

North Carolina

In the name of God Amen.
I, Alexander, Rouse of New Hanover, County, being in an ill state of health, but of sound mind and memory, do make this my last Will and Testament, revoking all wills by me heretofore made, Inprimis. I recommend my soul to Almighty God who gave it, and my body to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my executors, in a firm hope of a joyful resurrection; and as to my worldly estate with which it has pleased God to bless me, I give, devise, bequeath and dispose of it in manner following, viz,

Item. I give, devise and bequeath unto my beloved wife Elizabeth Rouse, all my property both real and personal that I am possessed of, during her life of widowhood.

Item. I give, devise, and bequeath unto my son Sanders Rouse, after the death or marriage of my said wife Elizabeth Rouse, my plantation upon the Sound, with all my other lands, to him and his heirs forever, nevertheless should my said son Sanders die under the age of twenty one or without lawful heirs, be gotten of his body, then my said plantation upon the Sound with all my other lands to be equally divided or sold, and the monies arising therefrom to be equally divided between my three daughters Zillah Wilkins, Sabrah Lucas & Mary M. Bullock to them and their heirs forever.

I also give unto my said son Sanders Rouse, my three fellows, named Dick, Jack, and Sam, with all my stock, of horses, cattle, plantation tools, household furniture &c to him and his heirs forever, but nevertheless should my said son Sanders die without heirs lawfully begotten, under the age of twenty one, then the said property to be divided or sold and the money equally divided between my said daughters Zillah Wilkins, Sabrah Lucas and Mary M. Bullock, to them and their heirs forever.

Item. I give, devise, and bequeath unto my daughter, Zillah Wilkins my negro man called Phillis, to her and her heirs forever.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter, Sabrah Lucas, my negro fellow called George to her and her heirs forever.

Item. It is my desire that my negro fellow Tom be sold, as I look upon him of more value than either of the ^{two} slaves given to my daughters Zillah Wilkins and Sabrah Lucas; and as much of the money arising from the sale of said negro as will be equal in value to either of the slaves given my said daughters Zillah Wilkins & Sabrah Lucas, to be given to my daughter, Mary M. Bullock; the remainder, if any to be equally divided between my daughters Zillah Wilkins, Sabrah Lucas and Mary M. Bullock.

Lastly. I nominate and appoint my worthy friend John Wilkins, my executor, and my beloved wife Elizabeth Rouse executrix of my last Will and Testament, In Testimony whereof I do hereunto set my hand and seal this 14th day of Nov^r 1781.

Alexander, Rouse. Seal

The within will, signed, sealed, published and declared in presence of us, who at the request of the said Testator, have hereunto set our hands, in his presence

John Moore
Ann ^{his} + Hurst
marky
Joby Howe

The within last will and Testament of Alexander Rouse late of New Hanover County deceased, was exhibited in open Court by Elizabeth Rouse, Executrix therein named and the due execution thereof was proved by the oath of John Moore esq; one of the subscribing witnesses thereto, who likewise deposed that he saw Ann Hurst and Joby Howe subscribe their names as witnesses thereto in the presence of the said Testator; who at the time of the execution of the said last will and Testament, appeared to be of sound and disposing mind and memory: At the same time Elizabeth Rouse the Executrix named therein qualified as Executrix of the said last will and Testament in due form of law, Ordered that the Clerk of New Hanover County Court record the same, and make out and issue letters testamentary with a copy of the said last will and Testament according to the Act of Assembly in that case made and provided

By order
John Lillingston. Clk. S. Ct

On Monday the 21st of May 1781. James Ratchliffe being ill with the small pox, no person present but myself and his wife I believed him to be of sound mind and understanding, he saith to me, Arthur, Stuckey, I being some distance from him, afraid to venture too nigh, for fear of catching the disorder, I gave one hundred and fifty acres of land to Rebecca Malpass, I asked him where, he answered and says here, that is where he lived; and all the rest of my worldly estate I give to my wife to divide among her children as she pleaseth. And further, he saith not.

Arthur Stuckey

this 2nd day of April 1782
Jm. Waller, S.P.

New Copative will of James Ratchliffe April Term 1782