

New Hanover, October Court 1772.

The within last will and Testament was proved on the oath of Mary Patterson a subscribing witness who swore she saw the Testator, John Atkinson, sign, seal, published and declare the same to be and contain his last will and testament, and that at the time thereof, the said Testator appeared to be of sound and disposing mind and memory, at the same time Bishop Dualey and William Egel signed as concurring evidences thereto. Eliza Atkinson appeared and qualified as Executor to the said Will. Ordered that, Letters Testamentary issue accordingly.
John London. C. C.

In the name of God Amen.

I John Ashe of the County of New Hanover, in the Province of North Carolina, Esquire, being of sound disposing mind and memory, do make my last Will and Testament in manner following:

In primis. I recommend my soul to the mercies of my Creator, and my body I request my Executors to have interred in a vault at my plantation called Grovelly, which I desire they will have built, and that they will likewise have the remains of my father, and mother removed into the said vault. And as to my worldly estate after payment of my just debts I dispose of it in the manner following.

Item. I give, devise and bequeath unto my dearly beloved wife Rebecca Ashe during her natural life, her choice of one of any of the plantations or tracts of land I shall die possessed of, and at her decease, to that child it is hereafter bequeathed to. Item. To my beloved son John Ashe and to his heirs forever, I devise and bequeath the plantation and tract of land where I now dwell, likewise the one hundred acres I bought of William Dry Esquire, adjoining Mr Moseley's land; also forty acres above the Bluff on the East side of the North East river, opposite to where I am together with the said Bluff tract of land containing six hundred acres, and also two hundred and forty acres adjoining the said six hundred acres below: Also three hundred acres on the east side of Trumpeter branch, commonly called the Juniper Swamp, and also the forty acres I lately purchased of Mr Caleb Mason adjoining the said Bluff tract on the upper side.

them. I give, devise and bequeath unto my beloved son Samuel Ashe and to his heirs forever, a plantation or tract of land of six hundred and forty acres on Old Town Creek, in Brunswick County, commonly called Grovelly.

them. I give, devise and bequeath to my beloved son William Algernon Ashe, one moiety or half part of my land on Whitehouse Creek, on New Topsail; the said land to be divided into two equal parts by a line to be run from the Patent line, that divides the said land from the Skinnies now Bishop Dudley's, at right angles north fifty three, East two hundred and twelve poles, then from the source side, a parallel line with the said Skinnies north forty five degrees West to the Patent head line: and my son William Algernon to take the east side of the side contiguous to said creek; the other half part of said land I give devise and bequeath to my beloved son Acount.

them. I give, devise and bequeath unto my beloved son William Algernon and to my beloved son Acount, all my lands on New Topsail Banks, to be equally divided between them, but in case of the death of either of my said sons William Algernon

before the age of twenty one years, or having lawful issue, then and in such I bequeath the whole of the aforesaid lands on Whitehouse Creek, and New Topsail Banks, to the survivor of them and his heirs forever. And in case of the death of both of my said sons before their ages of twenty one years or without lawful issue, then I devise the said lands to my sons John and Samuel Ashe and their heirs forever, to be equally divided between them, that is to say, the part herein allotted to my son William Algernon to my son Samuel and the other moiety to my son John.

them. I devise and bequeath to my Executors a tract of land lying on the north side of the north West river, beginning two hundred and forty poles below the mouth of Rockfish Creek, thence running North twenty degrees East two hundred and fifty two poles, then North seventy degrees West three hundred and twenty poles, then South twenty degrees West to the river, thence down to river to the first station; to be by them or the survivors or survivor of them conveyed to the Heirs or Devise of Peter Thayer, upon their paying the quit rents due thereon.

Also I devise and bequeath to my Executors a tract of three hundred acres lying on the east side of the northeast river above Merricks landing, being the upper part of a tract of six hundred and forty acres which I purchased from William Roy Esquire, to be by them conveyed to the Heirs or Devise of the late Edward Mosley, son of the late Col Edward Mosley, upon their payment of the quit rents due thereon.

Item. I give to my beloved daughter, Ann Rebecca a negress named Lucy.

Item. I give to my beloved daughter, Harriet the negress girl named Sylla.

Item. I give to my dearly beloved wife, one third part of all my personal estate of what nature or kind soever, not given or bequeathed otherwise in this my last will, the negress women Inda, Jinks and mulattoes Moll to be included in her third part of the slaves. The other two third parts I give and bequeath to all my children share and share alike as my sons severally arrive to the age of twenty one years and my daughters to the age of twenty one years or day of marriage. It is my will & desire that after payment of my debts, my estate be divided and each child to be maintained and educated out of the profits arising from the labor of their proportion of the slaves; & I mean no other by the words "as they severally arrived at the age of twenty one years or day of marriage" in this clause of my will, than that they shall have their shares at those times delivered to them.

Lastly. I nominate and appoint my dearly beloved wife Executrix during her widowhood, and my beloved brother Samuel Ashe Executor, of this my last will. And upon the death of my brother, then I constitute and appoint my loving kinsman Samuel Swann Esq. and my nephew Mr. George Moore Executors of this my last will. And hereby revoke and make void all other, or former, will or wills heretofore by me made and declare this to be my true and only will. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 25th day of February 1774.

Signed, sealed, published
and declared in presence

John Ashe 

of John Gray
George Moore Esq.
Moran Moseley

November Term 1783

The last Will and Testament of Dawson Ashburn deceased, was proved in open court by the oath of Alexander Graham, who swore that he saw the said Dawson Ashburn sign, seal, execute, publish and declare the same to be and contain the last Will and Testament of the said Dawson Ashburn, and that he saw Daniel Cook and Sarah Howard sign the same as concurring witnesses with him, and that he verily believes him to have been in his sound and disposing mind and memory at the time thereof. At the same time Mary Ashburn qualified as Executrix thereof according to law, Ordered that Letters testamentary issue, and that the Clerk of the County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County of New Hanover record the said Will and issue the said Letters.

John Lelington. Clk

In the name of God Amen. I John Ashe of New Hanover County and State of North Carolina, being of sound and perfect mind and memory, blest be God, do this nineteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety one, make & publish this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following, that is to say, I give, will and bequeath, unto my well beloved brother Samuel Ashe all my property real and personal; and I do hereby make, and ordain my said brother Samuel Ashe, sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament. In witness whereof I the said John Ashe have to this my last Will and Testament set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed, published and declared in presence of

Reuben Love
Dan Hicks

John Ashe (Seal)

New Hanover County }
May Term 1792

The execution of the within last Will and Testament of John Ashe was duly proved by the oath of Reuben Love Gen. Gibbs. D. C.

November Term 1792

The within named Samuel Ashe appeared in Court and qualified as Executor to the within Will

Geo: Gibbs. D. Ck,

In the name of God Amen. I Samuel Ashe son of the late General John Ashe dec^d, being sick and weak in body but of sound and perfect mind and memory, (blessed be God) on this 27th day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fourteen, make and publish this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following, that is to say,

First. I give and recommend my soul to God who gave it, and my body I recommend to the earth to be interred in a decent Christian burial, at the discretion of my Executors. My worldly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me, I give, bequeath, devise and dispose of the same in the following manner.

Imprius. I give and devise unto my beloved wife Mary Anne Ashe, two tracts or parcels of land, the one situated on the east side of the North East river, nearly opposite Green Hill containing six hundred and forty acres; the other, situated on the east side of the aforesaid river, and Harisons creek, nearly opposite to the lands of the late Thomas Moore dec^d, containing also six hundred and forty acres, and also the plantation on which I reside commonly called Green Hill.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my said wife all my negro slaves except such as are hereafter excepted.

Item. I also give and bequeath unto my said wife Mary all my stock of horses, cattle, hogs and sheep, and all my household and kitchen furniture.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my beloved nephews Samuel Ashe Laspeyre, six negro slaves (to wit) Lucinda, Themas, Lydia, John, Tom and Joe. It is my desire that the said negroes remain in the hands of my Executors untill the said Samuel shall arrive at the age of twenty one, and my Executors are herewith directed to pay into the hands of my beloved sister Harriet Laspeyre, the annual profits arising from the hire of said slaves during the life of her present husband Beonard Laspeyre.