

and testaments by me heretofore made, in witness whereof I the said Willie Whitley do hereunto set my hand and seal this 24th day of April 1881.

Signed, sealed in presence of us
B. M. Harriett
Rodman J. Dunn.
State of North Carolina,
Hesh County

Court of pleas and quarter session
Nov. term 1881

A paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Willie Whitley, is offered for probate on the testimony of Rodman J. M. Harriett and Rodman J. Dunn the subscribing witnesses thereto and is duly proved and admitted to probate whereupon Joe B. Whitley, the executor therein named is duly qualified.

and is recorded in obedience thereto
Attest B. M. Searby, C. C. C. *clerk*
Attest B. M. Searby, C. C. C. *clerk*.

580

In the Name of God Amen. I Mathew Wilder of the county of Nash and State of North Carolina being of sound mind and perfect mind and memory thanks be to God for the same, do this twenty second day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty seven, make and publish this my last will and testament in manner following that is to say:

First: I desire that all my just debts be paid out of my estate the balance of my property I give devise and dispose of in the following manner and form.

I leave to my beloved wife Martha Wilder all of my estate both real and personal during her natural life or widowhood. My wish further is that all the profits raised from my estate after my deceased be divided with the estate that I may leave at my death hereinafter mentioned.

My wish and desire further is that if my beloved wife Martha Wilder should depart this life or marry before my youngest child shall arrive to the age of twenty one years then my property then remain in the hands of my executors as a common fund for all my heirs until my youngest child shall arrive to the age of twenty one years.

My wish and desire further is that after the death of my beloved wife or if she should depart this life before my youngest child should arrive to the age of twenty one years, then my youngest child arrives to the age of twenty one years, my executors are authorized to sell all my estate both real and personal and make an equal division among all my lawful heirs.

Lastly, I leave my sons Mathew Wilder and John V. Wilder executors to this my last will and testament whereunto I Mathew Wilder have set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

Mathew Wilder, (Seal)

Bennet Gay
Sherwood Gay
North Carolina, Nash County, Court of pleas and quarter sessions Nov. term 1881
A paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Mathew Wilder deceased is offered for probate in open court by Mathew Wilder and John V. Wilder the executors therein named and the due execution of the same by the said Mathew Wilder proved by the oath of and examination of Bennett Gay and Sherwood Gay the subscribing witnesses thereto. It is therefor declared by the court that the said paper writing and every part thereto is the last will and testament of the said Mathew Wilder and is orders to be recorded.

Attest B. M. Searby, C. C. C. *clerk*
and is recorded in obedience thereto.
Attest B. M. Searby, C. C. C. *clerk*.

581

In the Name of God Amen. I Penelope Whitfield of the County of Nash being of sound mind and do make and publish this my last will and testament.

Item 1. I give and bequeath to my daughter Matilda Joiner all the property and money heretofore given to her including the hire of Negro Henry during the time he has been in her possession.

Item 2nd. I give and bequeath to my daughter Mary J. Whitfield one bed bedstead and furniture which she calls hers and six hundred dollars in money with interest from my death. said six hundred dollars is given to enable her to buy such a Negro girl as she may desire.

Item 3rd. I give and bequeath to my granddaughter Martha Frances Joiner cashed, bed stand and furniture.

Item 4th. I give and bequeath to my daughter Eliza Whitfield one bed bedstead and furniture which she calls hers.

Item 5th. The balance of my property of every kind, I desire to be equally divided between my three daughters Matilda, Eliza and Mary J. The share of Eliza to be her share only during her natural life and to be under the control of my executor, and after her death to go to her child or children if she should leave any, if not, her share to be equally divided between my daughters Matilda and Mary J.

Item 6th. It is possible that under a proper construction of the will of my mother Penelope Nicholson may have the absolute title to the negroes in my possession and not a mere life estate. If I have the absolute title to said slaves, in any division of said slaves, that my share placed under Item 5th. I wish negroes Burton and Lucy assigned to my daughter Mary J. and negro Henry to my daughter Matilda as a fair satisfaction as part of their share.

Item: I hereby appoint Rodman Dunn, to be sole and amply executor to this my last will. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 20th day of October, A D 1880.

James N. Odum
Eliza Dunn.

Penelope J. Whitfield (Seal)
mark.

I desire that the following to be taken as a codicil and part of my will. Whereas some years ago I gave to each of my daughters Matilda, Eliza and Mary a note or bond for the amount due each of them in the division of my mother Penelope Nicholson's estate and whereas I consider that said notes or bonds have been fully satisfied and paid, to Matilda in the service of Negro boy Henry, to Eliza and Mary in board and other services for a number of years. It is therefore my will and desire that if either of my said daughters should enforce the collection of said notes or bonds that she shall have no portion of my estate but that the portion given to her or to her use in my will shall belong to the other or others as provided in my will. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 8th day of April, 1880.

Witness

James N. Odum
Eliza Edwards

Penelope Whitfield, (Seal).

State of North Carolina, Court of pleas and quarter session
Nov. term 1881

A paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Penelope Whitfield and codicil attached thereto offered for probate on the testimony of James N. Odum and Eliza Dunn the subscribing witnesses thereto the former Dunn and the said James N. Odum and Eliza Edwards to the latter and the said papers are duly proved and are admitted to probate as the last will and testament of the said Penelope Whitfield whereupon Rod Dunn the executor named is duly qualified.

and is recorded

Attest B. M. Searby, C. C. C. *clerk*
Attest B. M. Searby, C. C. C. *clerk*.

582

I Henry Jayner 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 to be 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 whomsoever owing out of the moneys that may first come into his hands as a part or parcel of my estate.

Let Item: I give and devise to my relative Thomas G. Dixon, son of my brother Henry Dixon the sum of one hundred dollars to pay himself for sundry services and advancements made to me heretofore and also the further sum of three hundred dollars for the natural love and affection I have for him. I also leave to him the said Thomas G. Dixon during the term of his natural life the following slaves to wit: Liah, Wagon now about twenty two years old with her increase (if any) and a boy named Watson boy about four years old and Harriet Jane girl not quite one year old, the said slaves to be disposed of in another item.

2nd Item: I give and devise to my brother Henry Dixon the sum of three hundred dollars for the natural love and good will I have for him to him and his heirs forever.

3rd. Item I give and devise to my brother Randolph Dixon the sum of three hundred dollars for the natural love and affection I have for him to him and his heirs forever.

4th Item: I give and devise to my sister Polly Horn widow of Guilford Horn deceased the sum of twenty six dollars for the natural love I have for her to her and her heirs forever.

5th Item: I give and devise to my sister Eliza Dixon the sum of twenty six dollars for the natural love I have for her to her and her heirs forever.

* I also give and devise to my relation by marriage Guilford Jayner son of Alfred Jayner one feather bed and bedstead two counterpane and one quilt to him and his heirs forever.

6th Item: By will and desire is that after the death of my said relative Thomas G. Dixon the aforesaid slaves together with their increase (if any) as named in item 1st be given to my relation the children of Thomas G. Dixon, by his first wife Martha, or so many of them as may be living at the time of the death of their father the said Thomas G. Dixon to them equally divided to them and their heirs and assigns forever.

7th Item: By will and desire is that all the residue of my estate if any after things set out the devise and legacies above mentioned shall be sold and the debts owing to me collected and if there should be any surplus over and above the payment of debts expenses and legacies that such surplus shall be equally divided and paid over to the children of my sister Polly Jayner and Henry Winstead (or so many of them as may be living at the time of my decease) to them each and every of them their heirs and assigns absolutely forever.

And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my trusty friend Jacob H. James, of the County of Wilson and State of North Carolina, 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 clause thereof hereby revoking and declaring utterly void all other wills and testaments by me heretofore made.