

State of North Carolina }
New Hanover County }

In the name of God Amen.

I John Davis of the State and County aforesaid, Planter, being sick
of body, but of perfect sound and disposing mind and memory,
do make this my last will and Testament, in manner and form
following, hereby revoking all other wills by me made, to wit,
It is my will and desire that all my just debts be paid and
discharged as soon as possible after my decease by my Executors
hereafter named. And it is also my will and desire that the
houseframe I bought of John Roots, be brought and raised &
finished off at my plantation called Rock Hill, at the general ex-
pense of my estate, which said house and plantation, I hereby
give, devise and bequeath unto my beloved wife Jane Davis
for and during her natural life, and after her death, I give,
devise and bequeath the same to my beloved son Thomas Davis
to him, his heirs and assigns forever,
I give, devise and bequeath unto my said beloved wife Jane Davis
my negro wench called Polly and two of her children named Nancy
and Hannah. I also give & bequeath unto my said wife all my
household furniture, together with all my stock of cattle, horses,
and hogs, and all my silver plate, all of which I give to her,
her heirs and assigns forever,
Item. I give, devise and bequeath unto my son Thomas Davis, my
negro man named Abram, and one of my wench Joan, child-
ren called Ishmael, to him, his heirs and assigns forever,
Item. I give devise and bequeath unto my daughter Mary Davis
my negro wench named Joan and her other child named Peter,
to her, her heirs and assigns forever,
Item. After the death of said wife Jane Davis, it is my will
and desire, that either of my plantations called Rock Hill or
the Mulberry on the North West be sold, provided the said Mulberry
plantation be not before sold; which said Mulberry plantation
I do hereby empower my Executors to dispose of, if they should
think it absolutely necessary for the interest of my children;
but in case it should not be sold before my wife's death or my
son Thomas arrives to the age of eighteen, then he shall take his
share to be equally divided between my said son Thomas and
my said daughter Mary, so as to make their shares of my estate
as nearly equal as possible: provided nevertheless, that nothing
herein mentioned shall prevent my said wife from fully, peacefully
and peaceably enjoying my house and plantation called Rock
Hill during her life.

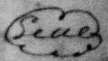
Item. It is my will and desire that all my personal estate that I may die possessed of, and all the monies that may be coming to me from old Mr Quince's estate, be equally divided betwixt my said beloved wife Jane and my said two children Thomas & Mary share and share alike, which I give and bequeath to them their heirs and assigns forever.

Item. And it is likewise my desire that my children be educated out of my estate at the general expence of the same, unless my said wife should marry again, and whenever that happens, then her share to be given off to her, and my Executors to take charge of my children's part, and they to be educated and maintained out of the same, but as long as my said wife remains my widow, she shall receive the whole profits and emoluments of my estate for her support, and the support and education of my said two children. And whenever my children arrive at the age of twenty one years or marries, then their share to be given off to them; and if either should die before they come of age or marries, then the surviving one together with my said wife (provided she be then my widow but not otherwise) shall divide that child's share so dying equally betwixt them share and share alike.

Item. I give to my father, Thomas Davis my riding horse called Childers, to him his heirs and assigns forever. I do give to my mother, Mary Davis and to my brother, George Davis, and to each of my sisters a mourning ring, to be worn in remembrance of me.

Lastly. I do hereby nominate, constitute and appoint my well beloved wife Jane Davis Executrix to this Will, for and during her widowhood but no longer, and my beloved father, Thomas Davis, and my beloved brother, George Davis Executors to this my will, to see the same duly executed. In testimony whereof I have here set my hand and seal this 6th day of October, 1788.

Signed, sealed and delivered

J Davis 

in presence of

Rebecca Quince

Jas: Hergus

New Hanover County }
October Term 1788

The annexed last Will and Testament of the late John Davis was exhibited in Court and proved in due form of law by the oath of James Hergus a subscribing witness thereto.

Thos. McClaine. Cky

New Hanover, County} Sp.

This may certify, that Mrs. and Damsel
relict of John Davis deceased, came before me agreeable to order
of Court and took the oath of Caution to the last Will and Testament
of the said John Davis according to law.
Wilmington 7th January 1789.

Robt. Feigus. J.P.

In the name of God Amen. I Thomas Davis of
Wilmington, being in health and of sound mind and memory,
but knowing the uncertainty of this life, do make this my last
Will and Testament in manner and form following, vizt,
I give, devise, bequeath, and bequeath unto my Executors hereafter named, do make
use of every exertion and endeavors in their power, to pay all my
just debts as soon as possible after my decease, but let me here
warn them not to assume or pay any demand against my estate
until they have carefully examined every paper they may find in
my desk or elsewhere, as unjust demands are often made against
a man after he is no more, and receipts may be found that perhaps
may be of service to my heirs. My Executors are hereby empowered
to dispose of any part of my estate for the payment of my debts; and
they are likewise empowered and directed to make a title to about
Twenty for 200 acres of the land I took up in Brunswick County, to
be laid off round about his plantation as may be most convenient
to him; the remainder to be sold for the payment of debts.
I give, devise, and bequeath unto my beloved wife Mary
Davis, the use of all my estate for and during her natural life;
one half of which I give, devise and bequeath unto her, her heirs
and assigns forever, except my negro boy, called Joe, one other
negro boy called Pompey, one other, called Dick, and a girl called
Nancy; these four negroes Joe, Dick, Pompey and Nancy, I give
unto my son Thomas Davis, him his heirs and assigns forever; but
not to be taken possession of until after the death of my wife Mary Davis,
unless she chooses to give one or more to him before her death; and as
my wife will have the whole and sole use of all my property, she must
maintain and support my son Thomas in as decent a manner as
her circumstances will admit of without distressing herself; but if
he should misbehave towards his mother, and do not always treat
her with obedience, affection and respect (and this I hope and charge
him tenderly, never to be wanting in love and affection towards her) then and in
that case she may withhold any support to him, as she thinks
proper, or until he returns to his duty and respect to her; and
at the death of my wife Mary Davis, I give and bequeath, unto