one of the subscribing witnesses thereto and is ordered to be recorded.  
Attest F.M. Taylor, C.C.C.  
Attest F.M. Taylor, C.C.C.

In the Name of God Amen I John Ricks of the County of Nash in the State of North Carolina, do this the sixth day of January in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and 43. do make publish and declare the following paper writing to be and contain my last will and testament revoking all other wills by me made and declaring this paper writing to be the only one in manner and form following that is to say:  
Ist. I have already made advances to my daughter Sidney S.B. Harper and her husband Wm. J.B. Harper for money paid to Alfred Joyner and his wife Primmy Joyner Bennet Atkinson and his wife Mary Atkinson for land, for building a house for cattle hogs, bad saddle cart pork, and o. which I value to five hundred and eighty five dollars \$585. which is a part of my daughter Sidney S.B. Harper's legacy now I give and bequeath to my said daughter Sidney S.B. Harper my tract of land with all improvements called the Philander Tisdale land that I bought of Samuel W.M. Vick trustee containing 97 or 98 acres valued at \$160 also my tract of land lying on Sargony swamp containing 97 acres which land I drew in the division of the lands of the late David Ricks valued at \$175 also my right title and interest that I have in the lower land of Alsey Ricks where James Bunting now lives valued to \$225. also a negro named Randolph usually called Bunt valued to \$250. also a negro girl named Banny valued \$375. also a negro woman named Milly valued to \$400.

also a negro boy Bryant valued to \$300, also my negro woman named Vilet valued to \$250, with all their increase and the further sum of twelve hundred and eighty dollars in good notes which makes her legacy of \$4000. this bequest is to my daughter Sidney S. B. Harper and all the children that she now has or hereafter may have and to no other person or persons else. I appoint my son in law William S. B. Harper Trustee to take charge of the property given to my daughter Sidney S. B. Harper and use the same for the benefit of my said daughter Sidney S. B. Harper and all the children that she now has or hereafter may have and for no other purpose in any way whatever.

Item 2nd. I give and bequeath to my two sons David A. T. and Jerome Ricks all the negroes say sixteen in number and there increase, horses wagons and money that they have carried to the State of Alabama, all amounting in value to \$7910, with ninety dollars more to be paid them in money to be equally divided between them which makes there legacies of \$4000. each to them and there heirs forever.

Item 3rd. I give and bequeath to my son George Ricks and all the lawful begotten heirs of his body and to no other person the following property (viz) the tract of land where he now lives on the Back Swamp containing six hundred & fifty acres be the same more or less due regard to be had to the will of George Boddie Senr. and fore deeds proven Novr. term of Nash County Court 1844. also a deed in trust from Nicholas C. Harrison to Jno. G. F. Drake valued to \$1300. all the stock of hogs corn fodder house hold and kitchen furniture that he is now in possession of valued to \$200 one horse bridle and saddle valued to \$100. one average head and furniture valued to \$25. my surveying instruments valued to \$25. my negro man Jordan valued to \$500. my negro woman named Emaline and her two children names not known, that is now at Alford Joyner's valued to \$600. also good notes to the amount of \$1250 which makes his legacy of \$4000.

Item 4th. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Frances Ricks and all the lawful begotten heirs of her body and to no other person or persons the following named property viz: Two tracts of land that I bought of Howell F. Elin and Thomas F. Elin containing one hundred and ten acres each also my interest in the Sneed land say one half of said tract due regard to be had to two deeds one from Harriet Sneed the other from Serina Sneed. All the three tracts valued to \$750. one average head and furniture valued to \$25. one bridle and saddle valued to \$15. negro woman Winney and her child Sesar Jane valued to \$500 negro boy Jno. valued to \$325. negro boy Solomon valued to \$275. negro man Jim Bush valued to \$250 good note or notes to the amount of \$1850 which makes her legacy of \$4000. in case my daughter Francis should marry then and in that case her husband is appointed trustee to take charge of the property for the use and benefit of my said daughter Francis and all the children that she may have, and I want it to be fully understood by all persons that may have the constraining of this paper writing that no part of my estate is to pass to no person or persons unless they are my own blood kin only as trustees which can be called to account for there stewardship at any time.

Item 5th. I give and bequeath to my son William Ricks and all the lawful children that he may have begotten by him and to no other person or persons in any way or manner whatever the follow named property with all the increase viz: one tract of land containing 440 acres be the same more or less called the Sion Beckwith land for courses and distance due regard to be had to a deed from Asael Vick to me which has been duly acknowledged and recorded, valued to \$450. negro boy Nathan valued to \$450 negro girl named Cherry valued to \$375. negro man Worren valued to \$400. little Bob valued to \$300. good notes to the value of \$2025 which makes his legacy of \$4000.

Item 6th. I give and bequeath to my son Buchanan Ricks and all the lawful children that he may have begotten by him and to no other person or persons in any way or manner whatever, the following named property with all the increase viz: one tract of land that I bought of William Drake Esqr. of Thomas Beckwith dec'd. containing 306 acres called the Branch land due regard to be had for courses and distance to a deed from William Drake Esqr. to me which deed has been duly acknowledged and recorded, valued to \$250 negro boy big Bob valued to \$450 negro boy Bill valued to \$400. negro girl Charlot valued to \$300 negro girl Hixey valued to \$500. also good note or notes to the amount of \$2300. which makes his legacy \$4000.

Item 7th. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Indiana, son Nero and son John A. Ricks my bank stock in the Bank of the State of North Carolina amounting to \$10000. also negro boy Madison valued to \$400. also negro boy Harry valued \$350. also Abram valued to \$275. also negro girl Leah valued to \$200. also negro girl Martha valued to \$160 also negro girl Mounning valued to \$130. also negro woman Patty and her youngest child Isaac valued to \$300. with all there increase also good note or notes to the amount of \$185. which makes there legacy of \$12000 to be equally divided between them, Indiana, Nero and John A. Ricks which makes each of there legacies of \$4000. In case my daughter Indiana should marry then and in that case her husband is appointed trustee to take charge of the property for the use and benefit of my said daughter Indiana and all the children that she may have and it is fully understood by me that her husband who ever he may be is only to take charge of the property as trustee for I declare that it is my main object that no part of my property with the increase of negroes and money is to pass to no person or persons unless they are my own blood kin and I call on all courts of Justice that may have the constraining of this paper writing to decide that no part of my estate with all increases of every kind is to belong to no person or persons unless they are my own blood kin. I make the following proviso- if either of my children should dy leaving no lawful child or children then and in that case that ones legacy is to pass to the survivors or more should dy there estates to pass in the same way and so on agreeable to the decent laws of North Carolina.

Item 8th. I give to my loving wife Anna Ricks one years support for her self and family to be laid off by my Exrs. and Benj. N. Blount or some other worthy man to be chosen by my Exrs.

Item 9th. I loan to my loving wife Anna Ricks during her natural life the tract of land that I bought of David Ricks whereon I now live also the other tracts of land one that I bought of Elias Barrett the other of Elizabeth Dance due regard to be had to said deeds for courses and distances-- also I loan to my said wife Anna Ricks during her natural life the following property of the following valuation. negro man Moses valued to \$600. negro woman Watey and her youngest child Absalom valued to \$400. negro woman Penny valued to \$250. negro boy Alfred valued to \$250. negro girl Sarah valued to \$200. negro girl Amanda valued to \$160. and all there increase, two horses Muckle Jno. and the colt valued to \$150. 10 head of cattle average ones her choice valued to \$25. one cart and wheels her choice valued to \$20. 15 head of sheep her choice valued to \$15. my still and its contents valued to \$75. all my cider casks and open headed stands valued to \$35. my large iron kettle valued to \$15. all my house hold and kitchen furniture except the beads I have given away valued to \$250. my carryall and gear valued to \$50. all my working tools of every description valued to \$50. also one thousand dollars to be put to interest by my Exrs. hereafter named my wife is to have the interest but the principal is to belong to my estate and is to be well secured.

Item 10th. I leave in the hands of my Exrs. \$150 to be put to interest and the principal to be well secured and the interest to be paid to my negro man Moses during his natural life or so long as he shall remain faithful, his faithfulness to be judged by my Exrs. I have already contracted away my tract of land on the South side of Tar River to George H. Whitley and Lemou R. Whitley one hundred dollars to be paid 12th day of Feb. 1845 one hundred dollars to be paid 12th day of Feb. 1847. one hundred dollars to be paid the 12th day of Feb. 1849 and one hundred dollars to be paid the 12th day of Feb. 1849. if the said two Whitleys shall make the payments of the several sums above stated at the several times above stated then my Exrs. is to pass title to said land due regard should fail to make the several payments at the several times giving them five days grace then and in that case my Exrs. is to take charge of the land and make sale of the same and all that the said two Whitleys has paid or does pay is for rent and nothing else. My Exrs. are clothed with the same power that I would have if alive to sell and convey said lands, so they bring the proceeds in to my estate. I leave a sum of fifty dollars to be laid out for a tombstone to be placed at the head of my grave with the following inscriptions on said stone, well executed John Ricks Born 1786 Died --- An Honest Man in all his dealings- but badly slandered and much belied. I leave all my law suits to be well attended to all my just debts paid and they are but few all the balance of my property that I have not given away or loaned away is to be sold on a credit of twelve months by my Exrs. hereafter named taking bonds with two approved securities and after all the legacies are paid over and all the loans delivered my will and desire is that all the balance of my estate be equally divided between all my children to pass in the same way that the legacy already given pass, with the exception of three hundred dollars, which \$300 I bequeath as follows: I appoint my son George Ricks and son in law William J. B. Harper Exrs. to carry out this will with the sum of one hundred dollars to be retained by each of my Exrs. for there services in settling and closing my estate, the other hundred dollars I leave to Benj. H. Blount on conditions that he Blount aids my Exrs. in all the settlement of my estate and making out all there returns and doing all the necessary writings appertaining to a settlement and close of my estate- the property that I have loaned to my wife Anna Ricks during her natural life I have valued in order that her estate at her death must make the amount good if able- and at the death of my said wife Anna Ricks all the property that I have loaned her during her natural life, with the increase of all the negroes I leave to be equally divided between all my children and there survivors except the land, and the land I give and bequeath to the sons Nero and John A. Ricks to them and the lawful begotten heirs of there body- my son George Ricks is to take charge of his estate be of his estate be of age or not. I am agent and have several concerns for my sister Sally Manning who resides in the State of Georgia and County of Lawrence, my Exrs. are authorized when my sister Sally Manning sends a release duly authenticated acquitting and releasing me in every way and manner and all my Exrs. &c. to pay her the sum of \$600. with interest from the first day of Jan. 1845. I have a large debt due me by George Boddie of Mississippi and town of Jackson, if he Boddie should fail to send the money to my Exrs. within nine months from the probate of this will- then and in that case I appoint my son David A. F. Ricks Exr. over that debt and he is to use all lawful ways and means to collect the same and pay the same over to my too other Exrs. retaining a sum sufficient to pay him for his trouble and expensis. I appoint my son in law William J. B. Harper guardian for my daughter Frances son William and son Buckanan. I appoint my son George Ricks guardian for my daughter Indiana Son Nero and son John A.

Ricks and they are to remain guardian unless they abuse there trust then and in that case the court must appoint in that way they must make annual return and in default of doing so it will be a breach of trust agreeable to my understanding of their duties. I declare that all and every part of this paper writing in words letters and figures to be in my own hand writing, I further declare all and every part and parcel to be my last will and testament give under my hand and seal the day and date first above written.

Witness

Jesse Beal  
Elias Barrett  
Harry Edwards  
James P. Eilin

John Ricks (Seal)

I enter a codicil which is a part of my will the 20th day of August 1845. I give and bequeath to my daughter Sidney S.B. Harper and all the children that she now has or hereafter may have four negroes and all their increase the negroes that I bought of John Jones valued to seven hundred dollars which negroes and all their increase is to pass in the same way and manner that the property pass in my will and is to be as much advanced in part of the money or notes left in my will to my daughter Sidney S.B. Harper given under my hand and seal this 20th day of August 1845. as above written.

John Ricks (Seal)

I enter a second codicil to be taken as a part of my will the 31st day of Jan 1846. I disclaim my own law "M. J.B. Harper and my son George Ricks as guardians for my children and appoint my son David A. F. Ricks guardian for my daughter Frances son William and son Buckanan daughter Indiana son Nero and John A. Ricks and my son David A. F. Ricks is to give bond and security in such sum as the court may require and the said David A. F. Ricks is required to use the funds of my daughter Indiana Ricks not to exceed one thousand five hundred dollars \$1500. to buy a tract of land for my daughter Indiana Ricks and the deed in to be made to my daughter Indiana and all the lawful heirs other body that she then has and thereafter may have and to no other person or persons whatsoever. I give under my hand and seal the 31st day of Jan. in the year of our lord 1846 as above all in my own hand writing.

John Ricks (Seal)

State of North Carolina, court of pleas and quarter sessions  
Nash County November term 1847

The foregoing paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament and codicils of John Ricks is offered for probate and the same being duly proven by the subscribing witnesses as to the said will, and as to the codicils aforesaid by the other persons deposing that they and every part thereof are in the proper hand writing of the said John Ricks and that they were found deposited with his valuable papers, It is ordered that the will and codicil aforesaid be recorded, and is recorded.

Attest F.M. Taylor, C.C.C.  
Attest F.M. Taylor, C.C.C.

State of North Carolina, Nash County the 31 day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight. In the name of God Amen. I Jordan Joiner in being in sound mind and memory do hereby make constitute and ordain this paper writing to be my last will and testament in manner and form as follows viz;

Item 1st. I want all my just debts paid.  
Item 2nd. I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Elizabeth Joiner all my land on the side of the road whereon the house stands the orchard my last years new land and the mill field to her, her natural life and at her death to my son William A. Joiner to him and his heirs if he should have my children by his wife and if not to be equally divided among my other heirs. I give to wife one negro woman Milly one negro girl Cindy one negro boy, Moses to her her natural life, and at her death Milly and Cindy to my son Calvin Joiner they and their increase to him and his heirs forever about the death of my wife I give to my daughter Rhody Joiner Moses which I loaned to my wife her natural life to her and her heirs forever. I give to my wife one parcel more by the name of lot two cows and calves one bed and furniture one chest and all my kitchen furniture one years support for her and family ten head of hogs first choice. Item 3. I give and bequeath to my son Right W. Joiner one negro boy Hanson and all that cows to him and his heirs forever.  
Item 4th. I give and bequeath my son Merritt Joiner one negro boy by the name Austin and all that cows to him and his heirs forever.  
Item 5th. I give and bequeath to my daughter Tazzy Winstead one negro girl Dilly and her increase to her and her heirs forever.  
Item 6th. I give and bequeath to my son Dewey Joiner one negro boy Sam and all that he owes me to him and his heirs forever.  
Item 7th. I give and bequeath to my son Jordan Joiner one negro boy by the name of Preston and all that he owes me to him and his heirs forever Item 8th. I give and bequeath to my daughter Rhody Joiner one negro girl Baily and her increase and one bed and furniture one cow and calf to her and her heirs