

North Carolina

In the name of God Amen.

Arthur, Mabson of New Hanover County, being sick, in body, but of sound mind and memory (blessed be God) on this seventeenth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven, make, ordain and publish this my last Will and Testament in manner following, that is to say, **Item.** I give unto my loving wife Mary, all my household furniture at my plantation on Neper Creek, my riding carriage horses, and all such part of my plate as is marked **M. C.**

Item. I give unto my said wife Mary during her natural life, the use and property of one sixth part of all my slaves, cattle and hogs; and after her decease I give and bequeath the same to my children Mary, Susannah, Arthur, Samuel and William, or the survivors of them, to be equally divided between them.

Item. I give unto my said wife Mary during her widowhood, the use of any one of my plantations she may choose to reside at, she making no spoil, waste or destruction thereupon.

Item. I give unto my daughter Alice Campbell wife of Samuel Campbell, one negro woman slave named Sophia (my reason for not giving her any thing more is, that I think, that the fortune she has already had is equal to a child's share of my estate).

Item. I give unto my son Arthur, Mabson, my plantation on Neper Creek, whereon I now live, and all other lands belonging to me, adjoining thereto, as also one sixth part of all my slaves, cattle and hogs, and the remaining part of all my estate.

Item. I give unto my daughter Mary Mabson one house and lot in Wilmington, adjoining the house formerly belonging to Doctor Green together with half of the alley between my two houses, and also one sixth part of all my slaves, cattle and hogs, to be put into her possession whenever she may attain the age of twenty one years, or day of marriage, whichever may first happen, and that the house be put into repair, at the expense of my estate.

Item. I give unto my daughter Susannah Mabson, my other house and lot in Wilmington, adjoining the house and lot before bequeathed unto my daughter Mary, together with the other half of the alley between the two houses; and also one sixth part of all my slaves, cattle and hogs; to be put into her possession whenever she may attain the age of twenty one years, or day of marriage, which ever may first happen, and that the house be put into repair, at the expense of my estate.

Item. I give unto my son Samuel Mabson my plantation on the Sound, which I bought of Mr. Spicer, and another piece of land adjoining thereto, by me purchased of Alexander, Willie; and also one sixth part of all my slaves, cattle and hogs, and all my furniture on the Sound.

Item. I give unto my son William all the remaining lands I may disposed of, not before devised, together with the remaining sixths part of all my slaves, cattle and hogs.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my aforesaid children Mary, Susannah, Arthur, Samuel and William, all the rest and residue of my personal estate, to be equally divided between them.

Item. It is my will that in case of the death of any of my aforesaid children Mary, Susannah, Arthur, Samuel and William, without lawful issue, before the time they can get possession of their respective legacies, the legacies before bequeathed to such child so dying, shall be equally divided between the survivors or survivor of them the said Mary, Susannah, Arthur, Samuel and William.

Item. It is my will, that whatever monies I may have in my possession or debts due to me at the time of my death, together with the produce of the labour of my slaves, be applied to the maintaining and giving the best education that can be obtained in this country to my children.

Item and lastly. I do make, ordain and constitute my son Arthur Mabson, my friends Frederick Jones and Henry Loomis, Executors of this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking and disannulling all former Wills and Testaments by me heretofore made. In witness whereof I the said Arthur Mabson have to this my last Will & Testament contained in one sheet of paper, set my hand and seal the day and year first before mentioned.

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the said Arthur Mabson as and for his last Will and Testament, in the presence of us whose names are here underwritten who did each of us subscribe our names as witnesses at his request and in his presence in the room where he then was
Lewis DeKopet, Jno James, Owen Kencana

Arthur Mabson (Seal)

At New Hanover, January Court 1778,

The within last Will and Testament was exhibited to the Court and proved on the oath of Mr Owen Kencana a subscribing witness who swore that he saw the testator, sign, seal, publish and declared the same to be and contain his last Will and Testament, and that at the same time thereof, he was to the best of his knowledge and belief of sound, disposing mind and memory, and that Jno James and Lewis Henry DeKopet signed as concurring evidences thereto.

Sam Swann. C. C.