

State of North Carolina

I Alfred Sheppard of the County of New Hanover State aforesaid being of Sound Mind and considering the uncertainty of life do make publish and declare this my last Will and Testament

I give and devise to my wife Charlotte during her life one half of the land constituting the Plantation whereon I now reside on Topsail Sound to be set off by metes and bounds so as to include the dwelling house all outhouses barns and other improvements of every kind whatsoever situate thereon, and upon the death of my wife it is my will that the land and premises herein given to her should go to and be equally divided among my sons George C. Sheppard, Joseph C. Sheppard and Thomas A. Sheppard to whom I have devised the same after the termination of the said life estate of my wife. I also give and bequeath to my wife Charlotte during her life or widowhood the following negro Slaves with their increase viz John, Jim, Israel, Milly, Betty and Fanny and upon the death or manumission of my wife it is my will and I do hereby direct that the said Slaves and their increase given to her as aforesaid shall be equally divided among my five youngest Children viz Mary Ann, Sheppard, Joseph C. Sheppard, Caroline Sheppard, Thomas A. Sheppard and Charlotte Sheppard. I also give and bequeath to my wife Charlotte absolutely and without ^{any} restriction whatever those houses to be selected by her out of the number I may possess at my death all my hogs, Cattle and other Stock of every kind whatsoever my Wagons Carts harness plantation tools and utensils of every sort my household and kitchen furniture two hundred barrels of Corn two hundred bushels of Ground peas and five thousand weight of fodder if the said Corn Ground peas and fodder should be owned by me at the time of my death and if not so owned then they are to be given to my said wife out of the Crop that then may be planted so soon as the same shall be gathered and if after the foregoing things shall have been given to my wife anything of a perishable nature shall be left it is my will that the same shall be sold by my Executors and Creditors at private sale at such time & for such sum as they may think proper. I also give and bequeath to my wife Charlotte the sum of four hundred dollars to be paid out of any money that I may possess at the period of my death or in good notes if there should not be a sufficiency of money on hand when I die. I give and devise to my sons George C. Sheppard, Joseph C. Sheppard and Thomas A. Sheppard the other moiety of the land belonging to the Topsail Plantation where I now live and remaining after my wife's half as hereinbefore devised to her shall have been set off and given to her and I also

I give and devise to my said sons all my land known as the Richmond Plantation in the County of New Hanover aforesaid, which said plantation as well as the half of the Topsail tract is to be equally divided among them and it is my will that if any of my said sons should die without leaving issue then the share of the one so dying should go to the surviving brothers or brother.

I give and devise to my two youngest children Thomas Atshepard and Charlotte Shepard a certain lot or tract of land with the tenements thereon situated on the eastern side of the Town of Wilmington County aforesaid and between Market and Dock Street of said town, the said lot herein devised to them being the same which I purchased from James Grant by deed dated the 14th day of March A.D. 1848. Inasmuch however as the said lot was purchased and a house built thereon as a home for my said youngest children while going to school, I should devise and direct that it shall be used as a residence for said children so long as they or any of them shall be receiving an education in the town of said land my Executor and Executors should think proper to provide some other residence for said children and make some other disposition of said house more conducive to the benefit of those to whom it is given.

I give and bequeath to my friend Joseph M. Foy of the County of New Hanover aforesaid the following Negro Slaves viz Judy and Child Louis & Abel To have and to hold the said Slaves in trust nevertheless for the sole and separate use of my daughter Eliza the wife of John B. Wright during her life and after her death for the use and benefit of such Child or Children as she may leave surviving her And I further will and devise that after the Negroes herein before bequeathed to my wife and to the said Joseph M. Foy trustee as aforesaid for my daughter Eliza shall have been taken and received by them respectively that the net and residue of said Negroes should be divided into five equal parts of which my sons George C. Joseph C. and Thomas A. shall be entitled to and receive one share each and the remaining six shares which shall be allotted to my daughters I give and bequeath to my friend Joseph M. Foy To have and to hold the said shares in trust however for the sole and separate use of my said daughter according to the allotment aforesaid so that the said Negroes may not only be free from the control and dominion of any husband which any one of them has now or may hereafter have but also exempt from the debts or liabilities of such husband. If however the said Joseph M. Foy should at any time think proper to permit any one or all of the said husbands or husbands to possess use and enjoy the Negroes allotted to their respective wives then I wish it understood that he can do so and according to

This discontinue transfer the said property, use and enjoyment of the
 Negroes of said or retain the same to himself and pay over
 Annually the hire and profits of said Negroes to my
 several daughters according to their respective interest therein
 or to their respective husbands as he may think proper
 And I further wish it understood and do hereby devise and direct
 that my friend the said Joseph M. Joy Trustee as aforesaid
 may and shall reimburse himself all costs and expenses he
 may be put to and incur in the management and execution
 of the trusts hereby created and that he shall also be allowed
 and be permitted to reserve to himself such allowances and
 Commissions as are customarily made and given to Executors
 and Administrators in this State and it is ^{also} my devise that in
 the division of my Negroes such of my children as have
 received on loan any Negroes from me should be permitted as far
 as may be practicable to retain them at but one third increase
 at their just value as their share or part thereof may be
 Lastly It is my will that the money bonds and notes which
 I may be possessed of shall be devoted to the education of my
 four youngest children whose education is to be conducted
 according to the direction of my Executor and Executrix
 And if after they shall have been educated there should be any
 surplus ~~of the same~~ or its equivalent on hand it is my will
 that the same be equally divided among all my children
 And I do hereby constitute and appoint my wife Charlotte
 Shepard and my son George Edward Shephard Executors and
 Executor to all intents and purposes to execute this my last
 Will and Testament according to the true intent and meaning
 of the same hereby revoking all other Wills by me heretofore made
 In witness whereof I said Alfred Shephard have to this my last
 Will and Testament set my hand and seal this the 14 day of
 January in the year of Lord One thousand eight hundred & fifty
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Signed Sealed published and
 declared by the above named Alfred
 Shephard as and for his last Will and
 Testament in the presence of us who have
 hereunto subscribed our names in his
 presence and at his request
 James Grant

Alfred Shephard ^{son} Seal

Wm. B. Jones