

Van Hannon County Court Sept Term 1838
 This paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Thomas H. Williams is exhibited in open court and offered for probate and is duly proved by the oaths of S. S. Satchwell & James Barrason the subscribing witnesses thereto, and as such considered by the Court to be and contain the last will and Testament of said Thomas H. Williams. at the same time the Codicil thereto was duly proved by the same witnesses, and considered by the Court to be a Codicil & a part of said will. and considered by the Court both the Codicil and the will sufficient to convey the th bequests therein made ~~and~~ ^{and} ^{as} ^{set} ^{forth} with the Codicil thereto attached be registered and filed at the same time S. H. Bell one of the executors therein named appeared in open Court and was duly qualified according to law. George Davis the other executor therein named appeared in open Court and renounced his executorship which was recorded by the Court.

Samuel Bunting Clerk

In the name of God Amen, I Henry W. Nelly of the County of Van Hannon and State of North Carolina, being of Sound ~~and~~ Mind, and Memory. But considering the uncertainty of my earthly existence, I do make and declare this to be 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 family, and pay all funeral expenses together with my just debts.

Item I give to my beloved wife Annmy all of my tract of land whereon I now live during her natural life. I here insert a clause in this Item that in the event that she and my family think it prudent to sell and purchase other lands for the better support of the family in that event I vest all power in my beloved wife to make a right to any purchases any time within her lifetime.

Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Mary A. Shepard one Negro woman named Ginny together with her family of children or the increase of her body. To have and to hold to her and heirs and assigns forever.

Item I give and bequeath unto my grand son, Henry W. Shepard two Negro men named Ned and Edward to have and to hold unto him his heirs and assigns forever.

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Item. I give and bequeath to my grand Son John Connel
Shepard Two Negro Men named Landon and Austin to have
and to hold to him his heirs and assigns forever.
Item I repeat the gift to my grand sons Henry and John Shepard
I give and bequeath to them to have and hold alike
all the lands bequeathed to my beloved wife after
her decease, if not disposed of as directed in a former
Item of this will to have and to hold to them their
heirs and assigns forever.

Item I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Ann all
the rest and residue of my estate of whatever kind both of
negroes and stock and what money that on hand and
not given away heretofore to use and dispose of as she
sees fit, to have and to hold to her and the use of her
family her heirs and assigns.

Item It is my will and desire that my family all
live together as they are and keep the property together for the
general use of the family, only such as shall become
ungovernable and obstinate and that ~~such~~ case I direct
that they be sold of immediately and the proceeds applied
to the use of the family. Lastly I do appoint my
friend John Shepard my sole executor to this my
last will and Testament. In testimony whereof
I hereunto set my hand Seal this 26 day of -
October A D 1837.

Signed & sealed in presence of us. H W Willey (Seal)

David Williams
Daniel McDonald

State of North Carolina
New Hanover County Court September A D 1838
This paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament
of H. W. Willey dec'd is exhibited in open Court and offered
for probate, and is duly proved by the oath of David Williams
and Daniel McDonald the subscribing witnesses thereto and
~~order~~ as such considered by the Court to be and contain
the last will and testament of said H. W. Willey, and
sufficient to convey the bequests therein made. Let the
same be registered and filed at the same time
John Shepard the executor therein named appears
in open Court and is duly qualified according
to Law.

Dist. Amos Bunting Clk